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Diversifying Energy in America: Moving Towards Renewable Wind Power

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A. Energy Policy in America.

Today, energy is on the minds of most Americans. When world oil prices rose to approximately \$78 per barrel in the summer of 2006, gasoline/petrol prices for consumers rose to unusually high levels of \$3.50 per gallon (or 11 rmb/liter). At the same time, electrical utility companies passed on their higher fuel costs to their consumers in the form of higher electricity rates. Airlines did the same thing by imposing fuel surcharges in addition to their basic ticket prices. Recently during 2006, sales of new trucks and sport utility vehicles (vehicles with poor fuel economy) drastically declined from recent sales levels substantially harming the earnings of General Motors and Ford Motor Company and leading to corporate restructuring and substantial employee layoffs. As these items reveal, energy functions an essential part of the American economy powering manufacturing, agriculture as well as the commercial sector. America's high per capita consumption of energy, when considered in conjunction with rapidly escalating fuel prices, has made the public acutely aware of the implications of the patterns of our energy consumption. Once again, recent increased oil prices have made American consumers and policy makers both aware of the significance of energy as a major component of the American economy and the overall quality of life.

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