

Alejandro Juarez

Mrs. D'Imperio

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OIL

Why do we drill for oil? One may say to fuel industrialization. Maybe even to make the modern civilization we know today. Others may say to fuel vehicles that transport us across the world. What I believe is that it was a cheap product that slowly killed our environment. That greed was more important than Mother Earth who gave us life and a home, and as long as money was made, then burning fossil fuels was not so bad. Now we are reaching the end of our supply. We are trying to solve the future problem early, so we are ready for it when the day comes.

Everyday we use oil in our daily lives. The buses and cars that take us to school burn fossil fuels in the form of gasoline. Most of the buildings in America run on fossil fuels to keep the lights on and heat going in the winter. According to the EIA, the U.S uses an average of 19.05 million gallons of petroleum products everyday. In 2014 the United States used over 6 billion gallons of petroleum products, and this number will continue to rise until we eventually run out. ("How much oil is consumed in the United States?"). Some may think that we will not run out of crude oil in our lifetime. That it will be another 200 years before we run out of these non-renewable resources. The number is a lot closer than you may think. According to BP, It is

estimated that we will run out of crude oil as early as 53 years from now. In an interview with the Associated Press Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson said, "If you look out 25 years from now we are going to have another couple of billion people on the planet, we're going to be at 9 billion people. Something like 3 billion people are going to move from poverty into middle class status. When they do that, the energy demand goes up enormously" ("Exxon CEO Talks Arctic Oil Drilling, Risks, Lessons"). This means that 53 years can be cut short because of the rise of population and energy demands. This could mean the fall of global markets and vast pandemonium.

People have misconceptions about new forms of energy. Natural gas may sound like a good source to help the energy crisis, but it has terrible effects to the environment. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is what it is called, this is a process that is used to extract natural gas from rock formations. The method for extracting the gas is very harmful to the environment. It contaminates groundwater and drinking water because the fracking fluid contains many harmful chemicals that often seep into water supplies. According to dangersoffracking.com, it will take anywhere from 1 to 8 million gallons of water per fracture, and 40,000 gallons of chemicals per fracture(1). A well can be fracked about 18 times, so that is a lot of water being used. Although this is looked as an alternative to oil, there are other more efficient, and environmentally friendly energy sources.

Solar energy, hydrogen cars, electric cars all come to mind when you think good for the environment. These forms of energy can replace oil when crude oil runs out. Solar energy has

become a great form of energy to have to power your home. Solar panels use solar cells to transform the sun's energy to have electricity in a home and running water. According to an article by Diane Cardwell, it says,"According to a study by the investment banking firm Lazard, the cost of utility-scale solar energy is as low as 5.6 cents a kilowatt-hour, and wind is as low as 1.4 cents. In comparison, natural gas comes at 6.1 cents a kilowatt-hour on the low end and coal at 6.6 cents."("Solar and Wind Energy Start to Win on Price vs. Conventional Fuels"). This shows that solar energy is cheaper and more efficient than oil and natural gas. Electric cars and hydrogen cars are said to be the new combustion engine car. These can be the cars that our children and grandchildren can be using to help lessen our carbon footprint. In an article by Lawrence Ulrich, it says,""It's taken 25 years to get vehicles to market, and it's going to be a long road to socialize the technology," Mr. Hanson said. "But it's a pretty good place to be right now."("Hydrogen Fuel Cell Cars Return for Another Run"). Since these cars are not very popular in society, it will take more time to get more people to own hydrogen and electric cars.

Oil reserves in the world will run out one day. We are finding new sources now so we are prepared for that day. Natural gas might be the answer, but its harm to the environment outweighs the good.. It causes water pollution, and uses a lot of water to extract it. Solar energy can be the answer. With new technologies solar energy is becoming more and more efficient and affordable. New forms of cars like the hydrogen and electric powered cars could replace the combustion engine car. There are going to be many forms of energy in the future, but oil will not be one of them.

Works Cited

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