*You are the voice of the energy companies. This includes not only energy from nonrenewable resources (such as coal, oil, etc.) and renewable resources as well (solar, wind, nuclear, etc.) you may choose to represent energy companies as a whole, or focus on one type of energy.*

**Background Information:**

* Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) currently provide more than 85% of all the energy consumers in the US—nearly 2/3 of our electricity and virtually all of our transportation fuels are from fossil fuels.
* The Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act require industries in the US to decrease pollutants released in the air and water. The energy industry has found ways to reduce sulfur, nitrogen oxides and other impurities but is still working on CO2 emissions. CO2 is one of the 5 main products produced by burring fossil fuels, and is a major greenhouse gas.
* The rate of consumption growth, even more than population growth, has proven difficult to slow.
* Although the poorest people spend relatively little on the energy, in part because of poor access to it, their use of other energy has other costs in terms of their time, health and the environment.
* According to the Foresight report, the demand for energy is projected to increase by 45% between 2006 and 2030, and could double between now and 2050.
* There are pressures on water, energy and land sectors for non-food uses, from biofuel mandates, urban and industrial development and uncoordinated use of natural resources.
* A number of factors have driven interest in biofuels as a renewable energy source. These include higher energy prices coming from an increased demand for energy, concerns about climate change, the desire to reduce dependence on imported energy sources and the potential for rural growth and employment generation. Biofuel policies have resulted in increased pressure on land and water. Cropland normally used to grow food crops are now used to biofuel crops, and has directly contribute ot the rise in food prices and increased malnutrition rates, with no net decrease in carbon emissions.
* Fuel prices continue to rise. If current policies continue, oil will go from $78/barrel to $140/barrel by 2035.
* Rising energy prices affect agriculture in many ways: increases profit for biofuel, causing increased demand for land, energy prices for farmers increase, increasing their costs; the price of energy influences the prices of inputs, water, transportation and marketing, all affecting agricultural production and food prices.
* Energy prices also affect how water resources are used. It will become more expensive to extract and convey irrigation water; desalinize seawater for drinking and household use.
* Higher energy costs for consumers means higher profits for energy companies, and more money to be able to use for research and development of renewable resources.