Limitations on carbon footprint reduction: Worksheet 9.9.1

Problems

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| Decide which of the categories in worksheet 2 each of these fits into. |

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| **A**Insulation could reduce the energy needed to heat buildings by nearly 50%, but it will be expensive. We need to help people to pay for it. | **G**We will be able to turn off coal and gas-fired power stations in the future if we invest enough in developing renewable energy and nuclear power. | **M**We need to subsidise buses and trains. If these are cheap and convenient people will not want to use their cars so much. |
| **B**As the population grows, forests are cleared to build homes. We need to encourage people to own smaller homes and live closer together to save the forests. | **H**We could allow power companies to make more profit by selling less electricity. If they give away low-energy light bulbs and heating controls their customers will change their lifestyles and use less energy. | **N**We could reduce the distances people travel to work by building more homes in cities and more factories and business in the suburbs where most people live. |
| **C**If people bought the most efficient homes and appliances they would use less energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need to show people how to make better choices. | **I**Some experts say that it will cost far more to cope with climate change than it will to stop it happening. Others say the opposite. | **O**Some scientists say that cutting greenhouse gas emissions will not stop climate change. That confuses the public. We need to check whether their evidence is strong enough to support that conclusion. |
| **D**Some scientists say that a bit of climate change will not be all that serious. We need to check that these scientists are not just biased because greenhouse gas producers pay their wages. | **J**Most people choose medium-sized cars with powerful engines. We need to raise the tax on petrol and diesel to make people drive less or buy a more fuel-efficient vehicle. | **P**Climate change is a global problem, but different countries produce different amounts of greenhouse gases. It is difficult to get every country to agree to the same emission targets. |
| **E**As the standard of living of people rises, they can afford more meat. However, increasing the number of animals we raise increases methane emissions. | **K**Rice is one of the staple foods of the world, but rice paddies emit a lot of methane. We need to invest in genetic engineering to produce varieties of rice grains that release less of this gas. | **Q**As people’s standard of living rises they spend more on new things and throw away more old stuff. A lot of rubbish goes into landfill where it produces methane as it rots. |
| **F**Most scientists say peer review makes sure that scientists only publish valid conclusions. Other scientists say this makes it harder to get new evidence published that does not agree with existing ideas. | **L**Most people do not realise how serious climate change can be, so they are not concerned about reducing their carbon footprint. | **R**Governments can get voted out of office if they make agreements with other countries that their electorates do not agree with. |