



ALTERNATIVE FUELS - a summary

Advantages

Disadvantages

BIOFUELS

renewable
helps reduce waste
use simple technology

not enough supply

METHANOL

clean and complete burning
little CO produced

toxic and can produce carcinogens
corrodes car engines
provides less energy

NUCLEAR

doesn't use carbon
no sulphur dioxide
no nitrogen oxides

radioactive waste products
waste storage problems
needs containment

FUSION

uses 'limitless' water

costly and uneconomic at present

WIND

renewable
no pollution or waste
can have local sites

initial expense
variable and unreliable
visual impact on scenery

HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER (HEP)

renewable
no pollution

initial expense
environmental impact on scenery

TIDAL BARRAGE

renewable
no pollution or waste
predictable

initial expense
environmental impact on wildlife

WAVE

renewable
no pollution or waste

initial expense
variable and unreliable

SOLAR

renewable
no pollution or waste

initial expense
variable and low levels in UK

GEO THERMAL

almost unlimited

not widely available
high initial expense

HYDROGEN

pollution free (water formed)

storage problems
regarded as dangerous

CHEMICAL CELLS

re-chargeable
little pollution

weight problems
technology needs improving