

## GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

### What are Greenhouse Gases?

Greenhouse gases are compounds such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon monoxide, that trap longwave solar radiation (heat) in the earth's lower atmosphere, keeping its surface warmer than it would be if the gases were in lower quantities.

### What Causes Increase in Greenhouse Gas Emission?

Greenhouse Gas emission increases because of rising demand for the following:

- consumables, such as vehicles, refrigerators and electrical equipment.
- building materials for housing and other developments.
- fossil fuels, including coal, petroleum and natural gas.

Overall, global population increase, technological change and innovation, and growth and expansion of industries account for the release of excessive amounts of Greenhouse Gases into the atmosphere.



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Huge quantities of Greenhouse Gases discharged into the atmosphere from bauxite mining in Linden.

### Reasons why it is Important to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emission

Increased amounts of Greenhouse Gases contribute to global climate change/global warming which leads to the following:

- More frequent and severe hydrometeorological hazards, such as storms, droughts, floods and heat waves.
- Greater human suffering, such as sickness, loss of lives, and destruction of property and infrastructure.
- Greater public and private expenditure to reduce the negative impacts of the disasters related to climate change.



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Above normal high tide resulted in overtopping of sea defence structure along West Coast Demerara and East Bank Essequibo resulting in widespread flooding. Sea level rise associated with climate change can cause a similar situation.

## Role of the Business Community in Greenhouse Gas Emissions Control

The business community can introduce in their operations environmentally-friendly practices, such as:

- ✓ reducing fossil fuel inputs in the business operations.
- ✓ focusing on energy-saving devices.
- ✓ increasing the use of solar, wind and other forms of alternative energy sources.

The business community can also do the following to assist with controlling Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- Support environmental regulations, policies, and initiatives that seek to address Greenhouse Gas Emission.
- Participate in, and support training programmes designed to publicize information on green technology.
- Engage in public-private partnerships geared towards the development and use of green technology.
- Conduct in-house training programmes designed to educate workers about the benefits of using green technology.
- Support research and development aimed at improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of green technology.



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LED bulbs are environmentally-friendly and economical.

## Why is it Necessary for Businesses to Engage in Activities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emission?

- Businesses are the largest consumers of fossil fuels.
- They are the largest producers of greenhouse gasses.
- Businesses have a corporate and social responsibility to protect the environment and health of the nation and their workers.

## Local Businesses have Begun to Promote the Use of Green Technologies



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- ✓ An example of a successful business that has begun to reduce emissions from its operations while saving money is Nand Persaud International Communications Inc. (NPIC) Tain, Corentyne. NPIC is the first major company to utilize 100 percent solar energy in Guyana.
- ✓ Demerara Bank Limited (Camp Street) is also powered by renewable energy. The bank is helping to change behaviour by making finance available for retrofitting homes and other buildings.
- ✓ Some businesses encourage the use of Light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs and other energy efficient ones.