Exploring Renewable and Non-renewable Resources Musical Chairs

**Aims:**

* To demonstrate that non-renewable energy such as oil, coal, gas and peat are finite and will run out at some stage in the future
* To show that renewable energy such as wind, solar, biomass and hydro are alternative, clean options.

**You will need:**

* Radio / CD player
* A4 size pictures of the [oil rig](http://www.seai.ie/Schools/Post_Primary/Subjects/CSPE/Lesson_Plans_for_CSPE/Exploring_Renewable_and_non_renewable_resources/Oil_rig.jpg)- one of each picture for each student
* A4 size pictures of the [wind turbine](http://www.seai.ie/Schools/Post_Primary/Subjects/CSPE/Lesson_Plans_for_CSPE/Exploring_Renewable_and_non_renewable_resources/wind_turbine.jpg) and [solar panels](http://www.seai.ie/Schools/Post_Primary/Subjects/CSPE/Lesson_Plans_for_CSPE/Exploring_Renewable_and_non_renewable_resources/solar_panel.jpg) , enough for the total number of students in the class

**Instructions:**

* Make a large clear space in the classroom. This game runs in the same way as musical chairs, except instead of chairs students stand on their picture of the oil rig.
* The game starts in the year 2009. There is enough oil for everyone in the class to have their share.
* When the music commences the teacher should remove a few of the pictures of the oil rig. The next time the music stops, we will be in the year 2015, and there will be less oil. Students who aren't standing on an oil rig picture will have to sit down.
* Stop the music as appropriate every 5 or 10 years, in between each stop remove 2 or 3 oil rigs.
* As individuals sit down hand each person a renewable resource card (wind or solar).
* The game finishes when there is only one person left standing on one oilrig and the rest of the class have renewable resource cards.

**Follow up:**

Ask the class to think about:

* The real world basis for this game - how realistic is conflict in a world of resources that are going to run out?
* How important is energy efficiency?
* What did this activity demonstrate about renewable and non-renewable energy?
* How important does the class think renewable fuel will be in the future?

**Suggested answers:**

* Over dependence on fossil fuels for production of energy
* Possible environmental conflicts in the future over depleting resources
* Importance of the switch to renewable fuels

<http://www.seai.ie/Schools/Post_Primary/Subjects/CSPE/Lesson_Plans_for_CSPE/Exploring_Renewable_and_non_renewable_resources/>