



(Research on Lifestyles, Values and Environment)  
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH

## **FORTHCOMING SEMINAR**

**Wednesday 17 February, 2010, 1300-1400**

45b AZ 04  
University of Surrey

**Mary Corin**  
**Director**  
**rValue Resource Development Consultancy**

### **Can we get things in perspective, please!**

Finally we recognise that the throwaway economy is on a collision course with the Earth's geological limits; we are exceeding the Earth's ability to support our lifestyles. According to U.S. Geological Survey data on economically recoverable reserves, assuming an annual 2-percent growth in extraction, this shows the world has 25 years of copper reserves.

A well known edict is that if everyone currently on the Earth lived like we do in the UK, we would need three planets to supply our resources and so we must balance our consumption with the natural world's capacity to regenerate and absorb our wastes, or risk irreversible damage.

And so, recycling was 'invented' in order to encourage the diversion of valuable materials away from landfill. Laudable EU statutory recycling targets were introduced, with UK local authorities set to increase recycling to 40% this year. This means that approximately 10.32 million tonnes of material will need to be recycled or composted. This year 64M tonnes of USA and European recyclables will feed huge manufacturing industries, in developing countries, that in turn feed the West with the cheap products we demand.

But is this free trade and the recycling of valuable resources being threatened by the misguided application of the Transfrontier Shipment Regulations and poor media reporting?

*Enquiries to Gemma Cook, RESOLVE Co-ordinator, 01483 686689*