



## Why Energy Independence?

What is all the buzz about our need to cut down on using oil? Even though the earth continues to produce fossil fuel, technology and power use has increased so much that people are using fossil fuels at a higher rate than the Earth can produce. Because most of the energy the U.S. uses comes from fossil fuel, and because this fuel will eventually run out, scientists and researchers are looking for alternative energy sources.

## Alternative and Renewable Energy

Alternative energy sources can be either non-renewable (once they are used they don't come back) or renewable (they can never be exhausted). Non-renewable sources are the fossil fuels we currently use: coal, natural gas, crude oil, etc. There are many types of renewable energy, harnessing power from things like the sun, water, wind and biomass.

Renewable sources can be used over and over again, and can often harness enough power to meet a significant amount of demand. Currently, renewable energy accounts for 25% of the human energy use around the world.

## 10 Things Everyone Can Do To Promote Alternative and Renewable Energy and Energy Independence

### 1. ADJUST YOUR WATER USAGE

The water heater uses lots of energy in an average home second only to the heating/cooling system. You can control the amount of energy used. Turn your hot water heater's temperature down to 120 degrees (F). You can wash clothes in cold water or at least rinse in cold. Take showers instead of baths using low flow showerheads.



## 2. USE COMPACT FLUORESCENTS

You can save up to \$30 per bulb over the life of the bulb just by switching. Look for higher lumens or bulbs advertised with “warmer light” for brightness. If every household in the US would change one bulb to a cfl, we could save enough energy to light 3 million homes for a year.

## 3. USE ELECTRIC VEHICLES OR EFFICIENT VEHICLES

Americans hate being dependent for our mobility, and therefore for our livelihoods, on countries often hostile to our way of life. Electric cars promise to end that dependency. With the new cars coming out such as chevy volt...and more cities going to charging stations in parking decks, electric vehicles are not that far-fetched. More efficient vehicles require us to change the way we drive and live. Better designed, smaller vehicles will reduce our need for foreign hostile oil.

- » Ford <http://www.ford.com/vehicles/commercial-vehicles/environmental-vehicles>
- » GM <http://www.gm.com/experience/technology/electric/>
- » Honda <http://automobiles.honda.com/alternative-fuel-vehicles/>
- » Toyota [http://www.toyota.com/about/environment/innovation/?siteid=tma\\_ripple](http://www.toyota.com/about/environment/innovation/?siteid=tma_ripple)

## 4. USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation has been an ally in not just reducing congestion but also reducing the amount of gas needed for travel. More and more hybrid buses are being used which combine electric and combustion capability, especially in urban areas. Carpooling also can be a great means of reducing your gas bill and reducing the amount of gas needed. If everyone carpooled (fact from carpooling website)

## 5. APPLY HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Efficient appliances - Home refrigerators in the U.S. use the same amount of electricity as 25 large power plants every year.

- » Home energy checks - Free checks offered by most utility companies
- » Solar hot water heaters - Around 80% of the energy used to wash clothes comes from heating the water. Using warm or cool water will save energy and get clothes just as clean. Or, solar hot water heaters can be used.



- » Cfl's - If you replace 25% of your light bulbs with fluorescents, you can save about 20% on your lighting bill.
- » Stopping air leaks around the house, can save you as much as 10% on heat and air conditioning costs.

## 6. TURN OFF PERSONAL COMPUTERS

If you're wondering when you should turn off your personal computer for energy savings, here are some general guidelines to help you make that decision.

Though there is a small surge in energy when a computer starts up, this small amount of energy is still less than the energy used when a computer is running for long periods of time. For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off

- » the monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes
- » both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than 2 hours.

Make sure your monitors, printers, and other accessories are on a power strip/surge protector. When this equipment is not in use for extended periods, turn off the switch on the power strip to prevent them from drawing power even when shut off. If you don't use a power strip, unplug extra equipment when it's not in use.

Most PCs reach the end of their "useful" life due to advances in technology long before the effects of being switched on and off multiple times have a negative impact on their service life. The less time a PC is on, the longer it will "last." PCs also produce heat, so turning them off reduces building cooling loads.

For cost effectiveness, you also need to consider how much your time is worth. If it takes a long time to shut down the computer and then restart it later, the value of your time will probably be much greater than the value of the amount of electricity you will save by turning off the computer.

FYI - Many electronics use energy even when turned off to keep display clocks lit and remote controls working.

## 7. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UTILITY CARBON OFFSET PROGRAMS

Utilities and other organizations offer carbon offset programs for consumers who don't have the capital to invest in solar and/or wind. These programs help to offset the additional cost it takes



to produce electricity with minimal or no carbon. Call your local utility or go to their website for information.

## **8. GET POLITICALLY ACTIVE**

Contact your local and national representatives. Congress is set to vote on a climate bill sometime in 2010. Let them know you are interested in alternative and renewable energy. Let them know you think energy independence is key for the future of America.

## **9. UTILIZE SOCIAL NETWORKING**

Many sites exist that develop political clout and help to spread the word about energy independence and sustainable energy production. GoGoRenewables.com offers information regarding alternative and renewable energy for everyone.

## **10. GET THE WORD OUT BY WEARING SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS APPAREL**

The owners of GoGoRenewables.com have decided to also produce a line of clothing called Upturn ([www.upturnclothing.com](http://www.upturnclothing.com)) that promotes awareness and a social consciousness of energy sources that lead us to energy independence. We believe the widespread use of alternative and renewable energy will lead us to energy independence and pave the way for a better future for the up and coming generations in America. This move to energy independence is an upturn in our way of life. Check us out today!