

Energy efficiency

At BCHF we are committed to reducing our CO₂ emissions to help reduce climate change. We have signed up to the 10:10 campaign and we are aiming to reduce our emissions by 10% in 2010. If you want to reduce your energy use and save some money too, here are some useful tips:



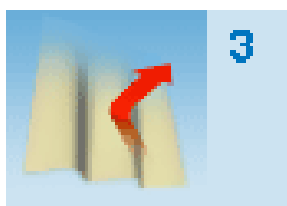
1

Turn your thermostat down. Reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10 percent. If you have a programmer, set your heating and hot water to come on only when required rather than all the time.



2

Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat should be set at 60°C/140°F.



3

Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows and make sure they are tucked in behind the radiators to stop heat escaping. This can save you up to £15 a year.



4

Always turn off the lights when you leave a room.



5

Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave laptops and mobile phones on charge unnecessarily.



6

If possible, fill up the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher: one full load uses less energy than two half loads. Washing your clothes at 40° instead of 60° will use 30% less electricity.



7

Only boil as much water as you need (but remember to cover the elements if you're using an electric kettle).



8

A dripping hot water tap wastes energy and in one week wastes enough hot water to fill half a bath, so fix leaking taps and make sure they're fully turned off!



9

Use energy saving lightbulbs. They last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs, and using one can save you around £40 over the lifetime of the bulb.



10

Check for draughts around letterboxes, windows and doors.

Please remember that turning up the thermostat will NOT heat the room up faster, but it will increase your fuel bills if rooms get warmer than you intended (the ideal room temperature is between 18°C and 21°C) and where you can, set radiators in different rooms at slightly different temperatures, e.g. living rooms warmer than bedrooms.