

Listen to a conversation between an office worker and his boss. They are talking about how to make their office greener.

Optional activity: Decide whether these statements are true or false. (Answers below).

- 1 Gordon is the “green officer”.
- 2 Gordon wrote a leaflet about making your office greener.
- 3 The company already recycles paper.
- 4 Gordon suggests turning the heating off.
- 5 Belinda is impressed by the research that Gordon has done.
- 6 Gordon wants to change the kind of paper they currently use in the office.
- 7 Gordon has other ideas about making the office greener.
- 8 Belinda is not interested in Gordon’s ideas.

Belinda: So, what did you want to see me about Gordon? Is everything ok?

Gordon: Fine. Fine. I wanted to talk about making the office greener.

B: Oh. Well, I’m all ears!

G: Have you read that leaflet yet? – the one from GreenWays ?

B: I had a quick glance yes. I thought we were pretty green in this office.

G: So did I. But after reading that leaflet I’ve come to the conclusion that there are a lot more things that we could do. I’ve had a look at a couple of web pages and I’ve got a few ideas.

B: Ok. Let’s hear them.

G: Right, first of all I think we should start buying refillable pens. Disposable ones are cheap but we use hundreds. We should buy a box of pens and a supply of refills.

B: Would that work out cheaper?

G: Yes. They’d be cheaper and more ecological.

B: Ok. What else?

G: Paper.

B: But we already recycle paper. We’ve been doing it for years.

G: Yes. But the paper we buy isn’t recycled. We should buy recycled paper, without bleach.

B: And the quality?

G: There are different grades of paper. The best recycled paper is indistinguishable from the paper we’re using.

B: But isn’t it more expensive?

G: No, not any more. It used to be but these days the prices are more competitive.

B: Ok, let me think about the paper. What else?

G: The coffee machine.

B: Go on ...

G: We should get rid of it and buy a kettle.

B: Well I must admit I don't like the machine coffee very much but I think we ought to consult the rest of the staff about that one.

G: Ok. Fair enough.

B: Anything else?

G: Oh yes. We ought to replace the paper towels in the toilets with an electric hand dryer.

B: Would that save money?

G: Yes. And it would be much kinder to the environment. And ...

B: Yes?

G: We ought to lower the thermostat on the heating.

B: But people would complain if we did that.

G: I'm only talking about one or two degrees.

B: Would that make a difference?

G: Yes, we'd save about £200 a year in our heating bills.

B: Goodness. You really have been doing your homework, haven't you?

G: That's another thing I wanted to talk to you about.

B: Yes?

G: Well, I think you ought to pay me to be a "green officer".

B: (laughing): And what would that involve exactly, Gordon?

G: Well, you wouldn't have to pay me any extra but a part of my job description would include a few hours a month to make the office greener. I'd save the company hundreds of pounds and we'd all have a cleaner conscious.

B: Well, you've certainly given me a lot to think about.

G: Oh, I haven't finished yet!

B: What else is on that list?

G: Ehm ... low energy light bulbs, soya-based print cartridges, working from home once a month, bicycle racks ...

B: I'll tell you what Gordon. Why don't you write up a short proposal of what your job as "green officer" would consist of and what sort of changes you'd like to see made?

G: And you'll consider it?

B: Yes. I think you've got a lot of good ideas. I'm sure we can come to some sort of an agreement. I'm afraid I have a meeting now so ...

Answers: 1F, 2F, 3T, 4F, 5T, 6T, 7T, 8F