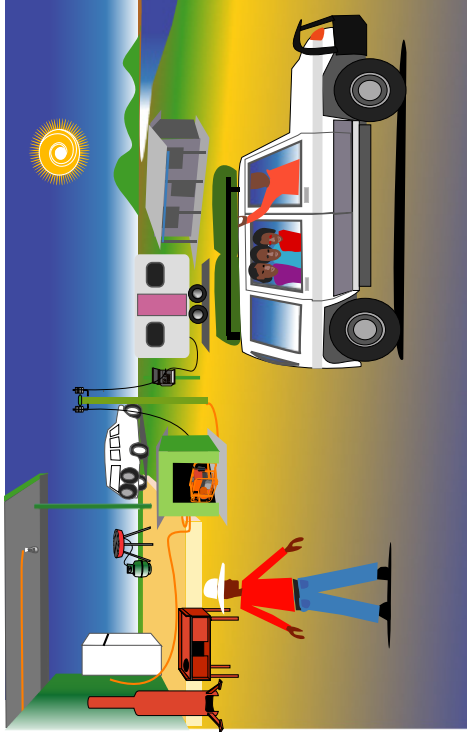


Light and Life in the Bush

LIGHT
BUSH



The Energy Money Story





The Energy Money Story
Edition 3, September 2004
Bushlight®

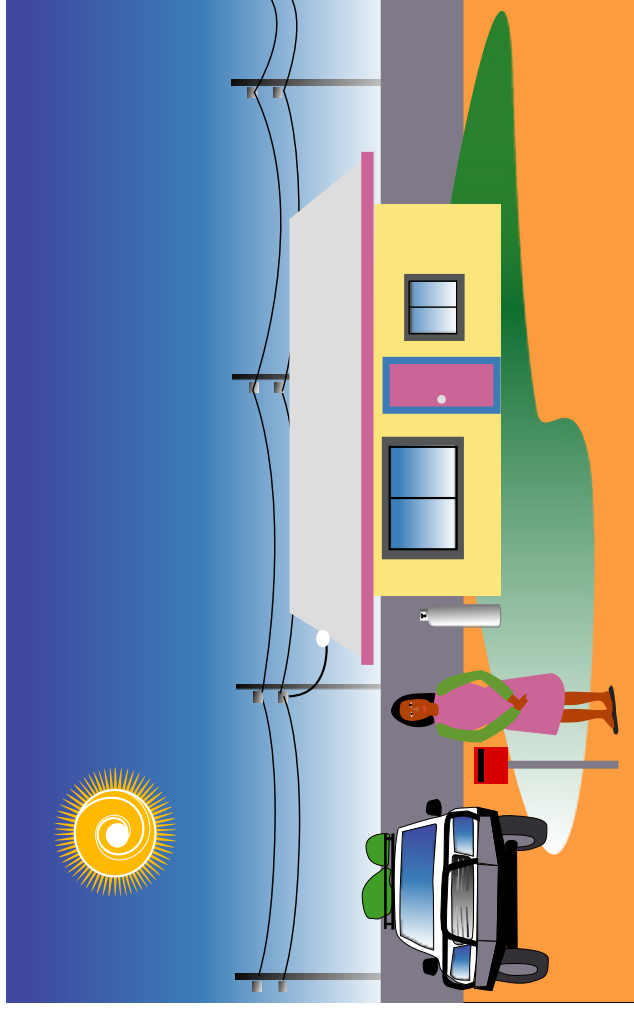
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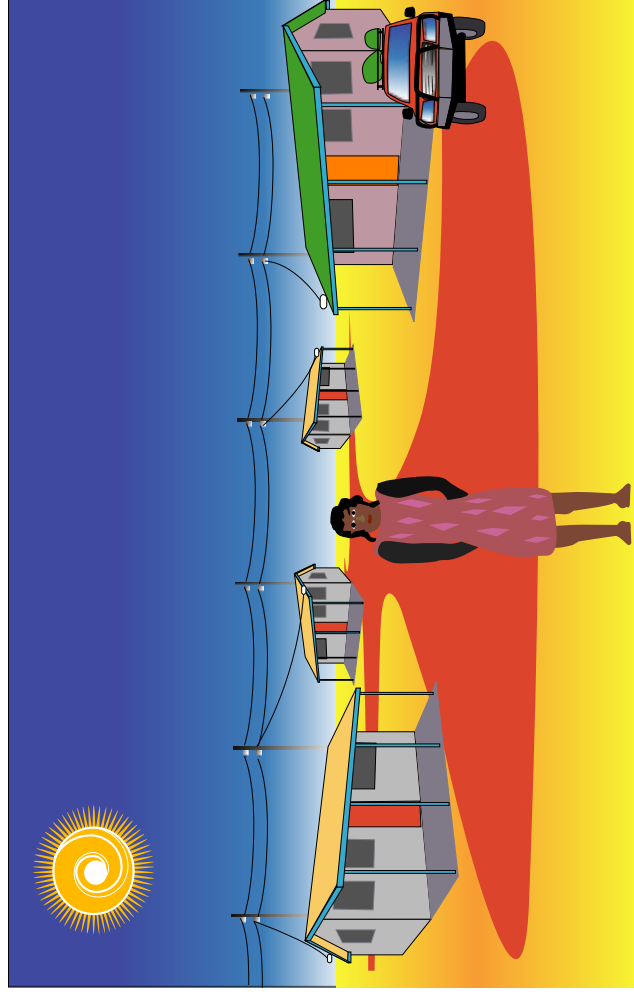
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Introduction

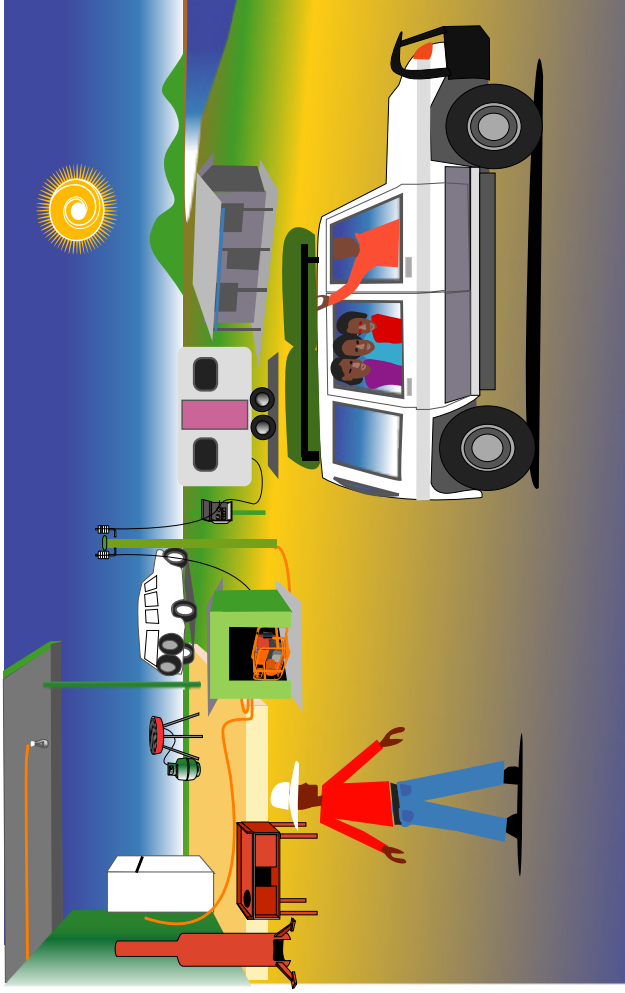
This is a story about money and energy. We have some people who are going to tell you about this story:



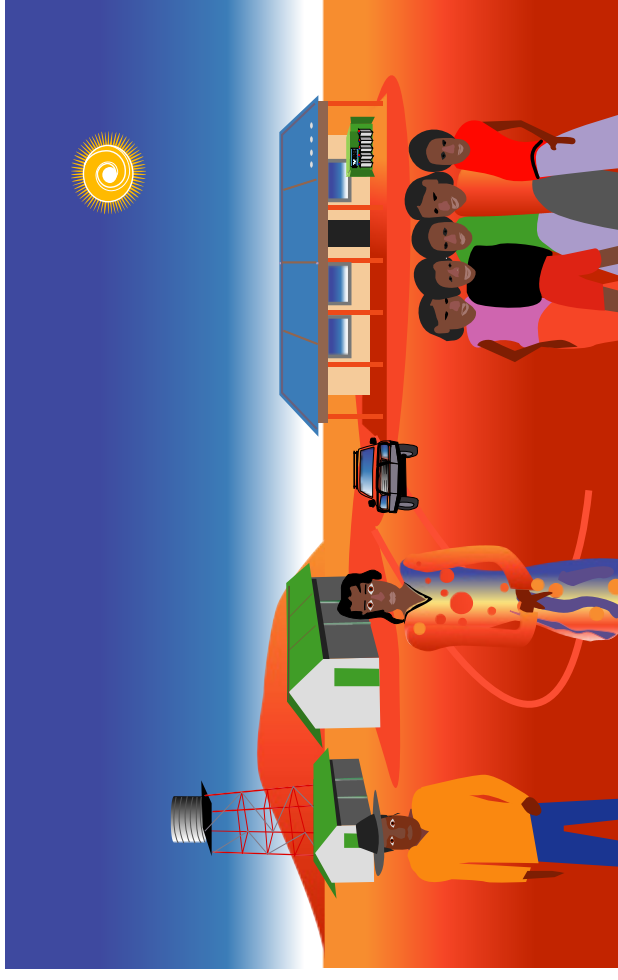
Mary lives in a house in town. She works in town. Mary has a daughter with kids, they come to stay on holidays.



Judy lives in a house in a larger community near the town. She works in the town and spends her time off visiting her sister Rebecca. Lots of people visit Judy.

