

Are alternative
energy sources the
answer to ending
human dependence
on oil argum...



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History clearly indicates that oil was discovered and has been used worldwide since the ancient times. As early as 6th century BC Assyrian oil was used by the Assyrian army in wars to fire weapons when invading cities and castles. In 450 BC, Herodotus described what is assumed to be oil pits in Babylon. Alexander the Great is also documented to have used torchlights burning using petroleum products in his wars as a tactic of scaring the enemies. The first wells were drilled in China in 347AD, and used in production of salt. This is a clear indication that oil has been in use by the human species since it was bubbling from wells. Its presence and early discovery has made people reliant and dependent on it.

Since the beginning of civilization, renewable energy sources have been important to human beings. Man has been using renewable biomass in cooking and heating. Other examples of renewable energy sources are wind, hydropower, ocean, geothermal, hydrogen and solar energy. Due to many nations relying on the oil energy, which they do not possess, there has been a need for adoption of renewable sources of energy in energy provision. This helps in reduction of the strain the government receives from importing energy. Fossil fuels produce greenhouse gases that are a great contributor to global warming. Renewable energy sources offer clean energy alternatives to the society. In addition to this, they do not run out.

Statistics by International Energy Agency indicate that by the year 2060 the energy demand worldwide will double. Energy has been the key player in building of economies worldwide. In the Middle East, for example, the countries have grown economically empowering their citizens by utilizing the oil reserves they possess. This statistic has not at any instance changed, and economies globally still are promoted by their energy reserves they possess.

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The finite nature of the hydrocarbons makes oil dependence a risky venture for any nation. The coal, natural gas and oil will eventually get depleted the minimum reserves left will be so expensive to be imported. However, this can be resolved through shifting to renewable energy sources. Renewable energy sources are a part of alternative energy sources that do not combust fossil fuels/hydrocarbons. The main reason for adoption of alternate sources of energy is to reduce pollution brought about by the petroleum products. Global warming and climate change both refer to the increase in the global temperatures. Fossil fuels are the main contributors of green house gases to the environment. These gases bring the warming up effect to the planet. Making the continent hotter disrupts the weather pattern as it has always been making the weather so unpredictable. In turn, farmers are affected since they lack the information of the right time to plant, they end up planting, and their plants fail to germinate. The renewable energy sources are therefore the best options since they have fewer amounts of emissions when compared to the fossil fuels (hydrocarbons).

The developed countries offer subsidies in order to encourage renewable energy adoption. This will help in ensuring the adoption of renewable energy by the industries and other major technologies thus drive the costs down. The governments have also put up incentives that are encouraging and increasing the market demand for renewable technologies such as wind farms installations, solar power and bio fuels industry. However, according to research carried out, renewable energy sources show a very high failure rate more than that of its own success rate.

Oil has been used in the industries since the industrial revolution. It is considered as very efficient and reliable. It can also be employed in large-scale productions. Although the idea of adoption of renewable energy sources sounds as the solution to end this dependence, it is simply a dream since there is no liquid yet discovered to be able to replace oil. The liquid that can be employed in large-scale industrial production, and have the efficacy that oil has supplied is yet to be discovered (Rapier, 2012).

There exist vast resources in the country that are untapped. The Midwestern and Rocky mountains have the potential to provide the country with clean wind energy able to make the country free of green house gases. This also would shift the reliance from the hydrocarbons fuels and nuclear power. Critics argue that this is only theoretical, and in real life the renewable energy technologies lack the potential and energy fully replace nuclear energy and fossil fuels in the economy. Other forms of renewable energy like solar energy are very convenient and affordable. This form of energy is a resourceful future energy source. The argument behind this is that solar energy provides about 35, 000 more times the amount of energy spent by human beings. Solar energy is harnessed from the sun and since the availability of the sun is no issue to many except the poles, where they experience winters at a time. This form of energy is mostly used in small scale by homesteads for heating of swimming pools and furnaces among many other small chores.

Wind energy on the other hand, is an effective contributor to change from the hydrocarbon fuels. However, like sunshine, harnessing of wind energy is entirely dependent on the weather and location of the plant. In harnessing wind energy, windmills are applied. They rotate, magnifying the speed of <https://assignbuster.com/are-alternative-energy-sources-the-answer-to-ending-human-dependence-on-oil-argumentative-essay-examples/>

wind in the environment. Worldwide, the average speed of wind is estimated between 9m/s, which can produce about 50 watts. This is enough energy to ensure homesteads are run appropriately and efficiently.

Geothermal energy is also an alternative renewable energy source. However, it is difficult for geothermal to completely replace fossil fuels as it is available in small quantities worldwide. Thus, its use is limited to only the localities close to the plants. The energy is obtained from internal heat of the earth, and used to produce steam and turn turbines. This is in turn turned to electrical energy, which can be used in factories and homesteads.

Geothermal energy thus helps in alleviating the amount of green house gases in the atmosphere.

