

THE ECO COUSINS

by Charlie McGlynn

Illustrations by T. Pukalski



Once upon a time there were two cousins called Mary and Jack Eco.

Mary and Jack both decided to build a house each for themselves and their families.



MARY

fitted a new high efficiency gas boiler, radiators and a hot water tank to keep the house warm, and the water hot.

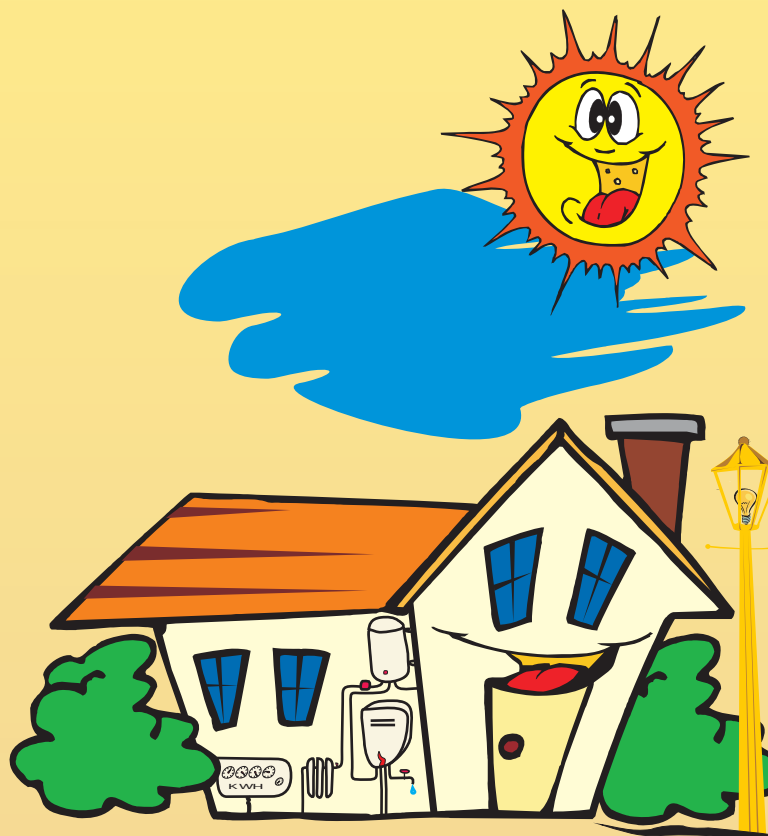


JACK

fitted the same

It was a beautiful summer, the sun shone brightly and there was a lovely summer breeze.

Mary and Jack both had some money left after the building work.



Mary said

To save money and fuel we'll fit

1. A Wind Turbine to help generate electricity.
2. A Solar Panel to help the boiler heat the water.
3. We'll insulate the loft and the walls and fit double glazed windows to help keep the heat in.
4. We'll use low energy light bulbs.



Jack said

I know what we'll do, let's have a holiday.





But when winter came...

Because of the insulation and double-glazing, the heat didn't escape and Mary's house was happy and cosy.

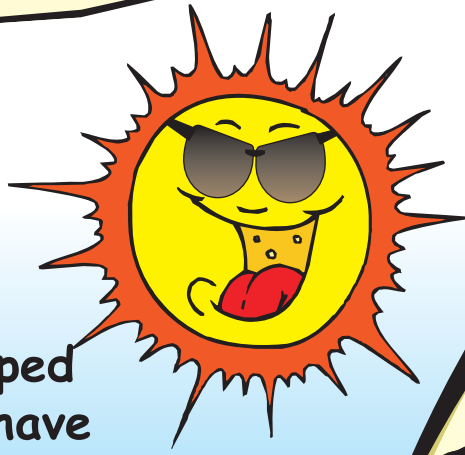
Because of the help from the Wind Turbine and the Solar Panel, the gas boiler and the electric meter didn't work so hard.

The low energy light bulbs helped by using less electricity.

Jack's house was very fed up and cold. The gas boiler and electric were tired and over worked, the sky above was irritated and unhappy with the extra carbon dioxide fumes caused by burning more gas and using more electric.

Jack had to spend all his money just to keep the house warm.

