EKO Sofia
AN INTRODUCTION TO GREEN ENERGY

Zaramella - Girier - Kunz - Nardò - Reinders - Szabadkai
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You can download this comic in over 20 languages from our website www.ekoenergy.org.
COME ON, MRS MAYOR. WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT. THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO START SECOND-GUESSING.
I'm not second-guessing, I'm just saying that several councillors have shown interest in the other proposal, Sunbeam's proposal.

Are you kidding? Fossilia has more than 100 years of experience. How can anyone believe that a handful of wind turbines would be able to produce the amount of electricity we need?

Yes, but you know, Mr Carbunculus, there's also a growing concern about... well, you know... climate change.

Let's skip the hippie talk. You know that our power plant will be the most efficient of its kind.

Let's skip the hippie talk. You know that our power plant will be the most efficient of its kind.

I'm with you on that, Mr Carbunculus, but not everybody sees it that way. With elections coming up in less than 18 months, I can't afford to have discontent amongst the voters.

Moreover, thanks to our new investment, we'll be able to take one of the smaller, less efficient plants out of use. That's a good thing for the planet, isn't it?

Anyway, don't be so pessimistic. Climate change hasn't been a problem so far. Let's cross that bridge when we come to it. Can you think of any problem that science has not been able to solve?

Hmm... cancer, poverty, hunger.

Do you really think that's what your voters are worried about? Your voters want electricity. That should be our primary concern right now.
COME ON MRS MAYOR. WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU? DID YOU HAVE A BAD NIGHT?

WE ARE SPONSORING OVER 50 EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONS IN THE CITY. YOU DON'T WANT THINGS TO CHANGE, DO YOU?

WIND TURBINES. IS THAT WHAT VOTERS LIKE? UGLY TURBINES EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK? REMEMBER, IF WE BUILD THIS NEW POWER PLANT, WE'LL SPONSOR MANY OTHER PROJECTS WITH THE MONEY IT GENERATES. THAT'S A PROMISE.

NO, OF COURSE NOT, BUT...

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT YOU HAVE TO CONVINCe PEOPLE WITH YOUR COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN.

I DON'T WANNA HAVE ANY TROUBLE.

YOU WON'T REGRET THIS DECISION, MRS MAYOR.

I KNOW.
MRS MAYOR, I'M DONE WITH MY WORK FOR TODAY. DO YOU MIND IF I GO?

YOU CAN GO, SOFIA. I THINK WE'RE ALL GOING HOME NOW.

IT'S BEEN A HELLISH DAY!

MAYOR! WE HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS WITH YOU! PLEASE, MRS MAYOR!

NOT NOW, I'M VERY BUSY.

HEY, SOFIA! WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT?

HEY! IT SEEMS...I DON'T KNOW, SOMETHING ABOUT THE POWER PLANT.
TSK! POLITICIANS! THEY NEVER LISTEN!

COME ON MARIE, LET'S GET ON WITH THE PETITION.

"FOSSIL FUELS OUT - RENEWABLE ENERGY IN"

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL. FOSSIL FUELS ARE DESTROYING OUR PLANET.

WHAT'S THIS PETITION EXACTLY FOR?

WE WANT TO SHOW THE POLITICIANS THAT A LOT OF CITIZENS WANT RENEWABLE ENERGY, NOT FOSSIL FUELS.

WE DON'T WANT FOSSILIA TO BUILD A NEW POWER PLANT HERE. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SIGN?

IF FOSSILIA ONLY PROVIDES NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY, WHO DOES GREEN?

IF NOT COAL, THEN WHAT?

THERE ARE A LOT OF CHOICES. SOLAR, WIND...LET'S GO FOR RENEWABLES!

THERE ARE LOADS OF GREEN SUPPLIERS. ONE OF THEM, SUNBEAM, IS INTERESTED IN BUILDING WIND TURBINES ON BARTON MEADOW.

SO THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT...
I think I'll go home. I don't feel like playing.

Oh...okay, that's fine.

You can't trust Fossilia, believe me, I know. The Sunbeam deal could well be much better for the City.

Honey, don't forget you work for them. Don't bite the hand that feeds you.

I'm not working for them. Our ad agency is, and I hope I still have the right to say that I don't like them.

Why didn't you ask to work on another project, dad?

