
Student Guide

Introduction

You live in Golden County, an imaginary coastal county in California. The County has decided to protect itself from a future electricity crisis and price spikes by increasing the amount of electricity produced in the county, thus reducing the amount of electricity the county has to import. The County has sent out a notice requesting your presence at a meeting that will determine how this goal will be met.

Directions

You will assume an assigned role and use the information given to you to help the county achieve its goal of becoming 50% energy self-sufficient by creating **350 million kilowatt hours (KWh) of electricity** from local sources. You must work within the constraints of your role description and along with the other participants to determine how to best meet the goal through electricity generation or conservation projects.

This goal needs to be met by only using projects from Golden County's Tool Box on page 4. You can choose any of the projects on the list, but cannot use any project more than once.

The majority of the players **must** agree on exactly **which** projects are going to be used and **who** is going to pay for each project. In determining who is going to pay for each project you must rely on the information given in each role play, the money that the county has and the art of negotiation to cover all the costs while meeting the goal of 350 million kilowatt hours of electricity. Players can pay for part or all of a project but they **must** have money to spend. Each role explicitly states how much money each role has to work with.

You should consider costs and who bears the costs of each energy project as well as the technical potential and political feasibility of the various options, environmental impacts, and the reliability of the energy source when coming to an agreement.

You have been selected to participate because you have expertise and/or will be affected by the outcome of this plan and therefore it is very important that you prepare for this meeting as best as possible. The more you prepare the more likely you will be to succeed in getting what you want.

Participants

The following participants must work together to come up with a plan for the county that meets the new mandate to have 50% of the county's energy come from local sources.

Grover Mint

Grover represents a coalition of government agencies that is primarily concerned with ensuring that all citizens have access to reliable, affordable energy. This coalition Government also wants to minimize environmental damage and enforce all relevant laws.

Harvey Sterr

Harvey owns AgriFoods, a locally owned and operated food production company that is *heavily* dependent on affordable and reliable energy to make its products. Harvey is concerned with ensuring a reliable and reasonably priced source of energy so that the business can continue to operate, prosper, and stay competitive with other food production companies.

Eve R. Green

Eve is the head of Citizens for a Cleaner Tomorrow (CCT), a local environmental group that believes the county should rely on electricity that comes from 100% renewable energy sources. They are also *very* concerned about the environmental issues associated with energy use and are against any future oil and natural gas extraction, especially local, offshore production.

Eli Tricity

Eli is the CEO of Gold Coast Power (GCP), the local energy utility that produces and sells electricity to customers. GCP is owned by stockholders and therefore is responsible for making profits for them. GCP is concerned with maintaining a reliable supply of electricity at prices that customers can afford, but also making adequate profits for their shareholders. GCP is opposed to any plan that would cause them to lose profits.

About Golden County

Golden County is a coastal county in California with the following characteristics:

Area	1,500 square miles
Population	250,000 people
Length of Coastline	35 miles
Annual Rainfall	15 inches
Average Temperature	60° Fahrenheit
Average Wind Speed	5-7 miles per hour

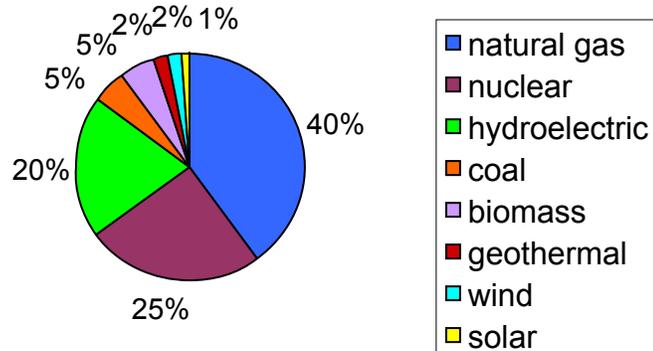
All County residents and businesses purchase their electricity from the local utility, Golden Coast Power (GCP), which is the only electric service provider (ESP) in the area. GCP provides the county with locally generated and imported electricity through a local electricity grid that connects to a larger national grid to access the imported electricity. In light of the recent energy crisis in California — especially the rolling blackouts and

skyrocketing prices — the county planning department has decided to take steps towards making the county more energy self-sufficient. The county has sent out a public notice that it plans to have 50% of its energy come from local sources. The county has scheduled a hearing in two weeks to hear what the various stakeholders think of the plan, and to get public input on how to accomplish this goal.

