

Everyone is talking about climate change but what is it?

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. During the 20th Century the Earth has warmed up by 0.6°C / 0.9° F. This is caused by the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, due to human activity.

What does this mean for Dorset?

- Coastal towns and villages will be affected by rising sea level.
- Our wildlife will change, the Song Thrush and Stag Beetle may die out.
www.dorsetwildlife.co.uk
- Heavy rainfall, storms and flooding will become more common.

What are we doing in Dorset to help

The Dorset Climate Change Coalition, a partnership of voluntary and public sector organisations, aims to help you to understand the urgency of action on climate change, and to inspire and support you to be part of the solution.

You can make a difference

Your carbon footprint is a measure of the amount of greenhouse gases that are caused by your lifestyle. You can measure your footprint and see how much you can reduce it. If we all work together to reduce our emissions, we can build a better world!

In Dorset, the average carbon footprint is 7.4 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide. Why not measure yours at <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk>

What are you doing to tackle Climate Change?

Will you be one of the thousand people in Dorset who will measure their carbon footprint and pledge to reduce it?

How to reduce your carbon footprint:

- Wrap your home up warm.
- Walk where you can.
- Eat local, seasonal food.
- Make compost.
- Garden with wildlife in mind.

Make a difference...

Please tell us what you plan to do:

T: 0800 975 0166

E: info@dorsetclimate.org.uk

www.dorsetclimate.org.uk



Dorset's climate is changing



Rising temperatures
Rising sea levels

Extreme
weather conditions

Dorset's wildlife
will be impacted





You can make a difference

Getting around

Did you know... that over 32% of Dorset's greenhouse gas emissions comes from cars and lorries on the road.

So instead of jumping into your car, why not think about cycling or walking and see how much fitter you get.

- Leave the car at home one day a week and save around 350kg of carbon dioxide per year. <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk>
- Walk or cycle for short journeys and save 20p per mile. www.theaa.com
- Cycle 20 miles a week and you will have the fitness of someone 10 years younger and cut your risk of heart attack and stroke by 15%. British Heart Foundation / National Forum for Coronary Heart Disease Prevention
- Get on a bus and you won't need a parking space!

At home

Did you know... in Dorset, one third of greenhouse gas emissions are due to the energy we use at home.

The average household could save £250 per year by being more energy efficient.

- Insulating your walls and loft saves 1100kg of carbon dioxide per year/£155 a year/can be done free of charge.
- Turn your thermostat down by 1°C and save 10% on your heating bills.
- The average household has 12 appliances on stand-by or left charging costing £38 per year.
- What's in your bin? A third of it can be composted and choosing items with less packaging will cut down on your rubbish.

Find all facts at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
Composting information from www.recyclenow.com

Eating

Did you know... One in four lorries on the road carries food and half of the vegetables eaten in this country are grown abroad.

So get to know where your food comes from; the less it travels the fresher it is.

- Use local producers/farmers markets.
- Compost your food waste. Composting saves 13kg of methane per year, equivalent to 280kg of carbon dioxide. www.cat.org.uk
- Grow your own fruit and vegetables, they will be fresher, satisfying and tasty too.

Also remember the wildlife in your garden, Song Thrushes and hedgehogs need food too.

To see how you can make a difference log on to
www.dorsetclimate.org.uk