

# Activity Sheet 7

Dear Scientists

Our company makes ingredients used in many different products, ranging from soap and body wash to kitchen cleaners. We want to ensure our products do as little damage to the environment as possible and would like your help with this.

We were wondering if we could burn dried plants instead of crude oil in our boiler to produce steam for heating and making electricity for use on our site.

Things we think we could burn, available from local companies, include straw, hay and wood shavings but we are not sure which one would be best to use.

The oil we currently use is delivered to us by pipeline with little or no disruption. We are worried that we would need very large quantities of plant material and we do not have enough room to store it on site.

Also, we would need many lorries every day to bring the plant materials on to our site. This will be very expensive for us and result in a lot of extra traffic on the roads.

We would like you to carry out some tests and provide us with evidence to help us make some difficult decisions. Any extra research you can do would also be very useful to us.

Yours faithfully



**Susan Carlton**  
Environmental Manager