

# Conserving energy: discussion materials

We're all aware of the need to conserve energy because of recent costs. But, as well as cost, the energy we use contributes to greenhouse gases and global warming. 21% of greenhouse gases in the UK come from energy use, 18% from business and 16% from people's houses. In our busy lives, it's easy to feel helpless and overwhelmed. But, together we can make a difference. In these materials our focus is on ways we can conserve energy.

## 1) What are the main causes of energy emissions in our homes?

Put this list in the order that you think is the most energy consuming.

- Cold appliances (fridges/freezers)
- Cooking
- Lighting
- Washing machines/dishwashers and tumble dryers
- Consumer electronics (laptops/TVs/games consoles)

How were your guesses? Check your ideas against this article:  
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/top-five-energy-consuming-home-appliances/>

## 2) What are the main ways you can save energy at home?

### And what about your church buildings?

Discuss your ideas. The Energy Saving Trust has some interesting calculated savings. See: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy/>

Can you find other sites that provide ideas and suggestions?

## 3) What are the areas in the house that are likely to lead to heat loss?

The worst 7 million houses lose up to 50% of their heat through poor insulation. Have a look at this article from Northern Energy. Did any of the figures surprise you?

[The 4 Main Sources of Heat Loss in the Home | For Home \(northernenergy.co.uk\)](https://www.northernenergy.co.uk/the-4-main-sources-of-heat-loss-in-the-home/)



Have you been able to make any changes to your home to improve insulation? Do you know of any energy saving schemes available such as draught busters?

<https://readinguk.org/draughtbusters/>

## 4) At present, what percentage of our energy is produced by fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal), nuclear energy, and renewables (wind farms, solar, hydro power)?

Match the figures to the three energy sources: 43%, 35%, 21%. Answers at:  
<https://www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained/how-much-uks-energy-renewable>

Some companies claim to offer a high level of renewables as their source for electricity. Which companies provide the best green offers on renewable fuels? Forbes.com (and Which?) offer comparisons: [See The Best Green Energy Suppliers In 2021 & Switch Today – Forbes Advisor UK](https://www.forbes.com/advisor/energy/best-green-energy-suppliers/)

## 5) Make a list of some actions you could take to conserve energy, not just in your home, but in your Church, in the way you travel, in your purchases of energy-efficient appliances.

- Which are the most immediate actions you can take?
- Which are possibilities for the longer term?

## 6) What steps could you take to hold your elected politicians to account? Are there any campaigns that you might consider supporting? How would you go about it?

Finally, please reflect and pray about this theme, asking God to help us as we seek to become good stewards of His kingdom.