



Wattage Waster: Has his tentacles around every device!

ACTIVITY 2

KIDS KNOW EVERY KIND OF ENERGY

Do you know where your electrical energy comes from? In Virginia, electricity is generated from a variety of energy sources, including nuclear, coal, natural gas, petroleum, hydroelectric, and renewables like solar and biofuels. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the majority of Virginia's electricity is generated from non-renewable energy sources, including nuclear (36.4%), coal (34.9%), and natural gas (23.3%); and a smaller portion is generated from renewable energy sources including hydroelectric (2.1%), biomass, solar and wind.

Find out more about how we power the electrical grid in our state by visiting "Energy 101" at the Virginia Energy Sense website (www.virginiaenergysense.org/energy-101). Then work in small groups to learn more about each energy source and its environmental and economic impacts. Research the energy source assigned to your group using the Internet resources listed here and other resources you may discover online. Collect your findings in the charts below, and work together to prepare a class presentation about the energy source you have investigated.

ELECTRICAL ENERGY SOURCE INFORMATION

- U.S. Department of Energy: energy.gov/science-innovation/energy-sources
- Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME): dmme.virginia.gov/DE/VEP_TitlePage.html
dmme.virginia.gov/dgmr/energyreso.shtml
- The Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research: energy.vt.edu/vept/energyover/index.asp
- Center for Wind Energy at James Madison University: <http://wind.jmu.edu/communityengagement/windenergybasics.html>
- George Mason University: <http://facilities.gmu.edu/PhysicalPlant/Energy/alternateSources.cfm>
- National Energy Education Development Project (NEED): need.org/Files/curriculum/guides/Intermediate%20Energy%20Infobook.pdf

BACKGROUND INFORMATION	
Energy Source:	
Percentage of Virginia's electrical power generated from this source:	
Where this energy source comes from: (Is it found in Virginia? Imported?)	
Other uses of this energy source: (Does it power vehicles? Furnaces?)	

ENERGY SOURCE & IMPACTS	ECONOMIC	ENVIRONMENTAL

OUR RECOMMENDATION



VALUE YOUR POWER
VIRGINIA ENERGY SENSE