

The Challenge

Everyone in the media seems to be talking about *Climate Change* or *Global Warming* and people are getting sick of it. In our experience, it also leaves people feeling worried or fatalistic, and in our case - distinctly uneasy. Also, when discussing these issues with friends or colleagues, we often get the reaction that it's not really happening, or that it's nothing new. Some of us accept that it's real but feel that we can't hope to make a difference, or even that it's far too late - "*and anyway, why should I do anything if he or she or my neighbour or China is not prepared to follow my lead?*"

One thing is common to all these reactions - they are just excuses for doing nothing... while that uneasy feeling continues to grow. The members of our GreenTeam are no different to anyone else who live in Mawdesley, except, possibly, for one thing - we've discovered that it feels better to be doing something; we feel less like victims. In addition, our modest efforts may just rub off on other people, other residents, other villages and even other countries.

In short, we believe that if everyone has a go at reducing their own output of CO₂, we could collectively make a very big difference. So, if you're interested in feeling better inside, giving our next generation a fighting chance, or simply saving money, then please read on...

Mawdesley's CO₂ contribution

Based on average household CO₂ emissions for the North West region of the UK, collectively the residents of Mawdesley are responsible for the emission of 3.7 million kg of CO₂ annually. This is obviously a very small percentage of the global CO₂ output. However, this is not an insignificant amount especially when you consider that

to offset Mawdesley's annual household CO₂ emissions with 25 year old pine trees we would need to plant over 22,000 each year.

This amount is based on household energy use (electricity and heating) and does not include the carbon we emit either directly or indirectly as we go about our daily lives... in the use of plastics, consumable items, transport, food production and so on. If we were to factor in these contributions, the number of trees more than doubles.

One of the aims of the Mawdesley GreenTeam is to encourage residents to make reductions in CO₂ emissions and collectively we can make a difference by just making small changes. For example, if all the residents of Mawdesley boiled only the amount of water they required, then this alone would save 500 trees a year in the offsetting figure.

So, who are we and what do we hope to achieve?

The GreenTeam is a growing group of residents (10 at the time of writing) who have come together to help each other and hopefully the wider community, reduce our damaging effects on the environment. This mainly involves reducing our dependence on the burning of fossil fuels, such as gas, petrol, diesel oil and coal, while generally consuming less of the earth's finite resources and producing less waste.



Before we get too high-minded we must start by confessing that we are all sinners! Our only claim is that we are aiming to sin a bit less in the future. Some of us you may already know and our motivations may hopefully encourage you to join us. Collectively, we are gaining confidence that we are doing the right thing, not just for ourselves but for our kids and the wider community. If you agree with our aims and would like to make your contribution, our contact details are on the back page.

One of our objectives is to publish newsletters that will be delivered to every house in Mawdesley. They, along with lots more information, will also be available on our website:

<http://greenteam.mawdesley-village.org.uk>

In this, the first of our newsletters, as well as introducing the GreenTeam, we aim to offer some useful tips and advice on how you can make some small changes and investments to yield both carbon and financial savings.

Perhaps the most important mantra in the move towards sustainable, greener living is, in priority order, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Reduce

We are a consumer society encouraged, by the forces of commerce and marketing, to spend. This isn't always a bad thing. However we can perhaps spend less on things we don't need as well as reducing down the by-products of our consumption. Here a few cost effective reductions we can make:

- Marks and Spencer's have joined Asda in recommending that the majority of the garments they sell should be washed at 30 degrees Celsius rather than at 40. Studies have shown that this small change reduces electricity consumption by around 40% on average.
- Turn down your thermostat by 1°C and save around £40 a year.
- Only fill your kettle, and boil, the amount of water you need. If done for a week this saves sufficient energy to power a TV for 26 hours.
- Reduce your speed, and save money! Jane found the following:



"I drive to work – I wish I didn't have to but I work in the community and need my car. Over the last year I - like everyone else - have noticed how expensive it is to fill up and have seen a tank of fuel rise from £30 to £35 and now over £40.

One day I decided to look on the internet for a fuel calculator to see how much it actually costs me to drive to work. I found a website: www.fuel-economy.co.uk and put in the figures. I discovered that if I get an average 40mpg the trip costs me £4.22. If I do 45mpg it costs £3.75. 50mpg costs £3.37 (this is with fuel costing £115.9/litre).

I have eased off on the accelerator pedal and drive a little more steadily (60-70mph on the motorway rather than 70-80) and I make sure I accelerate and decelerate steadily. The journey doesn't seem to take me any longer but I have noticed a difference financially – I can get 70-80 miles more from a tank of fuel – that's over 25% more miles per tank. It's great to save money while doing my bit for the environment!"

