

HOW TO SAVE MONEY (AND OUR PLANET) IN 2021

We all have big dreams for the future of our planet and Herefordshire is working to protect and enhance our environment with ambitious plans. In response to Herefordshire's declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Marden Parish Council has joined Herefordshire Green Network (hgnetwork.org).

We may have plans for our own lives that come at quite a cost: electric cars and bikes, better insulation, solar power or a ground source heat pump.

But what can you do that will cost you nothing and may even save you money as well as giving you a good feeling about our environment?

- Do you run the tap when you wash up or clean your teeth?
- Do you run the dishwasher or washing machine when it isn't full?
- Do you leave your car engine running when you call at a shop or wait outside the school?
- Could you re-programme your boiler so the house is only heated when necessary or turn down the thermostat and wear a warm jumper?
- Could you repurpose the clothes you already own rather than buying something new?
- Could you cook in the microwave or slow cooker rather than turning on the oven?
- Could you plan to use the leftovers in your fridge once a week instead of throwing food away?
- Could you compost fruit and vegetable peelings?
- Could you grow your own vegetables?

Some statistics you might want to consider:

Only 5% of the power drawn by a phone charger is used to charge the phone – so remember to turn it off when you are done.

The average person uses 150 gallons of water a day.

UK households still waste 4.5m tonnes of food a year that could have been eaten, worth £14bn.

In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power electronics is consumed while the products are turned off (on standby). Each TV or computer left on standby is estimated to cost you 2p per hour.

300,000 tonnes of clothes are sent to British landfills each year.

Statistics from thegreenage.co.uk and energysavingtrust.org.uk

Some thought provoking viewing this month included "Horizon: Feast to save the planet" (available on iPlayer).