I'm not in the position to pick and choose, sweetie.

Fossilia is our best client and they pay well.

We'll read the leaflets. Thanks, and good luck with your petition!
Electricity from wind, water and sun for your home? Click here

Learn more about our EKOenergy certified electricity

EKOenergy is a network of 34 European environmental organisations from almost all European countries. We promote the use of renewable energy and we want to give consumers the opportunity to get more out of their electricity contract.

EKOenergy is also the name of the only pan-European ecolabel for electricity. EKOenergy is renewable energy. On top of that, EKOenergy is produced in power plants that fulfill the sustainability criteria set by the EKOenergy network.

"AS A EUROPEAN CONSUMER, YOU CAN FREELY CHOOSE YOUR ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER AND THE TYPE OF ELECTRICITY YOU PREFER."

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE SO MANY SUPPLIERS. WE ALWAYS GOT STUCK WITH FOSSILIA.
For each MWh sold as EKOenergy hydropower, a minimum of 10 cents goes to the EKOenergy Environmental Fund. That money is then used to finance river restoration projects.

Learn more ->

EKOenergy Environmental Fund

...hey, look here. "EKOENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND". WHAT COULD THAT BE?

WHAT ELSE ARE THESE EKOENERGY GUYS DOING?

LOOKS LIKE THEY SET ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA FOR POWER PLANTS. READ THIS.

THEY HAVE EFFICIENCY CRITERIA FOR BIOMASS POWER PLANTS, AND THEY EVEN EXCLUDE SOME KINDS OF BIOMASS, E.G. THOSE THAT COULD ALSO BE USED AS FOOD.

WHY DON'T WE SWITCH OUR CONTRACT? OUR MONEY WOULD ACTUALLY GO TO SOMETHING USEFUL.

CLICK ON THAT "HOW TO BUY EKOENERGY" BUTTON, SOFIA.
Hey Sofia! Are you feeling better today?

Sort of. I'd like to discuss something with all of you. It's really important.

More important than our training? The boys' team has a match this Sunday.

Definitely. Have you heard about the new power plant they want to build?

You mean the one on Barton Meadow?

Yeah, they're currently deciding what kind of power plant they want to build there.

I was thinking about it yesterday and I really feel we can do something to support the wind turbine idea.

Why are you bringing this up now? We're here to play.

I don't want to lose the Sunday match because of your whining!
IT'S NOT ABOUT MY WHINING. THERE ARE ALREADY LOTS OF ACTIVISTS PROMOTING THE WIND FARM.

COME ON SOFIA. WIND... HAHAHA! THAT I'LL NEVER WORK...

I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE. GREEN ELECTRICITY CAN HELP STOP IT, AND OUR TOWN COULD BE A POSITIVE EXAMPLE.

AND WHY NOT? IN SOME COUNTRIES, THEY ALREADY SUPPLY MORE THAN 20% OF THE ELECTRICITY. AND THAT'S ONLY THE START.

THAT'S BULLSHIT MADE UP BY HIPPIES TO MAKE YOU LIVE LIKE CAVEMEN, SOFIA.

COME ON SOFIA. WIND... HAHAHA! THAT I'LL NEVER WORK...

IF THEY MAKE MORE MONEY, MAYBE WE'LL HAVE MORE MONEY TOO!

WAIT, ISN'T FOSSILIA OUR SPONSOR?

Yeah. Why do you ask?

WHY WOULD... WHATEVER.

IT'S ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY TO CHOOSE. I'D JUST LIKE YOU TO THINK ABOUT IT.
THAT'S ALL VERY GOOD SOFIA, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? I MEAN, IT'S THE CITY COUNCIL'S JOB TO DECIDE.

I WOULD CHOOSE GREEN ENERGY TOO, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO ASK US WHAT WE WANT.

AND THAT'S WHY WE SAID IT WAS STUPID TO DISCUSS THIS STUFF. NOW LET'S PLAY, WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.

BUT MAYBE THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN DO....

SOFIA, YOU WORK AT CITY HALL, RIGHT? HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH THEM?

NOT YET. I WANTED TO READ UP ON IT FIRST.
MRS MAYOR?
CAN I HAVE A
WORD WITH YOU?

I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING
YOUR DISCUSSION WITH MR
CARBUNCULUS.

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR
BUSINESS, SOFIA.

