

Biomass: Valuable Trash

The final ambiguous vowel combination we will look at is the spelling of short oo sound. Remind the students of the first sort where they found words such as *Chattanooga* that represented the long oo sound. Depending upon your local pronunciation, you may have included *roof*. Help students recall this discussion. Perhaps they found the word *soot* in the first article, but you discussed the pronunciation of *soot* as having the short oo sound. Remind the students that this sound can also be spelled with the letters *oo*. Have them reread the section in this article entitled “Biogas Plants.” Students should look for words that contain *oo*. They should list *cooking* and *waterproof*. Reinforce the idea that when the short oo sound is heard, a typical spelling is *oo*. Give students the following list to compare with the *oo* words from the first sort.

football
rookie
sooty
bookcase
cooking
woodpile
goodness
crooked
wooly

Word Hunt

To help students review both the spelling of ambiguous vowels and the concepts in the first five articles about renewable energy sources, have the students scan the articles for words that contain the features: short and long oo, /ô/, /oil/, and /oul/. Students may work individually or in partners. Post the longest list in the classroom.