Environmental Science 101

Fall 2012

Energy

Lecture Outline:

9. RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

- WIND AND SOLAR
- A. Solar Energy
- B. Wind Energy

Terms You Should Know:

- Active solar system
- Solar cooker
- ♦ Wind energy
- Solar energy
- Wind farm
- * Photovoltaic cell
- Parabolic mirror



Learning Objectives:

When you are finished with this unit you should be able to:

- 1. Describe the current state of solar power.
- 2. List the pros and cons of solar power.
- 3. Describe the current state of wind power.
- 4. List the pros and cons of wind power.



Reading Assignment:

Brennan and Withgott: Chapter 21; pages 589-612.

9. RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

"TURNING TOMORROW INTO TODAY"

A. SOLAR ENERGY

- Vast potential as a renewable and sustainable energy source
- Current power costs:

solar-12¢ per kw

hydropower-

coal utility-

nuclear utility-

Types of systems:

- **PASSIVE SOLAR SYSTEM**—captures sunlight directly within a structure and converts into low temperature heat for space heating
- **ACTIVE SOLAR SYSTEM**—specially designed collectors absorb solar energy and a fan or a pump is used to supply part of building's space heating or water heating needs

PHOTOVOLTAIC CELLS (SOLAR CELLS)—solar energy is directly converted into electrical energy

Parabolic mirrors — are mirrors that focus light from a large area onto a simple, central point

• Focus intense heat on central tube;

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Solar cookers—

Solar box cooker-smaller, insulated box; cooks at 120°C

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POTENTIAL:

• With an aggressive effort starting now—solar could provide:

2020-

2050—

PROS:

- fuel is free
- only costs are for devices to capture and store energy

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CONS:

- source is intermittent-nights and cloudy days
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- -
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- unsightliness on houses

The Grand Solar Plan – 2050

- Scientific American, January 2008
- With a major effort, in 2050:

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The Grand Plan Concepts

- 1. Massive Switch
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2. Vast Area of Photovoltaic Cells

| | | 2007 | 2050 |
|----|---------------------------------|------|------|
| La | nd area | | |
| El | ectricity price | | |
| | Where? | | |
| 3. | Solar Concentrator Power Plants | | |

4.

5.

6. Cost:

\$420,000,000,000 in subsidies (similar in cost to farm subsidies)

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The Grand Plan Payoffs

- •
- Global tensions eased and military costs lowered

- Massive trade deficit significantly reduced
- •
- •
- US Fuel Consumption:

| | 2007 | 2050 (Existing) | 2050 (Plan) |
|-------------------|------|--------------------|----------------|
| Oil (bb) | | | |
| Natural Gas (Tcf) | | | |

Coal (b tons)

B. WIND ENERGY

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- 2% of sun's energy striking the Earth is converted into wind
- Use wind turbines
- Wind power is the world's fastest growing energy source
- China and USA are the world leaders
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- In the USA most wind turbines are in California; however, many have been installed on the Great Plains in the past 6 years

Total Installed Capacity - 2011

| China | 62,700 MW |
|---------|-----------|
| USA | 46,900 MW |
| Germany | 29,000 MW |
| Spain | 21,600 MW |
| India | 16,100 MW |

USA

- 100 B kWh will be generated in 2012
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 - Texas accounts for about 1/3 of the annual expansion in the USA
 - New wind turbine manufacturing facilities in Iowa, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania
- Unlimited resource of energy on favorable sites
- Economical only in areas with steady winds
- With massive adaptation, wind power could provide:
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Wind Power - World's Electricity

| Year | % |
|------|---|
| 1990 | |
| 2000 | |
| 2011 | |
| 2013 | |
| 2018 | |

| Country | % |
|----------|---|
| Denmark | |
| Portugal | |
| Spain | |
| Ireland | |
| Germany | |
| USA | |

Wind Generation Capacity

2011

2012

2013

Annual growth 2011 - 2014:

Annual growth 2005 – 2010:

PROS:

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- only cost is for devices to capture and store it
- clean, renewable, small land requirement
- technology is well developed

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CONS:

- wind does not blow all the time
- storage of energy is a weakness

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Wind Energy – Increasingly Competitive

- "Large wind" is competitive (4-7¢/kWh)
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- Technology is improving
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Wind Energy – Revitalize farms and rural communities

- Single wind turbine can provide \$2,000-\$4,000/year per megawatt in farm income (2% of land)
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- Each MW provides 2.5-3 job-years of employment
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- Natural gas supplies in North America are being depleted
- Installed capacity at 11,603 MW of wind will save 0.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas/ day
- USA currently burns 13B cf/day for electricity; wind reduces NG use for power generation by 5%
- Expanding wind production is a cost-effective way to conserve gas supplies

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- Consists of small (by utility standards) individual generators which can not be easily damaged at the same time
- If wind plant is damaged, there is no secondary threat to the public (release of radioactivity, explosions, breaching of a dam)

Wind Energy – Better for the Earth!

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Wind Energy Potential

- 1. North Dakota
- 2. Texas
- 3. Kansas
- 4. South Dakota
- 5. Montana
- 6. Idaho

B kWh





Cost of Energy - Large Windfarm v. Small

