

**Freshman #7**

TOPIC:alternative energy sources


# SOCOMUN XXVI

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Alternative Energy Sources

 Hello delegates, my name is Macy Lustig and I will be one of your co-chairs for your SOCOMUN committee this year. Currently, I am a junior at Santa Margarita and have been in MUN going on three years. MUN has helped me with so many great things going into high school, including helping me make great friends from many different schools, improving my public speaking skills, as well as creating tools that I will need later in life such as know how to work together in large groups easily. Furthermore, by joining the MUN program, I have had many great opportunities that I would not find elsewhere in high school such as travelling to Georgetown. This year, I am also attending a prestigious conference with my MUN program in London, England. At MUN, I particularly enjoy the committees focused on protecting the environment from harm as well as providing rights and resources for all people around the world. I truly believe that by starting with these fundamental issues, even in Model UN, we will be able to make a drastic change for the better for the future generations. Outside of MUN, I participate in Track and Field, numerous clubs, as well as ASB at SM.

 SOCOMUN is a great conference where all freshman and first year MUN students come to learn about the great program. This conference is meant to help guide the delegates through the amazing, yet rigorous process of MUN to make sure it is thoroughly understood. The committee will start with the delegates giving speeches about their solutions on how to spread affordable and clean energy throughout the world. During the process of letting all of the delegates have a chance to speak, there will be informal meeting, called caucuses where all of the representatives will be able to come together to discuss their solutions and form papers called resolutions. To fully participate as a delegate, it is strongly encouraged that all delegated take the stance that the country they are representing has on the topic, along with understanding what affordable and clean energy is alone. I completely understand that MUN is a different and new program for many, so please do not hesitate to contact me at, socomunfresh7@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting all of you!

**Background:**

 Alternative energy is an energy source which provides the necessary energy that is needed while holding back the negative effects that energy sources, such as fossils fuels, have on the environment. Fossil fuels, which are coal, oil and natural gas, are harmful forms of energy which release an excess amount of carbon into the atmosphere, which eventually leads to global warming which effects the health of humans, the environment, as well as the climate negatively. There are numerous different types of alternative energy sources to combat these global effects that can be used around the world for things such as house, car, and factory power that is necessary in the modernized world. Some common forms of the alternative energy include solar, hydroelectric, wind, as well as biomass energy. Another type of clean and affordable energy is nuclear energy. A pencil eraser is the size of the amount of nuclear energy necessary to match almost 150 gallons of oil. This type of energy is obviously extremely powerful, however, there are many safety risks that come along with it including implementing it carefully into a society. Through these different resources, humans will eventually be have the ability to reduce the carbon footprint that is left behind on the earth. Even though these energy sources may seem like an obvious choice to implement to take the place of other damaging forms of energy, it is an extremely challenging process. For example, fossil fuels are a much more accessible and easy form of energy in the short term for many places around the world. Because of this, many do not see the lasting effects that this has on the planet and opt for this harmful, and diminishing energy. Further, many developing countries have a difficult time creating a new energy infrastructure, seeing that it would be required for them to disperse of their existing one. Also, many counties may have difficulties investing in renewable energy sources due to a company’s monopoly on the energy sources in the area reducing the likelihood of the government to implement this clean energy. Finally, one deficit facing the implementation of these clean energy sources in the lack of the ability to operate the machines in developing nations. While still considering all of these challenges that the international community faces, it is still adamant that countries around the world consider the lasting positive effects that this clean energy has, while understanding the various challenges that the different terrain and infrastructure that different countries may have.

**Possible Solutions:**

 While the solutions that are provided are important and necessary towards creating a world with renewable and clean energy, it is still necessary for the delegate to create plausible, creative solutions in order to be the best represented possible. Through building upon and creating new solutions in addition these to combat the issue of fossil fuels on the environment, delegates in this committee will be able to stand out in committee as well as work collaboratively with other delegates during the conference. It is also important that while creating the solutions that the delegates understand the position of the country they are representing on this topic. Finally, it is not necessary for delegates to focus on the monetary aspect of creating these energy sources because it will be addressed later in the World Bank and Fifth Committee.

