



THE Green Ribbon PLEDGE

CONSERVING ENERGY FOR A SECURE FUTURE

There are hundreds of things you can do every day to save energy and money, while increasing our national security, reducing our trade deficit (more than half is due to fuel imports), improving our air and water quality, lessening threats posed by global warming, and benefiting the health of all Americans. Here are a few suggestions:

- ❖ **LIGHTS & COMPUTERS:** Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms; turn off appliances and computers when not in use.
- ❖ **LIGHT BULBS:** Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- ❖ **FULL LOADS:** Wash only full loads in dish- and clothes-washers.
- ❖ **WINDOW SHADES:** Keep drapes and shades closed at night in winter (to keep heat in) and during the day in summer (to keep heat out).
- ❖ **HEATING & COOLING:** Adjust home and office thermostats down at least one degree when heating and up at least one degree when cooling (adjust further when you are out).
- ❖ **WATER HEATING:** Turn down your hot water heater to 120 °F (saves up to 420 kWh/year if heater is electric).
- ❖ **WATER HEATING:** Put an insulating blanket on your water heater (saves 540 kWh/year).

- ❖ **LOW-FLOW FAUCETS:** Install faucet aerators and low-flow shower heads to reduce water use and energy used for water heating (saves up to 446 kWh/year).
- ❖ **HOT WATER PIPES:** Insulate hot water pipes, especially at outlet from hot water heater (minimum savings of 340 kWh/year).
- ❖ **ENERGY AUDIT:** Call your electric company to schedule an energy audit for your home (usually free).
- ❖ **GREEN ENERGY:** Purchase green energy from renewable energy sources where available (where not available, call your utility and demand it).
- ❖ **CARPPOOL/PUBLIC TRANSIT:** Take public transit or carpool to work, school, and events.
- ❖ **CAR CARE:** Keep your car well tuned, tires inflated, and have regular oil changes.

Alternative Energy Options – What We Can Do

Energy Efficiency - Energy efficiency means using less energy to accomplish the same task.

- ❖ The average American could reduce his/her electric bill by up to 90 percent by using energy efficient technologies. (www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid195.php)

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❖ A 2000 Department of Energy report concluded that energy efficiency measures and renewable energy combined could meet 60 percent of projected U.S. requirements for new power plants between now and 2020. Not only would Americans save billions of dollars in energy costs, but we would be healthier as well. (www.ornl.gov/ORNL/Energy_Eff/CEF.htm)

❖ A 2001 study found that adopting a comprehensive set of policies for advancing energy efficiency could reduce projected U.S. energy use 33 percent by 2020 and, combined with policies to advance renewable energy, could save consumers more than \$500 billion. This would also create millions of new jobs and strengthen local economies. (www.aceee.org/energy/effact.htm)

Renewable Energy – Renewable energy technologies are ready to be brought full force into service around the world. Those used most often for industrial scale energy services include wind power, biomass, geothermal and small-scale hydropower. Solar technologies also offer significant potential for electricity generation and water heating.

Benefits of renewable energy technologies include:

- installation can be done in increments, from small-to industrial-scale
- create more jobs per unit of energy produced than conventional technologies

- do not pollute or contribute to global warming or related human health problems
- offer greater fuel diversity which ensures greater energy security
- immune from price fluctuations because the ifuel is free
- are not vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

❖ Renewable energy could provide 20 percent of our electricity by 2020, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. Net consumer savings would total nearly \$440 billion by 2020. Renewables could replace 975 of the 1,300 new power plants recommended by the National Energy Policy for 2020, and retire 180 existing coal plants and 14 nuclear power plants. The remainder of the 103 nuclear plants in the United States could be replaced if we switch to more energy efficient technologies as well. (www.ucsusa.org/energy/fact-rps.html and www.ucsusa.org/index.html)

❖ The U.S. theoretically could generate more than 133 percent of its current electricity demand with wind energy; an area 100 miles square in Nevada could produce enough electricity from the sun to meet our annual national demand. (www.ucsusa.org/energy/faq_rps.html)

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U.S. Energy Consumption Information

The average American uses 7.9 times as much energy as the average global citizen.

Left graph source: EIA

Right graph sources: DOE and Earth Communications Office

