CLIMATE CHANGE OR GLOBAL WARMING

RECYCLE MONTANA

These terms are sometimes used interchangeably, they are closely related but they are not the same thing.

GLOBAL WARMING

References specifically to the earth's rising surface temperature. In current times, global warming is most often referenced with human-caused warming due to the increases to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the burning of gas, oil and coal across the world. Global warming is defined by long term changes to weather measurement trends. A year with hotter or colder than average temperatures does not define an overall increase/decrease. In summary, global warming is only one facet or symptom of overall climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE

As defined by the U.S. EPA, climate change is where significant changes in climate occur over an extended period of time. Climate change occurs from both human caused or natural changes. It is based on a large range of global phenomena created predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to the Earth's atmosphere. This includes increased temperatures reflected in global warming, but also encompass changes such as sea level rise, ice mass loss across the world, changes to flower/plant blooming, and changes to rain and snow patterns along with extreme weather events.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

- **Reduce & Reuse before Recycling** – Recycling still uses less energy than making new products from virgin materials but Reduce and Reuse are the cleanest.
- **Be Energy Wise** – Switch off lights, unplug appliances, TVs & computers when not in use. Use cold or warm water for washing clothes and hang to dry instead of the using the dryer. Take control of your thermostat and balance the temperature to the time of the year.
- **Buy Local** -This minimizes the transportation of goods and materials.
- **Find Alternative Transportation** – Walk, bike or use transit systems whenever possible. Minimize your driving time by planning.
- **Renewable Power** – Solar and wind farms are good, talk to your utility about switching to renewable power.
- **Plant Trees** – At your house, create a community event or donate to an event across the world. Trees are the cheapest and most effective way of removing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.