



Reducing the environmental costs of globalisation

RECYCLING:

Recycling is the processing of waste materials in order to make them reusable. This helps to conserve the earth's natural resources and reduces the amount of energy used.

Pros:

- Helps to reduce pollution and means that less goes into landfill
- Recycling organic waste helps improve the quality of soils, allowing people to grow their own fruit and veg in areas of poor soil quality

Cons:

- The process of recycling paper for example is more expensive than any other recycling. The bleach used to make paper white again is also very harmful to the environment
- Recycling plastic is hard because there are such a large variety of plastics in the UK and sorting them into types is very time consuming
- People aren't aware or recycling or educated. For example up to 60% of waste in a waste bin could be recycled, but instead goes to landfill.

CARBON CREDITS:

Carbon offsetting is the process by which large companies that emit large amounts of greenhouse gases have to pay per ton for the amount emitted. They have to buy allowances or credits at the beginning of the year, then at the end must surrender their credits in order to pay for the greenhouse gases emitted. If they don't have enough they must trade with other companies who have some spare, who pay a large fine.

Pros:

- Funds from the auction of credits goes to investment and development of sustainable energy sources, as well as helping developing countries deal with the impacts of climate change.

Cons:

- Due to this idea being recent there is no solid evidence that by making the small reductions is going to be enough to reduce the effects of global warming and climate change
- It gives people the idea that they can continue to pollute as much as they want providing they have enough money to continue to buy a large amount of credits.

GREEN TAXES

Green taxes tax individuals and businesses for the amount of environmental pollutants that they produce. They are common in the EU, but not in the USA and tax people for direct pollutants and products that produce a large amount of pollutants to produce. They are calculated by putting a monetary value to the damage to human health and the environment. Some key facts are:

- A record £43 billion in green taxes was paid in 2013 by UK households and businesses
- The Treasury's revenue from Green Taxes increased from £1.7 billion in 2013 from 43.3 billion in 2012. They have soared from 30.4 billion in 2003.

Pros:

- The revenue that is made by green taxes can be invested into researching and developing greener, sustainable ways to generate power
- The high prices encourage businesses to research and implement ways in which they can reduce their emissions, so that they don't have to pay such high taxes.

Cons:

- The tax may cause some businesses to move overseas e.g. to the USA so that they don't have to pay the green tax
- The cost of monitoring and communicating with each company is expensive
- The economic activity of an area may decrease as a result of green taxes.

ORGANIC BUYING

Buy families buying local produce it reduces the food miles. These are the distance that the food has travelled and therefore the amount of carbon emissions it has emitted. Furthermore it helps to stimulate the local economy by providing employment for people. The community therefore earns money in taxes, and the economy grows.

Pros:

- Food is grown locally and therefore can integrate the community into growing food sustainably and actively making a difference to the community's carbon footprint.

Cons:

- It is important to remember that although the food has a lower eco footprint it still has one in respect to the machinery that is needed to harvest and distribute the crops.