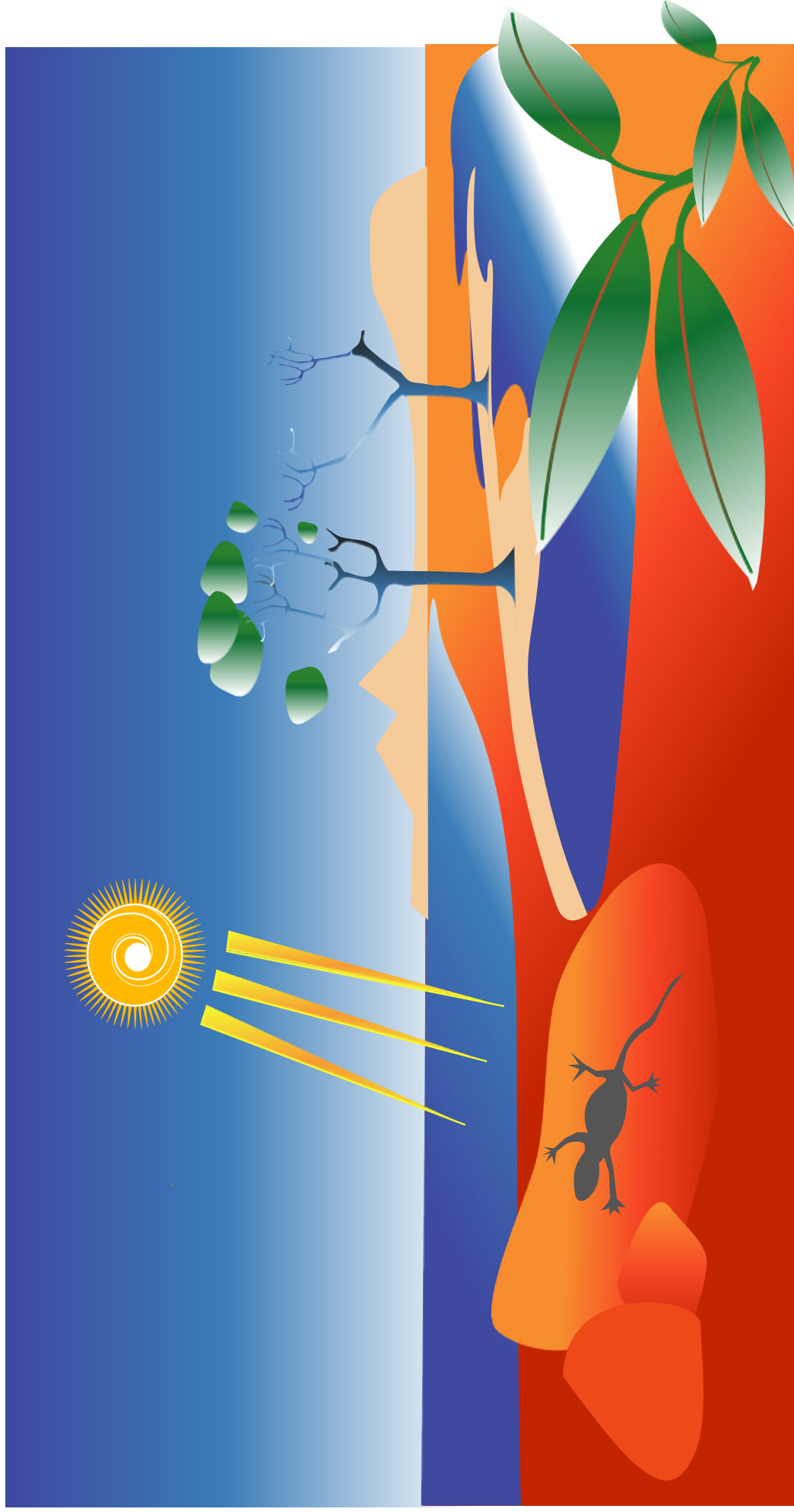


Bob lives on an outstation on his country. He has a shelter with an outdoor kitchen on the veranda and a caravan for visitors.



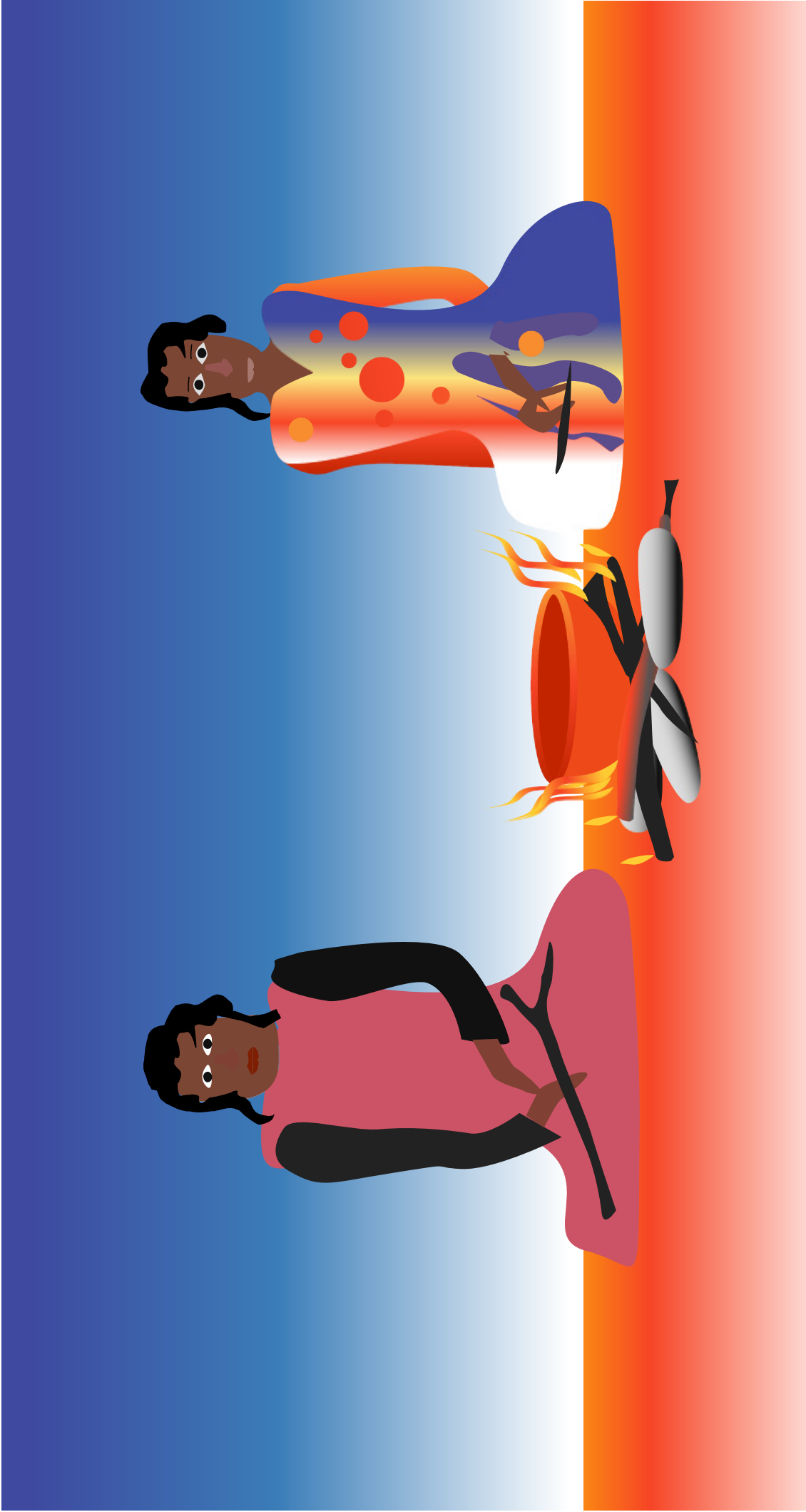
Rebecca lives with her family on an outstation. Rebecca has a sister called Maureen. Maureen and her family come to stay with Rebecca during the holidays.

Story - 1 What is energy?



Energy is the stuff that makes things go. It can also make things change.

The energy in nature comes from the sun. The sun gives light and heat. This is what makes things in the world move, grow and change.



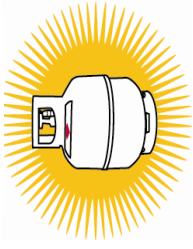
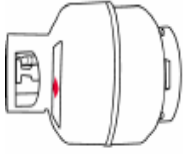
Fuel holds energy. Firewood is a fuel. When Judy visits Rebecca they use firewood to make fire. When we burn firewood we can use the energy to cook food.

Story 2 - There are different kinds of fuel

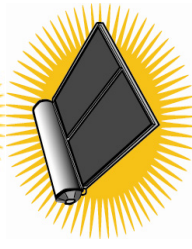
In the bush you will find these types of fuel:



