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Crunchie dream crushed

A CRUNCHIE-loving student has had his energy saving idea crushed.

Gavin Harper, from the University of East London, had urged Cadbury bosses to use one million recalled chocolate bars to generate power rather than throw them away.

The 20-year-old architecture student believes the bars, recalled due to fears of salmonella contamination, could run 1.5million electric fires for an hour, or provide enough energy to power a town the size of Dorking for a week.

He said: "The chocolate, with a mass estimated as equivalent to 33 double-decker buses, would contain 5,500 gigajoules of energy.

"It is unfortunate that, rather than being viewed as a potentially valuable source of energy, this consignment of chocolate is being earmarked for disposal by landfill."

Gavin, of Fairfield Avenue, Upminster, added: "Despite the high embodied energy content of the chocolate as a result of the processing that went into its production, when burnt it could be classed as a bio-fuel."

The University of East London pupil, who has already published several books including Solar Energy Projects for the Evil Genius, said the enviro-friendly process would save Cadbury money.

A spokesman for Cadbury's said using the chocolate as a bio-fuel would not be an option as it had to be destroyed to prevent contamination getting into the food chain.