

Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures™

A Short Story Contest for Massachusetts High-school Students

Presented by NESEA  Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

About the Author – Johannes Oltmanns, “The World in 2056”



Johannes Oltmanns is 16, and a junior at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Northfield, MA.

He writes: My name is Johannes Oltmanns; I am currently attending Northfield Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Massachusetts as a junior, and I am an exchange student from Weinstadt, Germany. My biggest interest is sports; I am a three season athlete and was part of the Water Polo, the Swimming and the Crew team at NMH. I became interested in environmental issues through a class in Environmental Studies I am currently taking here at NMH. It was through this class that I got interested in environmental issues, started to think about what could be done to save our planet from global warming and it was also where I heard about this competition.

In his afterward, Johannes says:

"This story is a story about our energy policies over the next 50 years, and it describes one path our country could take in terms of energy. This story is highly optimistic, it describes the, in my opinion, best solution to our current problems. I got the ideas for this story from readings and research on energy topics in general and specifically on renewable energy, mostly on wind energy. This story is not necessarily realistic, but all the energy solutions mentioned are technically possible already, the predictions made about China and India are widely accepted as facts, and the ideas about the “energy revolution” in the United States could become true, given engagement by the government through the right policy and financial investment and the help of the economy picking up on the opportunities that such an engagement would offer.

I am not saying that I really think or believe that this story is where America is heading, especially not with its current government, but I am strongly hoping, that America will be able to change its government and start going on the right path, because the only way to ensure our grandchildren, or even our children, the same life standards as we enjoy today, is starting to shift to a more sustainable life as individuals and as a nation, and every little thing will make a difference for this movement."

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