

READING

READING 1

PREPARING TO READ

PREDICTING CONTENT USING VISUALS

1 You are going to read an article on renewable energy. Look at the photos. Match the types of renewable energy in the box to the correct photo.

geothermal energy hydropower solar power wind power



1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

UNDERSTANDING KEY VOCABULARY

2 Read the sentences and write the words in bold next to the definitions.

- 1 **Aquatic** creatures include fish, dolphins, and whales.
- 2 Oil companies often drill **offshore** to get petroleum from the sea floor.
- 3 Energy from the sun is considered an **inexhaustible** resource; as long as the sun is there, it can give us energy.
- 4 The **initial** response to the recycling program has been good. Now let's see what happens next.
- 5 Waterfalls **generate** energy that we can use as power.
- 6 All countries around the world need energy sources for their cars, machines, and appliances. This need is **universal**.
- 7 Many people think that we need to **utilize** existing renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

- a _____ (adj) at the beginning; first
- b _____ (v) to cause to exist; produce
- c _____ (adj) living in, happening in, or connected with water
- d _____ (adv) away from or at a distance from the land
- e _____ (adj) existing everywhere or involving everyone
- f _____ (v) to make use of something
- g _____ (adj) in such large amounts that it cannot be used up

READING 2

PREPARING TO READ

UNDERSTANDING KEY VOCABULARY

1 Read the definitions. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in bold.

address (v) to give attention to or to deal with a matter or problem

adopt (v) to accept or begin to use something

alarming (adj) causing worry or fear

diminish (v) to reduce or be reduced in size or importance

instigate (v) to cause an event or situation to happen

resistant (adj) not accepting of something

urgent (adj) needing immediate attention

vital (adj) necessary or extremely important for the success or continued existence of something

- 1 Environmentalists feel that finding solutions to fight climate change is a(n) _____ issue and needs to be addressed right now.
- 2 Some people find global warming _____ because the future of planet Earth could be in danger.
- 3 The government plans to _____ a recycling program similar to the one Germany has and is also looking into building wind power turbines.
- 4 Over one hundred United Nations delegates signed a document to _____ climate change and establish new environmental standards.
- 5 The aim of this plan is to _____ pollution to lower levels.
- 6 Many people say it is _____ for the survival of certain plant and animal species that we stop pollution caused by factories.
- 7 Manufacturers may be _____ to using more “green” production methods, so we need new laws that force them to do it.
- 8 The 1962 book *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson _____ the modern environmental movement.

2 What will happen when the world starts to run out of these resources?

1 oil prices will rise; gasoline will be more expensive

2 water _____

3 trees _____

4 food _____

5 metal _____

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

8 Work with a partner. Answer the questions based on ideas in the essay.

- 1 Why will energy need to become more expensive before people are motivated to reduce the energy they use?
- 2 Why should we avoid the use of motorized transportation?
- 3 Why might it be dangerous to reuse medical equipment?
- 4 Why might corporations that manufacture products be resistant to environmental laws?

DISCUSSION

9 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Is recycling common in your country? What objects can be recycled?
- 2 Do you think it is fair to penalize people financially if they do not recycle? Can you think of any other objects that can be reused without having to recycle them?
- 3 Use ideas from Reading 1 and Reading 2 to answer the following questions. In evaluating energy sources, which do you think should receive more consideration: concerns about the noise and appearance of wind turbines, or concerns about relying on fossil fuels? Why?

MAKING INFERENCES

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

ENERGY COLLOCATIONS

1 Match the nouns in the box to the correct group of words.

energy fuel pollution problem production source

- 1 fossil / diesel / alternative / renewable / clean _____
- 2 renewable / green / nuclear / solar / geothermal _____
- 3 environmental / air / industrial / water / radioactive _____
- 4 energy / fuel / power / water / renewable _____
- 5 electricity / energy / oil / gas / agricultural _____
- 6 serious / health / environmental / major / medical _____

SYNTHESIZING

2 Complete the sentences using energy collocations from Exercise 1.

- 1 Critics of _____ energy say that the risks to the environment outweigh the benefits of cheap electricity.
- 2 Asthma and diabetes are increasingly common _____ problems.
- 3 For a renewable _____ of electricity to be truly successful, governments have to invest more money in it.
- 4 _____ fuels, such as oil and gas, have a finite lifespan.
- 5 _____ energy, whichever renewable source it comes from, tends to be slightly more expensive for the user.
- 6 Rivers and lakes are two major _____ sources that can be used for hydroelectric power.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL ACADEMIC VERBS

3 Match formal verbs with informal alternatives.

1 consult	a get
2 contest	b skip; leave out
3 deliver	c start
4 diminish	d look at
5 instigate	e use
6 omit	f decrease
7 secure	g give
8 utilize	h disagree with

4 Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the formal verbs in Exercise 3.

- 1 Resources are beginning to _____; soon they will run out.
- 2 This company needs to _____ its energy policy to the government by the end of the year.
- 3 The application to construct a wind farm in this area has been _____ by local residents who dislike the idea.
- 4 If people _____ the documents on our website, they can see how biofuel is made.
- 5 The rise in fuel prices should _____ a debate on oil reserves.
- 6 This car _____ fuel more efficiently than previous models.
- 7 Advocates of biofuels sometimes _____ key details such as how much land is needed to cultivate the crops. People who disagree with them would certainly use this information to argue against biofuel advocates.
- 8 This country must _____ new renewable energy sources.

COHERENCE

SKILLS

When writing, it is important to make the relationship between different ideas in a text clear to a reader. The ideas should flow in a logical way. This is called *coherence*, and it makes your writing easier for the reader to follow. For example, if you are trying to show how two things are similar or different, that intention should be clear. If you are referring back to an idea already presented, the reader should understand that clearly. Some words you can use to make your writing coherent are:

- 1 Pronouns that refer back to an idea already introduced: *they, them, it, one, etc.*
There are many **types of renewable energy**. **They** are better for the environment than fossil fuels.
- 2 Conjunctions and connectors: *however, therefore, in contrast, although, etc.*
Geothermal energy does not cause pollution. **However**, it is expensive to install.
- 3 Determiners: *this, that, these, those, etc.*
Solar power is a sustainable type of energy. **This** characteristic makes it attractive for those living in sunny places.
- 4 Transition words and phrases: *for example, in the same way, etc.*
There are some dangers to hydropower. **For example**, the turbines might harm aquatic wildlife.

2 Read the paragraph and complete the text with the words from the box.

for example they (2) however this in the same way

People have different attitudes about alternative energy sources. ⁽¹⁾ _____, some people welcome the construction of wind turbines in their towns and cities. Others, ⁽²⁾ _____, think that ⁽³⁾ _____ are undesirable. For ⁽⁴⁾ _____ second group of people, turbines are noisy and unattractive. ⁽⁵⁾ _____ that some people think hydropower dams are harmful to river environments, people against wind turbines think ⁽⁶⁾ _____ ruin natural landscapes and pose dangers to local birds.

3 Read the sentences and write a coherent paragraph using all the information. Use Exercise 2 to help you.

- 1 Turbines and hydropower plants both change the landscape of an area.
- 2 Some think that they are important sources of alternative energy.
- 3 Fossil fuel use has been linked to global warming.
- 4 Some people are more concerned about using fossil fuels than other people are.
- 5 Some people think it is more important to save money than to reduce global warming.
- 6 Alternative energy production facilities can be expensive to construct.