

# CRAZY CLIMATE

## Crazy Climate facts

These facts can be used as a follow-up after playing the **Trees and Chimneys game** or can be used on their own. You can download further copies of these facts from [www.christianaid.org.uk/learn](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/learn)

- Put the facts into groups under headings like: reduce, recycle, reuse, save water, save energy, reduce CO<sub>2</sub>. You can also think of your own headings or sort them into problems and actions.
- Choose a fact. Work in pairs or small groups to think of ways to tell the rest of your school about the fact you have chosen. What do you think is the best way to do this? You could perform a play or assembly, or make a poster, a PowerPoint presentation or even a film.
- Make a tally chart to record your activities over a week that emit CO<sub>2</sub>, eg car journeys, hours watching TV, how long you charge your mobile phone for, etc. Plot your results on a graph to show your carbon footprint.
- Design and carry out a survey of your classmates to find out how eco-friendly they are.

Did you know that one flush of your loo\* uses as much water as some people in parts of Africa and Asia use in a day for washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking?

\*about 10 litres of water

(Source: Environment Agency/Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC))

Rubbish we send to the tip ends up in landfill sites, producing more harmful gases. Did you know that every person in the UK throws away their own body weight in rubbish every seven weeks?

(Source: Waste Watch)

Did you know that if you fly to faraway places, like Florida, you emit about 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> each flight?

(Source: Climate Care)

Did you know floodwater can get into wells and make the drinking water dirty? Drinking dirty water makes people very ill. Around 6,000 children die every day from drinking unsafe water and not having proper toilets.

(Source: [www.wateraid.org.uk](http://www.wateraid.org.uk))

Did you know that experts think we should reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to just 2 tonnes per person per year to help the planet? That may be difficult for us, but people in Bangladesh only produce 0.3 tonnes. In Nicaragua it's only 0.7 tonnes and in Mali 0.1 tonnes!

(Source: UNDP Development Report 2006)

To help cut CO<sub>2</sub>, we need to buy less stuff. By reducing and reusing, we send fewer things to rubbish tips, and fewer harmful gases are emitted into the air.

Did you know that planting trees helps stop the soil becoming unusable and the land turning into desert?

You can help the environment by using energy-saving light bulbs in your home – and save money!

Turning the heating down by just one degree saves 240kg of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. It would take eight trees to soak up this amount of CO<sub>2</sub>!

(Source: National Consumer Agency)



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It makes sense to use the sun's energy to provide electricity – especially in really sunny countries!

Did you know that Senegal is one of the world's sunniest countries, with more than 3,000 hours of sunshine a year?

(Source: UNESCO)

Recycled material can be used to make lots of different things. Did you know that 25 two-litre soft-drinks bottles can be used to make a fleece jacket?

(Source: WRAP)

Electrical appliances on standby still use energy. An average home has 12 electrical appliances and gadgets on standby. That energy adds to your carbon footprint. Turn them off – and save money too!

Short car journeys send out more than 2kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per journey. So being driven to school and back in a year equals 760kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

(Source: I-Count – short journeys are calculated as under 3 miles)

You can save up to four litres of water by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth.

The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement signed by 166 countries. All the countries agreed to cut their greenhouse gases. Can you find out which countries have signed up?

We each use about 134 plastic bags a year. Making them uses energy which emits lots of CO<sub>2</sub>. And the billions of plastic bags we throw away end up in rubbish tips, and therefore release harmful gases into the air.

(Source: Friends of the Earth)

A carbon footprint is a measure of how much CO<sub>2</sub> we emit into the atmosphere – the smaller the footprint, the better it is for the planet.

Almost everything we produce has a carbon footprint – even crisps! One famous crisp company has calculated the carbon footprint of a packet of its cheese and onion crisps to be 75g.

Did you know that mobiles contain some horrible things which can leak and pollute the soil if you don't get rid of them safely?

Did you know that leaving your TV on standby could emit up to 20kg of CO<sub>2</sub> a year?

The 3 eco-Rs are: reduce what you buy, reuse things you have bought and recycle more.

A can that is recycled today can be made into a new can and be back on a shelf, refilled and ready to buy again, in just six weeks!

(Source: www.thinkcans.com)

Many charities recycle mobile phones, printer cartridges and computers to raise money. Recycling a phone with Christian Aid raises £3/€4.50, which could pay for a child to go to school for two months in India. Why not start up a collection in your school?

Write your own climate change fact here.

