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Educational Pill

The EU Strategy on Hydrogen:

1. Introduction: Presentation of the topic and its importance.

Hydrogen is a chemical element that can be used as a clean and renewable energy source. The European Union has identified hydrogen as a key element in achieving the energy transition and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The EU is committed to finding sustainable solutions to supply the growing global population and mitigate the effects of climate change. Hydrogen can be produced from renewable energy sources and can be used as fuel in transportation, heating, and power generation applications.

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2. What is the EU Strategy on Hydrogen? Detailed explanation of the EU strategy and its objectives.

The EU Strategy on Hydrogen focuses on the use of hydrogen as a clean and renewable energy source in the transition to a more sustainable and decarbonized energy system. The EU has set ambitious goals for the use of hydrogen, including increasing renewable hydrogen production capacity to 40 GW by 2030 and up to 80 GW by 2040.

The EU aims to lead the way in the production and use of renewable hydrogen globally, and to achieve this, it is working in collaboration with member states, industry, and other key stakeholders to promote hydrogen production and use in the EU. Significant research is being conducted on hydrogen projects and infrastructures, such as hydrogen transport and storage networks.

The EU strategy is based on three main pillars:

- Promoting large-scale production of renewable hydrogen at competitive prices, using renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy, and developing innovative technologies for hydrogen

production from unconventional energy sources.

- Creating a safe and efficient hydrogen market by promoting common technical norms and standards, establishing an appropriate regulatory framework, and fostering international cooperation.
- Expanding the use of hydrogen in all relevant sectors, from industry and transportation to heating and energy storage, by promoting innovation and investment in hydrogen infrastructure.

3. Why is the EU betting on hydrogen? Brief description of the reasons behind the EU's commitment to hydrogen, including its potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the energy transition.

The EU has decided to bet on hydrogen as a clean and renewable energy source for several reasons. Firstly, hydrogen can be produced from renewable energy sources such as wind or solar energy, making it a sustainable and environmentally friendly option. This characteristic makes it particularly attractive at a time when the EU is aiming to decarbonize its energy system and reduce its dependence on fossil fuels.

Secondly, hydrogen can be used in a wide range of applications, including electricity production, transportation, and industry. This means that hydrogen has the potential to transform multiple sectors of the economy and contribute to a broader transition to a more sustainable and decarbonized energy system. Additionally, hydrogen is highly efficient and can be easily stored, making it a versatile energy source. This makes it particularly useful in situations where a constant and reliable energy source is required, such as electricity production or long-distance transportation.

4.Types of Hydrogen: Description of different types of hydrogen (green, blue, gray) and how they are produced.

There are three main types of hydrogen: green hydrogen, blue hydrogen, and gray hydrogen.

Green hydrogen is produced from renewable energy sources such as solar or wind energy. The production process does not emit greenhouse gases, making it the most sustainable and environmentally friendly option. Although it is still a costly process, green hydrogen has the potential to be a key energy

source in the future and an essential component in decarbonizing the economy.

Blue hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels such as natural gas, but the carbon produced in the process is captured and stored. This carbon capture and storage (CCS) process significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, making it a more sustainable option than gray hydrogen.

Gray hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels without carbon capture and storage, resulting in significant greenhouse gas emissions. It is the most polluting form of hydrogen production and is not considered a viable long-term option in the EU's hydrogen strategy.

It is important to note that the EU is particularly interested in promoting the use of green hydrogen as it is the most sustainable and environmentally friendly type of hydrogen. However, in the short term, blue hydrogen can also play an important role in the transition to a more sustainable and decarbonized economy.

5. Applications of Hydrogen: Explanation of the different applications of hydrogen in various sectors such as industry, transportation, and energy.

Hydrogen has a wide range of applications in different sectors, including industry, transportation, and energy. In the industry, hydrogen is used as a fuel for production processes, such as petroleum refining and ammonia production. In transportation, hydrogen can be used as a fuel in hydrogen-powered vehicles, which emit only water vapor and do not produce greenhouse gases.

