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Turn recalled chocs into fuel, says expert

A RESEARCHER has come up with an unusual way for Cadbury to deal with the chocolate bars recalled over a salmonella scare.

Gavin Harper, author and student at the University of East London, says the company could offset losses by turning the waste chocolate into fuel.

Cadbury recalled over one million bars last week after a potential source of contamination was traced to a leaking pipe at a plant in Herefordshire.

Mr Harper says it is "unfortunate" that the 250-tonne chocolate mountain would be consigned to landfill because it contains enough energy to run 1.5m fires for an hour.

Masters degree student Mr Harper, who has written several books on energy and the environment, has published a paper examining alternatives to the landfill option.

He said: "Despite the high embodied energy content of the chocolate as a result of the processing that went into its production, if it could be classed as a biofuel then it could be eligible for Renewables Obligation Certificates when burnt, which could be offset against potential losses suffered by Cadbury as a result of the recall."

A spokeswoman for Cadbury could not confirm how the waste chocolate was going to be disposed of saying the issue "is not the focus of our attention at the moment".

2:43pm Thursday 29th June 2006

By Jonathan Bunn

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