

# Climate change: The personal and the political



Significant changes are needed across the whole of our society and economy to really tackle climate change. While changes in our own lives to reduce our carbon emissions are important, we need the UK government to take substantial action if we are to achieve climate justice. Below are some examples of what the government could do if there was the political will.

## What you can do...

Fitting cavity wall insulation will save up to 860kg of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions each year.

Switching off your TV rather than leaving it on standby will save around 30kg of CO<sub>2</sub> over the course of a year.

An average commute of 14km (8.7 miles) taken by public transport would save 316kg of CO<sub>2</sub> for the average 161 commuting trips per year.

Sacrificing a short break to Prague by plane would save 339kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. However, the fact that this CO<sub>2</sub> would have been emitted at altitude would have increased its total warming effect so it is the equivalent of saving 848kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

By changing one of the two most used light bulbs in your house to energy efficient bulbs you will save about 40kg of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

## What the government could do...



If the government paid for everyone to install cavity wall insulation, we'd cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 6.8 million tonnes, more than Ghana's entire annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



If the government enacted legislation ensuring that new appliances could not be left on standby, a vast amount of energy would be saved: the Energy Saving Trust estimates that the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted each year due to TVs being left on standby is 480,000 tonnes, more than twice the amount emitted each year by Chad.



A change in government policy to encourage commuters out of their cars and onto public transport could save up to 17.6 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, more than ten times Uganda's annual emissions.



The projected growth in aviation will see emissions from flying rise from 37.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually in 2005 to 43.9 million tonnes in 2010. Halting this growth would save 6.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> with a warming effect equivalent to 16.3 million tonnes annually, more than twenty times Malawi's emissions in a year.



If the UK government was to ban conventional bulbs, as the Australian government is in the process of doing, up to 730,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> could be saved each year, more than Mali's entire annual emissions.

Together we can force the government to act. Find out more and get involved with WDM's campaign for climate justice at [www.wdm.org.uk/climate](http://www.wdm.org.uk/climate)