

GO GREEN: A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING

June 2010

Vol. 22, No. 2

Inspired Youth, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.inspireyouthchicago.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY, page 2

1. ENERGY, by Jennifer S.

SOLAR ENERGY, page 2

2. SOLAR ENERGY, by Aman B.

3. SOLAR ENERGY, by Keily F.

4. SOLAR ENERGY, by Anahi M.

WIND ENERGY, page 2

5. WIND ENERGY, by Eduardo S.

6. WIND ENERGY, by Kevin A.

7. WINDMILLS, by Fredy F.

8. TURBINE TRASH (A Windmill Made from Trash) by Edwin L.

ENERGY FROM WATER, page 4

9. ENERGY FROM WATER, by Andre T.

BIOMASS, page 4

10. BIOMASS, by Tomas Y.

11. BIOMASS, by Jamileth D.

12. BIOMASS, by Kedus K.

BIODIESEL, page 4

13. BIODIESEL, by MaryAnn B.

14. BIODIESEL, by Oscar B.

GREENER TRANSPORTATION page 5

15. BUSES – by Ambar A.

16. KEEPING CURRENT ON ELECTRIC CARS, by Jaime F.

17. ZIPCARS, by Kimberly L.

SAVING TREES REDUCES GLOBAL WARMING, page 5

18. REDD PATH TO A GREEN PLANET: *REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION*, by Latrice T.

19. REDD PATH TO A GREEN PLANET, by Kimberly L.

20. SAVING THE TREES TO SAVE THE PLANET, By Gerardo G.

21. GO GREEN: FORESTS, by Bsrat N.

OTHER WAYS TO GO GREEN, page 7

22. TIPS TO FIGHT GLOBAL

WARMING, by Yesenia G.

23. TIPS TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING: DRINK TAP WATER, by Andrew T.

24. RECYCLING, By Lily Ann B.

PROBLEMS WITH OVERUSE OF FOSSIL FUELS, page 7

25. GREENHOUSE-GAS POLLUTION CONFIRMED, by Guadalupe M.

26. ENERGY'S HIDDEN COSTS, by Daniel A.

27. AIR POLLUTION, by Mario D.

28. AIR POLLUTION, by Anton S.

29. OZONE, by Jaelyn H.

OTHER EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING, page 9

30. ANTARCTICA BREAKING, by Fredy F.

31. ANTARCTICA BREAKING, by Frehiwet N.

32. PENGUINS IN DANGER, by Cordell Y.

33. SEA LEVELS RISING, by Gama M.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND AMERICA'S POOR, page 10

34. CLIMATE CHANGE AND AMERICA'S POOR, by Yulissa R.

35. CLIMATE CHANGE AND AMERICA'S POOR, by Kimberly L.

EARTH DAY, page 10

36. FOR THE GOOD OF THE EARTH, by Leslie A.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

1. ENERGY, by Jennifer S.

Energy is around us. We use it to do almost everything, like electricity or to start a car. We use energy to do almost everything in everyday life. The two main energy sources are renewable and non-renewable resources. Examples of renewable sources are solar energy and wind energy. Non-renewable resources take millions of years to replace, like coal and oil. It's bad because it pollutes the air and can run out, while renewable resources do not run out, and are not bad for the earth.

SOLAR ENERGY

2. SOLAR ENERGY, by Aman B. Solar energy comes from the sun. When it is cloudy there is no solar energy. Sometimes there are problems with the solar energy. Solar energy has a future. Solar energy can heat the houses.

3. SOLAR ENERGY, by Keily F. Solar energy comes from the sun. The energy can be turned into electricity and heat houses and water. Solar energy is free, but there are some problems, like a big space to collect solar energy. Also, if there are clouds in the sky, it is hard to collect solar energy because you can't see the sun. The sun is good because it gives

you energy. Solar energy will be used more in the future.

4. SOLAR ENERGY, by Anahi M. All of us use solar power from the sun. The sun creates heat inside and outside. Passive solar heating is when heat from the sun is stored during the day and during the night is slowly released. Scientists use brick, concrete, and tile to absorb sunlight during the day, which release heat at night.

Active solar heating is when solar panels collect the energy from the sun to turn into heat. It can be stored or used right away.

A solar power collector needs direct light. When we need energy when it is dark or cloudy, solar energy needs to become electricity. Solar collectors and systems are costly. You need more equipment to store power. But after you have the system in place, solar energy is free. It is also renewable. It doesn't cause any kind of pollution.

WIND ENERGY

5. WIND ENERGY, by Eduardo S. A wind turbine gives electricity by spinning. The blades are bigger than an airplane. You can find most of them in California.

