

Time to decide – should we be making decisions for others?

Activity sheet A

We all make personal decisions about the balance of risk and benefit before we decide to do an activity. But there are 'activities' or 'technologies' that affect everybody. For example, growing genetically modified crops or using nuclear power stations to generate electricity.

For the activity or technology you are going to analyse:

- 1 Find a relevant website using a Google search.
(Tip: use the words *hazard* and *benefit* to search.)
 - Identify and list the **benefits** of the 'technology'.
 - Identify and list the **risks** involved, i.e. what could go wrong.
 - Rate the website using a one-to-five star system. (One star bad, five stars excellent.)
You can rate it for:
Balance (presenting both sides of an argument)
Usefulness (how easy it is for you to learn from)
- 2 Classify each risk as acceptable / not acceptable or as high / medium / low risk
- 3 Suggest how each risk could be minimised.
- 4 Who should make the decisions about using this technology?
 - National politicians?
 - Civil servants?
 - Experts?
 - International politicians (such as people at the United Nations)?
 - Local politicians?
 - Everybody?
- 5 Are you 'for' or 'against' using this technology?