...NOT NOW.
I'M BUSY.

I KNOW, BUT...
I REALLY HOPE THE
CITY GOES FOR GREEN
ENERGY....

OUR CITY IS ALREADY DOING A LOT, SOFIA.
WE'VE JUST INTRODUCED RECYCLING BINS.
WE CAN'T SOLVE ALL THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS.
GREEN ELECTRICITY
IS INDEED A NOBLE
CAUSE, BUT...IT'S NOT
THAT SIMPLE.

WHY NOT?

BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ALWAYS
WIND, SOFIA... AND OUR CITY
NEEDS A LOT OF ENERGY...

BUT IF WE DON'T
START GOING
GREEN.....

YOU'RE TOO YOUNG
TO UNDERSTAND.

GREEN ELECTRICITY MIGHT
BE THE FUTURE, SOFIA...BUT
IT'S NOT THE PRESENT.
uh...i was expecting you to be older.

ahah! i'm a volunteer at ekoenergy. nice to meet you, sofia. you said you had some questions for us.

if you want to buy green electricity, you have to ask for it from your supplier. they use guarantees of origin to prove that they have produced enough green electricity to cover your consumption.

i'm participating in evs, the european voluntary service. it's an eu program which enables young people to go abroad and volunteer in a non-profit organisation. ekoenergy hosts volunteers from different countries.

by the way...what did you mean when you said you were a volunteer at ekoenergy? now i'm curious.

guarantees of origin?

yes. the state gives suppliers a certificate, called a guarantee of origin, for each mwh of green electricity they produce. electricity suppliers can sell as much green electricity as they have guarantees of origin.

if electricity suppliers want to sell more green electricity than they produce, they can also buy guarantees of origin from other green producers. but in each case, each certificate can be used only once. for more information, you can also have a look at our website.

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by the way...what did you mean when you said you were a volunteer at ekoenergy? now i'm curious.

they do all that too? wow!

oh, and i also had some questions about the climate fund...

great, thank you!
SOFIA! WE GOT YOUR MESSAGE. SO YOU DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE WITH THE MAYOR?

TOLD YA IT WAS A STUPID THING TO DO.

I COULDN'T MAKE HER READ ANYTHING. I THINK IT'S TIME FOR A DIFFERENT STRATEGY.

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT A PETITION.

YOU TOLD YA IT WAS A STUPID THING TO DO.

JUST LIKE THOSE LOSER HIPPIES?

YOU THINK SOME SCRIBBLING IS GONNA HELP?

I DO. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THERE'S A CHOICE.

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I DO. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THERE'S A CHOICE.
Do you think so...?

Do you think so...?

OF COURSE, AND HOW WILL WE THEN AFFORD A WELL-MAINTAINED PITCH, TEAM KITS, AN AIR-CONDITIONED CLUBHOUSE...

We don't need that much money. I mean, who's using the air conditioning here? And why do we need new kits every season?

Why not?

We're not, as a club, interfering with them. They won't take their sponsorship away.

Don't be so naive, Sofia. If most of you participate in that stupid campaign, they'll know. And why would they continue spending money on us?

Oh, really? And who's gonna tell them?

The boys' team is almost ready to go to the regional championships. We won't give up this chance for you.
CAN WE ACTUALLY START TRAINING NOW?

TAKE IT EASY, MARC, WE WILL PLAY... WINNING ISN'T JUST ABOUT TRAINING, IT'S ALSO ABOUT TEAM SPIRIT.

AND IF FOSSILIA TAKES AWAY THE SPONSORSHIP, WE'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE. WE DON'T NEED THAT MUCH MONEY. WE'LL STILL PLAY.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIP...

WHETHER OR NOT WE WIN THE COMPETITION DEPENDS ON US, NOT ON THEM...

BUT ANYWAY, LET'S HOPE MARC'S FEARS DON'T COME TRUE.

WE'LL SEE...

IDIOTS. GOOD LUCK. YOU'LL REGRET THIS.
I like this layout for the flyer.

Do you think the slogan "Switch to green energy!" is good enough?

Maybe we can find something wittier. That's a bit simple.

We want to keep it simple and easy to understand.

We're giving them to newbies, remember.

The library has agreed to host our public forum!

It's a month from now. Will we have enough time to advertise it?

