Measuring Earth's Changes

The global environment changes our local environment. And, the local environment changes the global environment.

Observation is the Key.

One of the best ways to figure out what kind of changes Earth is experiencing is a simple one: Look! Earth keeps a record of what its environment does. By observing clues in the world around us, we can learn about the way Earth changes.

Collecting data is only the first step. Next, scientists study what they find to uncover patterns and trends. Understanding what happened in the past prepares us for what the future may bring.

Want to be a Citizen Scientist?

Citizen Science programs are exactly what they sound like: A chance for regular people to help scientists, usually by collecting data. They exist all across the country (and the world). Some count ladybugs, some monitor mountain goats, others gauge nighttime light pollution. Google "citizen science" to find opportunities.

Each spring when the landscape begins to turn green, Citizen Scientists are watching. Project Budburst monitors trees, shrubs, and flowers to keep track of the first blooms. This helps us better understand our changing climate.