

Climate Change Interest Group – Sponsored by Maresfield Parish Council

Local Climate Change Challenge

The Climate Change Interest Group was formed recently by local people and our aim is to challenge Maresfield Parish residents to make changes in a variety of areas for the good of the environment. Each month we will make suggestions of behavioural changes or actions that can be taken that will make a real difference. We hope you feel inspired to join in with some of our suggestions and would welcome your feedback.

March 2021 - Water Saving

The main issue with the overuse of water is the fact that every drop that comes out of our taps is filtered, treated and chlorinated, all of which require a huge amount of environmentally damaging energy to achieve. 100,000 litres of water equates to around 17.5kg of CO2 emissions. One third of this drinkable water ends up in sewers.

So what can we do to reduce this?

Showering equates to around 12 percent of Briton's daily water use. A bath uses around 80 litres of water while an electric shower will use around 62 litres for an average 8 minute wash. A power shower will use almost double this.

Washing machines accounts for around 15 percent of daily water use, with an average wash using 50 litres of water. A lot of people half load their machines and often 'half wash' settings will use just as much water.

Washing dishes uses around 8 percent of water usage. A fully loaded modern dishwasher uses less energy and water than washing up by hand. If no dishwasher is available, two bowls for wash and rinse is best.

Leaving the tap on whilst brushing teeth can waste over 20 litres of water per brush.

How much can we help?

On average:

A 5 minute shower instead of 8 minutes will save - 24 litres of water per person per shower (168 litres per week) (saves you 77p)

Putting the washing machine on twice a week instead of 5 times a week will save 150 litres of water (saves you 48p)

Turning the tap off when brushing teeth will save 280 litres of water per week (saves you 24p)

5 fully loaded dishwasher cycles rather than 7 semi-full per week 24 litres per week (saves you 41p)

In one year, these things could save **32,344 litres** of water and over **£100 per household**.

In Maresfield parish there are 1650 households, if everyone took these measures, our small parish could save over **53,367,600 litres** of water per year and over **9300 kg** of CO2.

Our group meets, currently via zoom, once per month and you are welcome to join our meetings, please contact Nancy for details or with any feedback or suggestions you may have. Email: assistantclerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk