



What You Can Do

You can do your part to move to an advanced energy future in a number of practical ways:

- Curtail unnecessary energy use (for example, turning off lights and appliances when not in use).
- Use efficient fluorescent light bulbs.
- Keep attics and water heaters well insulated.
- Take advantage of public transportation, or walk or ride a bicycle when reasonable.
- Avoid buying excess consumer goods, which require energy to produce and ship.
- Reduce your impact on the environment by purchasing “carbon offsets,” such as those available at www.carbonfund.org.



Once you’ve reduced your energy consumption to efficient levels, *then* it makes economic sense to begin thinking about alternative energy supply sources. Consider buying “green” or “renewable” energy from your utility, and biofuels (ethanol or biodiesel) from your local service station. If they don’t offer it, ask for it.



As major purchasing decisions arise, keep energy efficiency in mind. When buying a new car, think about hybrids or diesels. For houses, consider building with high-insulation materials and windows, using natural light (“daylighting”), putting solar panels on your roof, installing high-efficiency heating/air conditioning systems and appliances, and living closer to public transportation or to your workplace.

These actions can reshape the way your family and friends think about energy. If you have decision-making responsibility or influence at work, pursue these possibilities there, as well. Also, if you have time or money to invest, we can help you apply those resources toward an advanced energy future.

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