
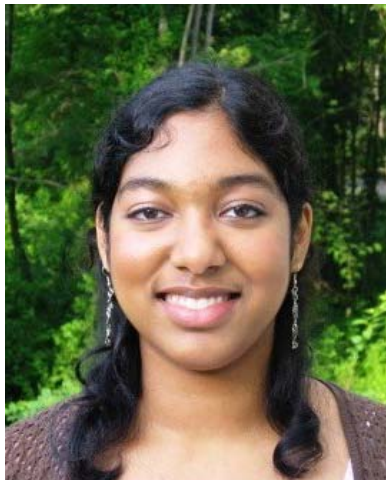


# Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures™

## A Short Story Contest for Massachusetts High-school Students

Presented by NESEA  Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

### *About the Author* – Shinjini Kundu, “A Glimpse of the Future”



Shinjini Kundu is 15, and a sophomore at Amherst Regional High School in Amherst, MA.

Shinjini says “I live with my parents and my little sister. I was born in Mt. Kisco, New York. When I was four, we left New York for Austin, Texas, and in less than three years’, we moved to Cupertino, California. Cupertino had an expansive public library stocked with exciting books to read, with an adjacent playground. I spent a lot of time at the public library in Cupertino, and developed my love of reading.

It was not long after that I began trying my hand at writing. In third grade, I wrote all kinds of short stories, and even wrote a collection of poems. In fourth grade, I moved back to Austin, Texas. It was at this age that I began writing my first novel for young adults. I did not know how to publish my book and the manuscript remains with me.

At high school, I am the captain of a varsity JETS team (Junior Engineering Technical Society), co-captain of the math team, treasurer of the Model United Nations Club, president of the Spanish club, and editor our school’s literary magazine. After high school, I want to study math and science.

Outside of school, I take lessons in classical Indian dances: in both *Bharatanatyam*, which is from Southern India, and *Odissi*, which is from Eastern India. I have performed dance at Hammerstein Ballroom in Manhattan and at the governor’s mansion in Hartford, Connecticut.

She adds “We seem to live in a “fuel’s paradise” thinking that there is a limitless supply of oil, gas, and coal. The fact is that there isn’t. Even if it would be found in abundance, depleting it faster is depriving our future. I am a firm believer that we should limit our nonrenewable energy consumption as much as possible, even if we can harness the technology to produce and sell it for cheap. We have already paid a high price for cheap energy, such as pollution, smog, acid rain, global warming, ozone holes, contamination of our drinking water, loss of natural habitat of numerous species due to accidental spillage, and contamination.

Once you look at the global picture, cheap energy looks costly to me. The goal of my writing is to promote conservation.”

In her afterward, she writes:

“Ideally, a new, sustainable form of energy will be implemented and used by the next fifty years, if research is actively done. It will likely cost a few billion dollars in research, but will save us trouble in the far future. However, it is not effective if researchers do not have the support of the government. To accomplish any goal, we all need to work together.”