

# 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

|                            |                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>set</b>                 | decide what sth will be;<br><i>set a date for a meeting</i>                                         |
| <b>target</b>              | a result that you want to reach or achieve                                                          |
| <b>reduce</b>              | make sth smaller or less in quantity, size, etc.                                                    |
| <b>carbon dioxide</b>      | a gas breathed out by people and animals (CO <sub>2</sub> )                                         |
| <b>developing country</b>  | a country that is poor and is just starting to have modern industry<br>OPP <b>developed country</b> |
| <b>sign up (to do sth)</b> | agree formally to do sth                                                                            |
| <b>convince</b>            | make sb believe sth                                                                                 |
| <b>take sth seriously</b>  | show that you understand sth is important                                                           |
| <b>campaign</b>            | a plan to do a number of things to get a special result                                             |
| <b>source</b>              | where sth comes from                                                                                |
| <b>renewable energy</b>    | 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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**<sup>1</sup> when you are cleaning your teeth.
- don't **waste energy**, e.g. **switch off**<sup>2</sup> 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

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