

Peter Hale, Climate Concern UK

From: "Climate Concern UK" <peterhale@climate-concern.com>
To: "Margaret Hale" <margaret@pmhale.fsnet.co.uk>
Sent: 19 July 2007 10:35
Subject: Wasted Energy - YOUR frustrations



Following my e-mail of 11 July offering some togetherness in the face of other people's lack of concern, some of you have replied with your own frustrations, as follows (in order received):

Shilpa Shah:

The University of Cambridge, which heats some of its rooms up to 25 degrees until a caretaker eventually switches the heating off at 10pm.
 Other universities are probably the same.

Jacuzzis, steam rooms etc at gyms that are on all the time, even when empty.

Corporate catering companies which use excessive plastic plates, cutlery etc. Even the food we recently ate at Defra featured plenty of out-of-season fruit high in food miles.

Converse to your point, over-heating on trains.

Aubergines and peppers that come wrapped individually in plastic.

Tessa Willy:

With sports fans' and celebrities' travel comes the entertainment - the amount of energy to put on a concert for instance of one of the big bands is monumental and the past two mega concerts recently showed this - one of them even advocating emission reduction....

Re. Tesco: I actually think they're terrible, our local store is absolutely freezing - we have to put on fleeces to go into it, all because the fridges and freezers are all open and using vast amounts of energy to keep cool - why does the rest of the place have to be arctic as well? and why are the doors open? I think this is a big issue especially in the summer months.

David Jost:

Hot shops and supermarkets - what about the shops that leave their doors open in winter, make the staff wear fleeces, because "glass doors are dangerous, a customer might walk into them".

Derek Smith:

Yes - there are loads of things that make me mad too. As a bit of an eco-fascist, here are some of the things I would like to ban if I could:

- Shops with permanently open doors with a heater just inside to maximise the waste in

- winter (and with air-conditioning to repeat the trick in summer)
- Speeding cars on motorways
- Power showers
- Patio heaters
- Cruises starting from places you have to fly to
- All holiday flights for that matter
- Over-heated homes
- Thirsty cars and motorbikes

Sarah Clayton:

There are many more you could add, when next frustrated:

- Patio heaters
- Sports cars
- Banks of vertical chiller cabinets in supermarkets, making all the area of the shop cold
- Shop lights left on all night
- DVDs etc without an off button

Jane Barrett:

Why do friends of mine say: "It's really great - you can get toys from poundstretcher for £1, then when they break just chuck them away". And my hairdresser: "I went to Primark and bought jumpers in every colour, it was so cheap". Depressing - these people aren't stupid, they are just not aware - I doubt they have ever even picked up an Ecologist magazine in their life.

Pat Hill-Cottingham:

1. Excess packaging is still rampant in spite of the Independent's campaign
2. No shops should be supplying plastic carrier bags, I carry my own fold-away cotton bag in my handbag or pocket
3. Housing estates are going up around Taunton - and not a single solar panel (or any other renewable energy installation) to be seen. Why aren't building regs changed today and enforced?
4. Why aren't public car parks built of grass-crete to allow water drainage and lessen flood effects (apart from providing grass to take up CO2)?
5. Why are we still not converting to grey water for loos?
6. Why aren't woods allowed by wildlife trusts to regenerate naturally instead of being 'managed' until we know which tree/shrub species will best survive climate change?
7. Worst of all, we have friends (?) who take the attitude - what difference will it make if we recycle, we're only a drop in the ocean. I try to explain there would be no ocean without the drops. Then we degenerate into a fight because they think nuclear power is the only answer (in spite of the fact that all their contemporaries working at Aldermaston are dead of cancer - they were lucky to move out of that line of work!)

Hugh Fraser:

Profligate gas consumption in most London social housing complexes - thousands of homes with no THERMOSTATIC CONTROLS. Boilers (1970's era) on FULL BLAST 24/7 from October to April. Flats often so hot, residents live with windows open either fully or, in cold weather, partially. Rads are oversize. Rad controls, where there are

any, are largely unused. Since heating costs built into rent, no tenant feels impact of huge emissions they account for. Worse, those 'in charge' of blocks too overworked keeping ancient systems functioning to ever investigate boiler replacement, efficiency gains from controls or capital required for responsible management of emissions. Responsibility seems 'externalised' on same basis as pollution.

Offset your Exercise and Dieting?!

While I'm communicating, those of you against or unsure about carbon offsets might get a smile from this new web site: <http://www.weexercise4u.com>

Regards
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