**Fossil Fuels: Why should we stop using them?**

By Kyle Butler

Why are we still using fossil fuels?

Fossil fuels are natural fuels such as coal or gas formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms. These natural resources have been used for centuries by the world as our main source of energy. Now is the time to finally move away from fossil fuels and move to a greener option; renewable energy. Natural resources such as gas and coal supplies are all but gone and the effects they have on our environment and climate are extremely damaging.

Fossil fuels have had a huge impact on the recent cost-of-living crisis. Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and co-author of the new book, Earth for All, claims “that high living costs right now are caused by higher prices on fossil fuels”. Most electricity and gas prices have risen by almost 40% and the cost of living has now become an international crisis. If we finally begin to phase out fossil fuels and move toward renewable energy, we would not only save money in the long term but we would also see a massive improvement in our atmosphere and environment.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the introduction of a global lockdown proved to have an extremely positive impact on the planet. Air quality and atmospheric particles were improving at an astronomical rate. According to the World Health Organisation, 4.6million people die annually from diseases/illnesses directly linked to unhealthy air quality caused by fossil fuels. According to the NCBI, during the global pandemic lockdown, everywhere was closed, and “a 90% reduction in mobility was observed” leading to fewer fossil fuels being released into the air. Based on these statistics alone, it’s clear that without fossil fuels polluting the air, the environment is in a much better condition and would vastly reduce the effects of climate change.

There are many ways in which we can use fewer fossil fuels and reduce the effect of climate change. One of which is using more renewable energy such as wind energy (wind turbines), solar energy (solar panels), and wave power (hydroelectric stations). By switching from coal and gas to solar and wind power, we would finally be able to reduce and not worry about the cost of living. We would benefit massively from a reduction in fossil fuels. We have to consider switching sooner rather than later or else we will forever live with the consequences caused by our actions. We must act now before it’s too late!