

Saving the Polar Bears...

My 6 year old son has boiled down all of our problems to saving the polar bears. As we walked along the other day he picked up some trash and said to me, “mommy, I’m going to throw this away to save the polar bears.” Another day, he went around the house turning off lights saying he was helping save the polar bears. Wouldn’t it be nice if everything boiled down to saving the polar bears?

At 6, Jack isn’t worried about how much we pay for gas, or electricity, and I’m sure he doesn’t know about our carbon footprint. But, I find it interesting that he clearly understands we need to make changes to save the earth and of course the polar bears.

As parents are we worried about the polar bears? In a round about way, yes. But, I would say we are more worried about the bottom line. With gas and energy prices hovering at record levels, it is time to make a change. We have to make a change to save money, but more importantly save the environment for the next generation.

Residential structures account for more damage to the environment than cars. This is the bad news. The good news is that each of us can make a difference by making changes at home. There are things we can do that don’t cost a lot, but make a big difference. First, seal up all penetrations in your home with caulk or expanding foam. Next, insulate the attic or other un-insulated spaces. Does your house have single pane windows? They need to go! Take a look at your furnace. How old is it? If it is more than 25 years old...it needs to go.

There are companies in the area that will come to your home and do what is called an energy audit. They can diagnose your homes problems and give you guidance to make your home more efficient. Check out www.emotivenergy.com. The time is now, to make our homes more energy efficient, not only to save money, but to save the polar bears.