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## **UK plans huge wind farm programme**

URL: [http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0712/071211-wind\\_farms.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0712/071211-wind_farms.html)

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11<sup>th</sup> December, 2007

## THE ARTICLE

The British government has unveiled plans to make the country the world's leader in the use of wind farms. It announced an ambitious project to power the entire country's homes using wind. Politicians hope that wind farms will provide 20 percent of Britain's total power needs by 2020. To do this, power companies will need to build 7,000 wind turbines all around the British coastline. This will greatly change coastal views, which many nature lovers are unhappy about. There are also fears that the wind farms may disrupt shipping, wildlife and the fishing industry. Meanwhile, consumer groups are concerned over the fact that the public will have to pay higher electricity bills for the wind power. The government hopes the environmental benefits of its idea will win over those worried about the project.

Britain's Business Secretary John Hutton outlined his vision of greatly increasing the amount of renewable energy. He said: "The UK has some of the best offshore wind resources in the world. [It also has] a long history of design, installation and operational expertise in the offshore environment." He added: "The challenge for government and for industry is to turn this potential – for our energy and economy – into a cost-effective reality." Britain may soon produce twice as much electricity from wind than any other country in the world. It could also be a model for how other countries can reduce the amount of fossil fuels and carbon they use. A spokesperson from the British Wind Energy Association said the UK would soon dominate the global market for offshore wind technologies.

## WARM-UPS

**1. WIND:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about wind. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*plans / world leaders / farms / power needs / coastal views / electricity bills / vision / renewable energy / design / expertise / challenges / fossil fuels*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. TWO-MINUTE WIND DEBATES:** Have the following fun 2-minute debates. Students A strongly believe in the first argument, students B the second. Change pairs often.

- a. We should stop using all fossil fuels within 5 years. Vs. Don't be ridiculous.
- b. Wind will one day power the whole world. Vs. Only in windy places.
- c. Wind power is better than solar power. Vs. Solar power is best.
- d. Wind farms are too ugly. Vs. Wind farms help save the planet.
- e. Nuclear energy is better than wind energy. Vs. Too dangerous.
- f. The world will run out of wind one day. Vs. No way!!! How could it?

**4. RENEWABLE ENERGY:** With your partner(s), rank which of these power sources are best. Discuss when they are likely to play a large part in providing power for your country's needs:

- \_\_\_ wind farms
- \_\_\_ solar energy
- \_\_\_ wave power
- \_\_\_ hydroelectricity
- \_\_\_ geothermal power
- \_\_\_ nuclear power
- \_\_\_ biofuels

**5. AMBITIOUS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'ambitious'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. QUICK ROLE PLAY:** Student A believes scientists will find renewable energies to satisfy the world's demand for power; Student B believes that when fossil fuels run out, the world will not have enough power. Change partners often. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. The UK plans to power all its homes using wind power by 2020.   | T / F |
| b. It will build 70,000 special wind turbines to power all homes.  | T / F |
| c. The wind farms will be built on mountain tops and beaches.      | T / F |
| d. Wind power will mean people having to pay higher power charges. | T / F |
| e. The UK is a great place for renewable energy from wind.         | T / F |
| f. The UK has only recently started wind farms in the sea.         | T / F |
| g. The UK will soon produce most of the world's wind energy.       | T / F |
| h. The UK may become the leading global player in wind technology. | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. unveiled  | a. anxious   |
| 2. entire    | b. example   |
| 3. disrupt   | c. whole     |
| 4. concerned | d. know-how  |
| 5. win over  | e. actuality |
| 6. expertise | f. promise   |
| 7. potential | g. interrupt |
| 8. reality   | h. convince  |
| 9. model     | i. control   |
| 10. dominate | j. revealed  |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. The British government has unveiled      | a. wind technologies         |
| 2. an ambitious project to power the        | b. views                     |
| 3. greatly change coastal                   | c. environment               |
| 4. the wind farms may disrupt               | d. entire country's homes    |
| 5. its idea will win over those             | e. his vision                |
| 6. Secretary John Hutton outlined           | f. shipping                  |
| 7. operational expertise in the offshore    | g. fuels and carbon          |
| 8. produce twice as much                    | h. plans                     |
| 9. reduce the amount of fossil              | i. worried about the project |
| 10. dominate the global market for offshore | j. electricity from wind     |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The British government has unveiled \_\_\_\_\_ to make the country the world's leader in the use of wind farms. It announced an ambitious project to power the \_\_\_\_\_ country's homes using wind. Politicians hope that wind farms will provide 20 percent of Britain's total power \_\_\_\_\_ by 2020. To do this, power companies will need to build 7,000 wind turbines all around the British \_\_\_\_\_. This will greatly change coastal views, which many nature \_\_\_\_\_ are unhappy about. There are also fears that the wind farms may disrupt shipping, wildlife and the fishing \_\_\_\_\_. Meanwhile, consumer groups are concerned over the fact that the \_\_\_\_\_ will have to pay higher electricity bills for the wind power. The government hopes the environmental benefits of its idea will \_\_\_\_\_ over those worried about the project.

