

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**¹ 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**² 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**³ 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

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

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.



TEST YOURSELF