



Sustainables Quiz 2006

1. Why is it important to limit your showers to four minutes?

A: Reducing your time in the shower from seven minutes to four, could save over 25,000 litres of water a year and 200 glasses of water per shower.

2. (a) List two ways to dispose of potato skins, apple cores and carrot ends instead of throwing them in the bin?

A: Throw them in a:

- compost or,
- worm farm

(b) Why is this method of disposal better for the environment?

A: Composts or worm farms convert waste into rich soil that can be used to help your plants and trees grow and will reduce your household waste.

Over half of household waste is made up of food and garden waste, which could be converted into soil.

3. List two good reasons to grow plants that are native to your area.

A: Plants native to your area:

- support native birds and animals by providing them with habitat and food
- help to save water as native plants are suited to Australia's dry climate and can flourish with less water than many other popular plants.

Gardens are a major source of household water usage, accounting for around 20 per cent.

4. Fill in the gaps in this sentence.

It's better for the environment to use cleaning products that don't contain P_____ and are low in S_____.

A:

- Phosphate
- Sodium

These agents can be very harmful to our waterways and aquatic and bird life.

5. Why does walking, riding your bike or using public transport instead of taking the car help the environment?

A: Passenger vehicles in Australia produce almost 46 million tonnes of greenhouse pollution a year and are a major contributor to air pollution in urban areas.

By choosing to use 'active transport' – any journey that relies more on walking, cycling and using public transport – both you and our environment can breathe easier.

Greenhouse pollution is caused by gaseous pollutants released into the atmosphere through human actions that amplify the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is widely accepted as the cause of global climate change.

6. What should you try to take home less of when you leave the supermarket?

A: Packaging

Next time you go shopping, choose the products with the least packaging, or packaging made from recycled materials to reduce waste.

Recycling is great, but avoiding waste in the first place is even better.

7. What are the advantages of using appliances with the energy efficient stars?

A: Energy efficient stars on an appliance show how energy efficient an appliance is - the more stars, the more energy efficient the appliance will be. An improvement of only one star can mean savings of around ten percent of running costs on for example your fridge.

8. What is one of the easiest ways to save energy in your home?

A: Turning off lights, televisions, stereos and other appliances at the switch while not in use is one of the easiest ways to save energy, which in turn reduces greenhouse pollution.

Leaving televisions, stereos and other appliances on standby accounts for around 12 per cent of electricity, and costs Victorian households about \$125 million each year.

Switching appliances off at the power point when not in use could save you around \$100 a year.

9. What am I?

I've only had a couple of jobs in my life and the rest of the time I have drifted from place-to-place. I hold it all together when I have to but it's always easy to see straight through me. Sometimes I see things and they turn me inside out. Sometimes I just get all tied-up in knots. The part of my life I hate most is the close encounters I have with dolphins and seals and other marine life. There's always a lot of commotion and distress. I just don't think we were ever meant to meet each other.

Australians use around 6.4 billion of us each year and we live for hundreds of years.

A: a plastic bag

By switching to reusable calico, string or 'green' bags, or by reusing your old plastic bags when you go shopping, you can make a huge difference to the environment.