

Big Issue - Transporting Food

On a very basic level, we all need food to keep us alive. Without food we can't survive. But food has become much more than just something that keeps us going; food is something we can share and enjoy with our friends and family, and it is a way of connecting with the world around us.

But there are some big issues around the way we produce food. Your group will be looking at transporting food.

Transport

Have a think about where the closest farm to you might be. If you're in a city, chances are the closest farm is quite a long way away. If you're in the country, you might have quite a few farms around you, but do you buy all your food straight from these farms? Chances are, you buy most of your food from a supermarket, and some of the food you buy doesn't come from where you live.

For nearly all of us, we rely on food being transported from quite a distance away to our local area. It's great to have access to a wide range of foods; however, the reality is as more of us take a fancy to foods grown outside our local area, we need these foods to be transported, and this transportation usually creates greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to the greenhouse effect and climate change.

On top of that, because we want our favourite foods all year round rather than just when they are in season, foods are shipped from further and further away. Alternatively, they are placed in large refrigerated storage facilities where they are kept cool until they are ready to be sold in the shops; these storage facilities also create greenhouse gas emissions.

Big Questions

- What are food miles?
- Find one example of a food that comes from your state, one from anywhere in Australia and one from overseas. How far have these foods travelled?