I can take care of the advertisement. You should write the presentation, Sofia.

You're the right person, Sofia. You've already convinced all of us! I'm sure your speech will be great.

I...I wasn't planning on speaking...
SIR, SIGN OUR PETITION TO BUILD A WIND FARM ON BARTON MEADOW!

THAT MUST BE THE SAME GROUP THAT SENT THOSE EMAILS ABOUT SWITCHING TO GREEN ENERGY.

YEAH, WE ALL GOT THEM. I READ SUNBEAM'S PROPOSAL AGAIN. IT SOUNDS BETTER THAN I REMEMBERED.

HEY DAVE, AREN'T YOU GONNA READ IT?

THIS ECO-NONSENSE? NO TIME FOR IT.

ACTUALLY IT'S NOT SO BAD. YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THEIR WEBSITE. IT SEEMS THAT...

YOU'LL END UP WITH DREADS AND BIRKENSTOCKS IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.
What happens when the wind doesn’t blow and the sun doesn’t shine? There are other sources of renewable energy, such as hydropower and biomass, that are almost always available. The technology to store energy is also improving.

I’ve read that turbines often kill birds. Buildings and traffic kill more birds than wind turbines, not to mention climate change. It’s also a matter of location. The ekoenergy label takes that into account.

Isn’t wind energy very expensive? Will our bill be higher? It’s no longer true that renewable energy is more expensive.

Let’s just burn the city’s waste! That’s renewable, innit? What if I just buy myself solar panels? Not all at once, people!

If coal power plants paid a fair price to reflect the pollution they cause, renewable energy would even be much cheaper than fossil energy. On top of that, wind will always be freely available. Unlike coal.

Let’s just burn the city’s waste! That’s renewable, innit? What if I just buy myself solar panels? Not all at once, people!

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Ekoenergy is the label that guarantees the power is green. Sunbeam is going to build the turbines.

You’re not forced to buy energy from Sunbeam: it’s just a matter of having the choice.

Yes, you on the right.

If we go for wind energy, will the air in our city be better?
You were right. We need to keep an eye on this girl.

Despite your age, you really spoke well today!

Thanks, Mr. Miller. I have to admit I was quite nervous.

Do you think you'd like to talk on the radio about this? We have a program, on Fridays...

Yeah, that would be great!

I'll just put them on the counter. I'm sure some of my customers will read them.

To: Carbunculus

You were right. We need to keep an eye on this girl.
We switched to EKOenergy.

Oh... well, yes, we can discuss it again... but...

Look at all of these businesses switching to green contracts! It's a good opportunity for the city and for our party...

It's what people seem to want.

Oh my... we, we have to keep the people's will in mind too.

In two months, they've collected more than 5000 signatures, asking for the Barton Meadow contract to go to Sunbeam.

How about a meeting next week to discuss the plant tender?
that girl!

this is all

beCaUse oF

her!

nobody had even heard

oF ekoEnergy before

and nobody cared about

sunbeam. and now,

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MR CARBUNCULUS! HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

...YES, BUT...

...HE'S ONE OF OUR KEY PEOPLE...

...THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY.

...LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO...

...THE SOONER, THE BETTER. CONSIDER IT DONE, MR CARBUNCULUS.

EASIER THAN EXPECTED. RACHEL, ARRANGE THIS TRANSFER.

IF IT'S NOT WELL SPENT, IT'LL BE YOUR NECK.

MONEY WELL SPENT, MR CARBUNCULUS.

NOW, I HAVE TO APPEAR ON A TALK SHOW, IT'S TIME TO REDEEM THIS COMPANY'S REPUTATION.

AND GET BACK TO WORK. I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR SOME GOOD NEWS.
Dad! Our team won the match today! We're ready to go to the regional championships!

That's great, sweetie...

You look tired...

I am. I mean...I've lost my job.

To...today? But how? Why?

They're calling it 'restructuring'. They have to 'streamline operations'.

This just doesn't make any sense! You're one of their best...why would they...

I think it's entirely overrated. Producing electricity is our area of expertise, and if it worked with wind turbines, we would have been doing it a long time ago. Unfortunately, many people fall for environmental alarmism these days.

Today, Mr Carbunculus is with us! Mr Carbunculus, what do you think about this ongoing ekoenergy campaign?

