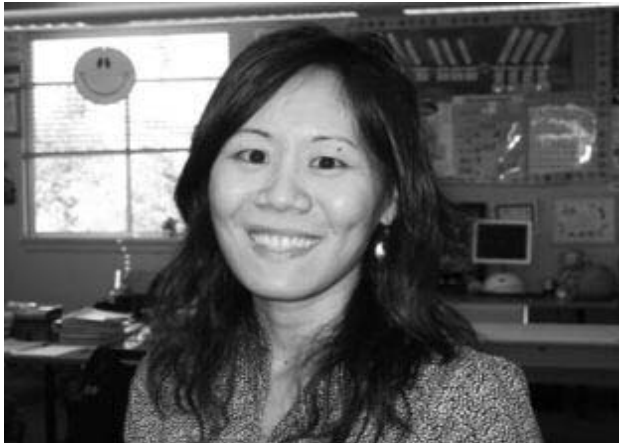


# CLIMATE HEROES

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## Teacher and her Students are Climate Heroes

Suney Park, a teacher at Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto, CA and her 2008 6th grade class are Acterra's first "Climate Heroes" of 2009.

Suney launched her 19 students on their heroic journey when she decided to integrate the study Global Warming into the class's Earth Science unit – not as a minor topic, but as a year-long research project.

Suney started by asking the simple question, "What is Global Warming?" She was surprised at the knowledge and interest her students had on the issue. "The students were interested because they have heard bits and pieces from the media about Global Warming, they know it's a big topic of discussion with adults and they were excited about learning more about it."



Early in the course, the students realized they not only wanted to research Global Warming but do something about it as well. So, they adopted a credo that guided them through the entire year, Mahatma Gandhi's famous quotation, "Be the Change you wish to see in the World."

As part of the year-long project, each student wrote a research paper and the class organized a Global Warming Evening, where they did a multimedia presentation about climate change for the entire school, parents and members of the community. "The event was magical", said Suney, "it was very well attended and the students became the agents of change they hoped to be".

The project also prompted the students to take action in their school community, and they quickly identified two things that they could do on campus to combat Global Warming. The students first decided to ask all the teachers turn off their lights and use the natural lighting the windows provided so the school could save energy. They also created a recycling program on campus and involved other students by creating educational posters.

Keyshawn, sixth grader  
"This Global Warming unit gave the students so much", says Suney. Keyshawn, one of her students, explains, "I feel like an expert on Global Warming now and it's exciting that I can now teach others about it." Lucia, another student, admits she didn't know much about Global Warming before this unit but now she feels strongly that each one of us can be a part of the solution. Christian, now a well-spoken seventh grader, says he has a new outlook on his community and realizes that as humans we can have both a positive and negative impact on our world.

Suney Park is a true Climate Hero because she gave her students the very special gifts of knowledge and empowerment. These 19 students are climate heroes because their hard work and dedication empowered them to take action in their community. By spreading the word they hope that others will heed their message and take steps to combat global warming too.

→ **Do you know someone who is taking action to fight climate change?**

Acterra is looking for Climate Heroes; individuals or groups who have gone to great lengths to reduce the carbon emissions within their community. People who have taken action and have inspired others to join them.

If you, or someone you know, is a Climate Hero tell us about it so others can learn from your accomplishments.

**Send us your heroic stories!**

Email a paragraph describing what you have done and its impact to [heroes@acterra.org](mailto:heroes@acterra.org). Please include your name, phone number and a photo of the activity.

**Go to [acterra.org](http://acterra.org) for more information.**

Acterra is a non-profit organization with a 39-year history of bringing people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet. For more information about Acterra go to [www.acterra.org](http://www.acterra.org).

