

Thursley Climate and Sustainability Action

Eco-friendly Living – it's Eco-logical



This is the first of two articles about **Energy Reduction** which is an important part of the changes we need to make to achieve our commitment to be “net-zero” by 2050.

Currently we all produce too much greenhouse gas each year from our lifestyles, and we need to reduce this by about 89% to meet our “net-zero” target. We will need to **reduce our energy consumption** as well as shift to low carbon sources as we can't achieve it all by using renewable or low carbon energy.

It's worth looking at what we use energy for. Heating or cooling of the home accounts for 38% of our household energy consumption; cooking, refrigeration, washing, lighting and other home uses another 14%; and transportation is the remaining 48%. This article will look at some easy ways to reduce home energy consumption. I know that you may have heard some of these ideas before, but it has never been more important for households to focus on how they might reduce their carbon footprint.

Our housing stock was designed when energy was cheap and a lot of it is quite badly insulated. Improving the **insulation of lofts, walls and floors** is an easy step to take. If you don't have any loft insulation, you could be losing as much as 25% of your heating through the ceiling. Another 33% goes through badly insulated walls. The current recommended depth for loft insulation is 270 millimetres for fibreglass, and it's very easy to top it up or add it to

your loft. You can also get cavity wall insulation, or other types of wall insulation. Even better, you can get grants to have the work carried out so it's easy to get it sorted (see ActionSurrey.org website).

Another area to consider is cutting down on draughts through windows and doors, or by changing your windows to double or triple glazed modern units. Changing windows is something you might consider if they need replacing, or you are making other changes to your property. Take a look at the ActionSurrey website which has a lot of information about these options.

If you have an old heating system, you may have a poorly insulated hot water cylinder. Add lagging to your existing cylinder, or upgrade to a modern well insulated tank and reduce your energy usage.

Have you thought about turning down the thermostat by 1 degree, or closing off unused rooms and keeping these rooms cooler? We are all used to the luxury of centrally heated houses, but it's surprising how much you can reduce your energy use by these simple changes.

If you want more information about any of these ideas or help, please contact jdswift.thursleypc@btinternet.com.

Energy consumption
from UK Household
Energy Survey (2012)

