



Alternative Energy by Gina McGovern

“The future is green energy, substantially, renewable energy,” said Arnold Schwarzenegger. Solar energy and biomass energy are both common sources of alternative energy. I think biomass energy would be the best energy for Marlborough to use. First let’s look at why we need to start using alternative energy.

We need to use more alternative energy for many reasons. One reason is because it is much more efficient. One reason for this is because it costs less. Research shows that alternative energy costs more than 70% less than fossil fuels. Fossil fuels allow waste and pollution into the air, unlike alternative energy. Alternative energy sources will reduce carbon dioxide from entering the air and it will keep the atmosphere from continuing to get hotter. Also alternative energy is safer. Alternative energy sources reduce harmful pollutions caused by burning fossil fuels, so people are healthier. Those are just some of the reasons why people should use alternative energy.

One type of alternative energy is solar energy. Solar energy is made from the sun. Solar energy converts light energy into electricity, using solar panels. The sun is very important

because oxygen and food which would be impossible without it. Also a good thing about solar energy is that it is free and it never runs out because it's completely made from the sun. Solar energy is very useful it can be used everywhere the sun shines and it doesn't release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In the article, *Bright Idea*, the people of Singapore are working on making "Supertrees," trees that run on solar energy and light up at night. These trees will also absorb heat to protect the people of Singapore from extreme temperatures. Those trees are important because they save electricity and help people become more comfortable in Singapore's weather. In the article, *A Cleaner Future*, the United States work on saving energy, by using solar panels, to create a better future. The United States is trying to create a better future because fifteen years ago The US produced 40% of solar panels, but in 2008 they went all the way down to 5%. Solar is one type of alternative energy that is very important.

Another type of alternative energy is Biomass. Biomass energy comes from Earth through animals and garbage. The process of biomass is from garbage to gas to energy. Some types of biomass can be made into biofuels to power cars or trucks. Biomass can reduce greenhouse gasses which is better for the environment. In the article, *From Garbage to Gas*, it talks about how trash gets broken down by microorganisms and turned into methane gas, which can later be energy. The gas goes through a treatment process which removes carbon dioxide and then turned into a fuel used for gas lines. The articles, *Biofuels* and *Flying Green*, explain how places such as Venice, Italy and the United States are working on making algae into fuel. That is a very good idea because algae is not a plant people grow for food so it won't affect food sources. That's why Biomass is a very important alternative energy.

Out of those two alternative energies, I think biomass energy would be the best for the citizens of Marlborough to use. I think biomass is very easy and efficient because it is made of

garbage, which never really runs out. Biomass also gets rid of garbage by a treatment process which removes carbon dioxide. Biomass also is easy for Marlborough to use because it is free, renewable, and easy. Marlborough would first let microorganisms digest the garbage, then turn it into gas, then lastly turn it into biofuels. Also by using biomass you save resources that would add to greenhouse gasses, such as coal. Those are a few reasons why I think biomass would be perfect for the citizens of Marlborough to use.

One common type of alternative energy is solar energy. Another type is biomass energy. Both types of energy are good but Biomass would be a better choice for the citizens of Marlborough to use.

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