

Consuming 1,000 Barrels of Oil per Second

Energy is the lifeblood of our economy. We need it 24 hours a day. We need fuel and oil for transportation. We need electricity for computers and appliances. We need gas and electricity to heat and cool our homes, schools, hospitals and churches. We can't afford to be without it and we are having a difficult time affording it.

Why are energy prices continuing to increase?

- The demand for energy is growing at a faster rate than the supply. China and India are fast approaching industrialization. Between these two countries their population is approaching 2.5 billion people. China is now the second largest user of oil behind the United States.
- The cost and difficulty of extracting gas and oil from the ground is increasing. According to the Energy Information Administration, 20 years ago 15 fields had the capacity to produce more than one million barrels of oil per day. Today only four of the world's largest oil fields are producing more than 1 million barrels per day and production in three of these fields is declining.
- We are running out of gas and oil. Michael Schaefer, a world-renowned expert on oil, wrote in a report, "The Truth About Oil," "Since 1859 we have consumed 1.5 trillion barrels of oil. And with our forecasted rate of consumption, it will take only 20 years to consume another 1.5 trillion." (According to the EIA, there is only 1



trillion barrels of known world oil reserves remaining.)

- Propane is a product of natural gas and oil. The price of propane and its availability is directly related to the availability and price of natural gas and oil.

If we want to maintain the lifestyle that we are accustomed to, we need to immediately find ways to become more energy efficient. More energy is consumed in our homes, schools, churches and offices than by transportation or our industries according to U. S. Department of Energy statistics for 1998. Ninety percent of this usage is in appliances, domestic hot water, heating and cooling. The other 10 percent is used in lighting.

What can we do to become more energy efficient?

- We could reduce energy for heating and cooling up to 40 percent by properly insulating our attics, basements and crawl spaces. In east central Illinois

we need at least 12 inches of insulation in our attics and 2 to 3 inches of insulation on our basement and crawl space walls.

- We need to convert our lighting to compact fluorescent bulbs from incandescent bulbs. CFLs use one-fourth the energy for the same amount of light and last seven to nine times longer. One 60-Watt CFL will save \$47 at 10 cents per kilowatt.
- We need to seal up all utility wall entrances, cracks around windows, doors and walls.
- We need to invest in the most energy efficient air conditioners and heating systems. If the air conditioner is more than 10 years old, replacing it with a 15 SEER rated system will reduce air conditioning costs as much as 50 percent. Many of the advanced heating systems, such as air source and geothermal heat pumps have efficiencies that range from 250 to 500 percent.
- Check out Eastern Illini's Web site www.eiec.coop and click on the light bulb. It will show the many ways you can save energy. Or give the marketing department a call at 800-824-5102.

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