

REGARDING: THE GREAT GREEN WEB GAME

Website for: <http://go.ucsusa.org/game/>

HIGHLIGHT ON WEBSITE: A very simple game about how consumer choices impact the environment. Sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

General Description: An interactive game in which your chosen character advances around a board after you answer questions.

Age: Middle school and up.

Number of Players: One.

Cost: Free at the website.

Ease of Play: Very easy; can be played in five minutes.

Format: Questions are posed with multiple choice answers (e.g. what type of vehicle to purchase; which appliance uses the most electricity). The correct answer and an explanation are provided after your choice is made. For some of the questions, a bar graph shows how your prospective response impacts the environment. Your score is posted at the end of the game.

Strategy: Choose the correct answer.

Scientific Validity: Not much science is involved.

Educational Value: Good.

Up to Date: Copyright 2000.

Strengths: Provides a basis for rational choices that have the least impact on the environment. A link to the Union of Concerned Scientists “Action Network” is focused on political action and provides news as well (mainly for adults).

Weaknesses: Limited scope. Not entirely focused on climate change.

Focus: The emphasis is on choices that confront consumers.

TABLE OF GAME COMPONENTS

Does the Game Educate about:	Yes	No	Comments
The long term time-frame of climate change		x	
Contributions from various greenhouse gasses		x	
The Need for Political Action	x		Under the Action Network link
Economics: Costs and Benefits	x		
Individual actions that you can take	x		
Visual impacts of climate change		x	
Global Consequences of climate change		x	
Feedback loops		x	
New Technology to reduce climate change	x		Focus is on existing technology
Climate computer models		x	
What we know from past climates		x	
Predicted increases in global warming		x	
Sources of greenhouse gasses	x		
Energy efficiency	x		
Global population increase		x	
Carbon offsets; Cap and Trade		x	
Examples of programs to reduce climate change		x	Focus is more on individual actions
How much greenhouse gas could be released		x	