

Debate



Trent Beckett

All of us rely on an electricity supply. I am a professional musician and we need electricity for our instruments and recording. I also like to watch tv and films and play video games and there seem to be more and more things to do each year! I don't want to back to a time when we didn't have these things.

Fact: Many of our power stations are reaching the end of their lives and we can change to renewable energy if we start now. And this can be done locally with less impact than big projects.

Issue: The increasing demand for energy means that we need to think about this as a community not just as individuals.

Question: Which would you prefer to have? Wind farms and hydro plants which are much less polluting and even look better than the huge old power stations blighting the landscape!

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Brian Kirkham

To meet our energy needs we must build lots of new windfarms solar farms but these tend to be away from where the electricity is needed. Local hydro plants can be built close to where they are needed. We need to do this so that businesses can stay competitive and we can all afford our electricity bills.

Fact: Generating your electricity close to where it is needed is more efficient than generating a long way away and wasting most of it in distribution

Issue: Solar and wind can provide lots of renewable energy but water can help to contribute to a consistent and reliable supply.

Question: How can we move away from using fossil fuels unless we use all renewable energy sources available to us?

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Len Bramley

I bought a house in this village so that I can get away from it all and enjoy the outdoors. I love it. And now there is this plan for a hydro plant and lots of disruption. It is all about 'renewables' now instead of good old fashioned coal and gas fired power stations. I am not really convinced about global warming – scientists can be wrong.

Fact: Global temperatures have gone up and down in the past.

Issue: If humans aren't causing global warming then we can carry on as we are with our existing supplies. And a local hydro scheme will be very expensive to install

Question: Who is going to pay for these 'community renewables'? Where is the money to come from? We could concentrate on using less energy and having more efficient appliances.

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Fran Wilson

I love wildlife especially otters which are such beautiful, graceful, playful creatures. I fell in love with them as a child and went on to study zoology where I found out that higher predators like otters can show that you've got a healthy ecosystem. Now I work for a conservation trust helping to protect these and other animals and educate people about them.

Fact: Hydro plants like these need to be carefully planned to make sure that they don't disrupt the wildlife.

Issue: The wildlife and health of the ecosystem are what is really important. Animals like otters are shy and easily disturbed.

Question: Is our growing need for energy more important than the habitats for animals to thrive in? Individuals can put up their own solar panels rather than spoil the countryside.

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