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Sustainability: Energy & Global Chemistry

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Sustainability: Energy & Global Chemistry Kurt Kolasinski Department of Chemistry

WCU Sustainability Coordinator to be appointed

• Presidential Initiatives 2009-2010 Enable WCU to achieve national and global recognition as a leader in the implementation of green technologies, in sustainable energy, and in the reduction of our carbon footprint.

Too Precious to be Expensive

- Energy
- Water
- Ammonia
- Why do we need energy?
- Why do we need sustainability?
- What does chemistry have to offer?

Sustainability

- An attempt to provide the best outcomes for the human and natural environments both now and into the indefinite future.
- Organizing human activity so that society, its members and its economies are able to meet their needs and express their greatest potential in the present as well as the future.

Why do we need energy and why is it so important for sustainability?

• Strong correlation between HDI consumption

- To elevate Developing World to : requires equivalent of 148 Mbbl/
- Current production $= 84$ Mbbl/day

Kurt W Kolasinski – Kolasinski, *Curr. Opin. Solid State Mater. Sci.* **2006**, *10*, 129

Without sustainable energy sources American and World economic and World economic development will cease and conflict will increase

Oil Reserves and Demand

- **Proven reserves 21.317 B bbl** US consumed 7.117 B bbl of oil in 2008
- **This amounts to a 3 year supply if** we relied on domestic sources

United States - Shares of TPES 2003

Trends in Supply/Demand Trends in Supply/Demand

- US energy consumption growing faster than domestic production
- World demand growing >2%/year
- Old wells produce more slowly (–12%/year)
	- US: 5.5 M bbl/day, 10 bbl/day/well
	- –Saudi: 10.4 M bbl/day, 10000 bbl/day/well
- Sweet oil disappearing
- Heavy oil consumes gas/water

Geography of **Consumption** EIA 2008

- •Per capita consumption extremely unequal
- •Economic development in 3rd world will lead to massive increase in energy demand
- •China & India now major importers
- •In 2005 both UK & Indonesia became net importers

Oil Production & Consumption

EIA 2008

Can USA drill its way out?

- US drilling cost \$220 B in 2007 (API)
- **139 M bbl net added to US Reserves in** 2008
- **Annual US consumption: >7 B bbl**
- On-shore areas may contain an additional 48.5 B bbl (6.4 years)
- **Drilling allowed in most of Gulf of Mexico**
- **Deepwater Gulf of Mexico: 40.9 B bbl** unproven (5.4 years)
	- Subject to hurricane disruption
- Off-shore areas unavailable in 2008 for drilling may contain 18.2 B bbl (2.4 years)

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Source: EIA

science for a changing world

Domestic Energy Production Insufficient

Energy Information Administration http://www.eia.doe.gov/

We will never run out of oil

- So what?
- More importantly: We will run out of **cheap** oil
- No previous change in primary energy source due to exhaustion of resources

– Coal replaced wood as primary energy source in 1800's but more wood is burned now than ever before

• Each change (wood ⇒ coal ⇒ oil) has been the source of great opportunity

Keeping up with Future Demand

- 18.5 TW world demand, 3.4 TW used by US (2006)
- Only fusion and solar can possibly deliver $10+$ TW annually. Solar: 600 TW annually practical
- World energy demand \sim 30 TW by 2050
- Need more even distribution of energy sources to diminish conflict
- Need to develop alternatives to petroleum

International Energy Agency: www.iea.org

Fusion Power

- **Example International Thermonuclear** Experimental Reactor (www.iter.org) \$8–16 billion multinational project
	- US, EU, Japan, Russia, China, India, S Korea
	- **2009 building begins in France**
	- **2018 fusion experiments begin**
	- **2050 500 MW working reactor**
- Was, is and always will be the power source of the future?

