

# 46 Energy conservation

## Easy ways to **conserve** energy in the home

- Switch to **energy-saving eco** light bulbs. They are better for the environment and they last much longer. They are more expensive to buy, but they greatly reduce your **energy consumption** and in the **long run** are a significant financial **saving**.
  - Never leave electrical **appliances on standby**, or leave your mobile phone **charging**<sup>1</sup> unnecessarily. Get rid of your **tumble dryer**: it **consumes** masses of energy.
  - Every year we throw away thousands of batteries. If these are not **disposed of** safely **landfill** sites will become even more **toxic**. Use **rechargeable batteries**<sup>2</sup> or, **better still**, **solar chargers**.
  - With a 'smart' meter, you can **monitor** the amount of energy you use, and even control your consumption when you are away from home.
  - If you are not planning to move in the near future, **solar panels**<sup>3</sup> are a good **long-term investment**. You will make a saving on your electricity bills as well as receiving money for the electricity you **generate** and sell back to National Grid\*.
- \* The National Grid is the network in the United Kingdom connecting power stations and ensuring that electricity generated anywhere can be used to satisfy demand anywhere.



### GLOSSARY

|                         |                                                                                            |                              |                                      |                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>conserve</b>         | avoid wasting sth                                                                          | <b>conservation</b> <i>n</i> | <b>charge sth (up)</b>               | pass electricity through sth to store it there                                                                                  |
| <b>switch (to sth)</b>  | change or make sth change from using one thing to using another                            |                              | <b>charger</b> <sup>2</sup> <i>n</i> |                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>-saving</b>          | not wasting anything: <b>energy-saving</b> , <b>a labour-saving device</b>                 |                              | <b>tumble dryer</b>                  | a machine that uses hot air to dry clothes                                                                                      |
| <b>eco-</b>             | (short for <b>ecology/ecological</b> ) relating to the environment: <b>an eco-disaster</b> |                              | <b>dispose of sth</b>                | get rid of sth that you do not want or cannot keep                                                                              |
| <b>consumption</b>      | the act of using energy, food or materials. A person is a <b>consumer</b> .                |                              | <b>disposal</b> <i>n</i>             |                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>consume</b> <i>v</i> |                                                                                            |                              | <b>landfill (site)</b>               | an area of land where large amounts of rubbish are buried                                                                       |
| <b>saving</b>           | an amount of sth, such as money or time, that you do not need to spend or use              |                              | <b>toxic</b>                         | poisonous: <b>toxic chemicals/gases/substances</b>                                                                              |
| <b>appliance</b>        | a machine you use at home, e.g. a fridge, a washing machine                                |                              | <b>better still</b>                  | even better. <b>Still</b> is used here and with other comparative adjectives to make a comparison stronger: <b>longer still</b> |
| <b>on standby</b>       | If a TV is <b>on standby</b> , it is connected to the power supply but is not in use.      |                              | <b>monitor</b>                       | watch and check sth over a period of time to see how it develops or changes                                                     |
|                         |                                                                                            |                              | <b>investment</b>                    | a thing that is worth buying because it will be useful and helpful                                                              |
|                         |                                                                                            |                              | <b>generate</b>                      | produce or create sth: <b>generate electricity</b>                                                                              |

### SPOTLIGHT *in the short/medium/long term*

These expressions are used to describe what will happen a short, medium or long time in the future.

- The reforms won't happen **in the short term**.
- We plan to move **in the long term** (SYN **in the long run**).

**Short-/medium-/long-term** can also be used as adjectives.

- Hiring unqualified staff is only a **short-term** solution.



**1 Mark the stress on these words and phrases. Use the  to help you.**

|              |                 |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| appliance    | disposal        | on standby   |
| better still | energy-saving   | tumble dryer |
| conserve     | in the long run | conservation |

**2 Good or bad, in terms of energy-saving? Write G or B.**

- 1 I left the TV on standby overnight. ....
- 2 We don't use eco-light bulbs. ....
- 3 I switched to rechargeable batteries. ....
- 4 Our energy consumption didn't increase over the winter. ....
- 5 The machine gives out toxic substances. ....
- 6 The company has introduced energy conservation measures. ....
- 7 He left the phone charger on all day. ....
- 8 We've reduced what we send to the landfill. ....
- 9 I've removed the water-saving device from our taps. ....
- 10 We have fitted solar panels. ....

**3 Complete the phrases in these sentences.**

- 1 We spend too much time just looking at ..... solutions.
- 2 I think dishwashers are one of the best ..... devices.
- 3 We've just had 12 ..... fitted on the roof.
- 4 I'm afraid I often leave the TV .....
- 5 I've got a washing machine, but there isn't room for a ..... dryer.
- 6 The oil spill off the coast was an .....
- 7 Wind turbines will provide us with a lot of our energy needs in the .....
- 8 A lot of rubbish still gets buried in .....
- 9 It's more eco-friendly and economical to use rechargeable .....
- 10 I have decided to ..... to a different energy supplier.
- 11 We need to get rid of any ..... chemicals.
- 12 Where can we ..... of these batteries in the most ecological way?

**4 Complete the questions.**

- 1 Have you got a tumble ..... ? If so, could you manage without it?
- 2 When you ..... your mobile phone, do you leave it plugged in overnight?
- 3 Do you ..... the amount of electricity you use every day/week?
- 4 Do you know how much electricity you ..... in an average week?
- 5 How many electrical ..... in your kitchen do you use regularly?
- 6 Do you always turn off lights in rooms you aren't using to ..... energy?
- 7 Do you use rechargeable ....., or better ....., a solar ..... ?
- 8 Which energy-..... steps in the article on the opposite page do you actually take?
- 9 Are you an above-average or below-average ..... of electricity?
- 10 Do you think solar panels are a waste of money or a good ..... ?
- 11 Do you know how much electricity (%) in your country is ..... by solar energy?
- 12 Do you think you have made financial ..... in recent years by using public transport more?

**5 ABOUT YOU Answer the questions in Exercise 4, or ask another student.**

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TEST YOURSELF