

**Listed below, in no particular order, are changes that susredland members have found make a difference.**

- Change to a modern condensing boiler.
- Make sure you have a properly insulated hot water tank.
- Put thermostatic valves on all your radiators.
- Add secondary glazing to windows in the rooms that need to be warmest.
- Put full thickness insulation in your roof space.
- Draught proof your external doors and any draughty windows.
- Choose thick curtains with thermal linings for living rooms.
- Install solar panels on your roof to heat your domestic hot water.
- Have a duvet on the sofa for watching telly, you get coldest sitting still so a duvet is far better than heating the whole room to summertime temperature.
- Experiment with different ways of heating your rooms and hot water and see what effect this has on your daily or weekly energy consumption. For example many people say that the most efficient water heating is to have your water heating on all day because the thermostat in the tank keeps the water at the right temperature – our experience is that this is not true, you use far less energy if you just heat the water for a brief spell each day. Similarly we have found that you waste lots of energy by having radiators on in every room. In Victorian houses in Bristol it dramatically lowers your fuel consumption if you keep just a couple of rooms cosy in winter. You need very little heating in bedrooms if people wear more clothes indoors, if you use hot water bottles, and if you keep doors shut.
- A modern efficient wood burning stove, using logs or wood pellets, is a carbon neutral form of heating provided that the wood comes from managed woodland. This is because it is not burning fossil fuels, but is burning trees that have absorbed CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, and that will be replaced by other trees that continue to do the same.
- Invest in low energy light bulbs for all your light fittings, they pay for themselves in a few months as the energy use is far less and they last much longer. If you have unusual fittings then the electrical shop on Alma Road is a good place to try, or search the internet, or email Sustainable Redland (use the 'contact us' section on the website) and ask us.
- Get into the habit of having everything switched off at the socket except when it is in use. This may sound like an old wives tale but it is actually true that devices like microwaves and computers consume more energy being on standby 24 hours a day seven days a week than they consume being used. Most computers use energy even when they are shut down, and nothing goes amiss if you switch them off at the socket. Just try walking round the house at night and look for all those little standby lights – all wasting energy which means that a power station somewhere is emitting carbon dioxide for nothing.
- Only buy electrical appliances that are absolutely necessary, and choose the one with the smallest possible energy consumption – most appliances now specify how many kilowatt hours they consume in a year.
- Read your electricity meter for a few weeks and experiment to see what reduces it. Try borrowing one of those gadgets that tells you how many kilowatt hours each of your appliances is using.

- Dry your washing on a clothes rack in a sunny window, or on a ceiling airer in the room where your boiler or hot water tank is, or hang it outside.
- If your house has shutters use them to stay warm in winter and cool in summer, if you used to have shutters think about re-installing some old ones from a reclamation yard.
- Don't be tempted by fans and airconditioners for the hot summers; experiment with keeping curtains, blinds or shutters closed and having windows open to create a through draught.
- Stay cool in very very hot weather with a plant sprayer.
- Consider switching to an energy supplier that buys energy from wind farms, but beware – some 'green' tariffs are little more than a marketing gimmick. For more information see the Links page on our website.
- If you have a south facing roof you could consider installing photovoltaic panels to generate electricity for your home. This is relatively expensive but some of us have them and it does make a difference.