

4 Approaches to Global Warming

Global warming is a recognised reality now (see www.stewkleygreen.org.uk/g-links.htm for numerous links to references). The government has just announced their commitment to an 80% reduction in CO₂ emissions. Many sceptics will doubt that target will be achieved, but few people doubt there will be a 50% reduction. How will people in Stewkley adapt? Do you have a plan or will you wait till it hits you? Here are 4 possible approaches; see which one suits you best.

The Survivor: You just manage to hold things together; the financial crisis is just the latest hit. You hope things will get easier, but you will battle through. Climate change is the last thing you need to deal with; you hope the government etc will deal with it. - Accept Climate change as a reality. You want stability and security. You can feel secure if you prepare for it. A low-carbon society will be good for you; it will reduce your overheads and create local employment. Do the things that make sense, reduce waste and unnecessary expense. You are not alone, just avoid blaming others.

The Traditionalist: you like things the way they are. You have been careful to live within your means; you admire people who play by the rules. You love tradition, your family, community and your country. You have concerns about the modern world. You like the grammatically correct "if it is not broken, then refrain from fixing it". You have noticed the change in the weather etc. But you are suspicious of those warning of the impact, as you feel they may have ulterior motives. You would prefer to hope that this is just a natural cycle. You may be slow to adapt, or to replace an inefficient old car or appliance while it does the job. - Trust your own eyes and careful analysis. This is your issue, it will affect all you value; your home, your garden your country and your traditions. Remember climate change is not fair. Your lack of action could destroy what you value. Climate change is a massive crisis but we have the guts to pull together and deal with it. Let's support British holiday resorts and farmers and live within our means.

The Winner: you are excited by the modern life; it is a game to win. You work hard and are making it. You like choice and smart things. You live for now! You like change and are optimistic and you will survive the bad times. You accept that Global warming is real, but find it hard to accept the scale and urgency of the issue. Your positive attitude is not receptive to bad news, and you have little time for environmentalists! You would welcome Costa del Brighton. - Climate change isn't your issue yet. But, in reality, you are the one that will have to change the most if you wish to remain a winner. There will be major economic changes, fashion and status symbols are changing too. Low carbon living is still expensive, solar panels and hybrid cars are becoming the smart modern 21st century living. 20th century signs of success are seen as part of the problem, those that don't move on will be left to shoulder the blame. Embrace this latest challenge, get into the new growth areas, remain a winner. Leave the past and live smarter in the future. There hasn't been a challenge like this for years. Be the first person you know to have a solar panel, hybrid car or a zero energy house.

The Striver: you want to be better and the world to be a better place. You don't like to compromise your principles. It's not money and possessions, but ethical values and personal satisfaction that matter to you. You have a close circle of family and friends. You welcome change if it is an enriching experience. You are a global citizen and care about nature. You believe that humans are damaging the planet through selfishness and greed, and there is a need to change. You may be happy in a poorly insulated house with inefficient appliances. You may live a simple life but have a passion to

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travel to see the world. For you climate change is a crime; we are stealing from the poor and vulnerable. We are the cause of people dying in famines and climate change. – Global warming will create new conflicts over water and higher land. There will be millions of environmental refugees. However there are solutions that will provide new jobs, eliminate fuel poverty and deaths from cold. A low carbon life can be a more fulfilled life style, and you can spread the word. The movements that ended slavery, apartheid, and other inequalities all started with a few committed people. Get advice to assess your carbon emissions, and take responsibility to reduce them.

However you see yourself, take responsibility, be proactive and avoid becoming a victim.

To find out more read Georg Marshall's book 'carbon detox' www.carbondetox.org

StewkleyGreen still needs your help-whatever your approach- for doing surveys, data management, web design, & fund raising. And more people to join the lift/car share programme. There is a small group of people interested in building and fitting their own DIY solar water heaters for under £300. For more information on all these contact Roger Crews 240 794 Roger.Crews@StewkleyGreen.org.uk

Lastly there are now glass recycling facilities at the 'rec', the Swan and soon at the Carpenters Arms. Please help ensure these are fully utilised.