

Making a Difference – What can we do?

We know the main perpetrator of global warming or climate change is **Carbon Emissions**. So what can we do about it? Here are a list of simple things we can all do to help reduce our carbon emissions

At Home

- **Turn off lights when you leave a room**
Don't waste electricity lighting up a room with no-one in it!



- **Use energy saving lightbulbs**
They use a quarter of the electricity and last much longer



- **Only boil the amount of water you need in your kettle**
Use a cup to measure out just the amount needed.

- **Let your clothes dry naturally**
Rather than using the energy required to use the tumble drier.

- **Turn off televisions, DVDs, stereos and computers when not in use.**
They can use between up to 60% of the power they use when on.

- **Find an energy provider with a 'green tariff'.**
Renewable energy sources have zero carbon emissions.



On the Road



- **Don't use your car for short journeys - walk or cycle**
Short journeys are the most polluting, as when the engine is cold, it uses even more fuel per mile.

- **Share car journeys with work colleagues or friends.**
Up to a third of all car mileage is accounted for by the drive to work, and a further 20% is the school run.

- **Choose a fuel-efficient / environmentally friendly car**
You can more than half your carbon emissions per mile.

- **Use public transport as much as possible**
When many people use a bus or train the emissions per person is reduced.



To find out how to measure your carbon emissions, please turn over....

How Big is your Footprint?

Carbon Emissions are produced whenever fossil fuel is burnt to produce energy. This mainly happens in the following ways:



Coal or gas fired power stations which provide electricity for our homes.

Petrol or diesel used to run our cars, vans and motorbikes.



Aviation fuel used by airplanes for our holidays.

So we know we want to reduce our carbon emissions, but how do we know where we're starting from?

One term commonly used is **Carbon Footprint**. This simply is the amount of carbon emissions for which each individual, household or organization is responsible, measured in tonnes of carbon.



There are several websites which can quickly and easily calculate our carbon footprint, simply by answering simple questions about our electricity usage, transport and holiday habits.



One very good website is www.carboncalculator.com. Why not give it a go and see how big your footprint is? The UK average footprint is currently a whopping 8,870 kilogrammes per year.

Whatever our number is, we all have to find ways to reduce it. Remember too, the less energy we use, not only do our carbon emissions reduce – so do our energy and fuel bills!

