

17 Saving the environment

A What can governments do?

Governments around the world need to do the following:

- **set targets** to **reduce** the levels of **carbon dioxide** in the atmosphere
- **get developing countries** to **sign up** to environmental targets
- **convince** certain countries that they must **take** climate change **seriously**
- introduce public information **campaigns**
- reduce air travel, which is a major **source** of pollution
- increase the use of **renewable energy**.



GLOSSARY

set	decide what sth will be; <i>set a date for a meeting</i>
target	a result that you want to reach or achieve
reduce	make sth smaller or less in quantity, size, etc.
carbon dioxide	a gas breathed out by people and animals (CO ₂)
developing country	a country that is poor and is just starting to have modern industry
sign up (to do sth)	agree formally to do sth
convince	make sb believe sth
take sth seriously	show that you understand sth is important
campaign	a plan to do a number of things to get a special result
source	where sth comes from
renewable energy	energy provided by the sun, wind and water

- 1 All the underlined letters in these words have the same sound, except one. Which is the odd one out? Use the **APP** to help you. Practise saying the words.

carbon developing convince country seriously renewable energy

ANSWER:

- 2 True or false? Write **T** or **F**. Correct the false answers.

- ▶ If you reduce something, you make it bigger. F - If you reduce something, you make it smaller.
- 1 A campaign is part of the countryside.
- 2 If you convince somebody, you tell them something that isn't true.
- 3 The source of something is where it comes from.
- 4 If you sign up to something, you formally agree to do it.
- 5 Coal and gas are examples of renewable energy.
- 6 A target is something you want to reach or achieve.
- 7 A developing country is rich with lots of modern industry.
- 8 Carbon dioxide is solid.

- 3 Cover the text at the top of the page and complete these dialogues.

- ▶ What does CO₂ stand for? ~ It stands for carbon dioxide.
- 1 What should governments do? ~ They need to set for reducing pollution.
- 2 What kind of targets? ~ They need to the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- 3 Has everyone signed up to these targets? ~ We still need the support of more countries.
- 4 Which governments do we still need to that climate change is happening? ~ Quite a few.
- 5 Why is that? ~ Because not all of them take it
- 6 What kind of public will help? ~ Something which gives people more information.
- 7 What should we try to increase? ~ Different forms of renewable
- 8 Why should we reduce the number of flights? ~ Because they're a major of pollution.



TEST YOURSELF

B What can individuals do?

As **individuals**, we can also have an **impact** by making a few changes in our daily lives:

- walk or cycle **instead of** getting into our cars.
- **save** water, e.g. by turning off the **tap**¹ when you are cleaning your teeth.
- don't **waste energy**, e.g. **switch off**² lights when you leave a room.
- don't **throw away rubbish**: **recycle** it **whenever** and **wherever** possible.
- don't **water** your grass in summer. It doesn't need it, and it will grow back.



GLOSSARY

individual	one person individual <i>adj</i>
impact	the effect that sth has impact on sth <i>v</i>
instead of sth	In place of sth
save	use less of sth
waste	use too much of sth or use it badly
energy	the power from electricity, gas, coal, etc.
switch sth off/on	SYN turn sth off/on ; Switch is only used with electrical things, not taps.
throw sth away	put sth that you do not want in the bin
rubbish	things that you do not want any more
recycle	do sth to materials such as paper and plastic so that they can be used again recycling <i>n</i>
water	give sth water

SPOTLIGHT *whenever, wherever, whatever*

Whenever = at any and every time:

- Save energy **whenever** you can.

Wherever = at, to or in any place:

- Think about the environment **wherever** you are.

Whatever = anything or everything:

- We must do **whatever** we can to help.

4 Match 1–5 with a–f.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------------|
| ▶ save | | a rubbish |
| 1 switch off | | b the grass |
| 2 don't waste | | c water ✓ |
| 3 recycle | | d taps |
| 4 water | | e lights |
| 5 turn off | | f energy |

5 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ We must do ▶ whatever we can to help the environment.
- You can s..... a lot of water if you have a shower i..... of a bath.
 - You can save e..... if you put on a jumper and turn the heating off.
 - You can r..... most forms of plastic, so don't just t..... that bottle away.
 - Climate change i..... on all countries, but also on each i..... in society.
 - It is important to save water and energy w..... and w..... it is possible.
 - It is important to believe that individuals can have an i..... on the environment.
 - Do you think r..... bins are a good idea? Do you recycle most of your r.....?

6 ABOUT YOU Write your answers, or talk to another student.

What other things, as individuals, can we do:

- to save water?
- to save energy?
- to increase recycling?
- to save the environment?



TEST YOURSELF