

Green Seniors

“You owe it to yourself to see this film. If you do not, and you have grandchildren, you should explain to them why you decided not to.” So said Roger Ebert in the Chicago Sunday Times of *An Inconvenient Truth*, a film currently doing the rounds in Australia.

Starring Al Gore, former US Presidential candidate, this film suggests that climate change is a crisis to which we should all respond immediately. More scare mongering? Probably not – there is massive scientific evidence that atmospheric carbon dioxide build up is contributing to global warming and that climate change will have dramatic effects during our lifetimes, not to mention its effects on our grandchildren’s lives.

But, what can we do about it? The planetary scale of climate change makes it impossible for us to see how we can have any effect, but Gore suggests that there is a lot that we can do as individuals and that the combined effort will be rewarded. A number of actions are suggested on the website accompanying the film, www.climatecrisis.net and many will save you money as well.

Just cleaning and maintaining air-conditioner filters can make savings, as can making sure your car tyre pressures are kept at the recommended level. Changing from incandescent to compact fluorescent lighting is another option which can dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy demand. Compact fluorescents do cost more than incandescent bulbs, but the saving over time can be considerable – up to \$80 per year.

Most of us think about the financial inheritance that we leave for our children and grand children. Perhaps we should think a little more about the world we will leave them. Take Ebert’s tip – have a look at *An Inconvenient Truth*, or go to www.climatecrisis.net