

## Appendix 5

### What can we all do?

There are lots of simple things you can do to save energy right now, which will reduce your carbon dioxide emissions and help prevent climate change. According to the South Staffordshire Viewpoint Survey 2007, the measures panel members are most likely to have taken to reduce their carbon footprint are: turned down central heating to save energy (85%); stopped leaving appliances on standby to save energy (82%) and installed energy efficient light bulbs (77%). Those residents who do not own their own home are less likely to have made energy saving property alterations.

### Residents

These measures range from turning your lights off when you leave a room to improving insulation in your home.

Not only will you be 'doing your bit' to help prevent climate change you will also see a big difference in your pocket. The average household could save up to £300 a year on energy bills by being more energy efficient.

There are many simple things that you can do that **won't cost a thing!** For example;

- Turn your thermostat down. Reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10 percent, saving around £40 per year.
- Always turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave appliances on charge unnecessarily.
- A dripping hot water tap wastes energy and in one week wastes enough hot water to fill half a bath, so fix leaking taps and make sure they're fully turned off!
- Only boil as much water as you need (but remember to cover the elements if you're using an electric kettle).

### Small cost options

Reducing the amount of fuel you use for heating can often be achieved by insulating your home. Good insulation will keep the heat in the building and drafts and cold out. A lot of heat escapes through doors, windows, walls and the roof of a house

- Draughts also get in through gaps in floorboards and skirting boards, which also allow heat to escape in winter. Stop this

waste by filling these gaps with newspaper, beading or sealant

- Insulate your hot water tank with a jacket - it only costs a few pounds and, with all the heat it traps in, it pays for itself within months. Fit one that's at least 75mm (3") thick and you could save around £20 a year.
- Insulating your loft is one of the simplest ways to save energy - you can even install it yourself. Insulate your loft today and in a year you could save between £180 and £220.
- Around 33% of the heat lost in an uninsulated house is through the walls. You could save up to £160 on energy bills each year by insulating your wall cavities. It also creates an even temperature in your home
- Use energy saving light bulbs. Just one can save you £100 over the lifetime of the bulb - and they last up to 12 times longer than ordinary lightbulbs.

## **Businesses**

**Many companies think of energy as a fixed overhead but saving energy is actually one of the easiest ways to reduce costs and improve your reputation.**

### Save money

Simply by switching machines off after use, or turning the heating down in warm weather, you can make real savings on your energy bill. And just reducing it by 20% could add the same amount to your profits as a 5% increase in sales. On average offices waste £6,000 each year by leaving equipment on over weekends and bank holidays. Just getting your employees to turn off their monitors when they go home can make a big difference.

### Offer better value to your customers

Cutting your overheads means production costs will go down, making your products and services more competitive.

### Enhance your reputation

Increasing numbers of consumers and business customers will now only buy from, or invest in, companies with environmentally friendly policies and production methods. By demonstrating a commitment to saving energy, you will increase your appeal in the market and attract a wider customer base.

### Encourage more people to come and work for you

People don't just want to buy from socially responsible businesses; they also want to work for them. So you will also increase your appeal in the recruitment market, and stay an employer of choice.

### Stay ahead of government regulation

With climate change so high on the political agenda, we are likely to see more initiatives like the Climate Change Levy and the Emissions Trading Scheme, as well as tighter building regulations.

Being prepared for these changes now will save you time and money when they are introduced. Plus, if you start saving energy straight away, you will immediately reduce the levy on your energy bill.

The Carbon Trust helps businesses understand the importance of lowering their carbon emissions, and offer practical advice on how to do it. For further information call **0800 085 2005**

By bringing energy saving into every aspect of your life - work, travel, and day to day living - you can make a real difference.

Remember, there is financial help available if you're planning to make energy saving improvements to your home. The Government, energy suppliers and local authorities all provide grants to help you implement energy saving measures in your home. For more information **contact your local energy advice centre on 0800 512 012.**