

# Save Energy. Save Money. Protect the Environment!



## What You Can Do

### Conserve Energy

- ✓ **Pull the plug:** Appliances and chargers draw energy even when switched off.<sup>1</sup> Unplug appliances, or use a power strip to cut all power. Turn off lights, electronics, etc.
- ✓ **Install Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFL):** new bulbs offer same light as incandescent; use 65%–75% less electricity; last up to 10x longer; will save \$30 in energy costs/bulb.
- ✓ **Use energy at off-peak times** when there is less demand.

### Improve Your Efficiency

- ✓ **Buy efficient appliances:** Look for EnergyStar logo when buying new appliances.<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ **Wash with care:** Only wash full loads in washing machine/dishwasher. Heating water accounts for 90% of energy in a laundry load. Consider cold or warm settings.
- ✓ **Make your home an energy-saver:** Conduct energy audit<sup>3</sup>; insulate, add weather stripping, raise or lower thermostat by 1°.<sup>4</sup>

### Green the Road

- ✓ **Don't idle!** Idling your car for 10 seconds uses more fuel than turning off engine and restarting.
- ✓ **Drive slower:** A car that gets 20 mpg can save \$18.74/week by slowing from 75 to 55 mph.
- ✓ **Or don't drive:** Consider carpool, public transit, bike, walk, work at home options.
- ✓ **Support** alternative fuel cars, fuel economy improvements, improved mass transport, more sidewalks & bike paths.

## Current U.S. Energy Policy

- U.S. economy is based on coal (electricity) & oil (gas).
- 70% of our oil purchased from foreign nations, some hostile.
- In 2008, U.S. will pay over \$700 billion to import oil.

## What's the Big Deal?

### U.S. Dependence on Foreign Oil is Dangerous.

- Oil from Middle East & Venezuela finances hostile regimes.
- Some energy funds are used to sponsor terrorism, with U.S. and Israel as primary targets.
- Greatest transfer of U.S. wealth in history to foreign nations.

### Today's Energy Use Damages Our Health and Environment.

- Mercury, smog and air pollution cause health risks and worsen asthma, heart and lung disease.<sup>5</sup>
- Particular impacts to children, and the poor.
- Environmental damage: Polluted water supplies, contaminated soil resources, risks to food.

## Innovative Energy Opportunities for the Future

- **Wind:** Midwest corridor can provide 20% of U.S. electricity.<sup>6</sup>
- **Solar:** Earth receives more energy from sun in 1 hour than world uses in 1 year. Israel uses solar energy to heat hot water tanks. Technology rapidly improving.
- **Geothermal:** Electricity from underground hot rocks, enough in U.S. for more than 2 million homes.<sup>7</sup>
- **Tidal/Wave-Generated:** New research to capture wave and tidal energy with turbines.<sup>8</sup>
- **New Biodiesels:** Without impacting food systems, ie. algae, french fry oil, citrus juice industry waste.<sup>9</sup>
- **Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC):** Uses temperature differential in surface and deep seawater.<sup>10</sup>
- **Designing Green Buildings** can reduce energy use by 50%, through new building codes and upgrades.<sup>11</sup>

## Green Energy is a Good Investment

- Global investment in renewable energy climbed 25% in 2006.<sup>6</sup>
- Clean-energy industries (biofuels, wind, & solar) each surpassed \$20 billion in revenue in 2007.<sup>6</sup>
- New green energy development can create millions of jobs at home and products for export. Many clean energy jobs (ie. electricians, lab technicians, machinists) do not require advanced degrees.
- U.S.'s environmental technology hosts 1.6 million jobs in over 50,000 firms; generates \$220 billion/yr.<sup>10</sup>

### FOOTNOTES:

1. [www.aceee.org/pubs](http://www.aceee.org/pubs)
2. [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
3. [www.FPL.com](http://www.FPL.com)
4. [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)
5. Harvard School of Public Health, May 2000: Study links air pollution from 2 coal-fired Massachusetts power plants to 43,000 asthma attacks & 159 premature deaths.
6. DOE, 2008 [www.20percentwind.org](http://www.20percentwind.org)
7. [www.wecansolveit.org](http://www.wecansolveit.org)
8. [www.gcktechnology.com](http://www.gcktechnology.com)
9. Fl. Senator Saunders [www.burisaunders.com/issues/062308.htm](http://www.burisaunders.com/issues/062308.htm)
10. New Scientist 11/19/08.
11. [www.usgbc.org/](http://www.usgbc.org/)

For more energy ideas and teachings, visit:

[www.CanfeiNesharim.org/energy](http://www.CanfeiNesharim.org/energy)