

Topic 4: Write a persuasive essay explaining why we should transition to renewable energy sources. In your essay, consider the environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy and how it can help to mitigate climate change. Use evidence and examples to support your argument.

A large chunk of the greenhouse gases that blanket the Earth and trap the sun's heat are generated through energy production, by burning fossil fuels to generate electricity and heat. Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, are by far the largest contributor to global climate change, accounting for over 75 percent per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions. *Cite the source of information!*

How can renewable energy stave off the worst effects of rising temperatures?

Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind don't emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is produced using natural resources that are constantly replaced and never run out. Just as there are many natural sources of energy, there are many renewable energy technologies.

The most popular renewable energy sources currently are:

Solar energy

Wind energy

Hydro energy

Tidal energy

Geothermal energy

Biomass energy

What are the benefits of renewable energy?

1. Renewable energy sources are all around us.

About 80 percent of the global population lives in countries that are net-importers of fossil fuels — that's about 6 billion people who are dependent on fossil fuels from other countries, which makes them making them vulnerable to geopolitical shocks and crises. In contrast, renewable energy sources are available in all countries, and their potential is yet to be fully harnessed.

2. Renewable energy is cheaper

Renewable energy actually is the cheapest power option in most parts of the world today. Prices for renewable energy technologies are dropping rapidly. The cost of electricity from solar power fell by 85 percent between 2010 and 2020. Massively cutting carbon emissions and helping to mitigate climate change.

3. Renewable energy is healthier

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), about 99 percent of people in the world breathe polluted air that threatens their health. More than 13 million deaths around the world each year are due to avoidable environmental causes, including air pollution. In 2018, air pollution from fossil fuels caused \$2.9 trillion in health and economic costs, about \$8 billion a day.

Switching to clean sources of energy, such as wind and solar, thus helps address not only climate change but also air pollution and health.

4. Renewable energy creates jobs

Every dollar of investment in renewables creates three times more jobs than in the fossil fuel industry. The IEA estimates that the transition towards net-zero emissions will lead to an overall increase in energy sector jobs: while about 5 million jobs in fossil fuel production could be lost by 2030, an estimated 14 million new jobs would be created in clean energy, resulting in a net gain of 9 million jobs.

5. Renewable energy makes economic sense

About \$5.9 trillion was spent on subsidising the fossil fuel industry in 2020, including

through explicit subsidies, tax breaks, and health and environmental damages that were not priced into the cost of fossil fuels.

In comparison, about \$4 trillion a year needs to be invested in renewable energy until 2030 – including investments in technology and infrastructure – to allow us to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

The upfront cost can be daunting for many countries with limited resources. Investments in renewable energy will pay off. The reduction of pollution and climate impacts alone could save the world up to \$4.2 trillion per year by 2030.

The impacts of climate change on different sectors of society are interrelated. Drought can harm food production and human health. Flooding can lead to disease spread and damages to ecosystems and infrastructure. Human health issues can increase mortality, impact food availability, and limit worker productivity. Climate change impacts are seen throughout every aspect of the world we live in. Renewable energy could hold the key to combating climate change.

Excellent work with more valid points on your stand! The flow of ideas is clear. However, your piece needs some room to grow in terms of persuasive techniques. Unlike other forms of writing meant to share information or entertain, persuasive writing is specifically written to persuade, which is to say it convinces the reader to agree with a certain point of view. The language and tone in persuasive essays tend to be more conversational as well—a tactic of persuasive speech intended to build a more personal and intimate relationship between the author and reader. Make sure you often “tugs at the heartstrings.” You can share a personal experience, such as describing a painful event, to either win the reader’s sympathy or urge them to consider someone else’s feelings. In order to convince the reader to agree with you, you also have to know what you’re trying to get them to disagree with. Your audience may be completely stuck in their ways, so knowing both sides of your argument—and how to effectively counter the opposition—will assuage any follow-up questions a reader may have that can cast doubt on your position. Please follow my suggestions to improve your writing.

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