



Are hand  
dryers  
better for  
the  
environment  
than paper  
towels?

What are some of the questions you would need to answer to make that decision? Write at least 5 questions.

# Some possible questions...

- How much energy does this dryer use per hand drying?
- What materials were used to build and package the dryer? Are they renewable resources? Will they be reused or recycled when the dryer is disposed of?
- Does the dryer require maintenance and replacement of parts?
- What's its lifetime of service? What happens to it when it is replaced?
- How much energy was used to build the dryer, package it and transport it to Dunkin Donuts?
- Where do paper towels come from? Is this source renewable?
- How are they made? How much energy is used to make them, package them and transport them? Is the production process polluting (air, water, land)?
- What happens to them when they are thrown away?
- Can they be reused or recycled? Are they more or less hygienic than the dryers?
- Are they more or less convenient than hand dryers?



# This is clearly not an easy decision to make!

- What questions have you asked that you think are most important?
- What answers will have to be estimated?
- Time permitting, try to answer some of the questions.
- Search this question on the internet and see what information you can find.
- What calculations have already been done?
- Which of these is a more convenient solution to drying hands, and how much should that be taken into account?
- Similar dilemmas are paper versus plastic grocery bags and cloth versus paper diapers.