

POLITICS OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Purpose:

You are a team of energy policy advisors with various backgrounds tasked with trying to research and draft a national energy policy. The policy is initiative by the US government to promote long-term environmental, economic and industrial health. **In a group of 4, compose a 5-10 minute argument (with Google Docs) with visuals that clearly state what you think governments are, can, and should, and/or shouldn't be doing to promote green/alternative/sustainable energy and curb carbon emissions.** You can create a general argument or choose a specific energy to focus on.

>> QUESTIONS to ANSWER DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR PRESENTATION <<

1. **WINNERS AND LOSERS:** Who are the losers with this plan? Who stands to gain the most? How will these constituents be convinced/dealt with/brought on board?
2. **ACTUAL REDUCTION:** What is the actual predicted long-term and short-term reduction in dangerous fossil fuel emissions? What technologies/methods are most supporting?
3. **PUBLIC PERCEPTION:** How does Japan 3/11 (and other resource management issues) affect possibilities/public opinion? What do your average citizens think, and what are the obstacles and challenges to gaining support of public opinion?
4. **LEGISLATION:** How will you pass legislation to support it?
5. **COST:** Who will pay for this? How will it affect the global economy? How will it affect local and national economies? How does this affect a highly developed country, vs. a developing country?
6. **Policy Name:** Come up with a catchy and/or meaningful name.

Any or all of the following topics can also be included in your argument:

- Energy Subsidies
- Taxes and Tax Incentives
- Public Opinion Challenges and Opportunities in various regions
- Mandates
- Climate Bills
- Education and Social Awareness
- Investment in Research (private or public)
- Cap and Trade Laws
- Long-Term Regional Agreements
- Trade Tariffs

What will make your argument good?:

- Use examples of methods that have worked in the past or may be working now
- Cite viable sources for your argument

- Talk about broad *and* specific examples (i.e. what can be done in general? What can be done with bio-fuel in the Midwest?)
- If you know there are specific drawbacks to an idea, point them out but also point out why the positives outweigh drawbacks.
- Include goals and dates.
- Include good visuals and graphs.
- Consider all economic classes.
- Consider the realities of globalization and the current national economy.
- Divide and conquer! Don't all research the same things.

Participation rule:

- Everyone must speak during the presentation.
- Split up the work so that your argument covers multiple perspectives

TIMELINE:

Class 1: Project Introduced + Groups Created : Begin Design

Class 2: Energy Expert Visit: William Kipp

Class 3: Research and Work Day in Teams – Use Google Docs

Class 4: Presentations

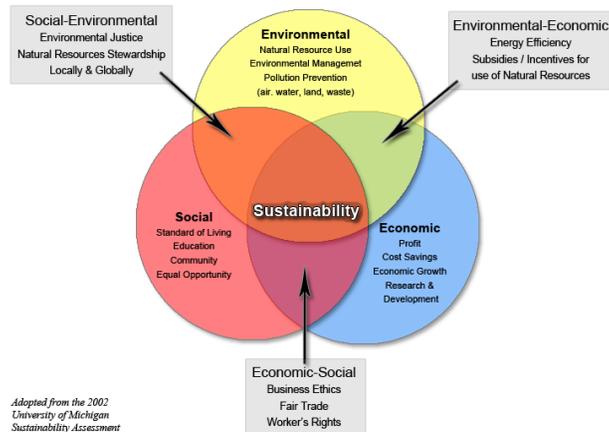
Assessment

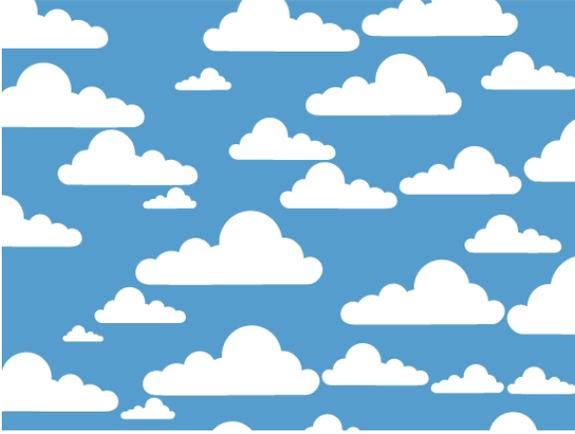
A = Class time used to prepare argument. Clearly demonstrate research during presentation by actively participating.

B = Class time used to prepare argument. Unclear argument but participation still apparent.

C and Below = Time used poorly and/or unclear that you were an active member of your group.

The Three Spheres of Sustainability





RESOURCES: What does an international climate/energy agreement look like?

★**Example: Kyoto Protocol (Major Points)**

<http://globalclimate.epri.com/doc/0110723.pdf>

In accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, Contracting Parties from developed countries are committed to reducing their combined greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 per cent from 1990 levels by the period 2008-2012. The targets cover the six main greenhouse gases, namely, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), along with some activities in the land-use change and forestry sector that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (carbon "sinks"). Each Contracting Party from developed countries is required to have made demonstrable progress in implementing its emission reduction commitments by 2005.

Implementation of the legally binding Protocol commitments promises to produce an historic reversal of the upward trend in emissions from developed countries.

The Kyoto Protocol also establishes three innovative mechanisms, known as joint implementation, emissions trading and the clean development mechanism, which are designed to help Contracting Parties included in Annex I of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce the costs of meeting their emission targets. The clean development mechanism also aims to promote sustainable development in developing countries. The operational details of these mechanisms are now being fleshed out by the Contracting Parties.

The procedure for the communication and review of information is established in the Kyoto Protocol. **Contracting Parties from developed countries are required to incorporate in their national communications the supplementary information necessary to demonstrate compliance with their commitments under the Protocol in accordance with guidelines to be developed. The information submitted shall be reviewed by expert review teams,** pursuant to guidelines established by the Conference of the Parties, which is the supreme body that shall regularly review and promote effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

The Protocol provides that the Contracting Parties shall periodically review the Protocol in the light of the best available scientific information and assessment on climate change and its impacts. The first review will take place at the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Further reviews shall take place at regular intervals and in a timely manner. A framework for a compliance system is required to be developed under the Protocol.

★**Example: Latest UN Climate Conference in Qatar**
<http://www.cop18.qa/news/singlestory.aspx?id=297>

- 1) *Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol*
- 2) *Time table for the 2015 global climate change agreement & increasing ambition before 2020*
- 3) *Completion of new infrastructure*
- 4) *Long-term climate finance*

★**Resource:NAMA projects (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions)**
http://www.nama-database.org/index.php/Main_Page

★**Resource: US and Global Energy Use Database:**
<http://www.eia.gov/>
<http://www.dsireusa.org/> (database of existing incentives for renewable)
<http://www.epa.gov/> (Environmental Protection Agency)

★**The Globalist Debate: China, the United States and Green Tech**
Renewable Energy and the Clash of Civilizations
<http://www.theglobalist.com/storyid.aspx?storyid=9890>
The Dangerous Appeal of China's Green Mercantilism
<http://www.theglobalist.com/storyid.aspx?storyid=9894>