



Climate Change Challenges for everybody (and every household) in the Sampford Courtney Parish

It is vital that we all understand the impact we are having on the environment and the effects of climate change and to change the way we do things to make a real difference at local and global levels. If you didn't see it, try to watch David Attenborough's Extinction programme – BBC1 13th September 2020. The Sampford Courtenay Environment and Sustainability (SCEnSus) group have identified a set of **monthly challenges** to create a community response which will have a much greater impact on the environment and climate than anything we can do individually. The idea is that each challenge will build on the one that's gone before so that the changes become a way of life, not just something you focus on for a month and then forget about!

The challenge for January is in the form of a **New Year's Resolution checklist** which will help everyone in your household identify the areas that are your particular priorities. The other months have topics that we all need to work on to reduce our carbon footprint. The aim is to make us think about the issues and how we can make that much-needed difference!

The Government is bringing in legislation to stimulate change. Did you know that from February 2021 you won't be allowed by law to buy 'wet' wood (more than 20% moisture) or bagged household coal? Wood for domestic burning either has to be dry and seasoned or bought wet and stored on your property until it is dry and seasoned – up to 2 years! Other legislation is already in place for diesel and petrol cars, carbon offsetting requirements and, from 2021 until 2024, the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) will come into effect for Farmers. Also, that from March 2022 you won't be able to buy or use Metaldehyde slug pellets (the blue ones!). These changes will each affect the majority of us in the Parish in some way or another. A useful self assessment activity to gauge your carbon footprint can be found at:

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/questionnaire>

December Challenge - Recycle and Re-use

Use your existing Christmas decorations. Make new ones using what you've already got. The challenge is not to buy any new ones this year! Did you know that tinsel can't be recycled so it's better to use it time and time again rather than throw it away and send it to landfill? Is it really better to have a real tree ... or an artificial tree that you use year after year?

Woodburner or open fire - If you have one of these, make sure you have adequate supplies of dry, seasoned wood to burn from February onwards when the new legislation comes into effect and, even better, start before then. Also reduce your use of firelighters to light fires and sweep chimneys regularly to reduce chemicals and particles in the atmosphere.

	January 2021 SCEnSus New Year's Resolution Checklist What are the things that you and your family can do during the year? Put this checklist up in the house where you can <u>all</u> see it ... and use it to keep track of your progress. <i>Mark each action Red if you haven't started it ... or haven't even thought about it yet!</i> <i>Mark it Amber if you've started work on this but there's still some way to go</i> <i>Mark it Green if you've completed this/ been doing it for some time. If so, Well done!</i>	Red/ Amber/ Green?
1	Do you need better loft insulation or double glazing? <i>There might be grants available to you</i>	
2	Are all the light bulbs in your house low energy?	
3	Can you turn down your heating, even by 2 degrees C ... and wear those jumpers that you've got lurking in your wardrobe instead? Can you do your washing at 30C rather than 40C?	
4	Can you share your car travel with someone else and reduce the number of car journeys that you make to work or to the shops? Can you 'save' at least one journey each week? Think twice before doing short 'single occupancy' car trips as these are the least fuel-efficient journeys. <i>Vehicle transport makes up 25% of UK carbon emissions</i>	
5	Can you cycle, walk or catch a bus rather than drive a car sometimes – and more than you would usually do?	
6	How much food do you throw away in your house? If you're tempted by 'Buy one, get one free' offers - do you always use it all? Does <u>all</u> your food waste <u>always</u> go in the compost, not in black bags and end up in landfill and producing lethal methane gas?	
7	Can you buy more organic food to promote soil health – foods grown without use of fertilisers and cultivation methods that break down soil structure and other chemicals (particularly pesticides) which harm wildlife?	
8	Can you stop or reduce the use of chemicals such as bleach, cleaning products and sprays? Do you use microfibre cloths and water to avoid using chemicals and having those hard to recycle containers that they come in?	
9	How can you get everyone in your house to be more 'environmentally aware'? Identify some climate house rules such as closing doors to keep heat in, turning down thermostats in rooms not used very often, not running taps any longer than is necessary, looking at ways to re-use, recycle and re-purpose (particularly if this means not buying something new). Is there someone in your house (preferably the youngest person in the house) who could be the 'climate lookout' or 'chief nagger' when other people forget or get it wrong!	
10	How much of what your family throws away goes to landfill? How many black bags each week? How can you reduce the number of bags that go in the bin lorry?	
11	If you eat out and 'on the go', are the food and drink containers used single use and, if so, are they recyclable?	
12	New Year sales – as tempting as they are, buy only what you need!	