Alternative Energy

Alternative energy is very important to the world and the United States. We currently depend on foreign oil for energy, which puts us in a bad situation. If a natural disaster or war affected the countries we depend on for energy how would we survive? We need to work to get to a point where our country is self sufficient with energy production.

Electric vehicles like the Chevrolet Volt are currently rolling out in showrooms. We need to have more vehicles that can rely solely on electric power. Hybrids do a great deal to improve fuel economy but they still rely on fossil fuels. The Volt can go 25 to 50 miles on electricity alone before the small gasoline engine fires up to finish the journey. That means if you aren’t traveling further than that, you can run without fossil fuels on daily basis. We need to put more money into battery technology so we can have vehicles that can go longer on solely electric power. I think that in the short term electric power generation for vehicles is the best way to reduce our dependency on foreign fossil fuels. This would also lower gas prices by reducing the demand on these fossil fuels.

Wind power is another alternative energy source that needs worldwide implementation now to combat fossil fuel consumption. It is growing at a rate of 30 percent every year with more and more countries creating wind farms. As of 2009 wind energy accounted for 2 percent of worldwide energy production. In two years, that figure has doubled, which is a good sign. We need to continually increase wind production and use the earth’s natural aspects to our advantage. I think that wind farms are actually cool looking and don’t mind driving by them on the highways of the Midwest. More technology and research is needed to make wind farms more productive. The more productive we can make them the more people around the world will adopt this form of energy.

Solar Power is another alternative energy source that we should concentrate on improving. This concept uses solar cells to convert sunlight into electricity. Solar farms can collect massive amounts energy and convert it into useful energy for our use. Some people use solar power to heat the water in their homes instead of using a water heater. If 3 percent of Arizona’s land were covered in solar panels the United States could operate solely off electric power. The cost of this would make it inefficient but that is the amount of panels we would need to run our country. Scientist have been working on improving solar energy for years by making it more efficient and economically feasible. Improvements in battery technology will help harness the power of the sun in the years to come.

I think that the most important thing we can do now is start to switch over to electric cars as soon as possible. This is where most of our fossil fuel consumption comes from. If we could all drive electric vehicles it would make it a lot easier to become energy independent from the rest of the world. Depending so heavily on the Mideast for our oil is not a good plan long term. The instability of the region worries me because someday our energy sources may not be able to provide what we need. As Americans we should all strive to become energy independent.