



“

Did you know that, in Europe, we produce the equivalent weight of 4 000 Eiffel Towers in waste packaging each year?

Did you know that the transport sector is responsible for almost a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union, and its' share of emissions is increasing?

Did you know that due to overfishing 80% of the fish stocks in the EU face collapse or are of unknown status?”

All this information comes from "Jiffy's Eco-Quiz", a game developed by the European Commission, where you can answer 60 questions on the environment. This game is part of the "European Environmental Toolkit for Citizens", available online on "Europa" the official web site of the European Commission.

The gravity of the environment issues described above leads us all to ask the question – "Who is responsible? Industry, Government? Agriculture? Society?" The picture which has been painted for us is bleak and our reaction, as European citizens, goes from indignation to anger and then to resignation. What can we do?

What can I do, an isolated individual, faced with the multiplicity and diversity of the attacks on the environment? The more we feel discouraged the less we do.

However we cannot accept failure: our personal behaviour can change this situation.

We are forgetting the huge power that we, as European citizens, have as consumers and as citizens. Through our choices, we can have a direct impact on the environment. The way we heat our homes and use our cars, for example, is responsible for half of all greenhouse gas >>

>> next page

[close window](#)





>> emissions in Europe. But we can also have a positive influence. If only one European in five chose to make their next 500km journey by train instead of by car, for example, the greenhouse gas emissions avoided would be greater than those Luxembourg emits in a whole year!

This is what is illustrated in the "European Environmental Toolkit for Citizens". The questions in "Jiffy's Eco-Quiz" are divided into 4 themes of which our environment is constituted - water, air, energy and earth -with each one divided into 4 categories representing our daily lives – home, work, free time and shopping. In this way, players can clearly see when and where they can act for the environment, and evaluate the effects, both positive and negative, of their actions. The kit also presents the biggest European database of environmental toolkits, i.e. more than 140 Web sites providing guides, games and tests or giving advice so we, the citizens of Europe, can make our behaviour more environmentally-friendly.

Please click here to access the European Environmental Toolkit for Citizens:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/toolkits/index_en.htm

For further information please contact Renita Bhaskar,
Directorate General of Environment,
Tel: +32.2.2957788, Email: Renita.Bhaskar@cec.eu.int

The EECN is the European Commission DG Environment's support structure for the European Environmental Communication Networks. Currently these include the Green Spiders Network, The Network of Urban Forums for Sustainable Development and the Goodwill Ambassadors for the Environment.

The recently updated website can be accessed here:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/networks/index_en.htm

Media source: EC Audiovisual Service

<< previous page

close window

