

Section 12.4 Electrical Energy and the Environment - Answer Key

1) What is one consequence of a growing world population? **One consequence of a growing population is that the demand for electricity.**

2) What is one benefit of hydro-electric plants? **Hydro-electric plants don't produce smoke and black clouds of soot.**

3) What are two disadvantages of hydro-electric plants? **Two disadvantages of hydro-electric plants are they may cause flooding and they may damage the local ecosystem.**

4) Define open pit mining. **Open pit mining is when a resource is mined near the surface of the earth.**

5) Define acid rain. **Acid rain is rain that has higher than normal levels of acid.**

6) Define scrubbers. **Scrubbers are anti-pollution systems that remove sulfur dioxide from smoke stack emissions.**

7) Which compound is a natural part of the atmosphere? **Carbon dioxide is a natural part of the atmosphere.**

8) Define greenhouse gas. **Greenhouse gas is gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and stops it from escaping into space.**

9) Define global warming. **Global warming is the increase in temperature world wide caused by the heating of the earth's atmosphere.**

10) What do radioactive materials emit? **Radioactive materials emit high energy alpha and beta particles that can hurt living organisms.**

11) Define thermal pollution. **Thermal pollution is the unwanted increase in temperature of a body of water.**

12) What is one cause of thermal pollution? **One cause of thermal pollution is when heated water from coal and nuclear plants are returned into a lake or river.**