



Resource: Resource 2 - Learning how to reduce energy at home

Text: This is a literacy task to learn some tips to reduce your energy usage at home. Analyse the text below and identify the small changes that you can make to reduce your carbon footprint and save money whilst working from home.

Suitable for: S1-S2

Approximate time: 20 minutes

Curriculum links: LIT 2-29a, SCN 2-20b, SOC 3-08a

Meta-skills: Social Intelligence: Communicating, Leading
Self-Management: Focussing, Adapting
Innovation: Critical thinking, Sense making

SDGs links: 7, 12, 13



Tips to reduce your carbon footprint at home during lockdown

Think: Are you working in the most energy saving area of your home?

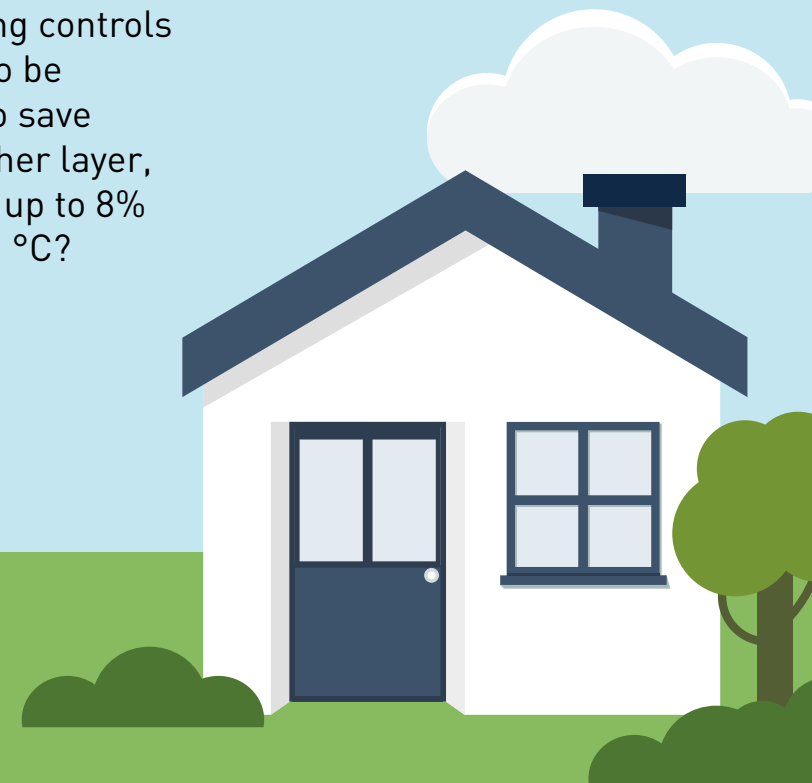
Objective: Analyse the text below and identify small changes that you can make to reduce your carbon footprint and save money whilst working from home.

1. Have you considered your lighting?

Moving your working area to a space that is full of natural light will remove the cost of running unnecessary lights during your working day. Natural light is free! Lighting is a significant energy cost for most households so make sure you turn off your lights whenever you do not need to use them.

2. Have you considered the room temperature and your carbon footprint?

As well as turning off unnecessary lights, could you make more use of your heating controls and turn off radiators? There's no point heating your whole home if you're going to be spending most of the day in one room so consider if you could turn radiators off to save energy. Instead of turning up the heating when you feel cold, why not put on another layer, a hoodie or warm sweater? A 1°C reduction in set temperature is thought to save up to 8% in heating costs. How much could you save by turning your heating down by 1 or 2 °C?



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3. Are you wasting energy every time you ... boil the kettle?

Overfilling the kettle is a habit many of us have, but boiling more water than is needed wastes energy. Next time you're making yourself a cuppa, think, are you boiling unnecessary water? Make sure you only boil the water that you need and save energy and money.

... use vampire power?

Some chargers use energy while they are plugged in and not connected to a device. This is known as 'vampire power'. Check to see if a charger is warm. If it's warm, it's using energy and costing you money. Save energy by unplugging all chargers when they are not in use.

... use IT equipment?

Make full use of your IT equipment's power saving options. Some energy saving settings can reduce your equipment's energy consumption by 10%. Does your mobile or computer have an energy saving setting?

4. Fix draughty doors and windows

One of the most effective ways to reduce your heating bill is to reduce heat loss. And the cheapest way to do this is to identify and fill the gaps where you're losing warm air. Overly draughty doors and windows can be quickly, easily and cheaply fixed – often with items you've got lying around the house or shed, such as sealant, brush strips and foam tape.



Questions

1. What is one of the most effective ways to reduce your heating bill?
2. How could you reduce the energy consumption of your IT equipment and mobile?
3. What is vampire power?
4.
 - a. How many times did you boil the kettle today?
 - b. How many times did you boil more water than you needed?
 - c. Why is it important to not boil more water than you need?
5.
 - a. Imagine your latest energy bill was £80, approximately how much could you save up to by turning down your heating by 2°C?
 - b. Identify 3 actions that you can take to reduce your carbon footprint whilst working / studying at home this week
 - c. How could you persuade a friend or colleague to do the same in their home?

Answers

1. Reduce heat loss, fix draughty doors and windows.
2. Use the energy saving setting.
3. Some chargers use energy while they are plugged in and not connected to a device. This is known as 'vampire power'
4.
 - a. Calculate answer.
 - b. Calculate answer.
 - c. Boiling more water than is needed wastes energy.
5.
 - a. 16% of 80 = £12.80
 - b. Could include turn lights off when not in use, turn off a radiator, wear an extra layer (e.g. jumper, tshirt etc.).
 - c. Tell them to turn lights off when not in use, turn off a radiator, wear an extra layer (e.g. jumper, tshirt etc.).