

Importance of Renewable Energy

Name:

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What future is waiting for humanity? Can we use the gifts of nature forever? What is the technical system of electric energy accumulation, the change of philosophy, which will develop on the global market? These are all questions we must answer in the nearest time.

Unconventional and renewable energy sources have recently become one of the important criteria for the sustainable development of the world community. The search for new and improved existing technologies, bringing them to an economically-efficient level and expanding areas of use are important issues. The main reasons for such attention are the expected exhaustion of organic fuels, a sharp increase in their prices, imperfections and low efficiency of their technologies, and harmful effects on the environment, the consequences of which are increasing and worrying the world community (Feeley 2005). Thus, renewable energy is the only solution that will help save lives on our planet in the next millennium.

Unconventional renewable energy sources include:

- hydroelectric power plants (large, medium, and small)
- geothermal, solar, photovoltaic, and thermal energy
- energy of tides, waves of the ocean, wind
- solid biomass, biomass gases, liquid biofuels, and renewable municipal waste
- thermal energy "created" from heat pumps

- peat, mine methane

- secondary sources of energy, such as waste heat, industrial waste, blast furnace gas, and natural gas pressure during transportation (Jacobson 2011)

What is the world doing to make renewable energy more common?

In December 2015, at the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, the new global climate agreement came into force. The main task of the meeting was to assume ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to the International Energy Agency, energy efficiency (40%) and renewable energy sources (30%) will play a major role in preventing global warming from rising by more than 2 °C and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

There is now a significant international experience of using completely different regimens for supporting renewable energy sources. If we look where this type of energy is the cheapest, there are more competitive support schemes: auctions and finding premium or long-term deals that fix a price. Thus, the price is not a problem. The problem is the desire to change the way of life.

World experience shows that green energy is much more cost-effective than using modern atomic technologies or technologies associated with the use of conventional fossil fuels (Cardwell 2014). There are many examples when Stockholm, Munich, and Copenhagen are moving to 100% renewable energy sources. Today, 81 world corporations have officially sup-

ported this development. Recently, the news reported that Google has decided to completely switch to only "green" energy (Inhaber 2004). Therefore, today, the company has direct agreements with long-term companies that generate energy in one or another region, not waiting for any permits from the state, legislative changes.

Do we need many years for this change? No. We can totally switch to renewable energy in next five years.

Therefore, the importance of this step and the prerequisites for its implementation should encourage us to make more economical use of non-renewable resources and switch to alternative energy sources. Can we change our lives? Of course! We only need to make sure that our activities do not harm the global development of humankind.

References

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