

The Renewable Energies

Most traditional power plants burn fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas to generate electricity. These huge power stations contain generators requiring a high cost to run and transmit energy over long distances. Our consumption of fossil fuels have impacted our world as we generate more energy so we can live more comfortably.

Fossil fuels are non-renewable. This means that their supply are finite and vulnerable to depletion. As the global demand for energy escalates, there is a growing need for renewable energy avenues. Global sea levels have increased, deforestation are rampant, and radioactive waste are becoming a genuine problem.

For years, people have used the sun for a variety of things: warming things, lighting torches, burning ants, and to cook. The energy radiated by the sun is phenomenal. In fact, the energy the sun shines onto the earth daily is enough to supply the world's yearly energy needs (National Geographic, 2008). This energy potential of sunlight was not lost on seventeenth century scientists. In 1873, William Adams and Richard Day found that when selenium was exposed to sunlight it created a low charge of energy, though it could not power anything (US Dept of Energy, 2008).

Many utility companies offer a green power program that allows consumers to donate a portion of their power bill to the research and development of clean energy (Environmental Protection Agency, 2008) and consumers can get tax credits for energy efficient home improvements. Although renewable resources such as solar, wind and hydroelectric power may be expensive at the outset, the use of clean energy will pay for itself in terms of environmental impact, and especially its renewability.

The only answer to these modern environmental problems is to go for renewable energy resources. Therefore, the world is so much interested in decreasing energy production from fossil fuel and increasing the same from renewable energy resources. If a change is to come, everyone has to be on board and willing to change their lifestyles from the current "throw away" lifestyle. Change for the better has to come from consumers as well as the pioneers of renewable energy.

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