Thermodynamics

Lecture 9
Energy And Environment (Ch-2)

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

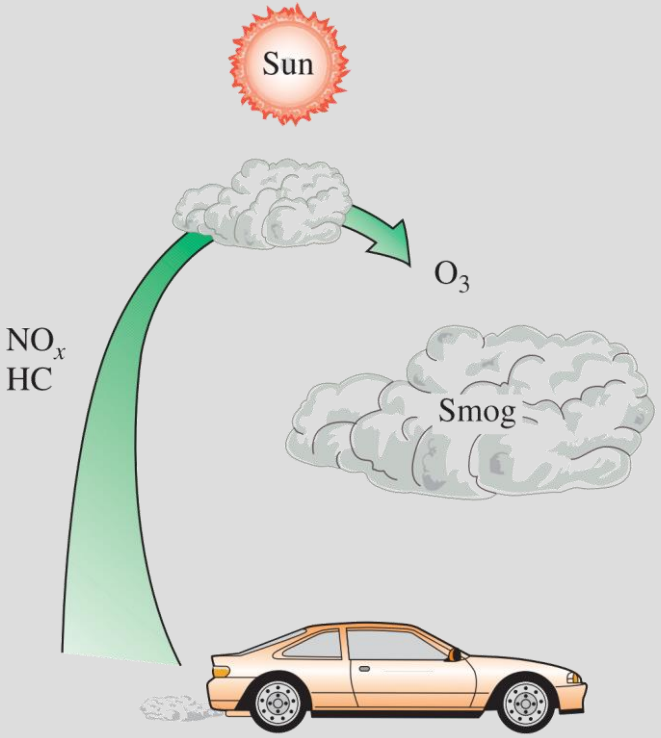
- The conversion of energy from one form to another often affects the environment and the air we breathe in many ways, and thus the study of energy is not complete without considering its impact on the environment.
- Pollutants emitted during the combustion of fossil fuels are responsible for **smog**, **acid rain**, and **global warming**.
- The environmental pollution has reached such high levels that it became a serious threat to **vegetation**, **wild life**, and **human health**.

Motor vehicles are the largest source of air pollution.

Energy conversion processes are often accompanied by environmental pollution.

Ozone and Smog

- **Smog**: Made up mostly of ground-level ozone (O_3), but it also contains numerous other chemicals, including carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter such as soot and dust, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, butane, and other hydrocarbons.
- **Hydrocarbons** and **nitrogen oxides** react in the presence of sunlight on hot calm days to form ground-level ozone.
- **Ozone** irritates eyes and damages the air sacs in the lungs where oxygen and carbon dioxide are exchanged, causing eventual hardening of this soft and spongy tissue.
- It also causes shortness of breath, wheezing, fatigue, headaches, and nausea, and aggravates respiratory problems such as asthma.

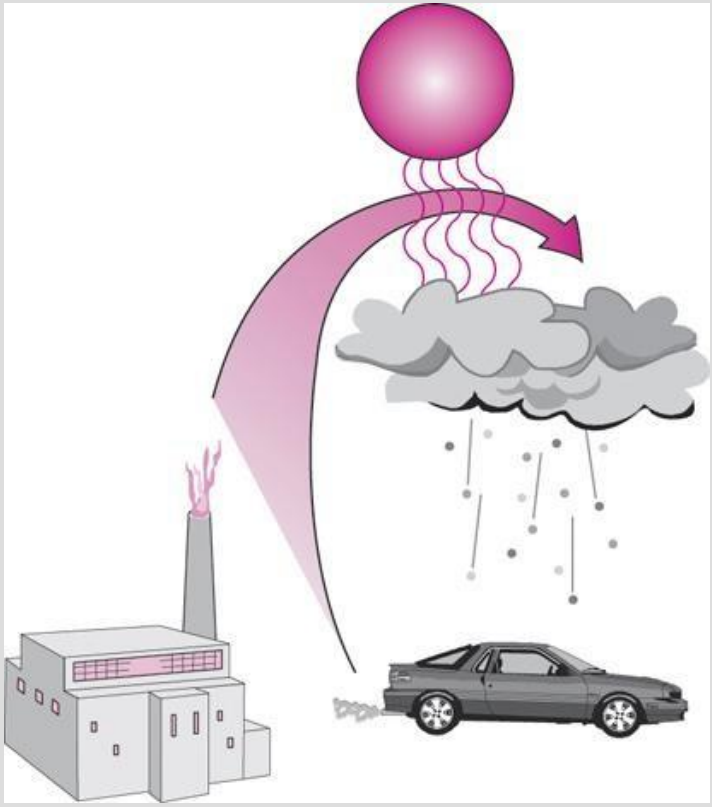


- The other serious pollutant in smog is **carbon monoxide**, which is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas.
- It is mostly emitted by motor vehicles.
- It deprives the body's organs from getting enough oxygen by binding with the red blood cells that would otherwise carry oxygen. It is fatal at high levels.
- Suspended particulate matter such as dust and soot are emitted by vehicles and industrial facilities. Such particles irritate the eyes and the lungs.

Ground-level ozone, which is the primary component of smog, forms when HC and NO_x react in the presence of sunlight in hot calm days.

