

## Big issues cards



### Big issue A

Over-fishing, the use of factory ships, seafood farms which destroy habitats, fishing techniques that kill many immature fish or endangered species are all real concerns. These techniques damage the lives of people from traditional subsistence fishing communities.

### Big issue B

The widespread use of paving is adding to the risk of flash floods and flooding as water cannot easily escape. Pesticides are washed into rivers destroying water quality and they can harm bird and other animal life reducing biodiversity.

### Big issue C

'Food miles' refers to the often huge distances that fruit and other foods travel to reach our supermarkets. This is generally transported by air and adds to air pollution, global warming and the depletion of oil stocks. It can also undermine attempts by local farmers to make a living.

### Big issue D

Water is a precious resource and much of it is wasted, for example excessive use in modern appliances such as dishwashers. Scarce resources are used to purify water and distribute it across the country.

### Big issue E

Scarce resources are being used to make non-biodegradable plastic bags. People accumulate bags and they are put into landfill. Other bags are thrown away and pollute the environment. The bags are a by-product of oil production and the oil is running out.

### Big issue F

The failure to separate waste means that landfill sites are filling up more quickly. Also food waste gives off greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Recycling materials means that scarce resources are not being used up so quickly.

### Big issue G

4x4 vehicles or so-called 'Chelsea tractors' are the most polluting vehicles which damage air quality and increase CO<sup>2</sup> emissions which contribute to global warming. They also can be more dangerous than ordinary cars when hitting pedestrians. Taking a car ride rather than walking or cycling contributes to a lack of exercise and the growing problem of obesity and its associated health problems.

### Big issue H

Most electrical appliances were manufactured to be left on 'stand by' and this wastes an enormous amount of household electricity. It increases the size of a household's carbon footprint and contributes to global warming. It is a highly inefficient use of energy.

### Big issue I

Teak is a hardwood which in some parts of the world comes from destruction of the rainforest. The use of hardwoods from non-renewable resources will lead to the disappearance of a natural resource and damage to biodiversity. The destruction of the rainforests is a major contributor to global warming and climate change. It also destroys the lives of native peoples and subsistence farmers.