

## **Case study 1      Mrs Blowit**

I am married and my husband is a very heavy drinker so we throw away empty glass bottles every day. He brings home a large amount of paper copies of school regulations which he does not read and each week the boys and I have become accustomed to throwing away this paper.

I am an upwardly mobile housewife who lunches and I have 3 teenage boys. We have 5 televisions and 3 computers and all of them are left on standby all the time because I don't know where the on/off switches are.

We come from Iraq originally so I have a love of beautiful fashionable clothes and jewellery and recently have bought several vintage clothes from Top Shop in Oxford Street. I would not dream of buying second hand clothes or restricting our use of resources. This is a first world country and we are determined to enjoy the luxury lifestyle which we have earned.

We love fish and often have fish several times a week either for lunch or as fish and chips in the evening. Personally I am mad about Mexican avocados and because my husband loves lamb we regularly eat New Zealand lamb.

I have to use the washing machine every day at 60 degrees because the boys play football, my husband cannot get to work in dirty clothes and I don't care if the washing machine is only half-full. I always use the tumble dryer because I don't like flies on the clothes in the garden. There are some beautiful flowers in my garden. We often have visitors and sit outside as I have a fantastic patio heater and some amazingly bright lights which extend my house into the garden.

I always have a 20 minute or longer power-shower and this is essential especially after I have been to the gym; I go every day.

I am, of course, hugely aware of climate change and always insist my cleaners use Ecover products to clean the whole house. I must admit that I do still use bleach down the toilet as it kills all known germs dead.

We come from a hot country and I cannot stand any degree of cold whatsoever. We always keep the house at a steady 80 degrees irrespective of the weather outside. I have no idea how the heating works and have to rely on British Gas to come and work the controls.

I do not know why we get such a vast quantity of junk mail which is a real problem. We seem to acquire a large amount of plastic bags as I always forget to take any bags with me when we go to the supermarket but I always recycle them by putting them in the recycling bin.

## **Case Study 2      Mr McGregor**

I am a widower and I am the proud owner of a genuine set of Peter Rabbit gardening tools. I am a keen composter. I have a very unusual neighbour Mrs Jerky who throws away vast quantities of fruit and vegetable which I am happy to take for my compost heap. I believe in preserving the planet.

Unfortunately, there is no more space in the front room for the compost. I have to keep the house at a constant 86 degrees as this is the optimum temperature for compost and the heating is on all the time. I eat nothing but fish as I do not believe in eating meat. I drink a lot of tea and coffee but keep forgetting to drink the cups and I am always throwing them down the sink and having to make fresh brews. This does however help the compost!

Equally unfortunately I do have problems with rat infestation and this has caused some words to pass between the neighbours who keep complaining and myself. I don't understand it because I have given them some delicious rat recipes. I gave up washing more than once a week when my wife died 20 years ago. Therefore, my water use is minimal. Furthermore, I have installed water butts in the loft and all round the house and I save all the rainwater. Mrs Jerky does not know that I have redirected her roof gutters to my water-butts to improve water efficiency.

My only difficulty is that the toilets blocked because I had restricted the flow of water but I overcame this by installing an earth closet in the garden. I have to have all the lights on all the time as I have been threatened by several neighbours about the rats. This includes external halogen lights all round the house operated by movement sensors. My other pride and joy is my 1911 Rolls Royce which uses 5 gallons of petrol to the mile. I go out every day in my car to the local supermarkets and farms to collect materials for my compost.

I wash the Rolls with a power washer which uses 45 gallons an hour to wash as I was told by the salesman that this is the Rolls Royce of washers and because the car is so valuable I wash it every week. I also have a valuable collection of old newspapers – I never throw a newspaper away and sometimes I am able to collect newspapers from the rubbish bins in the town. I have two bedrooms full and I am working on filling the third one. I always take the Star and the Socialist Worker as well as the Times Educational Supplement, The Guardian and The Independent. My monthly union magazine is a real treat with the Rolls Royce Owners Club veteran section and the Train Engineer's weekly.

My real companions are my pack of Doberman Pinscher dogs – the three of them are more than a match for the neighbours and they are happy living permanently in the garden but unfortunately I no longer seem to receive any letters. I have an old petrol mower which is at least 20 years old and I am proud that I am still using it.