

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE GREEN..... Everybody wants to do their bit for the planet but where on earth do you start?

1. Holidays - You're planning a break but you want to be kind to the planet too. Which holiday would you choose?

- a) A cheap package holiday to somewhere with a good beach
- b) A desert safari (no swimming pool or nightclub)
- c) A UK driving holiday
- d) A winter-sports holiday

Answer = c. The most damaging thing we do to the environment is flying, because the release of pollutants into the upper atmosphere is more pernicious than at lower levels.

2. The Car - Which would have least overall environmental impact?

- a) A big, modern, efficient family car with a catalytic converter
- b) A car that's a few years old but only averagely efficient
- c) A high-tech dual-fuel part-electric car

Answer = b. Modern cars gain in fuel efficiency and lower emissions but lose on economy because they are heavy. The greenest policy if you really need a car is to keep your existing one and maintain it well.

3. Fairtrade - Which of these Fairtrade fruits are now available in most supermarkets?

- a) Oranges
- b) Bananas
- c) Mangoes

Answer = a, b and c. There are now over now hundreds of products available in various supermarkets throughout Swindon. Buying Fairtrade means making sure our producers across the world are getting a fair deal and producing their goods in a sustainable way.

4. Waste - You know we're running out of landfill, and that we should be recycling more. What's the greatest saving in terms of kilos of waste per year that you could make?

- a) Take newspapers and magazines to the paper bank
- b) Take bottles to the bottle bank
- c) Use a compost bin

Answer = c. Organic material makes up over 30% weight of the average dustbin

5. Water - Which of the following statements is true?

- a) We use 70% more water than 30 years ago
- b) Flushing the loo accounts for 10% of an average family's water consumption
- c) After all the rain this year we won't be short of water for ages

Answer = a. Flushing the loo accounts for more like 35% and farmers are having very real problems with lack of water.

6. **Heating - The average house loses most heat through the**

- a) Walls? b) Windows? c) Roof?

Answer = a. Up to 35% heat is lost through walls

7. **Shopping - How many varieties of apple did we used to have in the UK?**

- a) 60 b)600 6000

8. **Energy - Which of the following is not a renewable energy source?**

- a) Solar
b) Geothermal
c) Anthracitic

Answer = c Anthracite is a fossil fuel.

9. **Eating contributes to climate change! What could you do to reduce your impact most ?**

- a)Buy local food that is in season
b)Become a vegetarian
c)Always buy organic foods

Answer = b animal agriculture adds significantly to global warming. Scientific American (9/97) reported that growing feed for livestock requires intense use of synthetic fertiliser, releasing nitrous oxide - a far stronger greenhouse gas than CO₂. Producing feed and heating buildings that house animals uses fossil fuels, emitting CO₂; decomposition of liquid manure releases larger amounts of methane into the atmosphere as well as forming nitrous oxide. More cattle also means more belching and this is now the second largest contributor to global warming after fossil fuel burning. Worldwide, livestock accounts for 16 per cent of all global warming emissions of methane. Methane is 20 times more effective at warming the globe than CO₂.

Buying locally cuts down hugely on CO₂ emissions from transportation. Organic seems fine but 75% organic food is flown in from abroad.