



## Statement of participation

# Michael Frank

has completed the free course including any mandatory tests for:

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### **Energy resources: Solar energy**

This 2-hour free course explored the potential of the sun to provide useable thermonuclear energy, and the technical feasibility of harnessing it.

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**Issue date:** 21 August 2018

[www.open.edu/openlearn](http://www.open.edu/openlearn)

This statement does not imply the award of credit points nor the conferment of a University Qualification.  
This statement confirms that this free course and all mandatory tests were passed by the learner.  
Please go to the course on OpenLearn for full details:  
<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/science/environmental-science/energy-resources-solar-energy/content-section-0>

COURSE CODE: S278\_6

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## Energy resources: Solar energy

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### Course summary

Energy from sources other than fossil and nuclear fuels is to a large extent free of the concerns about environmental effects and renewability that characterize those two sources. Each alternative source supplies energy continually, whether or not we use it, and most have their origins in energy generated outside the Earth, yet the potential of each is limited by its total supply set against its rate of use. The Sun will radiate energy until it ceases thermonuclear fusion, in around 5 billion years. This free course, Energy resources: Solar energy, explores the Sun as a potential source of usable energy.

### Learning outcomes

By completing this course, the learner should be able to:

- explain the principles that underlie the ability of various natural phenomena to deliver solar energy
- outline the technologies that are used to harness the power of solar energy
- discuss the positive and negative aspects of solar energy in relation to natural and human aspects of the environment.

### Completed study

The learner has completed the following:

#### Section 1

Solar energy

#### Section 2

Solar thermal energy

#### Section 3

Photovoltaic conversion of solar energy

#### Section 4

The future of direct solar energy use

#### Section 5

Biomass conversion of solar energy

#### Section 6

Conclusion