



# Why is sustainability important for our planet?



#### What should I already know?

- What is geography?
- What is a habitat?
- Why is our environment important?



#### Sustainability

- Human geography is a study of how we impact the environment around us.
- Natural resources are things that we find that we can use or consume. Fossil fuels like coal and oil are a good example of this.
- Until recently, the only way we made energy wasn't sustainable. It caused there to be a lot of pollution and risked us running out of fossil fuels.
- Many countries around the world are now trying to reduce their impact on the environment by creating more sustainable power sources.
- Wind farms, solar panels and hydroelectric turbines all use natural energy to produce electricity that is sustainable.

#### Technical vocabulary

energy	Power that can be stored and/or used to perform different tasks
Natural	Something that is found, not made.
resource	Something that we use or consume.
impact	The consequences of our actions
Steam power	The heating of water to produce steam that powers engines
nuclear	Using plutonium and uranium to heat water to power steam turbines
turbine	A wheel that turns when water or steam is pushed against it
Wind farm	Wind turbines that generate electricity as the wind pushes them
solar	Panels that collect light and heat and turn them into electricity
hydroelectric	A series of turbines that are moved by steam or water
Sustainable	something that doesn't run out
Renewable	A form of energy that can keep being used
Fossil fuels	Materials like coal or oil that are used to generate electricity but will run out
Pollution	Something harmful or unwanted when you use or create energy
environment	The conditions of the world around us

#### Renewable energy in the Forest of Dean

##### Wind

Wind turbines can be found in the Forest of Dean but not as much as other places (like coastal towns or cities). There is a big wind turbine in St Briavels and more nearby in places like Lydney. Some people say that wind power is very ugly and ruins the landscape. Because of this, many wind turbines are kept off the shore above the sea.

##### Solar

Solar panels can now be found on top of many homes across the Forest of Dean. These allow for water to be heated without using power from any other source. Big solar panel farms can also be found in Coleford (see the photo on the right). These provide power for many homes but take up a lot of space.



#### What will I know by the end of the unit?

- How humans have impacted our environment when creating and using energy.
- How many countries in the world are trying to reduce their impact on the environment by using sustainable energy.
- How the Forest of Dean uses sustainable energy.
- Why sustainable energy is important for our environment.