



In February 2010, Bishop Alan wrote a letter 'Shrinking the Footprint' to all churches and church organisations in the Diocese of St Albans, to encourage them with reducing their carbon footprint and environmental impact. After good discussion, the PCC has adopted the resolution on climate change which was commended by the Bishop (see back page) and is working towards the goal of 'shrinking our footprint' as a parish.

Bishop Alan's resolution also suggested that, as individuals, we ought to seek to reduce our own individual carbon consumption. The PCC asked the Outreach committee to give some guidance on things we can all do.

Some of these things you may have already done (or do) but there are many areas of our domestic lives to look at.

These are some of the things we can do (see second page)

PCC Resolution on Climate Change *(commended by Bishop Alan for all parishes in the diocese)*

As part of our Christian commitment to care for God's creation the PCC will:

1. *assess the parish carbon footprint with the help of the St Albans Diocese Shrinking the Footprint materials*
<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Environment/Shrinking-the-Footprint> and the main shrinking the footprint materials
<http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/index.php>
2. *take necessary and possible steps to reduce the parish carbon footprint as part of the diocesan partnership in the national 20.12 campaign;*
3. *recognise the Christian imperative to support those hardest hit by climate change, and seek where possible, to support adaptation projects (helping people adapt their lives to cope with the current and future impacts of climate change) in the developing world,*
4. ***encourage all members of the parish congregations to join the national 10:10 campaign and commit to cutting their emissions by 10% in 2010;*** and
5. *let the Diocesan Environment Officer know what steps have been taken and what progress has been achieved by the end of 2010.*



ENERGY....

1. 'Green electricity'. There are providers who use at least some renewable sources – or a much higher proportion of renewables. Two energy companies to look at are **ecotricity.com** and **Ovoenergy.com**. Visit uswitch.com or gocompare.com or moneysupermarket.com and sign up for an energy company that invests in renewable energy.
2. Turn the central heating down a degree or two - and put on a jumper!!
3. Try washing clothes at 30°C, or at least do half of your washes at 30°C
4. Use a washing line for half the time instead of the tumble dryer.
5. Defrost the fridge and freezer to make them more efficient.
6. Only fill the kettle with enough water to make the drinks you need.
7. Turn your PC off at night; turn the TV off (not just on standby)
8. Switch to low energy lighting – replace as many of your light bulbs as you can with low energy ones.
9. Unplug all chargers once the unit is fully charged, or use a solar battery charger.
10. Look at the possibility of investing in solar photovoltaic panels for your electricity or hot water; there are guaranteed Feed-in-Tariffs so you can sell electricity back to the grid! Look at the Energy Saving Trust at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk.
11. Make sure your loft insulation and cavity wall insulation are up to standard. Loft insulation should be 270 mm deep (or about 11"). Again there are government grants through local authorities - and look at the Energy Saving Trust at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

CAR DRIVERS....

12. Check (regularly) you have the correct tyre pressures for your car – this will save fuel (and save your tyres).
13. Walk to church (if you don't do this already!)
14. If you have to drive, make sure you KEEP TO THE SPEED LIMITS – excessive speeds consume much more fuel, even if you think you get there quicker.
15. And, even better, use public transport when you can. Can you drive 5 miles less a week?
16. Shop locally for local food – and don't drive miles to the supermarket.

WASTE....

17. Separate and recycle your domestic waste as much as you can; ask your council for more recycling boxes or wheelie bins if needed. Compost your vegetable waste.
18. *'It's not rubbish, it's a resource!'* Consider recycling useable items – Freecycle at www.freecycle.org or the Furniture Re-use Network at www.frn.org.uk (they may be able to take electrical items, too). Every time something can be recycled, it reduces the carbon required to replace it.
19. Reduce the amount of junk mail sent to you by registering with the Mailing Preference Service at www.mpsonline.org.uk
20. Ditch the disposables! Look at rechargeable batteries instead of the conventional single use batteries.