Energy Stunning Statistics

Climate Change

Global snow cover has decreased 10% since the 1960s	DTI, 2003
Use of the Thames Barrier has increased from once every 2 years in the 1980s to six times a year over the last five years	DTI, 2003
Over 2,000 scientists are directly working on the United Nations to study climate change. This is one of the largest mobilisations of scientific research ever undertaken.	Rising Tide, 2003
Arctic ice has decreased about 40% in the last decades	UKCIP, 2002
Global sea levels will rise between 9 and 88 cm by 2100	IPCC, 2001
Global temperatures will increase between 1.4 and 5.8^{o}C by 2100.	IPCC, 2001
Four out of five of the warmest years ever recorded in the UK were in the 1990s.	UKCIP, 2002
The total number of cold days (where the average temperature was under 0^{o}C) has fallen from between 15 and 20 per year prior to the twentieth century, to around 10 per year in recent years	UKCIP, 2002

Business Energy

Commercial office buildings consume 11% of delivered energy in the UK	DTI 2002
Industry, commerce and public buildings are responsible for 40% of all UK carbon dioxide emissions.	DTI 2002

Lighting

Lighting usually makes up 15% of your electricity bill! Switch it off!!	DTI 2002
Leaving a fluorescent tube light on over a period of 15 minutes uses 500 times more energy than switching it off.	IEMA, 2003
Low energy light bulbs on average last between 8-10 times longer than normal light bulbs and can save £50 over their lifetime.	EST, 2002
Up to 20% of light given off from fluorescent tubes can be lost due to them not being cleaned. Clean your fluorescent lights every 6 months to cut down on the costs of extra lighting.	IEMA, 2003
It is always cheaper to switch off lights, however short the time.	ETBPP, 2000

Computers

A typical computer (including monitor) left on for 24 hours can use £60 or more of energy a year. Turning off at night and weekends will reduce the bill to £15 a year.	IEMA, 2003
In an office with 200 computers, the annual savings from turning them off at night and weekends annual energy savings could be £10,000. If they're in an air-conditioned office savings could be £15,000 to £20,000.	IEMA, 2003
Turn your monitor off if you are away for more than a few minutes. Left on all the time, a monitor will cost on average £40 a year to run.	UK Power, 2003
A screen-saver on your computer saves no energy at all. Some, such as animated swimming fish, will actually use more.	UK Power, 2003
A PC monitor left switched on overnight wastes enough energy to laser print 800 A4 pages.	DETR
IN UK businesses there are over 6 million PCs and 2 million printers	IEMA, 2003

Office Equipment

Office equipment accounts for 20-70% of energy consumption of most offices	IEMA, 2003
Inefficient use of office machines costs British businesses up to £100 million in electricity every year. Up to 70% of computers are left on all the time, even if	Action Energy

used infrequently.	
Turning off vending machines overnight can save around £100 per year, or over half the electricity it normally uses.	IEMA
Switching off a fax machine overnight saves around £20 a year.	IEMA
Switching a photocopier onto energy efficiency mode saves around £40 a year.	IEMA
A photocopier left on overnight wastes enough energy to make 5,300 A4 copies	DETR

Heating

If you have 15 employees in a department using a kettle it will be almost certainly more energy efficient to install a hydro-boiler (wall fitted water heater) rather than constantly re-boiling the kettle.	
Heating accounts for 55% of the total energy consumption of offices in the UK.	DTI, 2002
In air-conditioned offices 30-40% of the summer energy bill is typically attributable to air-conditioning alone	BRE

Household Energy

Every household in the UK creates around 6 tonnes of CO_2 every year – enough to fill six hot air balloons 10 meters in diameter.	EST, 2002
Energy use in the home accounts for 30% of total energy consumption in the UK	DTI, 2002
6% of domestic electricity is used by appliances on stand-by	DTI, 2002
Demand for energy to heat and power our homes has risen by 15% since 1991	DTI, 2002
The residential sector contributes 27% to total UK CO_2 emissions, amounting to 40 million tonnes of carbon a year.	DTI, 2002

