

## WAR OF THE WEAMERS 'WEAMING' BRITS CAUSE RISE IN HOUSEHOLD ARGUMENTS

Over 60% of British Household fall out over Wasting Energy and Money (Weaming) at Home

Britain is a nation of 'Weamers' according to new research which reveals the amount of arguments caused by people Wasting Energy and Money at home. Domestic rows with partners and housemates over who leaves the lights on appear to be the new battleground in the fight against climate change.

A new study by the UK's only not-for-profit energy company, Ebico found that over 60% of British households argue over wasting energy, and therefore money within the home. The culprits, identified as Weamers (Wasters of Energy and Money), have emerged as Brits become more conscious of the environmental impact of their actions. The number one way to Weam is by leaving the lights on (40% of energy arguments), closely followed by leaving electronic appliances on standby (28%) and having the heating up too high (27%).

The research also found that:

- 21% argued over leaving windows open while the heating is on
- 21% over boiling a kettle with more water in it than you need
- 18% over leaving the heating on when no one is at home

The majority of respondents (78%) declared that their home was occupied by at least one energy waster; 23% blamed their other half and 15% admitted that they were the worst Weamer in their household. Regionally the worst Weamers in the country are in Scotland. Whilst young people (18 – 34 year olds) were the worst both at leaving lights on and leaving the heating on when no-one is home : 45%, compared to 35% of those aged 55 and over, and 23% compared to 15% respectively.

Ebico's Managing Director, Phil Levermore, said: "Collectively, our homes are the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in the UK, yet the changes we need to make to see big reductions in energy consumption and fuel bills are quite simple and easy to do. Just by turning the thermostat down by one degree can save you 10% on your annual energy bill."

age is getting through to many people there are still some who need to be pushed into making the small changes that can save you energy and money. A review of energy consumption levels amongst Ebico customers in 2009 demonstrated that simply by taking basic measures to cut household energy consumption resulted in an average saving of £90 a year.”

Amy Parry (27) from west London, regularly argues with her other half about wasting energy; ‘I shout at my partner Dan on an almost daily basis because of his constant Weaming. It’s particularly annoying when I return home from work and the house feels like a sauna and he’s sitting there in a t-shirt, even in the middle of winter. I have even caught him opening the window because it’s too hot as a result – that’s when I really lose my temper. Another thing that really gets me riled is when he has the cooker on for an hour, to bake one potato – that is weaming in the extreme!”

## ENDS

### Notes for Editors

- \*All figures, unless otherwise stated, taken from research carried out on behalf of Ebico by Opinionium among 2,005 British adults between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
- Ebico Managing Director Phil Levermore is available for comment and interviews.

### For further media information contact:

Caroline Antscherl  
3 Monkeys Communications  
Office: 020 7009 3121  
Email: [caroline@3-monkeys.co.uk](mailto:caroline@3-monkeys.co.uk)

Anna Roll  
3 Monkeys Communications  
Office: 020 7009 3111  
E-mail: [annar@3-monkeys.co.uk](mailto:annar@3-monkeys.co.uk)

### About Ebico

Ebico is the UK’s only not-for-profit energy supply company in the UK and is committed to the reduction and elimination of fuel poverty. The company’s flat rate tariff with no standing charge rewards low users of energy. For more information visit [www.ebico.co.uk](http://www.ebico.co.uk)