*industry**needs**public**coastline**plans**win**lovers**entire*

Britain's Business Secretary John Hutton \_\_\_\_\_ his vision of greatly increasing the amount of renewable energy. He said: "The UK has some of the best offshore wind \_\_\_\_\_ in the world. [It also has] a long \_\_\_\_\_ of design, installation and operational expertise in the offshore environment." He added: "The challenge for government and for industry is to \_\_\_\_\_ this potential – for our energy and economy – into a cost-effective reality." Britain may soon produce \_\_\_\_\_ as much electricity from wind than any other country in the world. It could also be a \_\_\_\_\_ for how other countries can reduce the amount of fossil fuels and \_\_\_\_\_ they use. A spokesperson from the British Wind Energy Association said the UK would soon dominate the \_\_\_\_\_ market for offshore wind technologies.

*history**resources**global**carbon**outlined**model**turn**twice*

**LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.**

The British government has \_\_\_\_\_ the country the world's leader in the use of wind farms. It announced an ambitious project to power \_\_\_\_\_ using wind. Politicians hope that wind farms will provide 20 percent of Britain's total power needs by 2020. To do this, power companies \_\_\_\_\_ 7,000 wind turbines all around the British coastline. This will greatly change coastal views, which many \_\_\_\_\_ about. There are also fears that the wind farms may disrupt shipping, wildlife and the fishing industry. Meanwhile, consumer groups are concerned \_\_\_\_\_ the public will have to pay higher electricity bills for the wind power. The government hopes the environmental benefits of its idea \_\_\_\_\_ worried about the project.

Britain's Business Secretary John Hutton \_\_\_\_\_ of greatly increasing the amount of renewable energy. He said: "The UK \_\_\_\_\_ offshore wind resources in the world. [It also has] a long history of design, installation and \_\_\_\_\_ the offshore environment." He added: "The challenge for government and for industry is to turn this potential - for our energy and economy - \_\_\_\_\_." Britain may soon produce twice as much electricity from wind than any other country in the world. It could also be a \_\_\_\_\_ countries can reduce the amount of fossil fuels and carbon they use. A spokesperson from the British Wind Energy Association said the UK \_\_\_\_\_ global market for offshore wind technologies.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**wind**' and '**farm**'.

<b>wind</b>	<b>farm</b>
-------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unveiled</li> <li>• entire</li> <li>• views</li> <li>• disrupt</li> <li>• higher</li> <li>• win over</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outlined</li> <li>• best</li> <li>• expertise</li> <li>• twice</li> <li>• model</li> <li>• dominate</li> </ul>
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## STUDENT RENEWABLE ENERGY SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about renewable energy in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## **DISCUSSION**

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
  - b) Do you think wind farms will become a big thing in the future?
  - c) Could wind power provide electricity to all of the homes in your country?
  - d) What renewable energy sources could and should your country be using?
  - e) Do you think it's OK to ruin the beauty of the countryside to stop global warming?
  - f) What would you think if your town became full of wind turbines?
  - g) Would you pay for much more expensive electricity to help the environment?
  - h) Are people in your country enthusiastic about renewable energy?
  - i) Does your government have any ambitious renewable energy projects?
- 

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What is your vision for the energy needs of the world?
- c) Which renewable resource does your country have most of?
- d) Do you think governments are moving too slowly or too fast to develop renewable energy?
- e) Why is Britain and not your country the leader in wind technologies?
- f) How long do you think countries should continue using fossil fuels?
- g) Do you think there'll be zero carbon emissions one day?
- h) Will every house have its own wind turbine one day?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

The British government has unveiled plans to make the country the world's leader in the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of wind farms. It announced an ambitious project to power the entire (2) \_\_\_\_\_ homes using wind. Politicians hope that wind farms will provide 20 percent of Britain's total power (3) \_\_\_\_\_ by 2020. To do this, power companies will need to build 7,000 wind turbines all around the British coastline. This will greatly change coastal (4) \_\_\_\_\_, which many nature lovers are unhappy about. There are also fears that the wind farms may disrupt shipping, wildlife and the fishing industry. Meanwhile, consumer groups are concerned (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that the public will have to pay higher electricity bills for the wind power. The government hopes the environmental benefits of its idea will win (6) \_\_\_\_\_ those worried about the project.

