

ENVIRONMENT & NATURE

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Renewable energy, electric transport, green innovation, and long-term sustainability

Activity 1: Looking into the future

Discuss these questions with a partner:

1. Do you think our planet will be cleaner or more polluted 20 years from now? Why?
2. Are electric vehicles (EVs) common in your city? Would you like to drive one?
3. What renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro) are used in your country?
4. Do you think major corporations or individual citizens carry more responsibility for stopping climate change?
5. Would you stay at an "eco-hotel" that uses 100% solar power and limits water usage?
6. What green technological invention do you think we need most right now?

Activity 2: Green tech vocabulary — Word bank fill-in

Complete the sentences below using the correct term from the word bank. Use each word once.

renewable energy • sustainable • electric vehicle • solar power
green technology • innovation • long-term • footprint

1. Sunlight captured by panels on rooftops is converted into clean _____.
2. Replacing petrol cars with an _____ helps reduce city air emissions.
3. Wind and water power are examples of _____ because they replenish naturally.
4. Using recycled materials for building construction is a very _____ practice.
5. Scientists are working on exciting new _____ to remove carbon directly from the atmosphere.
6. Short-term fixes won't work; we need _____ solutions for environmental protection.
7. Technological _____ is helping us create cleaner power grids.
8. Choosing train travel instead of flying is a great way to lower your travel _____.

Activity 3: Future green city design

Imagine your city council has received a grant to transform your town into a "Future Green City." Work with a partner to choose 3 major green tech projects to fund:

- [__] City-wide free electric bus network
- [__] Rooftop solar panel installation on all public buildings
- [__] Automated underground recycling and sorting system
- [__] Large urban forest and park planting initiative
- [__] River and waterway automated cleanup drones

Present your choices to another pair. Explain why your 3 projects will have the biggest long-term benefit.

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Activity 4: Predictions spectrum

Work with a partner. Read each statement about the year 2050. Decide if you think the statement is **Highly Likely**, **Possible**, or **Unlikely**. Give reasons for your opinion using future structures (*will, might, is likely to*).

1. Most cities will ban petrol-powered vehicles completely from downtown areas.
2. Solar panels will be built into all new residential homes by law.
3. Plastic packaging will be completely replaced by biodegradable plant-based materials.
4. Vertical urban farming will supply most fruit and vegetables for major cities.
5. Clean energy will be cheaper than fossil fuels everywhere in the world.

Use these expressions:

- I think it's highly likely because battery technology is advancing fast.
- That might happen in rich nations, but it seems unlikely globally.
- In my opinion, governments will definitely pass laws to enforce this.

REAL ENGLISH BOX

Useful expressions for talking about green technology & the future:

- **Powered by** — The new school is entirely powered by wind energy.
- **To phase out** — The country plans to phase out coal power plants by 2030.
- **Eco-conscious** — Younger consumers are becoming increasingly eco-conscious.
- **Game-changer** — Cheap battery storage will be a total game-changer for green energy.
- **In the long run** — Investing in solar panels saves money in the long run.
- **Sustainable development** — We need sustainable development that balances growth and nature.

Activity 5: Debate — Green tech vs. Lifestyle change

Work with a partner to debate this question:
"Will new green technology solve our environmental problems, or do humans simply need to consume less?"

- **Student A:** Argue that technology (AI, renewable energy, electric cars) is the key solution.
- **Student B:** Argue that changing human behavior and consuming fewer goods is the key solution.

Try to use expressions from the REAL ENGLISH BOX and swap arguments after 3 minutes.

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Teacher's Key

Activity 2:

1. Solar power
2. Electric vehicle
3. Renewable energy
4. Sustainable
5. Green technology
6. Long-term
7. Innovation
8. Footprint

Activities 1, 3, 4 and 5:

Answers will vary.

Encourage students to use modal verbs for predictions (*will, might, is likely to, could*) and express opinions on long-term sustainability clearly.

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