Diesel and Petrol



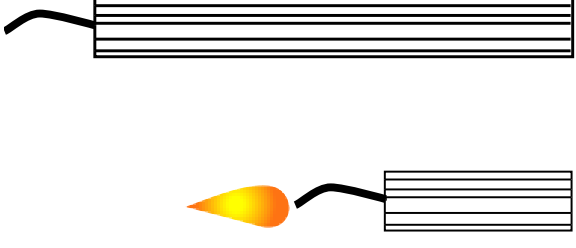
Gas



Solar



Firewood

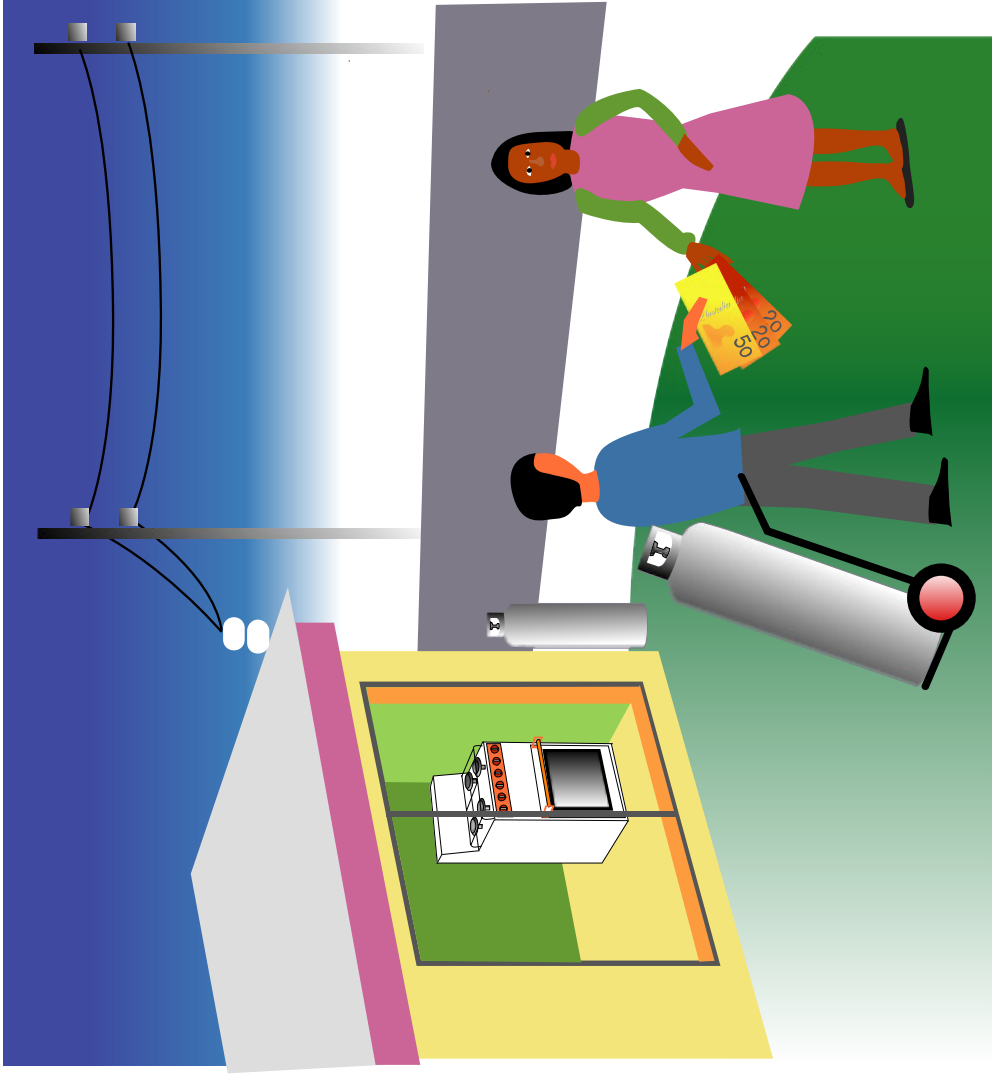


As we burn fuel it gets used up.

To keep getting energy we need more fuel.



All of this fuel costs money!



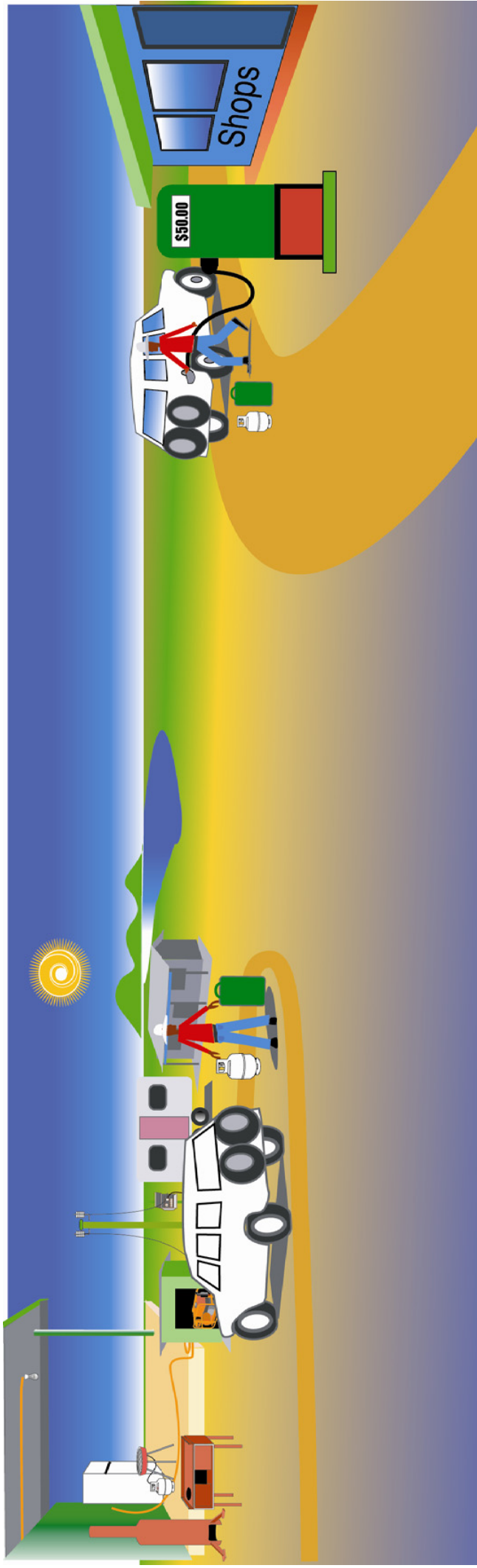
Mary uses gas bottles for cooking on her gas stove, and heating in winter.

She gets one gas bottle delivered every six months or so, it costs her \$90 each time.



Judy uses electricity for everything.

She buys a power card every two weeks, it costs her \$20 each time.

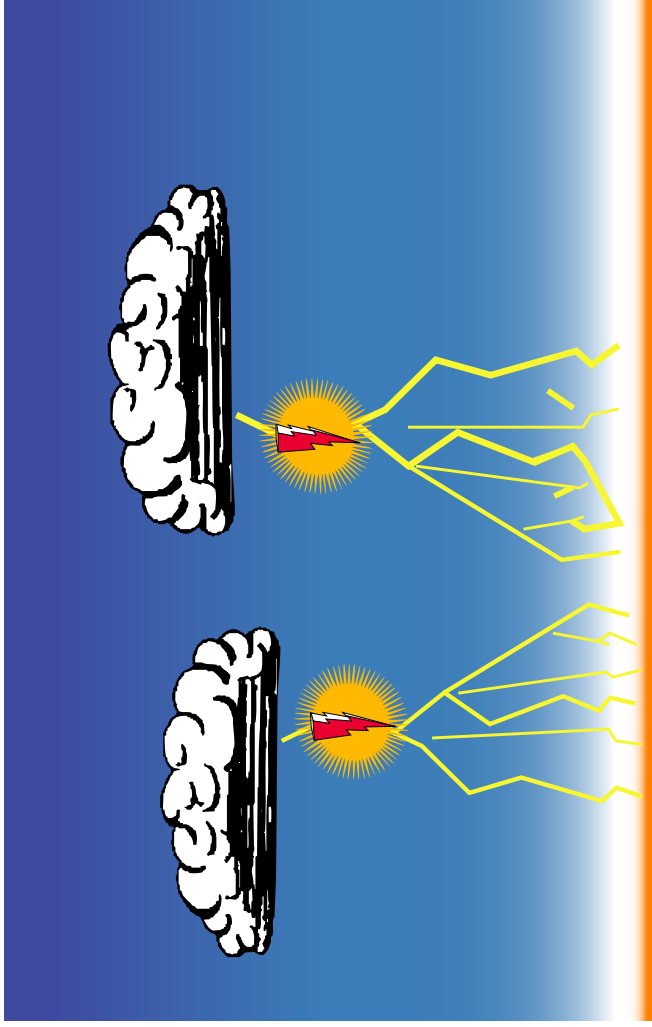


Bob uses firewood, gas, petrol, and diesel. He can collect firewood from the land.

He does not use much gas but spends \$70 each week on diesel. He has to go to town to buy more.

He has to put petrol in the car every time he goes to town, this costs him \$50 each time.

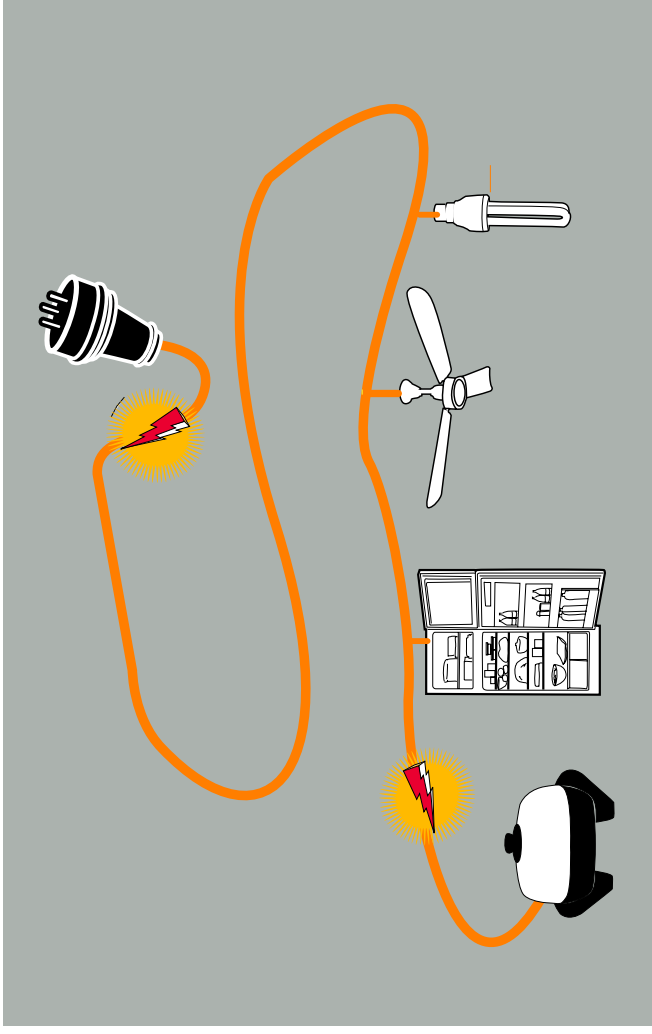
Story 3 - Electricity



Electricity is one kind of energy.

It is very strong, like a bolt of lightning.

