



Reducing Our Energy Consumption: A Strategy for Our Future!



Energy Consumption and Climate Change

Since the Industrial Revolution, our consumption of energy has been increasing exponentially (see appendix). To meet these ever-increasing energy needs, energy production has been based primarily on burning fossil fuels. Today, fossil fuels represent about 80% of energy sources used in the world. The combustion of fossil fuels results in the emission of greenhouse gasses (GHGs).

These gasses influence the Earth's climate and their rapid increase in the atmosphere has detrimental consequences: sea-level rise, melting glaciers and ice sheets, droughts, and various plants and animals migrating to new areas and facing a greater risk of extinction. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that "without the near-term introduction of supportive and effective policy actions by governments, energy related GHG emissions, mainly from fossil fuel combustion, are projected to rise by over 50% [...] by 2030".

Aiming for a "Zero Emission" Lifestyle: What Can You Do?

Individual actions can help reduce GHG emissions. Household energy consumption in the world represents 29% of total final energy consumption and 21% of total CO₂ emissions (see appendix).

Between 1990 and 2005, global final energy consumption increased by 23%. Energy consumption grew the most quickly in the service and transport sectors.

Worldwide household emissions on a per capita basis are 0.7 ton of CO₂ per person (2005). Per capita emissions in OECD countries are on average five times higher than in non-OECD countries. Global household CO₂ emissions increased by 21% between 1990 and 2005 due to the increase in final energy consumption and the changes in energy mix.

What do we use this energy for? Do we use it efficiently?

The GHG Guidebook

Fact Sheets and Action Sheets will be posted regularly online. Each Action Sheet will describe one action or set of actions that can help you reduce your energy consumption. Using the indicative scales at the top right corner of each Action Sheet will allow you to estimate at a glance:

1 low	2 medium	3 high	
			} the impacts of the recommended action(s) in terms of reducing greenhouse gases emissions;

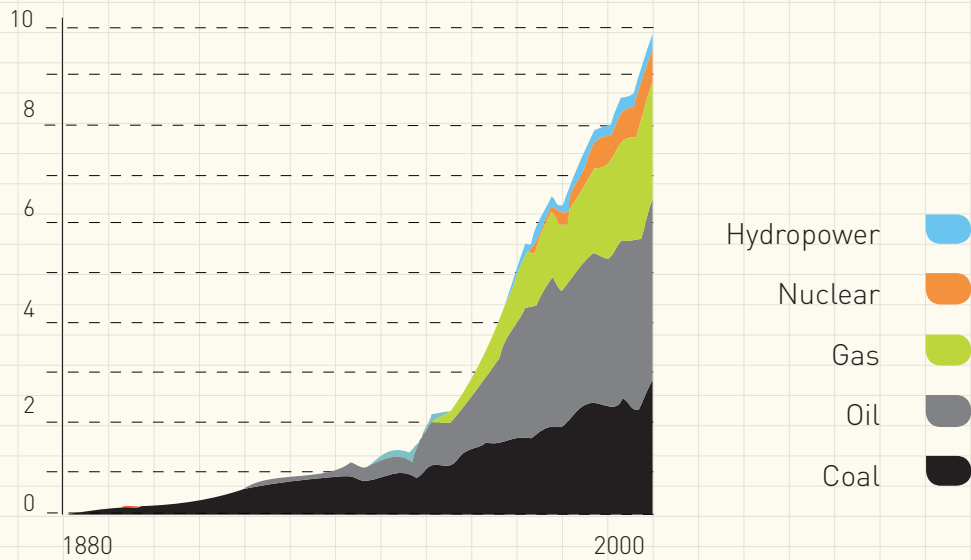


Appendix



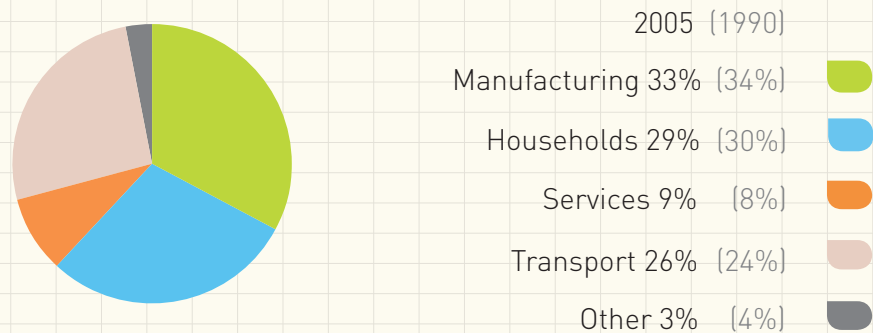
World primary energy consumption by fuel type

Total in 2004: 9.9 billion tonnes of oil equivalent



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy June 2005

Global final energy consumption in 2005 (compared to 1990)



Services: trade, finance, real estate, public administration, health, education and commercial services.

Other: construction and agriculture/fishing.

Source:

Worldwide Trends in Energy Use and Efficiency: Key Insights from IEA Indicator Analysis © OECD/IEA, 2008, Fig.2.1, page 17