



Alternative Energy by Burnon Chen

Look at the sky, you might see a blue sky and clouds but in some places, you might see the smog. This is caused by the use of fossil fuels. This is one reason why we need to look into alternative energies. One type of alternative energy is solar. Another type of is wind energy. If Marlborough were to choose one of those types of alternative energies, solar energy would be the best for our city.

We need to start using and relying more on alternative energies. The world is heating up because we are using too much fossil fuel. The supply is running out in many places like Texas, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the ocean, etc. Another thing to worry about is our atmosphere heating up because we burn fossil fuels, its making carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas (we have too much in our atmosphere). With alternative types of energies, we can protect our world from heating up. If we use alternative energies, there will also be more jobs so the unemployment rate will go down. This is why we need to start using alternative energy.

One type of alternative energy is solar energy. Solar energy means that we are using the sun's power and converting it to energy for our use. It's a free source of energy (the sun) and it will always be available. There is no need to refine it like oil and it doesn't pollute the atmosphere. "It is a free source of energy. It can be used as it is. We don't need to refine it, like oil. It's not dirty and doesn't pollute the environment. Unlike many fossil fuels whose supplies are dwindling, solar power will always be available". (Ramaley Shirley Anne, Energy from the Sun ... Solar Power, Boys' Quest, Aug/Sept 2012, 12/9/12). The downsides of solar energy is that it costs a lot of money to actually set up the solar panels but the prices will soon go down once more companies make the panels. Some skies, like ones over huge cities, have lots of pollution so the sun won't shine as bright and only a percentage of energy would be produced by the panels. "The biggest drawback is the cost of setting up a system using solar panels. As more companies produce this equipment, the price will go down. Another factor is lack of enough sunlight in some parts of the country. Some cities have skies heavy with pollution. There the sun can't shine through as well and less energy is produced". (Ramaley Shirley Anne, Energy from the Sun ... Solar Power, Boys' Quest, Aug/Sept 2012, 12/9/12).

Another type of alternative energy is wind energy. Wind energy is when you are using the wind to power something or to make energy. Wind Energy also creates no CO₂ pollution. It's also a renewable type of energy. "It's cheap, once the turbines are in place. Wind is a renewable energy resource. There are no dangerous waste products, and it is clean, with no pollution". (Ramaley Shirley Anne, Wind Power, Boys' Quest, Aug/Sept 2012, 12/9/12). Even though there are good things about wind energy, there are some downsides to it. Birds are commonly killed on their migration routes. Wind turbines are also only built in windy areas and the wind always changes. Some people even think that wind turbines make the landscape ugly. "Every year,

thousands of birds are killed by wind turbines. Especially in areas like Altamont Pass, which is a migration route for birds....Turbines are built only in windy areas, but even then wind can vary from day to day, last but not the least, some people think wind turbines are ugly and mess up the beauty of the landscape". (Ramaley Shirley Anne, Wind Power, Boys' Quest, Aug/Sept 2012, 12/9/12).

For the city of Marlborough, solar energy would be the best if our city chose to switch to alternative energy. Solar energy is the best type of alternative energy for the city of Marlborough because Marlborough is a sunny place with little clouds (good for solar panels because there are barely any clouds to block the sun). Marlborough also has a lot of slopes and hills (bad for wind turbines because wind turbines need a flat area to rest on). Birds also pass here on their migration routes so wind turbines wouldn't be a good idea (wind turbines kill lots of birds, especially when they're on their migration routes. Marlborough has a nice scenery and landscape. Some people don't want this to change because of wind turbines making them look ugly (some people think that wind turbines will make the landscape of an area look ugly).

We should start to look more into alternative energies so that our atmosphere gets less polluted. We could also stop using the limited supply of fossil fuel we have left on the planet. Using alternative energy can even make jobs for more people. Solar energy and wind energy are two types of alternative energies but there is still more. But out of those two, the best for Marlborough was solar energy. This is why we should be switching and relying more on alternative energies.

MLA Citation Page

Shirley Anne Ramaley.

Power from the Sun ... Solar Power

Boys' Quest. Aug/Sept 2012.

Shirley Anne, Ramaley.

Wind Power

Boys' Quest. Aug/Sept 2012.