The wind turbines can be placed in farms where there's a whole bunch of wind, and they are powered by wind.

6. WIND ENERGY, by Kevin A. Wind is made when hot air rises and cold air takes its place. Wind energy is made when wind is used to turn big fans, or wind turbines, which creates electricity. Some of the good things about wind energy are it's free, renewable, and it does not pollute. In contrast, some of the bad things about wind energy are it can only be made when the wind is blowing, it is expensive, it's noisy, and it could hurt birds. Some experts say that all of America's electricity could be made if all wind turbines are made in Texas, North Dakota, and South Dakota because there is wind always blowing in those states.

7. WINDMILLS, by Fredy F. A windmill is a machine that uses wind energy to make mechanical energy. They have been used for thousands of years. They used to be used for pumping water, grinding corn, sawing lumber. In 1890 large power companies began using oil to make less use cost electricity. So then they took over the windmills.

In the 1970s supplies of oil ran short. Then they did a new kind of windmill design. Those have metal blades that spin easily when the wind is blowing in any direction. Modern turbines are very efficient. The blades could be a

hundred feet long or more. The posts they are mounted on are usually from two hundred to three hundred feet tall. This can be a hazard for birds. Wind turbines also cause noise. California has more than 14,000 wind turbines. They are located in three different areas in the state. The "wind farms" produced about one and one-half percent of California's electricity in 2004. It produces almost no pollution of air, water, or soil. It does not create greenhouse gases.

8. TURBINE TRASH (A Windmill Made from Trash) by Edwin L. William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi. William Kamkwamba had to build his windmill with garbage. William Kamkwamba even got his equipment from a junk yard. People thought that he was crazy because he was getting objects from the junkyard, but it was exactly a good idea because he was trying to build a windmill. When William finished building his windmill, everyone was happy. Then in 2005 people were blaming William Kamkwamba because no rain was coming down, and then the clouds were moving.

ENERGY FROM WATER

9. ENERGY FROM WATER,

by Andre T.

This article is about getting energy from water. How we get energy is the water turns huge turbines. This creates kinetic energy of moving water to mechanical energy. This is happening in Niagara Falls. Also there is enough energy made to power western New York. This energy is non-polluting, also it is inexpensive. This is not good for animals because it will harm their habitat, but it will help.

What we could do to help is recycle, less littering and wasting food, finding alternate fuels instead of burning gases and coal, planting trees and plants, carpooling, businesses using wind power, making your house more efficient, using products that are made from recycled products, also exploring solar energy. By doing this I think we will have a bright and green future.

BIOMASS

10. BIOMASS, by Tomas Y.

Biomass is a source of energy that has been used by humans since they existed. Biomass is actually energy from the earth. Bio-gas is made from plants and animal waste. Biomass fuel has many benefits. First, it is renewable.

There are some disadvantages of biomass fuel, also.

11. BIOMASS, by Jamileth D.

Biomass is a source of energy that has been used by humans since they existed. Biomass is actually energy from the earth. It can be used to fuel our bodies, our cars, and our computers. It could be renewable. It could be used again. One of the disadvantages is that we need a lot of space to plant stuff.

12. BIOMASS, by Kedus K.

Biomass is from the earth. It is a source of energy. Humans have used biomass energy to fuel their bodies. It comes from animals and plants. It's used for cars and computers to give fuel. The building blocks of biomass are sugars. Biomass fuel is renewable, allowing plants and trees to be replanted.

BIODIESEL

13. BIODIESEL, by MaryAnn B.

Biodiesel powers vehicles, buses, tractors, and trucks. Biodiesel is renewable because it is made out of grease. Grease is available in many places like restaurants and animal fat. Biodiesel causes less pollution than diesel. Diesel is non-renewable because it is made out of oil. Biodiesel is better than

diesel because biodiesel is made from grease and you can find it anywhere. Diesel is made from oil, and once you use it you can't get any more.

14. BIODIESEL, by Oscar B. Biodiesel is a type of fuel from vegetable oil or animal fat. It is renewable and it burns more cleanly than diesel.

GREENER TRANSPORTATION

15. BUSES – by Ambar A. The article “Bus Pass or Bus Fail” is about surprising results of a study of emissions and transportation. Most people are blaming the vehicle's tailpipe for the air pollution. However, the construction and fixing of the road is also giving out more air pollution. They improved the tailpipe, but we still need to think about the roads.

The article also talks about bus transportation. It explains that people should use transportation such as CTA. However public transportation is only efficient when the CTA is full. Buses use a lot of gas so when only two people ride, it costs more to operate and wastes more gas than those two people driving their own cars. The article wants us to realize there is more to the picture, not just the vehicle's tailpipe.