The commercialization of renewable energy use is far from a simple process. Before the commercialization starts, laboratories are usually setup to assess the viability of a project. Thus after, the viability is established, the commercialization can then start. According to various media sources and government reports, laboratories to assess the impact have already been set up, viability assessed and implementation given a go ahead. However, they leave out the details that implementation of this kind of project and integrating it into the system as oil has will not be instant. The process would take more than twenty five years for it to be fully integrated (Rapier, 2012). Thus, it is not logical for people to believe that the impact of using renewable sources of energy will be immediate. The effect will be experienced 30 years or 40 years from the day the transformation begins.

The transport sector is a major contributor of the green house gases. These green house gases as earlier explained play the main role in climate change.

Bio fuels have the capability to reduce the amount of green house gases
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produced by motorists. However, bio fuels made from corn producing ethanol raise ethical issues in the world. The question asked by many is how can they produce oil-using food while many are malnourished worldwide? It is argued that the corn uses resources used in food production (water, land). Ethanol production is also raising the cost and prices of foods and cereals for animals.

Modern generation expects by switching a switch light appears and by flipping a knob, gas appears. This is because the current system has been able to exploit the fossil fuels present in the society to the maximum.

However, alternative renewable sources of energy are intermittent. Solar energy is only in the provision in the presence of sunlight, wind energy is also present only in the presence of strong wind. Adjusting the society from a simple outcome to a complicated outcome is a major problem. This has been the case with electricity. During the dry season when the dams run dry, continuous energy provision from electricity is difficult and impossible. Thus, this will present the same difficulties for the future generations (Quaschnig, 2005).

The revolution of the energy industry was as follows, wood to coal, from coal to petroleum. In considering the chain provided, a common factor is energy increase in every transformation. Wood in all the four types of energy has the lowest energy density. Coal has twice the energy density of wood. In that manner, petroleum has twice the energy density of coal. For this reason, petroleum replaced coal in the transport system. Ships could now go for longer distances without refueling. Alternative renewable sources of energy are met by the fact that they provide low energy density. This makes it

difficult to shift from high energy density providers to low energy density
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providers.

For humans to be able to utilize the alternative energy sources like biomass, the process is tedious and involving. This is because the energy, unlike oil is not provided naturally. It has to go through extraction after which it is then taken to the relevant locations through transport. For this alternative energy source to replace fully oil as the main energy provider, they have to be self-sustaining and self-reliant. In the extraction of these bio fuels, oil is used. After extraction, the energy has to be transported to the area of need. The main means of transportation present all use oil. This by far puts the bio fuels on a weaker platform in terms of replacing the oil (Quaschnig, 2005). Although the consumers have received all the required information regarding renewable energy, they still believe that the approach is based on emotions and not fact based. This is a clear indication that consumer awareness is being created, but the marketing strategies applied to ensure the adoption still need to be improved. The energy is been adopted by many technologies which believe they are very cost effective, the consumer are very reluctant in paying the premium prices for these technologies. The argument presented is that people look at the monetary side of projects for alternative energy sources. Having a monetary view in analyzing the viability of the renewable sources of energy hides the main feature of viability and feasibility of these products. Money should not be considered as a hindrance to achieving the implementation of these projects. It should be considered as a mobilize of these programs towards obtaining sustainable, pure and affordable energy sources.

The supply of alternative forms of energy into the system of the country is not enough for the alternative sources of energy to replace the oil usage.
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Integration of these forms of energy in the system for it to have an effect to the economy requires humongous investment monetary and in changing the consumption systems (Rapier, 2012). The need for this kind of investment comes at a time when the money is scarce. Successful implementation will require many governments' funds, which will mean that other projects will have to be stopped. However, although climate change is a major concern the environmental bodies know the reality of the amount of money required to be invested in the programs. However incase of implementing the programs, it is inevitable for different locations to use a different form of alternative renewable energy sources. This is because alternative energy is purely dependent on the location.

In conclusion, oil reserves are getting depleted day by day, the cost of production is increasing because the companies have to dig deep and go through much rigorous activities in purifying the oil. The emissions also increase as the oil becomes cloudy and dirty. This raises an alarm to the environment forcing the environmental organizations to formulate policies in support of the production of fossil fuels. However, this is not the case with renewable energy technology, the government does not offer the same support. Thus, policies should be formulated to ensure that renewable energy production is accorded the required support in its development. The adoption of this form of energy in replacing the fossil fuels energy would be the ultimate response to all the climatic change worries. However, the world is a long way from solving the issue. The transformation to a pure energy world is estimated to take 30 years. In many people consideration, this is a lot of time to wait. It is worth noting that time is always on the move,

therefore the sooner the program starts the sooner the climate change
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problem is going to be resolved. Master plans and implementation formulation should have begun as a major step in alleviating the problems brought by the hydrocarbon fuels. There is no time when transformation comes easy, shifting from a harmful comfortable position should therefore not provide a lot of difficulties. Lastly, replacing human oil dependence is possible but a lot of effort, money and time should be invested in the transformation. Otherwise, the transformation will always remain theoretical. It is high time governments and individuals appreciated the presence of self-sustaining energy sources as a way to prevent climate change and global warming.

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