Heating

3 million UK households cannot afford to heat their homes properly.	DEFRA, 2003
Turning your thermostat down by just 1℃ can cut 10 % off your fuel bills	EST, 2002
Domestic energy consumers spend approximately two-thirds of their total annual energy bill in the winter months – on average £400.	EST, 2002
More than 40% of all the heat lost in the average home is through the loft space and walls - enough to heat 5 million homes for a year.	EST, 2002
Insulating your loft can save you between £60-70 per year on your heating bills	EST, 2002
If everyone in the UK installed cavity wall insulation, we would cut CO_2 emissions by 9 million tonnes. That's enough to fill over 51 million double-decker buses	EST, 2002
Putting a jacket on your hot water tank could save you up to £20 per year on your energy bills and help the environment. If everyone in the UK put a jacket on their hot water tank CO_2 emissions would be cut by 0.45 million tonnes (2.5 million double-decker buses).	EST, 2002
If everyone in the UK with gas central heating installed a new condensing boiler, we would save £1.3 billion on energy bills, enough energy to heat and power 4 million homes a year and 18.6 million tonnes of CO_2.	EST, 2002

Appliances

We use £800 million worth of electricity, by using washing machines, tumble dryers and dishwashers. This produces 5 million tonnes (28.5 million double-decker buses) of carbon dioxide each year	EST, 2002
DVD players hit the high street in 1997 and by 2003, 13% of households owned one	ONS, 2003
Energy consumption from 'brown goods' like TVs and videos has grown by 45% since 1993. Sixteen million new television sets have been sold since 1993.	MTP
If everybody in the UK switched off their TV set rather than leaving it on stand-by, it would save enough energy to power a town the size of Basingstoke.	EST, 2002
An energy efficient washing machine uses a third of the energy of an old, inefficient model and cuts water consumption considerably.	EST, 2002

An energy efficient dishwasher will cut energy wastage by half on non-efficient models.	EST, 2002
By buying an efficient tumble dryer, you can cut energy wastage by almost a third.	EST, 2002
Refrigeration and freezing appliances in UK homes use nearly as much electricity as all offices - £1.2 billion worth of electricity every year.	EST, 2002
Buying an energy efficient fridge freezer to replace an inefficient model could cut carbon dioxide emissions by up to 300 kg a year – enough to fill 22,000 balloons.	EST, 2002

Lighting

Energy consumption from domestic lighting has increased by 157% since 1970, due in large part to the lifestyle attractions of 'mood' and multiple-point lighting.	MTP
In most homes, lighting accounts for 10 – 15% of the electricity bill	DTI, 2002
UK households use £1.2 billion worth of electricity every year on lighting	DTI, 2003
Using an energy efficient lightbulb can cut energy use by over 75%. That's around £10 a year on the average energy bill, or £68 over the bulb's lifetime	EST, 2002
If every UK household installed 3 low-energy lightbulbs enough energy would be saved in a year to supply all the street lighting in the UK.	EST, 2002

General

We spend £55 billion on energy a year - About 20% of that is wasted	DTI, 2003
Stand-by mode accounts for an estimated 1% of total electricity use in the UK	DTI, 2002
The average person in the UK drives their car 5,433 miles per year, takes the bus for 207 miles per year and uses the train for 325 miles per year.	National Travel Survey, 2001
Only 3% of the UK's electricity is generated from renewable sources (including hydroelectricity and wind). The government aims to supply 20% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.	DTI, 2003
If we covered a small fraction of the Sahara desert with Solar PV cells, we could generate all the world's electricity requirements.	Greenpeace
Renewable Energy Industries employ 8,000 people in the UK. By 2020 this could have risen to 35,000	DTI, 2004

Source Key

DTI – Department of Trade & Industry
ETBPP - Environmental Technology Best Practice Programme
BRE – Building research Establishment
DETR – Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
IEMA – Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment
DEFRA – Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EST – Energy Saving Trust
IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ONS – Office of National Statistics
MTP – Market Transformation Programme