

Edition 81 November 2021

COP26

THE 2021 Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, was recently held in Glasgow in Scotland.



The COP conference which stands for Conference of the Parties, was the 26th time world leaders have come together to tackle the problem of climate change and the danger it poses to our health and the environment.

The world is getting hotter. Greenhouse gas which is a gas mostly made up of carbon dioxide, is released into the air when we burn fossil fuels such as coal, peat, timber and oil. Fumes from diesel powered vehicles such as cars, lorries, trains and more especially airplanes are also responsible for large amounts of carbon in the air. Our carbon emissions have increased by 50% in the last ten years.

Carbon and the other gases form a blanket over the planet which then traps the heat from the sun and stores it on the earth's surface. This is known as the greenhouse effect and causes the earth's temperature to rise. In fact, the last five years have been the hottest on record.

This rise in temperature means that ice is melting at a fast rate in our Arctic regions causing high sea levels and flooding. Changes in the earth's climate means we now have more storms and flooding in the winter as well as seriously high temperatures, forest fires and water shortages in summer.

Our use of plastic in all areas is also a major cause of carbon emissions. Large amounts of oil and gas

are used in the making of plastic. As customers we recycle much of our plastics, however a lot still ends up as waste that takes many, many years to breakdown.

The recent conference discussed ways of preventing temperatures from getting any higher by cutting down on the use of fossil fuels especially coal and diesel. However, the young climate activist, Greta Thunberg from Sweden has said they are not doing enough to save the planet and said this meeting was just more "blah, blah, blah". Speaking to a crowd of her followers outside the building where the conference was taking place, she asked that we never give up on trying to save our planet.

Here in Ireland the government has published the Climate Action Plan which sets out ways that we can hopefully half our greenhouse gases by 2030.

The government has promised funding for more rural public transport, cycle paths and walkways to encourage people to drive less. Electric buses and trains are to be introduced in the future. Grants are to be made available for people to buy electric cars and 200 electric charging points will be added every year across the country. More environment friendly farming is to be encouraged.

There will be grants available for better insulation of our homes and to encourage us to generate our electricity where possible by putting in solar panels or wind turbines.

The ESB have invested heavily in the use of wind and solar to generate our electricity and has said they will have zero carbon producing electricity by 2050.

How can we play our part?

Not all of us can afford to buy an electric car or change our home heating systems but we can make some small changes to our everyday lives that could make a difference to the environment.

Reduce

- We could reduce our food waste by only buying and cooking what we need.
- It can be a good idea to make a list before we go shopping and to plan our meals weekly.
- Check for recipes that use leftover food. For example, cold potatoes can be made into potato cakes or potato salad.

For ideas to stop food waste visit:

[Stop Food Waste - Reduce your food waste and save yourself money!](#)

- Only buy clothes and shoes that we need.
- Where possible, choose to get your monthly bills by email, to reduce paper.
- Keep an eye on when and how you use electricity. For example, only put the amount of water you need in the kettle instead of filling it to the top each time you boil it.

For more information, visit:

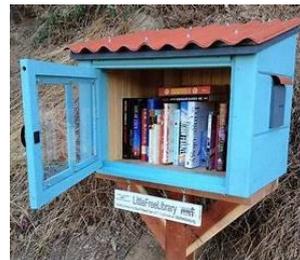
[15 ways to use less electricity and save money | bonkers.ie](#)

Re-use

- Instead of buying a plastic bottle of water daily, buy a reusable bottle that you can fill from the tap.
- When bringing a lunch, use a lunchbox or re-usable bag instead of wrapping in cling film or tin foil.
- Bring your own coffee mug and fill it in the shop instead of getting a take away cup.

Recycle

- Bring good quality unwanted clothes to charity shops and buy items from these shops also.
- Share books with friends or build a mini book library in your area for people to take a book.
- Upcycle or paint old pieces of furniture which can be sold or given to charity shops.



- Use old household items or boots as plant containers instead of buying plastic flower pots.



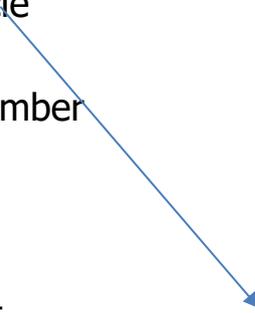
Words we use when we talk about climate change

climate	carbon	solar panels	cycle lanes
environment (en vir on ment)	electricity (el ec tri city)	wind turbines	temperature (tem per a ture)
greenhouse gas	emissions	transport	electric cars

Fill in the blanks with words from the list.

- This tells us how hot or cold it is.
temp_____
- A gas that we get from burning fuel.
ca_____
- Cars, buses, trains are all types of
tra_____.
- We put these on the roof of a house
to generate electricity.
so_____ p_____
- A special lane on the road for bikes.
cy_____ l_____
- The land, sea, air and sky all around
us.
env_____
- The ESB is in charge of giving us
this.
elec_____
- The type of weather we have is
known as cli_____.
- The wind makes these turn to give
us electricity.
wi_____ tur_____

A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word Match the words of the same meaning. The first one is done for you.

- Recycle
 - Remember
 - Tidy
 - Smart
 - Joyful
 - Talent
 - Quiet
 - Reduce
 - Frightened
 - Hungry
 - Kind
 - Pick
 - Help
 - happy
 - skill
 - scared
 - use again
 - recall
 - shy
 - generous
 - starving
 - clever
 - choose
 - assist
 - neat
 - use less of
- 

Fractions

To work out the fraction of a number you must divide by the bottom number and then multiply your answer by the top number.

Example: What is $\frac{3}{4}$ of 72?

Divide by the bottom number which is 4, $72 \div 4 = 18$

Multiply by the top number which is 3, $18 \times 3 = 54$

Answer $\frac{3}{4}$ of 72 is 54

Try these

1. In a class of 1260 pupils, $\frac{1}{4}$ are left handed, $\frac{2}{6}$ wear glasses.
- How many are left handed?
 - How many wear glasses?

2. Tom won € 50,000 in the Lotto. He decided he will divide it between his 2 children. He will give John $\frac{3}{5}$ and Mary will get $\frac{2}{5}$.
How much will each get?

3. My weekly wage is €500. I spend $\frac{2}{10}$ on food, $\frac{2}{5}$ on rent, $\frac{1}{4}$ on savings and spend the rest.

How much do I spend on

a. food	_____
b. rent	_____
c. savings	_____
d. spending	_____

4. There is a Black Friday Sale on in the local shop. There will be $\frac{1}{10}$ off the price of all goods. I see a jacket I like, the price tag is €70.00 .

How much will I pay for the jacket if I get $\frac{1}{10}$ off the price?

Answers

1. a. 315 b. 420 2. €30,000
€20,000
3. a. €100 b. €200 c. €125 d. €75 4.
€63