

Teignbridge Action on Climate - Carbon Cutters team.

Number 2. Small things

I, like most people I meet, hesitate to make big changes to my lifestyle.

I am budget conscious and have no desire to harm to us or future generations of people, plants and animals by increasing the CO2 concentration in our atmosphere.

I have a conflict of interests.

In this article I list some simple things everyone can adopt to reduce their CO2 emissions and often save money.

First I recommend you complete the Teignbridge Climate Action carbon footprint tracker found at <https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/newsite/page.php/page/carbon-calculator>.

This will introduce you to the numbers and get you thinking about your current energy use and carbon emissions.

After that:

Around the house

1. Make sure the heating controls are set to keep you comfortable without wasting energy.
2. Turn the hot water temperature down if hotter than you need.
3. Eliminate unnecessary draughts and fully shut windows and doors when trying to keep the house warm.
4. Turn devices and lights off when not in use.
5. Boil only the amount of water you need in kettles and saucepans.
6. When heating water or food in a saucepan, put the lid on the pan.

In the garden

1. Make wood piles and compost from woody and green material rather than burning. Burning releases the stored carbon.
2. Mow a little less. You'll save petrol or electricity, and wildlife will be grateful.
3. Rake autumn leaves into borders and beds rather than burning. The worms will recycle them for you.

In the car

1. Turn the engine off when idling for more than 30 seconds.
2. Drive a little slower if you have the time. Fuel consumption increases as speed increases.
3. The RAC, AA and others have fuel saving tips on the web.

I'm hoping you will agree with me, none of these ideas are too inconvenient and each one makes a small difference that adds up.

Once you have completed your carbon footprint tracker you'll find energy and emissions reduction ideas on a following page.

Let us know how you get on.