

IT ALL STARTED WITH A POLYP

GREAT BARRIER REEF
— JUNIOR —
OUTLOOK

reef beat



Coral polyp

- Corals are made up of tiny animals called polyps. They can form hard structures or soft structures.
- Tiny coral polyps are the building blocks of the Great Barrier Reef. They are to thank for the Reef's formation.
- Coral attracts many animals that rely on it for food or shelter.
- Corals get their energy in two ways. They can sting prey with their tentacles and eat them. They also use a process called photosynthesis, which is how corals get their energy from sunlight using *zooxanthellae*.

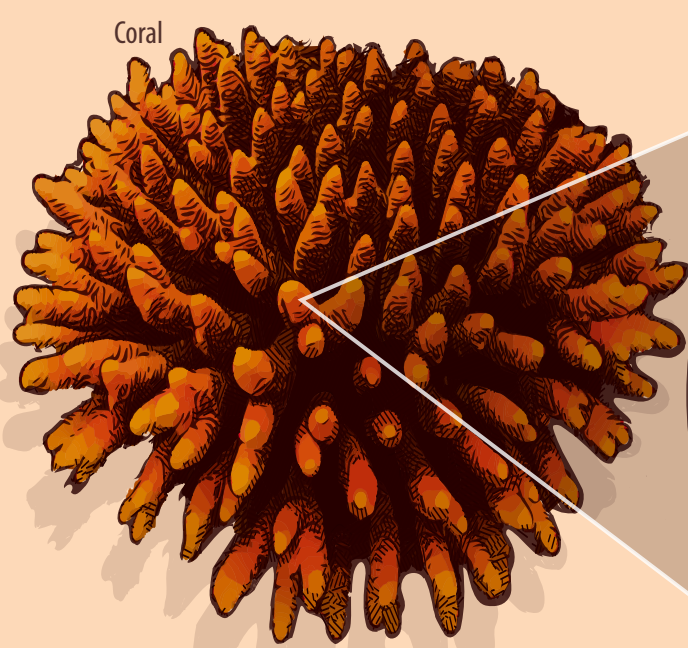
Climate change is the greatest threat to the Reef

What can I do?

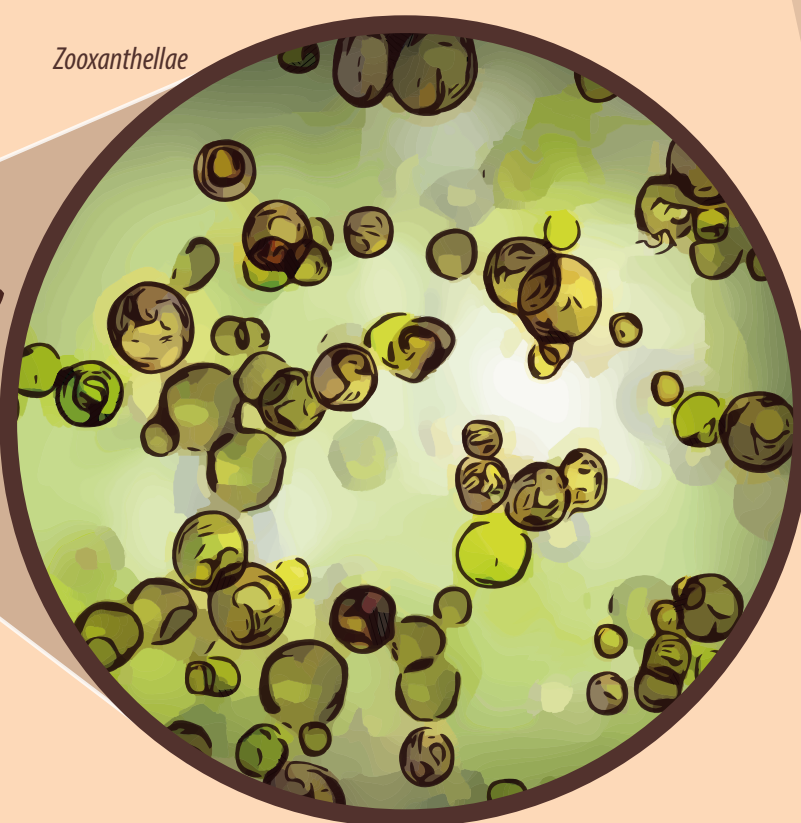
- Use less electricity. Turn off lights, fans and electronics when not in use.
- Drive less. Catch a bus, ride a bike or walk.
- Use windows, fans and insulation to heat and cool your house.

Share these tips with others.

The temperature of the Earth is rapidly increasing because of the greenhouse gases produced by peoples' activities. This is known as climate change. Climate change can cause hot water to sit on coral reefs which may lead to coral bleaching. Coral bleaching occurs when coral kick out their *zooxanthellae* as a response to stress, such as temperature changes, making their coral structure appear white. If the water temperature stays warm, the corals stay bleached and may eventually die.