Oh come on, Sofia, he's not so...mean...
IT WAS HIM, DAD. FOSSILIA IS LOSING POPULARITY, THE MAYOR AGREED TO HAVE A NEW MEETING TO DISCUSS THE BARTON MEADOW DECISION WITH THE COUNCILLORS.

SUNBEAM IS GOING TO GET THE CONTRACT, AND ON TOP OF THAT, WE'RE WINNING PEOPLE'S APPROVAL. HAVE YOU SEEN HOW MANY COMPANIES AND SHOPS HAVE SWITCHED TO EKOENERGY LATELY?

...AND YOU, SWEETIE, ARE FRONT AND CENTRE. STILL, I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WOULD FIRE ME FOR THAT.

THIS IS TERRIBLE. WHAT DO WE DO NOW? YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE CAMPAIGN, BOTH OF YOU. IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

MOM! THE DIRTIER THEY PLAY, THE HARDER WE FIGHT! WE HAVE TO FIGHT THESE PEOPLE EVEN MORE IF THEY'RE SO EVIL!

PLUS, I WON'T GET MY JOB BACK IF IT'S FOSSILIA'S CALL. I'LL FIND ANOTHER ONE. LIKE YOU SAID, I'M ONE OF THE BEST.

BUT WHO IS THIS SOFIA, LEADER OF OUR TOWN'S GREEN ENERGY MOVEMENT? WHAT ARE HER REASONS?

WILL SHE TAKE THE CHALLENGE TO SPEAK UP IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS?
I'm really getting invited to the talk show!

I got a phone call. The show's next week. I'm not ready to do it!

Come on Sofia, think of it as an exam. You're definitely ready. All you've been talking about lately is ecoenergy and renewables.

I know, but this is different! A lot of people actually watch that show, and lots of them will be pro fossilia. What if I mess up?

Listen, this is the best opportunity we have to reach all of them. You're famous, Sofia!

And this...has already cost my dad his job.

We can help you prepare. Let's write down some of the arguments, I'll be the host.

Sofia, aren't you a bit young to worry about power plants? Why are you doing this?
As a young person, I have the most to lose due to Climate Change. This is mostly about my future.

Wouldn't it be wiser to focus on your studies?

I will probably start university next year, but I truly believe in green energy and in ekoenergy.

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Wouldn't it be wiser to focus on your studies?

I will probably start university next year, but I truly believe in green energy and in ekoenergy.

And this isn't something that I can put after my personal goals, or postpone until after university.

Switching to sustainable energy is an urgent step if we want to save the planet. We have to act now.

Do you actually think green electricity will save the planet? Aren't there other options to consider?

We also have to change our lifestyle... such as eating less meat and spending holidays closer to home.

Green energy is only part of the solution. We need energy efficiency as well.

But yes, renewables are essential. Without a switch to renewables, we won't solve the climate problem. We need more people to know about this.
Sofia, you decided to promote primarily those suppliers selling Ekoenergy.

We started this as a local action for wind energy, but we discovered that we can make an even bigger difference by being part of the Ekoenergy movement.

We also like that the sale of Ekoenergy contributes to financing new renewable installations.

What do you mean? When buying electricity from one of the Ekoenergy suppliers, part of your money goes to climate protection projects.

This means you can also do good with your purchase. But how does that work in practice?

They fund other associations, experienced in these sort of activities.

Recently, they sponsored the NGO Oikos to provide a rural school in Tanzania with solar energy.
A more sustainable future is possible but it must come from a joint effort. That's why our campaign focuses on information.

Renewable energy will create a lot of new jobs. And as the switch to renewable energy won't happen overnight, there is time to retrain workers.

We want to give people the opportunity to choose and take the first step towards sustainable electricity.

Wonderful goals. Do you think you can do it?

We can do it.

How can you choose, if you don’t know your options?

Green electricity is still underrated, and we must give it a chance to grow.

It seems your campaign is reaching its goal. The news have reported various meetings between the mayor and the councillors. The future of Barton Meadow is still open to discussion.

Have you ever thought about the people working at Fossilia? What will happen to them? Are they going to lose their jobs?
ON EVALUATING THE PROPOSALS FOR THE POWER PLANT TO BE BUILT ON BARTON MEADOW.

WE HAVE TWO TENDERS: FOSSILIA TO BUILD A COAL POWER PLANT; AND SUNBEAM TO BUILD A WIND FARM.

