



How can we live more sustainably?



FACT FILE

There is a global challenge to ensure that everyone can enjoy a comfortable and fulfilling life without causing damage to the environment.

We can apply principles of sustainability to our own lives – reducing waste, reusing bags and packaging, turning taps off, avoiding 'wear once' clothes as examples.

Resources can be renewable and infinite or non-renewable and finite.

Renewable resources are natural resources which will replenish to replace the portion depleted such as air, water, wind and solar.

A non-renewable resource is a resource of economic value that cannot be readily replaced by natural means at a quick enough pace to keep up with consumption. Coal, crude oil and natural gas are examples.

The UK Government is looking to increase the contribution of renewable energy, such as solar and wind, to generate electricity.

Solar-powered panels convert the sun's rays into electricity by exciting electrons in silicon cells using the photons of light from the sun.

Wind turbines - The energy in the wind turns two or three propeller-like blades around a rotor. The rotor is connected to the main shaft, which spins a generator to create electricity.

There are many ways we can help all countries develop sustainable living. Introducing solar cookers in some of the world's poorest countries makes the lives of people more sustainable.

Vocabulary

Sustainable - humans to live with little or no damage to the environment.

Unsustainable - not able to be maintained at the current rate or level.

Reusable - able to be used again or more than once.

Solar – relating to the sun

Turbine - rotary mechanical device that takes energy from a fluid flow and converts it into electrical power when combined with a generator.

Rechargeable – can be charged many times rather than discarded after one use.

Conservation – to use natural resources carefully including protecting species from extinction.

Consumption - the action of using up a resource

Recycle - is the process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects.

Electricity - is the presence and flow of electric charge (electrons) in one direction.

Power station – industrial site that generates electric power and usually connected to the National Grid.

Finite - limited in size or extent

Infinite - describes things that are endless

Biodiversity – variety of life on Earth

Greenhouse gases – gas that absorbs radiant energy – examples are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Pollution – something that contaminates (spoils) the natural environment.

Atmosphere - is the layer of gases, commonly known as air, that surrounds the planet Earth and is retained by Earth's gravity.

Fossil fuels - coal, fuel oil or natural gas, formed from the remains of dead plants and animals.

Glacier - is a huge mass of ice that moves slowly over land.