Coral



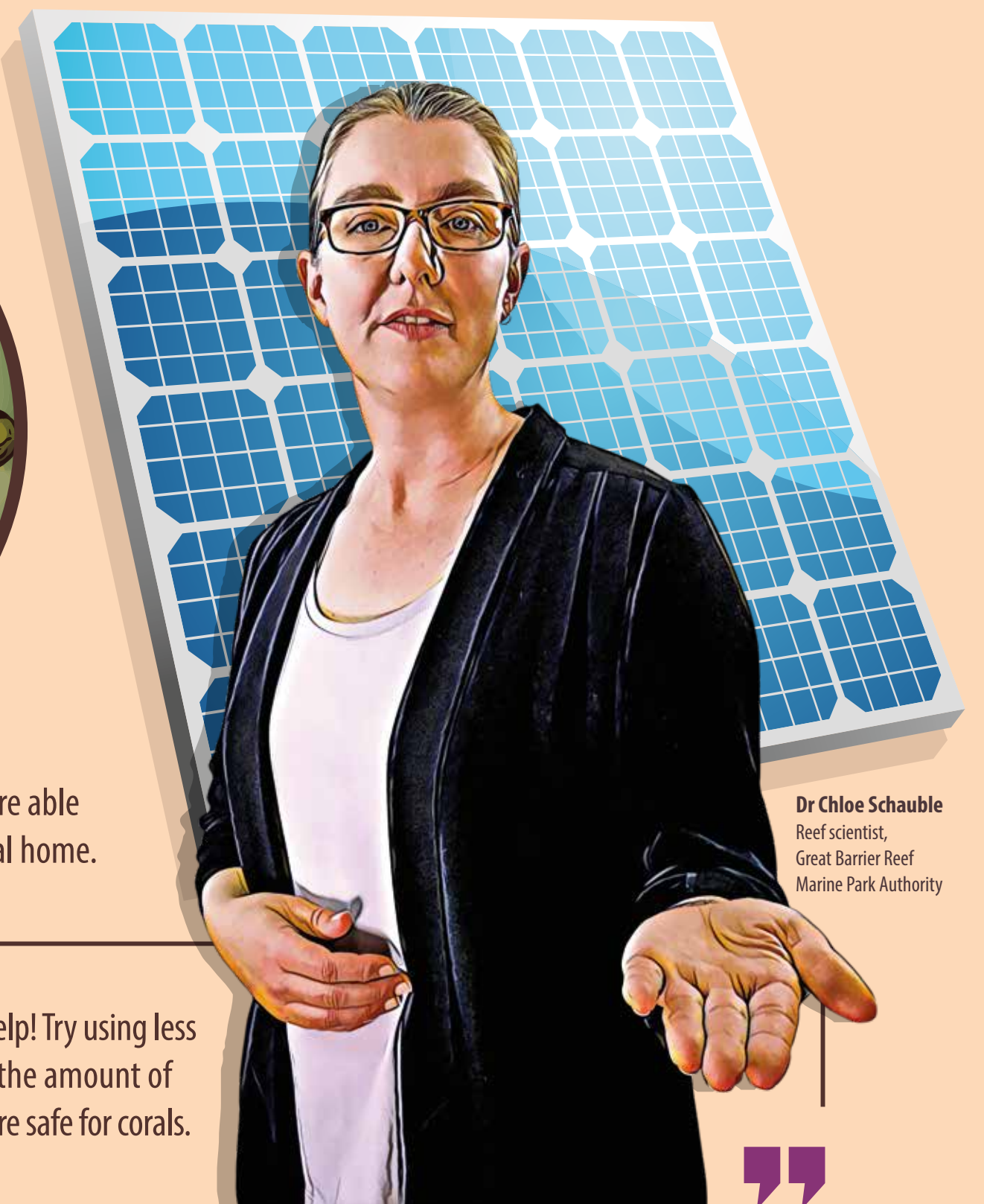
Zooxanthellae

What's that word?

Zooxanthellae (zoo-zan-thuh-lee) are tiny algae that live in coral polyps. Zooxanthellae are able to use sunlight to create energy (a process called photosynthesis) for both itself and its coral home.



Climate change is a big problem for the Reef, but there are many things you can do to help! Try using less electricity or swapping to renewable energy, like solar panels. This will help reduce the amount of greenhouse gases you make. Less greenhouse gases will help keep the water temperature safe for corals.



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Marine Park Authority

The Outlook Report 2019 states coral condition on the Great Barrier Reef has declined and is very poor. No matter where you live, you can help by taking action. Small changes to our daily routines can add up to big differences in fighting climate change.