

Research Assessment #9

Date: 10/30/2020

Subject: “Covid-19 shutdown led to increased solar power output”

MLA citation:

Chandler , David L. “Covid-19 Shutdown Led to Increased Solar Power Output.” *MIT News | Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, MIT News Office, news.mit.edu/2020/covid-19-solar-output-smog-0722.

Assessment:

Imagine a world with less pollution. How would that impact the world? Skies would be less polluted and natural life would have a better way of living more healthy. Now imagine if the world just stopped how would pollution be impacted. This has in fact happened recently due to COVID-19. Many people stayed indoors as many of you know and from people staying indoors pollution had significantly decreased. Along with the overall decrease in pollution, there was an increase in other renewable energy resources. The article I have read called “Covid-19 shutdown led to increased solar power output” stated that the solar power input had increased. This is really impressive and has shown that if we use more of these non-harmful resources we should be able to have less pollution in general.

In the article, it had stated that since the Coronavirus shutdown the pollution went down almost by 50%. That is almost half of the pollution being cut down. From less pollution, specifically, air pollutants have cleared up. Since they had cleared up this has caused more sunlight to be able to reach the earth increasing the input of sunlight up to what the article says to be 8% more. This is great information as Peters stated “it gives a glimpse into a world with significantly less air pollution.” and I completely agree. Being quarantined was not all bad, this has caused many to open their eyes to what the earth could become if we would let fewer pollutants into the atmosphere. Now with less pollution, we can now use these other resources, in this case, solar energy, that may not harm the natural life more effectively. Right now people do not use solar energy due to the fact that unless you have an abundant amount of these panels it is hard to get a large amount of energy from them, but with fewer pollutants in the air, we should be able to have increasing inputs of solar energy to convert to electrical energy.

As the quarantined areas had opened up more recently this may cause air pollution to increase. As a (future) mechanical engineer I want to be able to help us move from fossil fuel energy to a more renewable and sustainable energy generation. Many people do not feel comfortable with using these types of energy as it may take longer to develop them, and it also is not always affordable. This is where I come in, I want to help make these types of non-harmful energy sources affordable and more useful for communities, homes, and companies around the

world. It will only benefit us to move to a more sustainable pathway than to just stay where we are today. It may be uncomfortable, at first, but I believe that if we start integrating more sustainable and environmentally harmless energy sources we would start to just get used to it. Even if people were not enjoying the thought of switching sources of energy, many people are followers, so if we make the new renewable energy sources seem more part of our normal daily lives we should be able to make helping the environment our new normal.