Golden County's Energy Use:

Golden County currently uses 1,800 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually and it imports 70% (about 1,250 million kilowatt hours) from outside the county.¹

Golden County's Current Electricity Sources



Tools

The Tool Box includes all of the potential projects you have to choose from in order to meet the county's goal of **350 million kilowatt hours**. You may use **any** combination of individual projects.

The Energy Packs on the following pages should give you an idea of what to do. The Energy Packs were designed to focus on one issue (environmental safety, cost or reliability) and to give you an idea of how to come up with a potential solution. They are not a complete list of the environmental, cost effective or reliable projects. For example, there are many environmentally friendly projects that were not included in the "environment" Energy Pack in order for it to come as close as possible to 350 million kilowatt hours. The same goes for the other energy packs.

In order to evaluate the pros and cons of each project you should do some research on the various energy sources.

¹ Excludes natural gas used to generate electricity.

Tool Box

Tool	Project Description	Cost	Electricity Produced (KWh)
Conservation	Distribute pamphlets to encourage the community to turn off the lights when they are not using them.	\$0.04 million	5 million
	Publish ads in the local paper encouraging the community to turn back thermostat 10°-15° in winter and up in summer.	\$ 0.05 million	20 million
Household Efficiency	Give out 12,500 compact fluorescent light bulbs	\$ 1 million	2 million
	Subsidize replacement of 5,000 pre 1993 refrigerators with new efficient ones	\$ 1 million	5 million
Geothermal	Build a geothermal power plant	\$ 2.3 million	10 million
Hydroelectric Dams	Build a new large dam	\$20 million	200 million
Landfill Gas	Build a power plant that runs on landfill gas	\$13 million	80 million
Natural Gas Power Plant Modernization	Install new technology that will increase plant efficiency from 30-50%	\$5 million	20 million
Natural Gas Production	Increase local natural gas production, which can be used to increase electricity production at the local power plant	\$10 million	0.5 million
Solar Photovoltaic	Install a 10,000 KW solar photovoltaic system on County buildings	\$22 million	4 million
	Hold meeting to encourage 3% of residents to install a solar photovoltaic systems	\$0.1 million	55 million
Wind	Install a 10,000 KW onshore wind farm	\$10 million	30 million
	Install a 40,000 KW offshore wind farm	\$48 million	150 million
Total		\$132.5 million	581.5 million

Energy Pack 1: Environmental Damage Minimization

Tool	Project Description	Project Cost	Amount of Electricity Created Annually (KWh)
Conservation	Publish ads in the local paper encouraging the community to turn back thermostat 10°-15° in winter and up in summer.	\$ 0.05 million	20 million
Landfill Gas	Build a power plant that runs on landfill gas	\$13 million	80 million
Natural Gas Power Plant Modernization	Install new technology that will increase plant efficiency from 30-50%	\$5 million	20 million
Solar Photovoltaic	Hold meeting to encourage 3% of residents to install a solar photovoltaic systems	\$0.1 million	55 million
Wind	Install onshore wind turbines	\$ 10 million	30 million
	Install offshore wind turbine	\$ 48 million	150 million
Total		\$76 million	355 million

Energy Pack 2: Cost Minimization

Tool	Project Description	Project Cost	Amount of Electricity Created Annually (KWh)
Conservation	Publish ads in the local paper encouraging the community to turn back thermostat 10°-15° in winter and up in summer.	\$ 0.05 million	20 million
Hydroelectric Dams	Build a new large dam	\$ 20 million	200 million
Landfill Gas	Build a power plant that runs on landfill gas	\$13 million	80 million
Solar Photovoltaic	Hold meeting to encourage 3% of residents to install a solar photovoltaic systems	\$0.1 million	55 million
Total		\$33 million	355 million KWh

