

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

