

Energy Top Trumps

Objective

- To raise awareness about the positive and negative factors that influence our renewable and non-renewable energy choices
- To consider the need for alternative energy choices
- To appreciate our power as consumers and the choices we make

Activity outline

Create a set of giant top trump cards with the following energy titles, a line of explanation and a drawing/photo under each. Add any more you think appropriate;

- Wind
- Electricity
- Solar
- Geothermal
- Coal
- Gas
- Oil
- Nuclear
- Biomass
- Wave...

On each card add the following categories accompanied by an 'environmental' score out of ten next to each, eg 0 = bad, 10 = excellent. Add any more you think appropriate;

- Build cost
- Lifespan
- Visual impact
- CO2 production
- Noise level
- Green friend or foe...

One by one, present each giant top trump card to the class and encourage discussion about each of the categories. Hide your scores from the class and invite individuals to score, and then compare to your original scoring.

Learning outcomes

- Find out about and assess environmental impact of renewable and non-renewable energy
- Assessing a subject in terms of economic, environmental, and social factors, (could use the Development Compass Rose)

- Discussing, debating and interacting in groups

Possible follow-up/feedback discussion

Create additional sets of giant top trump cards on other themes of environmental sustainability e.g. food, recycling, transport ...

Ask children to investigate and discuss what sources of renewable and non-renewable energy are available domestically and commercially in Cornwall, compared to the rest of the UK.

Create a top trump card of their own school.

Present children with hand-outs and press snippets relating to current controversial renewable and non-renewable energy developments in Cornwall, e.g. St Dennis incinerator proposal, wave hub on the north coast.

Resources

- A3 card
- Photographs
- Coloured pens
- Interactive white board
- Development Compass Rose