 One solution that should be focused on in committee is the implementation of territory specific alternative energy sources that are affordable for developing countries. One way that this can be accomplished is by working together with regional NGO’s, such as REA, or Renewable Energy Agency, in order to insure the accessibility to the clean energy for all. These NGOs would work together with UN representatives to raise funding, work with governments, and eventually create the affordable energy plants in the global community.

 Another solution that should be focused on during this conference is the educational aspect for the international community in order for these people to understand the effects that the fossil fuels have on the earth. Some ways that education can be spread globally is through social media, television, as well as in person seminars. With this education comes awareness for the problem at hand. These educational platforms also would have the ability to serve as training for people to learn how to use this renewable energy in the most efficient way and also build the infrastructure for this specifically. Delegates need to be sure to understand the areas where this energy is needed most urgently and use this information to direct their solutions.

 Another possible solution that should be focused on during this conference is the implementation of nuclear power plants along with the benefits and risks that go along with them. In order to be a prepared delegate, solutions are needed that are well planned and creative. With solutions like these, the solution to the accessibility to affordable and clean energy will become apparent.

**Questions to consider:**

The following questions are provided for you to consider as you research, but are not necessary to explicitly answer at the conference.

1. Regarding the issue, what is your country policy? Does your country have the ability to implement these alternative and clean energy sources in your country?

2. How can the United Nations help developing countries with the task of converting to clean energy?
3. Has your country taken any strides towards creating a cleaner future with this energy?

4. What types of alternative energy does your country believe would be best fit for the terrain that is in your country?

5. Are there any bodies or organizations, such as non-government organizations (NGOs) that would be helpful for the dispersion and training that would be necessary to move forward with the alternative energy devices?

6. Should the use of clean energy become an international standard? Does your country believe that it is important to implement this energy?

7. How will your country help other countries with this issue, seeing that the fossil fuels are diminishing and are extremely harmful for the environment?

8. Does your country believe that education and training about the effects and benefits of clean energy is necessary?

Work Cited

"Alternative Energy Sources- Overview." Alternative Energy Sources. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Apr. 2017.; <http://alternativeenergysourcesv.com/>

 This article acknowledges the advantages of common energy sources. These include Solar, Biomass, Wind, and Hydroelectric energy. Lastly, this article addresses some new energy sources such as Geothermal and Tidal Power. Based on the information in the article it would be effective to use the information on Geothermal and Tidal power because it was not listed in the other sources that were found. Additionally, it would be useful to compare how geothermal and tidal power are similar to the current energy sources and how they provide the same operational use.

"Benefits of Renewable Energy Use." Union of Concerned Scientists. UNDP, n.d. Web. 6 Apr. 2017.; http://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/renewable-energy/public-benefits-of-renewable-power#.WORvCG\_yvBU

 This article states the benefits of the use of renewable energy. It specifically talks about the improvement of public health, economic benefits, and reliable energy systems. In addition to addressing these possible impacts or outcomes, it also reveals possible solutions. These solutions reveal information on ways to address an environmental crisis. This article also provides graphs to visually depict the benefits of using the energy sources previously listed. This source is efficient and effective because this information is provided by scientists whose jobs are to find more ways to create a safer and better world.

"Energy Sources: Pros and Cons." Www.dlist.org. N.p., n.d. Web. 6 Apr. 2017.; <http://www.dlist.org/burning-issues/energy-sources-what-are-the-pros-and-cons>

 This article provides the pros and cons for non-renewable and renewable energy. It gives a strong argument as to why some energy sources are effective and how some are detrimental to the society and the environment. It also provides extra links to confirm the information used that allows the reader to see that this is a trusted source. These links provide the same energy sources provided but on a more global scale and how it currently affects different countries. Lastly, the data taken from all of the sources is sponsored and funded by the UNDP and the Global Environment Facility.

