



BENEFITS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Energy Security

- Conventional energy sources are vulnerable to political instabilities, trade disputes, embargoes, and wars.
- In 1973, the U.S. imported 34% of its oil. Today, the U.S. imports more than 53%.
- Our nation's energy security continues to be threatened by our dependency on fossil fuels.

"Promoting renewable energy is the most patriotic act we can commit. It makes our country less dependent on foreign oil and less likely to go to war."

- Bonnie Raitt, singer

Jobs and the Economy

- The majority of renewable energy investments are spent on materials and workmanship to build and maintain facilities, rather than on costly energy imports.
- These investments stay in the community, creating jobs and strengthening local economies.
- Jobs evolve directly from the manufacture, design, installation, servicing, and marketing of renewable energy products.
- Renewable energy companies contribute more local tax revenue than conventional energy sources.
- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, wind energy alone could provide 80,000 jobs by 2020.



Warren Gretz photo

The U.S. photovoltaic industry employs 15,000 people. Here, workmen install photovoltaic panels, which convert sunlight into energy.



Warren Gretz photo

Wind turbines operate in harmony with farming and ranching.

Income for Landowners

- Farmers and other landowners can benefit directly from renewable energy development. They can lease land to wind developers, use the wind to generate power for their farms, or become wind producers themselves.
- In areas with strong winds, developers may pay as much as \$2,000 per year for each wind turbine installed.
- A turbine uses only about a quarter of an acre, and allows farmers to plant crops or graze livestock right to the turbine's base.
- In Iowa, wind farms generate \$650,000 in payments to landowners.
- Some farmers have also formed wind cooperatives, which can be an attractive option for reducing risk and lowering costs.
- Wind energy could provide \$1.2 billion in new income for farmers and rural landowners by 2020.

Pinnacles National Monument in California has a 9.6-kilowatt photovoltaic system that provides power for three residences, a ranger station, visitor center, campground, restroom, well pump, and two wastewater pumps. Eliminating a \$20,000 annual fuel bill and 143 tons of carbon dioxide each year.



National Park Service photo

Consumer Savings

- As the most competitive of renewable energy technologies, adding wind power to a state's energy mix can help insulate consumers from price spikes due to unpredictable natural gas costs.
- Natural gas prices are likely to rise in the future while wind energy prices will decline.
- A study in Iowa found that installing 1,200 megawatts of new wind generation over 15 years would yield a net savings of \$300 million to consumers over 30 years.

Energy for Future Generations

- Unlike fossil fuels, renewable energy resources are replenished.
- Our challenge is to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- This means our actions today to use renewable energy technologies will not only benefit us now, but will benefit many generations to come.

Environment and Human Health

- Renewable technologies are friendlier to the environment than conventional fossil fuel technologies.
- Fossil fuels contribute significantly to many of the environmental problems we face today-greenhouse gases, air pollution, and water and soil contamination-while renewable energy sources contribute very little or not at all.
- Greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, are a major contributor to global warming. The increasing use of fossil fuels increases carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. Renewable energy produces little or no greenhouse gases.



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