

The background image shows a silhouette of an industrial facility, likely a power plant or refinery, with several tall smokestacks. Two prominent stacks are emitting thick, dark plumes of smoke that drift across the sky. The sky is a warm, orange-brown color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene conveys a sense of industrial activity and environmental impact.

# The Effects of Pollution on the Environment

By Chloe Towers

## **What causes pollution?**

When it comes to pollution, there isn't just one cause. There are lots of them. However, before we can break down what causes pollution and the types of pollution, it's important to look at what pollution is. In simple terms, pollution is the introduction of harmful chemicals into some areas of the environment. This could be the toxic gases released from the burning of fossil fuels, or it could be the ash created by a natural volcano eruption. As you can see, pollution can have natural causes or be caused by humans. Let's explore the different types of pollution and what causes them.

## **What are the different types of pollution?**

You hear about pollution all the time. It could be the smog in your city or the rubbish covering your beach. Here are some of the different types of pollution and how it's caused.

When you think of environmental pollution, it typically comes in different types. These include air, water, land, light, sound pollution, radioactive and thermal.

# Air Pollution

In some cities, the air is dangerous to breathe. Why? Because of air pollution. Air pollution is when noxious gases and chemicals get suspended in the air. For example, the smog covering some areas of California and New York. Dirt, grime, exhaust fumes, and other aerosols go into the air. These pollutants can go up in the atmosphere and infect our clouds creating acid rain, or they can just hang out like smog does and make it harder for people to breathe.



# Water Pollution

Humans need water to survive. However, rubbish and chemicals can get thrown into our rivers, lakes and ocean. This is called water pollution.

Not only can this affect fish and other marine life, when pollutants get into the water, they have a devastating effect on the water cycle. Which could also affect the water we use.

Natural causes of water pollution include algae blooms and volcanos. However, humans also cause water pollution through trash and wastewater from factories.



# Noise Pollution

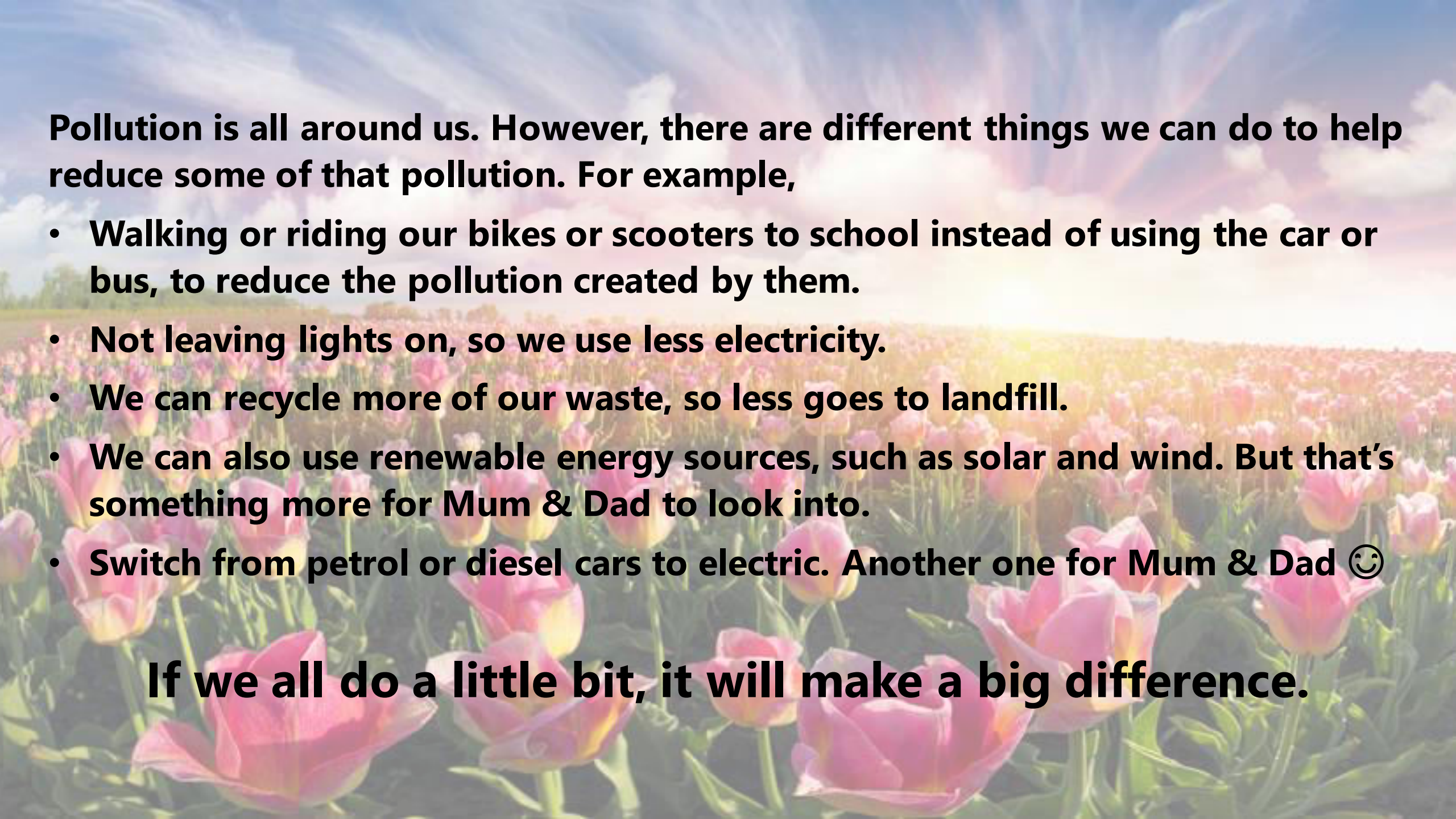
Have you ever needed to wear ear defenders for loud noises? If so, you were experiencing noise pollution. Noise pollution is caused by loud noises that can hurt our ears. Types of noise pollution can include explosions, jet engines, and even concerts (if you are close to the speakers). Noise pollution is dangerous because it can damage our ears and cause hearing loss.



# Light Pollution

Have you ever noticed that in a big city with a lot of lights, it can be impossible to see the stars and galaxies? Light pollution, using electric lights to light up the sky, is the cause. While lights are great for helping us to see at night, too many lights cause light pollution blocking out the night sky. Light pollution can also be harmful to animals. For example, the lights of big cities can confuse migrating birds.





**Pollution is all around us. However, there are different things we can do to help reduce some of that pollution. For example,**

- **Walking or riding our bikes or scooters to school instead of using the car or bus, to reduce the pollution created by them.**
- **Not leaving lights on, so we use less electricity.**
- **We can recycle more of our waste, so less goes to landfill.**
- **We can also use renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind. But that's something more for Mum & Dad to look into.**
- **Switch from petrol or diesel cars to electric. Another one for Mum & Dad 😊**

**If we all do a little bit, it will make a big difference.**