

INTERVIEW ABOUT THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

Teacher-led Activity

In this activity, students prepare a transcript for a television interview about the Kyoto Protocol and how New Zealand might reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) with greater use of solar energy. The questions will be supported by the statistics from PV data. The students will conduct the interview with the New Zealand Prime Minister, the Minister for Climate Change, or the CEO of Genesis Energy. The students will question them on the role of the New Zealand Government or electricity generation companies have in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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INTERVIEW ABOUT THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students can:

- prepare questions to put to a politician or the CEO concerning the Kyoto Protocol and the role the New Zealand Government or electricity generation companies have in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- prepare responses from a politician or the CEO concerning the Kyoto Protocol and the role the New Zealand Government or electricity generation companies have in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

PRIOR TO THIS ACTIVITY

Complete the Schoolgen activity "[Exploring the Kyoto Protocol](#)" first. As a result of completing the worksheet "The Kyoto Protocol and New Zealand", the students will understand that:

- the world needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- the Kyoto Protocol is the international treaty that attempts to address the cross-border problem of climate change. It calls for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 5% below what they were in 1990
- New Zealand has signed and ratified the treaty
- New Zealand needs to reduce its GHG emissions. One way to do this is to use renewable and sustainable energy sources to produce electricity. Solar energy is a renewable and sustainable energy source
- both Australia and America have yet to ratify the treaty.

To find out how much electricity the solar panels are generating, the students could

complete the following Schoolgen activities:

- [Factors that Affect the Electricity Output of your School's Solar Panels](#)
- [What Could Your Solar Panels Run?](#)

WHAT YOU NEED

Students will need:

- their completed worksheet "[The Kyoto Protocol and New Zealand](#)".
- access to the PV data, which shows how much energy was produced by the school's solar panels and how much GHG emissions have been reduced by. This could be in the form of a printout of the statistics.

FOCUS

- What is the Kyoto Protocol and why did New Zealand sign and ratify it?
- What role does the New Zealand Government have in reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
- What system of government does New Zealand have? (Democracy)
- Why is this important in this issue? (*People in NZ can voice their opinions, have their say and expect their elected representatives to represent the will of the people, so we have the opportunity in New Zealand to influence what happens.*)

Note: The text in italics provides a guide for the discussion.

MANAGING THE ACTIVITY

Using the focus questions, find out what the students already know about the Kyoto Protocol and the role the New Zealand Government has in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

INTERVIEW ABOUT THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

Working in pairs, the students produce a five minute television interview transcript. One person will be the interviewer (representing the school). The other person will be the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Minister for Climate Change, or the CEO of Genesis Energy.

Together they will prepare a five minute interview in which the interviewer will find out the New Zealand Government's or electricity generation company's view of the Kyoto Protocol, why they ratified it, what they intend to do to meet our targets, and how the use of sustainable, renewable energy sources can contribute to this. The interviewer will need to incorporate the data from the PV panels at the school to support their questions.

REFLECTION

- What responsibility does the New Zealand Government have in reducing GHG emissions in New Zealand?
- What role do New Zealand citizens have?
- Can individuals do anything to reduce GHG emissions?

EXTENSION

Making a submission to a parliamentary select committee

A Bill is introduced into the House. The Bill seeks to achieve support for the government to subsidise the installation of solar panels on residential homes across New Zealand. The select committee calls for public submissions on the Bill. The students make a submission to the select committee in which they outline what they have learnt and either support or argue against subsidised solar panels nationwide.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

- New Zealand Climate Change website
<http://www.climatechange.govt.nz>
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>