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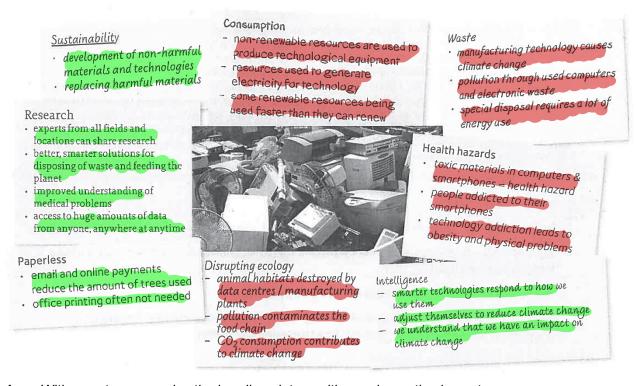
Problems and complaints

Foundation – Technology and environment

Situation: You work in the Sustainability department of an international computer manufacturer. You reply to a comment about technology and the environment on a web forum.

1 READING ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

You attend a workshop on information technology and sustainability. To start you off, the trainer asks your group to brainstorm the influence IT has on the environment.



- A With a partner, organize the headings into positive and negative impacts.
- B Describe in your own words how the following areas are being influenced by IT:
 - health ecology climate

2 UNDERSTANDING A PRESENTATION

The trainer talks about how much energy some everyday technologies consume.

- A Before you listen, match the German words (1-6) to the English words (a-f) in the list.
- 1 Akku 4 CO₂-Fuβabdruck a battery d dissolve
- 2 (sich) auflösen 5 in Zahlen bestimmen b carbon dioxide e greenhouse gas
- 3 CO₂ 6 Treibhausgas c carbon footprint f quantify
- B Read the statements below. Then listen to the presentation and complete the notes.

 The energy used by a single email can multiply quickly:
 - an ordinary email uses 4 g of CO₂.
 - a 1 MB attachment pushes C0₂ emission up to ______
 - the forwarding and storage of the attachment could use as much a ______ of CO₂.
 - A traditional 4-page letter, sent by post, generates roughly ______ of CO₂.

According to Netflix, the average customer has a carbon footprint of $\frac{1}{2}$ per year, which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the typical American household use.

Televisions are using more energy due to larger screen sizesPer hour
- an old 32-inch CRT television used <u>& 4</u> of C0 ₂ .
- a 15-inch LCD TV uses 375 of C0 ₂ a 42-inch plasma TV uses 2 405 of C0 ₂ .
Streaming an album times uses the same amount of energy as producing and
shipping a CD. Add-On : Find out about the power consumptions of recent hardware devices or streaming services
3 SUGGESTING IMPROVEMENTS
The trainer asks you to discuss what technology providers could do to improve their record on environmental issues. Find good examples of eco-friendly, sustainable companies and explain their politics. Collect your ideas in internet document.
4 REPLYING TO A COMMENT ON A FORUM At the end of the workshop, the trainer points out the following comment on a forum. She asks you to write a reply. "So many people complain about the effects of technology on our surroundings. Why don't people understand that we can't produce technological equipment without damaging the environment?" Give your opinion on the topic. Mention the pros and cons you have discovered and discussed on
these pages to give examples to illustrate your opinion.