

## I Count!

Part of the answer to global warming is the adoption of a carbon-frugal lifestyle by individuals, firms, churches, etc., and each of us should give top priority to bringing about a radical reduction in our emissions as a matter of urgency. For what it's worth, we've done the following, with the exception of the last item, microgeneration. We hope to have halved the size of our personal carbon footprint by the end of the year and eliminated it altogether if you take offsetting into account.

### Home insulation:

1) Bring your home up to the highest possible standard of insulation - contact Energy Saving Trust (0800 512 012) for independent advice on grants and suppliers.

### Sign the Stop Climate Chaos Pledge:

- 2) Fit energy efficient light bulbs;
- 3) Avoid air travel wherever humanly possible; and minimise car use (just scrap your 'Chelsea Tractor!');
- 4) Green electricity supplier: 'Good Energy' was the most highly rated in a recent, independent, in-depth, National Consumer Council study. 0845 456 1640; [www.good-energy.co.uk](http://www.good-energy.co.uk)

### Sundry:

- 5) Turn thermostat down 2 degrees (and wear a fleece!);
- 6) Don't leave appliances on stand-by; draw curtains at night;
- 7) Recycle; compost; use water butt;

### Replacing appliances:

8) When replacing your boiler, refrigerator, washing machine, etc, buy the option with the highest possible energy efficiency.

### Carbon Offset schemes:

9) *My personal conviction* is that almost everyone should at least single-offset his/her emissions due to home energy use, motoring and air travel. [And the air travel component should be triple offset because of the greater damage it does.] If we can't afford to do so, we should accept we can't afford the luxuries in the first place. After all, have vulnerable people in the poorest countries given us the right to ruin their lives for the sake of our comfort, convenience and pleasure? [I had a healthy, happy(ish) upbringing without central heating, private motoring, or air travel!]

I rate the best scheme as being The Clean Planet Trust, which invests in projects that meet the stringent requirements of the Kyoto Protocol. [www.puretrust.org.uk](http://www.puretrust.org.uk)

Investment in offsetting should *not* be at the expense of support for charities, etc!

### And finally...

10) Microgeneration: solar panels, wind turbines, heat pumps, etc.

David Golding, 10.05.07