



  **Stop** climate change.
Play your part.



  **Stop** climate change.
Play your part.

News confirming the scientific consensus on climate change is reported almost on a daily basis; evidence of melting ice caps, drought, floods, storms, loss of animal species and the spread of disease from rapid increase of global temperature. Climate is getting out of hand.

Go for Green!

Decision-makers at local, regional and national levels are not yet playing their part in solving the problem. Join the Greens, become active in an environmental organisation and use your own resources to change!

  **EUROPEAN GREENS**
www.stopclimatechange.net

  **Stop** climate change.
Play your part.

How do your daily choices affect the climate? Turn the page and see what you could possibly do for a cool climate!



CONTACT:

European Green Party, EGP
www.europeangreens.org

The Greens/EFA in the European Parliament
www.greens-efa.org

1. Move your body.



Urban traffic accounts for 40% of transport emissions. Most trips under 5km are still made by car. In addition to climate change, this causes health-damaging air pollution and dependency on imported oil. Daily cycling and walking will also make you healthier.

Greens promote sustainable city planning that brings services close to people and reduces the need for individual motorised mobility. We are working for efficient public transport, safe cycling and a better quality of life with less car traffic.

2. Buy Local



A large part of our climate footprint comes from the products we buy. In addition to emissions related to raw material extraction, manufacturing and final disposal, emissions from transport are a major contributor.

A kilo of apples flown from New Zealand to the UK consumer results in a kilo of CO₂ emissions, whereas locally sourced apples result in less than 50g. By eating locally, organically grown produce you can enjoy fresher, tastier food – and cut emissions.

Greens favour local producers and the local economy. Greens act at all levels to get the prices of products to reflect the full environmental impacts of transport and are working to see freight transport shifted from road to rail.

3. Fly less



Although less than 5% of the world's population has ever travelled on an aeroplane, aviation already represents 10% of the global greenhouse effect. With a plane 1 tonne of CO₂ you will take you 3,000 km, a car 7,000 km and a train 17,000 km. Best not to fly at all.

Greens are fighting for a cap on global aviation emissions and measures to curb the climate impact of EU flights by 2008. Greens are working to improve the leisure environment in places where we live.

4. Do not stand-by



85% of the electricity used by your electronic appliances may be consumed while they are not actually on. Your mobile phone charger is using energy if plugged in even if you are not charging your phone. Check the appliances you buy: stand-by loss should be less than 1 Watt or 4-8 kWh/y. In Europe standby power consumption of TVs varies between 0.1 and 20Watt.

Leaving a computer running over the whole year could cost you almost as much as the total electricity consumption of a high-efficiency household.

Greens call for an EU law which would require manufacturers to limit consumer appliance stand-by energy use to maximum 0.5 Watt.

5. Smart heating



Heating and cooling consumption in households differs immensely throughout the world, regardless of climatic conditions and without differences in comfort. Turning down the heat in your home by 1°C can save you 5-10% of your energy consumption.

Think about energy use when renovating or building your home. Look for renewable energy solutions and avoid electric heating. Smart homes use only a fraction of energy compared to the average house in Europe.

Greens are pushing for strict insulation standards for buildings and the development of "passive houses" and "energy-plus houses" which produce their own energy, or more. Greens want mandatory energy saving targets to drive more environmentally friendly technology into the market.

6. Get green power



Thanks to Green politicians, under EU law the consumer must be informed of the source of electricity. Through choosing green electricity from renewable sources you can do away with a large part of your emissions. Every time the amount of installed wind power doubles, the price of the technology drops by up to 20%. You can contribute to the development of renewable energy technology and make it cheaper.

Greens want us to achieve at least 25% of total energy from renewable sources by 2020 in Europe.

7. Efficient Appliances



Refrigerators, washing machines, TVs and other consumer electronics vary a lot in their power consumption. High efficiency appliances consume much less electricity and are usually of higher quality. Look for the A++ labelled models; a high efficiency refrigerator consumes around four times less energy than the average one in Europe and it will save you a lot of money over its lifetime.

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs). Compact fluorescents use four times less energy, last eight times longer than incandescent light bulbs and will save you money.

Greens are pressing for European laws which require efficiency standards for energy-using products to minimise their environmental impacts.

8. Cleaner car



Half of all transport greenhouse gas emissions are emitted by cars. A sports utility vehicle will guzzle three times as much as a small, efficient car. Think big and choose small - if you need to buy a car at all.

Greens advocate for legally binding greenhouse gas emission limits for new cars and fight for car taxes and charges to reflect the differences in their emissions and overall environmental burden.