

Press Release No. 48/2010

Press Relations Officer: Martin Ittershagen

Deputy Press Relations Officer: Stephan Gabriel Haufe

PR-staff: Dieter Leutert, Fotini Mavromati, Doreen Redlich, Martin Stallmann

Address: Postfach 1406, 06813 Dessau-Roßlau

Telephone: +49 340/2103-2122, -6625, -2250, -2318, -2367, -2507

E-Mail: pressestelle@uba.de

Internet: www.umweltbundesamt.de



Going all out to protect the climate

New UBA brochure shows how climate-conscious citizens can lead by example in their daily lives

Every German citizen produces an average eleven tonnes of greenhouse gases (GHG) a year, a figure that is far too high. Germany must reduce its GHG emissions by 2020 by at least 80-95 percent over 1990 levels. This is only possible if climate-conscious consumers respond to rigorous climate policy standards with action.

Climate-conscious consumption is about more than reducing GHG emissions 'just a little', it is about much higher more demanding climate protection objectives. The new Federal Environment Agency (UBA) brochure entitled *Klimaneutral leben: Verbraucher starten durch beim Klimaschutz* brings a new dimension to the public debate about green consumption. It identifies so-called big points in green consumption that harbor great savings potential in our daily lives.

UBA President Jochen Flasbarth underscores this, commenting, "We can already start to implement some key features of climate-neutral lifestyle in our private lives. The new brochure motivates citizens to lead the way, ahead of policy initiatives. It offers incentives and ways to bring ever more people to behave more climate-consciously."

There are five characters in the brochure on the path to a climate-neutral life. There is Sabine T. who wouldn't dream of "doing without", or Linus L. who has no time for the details in his daily life. Both of them make use of their means to reduce GHG emissions effectively in a way that their lifestyles can accommodate.

The brochure also illustrates that green consumption is not a private matter, but rather a matter of public concern. There are many ways and means, in addition to one's own CO₂ savings, to encourage others to follow suit, which range from making use of renewable energies to receiving remuneration for one's own CO₂ emissions, or membership in an environmental association.

Progress in climate protection is made as a growing number of people in Germany make a commitment to live and act green.

The *Klimaneutral leben: Verbraucher starten durch beim Klimaschutz* brochure (in German only) can be downloaded from:

<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-medien-e/4014.html>

The UBA CO₂ calculator is here:

http://uba.klima-aktiv.de/umleitung_uba.html

Dessau-Roßlau, 29 September 2010