

Together we can tackle climate change

CLIMATE CHANGE is not something for the future – it's affecting us all already, with average temperatures across the world rising every year.

How will climate change affect London?

In London the biggest source of CO₂ emissions that cause climate change is from energy use in our homes.

London is a developed area, and dark surfaces such as pavements and rooftops reflect less light than green spaces, so they absorb more heat from sunlight. This means cities get warmer during the day and less cool at night. This can worsen air pollution and means buildings and transport networks require more air conditioning to make them comfortable.

London is also more at risk of flooding than any other city in the UK. This is because a large area of London lies within the River Thames floodplain.

London is one of the driest capital cities in the world, with water supplies per person similar to Israel. Climate change could reduce the amount of water available, and increase demand in summer, making water shortages a possibility.

Climate change impacts on our family and friends in Africa

How we behave here, can have a negative impact on our friends and family in other countries. This is because cities are responsible for three quarters of the planet's carbon emissions, so it is important that London plays a leading role in stopping climate change.

Africa will be most at risk from the consequences of climate change. Around 375,000 sub-Saharan Africans have already died this century due to illness caused by climate change.

Water

Millions of people will suffer water shortages if temperatures increase slightly. This will also affect food production. By 2020, crop production could fall by half, and some large regions are likely to be forced out of production. Kenya's drought in 2006 caused crop production and livestock herds to significantly drop and left millions facing starvation.

The number of food emergencies in Africa each year has dramatically increased. Farmers in Mali are finding it impossible to live off the land and falling rainfall, even drought in the middle of the growing season, has meant severe shortages in crop production. Places like Mali, already getting drier, will eventually become uninhabitable.

Extreme events

About 70 million Africans will suffer extreme weather events such as flooding and drought if we don't reduce our carbon emissions. This is already happening. An estimated 50,000 deaths in sub-Saharan Africa in 2000 were due to climate change. These deaths were caused by diarrhoea, flood injury, malaria and malnutrition.

Act NOW!

We have around ten years to stop cli-



©Clive Shirley/Greenpeace
Women farmers are walking through their dry, barren fields past remnants of their failed crops. Recent drought has caused crops to fail in the entire Southern Cone of Africa.

mate change causing permanent damage. But we all need to act now, and act quickly. We must change the way we live and live less wastefully. If we don't make small changes now, we will have to make bigger sacrifices in the future.

To find out how you can make

a difference visit:

www.london.gov.uk/diy

To find out more about climate change visit: www.ipcc.ch

TOMORROW'S CLIMATE
Today's Challenge™

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British Gas

MAYOR OF LONDON

quoting 'DIY local' to order your DIY home insulation kit. For full details go to www.london.gov.uk/insulate

DIY PLANET REPAIRS

Top tips to help save the planet and save you money

Making your home more energy efficient doesn't just make environmental sense – it makes economic sense too!

■ **TURN IT OFF** – Turn off your lights, don't leave electrical appliances on standby and unplug your mobile phone charger. If every London household turned their appliances off standby, we could save 465,000 tonnes of CO₂ and £115m each year!

■ **WASH AT 30 DEGREES** – Modern washing machines and powders are designed to work at cool temperatures. If every London household washed its clothes at 30 degrees, we could save 98,000 tonnes of CO₂ and £23.5m per year!

■ **USE ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS** – If every Londoner used energy efficient light bulbs, London's carbon emissions would be cut by 500,000 tonnes. They also last up to ten times longer than traditional bulbs and use up to 80 per cent less electricity, so each bulb can mean savings of up to £60!

FREE INSULATION

If you're over 70 or are in receipt of benefits, you may be entitled to professionally fitted insulation for FREE. Call 0845 070 5059 to find out if you are eligible.