Climate change is an emerging issue of great concern and is affecting more and more people from all walks of life. Various agencies and departments are working hand in hand to find solutions and ways to lessen if not totally eradicate the eminent effects of climate change. One of the major contributor or cause of this ill-affecting phenomenon are humans of course, with the boom of technology comes the ill-effects it puts on the environment as well as the improper and ill-mannered habits of persons involved in such activities. With the abrupt effects of such misuse of our natural resources and abuse of the environment arises various organizations which advocates to help minimize if not totally eliminate such emerging environmental concerns such as flashfloods, abrupt flooding to some areas which were not flood prone before, sudden changes in the weather, extreme hotness in temperature, and other excessive natural occurrences.

In schools, more and more educators who are eco-conscious and eco-aware are inculcating in the students’ minds the conservation and preservation of our environment as well as the important role it plays in our lives. And one of the easiest yet most effective tool is teaching the 3R’s, not the usual reading, ’riting, and ’rithmetic that teachers are opt to teach but rather teaching the students to REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE which all help to cut down the amount of waste we throw away, considered as the main source of all other problems that arise from the garbage we actually accumulate day to day. It helps conserve natural resources, landfill space and energy.

Reduce. The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by lessening activities which help in accumulating more waste than usual, here are some guidelines found helpful:
- Buy products in bulk. Larger, economy–size products or ones in concentrated form use less packaging and usually cost less per ounce.
- Avoid over–packaged goods, especially ones packed with several materials such as foils, paper and plastic. They are difficult to recycle plus you pay more for the package.
- Avoid disposable goods, such as paper plates, cups, napkins, razors, and lighters. Throwaways contribute to the problem, and cost more because they need to be replaced again and again.
- Buy durable goods – ones that are well–built or that carry good warranties. They will last longer, save money in the long run and save landfill space.
- At work, make two sided copies or use discarded back side of paper whenever possible.
- Maintain central files rather than using several files for individuals.
- Use electronic mail or main bulletin board.
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins.
- Use a dish cloth instead of paper towels.

Reuse. It makes economic and environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes creativity.
- Reuse products for the same purpose. Save paper and plastic bags, and repair broken appliances, furniture and toys.
- Reuse products in different ways. Use a coffee can to pack a lunch; use plastic microwave dinner trays as picnic dishes.
- Sell old clothes, appliances, toys, and furniture in garage sales or ads, or donate to charities.
- Use a ceramic coffee mug instead of paper cups.
- Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags or eco bags to the store. Do not take a bag from the store unless you need one.
Recycle. It is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, remanufactures, and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home, in the school and at work.

- Buy products made from recycled material. Look for the recycling symbol, which could mean one of two things – either the product is made of recycled material, or the item can be recycled.
- Check collection centers and curbside pickup services to see what they accept and begin collecting those materials. These can include metal cans, newspapers, paper products, glass, plastics and oil.
- Consider purchasing recycled materials at work when purchasing material for office supply, office equipment or manufacturing.
- Buy products made from material that is collected for recycling in your community.
- Use recycled paper for letterhead, copier paper and newsletters.
- Locally, schools conduct creativity challenge for students to come up with useful products out of waste or discarded non-biodegradable materials.
- Local government units now employ waste segregation schemes in collecting garbage.
- Among all other forms of strategies and ways to lessen if not totally eliminate too much waste accumulated are straw less day and the use of recycled/recyclable materials for packaging and other utensils for fast food, groceries, and other establishments is also a big help.

If we could all just be a little more conscious and cautious in the things we do and use, and each of us will maintain our love and compassion for the only planet that we have, we could all make it a better place to live in and lessen the ill effects of climate change.

References:

https://dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/pubs-reports/threers.htm