Energy Pack 3: Reliability Maximization

Tool	Project Description	Project Cost	Amount of Electricity Created Annually (KWh)
Energy Conservation	Distribute pamphlets to encourage the community to turn off the lights when they are not using them.	\$0.04 million	5 million
Energy Efficiency	Subsidize replacement of 5,000 pre 1993 refrigerators with new efficient ones	\$ 1 million	5 million
Geothermal	Build a geothermal power plant	\$ 2.3 million	10 million
Hydroelectric Dams	Build a new large dam	\$ 20 million	200 million KWh
Landfill Gas	Build a power plant that runs on landfill gas	\$13 million	80 million KWh
Natural Gas Power Plant Modernization	Install new technology that will increase plant efficiency from 30-50%	\$5 million	20 million KWh
Wind	Install onshore wind turbines	\$ 10 million	30 million KWh
Total		\$51 million	350 million KWh

Project Descriptions: Homework 1

Fill out the following sheet by doing some internet research on the various energy sources. This will help you decide which tools you want to use.

Use the Tools as key words for searching. Some helpful websites include:

<http://www.need.org/infobooks.htm>

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/>

<http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/story/index.html>

Tool	Description	Pros	Cons
Energy Conservation	Wasting less electricity		
Energy Efficiency	Using less electricity to do the same things		
Geothermal	Using hot and steamy groundwater to produce electricity		
Hydroelectric Dams	Converting kinetic energy in falling water into electricity		
Landfill Gas	Using gas emissions from landfills to produce electricity		
Natural Gas Power Plant Modernization	Making the existing power plant more efficient		
Natural Gas Production	Increase local natural gas production and power plant output		
Solar Photovoltaic	Creating electricity from sunlight using solar panels		
Wind	Using wind turbines to produce electricity		

Grover Mint, Commission of Government Agencies

You are the executive director overseeing a commission of the various government agencies that have an interest in and responsibility for energy issues at the local, state, and federal level. You have the following responsibilities and regulations to enforce:

Facilitator: You are in charge of running this meeting. You need to listen to everyone's opinions and concerns and try to put them all together into a comprehensive plan. **You are responsible for making sure the following decisions are made:**

- **Where are the 350 million kilowatt hours of electricity going to come from?**
- **Who is going to pay for how much of each project?**

Taxes: You have the ability to approve or reject new taxes, but the public is very against new taxes and you don't like to upset the public. The majority of participants would have to agree to on a tax increase in order for you to be comfortable with approving one.

Renewable Portfolio Standard: You must encourage Gold Coast Power to increase the amount of renewable energy they purchase by 180 million KWh in order to meet a state mandate.

Budget: You have **\$5 million** in grants to subsidize projects this year that will benefit Golden County.

Grover's Position:

- You feel that Gold Coast Power should bear most of the costs of energy development since the company will make money on all of the projects.
- You are willing to pay for the costs of implementing conservation and efficiency programs, but only if GCP pays to modernize the power plant. If GCP forces the county to pay for part of the modernization then you want them to pay for part of the conservation and efficiency programs.
- The Golden County Water Agency, which you represent, is willing to pay for part of the construction costs of a large dam because it will help solve the county's water problem. They would like GCP to pay for the whole thing, but are willing to chip in up to half of the total costs.
- You are open to any project that will save the government money in the long run, above and beyond your given budget if you can't get anyone else to pay for it.

Optional Solution

Golden County Sustainable Energy Agreement

Project Chosen	Paid By	Cost	Electricity Produced (KWh)
Total			

We fully agree to the terms and conditions above and promise to uphold our end of the bargain and certify that we have arrived at this decision together and considered all trade-offs associated with our choices and feel that we have done our best to minimize risk to all parties concerned.

X _____

X _____

X _____

X _____