



## BE PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE TOGETHER, SCOUTS WILL TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Ever wanted to make a difference in your community?  
Interested in helping to tackle climate change? Here's how to do both!

**M**ost people are now aware of climate change and have some knowledge of the changes we all need to make to our lifestyles to save energy and help to mitigate it. So why, then, are we not all making those changes? There are a number of reasons; habit, lack of motivation and feeling that it's too huge a problem for us to be able to make a difference, among others.

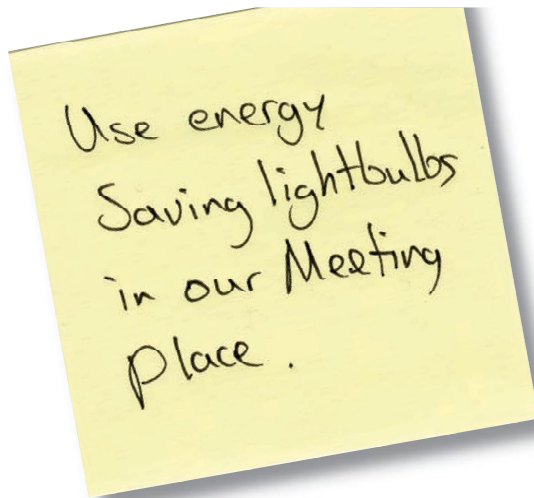
### **Well, we can make a difference!**

Our communities need the motivation and the opportunity to make those changes. We would like Explorer Scout Units to set up a project that motivates members of their community to save energy in their own homes or in public and community places.

### **How?**

This can be achieved by getting the community to come together to decide how it can save energy, and putting together an action plan that everyone feels responsible for and part of. This will involve working with an existing community group or inviting all members of your community to take part.

Do not  
leave the  
TV on  
stand by



### STEP 1

Either as a group or individually, get your Explorers to plan the project. They will need to think about:

- how long the project will take and what time they have to invest
- what they want to achieve, detailing aims and objectives
- which members of the community to involve
- how to communicate to those people
- what expert help they could enrol or what partnerships they can develop.

### STEP 2

It's much easier to get people to change their behaviour if they want to make that change, so it's important that your community group

comes up with its own energy-saving plans. The Explorers' task here is to investigate what changes the group wants to make and how it can make them. They can do this by setting up an event that consults the people in their community group.

Think about:

- a date and time when most people are likely to come
- sending out invites in advance
- involving your local media to help spread the word
- putting posters up in places they are likely to be
- getting a local business to sponsor a small prize for a raffle for those that attend.

### STEP 3

If your community already has a sustainability or environmental group, make sure you liaise with it. If not, one of your objectives could be to create one, made up of local volunteers to take your action plan forward.

At your event, get Explorers to give a short presentation on what you are aiming to do and what you hope to achieve.

Give each attendee two Post-it® Notes to write down energy-saving ideas or things they would like to see change in their community.

After 10 minutes, collect all the notes and organise them into different areas of interest or

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT**  
**If your project is successful, write in to tell us about it - we'd like to feature you!**

**Scouts Tackling Climate Change**  
**Impetus Consulting Ltd**  
**Suite 4**  
**39 Aldwick Road**  
**Bognor Regis**  
**West Sussex**  
**PO21 2LN**

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action. These areas will differ depending on the responses from your groups, but you could cluster them by who needs to make the change, e.g. residents, schools, businesses, the local authority etc, or by the type of environmental area; saving energy in the home, community transport or renewable energies.

Then arrange each cluster into a different area of the room and ask your attendees to go and sit with the cluster that they are most interested in. Get each smaller group, armed with a large piece of paper and pens, to outline how they could go about achieving the aims on the notes, putting aside those that people aren't interested in or are too ambitious. Make sure it's all documented, as these ideas will form the basis of your plan.

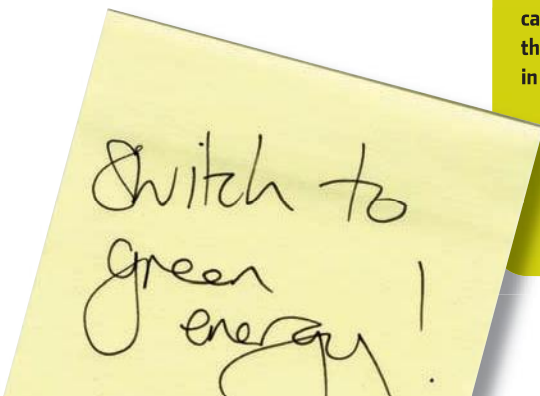
Hand out a form to each attendee at the end of the meeting to find out what they thought and to get any more ideas but, more importantly, to gather contact details and encourage volunteers for your action group.

**STEP 4**

Compile an action plan made up of the decisions from your cluster groups. Investigate which actions are viable and then task your newly formed Sustainability Group to take it forward in your community. This group could either be independent of The Scout Association or an initiative that your Explorers can follow through as an ongoing community project.

**TOMORROW'S CLIMATE**  
*Today's Challenge*

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



**FURTHER INFORMATION**

For energy-saving information, visit and support:

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)  
[www.everyactioncounts.org.uk](http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk)

Local Environmental Action Groups may provide expert technical help and campaigning advice. To find local groups try:

[www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk)  
[www.foe.org.uk](http://www.foe.org.uk)

There are a number of projects for communities who are trying to reduce their carbon impact that you will be able to draw from. Look at [www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk](http://www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk), a website for the village of Ashton Hayes in Cheshire, and [www.impetusconsult.co.uk](http://www.impetusconsult.co.uk), for information on their project, to help communities in West Sussex.

Other community groups will be able to help you plan and carry out your project. Try linking with local groups of:

- Women's Institute
- Ranger Section of the local Guides
- Other Sections of your own Scout Group.

Other areas of your community may like to join you, such as local schools and the Parish Council, or even your Local Authority. It's worth checking to see if there are any similar initiatives you can help to support instead of starting from scratch.

Fuel poverty is the term for when someone cannot afford to heat their home properly and this can be the cause of illness and even death in vulnerable people. Some specific charities will be keen for any support they can get in communicating the services and grants that are available to vulnerable people to improve their homes. Try linking with Help the Aged or similar charities in your area.