How to Solve the Dependency on Fossil Fuel?

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Task 3 Topic: Global Warming

One of the key contributors to global warming is the dependency on fossil fuels to power our nation. The Task 3 essay briefly discussed some of the impact from fossil fuels on our ecosystem. To understand the demand for fossil fuels we need to understand what they are and how they are used. A fossil fuel is a fuel such as coal, oil, or natural gas, they are derived from plant or animal remains found in the earth. Many of these fuels are refined in order for us to use them in our daily lives. Cars running on gasoline is a great example, heating our homes with natural gas, oil used to lubricate motors. These fuels provide energy through combustion, however, during the process of creating energy two gases are released into the ozone, methane and carbon dioxide. These large amounts of methane and carbon dioxide being released into our atmosphere contribute to the increase in temperatures around the globe. Petroleum products account for 37 percent of the United States energy alone (Denchak, M. 92018, June 29).

In order to solve the dependency on fossil fuels we need to take action. Our ecosystem cannot sustain the constant increase of man-made greenhouse gasses. If we do not take action to discover alternative methods, that reduce or remove our dependencies on fossil fuels we will eventually destroy the atmosphere. Heavy reliance on energy created by fossil fuels is a problem and some of the solutions are to conserve energy, reuse and recycle products, and by living green.

Energy conservation is a simple start to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. Turning off a light, combining trips when going out, letting the house get a few degrees warmer in the summer, and using an extra blanket instead of cranking up the heat in the winter. These are all easy steps almost anyone can take, that will reduce the global cost of fossil fuels. About 80% of the energy used is created by burning fossil fuels in the United States (Cairoli, S. (n.d.)). Instead of using electricity that is derived from natural resources, instead opting for solar power is one method of conserving energy. The use of biofuels instead of natural gas when possible is another option. Carpooling is a popular option as well, instead of driving a car with a single person, combining the commute with a few friendly co-workers can be a good way to conserve energy and build new friendships.

The second step we can take in reducing our use of fossil fuels is to reuse and recycle some of the products made from fossil fuels. Many products in our daily lives require fossil fuels to be consumed in order to be produced. Using items like cloth bags when getting groceries, refilling printer ink cartridges instead of buying new, and using glass plates instead of plastic, all reduce our use of fossil fuels. By reading an eBook instead of a paperback book you can help prevent further deforestation in the United States. Timber harvests in the United States are increasing to keep up with demand, by reducing our use of paper products we can help slow the need to harvest trees (Cairoli, S. (n.d.)).

One of the most important ways to reduce our fossil fuels requirements is to, live green. This is a newer term meant to encourage people and products to consider in the impact on the environment. Going green by reducing air pollutants makes the air we breathe cleaner, which assist in promoting good health and less costs in hospital bills and insurance plans (Advantages of Going Green: Help the Environment. (2018, September 4)). An electric car is considered green, large businesses that utilize natural resources such as gas and water, or large amounts of electricity are “going green,” in order to reduce their carbon footprint. Leading companies such as Google and Apple are recycling water used in their data centers to reduce the consumption of water, they are installing solar panels to reduce the energy consumed to power a building. A healthy option when trying to live a greener lifestyle is to grow your own vegetables, this not only prevents the need for pesticides, but also contributes as the plants will consume some of the carbon dioxide we produce through photosynthesis.

As a population we need to stop thinking of what we can use from the earth and begin thinking about what we can do to ensure we have an earth to live on. There are many ways to reduce the effects of global warming, reducing the dependency on fossil fuels is just one step we can take. By increasing our ability to conserve energy, reusing products, and choosing to live a greener lifestyle will all reduce our need for fossil fuels.

Resources

Cairoli, S. (n.d.). How to Reduce the Use of Natural Resources. Retrieved from <https://education.seattlepi.com/reduce-use-natural-resources-4106.html>

Denchak, M. (2018, June 29). Fossil Fuels: The Dirty Facts | NRDC. Retrieved from <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/fossil-fuels-dirty-facts>

Advantages of Going Green: Help the Environment. (2018, September 4). Retrieved from

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