

The Oxford Citizens' Climate Change Pledge



I recognise that:

- Climate change is happening now
- Climate change will have far reaching effects on our economy, society and environment
- I have a part to play in reducing the overall impact on the environment.

Overleaf we have tried to quantify the reduced impact on climate change of certain actions listed below.

Within the next year I will act on some or all of the following (with the help of Oxford is My World – Your Guide to Saving the Planet!):

- Switch off appliances at the mains and lights when not in use e.g. switching off TV, set-top box at mains, not leaving phone chargers plugged in when fully charged
- Replace as many of my light bulbs as possible with low energy ones
- Switch to A rated appliances/more efficient models when purchasing a new appliance e.g. A++ fridge; condensing boilers
- Switch to a green electricity tariff
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle waste and water more e.g. use the recycling scheme, install a water saver in my toilet
- Use the car less - walk and cycle more. Take the train not the plane. Fly less. When you replace your car choose a bicycle or a small diesel. When you have to drive, drive with care for the environment.
- Implement insulation measures in my home- Such as insulating my hot water tank, topping up my loft insulation (to 270mm), having cavity wall insulation, installing heat reflective backings behind radiators on external solid walls.
- Use energy more efficiently in the home e.g. turn my thermostat down by 1°C; wash at lower temperatures (30°C if possible); dry clothes outdoors when possible; use lids on saucepans, shower instead of bath or power shower
- Consider how climate change is going to impact on me e.g. flood (affecting my homes, ability to get to work), drought (conserve/reuse more water), prepare for heat-wave (insulating your home properly will help to make it cooler during hotter periods)
- Assess my personal/household carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions (e.g. energy consumption, transport use, food miles etc - a simple calculator at www.climatecare.co.uk can help with this) and set my own personal/household greenhouse gas reduction target.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

www.oxfordismyworld.org

I have signed the **Oxford Citizens' Climate Change Pledge**. Please send me my free copy and updates of "Oxford is My World: Your Guide to Saving the Planet" and a Personal Carbon Reduction Pack:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

I would prefer my Guide and Carbon Reduction Pack: By post By e-mail

Please detach this section and return it to: P.Spencer, Environmental Health, Oxford City Council, Ramsay House, 10 St Ebbe's Street, Oxford, OX1 1PT.

MCC

www.oxford.gov.uk



Climate Change – the background



Climate change is happening and is accelerated by human activity – this is the overwhelming world scientific consensus.

Whenever we use energy in our homes or cars or use resources or travel, we are causing greenhouse gases – the main one of which is carbon dioxide - to be emitted.

An individual in the UK is, on average, responsible for the emission of 12.5 tons of carbon dioxide per year (TCO₂/y), including flights (made up of 6 TCO₂/y of direct carbon emissions and 6.5 TCO₂/y indirect emissions).

This total needs to be reduced to about 3 TCO₂/y to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Below we have tried to give an estimate of what the actions suggested overleaf mean in reduced carbon emissions.

- Standby - audiovisual equipment standby energy use in a typical household accounts for 0.1 TCO₂/y.
- Low energy light bulbs - replacing 3 well used old style 100W light bulbs with the energy efficient 20W equivalent saves 0.2 TCO₂/y - assumes average 5 hrs of use per day per bulb
- cavity wall insulation can typically save 1.1 TCO₂/y
- Turn home thermostat down by 1°C - this saves around 0.3 TCO₂/y
- dry clothes outdoors when possible - saves typically 0.2 TCO₂/y
- shower instead of bath or power shower (saves about 0.5 TCO₂/y in energy for heating and processing 22000 litre /y less water per 3 person household, assuming daily bath is replaced with daily shower)
- A++ rated fridge – saves 0.1 TCO₂/y compared to a 10 year old model
- condensing boilers – saves typically 0.4TCO₂/y compared to a 10 year old boiler
- Switch to a green electricity tariff – a good quality green electricity tariff reduces carbon emissions associated with electricity use to practically zero, saving typically 1.6 TCO₂/y
- Take the train not the plane - for example the 660km journey from London to Glasgow causes 0.34TCO₂ by plane, 0.13 TCO₂ by car, and 0.08 by train.
- Fly less - a return flight to Athens causes 2.4 TCO₂, return flight to Washington causes 4.6TCO₂.
- When you replace your car choose a small diesel – it saves 0.9 TCO₂/y compared to a 2l petrol car with 180gCO₂/km.

Figures for carbon emissions and savings above are from various sources and have often been interpolated, extrapolated, and rounded for use here, and are often for average or typical cases – the intention in presenting them is to give some context and allow rough comparison.