


Biofuels – the ideal solution?

1 Internet search: Background information

Do an internet search about biofuels and look for information about the following aspects in particular:

- What exactly are biofuels?
- How are they produced?
- What are possible advantages of biofuels?
- What are obvious shortcomings?
- What are possible short-term effects?
- What are potential long-term risks?

Either look for information yourself or use the links provided below:

-  <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biofuel>
-  <http://biofuel.org.uk>
-  <http://wanttoknowit.com/advantages-of-biofuels/>



2 Speaking: Biofuels

- a) Once you have collected enough background information, work with a partner and design a mind map that contains all the information you regard as important. Make sure you group the various pieces of information in a logical way.
- b) With a partner, design a presentation on this topic (e.g. PowerPoint, Keynote, Prezi).
- Use your mind map as a basis for your talk.
 - Use a clear structure for your presentation.
 - Add visuals (e.g. pictures, diagrams).
 - Talk about the various aspects you have chosen and explain why you think they are important.

3 Writing: The dark side of biofuels OR How far can we go?

- a) Among experts biofuels are highly controversial. Here are some

links to find out more:

-  Articles: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/biofuels?>
-  Videos: [biofuels](#)

- b) Use these sources and collect useful phrases for dealing with this topic. Make a wordlist with one column for nouns, one for verbs, one for adjectives and one for idioms.
- c) Use the information collected and the wordlist to write a **letter to the editor** and express your opinion on this topic. Make sure you give reasons for your opinions and refer to the sources you have used. In your letter, you should:
- describe the problem/situation
 - analyse the consequences
 - suggest measures to cope with the problem
- Write about **250 words**.



Alternative traffic solutions

1 Internet search/Article: Hybrid cars

a) Research the term "hybrid car" on the internet and make a list of their features and the concepts used.



<http://www.hybridcars.com/index.php>

b) Find out what the advantages and the disadvantages of these cars are.

Advantages	Disadvantages

c) With a partner, discuss your list and add ideas if necessary.

d) Write an article for a local paper in which you promote hybrid cars. In your article, you should:

- describe what hybrid cars are
- explain the advantages of such vehicles
- analyse their disadvantages
- suggest measures to improve the cars and help promote them

2 Video: Red light cameras

a) Watch the video "How red light cameras work" and find out what they are about.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XoTvbgqT68&feature=related>

b) Write down the main function of these traffic cameras.

c) On the following site, study the reasons why people oppose red light cameras.



<http://blog.motorists.org/10-reasons-to-oppose-red-light-cameras/>

d) Evaluate with a partner which of these objections can be taken seriously.

e) Prepare a statement about your views on red light cameras. Your statement should include:

- at least two reasons for your views
- a description of a traffic situation
- references to at least two objections to red light cameras

f) Discuss red light cameras in class. Whenever it is your turn to say something refer to the previous speaker and use linking words and phrases to introduce your ideas and views. If possible, come to a conclusion if such technologies are useful or not.