Beck, Fredric, and Eric Martinot. "Renewable Energy Policy and Barriers." *Encyclopedia of Energy* 5 (2004): 365-83. Elsevier Inc. Web. 5 Apr. 2017. <http://74.91.228.224/Beck\_Martinot\_AP.pdf>.

 Redric and Martinot are both professors with extensive background in the field of affordable energy. They produced this paper to outline some of what they thought was the best work done in their carreers. It discusses countless solutions that have been tried and tested and others that they believe should be. It is an excellent source for both background and solutions because it so all encompassing. I think this is one of the best sources that I have ever seen soley because it goes over all the policies that have ever been tried.

"Alternative Energy - ProCon.org." Can Alternative Energy Effectively Replace Fossil Fuels? ProCon.Org, n.d. Web. 04 Apr. 2017. <<http://alternativeenergy.procon.org/>>.

 This website is dedicated to exploring the pros and cons of controversial issues, in this case alternative energy.  It is credible because it presents both sides of the argument.  It also drills down to specific projects or issues within the topic, such as the Dakota Access Pipeline, and provides the top 3 pros and cons on that specific topic.  It is a good source to look through to make sure you are considering all sides of the argument when it comes to alternative energy.

Massey, Nathanael, and ClimateWire. "Solution to Renewable Energy's Intermittency Problem: More Renewable Energy." Scientific American. Scientific American, 12 Dec. 2012. Web. 01 Apr. 2017. <<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/solution-to-renewable-energy-more-renewable-energy/>>.

 This article comes from the highly-regarded news magazine, Scientific American. It is a good source of solutions as it explores a mix of various renewable energy options that are available.  The article relies on the data of a study on the use of renewable energy and how viable that is in the real world, so it has a lot of practical value. This magazine is used to help with good solutions for the topic.

"Renewable Energy Sources Could Be Cheaper than Fossil Fuels within 10 Years – UN-backed Report." UN News Center. United Nations, 03 Apr. 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017. <<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56489#.WOf0lzsrJEY>>.

 This article appears on the United Nations website about a new UN-backed report on renewable energy. According to the article, the report confirms that “renewable power will dominate in the future.” The website and article are highly credible as they come from the United Nations itself, and the report is also highly credible as significant research goes into the findings.

Davison, Alan. "Alternative Energy." Alternative Energy - Wind and Solar Energy Sources. N.p., n.d. Web. 6 Apr. 2017.; <http://www.altenergy.org/>

 This article specifies the benefits of only Solar and Wind energy. They are compared as well as contrasted to exemplify the big differences but the benefits that are provided when both are used. Not only are Solar and Wind energy discussed but it provides information about biomass, hydroelectric energy, and energy through hot hydrogen fusion. This article would be effective because it sheds a light on the importance and availability of Solar and Wind energy but also compares other energies to how they are similar. This article also contains a section that provides information on how a country is able to achieve 100% renewable energy.

"Renewable and Alternative Energies | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization." Renewable and Alternative Energies | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. UNESCO, n.d. Web. 03 Apr. 2017. <<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/science-technology/engineering/renewable-and-alternative-energies/>>.

 This UNESCO article summarizes the various forms of renewable and alternative energy that are available today.  It also discusses how the group is helping to promote these as part of its program outreach to achieve its climate change goals.  The information on the site is very credible, and it underscores the efforts that global agencies are engaged in to help promote renewable and alternative energies around the world. This is not only a good source for background but also for practical solutions by looking at what solutions have already been implemented.

The United Nations. *AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY* (n.d.): n. pag. *Un.org*. The United Nations, 5 Apr. 2017. Web. 7 Apr. 2017. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/7\_Why-it-Matters\_Goal-7\_CleanEnergy\_2p.pdf>.

 This source is a pamphlet released by the United Nations describing the United Nation’s continued goal to make sure that all people have access to Affordable and Clean Energy. This is an unbiased informational standard-setting pamphlet that goes over the goals set forth by the Secretary General in the Sustainable Development Goals. This source is useful to the understanding of this topic because it clearly outlines the problems that are facing many people who do not have access to Clean and Affordable energy.