Acid Rain

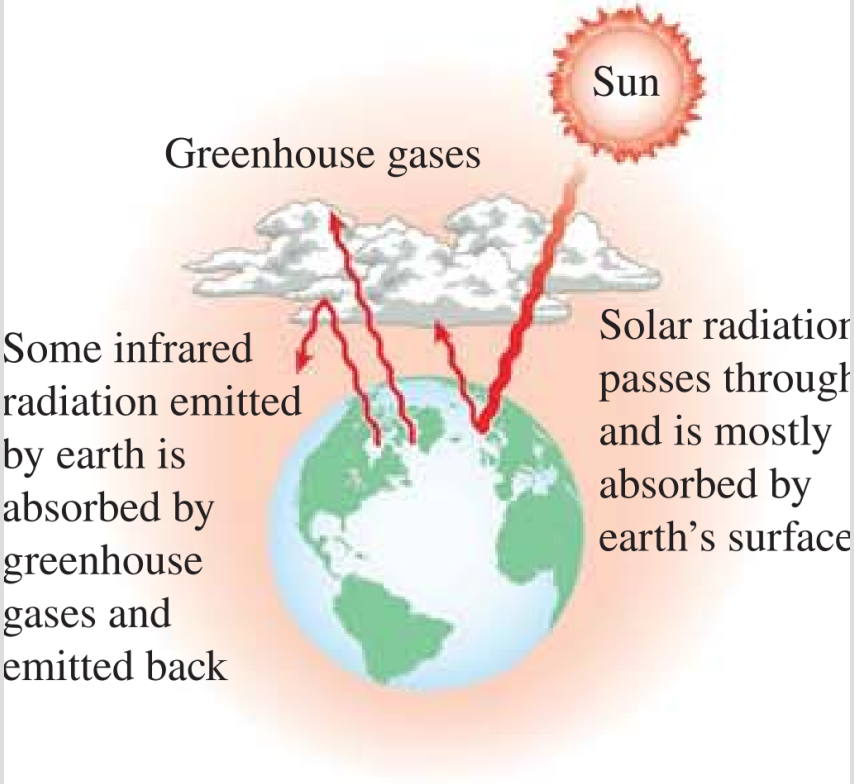
- The sulfur in the fuel reacts with oxygen to form sulfur dioxide (SO_2), which is an air pollutant.
- The main source of SO_2 is the electric power plants that burn high-sulfur coal.
- Motor vehicles also contribute to SO_2 emissions since gasoline and diesel fuel also contain small amounts of sulfur.



- The sulfur oxides and nitric oxides react with water vapor and other chemicals high in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight to form sulfuric and nitric acids.
- The acids formed usually dissolve in the suspended water droplets in clouds or fog.
- These acid-laden droplets, which can be as acidic as lemon juice, are washed from the air on to the soil by rain or snow. This is known as **acid rain**.

Sulfuric acid and **nitric acid** are formed when sulfur oxides and nitric oxides react with water vapor and other chemicals high in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight.

The Greenhouse Effect: Global Warming



The greenhouse effect on earth.

- **Greenhouse effect**: Glass allows the solar radiation to enter freely but blocks the infrared radiation emitted by the interior surfaces. This causes a rise in the interior temperature as a result of the thermal energy buildup in a space (i.e., car).
- The surface of the earth, which warms up during the day as a result of the absorption of solar energy, cools down at night by radiating part of its energy into deep space as infrared radiation.
- **Carbon dioxide (CO_2),** water vapor, and trace amounts of some other gases such as methane and nitrogen oxides act like a blanket and keep the earth warm at night by blocking the heat radiated from the earth. The result is **global warming**.
- These gases are called "**greenhouse gases**," with CO_2 being the primary component.
- CO_2 is produced by the burning of fossil fuels such as **coal, oil, and natural gas**[5].

- **A 1995 report**: The earth has already warmed about **0.5°C** during the last century, and they estimate that the earth's temperature will rise another **2°C** by the year 2100.
- A rise of this magnitude can cause **severe changes in weather patterns** with storms and heavy rains and flooding at some parts and drought in others, major floods due to the melting of ice at the poles, loss of wetlands and coastal areas due to rising sea levels, and other negative results.
- **Improved energy efficiency, energy conservation, and using renewable energy sources** help minimize global warming.

The average car produces several times its weight in CO_2 every year (it is driven 20,000 km a year, consumes 2300 liters of gasoline, and produces 2.5 kg of CO_2 per liter).

Renewable energies such as wind are called "green energy" since they emit no pollutants or greenhouse gases.

Summary

- Forms of energy
  - ✓ Macroscopic = kinetic + potential
  - ✓ Microscopic = Internal energy (sensible + latent + chemical + nuclear)
- Energy transfer by heat
- Energy transfer by work
- The first law of thermodynamics
  - ✓ Energy balance
  - ✓ Energy change of a system
  - ✓ Mechanisms of energy transfer (heat, work, mass flow)
- Energy conversion efficiencies
  - ✓ Efficiencies of mechanical and electrical devices (turbines, pumps)
- Energy and environment
  - ✓ Ozone and smog
  - ✓ Acid rain
  - ✓ The Greenhouse effect: Global warming