

# 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; <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 <small>OPP developed country</small>
<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</b> sth <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