

# RENEW-A-BEAD

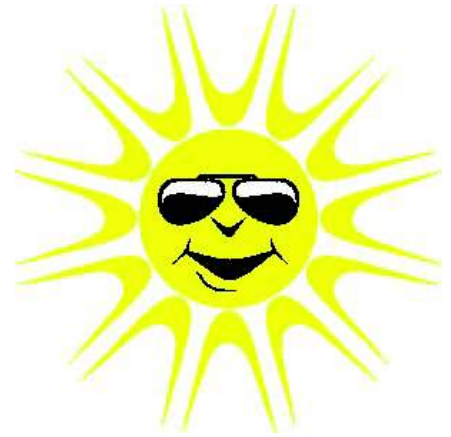
**Objective:** Students will understand how, over several years, nonrenewable resources will be depleted.

**Illinois State Goals:** 11.A., 12.E.

**Top Book Hits:**

Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel; **ISBN-13:** 978-1600102240

Energy Essentials: Renewable Energy by Nigel Saunders & Steven Chapman; **ISBN-13:** 978-1410931856



**Materials Needed:**

- One open clear container
- Pony beads: 92 of one color, 8 of another color
- One blindfold

**Procedure:**

1. Explain to students that 92% of our energy consumption is from non-renewable resources and that only 8% comes from renewable resources.
2. Have students count out 92 pony beads of one color and 8 pony beads of another color to represent these percentages. Place these beads in a clear container.
3. Inform students that this demonstration simulates energy consumption in the United States.
4. Blindfold six students. Tell the students that any beads representing renewable resources can be returned to the container, while any beads representing nonrenewable resource cannot.
5. Ask the first student to pick out 15 beads and place any renewable resource beads back in the container. The nonrenewable energy beads can be placed in another container.
6. Have the remaining students pick out more beads in the following amounts: 25, 35, 45, 55, and 65.
7. Ask students to predict what will happen if the activity continues. What does this mean for our energy supply? Have students list ways to extend both renewable and non-renewable energy resources.

**Explore More:** Illinois Renewable Energy Ag Mag [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org) or through local agricultural literacy coordinator. Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Renew-A-Bead lesson from Go Green booklet goes into more depth and provides charts [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org).