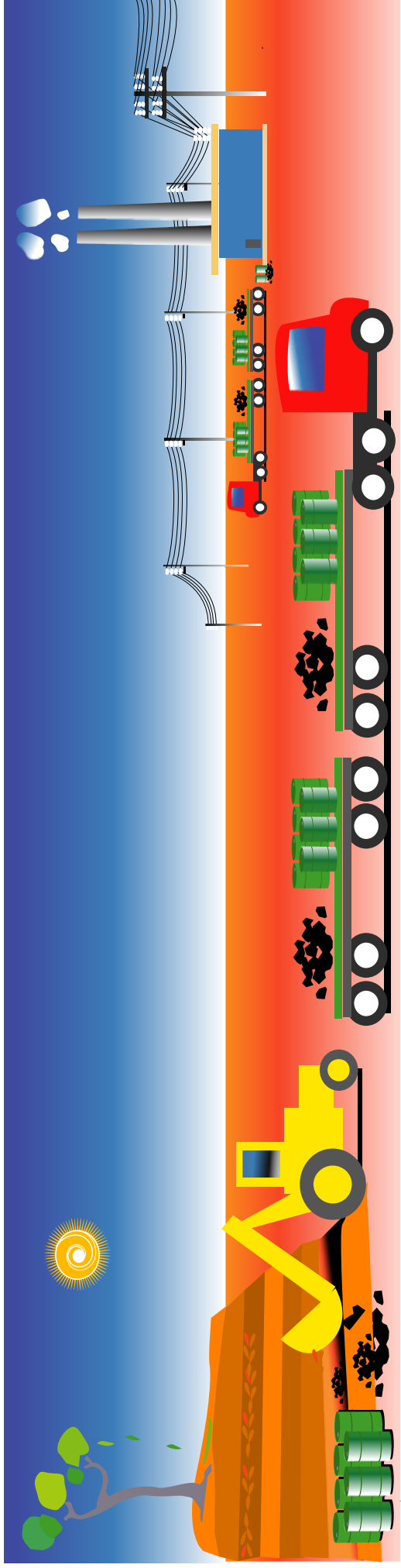
If it hits a person it can kill them.



A lot of machines and appliances use electricity to make them go.

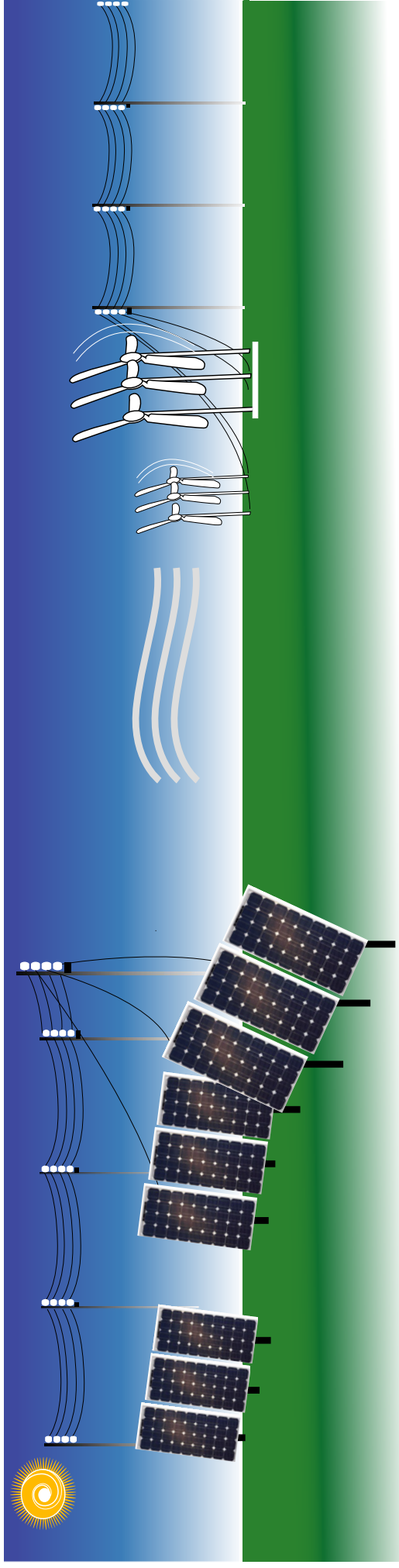
People use the appliances and machines to do work and make life comfortable.

Story 4 - Where do we get electricity from?



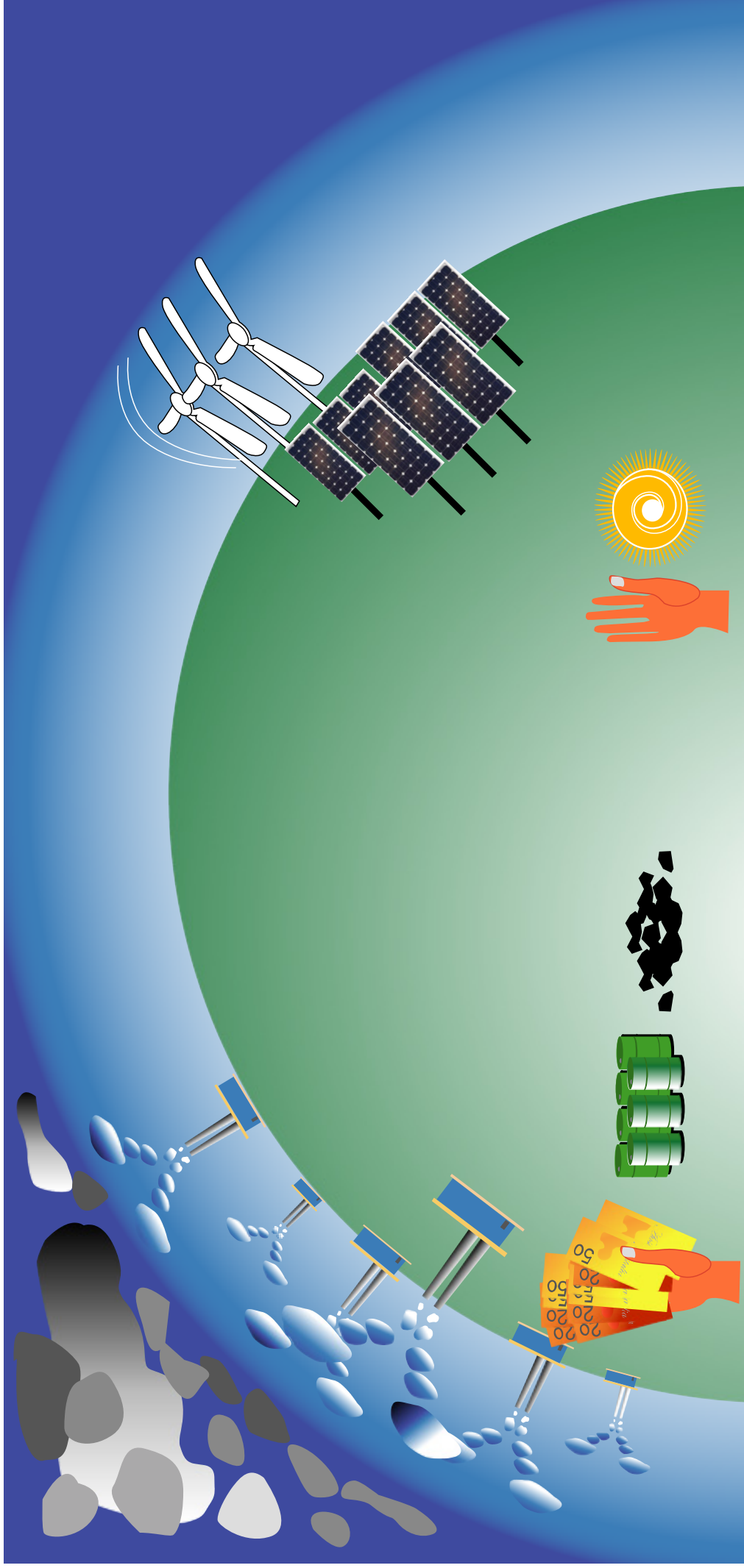
Most of our electricity comes from burning fuels called fossil fuels.

The heat energy from the burning of fossil fuels makes a generator run. The generator makes electricity.



We can make some electricity without burning fossil fuels.

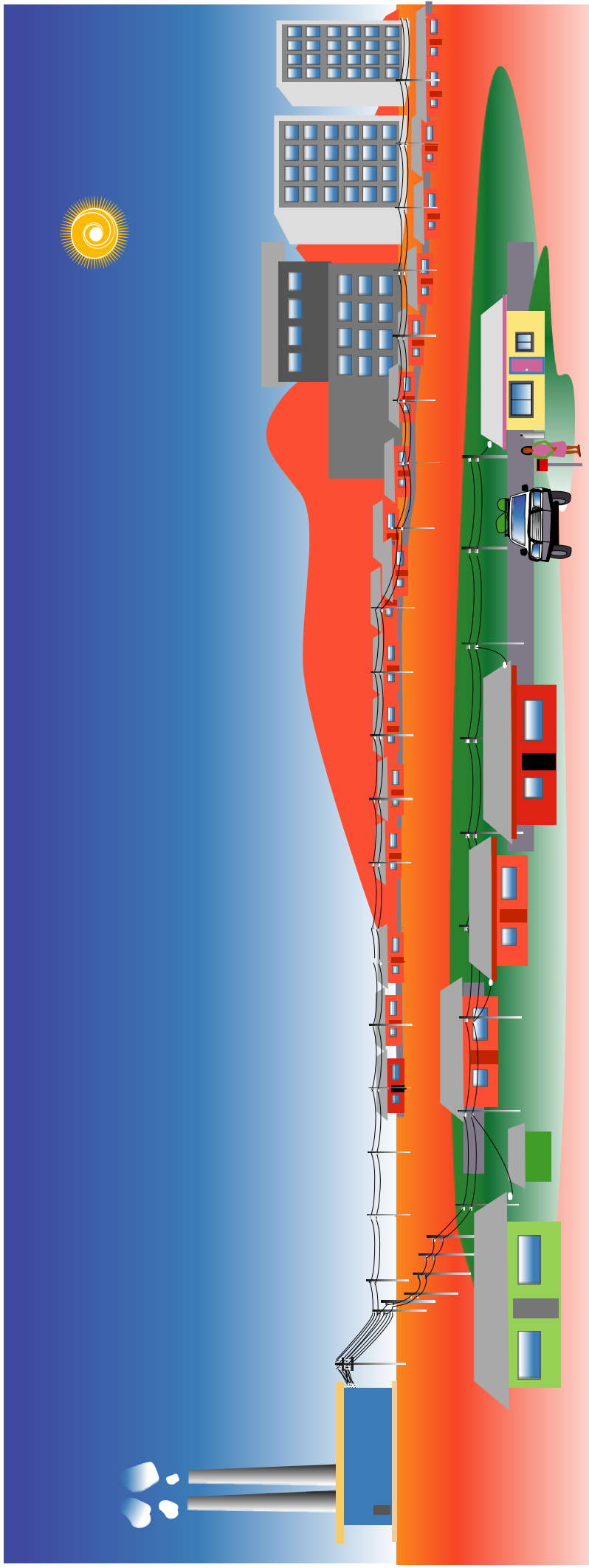
We can use renewable energy from the sun and wind to make this electricity.



