
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Plant energy



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

Could your garden **power** your mobile phone?

Scientists at Cambridge University are **investigating** how plants can give us **sustainable energy**.

They do this by collecting **electrons** released naturally by plants and turning them into electricity. You can even create your own algae **solar panel**.

But a lot of work needs to be done to make the process more efficient.

(Original story: BBC Click)

Vocabulary

power (verb)

provide energy to make something work

investigating

researching

sustainable energy

energy created from sources that will not run out, such as wind and the sun

electrons

tiny parts of atoms that move round the atom's centre and have a negative electrical charge

solar panel

a piece of equipment that changes energy from the sun into electricity

Watch this video online: Plant energy

<http://bbc.in/1eztxf2>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

power (verb) / investigating / sustainable energy / electrons / solar panel

1. A bus _____ by cow manure has set a land speed record for a regular bus by driving at 77mph.
Reading Buses' "Bus Hound" was recorded doing a lap speed of 76.785mph (123.57 km/h) at Bedford's Millbrook Proving Ground.
2. "If the _____, those tiny planets of the atomic systems, were induced to combine with the nuclei in the hydrogen the horsepower liberated would be 120 times greater still. There is no question among scientists that this gigantic source of energy exists. "
3. Archaeologists are _____ a mound of burnt material eroding from a cliff on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset.
4. "The Renaissance Dam project represents a source of development for the millions of Ethiopia's citizens through producing green and _____, but for their brothers living on the banks of that very Nile in Egypt, and who approximately equal them in numbers, it represents a source of concern and worry," he said.
5. His family watch television, his six children do their homework without candles.
There is no need for expensive kerosene lamps - all because of a single _____ on his tin roof.
"When we started using the solar panels, life changed in a good way," says Mr Lodio.

Answers

1. A bus **powered** by cow manure has set a land speed record for a regular bus by driving at 77mph.
Reading Buses' "Bus Hound" was recorded doing a lap speed of 76.785mph (123.57 km/h) at Bedford's Millbrook Proving Ground.

Source: Reading bus powered by cow poo 'breaks record'
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-32805122>

2. "If the **electrons**, those tiny planets of the atomic systems, were induced to combine with the nuclei in the hydrogen the horsepower liberated would be 120 times greater still. There is no question among scientists that this gigantic source of energy exists. "

Source: Winston Churchill and his wartime passion for science
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-30915445>

3. Archaeologists are **investigating** a mound of burnt material eroding from a cliff on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset.

Source: Dorset Jurassic Coast 'Bronze Age' mound investigated
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-33517687>

4. "The Renaissance Dam project represents a source of development for the millions of Ethiopia's citizens through producing green and **sustainable energy**, but for their brothers living on the banks of that very Nile in Egypt, and who approximately equal them in numbers, it represents a source of concern and worry," he said.

Source: Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan sign deal to end Nile dispute
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-32016763>

5. His family watch television, his six children do their homework without candles. There is no need for expensive kerosene lamps - all because of a single **solar panel** on his tin roof.
"When we started using the solar panels, life changed in a good way," says Mr Lodio.

Source: Is the sun rising on an African solar revolution?
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-31503424>