



Weekly Newsletter Special Edition: April 26, 2005

SOLAR ENERGY

Citizens around the world, especially in the United States, are becoming increasingly aware of the energy problems that we are facing. Currently the cost of a barrel of oil is hovering above \$50 in the United States. Earlier this year the price of oil peaked at its all time highest in history at \$58.28. With the loss of several natural resources and the climbing cost of oil, the necessity to use renewable energy sources is becoming increasingly important. In the future renewable energy, such as wind, hydropower, biomass, methane, geothermal, and solar energy, will be important areas of research to develop and improve. Solar energy is a huge energy source, for the sun provides Earth with enough power in fifteen minutes to supply energy to the planet for a full year. Now we need to learn how to harness and use this energy to its full capacity. If you would like to learn more about solar energy, please take a look at these interesting links:

Interesting Links

<http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/ed/SM/ch1-general/whatis.htm> (Solar Energy Facts)

http://www.nrel.gov/clean_energy/student_teacher.html (Renewable Energy Sources)

<http://www.infinitepower.org/lessonplans.htm> (Renewable Energy Lesson Plans)



People in underdeveloped nations rely on solar cooking to prepare their food. Check out:



<http://peacecorps.mtu.edu/gk.htm>

<http://www.un.org/works/sustainable/bertila.html>



Using Solar Energy in North Carolina

You can help save energy and use solar energy by participating in the NC GreenPower Program, which provides each customer a 100-kilowatt-hour block of green power. This energy comes from solar, wind and biomass resources at any extra cost of \$4 per month. To learn about Progress-Energy's commitment to the environment and renewable resources go to

<http://www.progress-energy.com/custservice/carres/greenpower/index.asp>

Williston Solar Energy Festival

On Friday April 29th, Williston will be hosting a sixth grade solar energy festival. Students will be research and designing various solar ovens throughout the week, focusing on box, panel, and solar funnel cookers. At the end of the week, the students will be testing their handcrafted ovens by cooking hot dogs and have a cookout during lunch. If you would like to visit the Williston cookout, please RSVP to Lindsey and come by on Friday at 10:30 a.m. Visit solarcooking.org to make your own solar cooker and learn about box, panel, solar funnel, and parabolic solar ovens. You can also check out:

<http://www.solarnow.org/pizzabx.htm>

<http://www.knowledgehound.com/topics/solarcoo.htm>

<http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/net02833/pringle.htm>