It costs money to buy fossil fuels. When we burn fossil fuels we make pollution. More people are burning fossil fuels and the pollution is getting bad.

Renewable energy is made from the sun and wind. These fuels are free. They do not make any pollution.

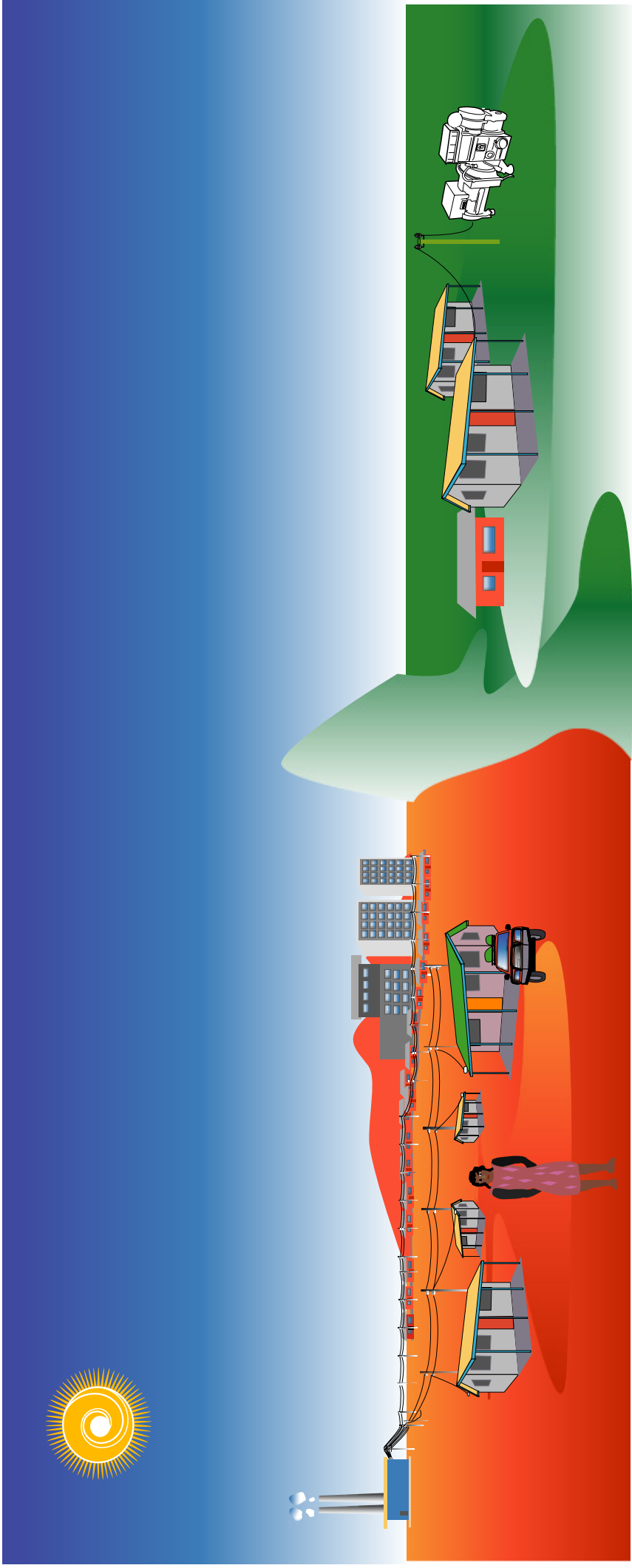
Story 5 - How does electricity get from place to place?



The electricity is carried by powerlines. The powerlines are called a grid. A city will have a big grid and a town will have a small grid.

The grid can go a long way. It takes electricity to each house and building. We can see Mary by her house.

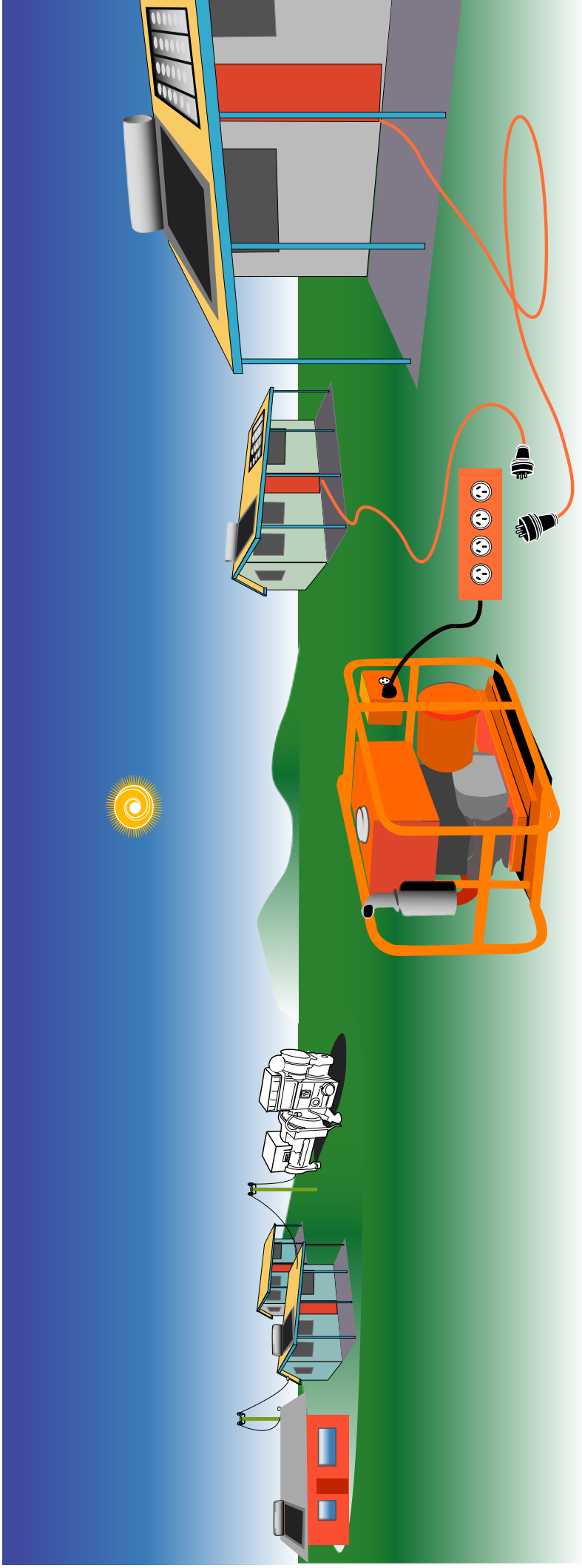
In each house and building there are wires. The wires take the electricity to where Mary can use it.



The grid can take electricity to places that are close by.
The larger community Judy lives in is close by.

People who live out bush are too far away from the grid.
Bob and Rebecca cannot get electricity from the grid.

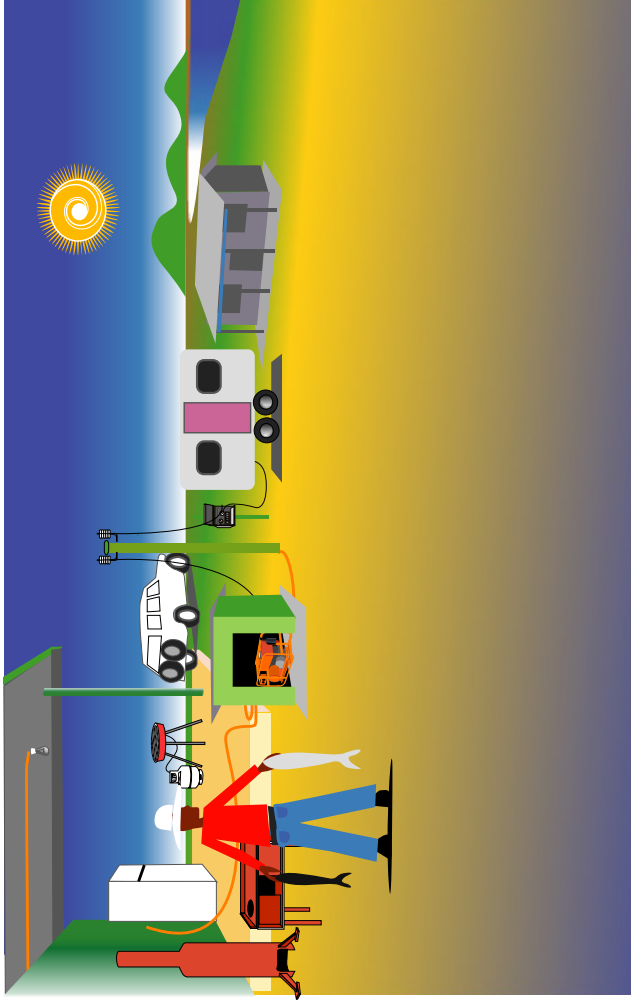
Story 6 - What do people in the bush do for electricity?



