

## Natural Resources Line of Inquiry

### Lesson 2

#### Barriers to Using Renewable Energy - CCRS Level D

Renewable energy faces some challenges when it comes to being used by many people. One of the biggest challenges is the cost. Renewable energy sources like wind and solar power can be more expensive than using fossil fuels like coal and natural gas. Fossil fuels have been used for a long time and it's easier and cheaper to make energy from them. However, we also have to think about the long-term cost of using fossil fuels, like the pollution they cause. If we put a price on the pollution, renewable energy might become a better option.

Another challenge for renewable energy is what people think about it. The government makes decisions about what kinds of energy to use, but they also listen to what people want. Some people like the idea of using renewable energy because it's better for the environment. Others are worried about accidents like the Fukushima nuclear disaster and think that renewable energy is safer. Public opinion can have a big impact on what kinds of energy we use in the future.

In conclusion, the cost and public opinion are two barriers to using renewable energy. While renewable energy can be more expensive right now, it might become more appealing if we put a price on the pollution caused by fossil fuels. Public opinion also plays a role in deciding what kinds of energy we use. If people support renewable energy and think it's safer, then it's more likely to be used.

Adapted from pages 304-305 of:

Harris, Emily P. (2023). *Introduction to Environmental Sciences and Sustainability*. University of West Florida Pressbooks.

Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).