

Rapid Climate Change Research Packet 5

Topic: Solutions: We Need to Work Together

Directions: Read the following as a group. Create a newscast to explain what sustainability means and why we need a stable climate. Consider some alternatives to using fossil fuels for energy, and how we can work together to protect all of our living homes. Include a “special report” using information from the *Special Report: Our Living Home* section in your newscast.

All countries on the planet need to work together to move toward a **stable climate** and a **fair and sustainable distribution of our natural resources**.

- A **stable climate** is one that is not changing rapidly; in this case, warming up all over the globe. Rapid change in our climate makes it very hard for people, plants and wildlife to live together in a healthy habitat.
- **Sustainable** means that we don't deplete or pollute resources like fresh water, land for growing crops, trees in our forests, jungles and other natural spaces. It also means that we do not act in a way to accelerate the endangerment or extinction of other species. It means that we build, plant, and use all natural resources in ways that keep the biosphere in balance with all of its living parts.
- Being **fair** means thinking about **climate justice**: making sure that we respect and protect all people, animals and plants in all of our living homes around the world. Countries that have had industries and machines dependent on fossil fuels for hundreds of years are the main contributors to the climate problem. But less industrialized nations that have not had as much development are suffering more because of their locations and their lack of resources to help deal with the consequences of rapid climate change.
- If we want to reduce the effects of rapid climate change, we need to stop relying on fossil fuels and change to new ways of powering our machines: using **solar**, **wind**, **water** and **geothermal energy**.



Climate Justice Demonstration



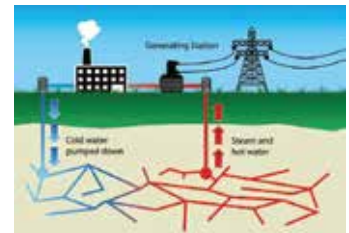
Solar panels collect and store energy directly from the sun.



As wind turbines turn they generate electricity.



Hydroelectric power uses the up-and-down movement of waves to make energy.



Increasing pressure creates heat. Geothermal power uses heat to make energy in the form of steam.



Special Report:

Our Living Home: Climate Justice in the Maldives Islands

Communities all around the globe are experiencing problems that are caused or worsened by rapid climate change, but many of the most vulnerable places have limited resources to protect themselves from expected threats. One of the most vulnerable is the tiny island nation of The Maldives in the Indian Ocean, where rising sea levels and soil erosion may cause its low-lying **atolls** to end up completely underwater. The Maldives has already lost 20 of its tiny, beautiful islands, with their sandy beaches and surrounding coral reefs, to rising sea levels and increasing storm activity. The former president of The Maldives once held a cabinet meeting underwater using scuba gear to highlight the danger that the country could be permanently lost if the wealthy nations of the world do not act quickly to limit the effects of climate change.¹

¹ DailyMail.com News Website, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1221021/Maldives-underwater-cabinet-meeting-held-highlight-impact-climate-change.html>

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