In power generation, hydrogen can be used in fuel cells to generate electricity. Additionally, hydrogen can be used for renewable energy storage, such as wind and solar energy, enabling its use at a later time when there is insufficient energy available. The use of hydrogen as a fuel in aviation and maritime transportation is also being researched as a more sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.

6. Benefits of Hydrogen: Description of the benefits of using hydrogen, including its ability to store renewable energy and its potential to improve air quality and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The use of hydrogen as an energy source has several benefits. Firstly, hydrogen can be produced from renewable energy sources such as solar or wind energy, making it a sustainable and environmentally friendly option. Additionally, hydrogen has the ability to store renewable energy, making it an alternative to batteries for electrical energy storage.

Another benefit of using hydrogen is its potential to improve air quality and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Hydrogen does not emit greenhouse gases or polluting particles when used in vehicles or electricity production. Furthermore, the use of hydrogen can reduce reliance on fossil fuels, which can improve energy security and reduce the volatility of oil prices.

7. Challenges and Limitations: Identification of the challenges and limitations in developing and using hydrogen as an energy source.

Despite the benefits of hydrogen, there are some challenges and limitations in its development and use as an energy source. One of the major challenges is the infrastructure required to produce, transport, and store hydrogen on a

large scale. Additionally, the cost of renewable hydrogen production remains high compared to fossil fuels, although it is expected to decrease as new technologies are developed and economies of scale are achieved.

Another significant challenge is the safety in handling and storing hydrogen, as it is a highly flammable and explosive gas at certain concentrations. Furthermore, the technology for hydrogen use in vehicles and other equipment is not yet fully developed and may require greater investments in research and development.

It is also important to note that the production of hydrogen from fossil fuels, such as grey hydrogen, is still common and can result in greenhouse gas emissions if proper carbon capture and storage measures are not implemented.

Lastly, there are limitations in the availability of renewable energy sources necessary for large-scale green hydrogen production, which may restrict its use in certain regions of the world.

8. EU Action Plan: Description of the specific measures that the EU is taking to implement its hydrogen strategy, including investment

in research and development, promotion of hydrogen production and use, and the establishment of appropriate regulatory frameworks.

The EU has established a detailed action plan to implement its hydrogen strategy. Firstly, it is investing in research and development to improve the efficiency and reduce the production costs of hydrogen, as well as in the creation of adequate infrastructure for its storage and distribution.

Furthermore, the EU is promoting hydrogen production and use by creating incentives and providing financial support for hydrogen projects, as well as collaborating with industry and member states to foster its adoption in different sectors.

The EU is also working on establishing an appropriate regulatory framework for hydrogen, including regulation of hydrogen production, transportation, and use, as well as the definition of standards and labeling for green and blue hydrogen.

Additionally, the EU is driving international cooperation in hydrogen development, including agreements with hydrogen-producing and

consuming countries to promote its adoption and global trade.

9. Conclusion: Recap of key points and reflection on the future of hydrogen as a key energy source for the EU and the world.

In conclusion, hydrogen emerges as a promising option for the transition to a more sustainable and decarbonized energy system. The EU has strongly advocated for this clean and renewable energy source, setting ambitious goals and concrete measures for its production and use. The benefits of hydrogen, such as its ability to store renewable energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, are significant. However, there are also challenges and limitations that need to be addressed, such as infrastructure gaps and the current cost of production. As the EU and other countries invest in research and development, as well as the establishment of appropriate regulatory frameworks, the future of hydrogen as a key energy source looks promising.

Clearly, hydrogen is an energy source with great potential to help the EU achieve its decarbonization and sustainability objectives. However, it is important to note that the

successful development and implementation of hydrogen will not be easy and will require significant investment and international cooperation.

Although the EU has set ambitious goals for hydrogen use and has taken concrete steps to promote its production and use, there are still many challenges and limitations that need to be overcome, such as the need to reduce production costs and improve the efficiency of hydrogen storage and distribution.

Despite these challenges, the future of hydrogen appears promising. Hydrogen can help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. Furthermore, the versatility of hydrogen means it has the potential to be used in a wide range of applications, from electricity generation to transportation and industry.

In summary, if current challenges and limitations can be overcome, hydrogen could become a key energy source for the EU and the world in the transition to a more sustainable and decarbonized energy system.



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