



Why act upon climate change?

Is the climate really changing?

In the South West of England in the last 100 years the average temperature has increased by 0.8°C to 0.9°C (1.5°F) and the sea level has risen by around 15cm (6in).

What causes climate change?

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says it is "very likely" (more than 90%) that human activity is causing global warming. In the last 200 years, as coal, oil and gas have been used; the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has risen by more than 50%. These gases trap the heat from the sun, enhancing the natural greenhouse effect and warming the earth.

What effect will climate change have in Dorset?

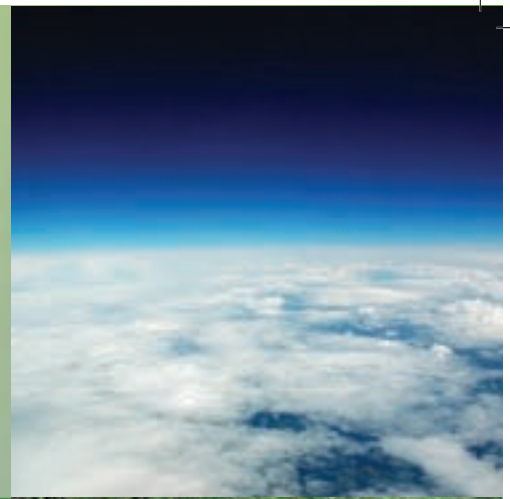
- Rising sea levels will affect towns and villages on the coast and river estuaries.
- Our wildlife will change - the song thrush and stag beetle may die out. www.dorsetwildlife.co.uk
- Storms and flooding will become more common.

We can build a better world. You can be part of the solution!

Climate change is already happening, but if we all take action now we can keep it to less than 2°C. Over one half of Dorset's greenhouse gas emissions are due to home energy use and transport, so:

1. Measure your carbon footprint and see how you can reduce it.
2. Ask friends, colleagues and family to do their bit.
3. Use your influence as a consumer and citizen to effect change.

www.dorsetclimate.org.uk





You can act for So understand your carbon footprint

Your carbon footprint is a measure of the greenhouse gases caused by your actions. The average Dorset household's carbon footprint is 7.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide (1 tonne is equal to 1000kg). Measure yours or use our questionnaire.

Five ways to cut your footprint

1. Wrap your home up warm

In Dorset one third of emissions are due to energy use at home.

Things you should know:

- Insulation can reduce your carbon footprint by over 1 tonne. Grants are available.
- Turning your thermostat down by 1°C saves 10% on your heating bill or 300kg of carbon dioxide.

Ideas for action:

1. Make sure you are fully insulated - 270mm / 11 in of loft insulation and cavity wall insulation.
2. Only fill the kettle with as much water as you need - it will boil much more quickly. www.deac.co.uk

2. Walk where you can

One third of Dorset's emissions are due to road transport.

Things you should know:

- One in four car journeys are less than 2 miles long.
- For planning journeys by public transport visit www.transportdirect.info
- Even after insurance and tax, driving still costs 20p per mile. www.theaa.com

Ideas for action:

1. Leave your car at home once a week - save 350kg of carbon dioxide. <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk>
2. Walk or cycle for short journeys.

3. Enjoy local seasonal food

One in four lorries on the road carries food. The carbon impact of food is complicated, so think about the food you buy, where it is from, how it has been processed, how it is packaged?

Things you should know:

- Local seasonal food is good for the environment and the local economy.
- The average household spends £420 each year on food that they throw away. www.wrap.org.uk

Ideas for action:

1. Grow your own fruit and vegetables.
2. Try the farm shop or farmers market for local seasonal produce or visit www.directfromdorset.co.uk

Ideas for action: think about what you can do

for the climate bon footprint and reduce it

caused by your lifestyle. In Dorset, the average
measure yours at <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk>

4. Make compost at home

When organic waste ends up in landfill, air cannot get to it, so it breaks down to form methane - a harmful greenhouse gas. If it is composted, it doesn't produce methane and you get free compost for your garden.

Things you should know:

- Composting saves 13kg of methane (equivalent to 280kg) of carbon dioxide per household per year. www.cat.org.uk
- Your local authority may provide free or discounted compost bins or collect compostable waste.

Ideas for action:

1. Compost your food waste. www.recyclenow.com/compost
2. If you don't have a private garden, compost with your neighbours.

5. Garden for wildlife

Climate change is a real threat for Dorset's wildlife. Having safe havens with food and water all year round could help some of our more vulnerable species survive.

Things you should know:

- The area of land covered by gardens is at least five times that of nature reserves and national parks.
- Wildlife requires 4 things to live: food, water, shelter and places to breed.

Ideas for action:

1. A small pond in your garden can be a habitat for frogs, toads and newts.
2. Treat slugs and snails with respect; they are food for wildlife.
3. Find out more at www.dorsetwildlife.co.uk

could do to make a difference





My climate action

My pledge

Measure your carbon footprint at Act on CO₂ <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk> or using our questionnaire.

My carbon footprint is [] tonnes/points date [] / [] / []

This leaflet or the Act on CO₂ action plan will help you to reduce your footprint.

My target

I will reduce my footprint to [] tonnes/points by [] / [] / []

To reduce my footprint I will:

- 1. Wrap my home up warm YES NO
- 2. Walk when I can YES NO
- 3. Eat local seasonal food YES NO
- 4. Make compost at home YES NO
- 5. Garden for Wildlife YES NO

We would like to hear about your footprint and how you plan to reduce it. Contact us today and let us know!

Contact us

www.dorsetclimate.org.uk

E: info@dorsetclimate.org.uk

T: 0800 975 0166

Dorset Energy Advice Centre, Bob Hann House,
Shillito Road, Poole, BH12 2BW

Dorset Climate Change Coalition is a partnership of voluntary and public sector organisations who are working together to improve understanding of climate change in order to inspire and support you in taking action.

Membership at September 08: Churches Together in Dorset, Development Education in Dorset, Dorset Agenda21, Dorset Community Action, Dorset County Council, Dorset Energy Advice Centre, Dorset Wildlife Trust, The Magdalen Project, North Dorset District Council, with advisory support from The Co-operative Membership, the Environment Agency and Christian Aid.



Please pass me onto a friend or recycle me