

## 10:10: Low-Carbon Iffley

About the time you are reading this world leaders will be meeting in Copenhagen to decide their responses to the urgent need to reduce the amount of carbon we pump into the atmosphere every year. All the signs are that they will either fail to agree, or put together a weak compromise deal.

That means it is very important for all of us keep up the pressure. The reality is that governments and political parties will only act if they feel that there are votes in it. So the more you and I are actively engaged in this debate, the greater the chance of success.

Here is a way of putting on the pressure. Back in the summer a small group of people started a campaign called 10:10. They asked people to pledge they would reduce their carbon emissions by 10 per cent in 2010. Very simple. Remarkably, large numbers have signed up—individuals and institutions, even government departments and the House of Commons! So why not readers of this magazine?

If you want to know more about it go to [www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org) and to [www.guardian.co.uk/environment/10-10](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/10-10).

If you follow the links on the *Guardian* website there are some very helpful hints about how you can actually lower your carbon footprint. All the usual things matter, turning down the heating, being careful about turning off unwanted lights, avoiding air travel whenever possible. But did you know that you can make a significant difference to your carbon footprint if you eat less meat and dairy goods? Intensive dairy farming is a significant polluter. The more vegetarian meals we eat, the better it is for our planet!

There are some really helpful suggestions about ways we can respond to this—all measured in terms of carbon reduction. Reading it through, I began to realize that all of this really is possible—it is not a hollow aspiration.

We discussed this campaign at a Low-Carbon Iffley Meeting in November. The group was eager that some more detailed help might be given for people who do not use the internet, so we will see if we can reproduce the advice in booklet form. We also discussed the possibility of planting more trees. On 5 December there is a large rally in London to push our government into signing up to a good agreement in Copenhagen. And across the country people are being urged to plant a tree on that day. Trees soak up carbon and by planting more we can make further carbon reductions. So, if you don't go to the rally, plant a tree. And consider signing up to 10:10. It is very important.

I am signing up. Why not you?

*David Barton*