

October 21, 2021. Reprt from President Lynn Bernwell to the New Zealand National Conference on Alternative Energy Resources.

*"...The use of coal, oil and natural gas has been harmful to the environment. We face high pollution, and more ozone damage from greenhouse gases. Power plants using fossil fuels are a world-wide source of environmental pollution and add to global warming.*

*The growing number of vehicles on our roads, added to by the huge growth in the number of logging trucks over the past few years also add to pollution.*

*The use of dual-energy cars has had a positive influence on reducing pollution. Our hydroelectric power generation is reaching its limit and has become less reliable with climate changes. Some homeowners use solar panels for energy and energy-friendly houses can further reduce the demand for electricity.*

*What is needed now is a huge effort by both industry and energy producers to reduce use of fossil fuels to an absolute minimum. That means most of our energy must come from alternative energy producing technologies.*

*Beginning in June 2022 to be completed by 2027 the government will introduce a number of projects to encourage New Zealanders to use alternative energy sources. "*

The Minister explained that there will be tax breaks for companies willing to change to alternative energy resources. Farmers in some areas will be eligible for extra bonuses if they switch to growing plants which produce oils to be refined into biodiesel.

Councils will be able to fast-track permits for anyone wanting to set up wind-farms, ocean wave generators or similar alternative energy generators. Generous financial grants will be available for research and development into alternative energy sources. New homes will have to be built with solar panels and existing homeowners will be able to apply for a grant to change to solar power.

The Marsden Point Refinery will be encouraged to switch from refining fossil fuels to refining biomass fuels, otherwise the Government's will close this facility down within 20 years.

Future Problem Solving teams have been asked to help the government to consider the impact this project will have by exploring challenges that communities may face as they make these changes.

As a Future Problem Solving team, generate challenges faced in developing these alternative energy technologies. Select one problem area and produce solution ideas to address the problem.