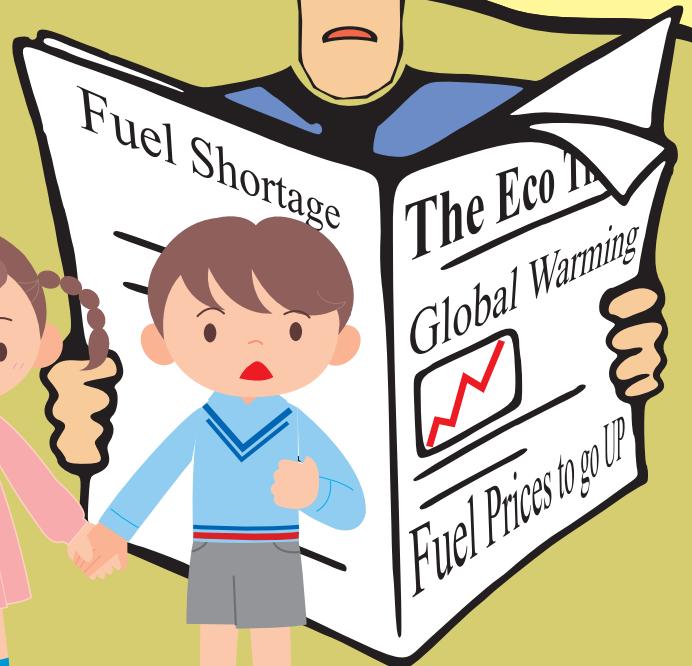
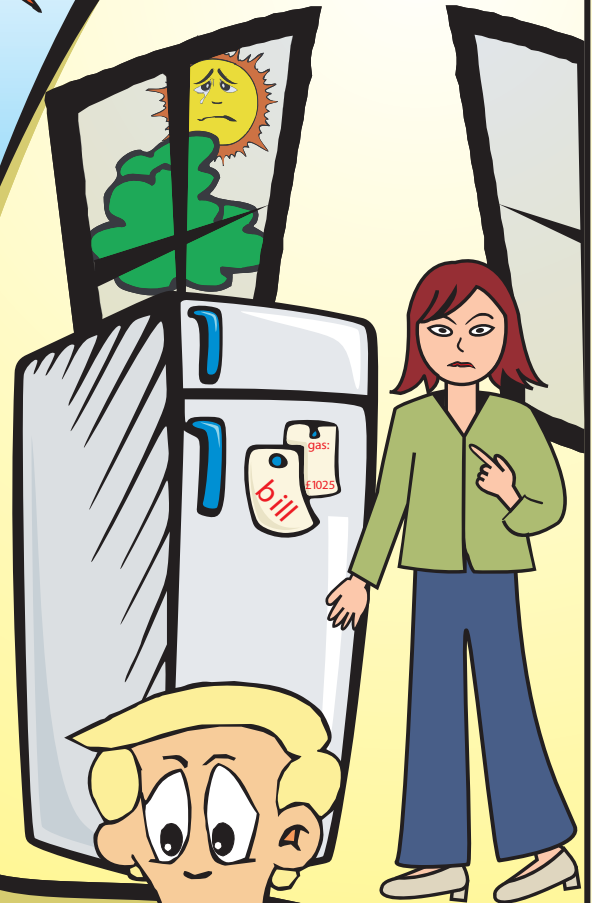
The following summer...



The low fuel bills helped Mary and her family have a lovely holiday



Jack can't afford to go anywhere and is now very worried about the future



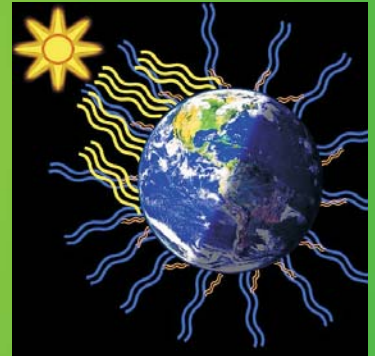
When Mary gets back from holiday, she hears how worried Jack is so she shows him the different ways that he can become environmentally friendly too. Now Jack is not afraid of rising fuel prices and shortages and he too has become environmentally friendly.



FACTS

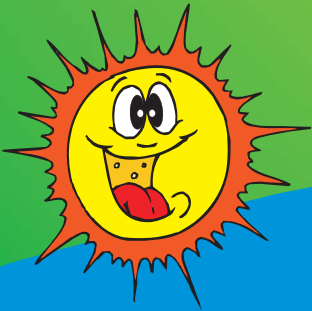
ENERGY FROM THE SUN TO THE EARTH

The Sun landing on the Earth's surface in 30 minutes, equals the amount of energy used in the world in one year,



FROM THE SUN TO THE OCEAN

A great deal of thermal energy is stored in the ocean each day, the equivalent of around 250 billion barrels of oil.



ENERGY FROM THE OCEAN

The energy produced by the waves crashing against the coastline each day is the same as approximately 50,000,000 light bulbs.

ENERGY FROM THE WIND

The UK has the best wind pattern in Europe, but only 2% of our electricity is produced by wind turbines. Other countries in Europe produce 10 times as much.



GLOBAL WARMING

The average temperature of the Earth is 15°C (59°F). This is cool but not cold. It's the temperature of a nice spring or autumn day. It keeps this average temperature because there's a balance of heat gain from the Sun (yellow lines), heat being lost to the freezing cold of outer space (blue lines) and heat being returned to the Earth by the atmosphere (orange lines). If the Sun's heat is blocked, the Earth can freeze quickly. If too much of the Sun's heat is kept in, the Earth will get too warm.



The Fumes that occur by making and burning gas, oil, petrol and electricity, turn mainly into a gas called Carbon Dioxide. It then hangs about in the atmosphere and stops the excess heat that we don't need going back into space, this causes the Earth to over heat slightly and this is Global Warming.

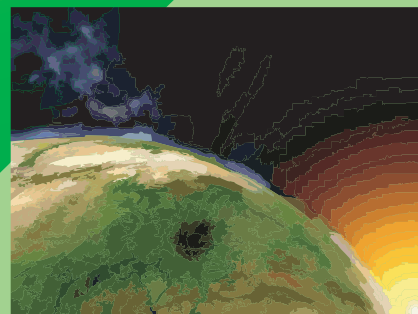
WHAT WE CAN DO? WE CAN BE ECO COUSINS!

Here is a list of 5 things an ECO COUSIN can do:

1. Always turn off lights when they are not needed.
2. Turn off the computer when you have finished with it, and don't leave it on standby.
3. Turn off your television, and don't leave it on standby.
4. Turn off hot or cold water taps when finished with.
5. Ask mum or dad if they use low energy light bulbs.

Why not sit down with mum or dad and find 5 more ways to save energy.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO
ECO COUSIN



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