

Nowadays, fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal are used in many countries. However, there are many disadvantages in using fossil fuels. In this essay, I am going to talk about the disadvantages of using fossil fuels, and then I will suggest one alternative energy resource that can best replace fossil fuels in Hong Kong in the future.

The first disadvantage of fossil fuels is that fossil fuels cause air pollution. When fossil fuels are burnt, pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides will be emitted. These pollutants can do a lot of harm to our health. For example, we will have respiratory problems, poor lung functions and coughing. Acid rain also makes the quality of land and water worse. It makes the soil and the water become too acidic for plants and animals.

The second disadvantage of fossil fuels is global warming. When fossil fuels are burned, a large amount of carbon dioxide is emitted. Carbon dioxide is a kind of greenhouse gas. It absorbs energy and keeps the earth warm. It will stay in the atmosphere for decades. Therefore, an increase in carbon dioxide results in global warming.

The third disadvantage of fossil fuels is water pollution. Sometimes accidents may occur when extracting or transporting oil. This may cause hazards to the environment. The serious oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 is a case in point. Huge amounts of oil were spilled into the ocean. It caused serious damage to the environment.

On the other hand, wind power has a number of advantages compared to fossil fuels. The first advantage of wind power is that it is clean. It is a cleaner source. Wind energy does not pollute the air like power plants that rely on combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal or natural gas. Wind turbines do not produce atmospheric emissions that cause acid rain or greenhouse gases.

The second advantage of wind power is that it is cheap. Wind power is cost-efficient. It is one of the lowest-priced renewable energy technologies available today, costing between four and six cents per kilowatt-hour, depending upon the wind resource and project financing of the particular project.

The third advantage is that wind power is renewable. The wind will never run out, unlike reserves of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas. This makes it a good choice of energy for a sustainable power supply.

Wind power can be used to replace fossil fuels. It is suitable for Hong Kong in the future. The government may consider building some wind turbines on the surface of the sea.

Apart from causing air pollution, global warming and water pollution, fossil fuels will be used up one day. Conversely, wind power is more environmentally-friendly since it is cleaner, cheaper and renewable. Therefore, I suggest using wind power instead of fossil fuels.