

## Lesson Plan

### Reporting on Renewables

**Book:** *Writing a Report*

**Series:** How to Write

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students build research skills by organizing information into related categories.

### Supplies

- *Writing a Report* book
- Renewable Energy Fact Sheet (attached)
- Paper and pencils

### Before the Activity

Read through the *Writing a Report* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Split students into groups of three or four. Print a Renewable Energy Fact Sheet for each group.

### Activity

Writing reports often requires people to do research. A key part of the writing process is grouping related information together. Pass out the Renewable Energy Fact Sheet and explain that it includes bullet points on renewable energy facts. Have students read through these facts in their groups and decide which facts go together. Students should come up with three or four different categories. They should put three to five facts in each category. Students should write these categories on a piece of paper. Then, they should copy each fact, writing it under the category in which it belongs.

### Evaluation

Collect each group's paper at the end of class. Answers will vary but might group facts into some of the following categories:

- Fossil fuels (Facts 3, 7, 9, 10)
- Renewable energy (Facts 1, 4, 9, 11, 13, 15)
- History of renewable energy (Facts 2, 6, 8, 12, 15)
- Climate change (Facts 3, 5, 14)
- Wind power (Facts 1, 2, 4)
- Water power (Facts 6, 8, 11)
- Solar power (Facts 1, 12, 13)

**Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 3 (RI 3.2, 3.8).

# Renewable Energy Fact Sheet

1. Renewable energy uses sources that are unlimited, such as sunlight or wind.
2. The United States built the first wind farm in the 1980s.
3. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change.
4. Windmills and wind turbines use renewable energy. Their spinning blades do work or produce power.
5. Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, which leads to higher temperatures on Earth's surface.
6. In 200 BCE, Europeans used waterwheels to power mills.
7. Non-renewable energy sources include things like coal and oil, which can run out.
8. When the Hoover Dam was built in 1935, it was the largest hydroelectric power plant.
9. Renewable energy sources tend to create less pollution than fossil fuels.
10. Fossil fuels (such as oil, coal, and natural gas) come from fossilized plant and animal remains that are millions of years old.
11. The flowing water of rivers and oceans can run generators, which produce electricity.
12. In 2015, the United States built the country's largest solar farm in California.
13. Solar panels use heat and light from the sun to produce electricity.
14. Climate change can lead to extreme weather events and rising sea levels, and it can cause problems for both people and animals.
15. People have used some types of renewable energy for hundreds of years.