Epreuve orale spécifique Baccalauréat général Académie d'Amiens durée : 20min

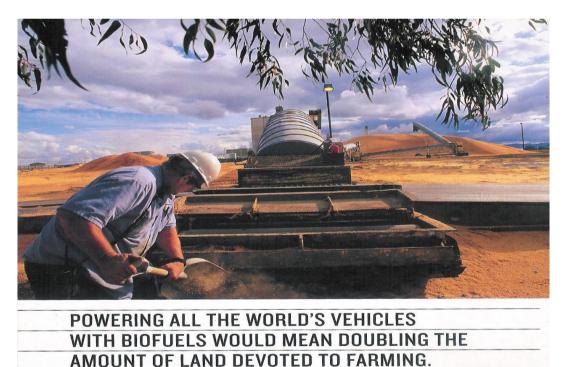
BIOFUELS

Biofuels are produced from living organisms or from metabolic by-products (organic or food waste products). In order to be considered a biofuel the fuel must contain over 80 percent renewable materials. It is originally derived from the photosynthesis process and can therefore often be referred to as a solar energy source. There are many pros and cons to using biofuels as an energy source.

With food-related riots erupting in many poor countries the debate surrounding biofuels is breaking out again. How viable are they, considering numerous other options easily available, as well as developing under-developed countries?

The greatest motivator for producing biofuels is the global warming caused by the constant burning of fossil fuels. On the other hand, the biofuels are supposed to cause less pollution, and they are also biodegradable.

So what's the alternative? Although biofuels are far better than fossil fuels, they shouldn't be produced by starving people and destroying the already-depleting forests. Better alternatives like wind energy, solar energy, energy produced by **tidal power stations** and nuclear energy will revolutionize the world.



From National Geographic (august 2005) and www.alternative-energy-news.info.

tidal power stations : usines marémotrices

Present both documents and explain why biofuel is a growing but very criticized industry.