

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Monday, March 14 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Oregon law phases out coal from state's power supply (NW Monday, **page B2**).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. What is coal? Where is coal found? How is coal used as fuel? Why do you think Oregon wants to "phase out" coal from the state's power supply?

2. Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.

- A. aligns
- B. climate change
- C. environmentalist
- D. eradicate
- E. fossil fuel
- F. mandate
- G. negotiated
- H. overstated
- I. phaseout
- J. precedent
- K. renewable
- L. solar panel
- M. stringent
- N. subsidize

- 1. a long-term change in the earth's climate, especially a change due to an increase in the average atmospheric temperature
- 2. the act of stopping something gradually over a period of time in a planned series of steps or phases
- 3. a fuel (such as coal, oil, or natural gas) that is formed in the earth from dead plants or animals
- 4. very strict or severe
- 5. to discuss something formally in order to make an agreement
- 6. to change (something) so that it agrees with or matches something else
- 7. restored or replaced by natural processes : able to be replaced by nature
- 8. to remove (something) completely
- 9. something done or said that can be used as an example or rule to be followed in the future
- 10. a large, flat piece of equipment that uses the sun's light or heat to create electricity

11. a person who works to protect the natural world from pollution and other threats
12. to say that (something) is larger or greater than it really is
13. to help someone or something pay for the costs of (something)
14. an official order to do something

Comprehension

1. Oregon became the first state to _____ coal from its power supply through legislation. **(Fill in the blank with vocabulary)**
2. Oregon's Gov. Kate Brown signed the legislation surrounded by students at a Portland elementary school that is powered by what?
3. The new law will wipe out coal-generated energy in phases through 2030 and requires utilities to provide half of customer's power with what by 2040?
4. Oregon's new law also aligns with some of whose statements on the topic over the years? (Name the person)
5. Oregon's new law was not easy to pass and was a negotiated deal between which two groups?
6. Name one of the states mentioned in the article which already has a long-standing history of running coal free.
7. Oregon is one of only a handful of states that have renewable mandates of 50 percent or more. Which state, mentioned in the article, has a 100% renewable mandate by 2045?
8. Oregon GOP lawmakers went to great lengths to stop the legislation. What did they raise concerns about?

Additional Activities

1. Have students read the following quote from Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli, one of the laws outspoken opponents, and then discuss the question:
"Today, Gov. Brown gave her stamp of approval to a new renewable energy mandate that will cost residential electricity customers in Oregon \$190 more each year until 2040." Would you be willing to pay an extra \$190 a year in order have renewable energy sources in your state – why or why not? Do you think we need stricter measures like the one Oregon is taking – why or why not? Do you believe the risk of climate change is real?
2. As a class, discuss and list different types of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Have students discuss the benefits and disadvantages of both types of energy sources. Next, have students brainstorm a list of ways to save (conserve) energy – at home, at school and at the state level.

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 6
- B. 1
- C. 11
- D. 8
- E. 3
- F. 14
- G. 5
- H. 12
- I. 2
- J. 9
- K. 7
- L. 10
- M. 4
- N. 13

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. eradicate
2. The school is powered by solar panels.
3. It requires utilities to provide half of customer's power with renewable energy sources by 2040.
4. President Obama
5. It was a negotiated deal between the state's utilities and environmentalists.
6. Hawaii and Vermont (Only one example necessary)
7. Hawaii has a 100% renewable mandate by 2045.
8. They raised concerns about the increase costs to consumers' energy bills and questioned whether environmental benefits were overstated. (Answers may vary)