

# Clean Energy

## Power From the Sun and Wind

### Learn about Earth-friendly energy

What do people need to light their homes and drive cars? Energy! It gives power to many things we need and use.

Most of the energy people use comes from coal, oil, and gas. They are called fossil fuels. Those fuels come from fossils under the ground. Fossils are the remains of plants and animals that lived long ago.

Burning fossil fuels pollutes the air. The air becomes dirty. That can be harmful to people, animals, and plants.

Now more people are using clean energy. Such energy does not pollute the air. Two kinds of clean energy are wind power and solar power. *Solar* means "from the sun."

### Solar Power



Construction Photography/Corbis

The sun gives Earth heat and light. Some homes have solar panels on the roof. The panels collect sunlight and turn it into **electricity**. That is a kind of energy. It lets people do many things. For example, we use electricity to light our homes and watch television. Solar power can also be used to warm up the water in our homes.



WENN/Newscom

*The Antro Solo is a solar-powered car.*

## Wind Power

People can turn wind energy into electricity. Wind turbines are machines that spin when the wind blows. They make electricity.



Raimund Koch/Corbis

*Wind turbines are often as tall as 20-story buildings. The blades can be more than 100 feet long.*

Wind turbines are grouped together in wind farms. Some wind farms have hundreds of wind turbines. The Roscoe Wind Farm in Texas has 627 turbines. They can power 230,000 homes.

## Gasping for Air



A study says that kids living in areas with air pollution are more likely to develop asthma than kids who live in other areas. Asthma is an illness that makes breathing difficult. Over 5 million children in the United States suffer from asthma.

More than 3,500 kids, ages 9 to 16, who lived in California took part in the study. About half of those kids lived in areas that had lots of air pollution. The other half lived in areas that had clean air. All the children played outdoor sports.

After studying the kids for five years, doctors found that about 260 of them developed asthma. Most of the kids who developed asthma lived in towns that had lots of air pollution. Doctors say that breathing too much polluted air caused the asthma cases.

A California health official said the study shows the need to do more to prevent air pollution. Doctors say that children should still play outside but only on days when air pollution isn't bad.