

FUTURE ENERGY

1 Traditional energy sources like oil, coal and natural gas have been the principal sources of energy around the world since the 1900s, and are mainly used for electricity and transport. Are they going to run out in the future? When will that be? How will we survive without them?

2 Many countries believe renewable energy is the way forward; it is energy made from natural sources that will never run out, such as wind, waves and sun. Iceland and Norway already produce nearly 100% of their energy from renewable resources and Denmark aims to reach that goal by 2050.

3 What do they use? Denmark mainly uses wind power through turbines to mechanically generate power for electricity. Turbines look like giant-size fans placed either on land or in the water. Iceland mainly uses geothermal power – basically the heat coming from the land. Iceland has a high



concentration of volcanoes which makes it easy to generate heat.

4 Why should we use renewable energy? For so many reasons, first of all pollution! Oil use produces vast amounts of toxic gases, which makes it extremely polluting. Renewable energy protects our health because it doesn't produce harmful pollution. Secondly, because it is freely available in many forms, any country which has waves, sunshine or wind can benefit from these resources. Renewable energy is an efficient use of natural resources and can be especially useful for developing countries. The question really should be, Why not?

2 Read the statements, then read the text to decide if they are true (T), false (F) or the information is not given (NG).

- 1 Renewable energy sources will also run out in the future.
- 2 Iceland and Norway already produce 100% of their energy from renewable sources.
- 3 Turbines can be placed on the ground or in the sea.
- 4 Iceland uses the heat in the land to create energy.
- 5 The text describes one negative side of traditional energy sources.