

## Why Renewable?

By Micheline Aleman

What would we do without Mother Nature? It would be impossible to live without her. So why don't we protect her more? Renewable energy is a big step toward keeping her healthy. Renewable energy is energy sources that are naturally unending, like the wind, water, and sunshine. They are continuously blowing, shining and flowing – we can't use them up. Renewable energy sources contribute approximately 29.3% of human energy use worldwide. The rest comes from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas, biomass, like burning wood as a fuel, and geothermal energy from the hot interior of the planet.

It's important that we use these renewable resources because they are not harmful (or less harmful) for the environment in the ways that fossil fuels are. One of the reasons why so many people choose not to use renewable energy is that they don't know much about it, which leads assuming it doesn't matter at all. Another reason is because it can be complicated to access and can be expensive. Lastly, not a lot of people have the option or the freedom to use renewable energy. They depend on big companies to make the choices for them. Many major companies and the people with power aren't setting good examples of the use of renewable energy.



Why should we even take the time to talk about renewable energy? We should take the time to talk about it because it is one of the ways we can help reduce global warming. If we don't take the time to realize how much damage we are causing the earth, then we will end up destroying our own planet.



Most people believe that using renewable energy is too expensive. But in reality spending 3 to 5 dollars more on an energy star light bulb, then a cheaper and not an energy efficient light bulb can save you money later on when the light bill comes. If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an energy star, then we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and

prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars! Those are big numbers!

Many people have no control over where the electricity they use comes from. So they don't know how the electricity is getting to them and how much pollution it may be causing. But if more electric companies that use clean renewable energy sources would take the time to advertise what they're doing, other companies might follow. This could cause more people to change and go to companies who use more renewable energy sources.

What else can you do? All it takes is a little effort from each of us, and we can resolve this problem!

