



CLIMATE ACTION for Forest of Dean

30 Top Tips to Lower Your Carbon Footprint

Reduce your carbon footprint further

11. Draught proof your home

Draught proofing is one of the cheapest and easiest ways to reduce household carbon emissions and cut energy costs. Using draught excluders, such as a door brush, stops cold air coming in and prevents warm air from escaping. [Warm and Well](#) can offer advice on energy efficiency measures in your home. Alternatively the Centre for Sustainable Energy offers a [free online DIY draught-proofing booklet](#).

12. Switch to a 100% renewable energy supplier

An increasing number of suppliers offer green energy in the UK. [Which?](#) and [Energy Saving Trust](#) explains more. To compare green energy tariffs and find out how to switch please call Warm and Well.

13. Buy A-rated appliances

When looking for new appliances look for A-rated ones with [Energy Saving Recommended labels](#). Choosing an A+++ fridge freezer over an A+ unit will save you about £320 in energy bills over the lifetime of the product.

14. Eco driving

Eco driving is a driving style which reduces accident rates, lowers fuel bills and cuts carbon emissions. The techniques are straightforward and include driving smoothly and checking tyre pressure. See the [Energy Saving Trust](#) for other techniques and advice.

If you're a business owner with multiple drivers [subsidised eco-driving training](#) may be available for your staff.

15. Trial a hybrid or electric car

Free trials of hybrid and electric vehicles are available at many car dealerships. Benefits of electric cars (EVs) include zero tailpipe emissions, no "road tax" and low running costs. Find out more about hybrid and EVs on the [Energy Saving Trust's website](#).

In December 2019 the council's Street warden's trialled a hybrid vehicle – find out more here - <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/news/2020/january-2020/council-tests-hybrid-vehicles-in-a-bid-to-improve-carbon-emissions/>.

16. Buy an e-bike

Riding an [e-bike](#) instead of taking your car will not only lower your carbon footprint but it will also build confidence in your fitness and ability and mean you can zip up hills and cruise over tough terrain without too much effort.

17. Set up a community fridge

Visit [Hubbub](#) for more information on the benefits of community fridges and for advice on how to set one up in your local area. Email communityfridge@hubbub.org.uk to obtain a 'How to Guide'.

18. Set up a community compost scheme

[Bisley Community Composting Scheme](#) has been running since 2005. It was the first community composting scheme in the Stroud District and is the longest running community composting scheme in Gloucestershire.

Members of the scheme bring their garden waste to the composting site. Volunteers manage the scheme and once composted, the product is returned to allotment holders and members – not only sequestering carbon but also returning valuable nutrients to the soil.

19. Grow your own

Visit [Forest of Dean Allotment Association](#) to find plots available to rent.

20. Got milk?

A University of Oxford study has shown that plant-based milks (soy, oat, almond, rice or coconut) have a smaller impact on the planet than dairy milk. [Which milk should I choose?](#)

Communicate

Share these top tips with your friends, family and neighbours. Encourage others to also reduce their footprint by sharing the actions you have taken. Make it a part of your everyday conversations. The choices we all make influence the decisions of producers, retailers and relevant business owners. You can influence your workplace, school or neighbourhood to make decisions that reduce their impact and help to tackle the climate emergency.

We want to know what you are up to – share the actions you are taking to reduce your carbon footprint with us using the hashtag #netzeroFOD.