

Trades in Action – Powering Our Future

Monica Cohen

This unit is intended for high school students studying environmental science in a vocational or technical setting. Incorporating real-world scenarios to create an authentic learning experiences is one of the major goals for this curriculum unit. Literacy skills and 21st century skills will be implemented throughout each component. The unit will challenge students to incorporate their knowledge in their technical trade into a real-world problem of energy consumption and future energy needs. Alternative energy sources have become an important part to combatting climate change. Students will study the current energy consumption around the world and the various forms of alternative energy sources available today. Students will study one alternative that directly relates to their trade – the production of the machinery, the installation, the application. The third portion of the unit will require students in a team setting to apply their knowledge of alternative energy to decide which fuels would be most appropriate to power their school.