



## IMAGINING TOMORROW: ALTERNATE ENERGY FUTURES

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An Education and Outreach Opportunity for Clean and Renewable Energy

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### Science Fiction Takes on Global Warming: Announcing *Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures™*, a National Writing and Video Contest For High School Students

HARVARD, MA – February 5, 2007 – In *The Road to Science Fiction*, James Gunn writes: "Science fiction is the branch of literature that deals with the effects of change on people in the real world as it can be projected. . . and it usually involves matters whose importance is greater than the individual of the community; often civilization itself is in danger."

That is the foundation of *Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures*, a national writing and video contest for high-school students announced February 1, 2007.

Mary Essary, program director, stated "Science fiction has always been one way of expanding ideas that are part of our culture's vision. It also has a way of making real and immediate the vague and long-term threats to our society. There are no greater issues than clean energy, global warming and climate disruption that meet these criteria. *Imagining Tomorrow* gives students, families and communities a pathway to become better educated, and also to personalize the impact that the choices we make today will have on our future."

Students compete in a state or a region-at-large level, with entries due by midnight EDT, March 31, 2007. All entries must have energy issues, policies, or technologies as some basis for their story or video, and must supply a short description of the conceptual starting point. Top finalists advance to the national level, with \$10,000 committed in cash awards.

A successful pilot was run last year in Massachusetts in partnership with the Northeast Sustainable Energy Society (NESEA); winning stories are posted at the national website. This year, the program has been expanded to include video, whether PSAs, shorts, fiction or documentaries. This decision was made to give students greater creative freedom, as well as an opportunity to explore the many existing projects, companies and solutions that are already underway, but often have very low visibility.

Details about the contest, including guidelines and submission information, are available at [www.itomorrow.theforesightproject.org](http://www.itomorrow.theforesightproject.org). The website also contains examples of starting points from environmental, political, economic, and technology perspectives, as well as other resources. Schools can use the contest as a curriculum-related activity, as an assignment, as an extra-credit or honors project, or students may submit stories independently.

Essary summarized the genesis of the contest by saying, "Whether fact or fiction, it is clear that only through stories can we change understanding - and it is changes in understanding that change the world.

*Imagining tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures* is a program from The Foresight Project. The program is supported by donations from individuals and corporate sponsorships. For more information on supporting *Imagining Tomorrow*, contact [info@theforesightproject.org](mailto:info@theforesightproject.org).

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