Solar Power

- **Direct conversion to electricity**
	- Photovoltaics
- **Solar thermal electrical generation**
	- Steam driven turbines
	- Storage as thermal energy
- **Solar fuels**
	- Hydrogen
	- Artificial photosynthesis ($CH₄$, EtOH...)
	- Biofuels

Harnessing Solar requires

- Understanding photodynamics
- Understanding charge transfer
- Carrier recombination and relaxation
- Photochemistry
- Photoelectrochemistry
- Formation of nanocrystalline semiconductors

Solar Land Area Requirements

• U.S. Land Area: 9.1x10¹² m² (incl. Alaska)

• Average Insolation: 200 W/m^2

• 2000 U.S. Primary Power Consumption: 99 Quads=3.3 TW

• 1999 U.S. Electricity Consumption = 0.4 TW

• Hence: 3.3×10^{12} W/(2x10² W/m² x 10% Efficiency) = 1.6x10¹¹ m² Requires $1.6x10^{11}$ m²/ $9.1x10^{12}$ m² = 1.7% of Land

Nathan S Lewis, Caltech, http://nsl.caltech.edu

Solar Land Area Requirements

Nathan S Lewis, Caltech, http://nsl.caltech.edu

Materials Issues Materials used in solar energy conversion should be widely available and inexpensive

Can Humans Impact the Environment Globally? Environment Globally?

American Chemical Society Policy Statement

Careful and **comprehensive scientific assessments have clearly demonstrated that the Earth's climate system is changing rapidly** in response to growing atmospheric burdens of greenhouse gases and absorbing aerosol particles (IPCC, 2007). **There is very little room for doubt that observed climate trends are due to human activities**. The threats are serious and action is urgently needed to mitigate the risks of climate change. The reality of global warming, its current serious and potentially disastrous impacts on Earth system properties, and the key role emissions from human activities play in driving **these phenomena have been recognized by** earlier versions of this **ACS** policy statement (ACS, 2004), by other major scientific societies, including the **American Geophysical Union** (AGU, 2003), the **American Meteorological Society** (AMS, 2007) and the **American Association for the Advancement of Science** (AAAS, 2007), and by the **U. S. National Academies** and ten other leading national academies of science (NA, 2005).

Global Human Impact

- There is **no uncertainty** that human activity can effect the global environment
	- Fixed nitrogen (NH_3)
	- Ozone hole and CFCs
	- Lead (Pb)
	- $-$ Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
	- Nuclear Winter
- Only discussion is on the **level of impact**: moderate to catastrophic
- The level of impact will depend on human **decisions & actions**

Fixed Nitrogen $N_2 + 3 H_2 \rightarrow 2NH_3$

- Haber-Bosch Process: the world's most important chemical reaction
- Animals need protein (a nitrogen containing molecule)
- Most plants lousy at incorporating nitrogen (need fertilizer)
- Humans now fix more nitrogen than all natural sources combined

1965

World population surpasses 3.3 billion

- Modern agriculture dependent on ammonia based fertilizer
- This cannot be replaced by dung
- If ammonia production were shut down, **3.2 billion people** could not be supported by agriculture
- $NH₃$ requires fossil fuels both for H₂ and for the energy to run the chemical reaction

$NH₃$ Synthesis is, arguably, the single most important industrial chemical reaction

Mean Climate vs Weather

- Climate is easy to predict
	- 90% trivial to calculate
- But weather is what influences civilization
	- Final 10% crucial
- Greenhouse effect is essential to life
- Questions pertain to change

$$
T_{\rm E} = T_{\rm S} \left(\frac{r_{\rm S}}{2a_0} \right)^{1/2}
$$

Blackbody radiation calculation of Earth's temperature $T_F = 279 K$ Albedo ~30% \Rightarrow 255 K $GHG \Rightarrow 287K$

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Increased CO₂ level due to Human Activity

Sources: History: Energy Information Administration (EIA), International Energy Annual 2003 (May-July 2005), web site www.eia.doe.gov/iea/. Projections: EIA, System for the Analysis of Global Energy Markets (2006).

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Do you want to do this Experiment?

•Projected to reach 500 ppm by 2050 •380 ppmv highest level in 10 million years •Miocene: no Greenland ice sheet

What is the role of chemistry/geochemistry?

SYR - FIGURE 2-2

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Kurt W Kolasinski

IPCC

What's the Difference between H_2O & CO_2 ?