16. KEEPING CURRENT ON ELECTRIC CARS, by Jaime F. It talks about electric cars. Some of the companies that are making electric cars are Chevy, Nissan, Ford, Chrysler, Chinese companies. The cars are coming in 2011. They work by electricity instead of oil. It will help the people by making less pollution.

17. ZIPCARS, by Kimberly L. Zipcar, or a shared car, is a program so you don't need to buy your car. People that are doing Zipcars found out that 40 percent of the people are able to sell their car or avoid buying a car because of access to these cars. Then once they are members they drive about 90 percent less than they would if they owned their own car.

SAVING TREES

REDUCES GLOBAL WARMING

18. REDD PATH TO A GREEN PLANET: *REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION*, by Latrice T. This article is about reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD). It is a part of the global climate treaty, discussed in Copenhagen in December 2009. The goal of REDD is a way for the Amazon to keep their trees standing. Under REDD these countries would receive money

from industrial nations. From this article it's not clear yet how much it's going to cost.

19. REDD PATH TO A GREEN PLANET, by Kimberly L.

3,000 species of fish swim in the Amazon River. That is twice as many fish as the Atlantic Ocean. The Amazon empties enough fresh water into the Atlantic to supply New York City for every 60 years.

REDD means Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation. Every year the Amazon rain forest gets smaller because people cut down the rain forest. Deforestation leads to drought, creating conditions for wild fire. Today 75% of Brazil's carbon dioxide emissions come from deforestation.

The Amazon River flow is 4 times bigger than the Congo River, 10x bigger than the Mississippi River and 60x bigger than the Nile.

There is not a lot of forest left, which means that there are less animals. Anaconda can grow to be 20-30 ft. long. We need to help our planet be greener so all of the animals/plants won't go extinct.

20. SAVING THE TREES TO SAVE THE PLANET, By Gerardo G. Alden Meyer is a director of strategy and policy for the Union of Concerned Scientists. He is talking

about the Waxman-Markey Climate Change bill. The Waxman-Markey Climate Change bill is trying to stop deforestation. Deforestation causes approximately 20% of CO2 emissions. The bill will pay developing countries to stop deforestation.

However, more countries are needed to make this successful. The U.S. will meet in Germany to convince other developed countries to participate. They're trying to reduce carbon emissions. The bill helps us partially get there.

Funds from the bill will be used to provide alternative livelihoods and compensation to people that now make their living by cutting down the rain forest. They would like to preserve the rainforest for future use, and all the benefits they provide particularly to indigenous people and others. Economics forces them to clear the land and burn down the rain forest.

21. GO GREEN: FORESTS, by Bsrat N.

The reporter is talking to and asking Peterman about the effects of tree plantations. Peterman is against tree plantations because she thinks having the same trees in the same place is bad for the environment. She thinks it's bad since not that many animals will live there and it will have impacts

on climate because there will be increased carbon. Peterman wants a natural forest. The deforestation is ruining part of Brazil and China. But so far China is the only place where they have released genetically engineered trees at this point. Peterman knows this because she works on genetic trees for the Global Forest Coalition and directs the Global Justice Ecology Project.

OTHER WAYS TO GO GREEN

22. TIPS TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING, by Yesenia G.

Everyone should reduce global warming. You can turn off the lights to save energy. You can use fluorescent bulbs to save energy. People should really reduce the energy they used, for their children and future generations. Animals in addition to people can be affected because of greenhouse gases. Using electric hair dryers and cars causes greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases cause global temperatures to fluctuate and then the polar caps melt. It affects their homes by melting the polar caps. The people are causing this destruction for the animals.

23. TIPS TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING: DRINK TAP WATER, by Andrew T.

You should drink tap water instead of bottled. You'll help keep water free of pollution from delivery trucks. Also, it's not good to use bottled water because not always those bottles end up in recycling. The study shows that those bottles end up in the ocean. A lot of animals die because they think it's food.

24. RECYCLING, By Lily Ann B.

We can recycle because it reduces the trash. We make a lot of trash. It can be found everywhere. Trash ends up in the landfill. We can reuse and reduce, recycle. Trash can be reduced. For example, for shopping bags, cloth grocery bags can be used. Reuse things instead of throwing them away. Recycling is making something new out of something old.

PROBLEMS WITH OVERUSE OF FOSSIL FUELS

25. GREENHOUSE-GAS POLLUTION CONFIRMED, by Guadalupe M.

Humans have caused a big rise in greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gases cause health problems with people and global warming. It also causes extreme weather changes. The limits on

emissions would stop global warming. Fewer factories will slow global warming.

