

## WIND CHALLENGE | TEACHER GUIDE



### Activity Overview:

In this challenge, students will be writing a persuasive letter to a local politician of their choosing. They will be sharing their knowledge about wind as a renewable resource and asking their recipient to take action to help the environment. Once the letter is complete, they will then send their letter to the local politician of their choice!

**Prep Time:** <5 minutes (printing template)

**Activity Duration:** 45 minutes (explaining activity, picking government official, writing letters)

## STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

### Common Core

- *RL.4.1d: Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.*
- *RL.4.4: Report on a topic, text, procedure, or solution to a mathematical problem, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace and use appropriate vocabulary.*

### NGSS

- *4.ESS3.1: Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment.*

### MA Comprehensive Health

- *3.7.CE.4: Describe ways that the community can impact the health of people within that community.*
- *3.7.CE.6 Use accurate information when discussing environmental health issues (e.g., littering, deforestation, recycling, climate change, clean water) that impact people's health.*

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Win Wind Campaign template (either one for the whole class or one per student)*
- *Writing utensil*
- *Student laptop (if students want to type their letters or do more research)*





## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The majority of energy is currently produced by burning fossil fuels, such as oil, coal, and, most commonly, methane gas, in power plants. These nonrenewable resources produce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a greenhouse gas, when burned. Greenhouse gasses create a layer in our atmosphere that traps heat. This contributes to global climate change. The best alternatives to fossil fuels are renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower. Renewable energy sources, unlike fossil fuels, will not run out. They are also beneficial for the environment because they do not release carbon dioxide during energy production. Since carbon dioxide is a major contributing factor to climate change, replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources helps slow climate change and environmental degradation.

## ACTIVITY RUNDOWN

1. Go over the activity description with students. They will get to practice persuasive writing!
2. Decide whether you will write a letter as a class or individually.
3. Pick who your local politician will be. We've included a few suggestions below.
4. Have students write their letter(s). Encourage them to use words from the vocabulary list on the letter template. Students can either type their letter or handwrite their letter.
5. Have students glue their letter onto the template.
6. Send your letter to your local politician!



### Politician Examples:

- Town mayor
- House representative (find who represents your district)
- Senators
- Governor
- Members of your town's government



## IT'S A WIN-WIND CAMPAIGN!

As a class, write a letter to your local government explaining why your community should transition to 100% renewable energy. Use the vocabulary words below to persuade local politicians.

*renewable   non-renewable   fossil fuels   wind energy   pollution   government  
solar energy   hydroelectric   sustainability   community   policy   future   Change is Simple*

A large rectangular area with a solid blue border, containing ten sets of primary-ruled lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for writing a letter.

