



Energy and your office

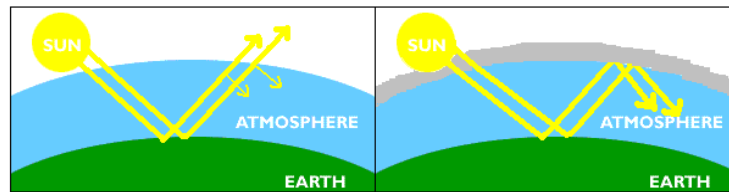
Introduction

The process of producing energy has a major impact on the quality of our air, releasing 'greenhouse' gases such as carbon dioxide. The UK government has set a target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20% by 2010. Approximately £60 billion/year is spent in the UK on energy and it is estimated that 20% of this energy is wasted. This shows a clear business benefit in helping the environment by reducing the amount of energy we waste.



Why is energy a problem?

Energy impacts on air quality and air quality affects our health and our climate. By releasing 'greenhouse gases' into the atmosphere we are adding to the 'greenhouse effect'. This is a natural phenomenon but the continued release of gases, such as carbon dioxide, is increasing its affect and causing global warming. This diagram shows the basics of this process:



Naturally, the sun's rays enter the atmosphere and are absorbed by the earth. They are then released from the earth and out of the atmosphere. Some of these rays will be reflected back to earth which helps keep it warm

However, with increased greenhouse gases the sun's rays are blocked from escaping and more are reflected back to earth - heating it up.

For more detailed information search www.environment-agency.gov.uk or www.ecn.ac.uk/education/climate_change.htm

What does the law say?

In 1997 the UK government signed the Kyoto Protocol, legally binding the government to decreasing the amount of greenhouse gases.

To achieve their targets they introduced the Climate Change Levy. A tax on energy use in industry, commerce and the public sector, which is paid through energy bills.

Efficient use of energy allows you to save on these bills.

Top 5 excuses for offices that don't save energy:

1. It's not my job to save energy.
2. I'm too busy to do anything.
3. I don't have to pay the bills.
4. It's always available when I need it.
5. Why should I care?

BUT, this is a global problem, which means everyone needs to take some responsibility & the smallest changes can have a big impact!

Help us in our quest to be a more sustainable company - we already purchase green energy for the Wolverhampton complex, saving 1,275,344kg of carbon dioxide emissions - but there are lots of ways you can help us to further reduce the total amount of energy we use.

What can you do?

A tap dripping for a day wastes energy and enough water to fill a bath.

Switch computers and screens off when they are not in use

Boiling a kettle half full instead of full saves enough energy to run a TV for an hour.

More tips and ideas...

Kitchens:

- ⇒ If you have a fridge make sure the door is shut properly and don't put hot food straight into it.
- ⇒ Use a low temperature setting if you have a dishwasher & only wash if it's a full load.

Lights:

- ⇒ Always switch all the lights off when you leave a room - you could fit movement sensors.
- ⇒ If possible, use energy saving light bulbs.

Remember: Always seek advice from your environmental advisor if you have any queries or problems.