



## 10 things you can do about climate change

*Below are some actions that almost anyone who cares about the future of humanity (or even just the future of their children or grandchildren or neighbourhood) could undertake. Different actions will be more or less attractive or feasible for different people, but any or all of them would have positive effects, especially if widely adopted.*

*You can calculate your carbon footprint at [www.carbonindependent.org](http://www.carbonindependent.org) and get advice about reducing it there or at [www.ttkingston.org](http://www.ttkingston.org).*

1. **Make your home and life as energy-efficient as you can** - this is by no means cheap or easy, particularly if you live in an older house and/or want to invest in technology such as solar panels and heat pumps, but it will improve your comfort level and reduce your energy bills in the long run.
2. **Buy your energy from a green energy supplier.**
3. **Consume less and waste less** - everything we buy has produced CO<sub>2</sub> in the process of making or growing or transporting it. (But the CO<sub>2</sub> calculation is not always straightforward - sometimes imported goods produce less CO<sub>2</sub> than local ones, because the meat is grass-fed, or human-power or the sun is used rather than oil-using machinery and heaters...). See TTK's Kingston Green e-Directory.
4. **Eat less or no meat** and dairy products - domestic animals produce methane, another greenhouse gas, and farming them uses land for their feed that could be afforested or used to feed people. Grow your own vegetables and herbs.
5. **Spend and invest carefully**, in ways that would reduce carbon emissions and encourage, e.g., renewable energy, clean green industries.
6. **Plant a tree** or pay for someone else or a charity to plant a tree somewhere else and protect green spaces and trees.
7. **Travel less** and use sustainable means of travel whenever you can.
8. **Support an environmental or wildlife charity** or campaign. There are plenty to choose from, to suit almost any interest, and they all campaign against climate change. Join Kingston Biodiversity Network to find out more about local conservation activities.
9. **Challenge your MP on the climate crisis** - write or email or visit your MP. What is s/he doing to implement the Paris Agreement, reduce our dependence on oil, encourage green industries and infrastructure...? Make the climate crisis and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions an issue in elections.
10. **Challenge your local councillors on the climate crisis** - write or email or visit them. What are they doing to improve local public transport, encourage cycling and walking, ensure that new local developments are energy-efficient...? Are they taking climate into account in every Council policy and decision...?

*"... If we wait for the governments, it'll be too little, too late. If we act as individuals, it'll be too little. But if we act as communities, it might just be enough, just in time."*

*Rob Hopkins, Transition movement founder in What is a Transition Initiative?*