

Eco Ethics "Dilemma Cards"

You may print these out or copy the text onto your own cards.

DILEMMA CARD

You are an influential member of the community. On your way home from work, you are stopped by a police officer and cited for having excessive automobile emissions. Would you?

- use your influence to have the ticket invalidated
- sell the car to some unsuspecting person
- work to change the law
- get your car fixed and pay the ticket
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

Your friend has just given you a lovely ivory necklace that she purchased on a trip to Africa. You are aware that African elephants are being slaughtered for their ivory tusks and are now endangered species. Would you?

- accept the necklace and wear it often
- accept the necklace but keep it in a drawer
- explain to the friend why you do not wish to accept her gift
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

Your favorite lunch spot continues to use polystyrene food containers. You are aware that the production of polystyrene releases chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) into the atmosphere. CFCs are responsible for destroying the atmosphere's protective ozone layer and contributing to global warming. Would you?

- stop buying food at that café
- talk with the manager about switching to more ecologically sound containers
- bring your own plate or cup and ask them not to give you a container
- do nothing
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

You live in a densely wooded area where you enjoy seeing squirrels, rabbits, deer, chipmunks, rabbits and several varieties of birds on a regular basis. The house next door has just been sold to a family that wants to cultivate a large, green lawn on their entire property. This would require them to cut down over an acre of trees surrounding their home. Would you?

- tell them lawns waste water and energy
- plead with them to preserve their wildlife habitat
- do nothing
- move
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

You own a popular golf course in a semi-arid area. The area has had below-average precipitation for some time and area officials are recommending that businesses and individuals conserve water. Without regular watering your golf course will turn brown and you may start to lose business. Would you?

- ignore the conservation recommendation and continue watering your golf course daily
- sacrifice the beauty of your golf course by watering less often
- sell your golf course
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

You are having a picnic with your family at the beach and you see another family leaving to go home, without having picked up their own trash. It is clear that the other family is going to leave litter all around. Would you?

- move quickly and ask them to pick up the trash before they leave
- wait for them to leave and pick up the trash for them
- do nothing
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

You are president of a large corporation. You are very interested in pollution control and have assigned a task force to study the pollution your plant is creating. The task force reports that you are barely within the legal requirements. The plant is polluting the community's air and water. To add the necessary equipment to reduce pollution would cost so much that you would have to lay off 50 employees. Would you?

- add the equipment and fire the employees
- wait a few years to see if the costs of the equipment will drop
- hire an engineering firm to provide further recommendations
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

You are finally able to build the home your family has dreamed about. After reviewing the plans for your home, you realize that you cannot include all of the features you had planned for, due to rising construction costs. If you can only choose to include one of the following features, which would you choose?

- solar heating
- recreation room with fireplace
- hot tub and sauna
- greenhouse
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

Your school doesn't have a recycling program. Plastic, cans, bottles and papers all go into the trash. Would you?

- write a letter to the school board encouraging them to recycle
- organize a group of students to start a recycling program
- save up your own recyclables until you find a place to recycle them
- recycle only when there are containers set up
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

You are taking care of your best friend's family house for the weekend. You discover that they keep a lot of toxic cleaning supplies under the sink: drain cleaner, ammonia, disinfectant, and pesticides. Would you?

- Dispose of all their toxic chemicals and replace them with safer alternatives
- Discreetly leave them a note or book explaining the dangers of these toxins
- Clean up the house using safe alternatives, and bring up the subject when they complement you on your cleaning job
- Do nothing, but continue to use safe alternatives in your own home
- other (specify)

DILEMMA CARD

You have your very own apartment for the first time, which you have furnished with old, mis-matched furniture. Your rich uncle offers to buy you an all-new living room set. Would you?

- Ask your Uncle to help fix up the old furniture with new upholstery and finish
- Give your old furniture to a second hand store for someone else to use
- Put your old furniture out on the curb for the trash, hoping someone else will like it enough to take it
- Politely decline to take your Uncle's offer
- Go shopping with your Uncle for a nicely matched set of used furniture
- other(specify)

DILEMMA CARD

A new power company moves into your neighborhood. For an extra ten dollars a month, you could support their use of alternatives to fossil fuels. Though it wouldn't replace the more popular power company, it would be a step towards encouraging alternative power. Would you?

- Continue to use the cheaper power company, but try to conserve electricity
- Use the new power company, and cut down on costs by conserving electricity
- Support alternative power by spreading the word about its benefits rather than paying extra money
- Stick with the big power company
- other (specify)