

## **SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS ABOUT LOW CARBON DAY**

Dear Parent,

### **Low Carbon Day – [DATE]**

Schools across the country including our own are participating in a **Schools Low Carbon Day**. This is an exciting opportunity to raise awareness about climate change and to change all of our behaviour to reduce our impact on the environment.

**We have set aside a morning to teach our children about climate change, and to ask every family to pledge to do something to cut their carbon emissions.**

**Low Carbon Day** is being organised by **Mothers Against Climate Change**, a charitable organisation dedicated to raising awareness about climate change and persuading individuals to change their behaviour to reduce carbon emissions. Their website is [www.cooltheworld.com](http://www.cooltheworld.com).

#### **Calculate your carbon footprint**

We are asking all parents to calculate their carbon footprint before [DATE]. The easiest way to do this is by visiting [www.cooltheworld.com/carbon\\_calculator.php](http://www.cooltheworld.com/carbon_calculator.php).

**If you do not have internet access you can request a form to enable you to work out your carbon footprint on paper.**

#### **Pledge to do something to cut your emissions**

Parents across the country are being asked to pledge to do something to cut their carbon footprint. If you would like to participate please do something (see the attached list for ideas) to cut your emissions and tell your child what you are doing.

#### **Offsetting**

If you want you can also offset some or all of the carbon emissions which you cannot cut. For more information visit [www.cooltheword.com](http://www.cooltheword.com).

Thank you in advance for your support.

Signed ....

## How can I cut my carbon footprint? Ideas for pledges.

### Cut your transport emissions

- Don't fly unless you really have to for 12 months. If this is not possible, try and fly less.
- Go to school by bus, share a car or walk
- Walk/cycle journeys of less than 2 miles
- Don't use the car for one day a week for three months
- Get rid of that second or even third car...
- Downsize your car to a smaller engine.
- Switch your vehicle to LPG.
- Drive smarter – pump up the tyres and keep your rpm.

### Cut your domestic emissions

- Sort out your insulation and switch to low energy light bulbs
- Turn the thermostat down, turn the air con off
- Turn off the lights and avoid using standby on the TV or the computer
- Recycle and compost anything that can be composted
- Invest in energy efficient appliances (highest energy rating).
- Invest in an induction hob
- Switch to a green energy tariff (see [www.cooltheworld.com](http://www.cooltheworld.com) for more information)
- Generate your own renewable energy - install solar or wind or geothermal
- Don't buy things that you don't need - all those gadgets, toys, t-shirts and other junk that gets used for a day and then clutters up the place for years...
- Invest in a smart meter. Knowledge is power.
- Don't waste food. Eat seasonal locally sourced food where possible

### Did you know?

- **The level of emissions produced by a family of four flying for four hours = the level of emissions produced by the average family home in four months.**
- **A large (> 2.0 litre) engine emits 40% more CO2 per mile than a car with an engine size of 1.6 litres or lower.**
- **More than 30% of the trips made by cars in Europe are for less than 2 miles and 50% for less than 3 miles.**
- **It only costs around 10% more to source your electricity from 100% renewable sources. Follow this link <http://www.greenelectricity.org/> to find suppliers in your area.**