**Does What We Do Matter?**

*This video shows how Arctic sea ice has been changing since 1984. Credit: NASA*

Yes. When human activities create greenhouse gases, Earth warms. This matters because oceans, land, air, plants, animals and energy from the Sun all have an effect on one another. The combined effects of all these things give us our **global climate**. In other words, Earth’s climate functions like one big, connected system.

Thinking about things as systems means looking for how every part relates to others. NASA’s Earth observing satellites collect information about how our planet’s [atmosphere](https://climatekids.nasa.gov/menu/atmosphere), [water](https://climatekids.nasa.gov/menu/water) and land are changing.

By looking at this information, scientists can observe how Earth’s systems work together. This will help us understand how small changes in one place can contribute to bigger changes in Earth’s global climate.