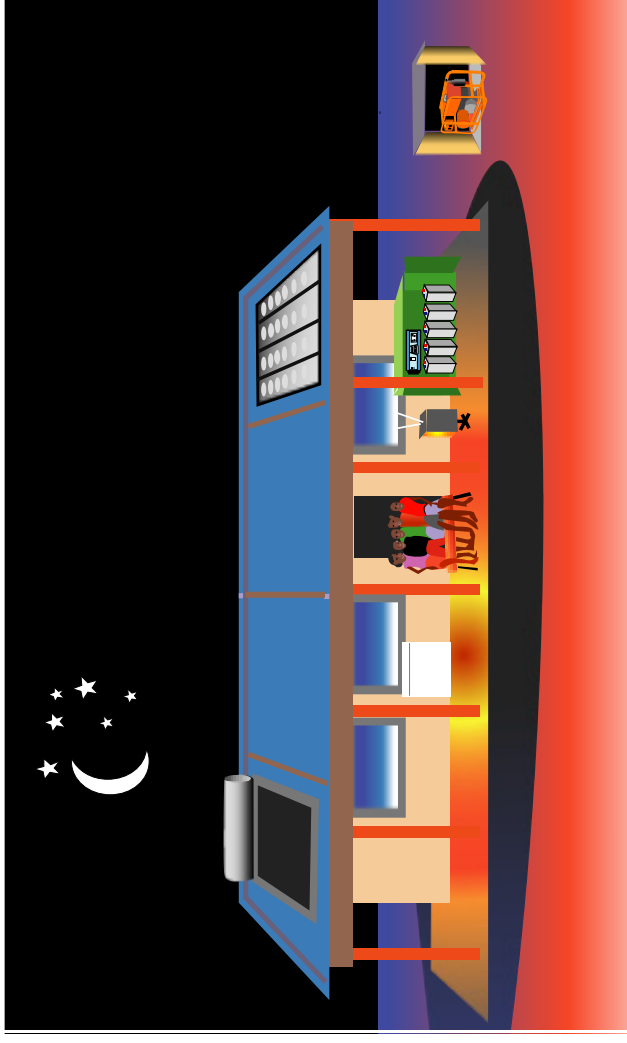
Most people out bush make electricity using small generators. They burn diesel to run their generators. Bob uses a generator.

Some places have powerlines to carry the electricity to the houses. In other places extension leads are used to carry the electricity to where it is needed.

A few places have got solar systems that make electricity and heat water. Rebecca uses solar systems.



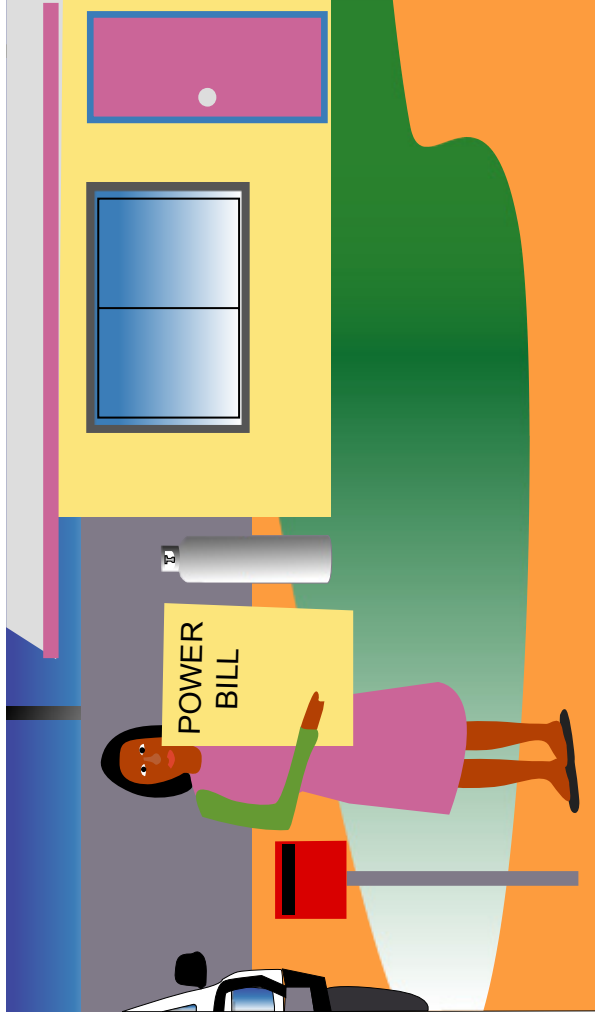
Bob uses a small generator. It does not belong to Bob. The resource agency provided it. Fuel costs a lot of money so Bob cannot run the generator all day.



Rebecca has a solar system. She has electricity all day. The solar system does not make enough electricity for everything they do. They also have a small generator.

Story 7 - How much do people pay for electricity in towns?

Mary gets big bills every three months and spends about \$500 a year on electricity.



Mary uses electricity from the grid. Every three months she gets a bill from the people who make the electricity.



The people who make electricity measure how much electricity Mary uses. The electricity is measured in kilowatt hours.

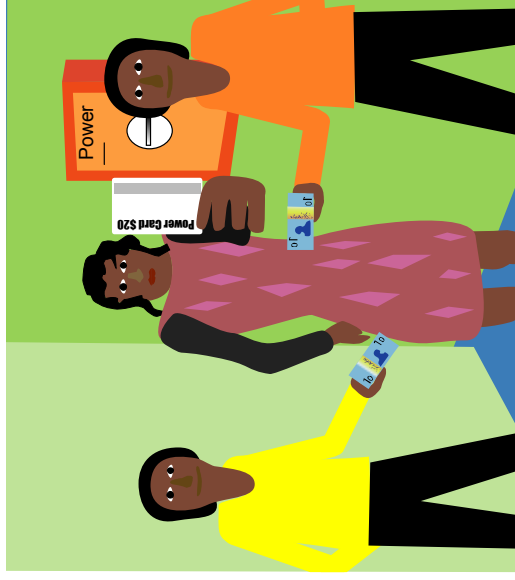


When Mary's daughter comes to stay they use more electricity. Mary's daughter chucks in some money to help pay the bigger bills.

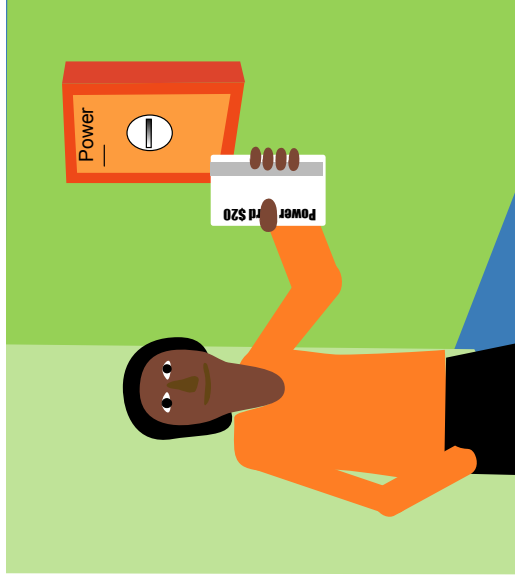
Judy does not get big bills as she pays for electricity as she uses it. She uses about \$500 a year.



Judy pays for her electricity as she uses it. She has got a power card and buys \$20 of electricity every two weeks.



When people stay with Judy more electricity is used. The people will chuck in some money to pay for the extra electricity.



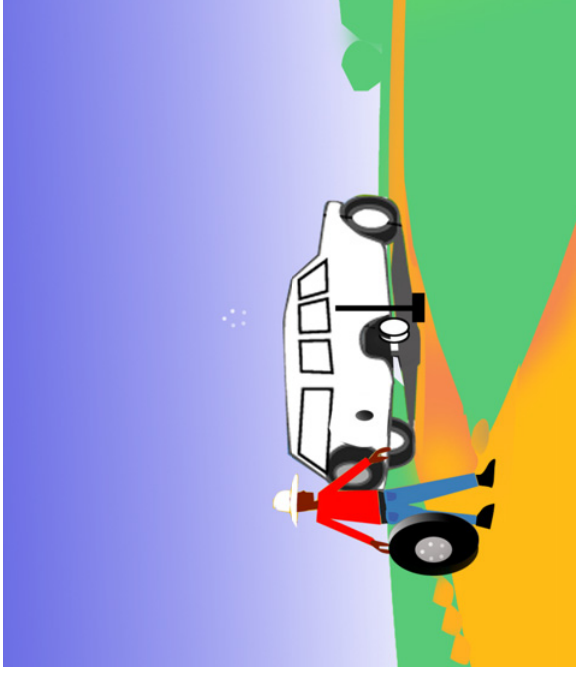
If someone stays at Judy's house when she is away, they will buy a power card and pay for the electricity they use.

Story 8 - How much do people pay for electricity out bush?

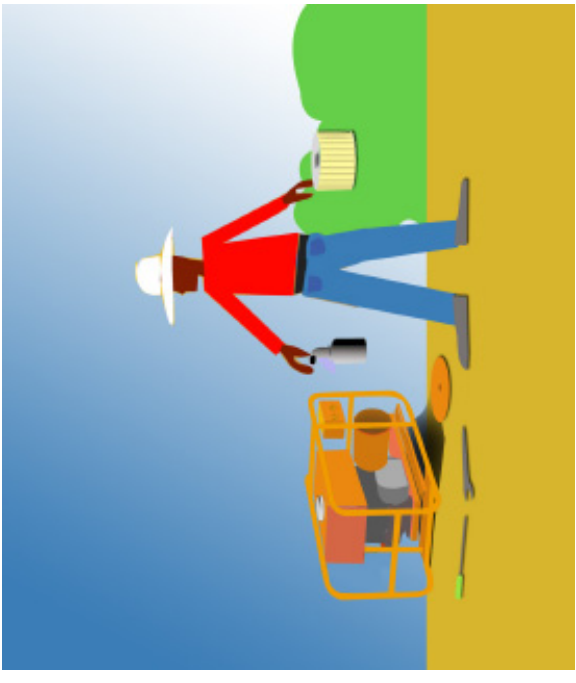
Bob spends money each week for fuel. It costs him \$3,600 a year. To be able to buy fuel Bob has to spend a lot of money on his car and also on parts to keep the generator running.



Bob has to buy diesel to run his generator. This costs him \$70 a week.

