

# Climate Change Action - Reduce Your Impact

## Other useful contact numbers and websites:

### Energy Savings Trust (EST)

0800 512 012  
www.est.org.uk

### Low Carbon Buildings Grants Scheme

0800 915 0990  
www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Most utility companies have energy efficiency advice lines for general or specific energy advice, including identification of areas of high energy consumption in your home and ways to reduce these.

British Gas	0845 602 0155
N Power	0800 02 22 20
Powergen	0500 20 10 00
EDF Energy	0800 096 9966
Scottish and Southern	0800 622 838

### Energywatch

*(energy supplier and tariff advice)*  
08459 060708  
www.energywatch.org.uk

### U Switch

*(for information about energy suppliers)*  
0800 404 7961  
www.uswitch.com

### Warmfront

*(for grants towards energy efficiency measures for benefit recipients)*  
0800 316 2814

### Benefit Entitlement Checks

Warmfront	0800 072 9006
Welfare Rights Team (for over 60s)	01432 263530
Citizen's Advice Bureau	0870 1264091

With predictions that world temperatures will rise by 2-4°C and sea levels by 30-40cm by the end of the century, climate change caused by carbon emissions is rarely out of the headlines. Burning of fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation releases gases into the atmosphere, which contributes to the **greenhouse effect**.

The results will be felt on a global scale – storms, floods and droughts are increasingly leaving more and more people homeless and could eventually destroy whole ecosystems.

## It's going to take an effort by everyone to make a difference.

We can all easily reduce our energy usage, which also saves us money!

### Simple free energy saving measures

- ✓ Close your curtains at dusk to reduce the amount of heat lost through the windows
- ✓ Unplug chargers when not in use as they still use electricity
- ✓ Fit energy saving light bulbs - each saves you up to £9 per year on your electricity bill
- ✓ When buying new appliances always choose A or B rated ones if possible
- ✓ Fill your washing machine/dishwasher/tumble dryer to full or use the half load/economy selection
- ✓ Set the heating timer correctly
- ✓ Turn your thermostat down by 1°C
- ✓ Only fill your kettle with as much water as you need
- ✓ Always turn lights off when you leave a room
- ✓ Appliances on standby can use up to a quarter of the electricity they use when on, so always turn them off completely when not in use
- ✓ Contrary to popular belief it doesn't use more energy to start up or shut down computers and monitors compared to normal running, so always turn them off when not in use.

## Insulation

Loft and cavity wall insulation make your home more energy efficient. Each measure saves you up to a third on your fuel bills. Draught proofing, hot water tank jackets, thermostatic radiator valves and radiator panels are other great energy efficiency measures that are relatively cheap with a short payback time.

Grants may be available to help cover the cost of these works. To find out what you may be entitled to contact Isabel or Harry at Herefordshire Council (01432 260398 or 261887)

## Boilers

Generally, boilers that are 10-15 years old are very inefficient; although replacements can be expensive, they will save you money in the long run, reduce your household carbon emissions and you may be entitled to a grant towards the cost of a high efficiency one.

## Transport

Cars are a major source of carbon emissions – on average a small car produces 2.5 tonnes of carbon per year, more than an average family house! So, every time you go to get in your car, think about whether you can walk, cycle, get the bus or get a lift instead. Can you car share to get work each day? Visit [www.twoshare.co.uk](http://www.twoshare.co.uk) to find out more.

‘Food miles’ are the number of miles a food travels from field to plate. More than 25% of our carbon emissions can be attributed to the food we buy, which costs the UK an estimated £9bn per year. You can help by buying seasonal local produce whenever possible; organic produce is also better for the environment as less fossil fuels are used to manufacture and transport chemicals used in production.

## Renewable Energy Resources

Utilising renewable energy sources are a great way to help save the environment. Renewable energy sources include solar, wind and hydropower. They provide an endless supply of energy so they will never run out, unlike fossil fuels.

Many energy suppliers have ‘**Green**’ tariffs where you can have your electricity supplied from a renewable energy source rather than from burning gas or coal or using nuclear power. Contact your utility company for more information or visit [www.greenelectricity.org](http://www.greenelectricity.org)

Alternatively, collect your own energy from renewable sources. Solar heating, wind turbines, solar electric, ground source heating, hydroelectricity and biomass boilers are all methods that are becoming more popular in homes around the country. There

is a government grant to promote renewable energy under the **Low Carbon Buildings Programme**,

phone 0800 915 0990 for further information. The Council may also offer assistance

for the installation of certain measures. With increasing fuel costs renewable energy makes more and more sense.

There are many simple steps we can all take to reducing our carbon emissions and most of these go hand in hand with saving money on our fuel bills. **For more information about energy efficiency or for a free booklet on Climate Change please contact Isabel or Harry in Private Sector Housing (01432 260398 or 261887) or Sadie in Sustainability (01432 383449) at Herefordshire Council or the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (0800 512012).**

