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English 1010

31 July 2015

### Alternative Energies

“The earth is warming, the arctic ice is melting, glaciers are shrinking, and sea levels are rising.” These increased temperatures are also causing more extreme weather across the country (Parham). There are many causes to the earth’s global warming and fossil fuels are only contributing. “News reports last month marked a scientific milestone: Earth's atmosphere now contains more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than at any time in up to 3 million years” (Weeks). Increasing the greenhouse effect causes global warming and the greenhouse gas emissions just keep accelerating. The world is suffering and alternative energies would contribute in many ways. Fossil fuels are extremely damaging to the environment and human health, there are replacements for fossil fuels that are dependable for conventional energy, and alternative energies are beneficial for the economy. Fossil fuels are damaging to the world in many ways and must be replaced with reliable energy sources.

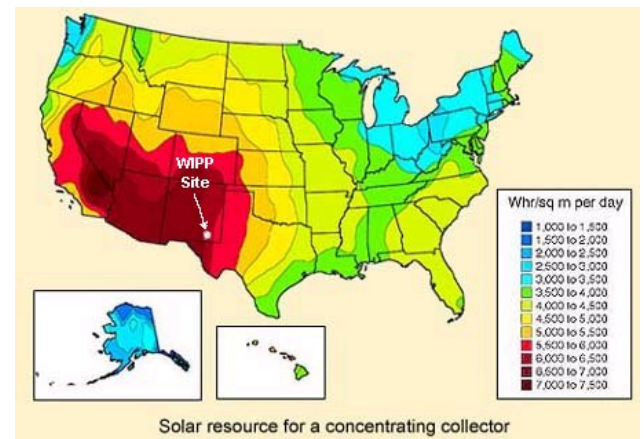
Global warming is caused by the increase of pollution, it is apparent that any way to reduce the problem is reliant on the cutback of these emissions. CO<sub>2</sub> is the most abundant of the greenhouse gases. Because CO<sub>2</sub> is the main source for the acceleration of the global climate change, the reduction of it is dependent on humans. Regional or global climate changes significantly affect the environment, the ecosystems, and the human economic activities (Michaelides 41-43). Climate

changes include: long periods of heat, heavy downpours, floods, droughts, rise in sea levels, and glaciers to melt. All of these changes and more are leading to health problems around the globe and in the U.S. (Wahowiak 6). “The American Public Health Association (APHA) supports the activities of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that play a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon pollution, and help our communities prevent and prepare for the serious health challenges posed by climate change” (Apha.com). Since the Industrial Revolution scientists say the rise in carbon dioxide emissions is elevating the global surface temperatures, thus, creating unpredictable climate conditions which are affecting many things including human health, agriculture, and animals (Lyons).

Wind power is an important alternative energy source. The Earth’s population can be supplied with a significant amount of energy from wind power, if it is utilized properly (Michaelides). “Wind energy doesn't pollute the air like power plants that rely on combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal or natural gas. Wind turbines don't produce atmospheric emissions that cause acid rain or greenhouse gasses. Costing between four and six cents per kilowatt-hour, wind energy is one of the lowest-priced renewable energy technologies available today” (Energy.Gov).

In addition to wind power, solar power is another reliable resource of energy. The demand for solar energy today is at an all time high in the United States. Because solar prices are beginning to fall, American businesses and homeowners are making an economical energy choice and turning to solar (Energy.Gov). Heating water and buildings is the most common use of solar energy. “While passive heating

does not produce electricity or any other form of energy, it helps avoid the use of fossil fuels or electric power for heating purposes and, thus, helps conserve the energy resources of the planet” (Michaelides 216).



Solar potential in the United States  
 “United States.” Map. *Solar Power Project Opportunities Abound in the Region*. Energy.gov, 2015. Web. 30 July 2015.

The U.S. economy would do better if alternative energies were produced as apposed to fossil fuels. In addition to fossil fuels damaging the environment, the U.S. economy would boost if alternative energies were produced. The U.S. economy depends on stable, affordable energy supplies. The energy choices made now will affect the economy and environment far into the future. "We must get energy demand down to a sustainable range, or it's not going to make much difference whether we bring renewables into the supply chain," says Bill Prindle, deputy director for the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (Andersen). When it comes to a state's short and long-term goals, policymakers face making crucial decisions to meet their energy needs for the future. "Energy efficiency can help fulfill this goal by providing insurance against rising energy costs, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and economic stimulus" (Andersen). Individual states are setting a good example. To help jumpstart the energy efficient building industry some states have began to "lead by example" by building green on their own. "The benefits are obvious," says Washington Representative Hans Dunshee, the legislation's sponsor. "Alternative energies

provide a 30 percent energy savings and green buildings have been found to cut down on absenteeism in state workers and students," Dunshee says (Andersen).

Some people point out that alternative energy will never be able to substitute fossil fuels. Admittedly, there is some room for improving to perfect alternative energies. However, alternative energies have proven to become more efficient and more dependable. With perfecting the process alternative energies will be the new way of providing for the world.

Imagine living in a world with cleaner air, less animal extinction, and cheaper power bills. These things affect everyone even if they don't realize it. The life of The Earth is in jeopardy. Alternative energies are the last hope at saving the world from despair. Alternative energies can provide a way for improving life on earth. If people are properly educated on fossil fuels and the damage they cause to The World, there could be hope for saving the environment they live in.

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