



The Power to Change

User Notes for 'Renewable Energies – An Answer to the Issue of Energy and Climate Change'



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Introduction:

This book is a translation of a Belgian resource devised by the energy agency of the Walloon Region. The agency issues this material to schools so that teachers can prepare their pupils for visits from the agencies educationalists who demonstrate renewable energies at work. We have included it among our tools as it provides complete and clear information about a variety of issues surrounding the topic of energy. It has been written to stand alone from an agencies presentation and uses a clear style that will be helpful for adults and the more able child. The following notes aim to give some ideas of how the information in this resource can be used in lesson times.

Chapter 1 – What is energy?

There is quite a lot of information here about energy and its forms this is useful background knowledge for teachers but could be too much information for pupils at this stage. However a jumbled up photocopy of the diagram on page 12 could be given to pupils as a sequencing activity by teachers wishing to assess their pupils understanding of these concepts or as an illustration of the basic principle of the transformations of energy from its original source, the sun.

In the UK we have 23 nuclear power stations producing 22% of the electricity we consume, whilst Belgium is planning the decommissioning their nuclear power stations the UK are still considers this as a viable option for the future.

Chapter 2 – What sources of energy are most often used today?

The information about energy sources is clear enough for pupils to be able to read themselves, although support will be needed in understanding the nuclear production of energy. Page 15 does make specific reference to Belgium but this statement is also true in the UK context.

The section on the history of energy use is good support material for the **Climate Change Map Activity** because analogies can be made with the way our society was in the past and the energy practices of the developing world today. The following section on the advantages of fossil fuels also raises some good points for discussion that are very relevant to the contrasts between life in the developed and developing world.

Chapter 3 – What problems are associated with energy consumption?

Very useful reading for teacher or pupil and will give a good general context for why our energy habits must change. The information in this section provides a good background for discussion and would support **Carbon Consequences** activity very well. The philosophy that comes through in the conclusion section is helpful in removing feelings of guilt about climate change and looking towards a proactive and positive future.

Chapter 4 – What can I do as an Individual?

This section is concerned with 'rational energy use' or what in the UK we more commonly term as 'efficiency'. The information here is particularly relevant to **Phase 2/3** of the project work and offers lots of examples of the kinds of behaviours that pupils can practice and promote in their schools and communities.

The section about the use of renewable energies could support final **science fair** projects and gives a simple explanation of a solar powered system.