26. ENERGY'S HIDDEN COSTS, by Daniel A.

This article consisted of an interview with Mr. Greenbaum from Health Effects Institute. Mr. Young raised the question of energy costs. Mr. Greenbaum estimated 120 billion dollars of health and other damages in 2005 were caused by power plants and traffic. Greenbaum said that pollution causes between 18,000 and 20,000 deaths a year. Two major problems are coal-fired plants and the other is transportation-- cars, and trucks. Mr. Greenbaum said that coal is the biggest contributor to the problem. Mr. Greenbaum said that they made progress but more work has to be done.

27. AIR POLLUTION, by Mario D. Air pollution is bad because it makes the air quality poor. Air pollution is caused by burning fossil fuels. Cars and trucks produce a lot of air pollution. Coal is burned to make electricity, but it gives off harmful gases. Solar energy, wind energy, and hydropower do not harm the air. Scientists are looking for cleaner fuels.

28. AIR POLLUTION, by Anton S. ***I think if people stop driving their car and things, we can have less air pollution. I think they should just ride bikes. Then people will get around more. They will not have to drive their car. People will have fun riding their bike.***

Air pollution is bad because it can make a lot of smoke and that is not good. And the fuel will not be good to be used, and the air pollution causes people to lose their breath, and that is not good for some people to lose their breath.

29. OZONE, by Jaelyn H. Ozone is three oxygen atoms put together. Not all ozone is good. Good ozone blocks earth from harmful sun rays and is high above the earth. Bad ozone is close to the ground. When vehicle exhaust and gasoline vapors mix with sunlight, ozone is made and is bad for the environment. We are making holes in the ozone layer. We should stop.

OTHER EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

30. ANTARCTICA BREAKING, by Fredy F.

Scientists say that huge pieces of ice in Antarctica have started to break apart from the Wilkins Ice Shelf. They are afraid that the whole ice shelf might be lost. Global warming is probably the cause.

Melting sea ice is a problem because some plants and animals like krill grow on the ice. Soon there may not be enough ice for these plants and animals to survive. The animals higher up on the food chain will have less food to eat.

Scientists keep studying areas like this to understand how global warming affects places all over the world.

31. ANTARCTICA BREAKING, by Frehiwet N.

A 160-square-mile section of Antarctica called the Wilkins Ice Shelf is shattering. This is caused by greenhouse gases. The melting ice matters because it is affecting plants and animals. As ice melts, the population of krill decreases. This causes a problem in the food chain because the animals that eat krill don't have food to survive. What is happening in Antarctica is

an example of what is happening in other parts of the world.

32. PENGUINS IN DANGER, by Cordell Y.

Penguins' homes are melting, and now they are threatened with a possibility of extinction. Some penguins' population has shrunk to half their size. The Antarctic ice is melting because of how hot it is getting. When the weather gets too warm, the air is going to get hot and wetter. If it snows too early, the penguins are going to breed later. This is the last reason that I'm doing and another reason why the penguins are going extinct.

33. SEA LEVELS RISING, by Gama M.

Global warming is affecting the Maldivian Islands and is slowly raising the sea levels. If the sea levels keep rising, much of the land would be under water. Many of the things would be destroyed. Some of the people realize this would happen, but some don't want to believe that. The president had tried to talk to the U.N., but not much had happened. People have been trying to send a global message to open people's eyes.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND AMERICA'S POOR

34. CLIMATE CHANGE AND AMERICA'S POOR, by Yulissa R.

People are dying because they don't have enough money to buy air conditioners or to go to the doctor. People die because the climate changes and it makes it hotter and if it is hot it will be harder for people to breathe.

People that are in need live in the polluted areas. When pollution is worse it gets worse for them to breathe.

People say that we should not make a bill to raise energy costs because it will hurt poor people. But either way they are going to have higher energy costs. I think that we should pay more and clean it up.

35. CLIMATE CHANGE AND AMERICA'S POOR, by Kimberly L.

According to Rachel Morello-Frosch, a climate gap describes a hidden pattern that we have found indicates that communities of color within the U.S. are going to suffer due to the climate change. A climate gap is a domestic problem within the U.S. This will also affect communities/households.

Global warming is a serious problem all over the world. Poor neighborhoods people are twice as likely to die during a heat wave

compared to the rest of the city. This is because there aren't any trees in the city. Some people can't afford air conditioning.

EARTH DAY

36. FOR THE GOOD OF THE EARTH, by Leslie A.

Senator Gaylord Nelson was going to do something to save our planet. He organized a nationwide demonstration so people can see what they are doing to our planet. People were rallied from coast to coast on Earth Day. All over the world people celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day will help people to recycle and help our planet.