

***be prepared... for the future  
together, Scouts will tackle climate change***

## Fact Sheet 2: What we can do

We have already seen how carbon dioxide emissions are contributing to the drastic changes in our climate. Let's look at where this carbon dioxide comes from and what we can do together to tackle it.

Approximately 30% of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK are from domestic energy – the energy we need to have heat, power and light in our homes. Every time you turn on a light switch, turn up the heating or power any appliances at home, you are contributing to the carbon dioxide that is causing the climate change problem. Reducing unnecessary energy use will help to tackle climate change.

Every reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, however small, all helps because those reductions become huge when combined across our population.

For instance, 8% of our domestic energy comes from appliances left on standby. So that is a massive quantity of carbon that could be saved if each of us made sure that we switched off appliances when we weren't using them, such as televisions, mobile chargers and computers.

So, if we can collectively save that much by just turning appliances off when we're not using them, imagine what we could do if we all, collectively also:

**Turned off our phones, iPod or games chargers off and unplugged them as soon as they has finished charging.** *Did you know that a charger uses almost as much plugged in as it does charging.*

**Only boiled as much water as we needed when making hot drinks.** *Why boil a whole kettle for one cup of tea?*

**Put on jumpers to warm up before turning up the heating.** *This will save money on expensive energy bills as well as helping to combat climate change.*

**Replaced light bulbs with energy saving ones.** *You can now buy energy saving candle and dimming bulbs as well as halogen bulbs.*

**Walked on short journeys, like school, rather than taking the car.** *Short bursts in the car are the least fuel efficient and walking will help to keep you fit.*

**Washed our laundry at 30°.** *Many detergents now do not require high temperatures to wash.*

**Took showers instead of a baths.** *A shower uses only a third of the hot water required by a bath. (No power showers!)*

**Bought locally grown food.** *For instance, apples from Australia have travelled 13,000 miles to get here, when there is probably one growing on a tree not far from where you live!*

**Reduced, reused and recycled!** *Use less, reuse items rather than buying new ones and recycle rather than throw away!*

### **But is it too late to make a difference?**

There are some changes that have happened that are irreversible, however if we act now we can reduce the risk of large changes having a serious impact on our climate – for us and future generations.

For more information visit DEFRA's website on the climate challenge – [www.climatechallenge.org.uk](http://www.climatechallenge.org.uk)