

BE PREPARED

for the future

James Bond has M, the Angels have Charlie and Beavers have their Leaders. In the first of three articles on Climate Change Challenges, your first mission, should you choose to accept it, is to create a team of energy-saving champions



What's an energy champion?

We all think we know how to save energy. Let's face it, we hear enough in the media!

What we need are young people to have that knowledge and who are armed to share it!

So, our energy champions will:

- Be experts in the basics of saving energy in the group, home and school environment

- Be advocates and help others to understand how to save energy.

Why?

The benefits to stop climate change are obvious; we're looking to save energy, to reduce emissions and reduce the negative effects that we humans are having on our climate. Working together to help to tackle climate change couldn't be nearer to the Scouting ethos.

But there are benefits to young people and their families, as energy saving means saving money.

How?

Climate change is a difficult concept to get across to anyone but to young people, especially those in the Beaver Scout age group, we can deal with it sensitively by:

- Referring to climate change issues that are local and relevant, such as our own weather and how it will affect local wildlife, rather than apocalyptic views of the future
- Ensuring that young people feel that their contribution is significant.

We can use the Energy Saving theme to empower young people to take action; making small changes in their own lifestyles that will help towards tackling climate change. Where it's appropriate Beaver Scouts can take these energy-saving ideas home and be our best advocates with family and friends.



Here's some simple and fun activities to help engage your Energy Champions:

Champion badges

Get the Energy Saving Champions to make their own badges and business cards to promote their hard work!



Ready steady jam jars!

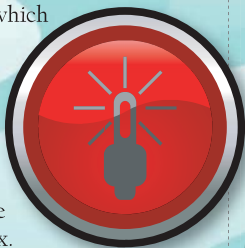
A simple activity about insulation.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A number of pots with lids, ideally jam jars
- 'Hand hot' or very cold water
- A number of materials to test, with various levels of insulating properties, such as aluminium foil, paper, sock, bubble wrap, card, cotton wool.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Fill each jar with water and tighten the lid
- Leave one jar as it is, but wrap each of the others in one of the insulation materials
- Ask the group to feel each and score them as hot or cold, using a range of one to five
- You can then debate which materials were good insulators
- Score cards are available on Programmes Online (www.scouts.org.uk/pol), just type in climate change in the search box.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- See page 78 of *Scouting* magazine
- Check out Programmes Online for more resources
- See www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange for more information on activities and resources
- For more information about saving energy, see www.energysavingtrust.co.uk and www.energysavingtrust.co.uk/commit
- See also www.scouts.org.uk/beavers

Switched on

Design a cover that goes round a light switch to remind people to turn off when they leave the room. Give them to friends and family or even the local school.



Champion ideas

Ask your Beaver Scouts to imagine that they are Prime Minister for the day. What laws would they create that would mean that people saved energy?



TOP TIPS

There are easy and effective ways everyone can save energy:

- 1 Make sure that you switch the light off when you leave a room.
- 2 Turn the TV, PC, monitor and computer games off at the switch, rather than leaving them on standby.
- 3 Put a jumper and some socks on before asking to turn the heating up.
- 4 In winter, make sure you close doors and windows and put tin foil behind the radiators to stop the heat escaping.

TOMORROW'S CLIMATE

Today's Challenge

This project is sponsored by Defra's Climate Challenge fund.