

Renewables vs. Non-Renewables Debate:

Teacher Guide



In the last 10 years, electricity generation from renewable sources has trebled. In this lesson, children will explore different perspectives surrounding using renewables to generate electricity. They will work in teams to research and debate whether we should use mostly renewable or non-renewable sources to generate electricity. Having the opportunity to examine and consider multiple perspectives helps children to develop their critical thinking and communication skills.

To begin, pupils will learn more about how electricity is currently generated in the UK. An overview of the main renewable and non-renewable sources used to generate electricity is given, such as coal, gas, solar power and hydro-electricity.

Viewpoints are then examined to argue for and against using mostly renewables to generate electricity in the UK.

Included in this resource pack:

- ⇒ PowerPoint presentation.
- ⇒ Debate team support sheets (for and against).
- ⇒ Teacher guide.
- ⇒ Teacher information sheet on electricity generation in the UK, which provides background information for this lesson.

Lesson 1: Use the PowerPoint to introduce electricity generation in the UK and different perspectives on using renewables to generate our electricity.

Split the pupils up into small teams. Each team should be given either the for or against side to research and debate, ensuring there is an even split so each team has another to debate with. The debate could take the form of a short presentation or a discussion.

Pupils research their main points to argue during the debate. This may require an additional lesson.

Websites pupils could explore: <http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/learning-activities/science/energy-and-the-environment/advantages-and-disadvantages/>

<https://www.solarschools.net/knowledge-bank/renewable-energy/advantages-disadvantages>

A print off summary sheet: <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/adv-and-disadv-of-renewables-and-non-renewables-6111173>

Lesson 2: Debates are held between the small teams.

Extension: Following the debate, pupils could write a report or newspaper article expressing their own views on whether we should use renewables to generate our electricity in the UK.