Reuse

The idea is to give existing possessions and goods a new lease of life. Here are a few suggestions:

- Home composting. It uses organic waste, it's free, it improves the soil and maintains fertility without chemicals, it reduces landfill (and the gases that go with it!) and it saves on scarce resources like peat. On top of all that **Chorley council are currently giving away free compost bins!** Order by phone, 0845 077 0757, or online: <http://www.recyclenow.com/>
- West Lancs Community Recycling Centre are now refurbishing furniture for re-sale to provide a low cost service to the community. They are happy to collect old furniture and white goods free of charge. Contact them on 01695 577316 or by email admin@wlcrs.co.uk
- If you really are done with it, might someone else have a use for it? Even if they are just taking it off your hands free of charge: www.ebay.co.uk and www.freecycle.org

Recycle

In a world where we are using natural resources up faster than they can be replaced (by as much as 21% back in 2001!) recycling is essential. It does use a lot of energy. However, if reduction or reuse aren't possible, it is the next best option. Here are a few tips:

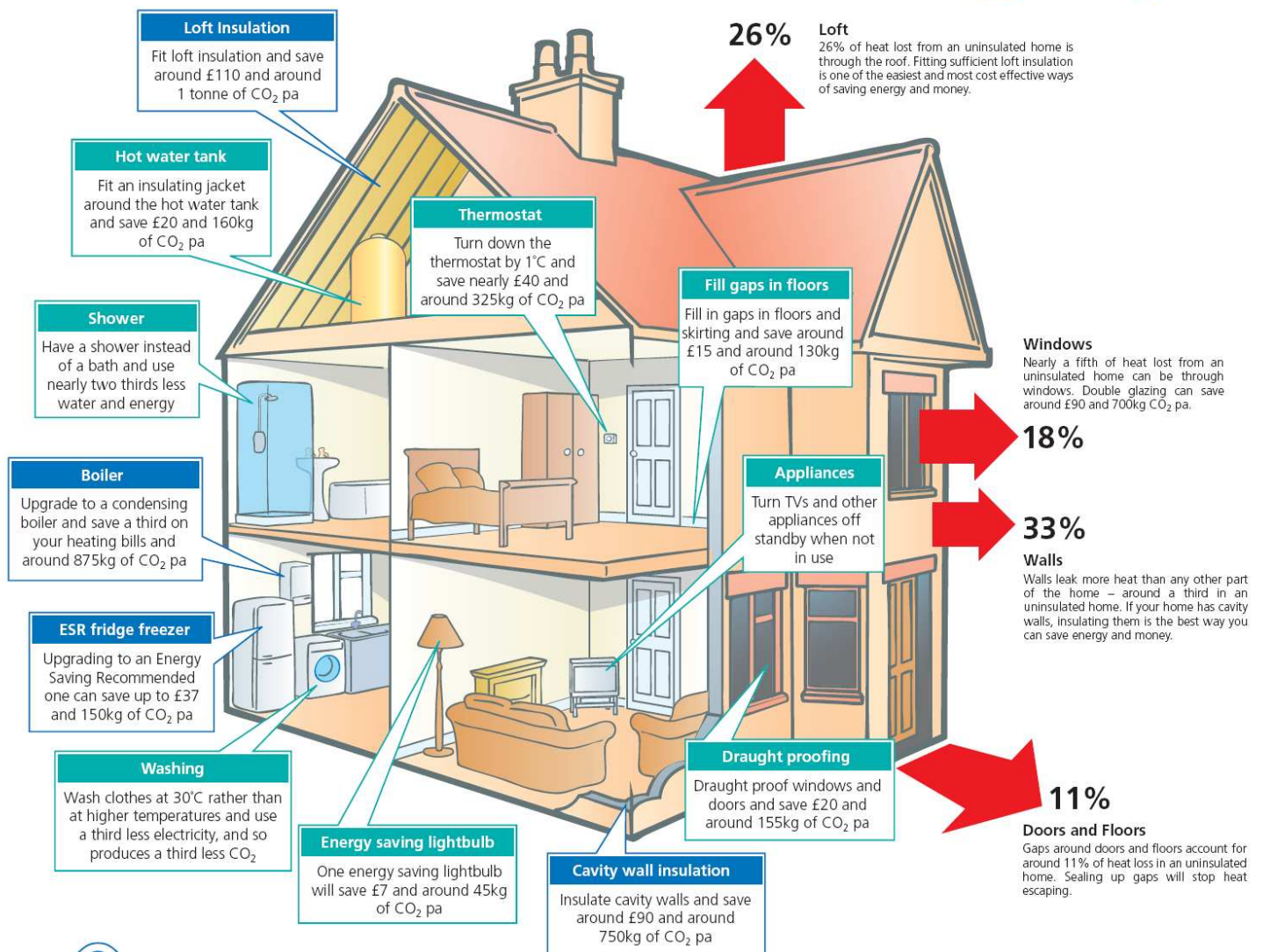
- Did you know that the glass collected by the council in the green tub is only used for roadfill? A terrible waste of energy. To be recycled it needs to be separated by colour, the nearest option for us is Rufford tip.
- Any TetraPak cartons, wax or foil lined cartons (pictured), that go into the councils green sack are currently separated out and put into landfill. Despite the GreenTeam's efforts we do not yet have a TetraPak facility in Mawdesley so Croston train station remains the nearest—though watch this space!



