

## Pope warns fossil fuels threaten humanity

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The head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Francis, has given a stark warning to around 50 of the world's top oil company executives about the threat to humanity from fossil fuels. At a

private, closed-door meeting in the Vatican on Saturday, the pontiff urged the oil companies to switch to renewable energies for the sake of our planet. He told the executives that fossil fuels were a major driver in climate change and that global warming represented a challenge of "epochal proportions". He said the companies needed to act quickly, saying: "There is no time to lose." He warned that: "With each month that passes, the challenge of energy transition becomes more pressing."

Pope Francis explained how important it was for the world to transition to greener forms of energy. He said: "The energy question has become one of the principal challenges...facing the international community. The way we meet this challenge will determine our overall quality of life." Francis said fossil fuels are a contributor to poverty, war and death around the world as they affect, "the real possibility either of resolving conflicts in different areas of our world or of...providing them with new fuel to destroy social stability and human lives." He added: "Civilization requires energy, but energy use must not destroy civilization....Clean energy is a duty that we owe towards ...generations yet to come."

Sources: [motherjones.com](http://motherjones.com) / [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com) / [salon.com](http://salon.com)

## Writing

The world can survive without fossil fuels. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

warning / oil company / executives / humanity / fossil fuels / climate change / time / important / energy question / challenges / community / quality of life / fuel / stability

## True / False

- a) Pope Francis met with executives from 50 top oil companies. T / F
- b) The meeting between the Pope and the executives was a public one. T / F
- c) The Pope asked the executives to change to renewable energies. T / F
- d) The Pope said the transition to renewables wasn't so pressing. T / F
- e) The Pope said the energy question is one of our biggest challenges. T / F
- f) The Pope said fossil fuels lead to war and death. T / F
- g) The Pope said civilization doesn't really need energy. T / F
- h) The Pope said clean energy was a debt we owed to future generations. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>head</b>        | a. size       |
| 2. <b>stark</b>       | b. affect     |
| 3. <b>threat</b>      | c. obligation |
| 4. <b>proportions</b> | d. depressing |
| 5. <b>pressing</b>    | e. settling   |
| 6. <b>transition</b>  | f. urgent     |
| 7. <b>principal</b>   | g. top        |
| 8. <b>determine</b>   | h. change     |
| 9. <b>resolving</b>   | i. main       |
| 10. <b>duty</b>       | j. danger     |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) Will the oil companies listen to Pope Francis?
- b) What is the threat from fossil fuels?
- c) Why do we still use fossil fuels?
- d) What part do fossil fuels play in climate change?
- e) How dependent is your country on fossil fuels?
- f) What did Pope Francis mean by "epochal proportions"?
- g) What do oil companies need to do in acting quickly?
- h) What is the most pressing concern with climate change?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. a stark                            | a. greener forms of energy |
| 2. At a private, closed-              | b. quality of life         |
| 3. for the sake                       | c. to lose                 |
| 4. There is no time                   | d. challenges              |
| 5. the challenge of energy transition | e. warning                 |
| 6. transition to                      | f. of our planet           |
| 7. one of the principal               | g. conflicts               |
| 8. determine our overall              | h. becomes more pressing   |
| 9. resolving                          | i. to come                 |
| 10. generations yet                   | j. door meeting            |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do oil company executives think of fossil fuels?
- How would life change if we used nothing but renewables?
- How can fuel destroy social stability?
- What form of green energy do you think is best?
- What advice do you have for the oil company execs?
- What will future generations think of our use of fossil fuels?
- What questions would you like to ask the oil company execs?

## Spelling

- given a kastr warning
- the pontiff ruged the oil companies to switch
- lenwaeabr energies
- a major evrdri in climate change
- a challenge of "epochal ootisrnpport"
- the challenge of energy onniastrit
- one of the prlcipina challenges
- eeimrtnde our overall quality of life
- a contributor to ovypter
- rogvnisel conflicts
- destroy social tiatsylib
- destroy lacvoizniit

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. a	5. f
6. h	7. i	8. b	9. e	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Oil Spills

You think oil spills is the biggest disadvantage of fossil fuels. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disadvantages aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least disadvantageous of these (and why): non-renewable, impact on our health or price fluctuations.

### Role B – Non-Renewable

You think their being non-renewable is the biggest disadvantage of fossil fuels. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disadvantages aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least disadvantageous of these (and why): oil spills, impact on our health or price fluctuations.

### Role C – Impact on Health

You think their impact on our health is the biggest disadvantage of fossil fuels. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disadvantages aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least disadvantageous of these (and why): non-renewable, oil spills or price fluctuations.

### Role D – Price Fluctuations

You think price fluctuations is the biggest disadvantage of fossil fuels. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disadvantages aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least disadvantageous of these (and why): non-renewable, impact on our health or oil spills.

## Speaking – Disadvantages

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest disadvantages of fossil fuels at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| • Global warming     | • Oil spills       |
| • Price fluctuations | • Non-renewable    |
| • Scars to landscape | • Pollution        |
| • Accidents          | • Impact on health |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.