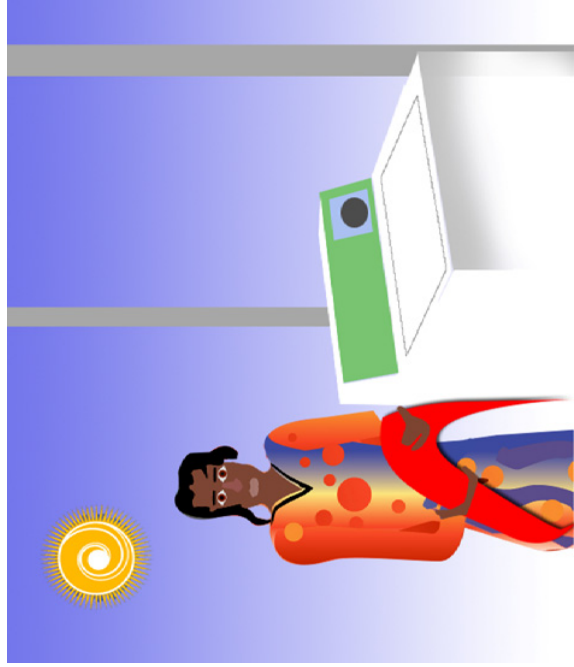


When Bob runs out of diesel he has to drive to town to buy more. Bob has to spend money for petrol for his car.

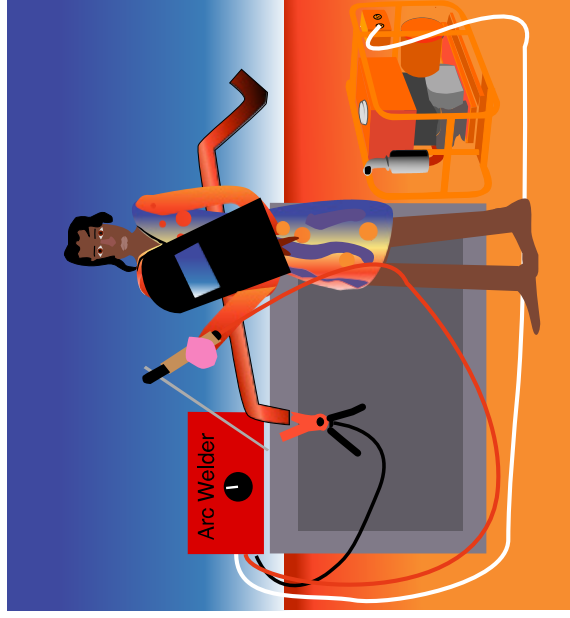


If the generator breaks down Bob has to fix it himself. He also has to buy filters to keep the generator running well.

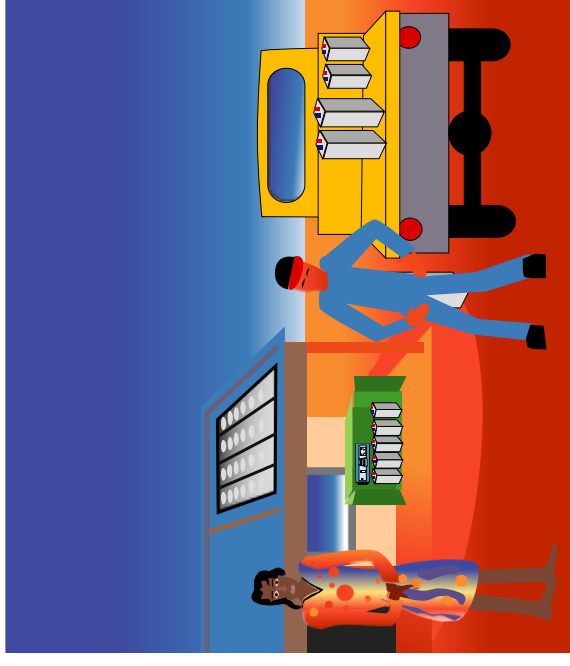
Rebecca does not spend any money on fuel for the solar system and spends \$500 a year on diesel for the generator. She does not have to spend as much money as Bob on her car or the generator, but puts money aside to keep the solar system working.



Rebecca gets most of her electricity from the solar system. She does not have to pay for fuel for the solar system.

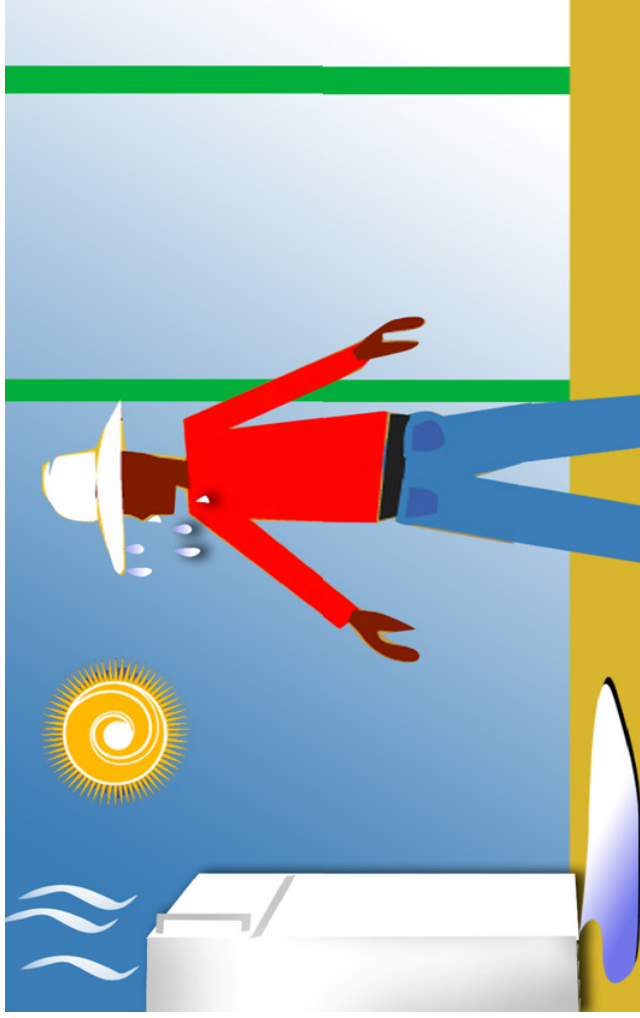


The generator is not used much so works well for longer. Rebecca uses it to do work in the shed. She spends \$10 a week to do this.

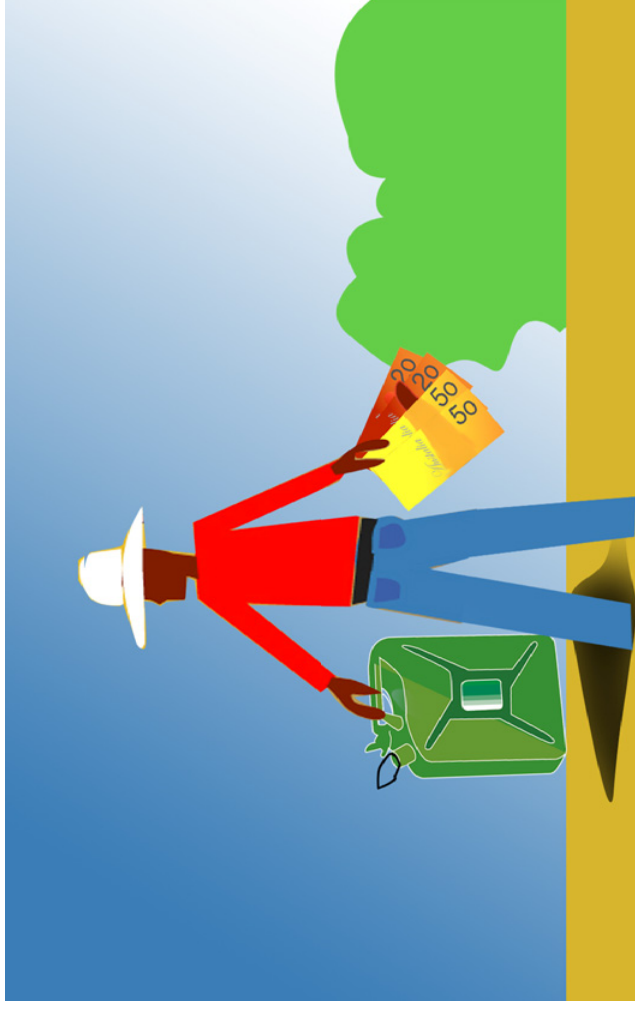


The solar system uses batteries. Batteries can last up to ten years. To replace them costs a lot of money.

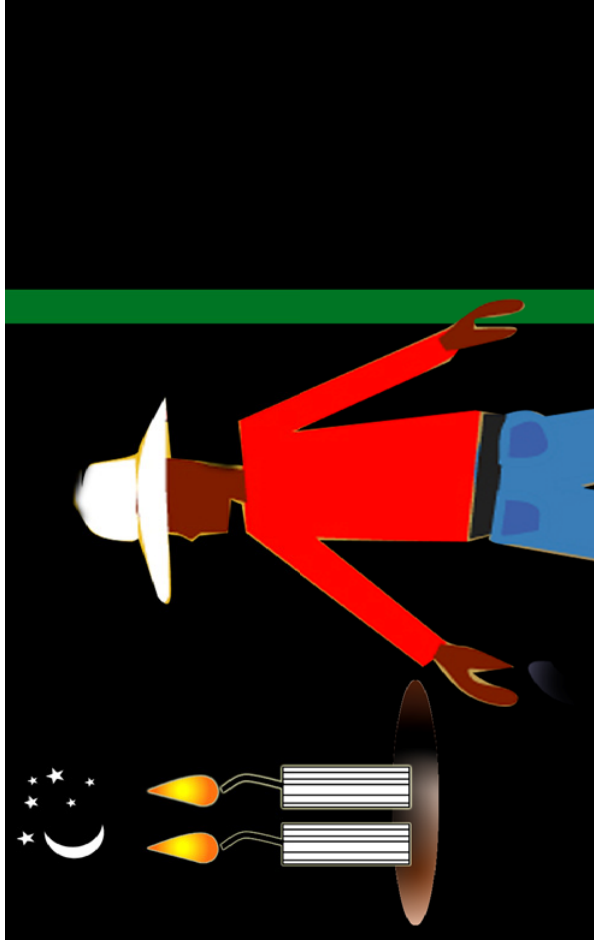
Story 9 - Living with a generator for electricity.



