

Imagining a world without fossil fuels

Can you imagine a world without fossil fuels? In this video, former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres outlines her vision of a world that's entirely free of fossil fuels.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–j) with the vocabulary (1–10).

Vocabulary

1. fossil fuels
2. fumes
3. abundant
4. the grid
5. to subsidise
6. greenhouse gases
7. to plummet
8. a commodity market
9. to bend the curve of emissions
- 10..... a side effect

Definition

- a. to pay part of the cost of something
- b. to go down in amount very quickly and suddenly
- c. an unwanted or unexpected result
- d. more than enough
- e. trade in large quantities of substances or products such as oil
- f. gases, especially carbon dioxide, that prevent heat from the earth escaping into space
- g. fuels, such as gas, coal and oil, that were formed underground millions of years ago
- h. to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and global warming
- i. strong, unpleasant and sometimes dangerous gas or smoke
- j. connection to the main supply of electricity, water, etc.

Task 1

Put the ideas in the correct group.

Groups

1. The world now with fossil fuels

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.....

2. The imagined world without fossil fuels

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.....

Ideas

- a. Energy is abundant for billions of years.
- b. Electricity is available for everyone.
- c. We smell car, bus and truck fumes.
- d. Public health improves.
- e. There is a lot of traffic noise.
- f. Governments spend a lot of money on protecting underground fuel sources and pipes.
- g. Fossil fuels are no longer used.
- h. Smog and greenhouse gases affect public health.

Task 2

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| challenges | dangers | emissions | energy system |
| Fossil fuels | global transformation | subsidise | wind power |

1. Governments will save money if they no longer fossil-fuel production.
2. Our is undergoing an unstoppable transformation.
3. The coal-fired power industry is being rapidly replaced by sun and
4. Our collective mission is to bend the curve of
5. have made an extraordinary contribution to humanity.
6. Now that we understand the of fossil fuels, we should no longer use them.
7. The journey to a fossil-fuel-free future is the most exciting we have ever seen.
8. Renewable energy is the answer to so many in the world.

Discussion

Did you learn anything new from the video?

Answers

Preparation task

1. g
2. i
3. d
4. j
5. a
6. f
7. b
8. e
9. h
10. c

Task 1

1. c, e, f, h
2. a, b, d, g

Task 2

1. subsidise
2. energy system
3. wind power
4. emissions
5. Fossil fuels
6. dangers
7. global transformation
8. challenges