

Clean Energy for a Better World

The United States pollutes the planet with greenhouse gasses on a daily basis. Carbon emissions from energy producing coal power plants and transportation such as cars and airplanes become trapped in the Earth's atmosphere, causing global temperatures to increase. Other main contributors include methane from fossil fuel production and water vapor, which is increasing in amount due to the warming conditions. By eliminating greenhouse gasses with the use of environmentally friendly energy sources, the US could save the glaciers that prevent flooding, end habitat destruction for arctic animals, and provide new jobs for unemployed workers. To create a more prosperous world for the American people and the international community, the United States should encourage the use of eco-friendly energy sources, not only in its own country but also throughout the world.

Gasses such as carbon and methane contribute to global warming by trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Coal produces the most carbon when burned in power plants, more than both natural gasses and oils (1), so to best control greenhouse gas emissions, coal power should be entirely eliminated and replaced with "clean" sources such as hydroelectric and solar power. In addition, about one-third of carbon emissions in the US come from burning gasoline in cars (1). Low gas mileage cars contribute more carbon per mile than those of higher miles per gallon, so the US should encourage car manufacturers around the world to create more fuel-efficient and even electrically powered cars, saving both the environment and American gas payments. Furthermore, methane from bacteria and burning fossil fuels is twenty times more effective as carbon at trapping heat in the atmosphere, though mercifully rarer than carbon. By reducing the burning of fossil fuels, methane amounts could be lowered and global warming could be slowed. Thus, the US should invest in more eco-friendly energy sources than fossil fuels. However,

methane is put to good use in the city of Jacksonville, Tennessee. In the past, the methane produced by landfills was eliminated by burning, which may have emitted toxins from the trash into the air. The city now uses methane produced by bacteria to convert into energy, a new renewable and environmentally friendly energy source (4). To create a more prosperous world, the United States should encourage technologies such as this to reduce greenhouse gasses in the Earth's atmosphere.

Greenhouse gasses such as carbon and methane emissions increase global temperatures, causing damage to the habitats of arctic animals and the melting of millenniums-old glaciers. Polar ice caps, particularly delicate ecosystems, fracture into pieces and melt away as the temperatures rise twice as quickly as the rest of the world (3). The melting of these ice caps and glaciers causes increasing sea levels, threatening the homes of those living on nearly sea-level locations such as the Maldives in the Indian Ocean and Shanghai in China, resting a mere six feet above sea level (3). If the US continues to allow greenhouse gas emission, global warming will cause the destruction of major cities of the world and precious natural ecosystems. To add to that, arctic animals such as polar bears are changing their migration patterns to cope with loss of hunting grounds and shrinking land availability (3). Because of global warming and therefore greenhouse gas emissions, the bears go hungry without adequate hunting sites, causing the slow extinction of this arctic species. Furthermore, hunters who use the bears as food sources are less able to track the new migrations of the bears, causing the humans to go hungry as well. By raising global temperatures, greenhouse gas emissions threaten the whole world.

By investing in new technologies in clean energy production, the United States provides jobs for factory workers, reduces its dependence on shrinking fossil fuel sources, and prevents global warming all at the same time. Technologies such as solar panels, hydroelectric dams, and

wind turbines all require installment, supervision, and repairs at one point or another in their energy-producing lives, providing jobs to unemployed citizens in the area of clean energy. By investing in more clean technologies, the US and other countries can shrink their unemployed populations, therefore becoming more prosperous. To add to that, new renewable power sources such as the wind, water, and sun reduce dependence on carbon-emitting fossil fuels, reducing our destruction of the natural fossil fuel reserves and preventing excess carbon from being released into the atmosphere(2). Reducing fossil fuel dependence through these new technologies would also ensure that the US never runs out of energy to power its people. Finally, reducing carbon emissions from the burning of oil, coal, and natural gasses reduces the amounts of carbon released into the air and increasing global temperatures, protecting the habitats of animals and the lives of humans from pollution and flooding.

Clean energy is a necessary investment for the United States to form a more prosperous nation and world. By reducing dependence on oil and greenhouse gas emitting fuels, more people can live in peace without dangers of flooding and more animals can survive for the next generation to see. By investing in new technologies, more jobs are created for the American people to aid the quest against global warming. Using clean energy, the US can start the revolution against dependence on burning fuels endangering the health of Mother Earth, our home.

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