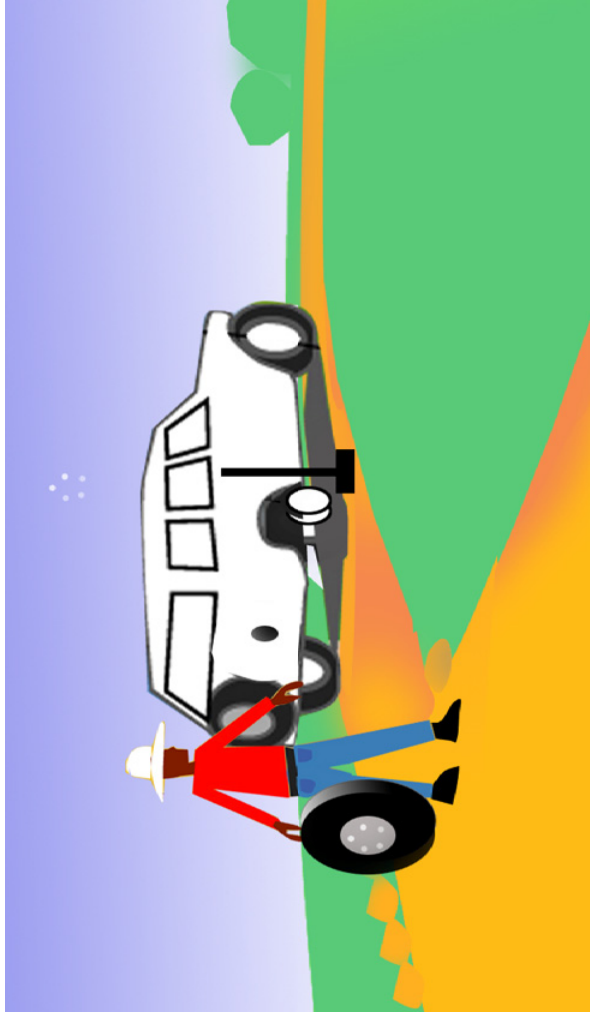
Bob does not get electricity all day.



It costs Bob a lot of money to buy diesel every week.

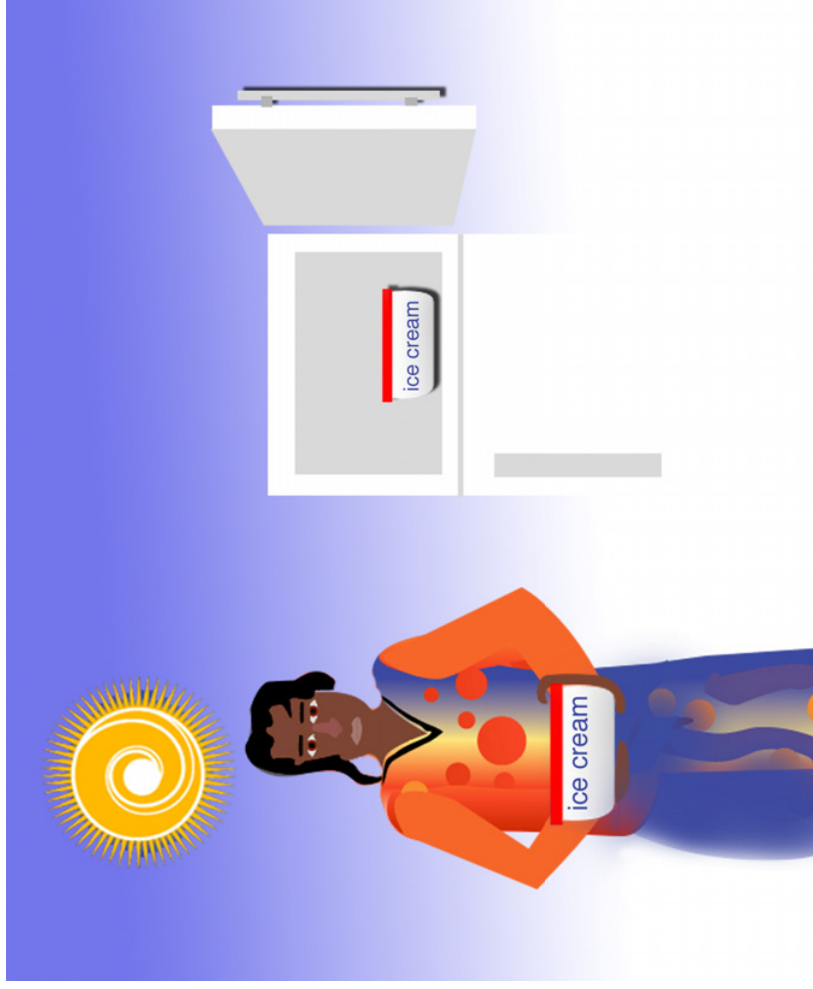


Sometimes Bob runs out of diesel.



Bob's car gets worn out from driving to town.

Story 10 - Living with a solar system for electricity

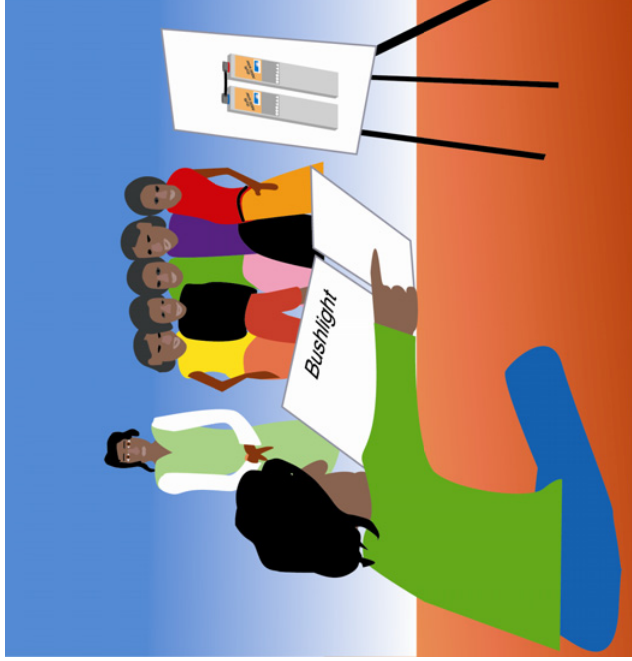


Rebecca has electricity all day.

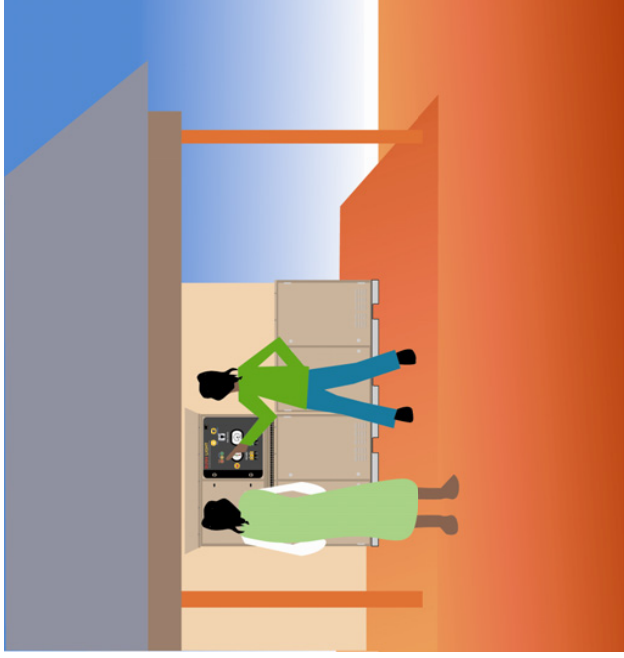


Rebecca pays less money for fuel.

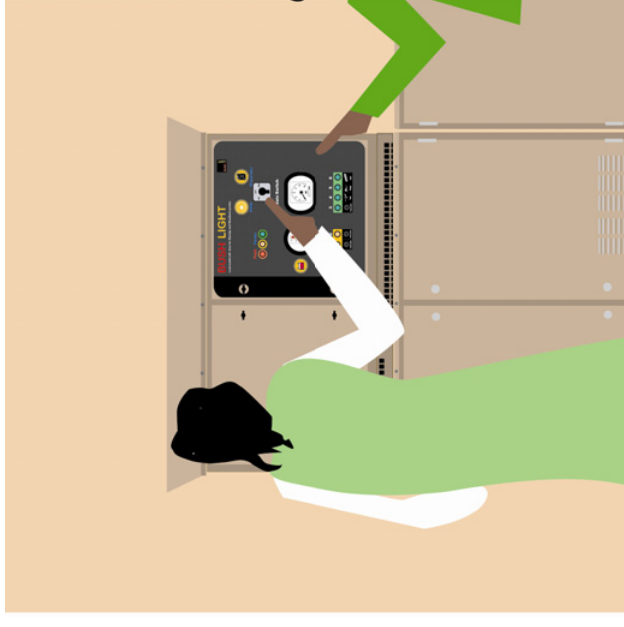
Story 11 - Bushlight Solar Systems



Bushlight will help you choose the right solar system.



Bushlight will show you how to look after the Bushlight Solar System.



Bushlight Solar Systems are easy to use.

Light and Life in the Bush

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How to contact Bushlight in your area

Bushlight - Central Australia

32-38 Priest Street
Alice Springs, NT 0870
Ph: (08) 8951 4342

Bushlight - Kimberley

3/68 Clarendon Street
Derby, WA 6728
Ph: (08) 9191 2585

Bushlight - Top End

Suite 1/20 Knuckey Street
Darwin, NT 0800
Ph: (08) 8981 7599

Bushlight - North QLD

7/330 Sheridan Street
Cairns, QLD 4970
Ph: (07) 4031 0505

Website: <http://www.bushlight.org.au> Email: enquiries@bushlight.org.au