

The United Nations environment programme has worked since 1972 as the environmental authority in the world. The UNEP promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable energy development. The UNEP have 6 priority areas of work, which are the climate change, the environmental disasters and conflicts, the ecosystem management, the environmental governance, the waste of chemicals and rubbish, the environment under review and the resources efficiency.

Topic A: Promoting access to renewable and sustainable energy

Since its creation, the UNEP has concerned about energy, because its production and use are causing many environmental problems at global scales. An example of this is global warming, which is one type and the most important of climate change, has promoted the use of sustainable energy for eradicate this problematic.

The UNEP helps to develop and implement reforms for the energy sector, industrial energy efficiency and environmental implications of transport.

The Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment Unit (UCCEE), is an , and it is one of the most important parts of the UNEP in the energy area. The UCCEE is working with some projects and activities that are specialized in five different managements of energy, which are:

- Renewable energy: An example of their activities is:
- The UNEP has helped Canada to improve the feasibility analysis software for renewable energy.
- Energy efficiency: An example of their activities is:
- With the help of the World Bank, the UNEP is searching for ways to overcome financial barriers for energy efficiency projects in Brazil, China and India.
- Energy policies: An example of their activities is:
- The UNEP is working with African's governments to create reforms to change the energy and climate policies.
- Financing energy: An example of their activities is:
- The UNEP seeks ways to lead the finance investment and to sustainable energy projects, particularly in developing countries.
- Means of transport: An example of their activities is:
- The UNEP administers a Forum for discussion of joint activities involving representatives of the major automakers.

Guide questions:

- 1. How does your country is searching for renewable energies?
- 2. How the UNEP could reduce the pollution because of the use of not sustainable and renewable energy?
- 3. How does your country is improving their means of transport?
- 4. Which measures should be used for companies to invest in renewable energy projects?
- 5. How could the UNEP improve the access of sustainable energy for your country? Links worth consulting:
- www.unep.org
- www.unep.org/PDF/UNEPOrganizationProfile.pdf
- www.uccee.org/publications
- http://www.pnuma.org/english/AboutUNEP.php
- •www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2700&ArticleID=9363&I=
- www.uneptie.org/energy/publications
- http://www.uneval.org/document/download/1527
- http://www.uneval.org/document/download/1527

Topic B: Finding methods to reduce air pollution caused by fossil fuels

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution is the world's worst environmental health risk, such as development of diseases like asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and cancer, shortened life span, cardiovascular problems, stress to heart and lungs, damaged cells in the respiratory system. Harmful substances emitted to the air affect both human health and ecosystems. Indoor and outdoor air pollution are estimated to be responsible for nearly 5 per cent of the global burden of disease. There is an urgent need to reduce levels of air pollution globally. Air quality measures have had positive results at some locations in the world, even so, it is estimated that more than 1 billion people are exposed to air pollution annually.

Urban air pollution is linked to up to 1 million premature deaths and 1 million prenative deaths and over 3.5 million deaths each year. Urban air pollution is estimated to cost approximately 2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in developed countries and 5% in developing countries. Also, considerable chronic disease are caused by excessive exposure to smog or tropospheric ozone as a result of formed emissions of methane, another SLCP (Short-lived Climate Pollutants), and other gasses.

Rapid urbanisation has resulted in increasing urban air pollution in major cities. Over 90% of air pollution in cities in these countries is attributed to fossil fuels emissions of

vehicles, this is brought about by high number of older vehicles coupled with poor vehicle maintenance, inadequate infrastructure and low fuel quality. Also is linked with industrial sectors, power plants, cooking and heating with solid fuels and forest fires and open burning of municipal waste and agricultural residues.

Guide questions:

- 1. What measures is your country taking to eradicate air pollution?
- 2. How could the UNEP find new methods to reduce the percent of mortality caused by air

pollution?

- 3. How could the UNEP improve air quality?
- 4. What measures should be taken by the UNEP to reduce air pollution caused by vehicles?

5. How could industries sectors and power plants of your country reduce its CO2 emissions

to avoid damaging the ozone layer?

- 6. How could the UNEP cure people already ill by air pollution?
- 7. What measures should be taken by your country to reduce air pollution caused by GDP?
- 8. Which is the most important pollutant of your country?
- 9. Which is the most significant disease caused by air pollution in your country?
- 10. Which is the percent of mortality each year caused by air pollution in your country?

Links worth consulting:

- http://www.unep.org/tools/default.asp?ct=air
- •http://www.unep.org/urban_environment/issues/urban_air.asp
- http://www.unep.org/yearbook/2014/PDF/chapt7.pdf
- •http://www.sparetheair.com/health.cfm?page=healthoverall
- •http://www.sparetheair.com/health.cfm?page=healthoveral
- •www.unep.org/ccac/Media/PressReleases/ReducingClimate-relatedAirPollution/tabid/ 131802/language/en-US/Default.aspx
- •www.unep.org/ccac/Media/PartnersInFocusWorldHealthAssemblyPassesLandmarkResolution/tabid/1060210/Default.aspx
- •http://www.unep.org/geo/geo3/english/366.htm