Britain's Business Secretary John Hutton outlined his (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of greatly increasing the amount of renewable energy. He said: "The UK has some of the best offshore wind resources in the world. [It also has] a long history of design, installation and operational (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in the offshore environment." He added: "The challenge for government and for industry is to turn this potential – for our energy and economy – (9) \_\_\_\_\_ a cost-effective reality." Britain may soon produce twice as (10) \_\_\_\_\_ electricity from wind than any other country in the world. It could also be a model for how other countries can reduce the amount of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ fuels and carbon they use. A spokesperson from the British Wind Energy Association said the UK would (12) \_\_\_\_\_ dominate the global market for offshore wind technologies.

- |     |                |               |                |               |
|-----|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) user       | (b) usage     | (c) use        | (d) using     |
| 2.  | (a) countries  | (b) country   | (c) countries' | (d) country's |
| 3.  | (a) necessary  | (b) needs     | (c) needy      | (d) needing   |
| 4.  | (a) views      | (b) viewers   | (c) view       | (d) viewing   |
| 5.  | (a) in         | (b) around    | (c) over       | (d) under     |
| 6.  | (a) over       | (b) under     | (c) up         | (d) down      |
| 7.  | (a) visible    | (b) visionary | (c) visibility | (d) vision    |
| 8.  | (a) expert     | (b) expertise | (c) expertly   | (d) experts   |
| 9.  | (a) into       | (b) onto      | (c) unto       | (d) up to     |
| 10. | (a) most       | (b) more      | (c) many       | (d) much      |
| 11. | (a) fossilized | (b) fossilize | (c) fossil     | (d) fossils   |
| 12. | (a) sooner     | (b) soon      | (c) soonest    | (d) soonish   |



## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about wind farms. Which are the best value? Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. RENEWABLE ENERGIES:** Make a poster about different kinds of renewable energies. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all include similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about how much longer we should use fossil fuels. Include imaginary interviews with an oil company executive and an environmentalist.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to your government leaders. Give them three suggestions on what renewable energy sources they should be trying. Give them three reasons they should take your advice. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

a. T      b. F      c. F      d. T      e. T      f. F      g. F      h. T

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. unveiled  | a. revealed  |
| 2. entire    | b. whole     |
| 3. disrupt   | c. interrupt |
| 4. concerned | d. anxious   |
| 5. win over  | e. convince  |
| 6. expertise | f. know-how  |
| 7. potential | g. promise   |
| 8. reality   | h. actuality |
| 9. model     | i. example   |
| 10. dominate | j. control   |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. The British government has unveiled      | a. plans                     |
| 2. an ambitious project to power the        | b. entire country's homes    |
| 3. greatly change coastal                   | c. views                     |
| 4. the wind farms may disrupt               | d. shipping                  |
| 5. its idea will win over those             | e. worried about the project |
| 6. Secretary John Hutton outlined           | f. his vision                |
| 7. operational expertise in the offshore    | g. environment               |
| 8. produce twice as much                    | h. electricity from wind     |
| 9. reduce the amount of fossil              | i. fuels and carbon          |
| 10. dominate the global market for offshore | j. wind technologies         |

### GAP FILL:

#### UK plans huge wind farm programme

The British government has unveiled **plans** to make the country the world's leader in the use of wind farms. It announced an ambitious project to power the **entire** country's homes using wind. Politicians hope that wind farms will provide 20 percent of Britain's total power **needs** by 2020. To do this, power companies will need to build 7,000 wind turbines all around the British **coastline**. This will greatly change coastal views, which many nature **lovers** are unhappy about. There are also fears that the wind farms may disrupt shipping, wildlife and the fishing **industry**. Meanwhile, consumer groups are concerned over the fact that the **public** will have to pay higher electricity bills for the wind power. The government hopes the environmental benefits of its idea will **win** over those worried about the project.

Britain's Business Secretary John Hutton **outlined** his vision of greatly increasing the amount of renewable energy. He said: "The UK has some of the best offshore wind **resources** in the world. [It also has] a long **history** of design, installation and operational expertise in the offshore environment." He added: "The challenge for government and for industry is to **turn** this potential – for our energy and economy – into a cost-effective reality." Britain may soon produce **twice** as much electricity from wind than any other country in the world. It could also be a **model** for how other countries can reduce the amount of fossil fuels and **carbon** they use. A spokesperson from the British Wind Energy Association said the UK would soon dominate the **global** market for offshore wind technologies.

### LANGUAGE WORK

1 - c    2 - d    3 - b    4 - a    5 - c    6 - a    7 - d    8 - b    9 - a    10 - d    11 - c    12 - b