VOTING IS NOW CLOSED.

WITH A 70% MAJORITY, THE COUNCIL AWARDS THE CONTRACT TO SUNBEAM.
TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND OH, HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

SUNBEAM’S WIND TURBINES HAVE BEEN A WONDERFUL DECISION FOR THE TOWN. CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS IS GROWING.

FOSSILIA IS NOT THE MOST INFLUENTIAL COMPANY IN TOWN ANYMORE. SEE THOSE SUNBEAM ADVERTISEMENTS? THAT’S MY DAD’S NEW JOB.

EKONERGY HAS GROWN TOO. NOW THEY HAVE 45 MORE SUPPLIERS WITH THEM.

I NOW VOLUNTEER FOR THEM, WITH MANY OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE. WE’RE STARTING TO FUND THREE CLIMATE PROJECTS WITH THE INCOME GENERATED FROM SWITCHED CONTRACTS.

A GREENER FUTURE HAS NEVER BEEN SO CLOSE.
What can I do?

Climate change is the biggest challenge humanity is facing. Reports about increasing greenhouse gas emissions and the expected results are more than alarming. The only good news is that we know how to prevent dramatic climate change. It is technically and economically possible to live within the limits of one planet.

Unfortunately, far too few decision-makers take the problem seriously. They stick to dated solutions or come up with short-term answers. Luckily, there are more and more people like Sofia: people who act, instead of waiting for ambitious international climate agreements.

Individual actions are not an exercise in futility. They are the trademark of a growing group of people who believe that this is the way forward. And that group will not remain unnoticed by politicians who want to win elections in the coming years. Nor by businesses who want to sell their products in the 2020s and 2030s. These actions also make complete sense for our everyday life: you can save a lot of money as well as improve your health by becoming more climate friendly.

At home

1. Switch to EKOenergy. Not only is this the best way of ensuring your electricity contract leads to positive changes, it’s also a clear signal to producers and politicians alike that you believe in 100% renewable energy.

   Check out www.ekoenergy.org > How to buy EKOenergy?

2. Use renewable sources for home heating and cooling systems, such as biogas or heat pumps working on renewable electricity.

3. Measure your energy consumption and your energy costs, and try to reduce them by:
   - checking the energy efficiency of the house before buying or renting;
   - insulating your house;
   - washing only full loads of clothes and air-drying them;
   - not wasting water, especially not heated water;
   - buying the most energy-efficient electric devices and switching them off when not in use;
   - cooking with the lid on and letting food cool down before putting it in the fridge or freezer.
On the road

4. Avoid using the car. Cycling and walking are often good and healthy alternatives. If public transport isn’t an option, try carpooling; it’s a great way to save money, pollute less and make new friends.

5. Holidays don’t have to be far away to be nice. Avoid flying; air traffic is a growing source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Eat smart

6. The production and transport of food causes a lot of greenhouse gas emissions. To lower your carbon footprint, you can:
- reduce your consumption of meat and dairy products;
- buy locally-sourced, seasonal food;
- buy organic products;
- try not to buy more than you actually eat. To start with, you could keep track of how much food you throw away.

Reduce, reuse, recycle

7. Take care of your stuff. The longer you use the same things, the less waste we produce and the less energy has to be used for producing new ones.

8. Buy second hand goods, quality products and products that don’t use unnecessary packaging.

9. Give sustainable presents. Millions of gifts end up in rubbish bags without ever having been used. Instead, offer a voucher to go to the theatre, offer to give a massage or even sign your friend up for a plot in your local community garden.

Support others to defend your values

10. Vote for politicians that take climate change seriously. And support organisations that work on climate change, human rights, family planning...

Read more

on the EU Climate Action website:
The omnipotent Fossilia plans to build a new coal power plant on Barton Meadow. But it isn’t the only one interested in the area: SunBeam wants to build a wind farm there instead. The SunBeam proposal gets unexpected help when Sofia and her friends start a campaign to promote renewable energy.

Sofia soon discovers that this isn’t just an issue for politicians. On the open market, consumers can choose which company they support and what electricity they buy. Once she realises this, it isn’t long before she starts a “Switch to EKOenergy campaign”.

“It’s about the possibility to choose. I’d just like you to think about it.”