



The different ways to generate electricity

National Curriculum

This activity supports work in:

PSHE/ CITIZENSHIP

Developing confidence and responsibility:

1a) To talk and write about their opinions, and explain their views, on issues that affect themselves and society.

Preparing to play an active role as citizens:

2a) To research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events.

2j) That resources can be allocated in different ways and that these economic choices affect individuals, communities and the sustainability of the environment.

Also supports work in:

ENGLISH

En3 Writing, Planning and drafting:

2a) Plan – note and develop initial ideas.

2b) Draft – develop ideas from the plan into structured text.

Breadth of study:

9c) To persuade, focusing on how arguments and evidence are built up and language used to convince the reader.

How to use the worksheet



The children can find out about the different ways of generating electricity. As they do so they should think about the good and bad points of each method.



They can then choose (or be allocated) one method of generating electricity to research further. Ask them to consider how they would convince an audience that this is the best method. In addition to identifying the good points, they should also consider any arguments people might present against it, and how they can respond to these.



Ask them which methods they think cause pollution. You could discuss what pollution means and the children could look it up in a dictionary. They are likely to mention poisonous gases in the air or chemicals in water and the soil but they might not think of noise pollution. You could help them to find out about regulations on minimum distances between wind turbines and homes.



Ask the children to comment on how each method affects the appearance of the landscape and whether or not they like it.



Did you know?

- 1 No method of producing electricity is perfect. Each one has its merits and different types of power station are suitable in different areas. The children should bear in mind that different points are important to different people.
- 2 Local newspapers (including archive material) can provide useful information about how people have responded to proposals for electricity generation in their locality.



What is your favourite type of energy?



Good or bad electricity?

There are different ways of generating electricity. Each one has good points and bad.

1 Find out more about one of these ways of generating electricity and what is good about using it.

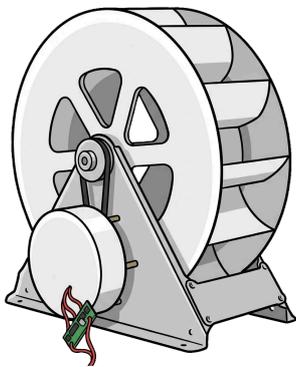
**COAL-FIRED
POWER STATION**



**WIND
GENERATOR**



**WIND
HYDROELECTRIC
GENERATOR**



**NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT**

2 Plan a speech to persuade people to support this way of generating electricity. Write the main points to support your argument below.

I think the best way of generating electricity is _____

This is because _____

Conclusion _____



List an argument people might give against the way of generating electricity you chose. Write what you would say to defend your choice.