



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



UNEP: Renewable Energy Resources

Hello delegates! Good evening delegates :D My name is Spencer Churchill and I am your head chair for UNEP. I am a junior at Mission Viejo High School and Middle Secretary of Technology. I am in the IB program, have been in MUN for 5 years (since 7th grade), run cross-country and track and field, play cello and guitar, and will definitely be jammin' during lunch. I also really hope you enjoy our conference and pretend to enjoy this topic!

I. Background

Humans have been using fossil fuels since 1,000 B.C., but it was at its peak during the industrial revolution. The reason fossil fuels have been used for so long is because it can produce energy for a long time. However, these fossil fuels are nonrenewable and 82% of human-caused greenhouse gas emission is caused by burning of fossil fuels. To solve these problems humans started to find ways to utilize reusable energy. The first use of renewable energy occurs when the Chinese developed natural gas as an energy source. In the late 1830s, scientists discovered photovoltaic compounds in the late 1830s. These photovoltaic compounds release energy when exposed to light. This discovery eventually led to the development of solar cells and solar power. In the late 1880s, hydroelectric power started becoming available in the United States, and Europeans started discovering solar power. Because the first Iranian oil well was drilled in 1908, the Middle East soon became one of the world's leading sources for fossil fuels. So, the U.S. government created energy legislation to prevent monopolies and develop utility power publicly. During the 1940s and 1950s Europeans and Americans had increased illness and death among humans. This was caused by environmental damages brought from fossil fuel usage becoming more pronounced because of an increase in smog produced by the burning of these fossil fuels. In 1960 The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) formed. In 1977 the Solar Energy Research Institute formed. In 2015 President Obama announced the Clean Power Plan. This imposed the first nationwide limits on Carbon dioxide Emissions from Power Plants.

II. UN Involvement

The Un first got involved with Renewable energy because of the environmental harms that are appearing due to the fossil fuels we are using at this moment. They also realize that fossil fuels will run out and that once it does, will need alternate sources of energy. UN organizations like the UNDP, the UNEP, and IREO are involved with this fatal issue. They have made many strives to research and create new ways of utilizing renewable sources of energy. The UNDP is responsible for "identifying and implementing public de-risking instruments that catalyze private sector investment in large scale, on-grid renewable electricity technologies.(UNDP.org)" IREO's vision is to create awareness about climate change, renewable energy, and energy poverty and support member countries as they seek to use renewable energy to better the quality of life of people living in regions without traditional municipal infrastructure or whose current energy sources are insufficient to meet their essential daily needs.

“(http://www.ireoigo.org/) The UNEP wants to “provide independent, coherent and authoritative



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



scientific assessments of policy relevance on the sustainable use of natural resources and, in particular, their environmental impacts over the full life cycle; and contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation." There are also non-governmental organizations that are involved with renewable energy like CERES, Conservation International (CI), Food and Water Watch, Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), World Resources Institute, etc.

III. Possible Solutions

There are multiple energy sources such as piezoelectricity, wind power, solar power, hydrogen power, anaerobic digestion, sound waves, biogas, and the list goes on and on. Still, with all these types of available energy there are poor countries that cannot afford to replace their energy sources so it is important to find cheap ways of producing renewable energy, but until then it is important that countries partner up to fight for their ecosystems sustainability through the provision of renewable energy. This would be a slow process, but it will slowly morph our fuel system. Implementing environmental classes that would teach about renewable resources would help students understand the importance of sustaining the ecosystem through renewable energy. This would defeat thoughts of a false non endangered reality. Lastly, propaganda spread through different methods would help spread the word and educate people about the advantages of reusable energy.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

Asia/Pacific: Stronger Collaboration for Greater Energy Access

Western: have developed technology for renewable energy, but its not efficient enough for their standard of living.

Europe: The latest report from 2015 states that 25 EU countries are expected to meet their 2013/2014 interim renewable energy target. The EU's 2020 renewables target has resulted in around 326 Mt of avoided CO2 emissions in 2012, rising to 388 Mt in 2013

Middle East: thrives on oil industry so renewable energy would be a huge disadvantage

V. Questions to Consider

What is your your country's policy on renewable energy?

What has your country done to encourage people to use reusable energy?

Can your country afford to switch over to renewable energy and if not what are some solutions to that issue?

Will switching to renewable energy hurt your country's economy?

What are cheap ways of producing renewable energy to help countries in poverty?