For more ideas on reducing, reusing and recycling check out the A-Z we are compiling on the website:

<http://greenteam.mawdesley-village.org.uk/recycling.html>

How energy efficient is your home?



Certification mark

Energy Saving Recommended

For the most energy efficient products, always look for the Energy Saving Recommended logo.

For more independent and impartial advice on energy saving in the home call **0800 512 012** or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

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KEY

	Grants and advice available through Energy Saving Trust		No-cost or low-cost measures
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Here are a few products that can help you save energy while reducing your bills at the same time:

Eco Kettle

An Energy Saving Trust recommended product designed to ensure you only boil the amount of water you require. We bulk bought a few to bring the cost down and all had a go. Our general consensus was that while the kettle is highly practical and does ensure you use less electricity, it makes more sense to only buy one if replacing your existing kettle. For the meantime simply filling your kettle with only the required amount of water will have the same effect. You can read more about the kettle at www.ecokettle.com.

Ecowool

A non-irritant, non-allergenic insulation made from 85% recycled plastic bottles. You can read more about it at www.eco-wool.co.uk. A couple of us have tried it out and would recommend it - certainly a lot easier to work with than fibre-glass insulation. It is available at B&Q stores.

Energy Saving bulbs

They use up to 80 per cent less electricity than a standard bulb, but produce the same amount of light - saving both money and energy. Since energy saving light bulbs were invented there has been a lot of technological progress meaning that whatever types of bulbs you use to light your home, there are sure to be energy saving equivalents.

What are we up to?

As well as raising awareness of climate change we hope that we will be able to review and subsequently recommend or dismiss 'Green' products and suggested initiatives. We have made a start with this, a taste of which is on the previous page. The website will be kept up to date with everything we are looking at.

Another goal of ours is to improve the facilities available to the village with regard to living greener. For example Pete has been lobbying Tetrapak to put a recycling station in the village.



We also intend to embark on longer term, grant funded, projects such as a renewable energy project with the local primary schools. We have already secured a Lancashire County Council Climate Change grant to help us raise awareness within the village, the schools and the surrounding area.

What can we hope to achieve?

One thing we've enjoyed since forming the GreenTeam is the amount of positive actions that are brought to your attention - work being done, projects being completed and attitudes being changed.

One such effort is the Cheshire village of Ashton Hayes. The villagers have come together with the aim of becoming the first small community in England to achieve carbon neutral status. They have won awards for their efforts, and managed to cut their emissions by 20% in their first year. You can read more at www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk.

Can we hope to achieve something similar?

Is there anything you would like us to be looking at?

One topic that has raised interest amongst a few villagers, fuelled by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's TV series:

Would you be interested in a community smallholding or allotment scheme?

If this is something of interest to you, please let us know. If there is sufficient uptake we could get together and look at our options.



Would you like to get involved?

If you would like to join our group you need only fill out a membership form, available from the website, or from Tom at the Post Office. Our meetings are approximately every 3 weeks on a Monday or Wednesday night in the Black Bull at around 7.30pm.

Perhaps you don't fancy joining us but are keen to reduce your carbon footprint. We might be able to help. For example we could lend you an Electrisave meter so you can measure your electricity usage as you try to reduce down your consumption and costs.

Village Fun Day

We will be putting a stall together for the village Fun Day, at the Millennium Green from 2pm, on Sunday 7th of September so please come along and see what we've been up to. Here's a taste of what will be on show:

- **Can you pedal fast enough to make yourself a free smoothie?**
- **Do you know your recycling well enough to win a prize?**
- **Bring along, and swap, your unwanted books (if you would like to leave any in advance you can drop them into the shop)**
- **Do you have any Tetrapak cartons to recycle? Bring them along, rinsed please, and we will take them for recycling.**

If you can't wait until the Fun Day to speak to us(!) or you can't make it, here are our contact details.

Contact Us

Web: <http://greenteam.mawdesley-village.org.uk>
Email: gtmawd@googlemail.com

For those of you that do not have access to the internet, more information and membership forms can be obtained from Tom at the shop.

This newsletter has been printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved paper

