

English with photos

What is the future of our energy production?

6/10/2022



© Robert Hextall (*Lemóniz nuclear power plant, Bizkaia, Spain*)

Vocabulary

to soar: *to increase rapidly above the usual level*

renewable: *a natural resource or source of energy that is not depleted by use*

to bring to a halt: *to stop abruptly*

safety: *to be protected, not be in danger or risk*

tall order: *an unreasonable or difficult demand*

Introduction

Energy prices have **soared** over the last year and since Russia's invasion of Ukraine the question of where we get our energy from has revived debate about

investing in **renewable** energy sources and the continued use (or not) of nuclear reactors.

The picture shows the unfinished nuclear power plant in Lemóniz on the Basque coast. Construction started in 1972 but the project was abandoned in 1984. A combination of factors brought construction **to a halt** including popular doubts over the plant's **safety**, questions about interests behind it, ETA's violent action and a change of government in Madrid.

Primary energy consumption in Spain (figures from 2015) is mainly composed of fossil fuels. The largest sources are petroleum (42.3%), natural gas (19.8%) and coal (11.6%). The remaining 26.3% is accounted for by nuclear energy (12%) and different renewable energy sources (14.3%). Spain aims to be carbon-free before 2050. That seems like a **tall order**.

Let's chat!

1. Describe the image in as much detail as possible.
2. Have your gas and electricity bills gone up much recently? If so, how does that affect your daily life? Do you plan to use less energy at home?
3. What do you think about nuclear power plants?
4. What different renewable energy sources can you think of?
5. Do you think that Spain (or your country) will be carbon-free by 2050?

Activity

Think about the area you live in. How could renewable energies be used to generate all the necessary power required for homes, industry and public areas?

