

Decreasing Oil Dependency

Background

It is estimated that the Earth currently holds approximately 80 years worth of crude oil based on current consumption rates. Even though 80 years may seem like a long time, considering the amount of effort and investment required to move the Earth's population to alternative energy sources, 80 years will pass quite quickly. It is important for each person to become aware of how much oil they consume in their everyday lives and what we can do as individuals to reduce our individual oil consumption, and as a society to consciously move toward alternative energies and away from crude oil.

Lesson

- 1) Review PowerPoint Presentation
- 2) Review the Demark Example
- 3) Select one of the following topics and create a poster/brochure/web page describing how it will assist in decreasing personal oil consumption:
 - ✓ Decrease amounts of plastics used
 - Use aluminum or steel water bottles
 - Store leftovers in glass containers
 - Purchase as many foods as possible in glass or paper containers
 - Use reusable cloth bags as frequently as possible
 - Any additional suggestions that each person could easily incorporate into their lives to decrease the use of plastic
 - ✓ Personal Transportation
 - Drive less
 - Increase hybrid/electric vehicles



- Increase fuel consumption efficiency
- Any additional suggestions that each person could easily incorporate into their lives to use electricity more efficiently

- ✓ Efficient use of heating and electricity
 - Unplug unused appliances
 - Set computers to sleep and hibernate
 - Regulate temperature
 - Use appliances efficiently
 - Turn out the lights when not in the room
 - Any additional suggestions that each person could easily incorporate into their lives to decrease the use of fuel.

- ✓ Consider researching these topics as well:
 - Alternative energy sources
 - Ease from oil to natural gas
 - Select personal care products without oil
 - Efficient agriculture practices

4) Optional: Calculate your family's fuel consumption

<http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/Index.do;jsessionid=2e56dfc74ab26260c18c00bbb356df0969f2bd95d4e4fb6bc50d0c92b4818ca5>

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

