

# Dear Mother Earth

## AN EARTHLY ADVICE COLUMN

by Patricia J. Murphy illustrated by Beth Stover

### **Sometimes, everyone (even Antarctica) needs a little help . . .**

*Dear Mother Earth,*

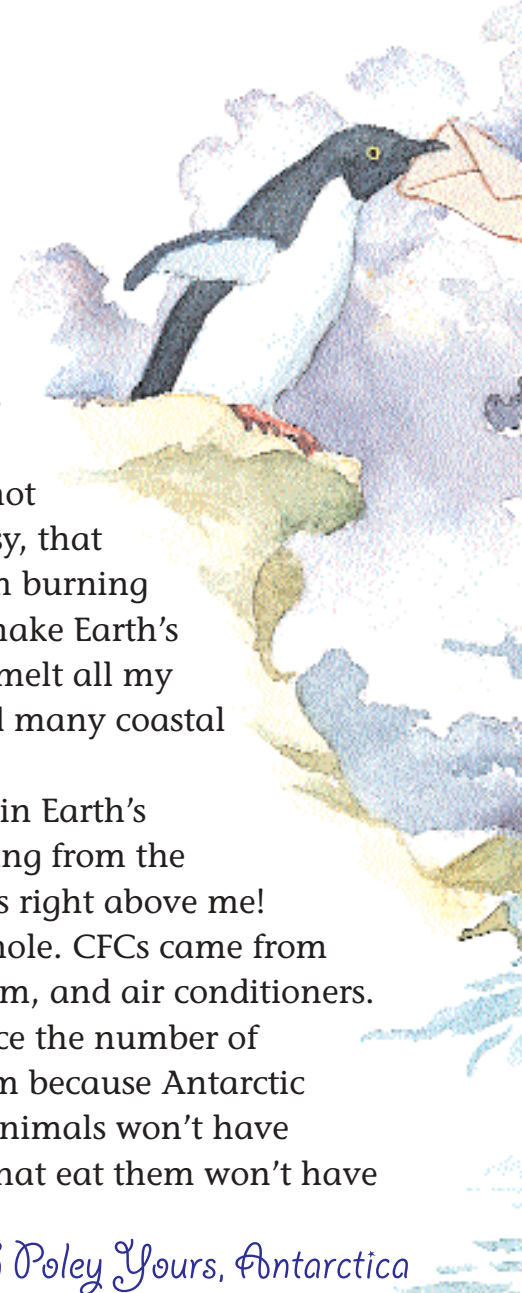
It's me, Antarctica. You know, the Pole down south? I have the subzero temperatures, glaciers, ice, penguins, seals, whales, birds, and scientists. I also have some problems. Here are a couple of them:

**Problem #1**—I'm melting. Okay, so I'm not melting right away. But things could get messy, that is if your temperature keeps rising. Gases from burning fossil fuels, especially CO<sup>2</sup> (carbon dioxide), make Earth's temperature rise. This global warming could melt all my ice. This could cause your sea level to rise and many coastal cities to flood!

**Problem #2**—Hole-y Cow! There's a hole in Earth's ozone layer. The ozone layer protects everything from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. And the hole is right above me! CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) have caused the hole. CFCs came from chemicals once used in aerosol cans, Styrofoam, and air conditioners.

Too much ultraviolet radiation could reduce the number of shrimplike krill in the ocean. This is a problem because Antarctic animals eat krill. Without krill, lots of these animals won't have enough to eat. And, if they die, the animals that eat them won't have enough to eat either.

*South Poley Yours, Antarctica*





*Dear  
Antarctica:*

Mother Earth can only do so much. People on Earth must help. Scientists are working to help you with these problems.

There are also other things Earth people can do:

—Use less energy! Fossil fuels power your family's car and produce much of the world's electricity.

—Travel light. When you visit Antarctica, leave only footprints behind.

—Get involved. Read more about Antarctica. Find out what scientists are doing to protect the ozone layer. Think about what you can do to help.

*Love, Mother Earth*