- The world 3/4 covered with an ocean of water not dry ice
- Vapor/liquid equilibrium (it rains)
- The greenhouse effect (\sim 30°) of H₂O is saturated
- $CO₂$ absorbs IR at different frequency
- The oceans are a sink for $CO₂$ (1-2 Pg) per year)
- Carbon removed by plants, precipitation, burial, photochemistry

Not all sources of CO₂ are the same

- Why doesn't breathing make a difference?
- Why is burning wood from a managed forest different than burning oil, gas or coal?

Atmospheric Kinetics

- Chemical kinetics introduces time constants
- CO₂ atmospheric lifetime \approx 50–200 years
- Global climate is a system in quasi-steady state (a massive coupled differential equation)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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Carbon Emissions by Sector

Greater efficiency in the transportation, electricity & chemical sectors will have the greatest impacts in reducing emissions

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CO₂ Sequestration

Nathan S Lewis, Caltech, http://nsl.caltech.edu

DOE Sequestration Effort: Is it sufficient?

- \$149 M budget (FY2009)
- Separations
- Geological Sequestration
	- Enhanced oil recovery, Coal seam methane, Deep saline reservoirs
- Mineralization
	- $-$ MgCO₃, CO₂ clathrates
- Photosynthetic routes
- Microbial methane or acetate production

DOE FY2009 Request (M\$)

- Efficiency & Renewables 1,255 -27%
- Electricity Deliv & Relia 134 -3.3%
- Fossil Energy $1,127 +25\%$
- Nuclear Energy $1,419 +37\%$
- Total for Energy $3,936 +3.6\%$

Energy Efficiency

- Improved building, process, generation & transmission efficiency decreases energy intensity (intensity $=$ \$ GDP $/$ J)
- Improved device efficiency is economically beneficial but does not automatically reduce consumption
	- $-$ better fuel mileage $=$ more driving
	- more efficient air conditioning is used more
	- 1980–2000 US energy intensity –34%, use $+26%$
- Consumers tend to use as much energy as they can afford so efficiency gains don't always have full impact
- Industry can substantially reduce its energy use and intensity through efficiency gains & achieve better economics

Future Sources

- Multiple sources
- \bullet H₂ (methanol, formic acid) –Combustion and fuel cells
- Coal, methane, H_2O as H_2 sources
- Solar, wind, waves, geothermal
- What role for nuclear?
- Decoupling chemical industry from foreign controlled feedstocks
	- –Syngas (CO+H2) & bio/ag as feedstocks

Nuclear Power

• Important bridge technology • Low CO₂ emissions • 4.7 MMt of U_3O_8 @ \$130 kg⁻¹ • 85 year supply at current level • 2500 year supply if fast breeders can be developed –Source: IAEA: www.iaea.org

The promise of nuclear may seem great but…

- Only 17% of nuclear fuel provided domestically (compared to 40% for oil)
- 2005 price $($31.59 \text{ kg}^{-1}$)$ up by a factor of 5 since 2001
- Only 370 GWe installed worldwide
- Scaling to 12 TWe only 2.6 year supply of U ω \$130 kg⁻¹, only 77 for breeders
- No economical breeder cycle has been demonstrated (projected: 2015–2025)
- No solution to nuclear waste disposal has been decided upon

Technology Landscape • Transportation Fuels

- $H₂$, C1-4 alcohols, formic acid
- Photovoltaics, fuel cells, batteries
- Electricity Generation
	- Photovoltaics, Wind, Waves
	- Nuclear?
	- Efficient generation and transmission
		- IGCC, superconductors, nanotube cables
	- Distributed networks, power electronics
- Feedstocks
	- Microbe/enzymatic digestion
	- Syngas, cellulose, (non-food) crops as chemical feedstocks

Leveraging Agriculture: Integrated Biorefinery Integrated Biorefinery

- 100 billion tons of plant tissue die each year = 10 times the mass of fossil fuel used
- Not efficient to grow plants for energy (energy density too low), ethanol displaces little oil, biodiesel good but cannot supplant all imports for fuel
- Use of cellulose & animal waste/byproducts could provide new feedstock for chemistry
- Technical challenges but low in GHG, renewable, enhances agricultural economics

Challenges in Thermodynamics

- What is the best cycle to produce $H₂$ from $H₂O$?
	- What can do better than carbothermal reduction?
	- Water electrolysis
	- CaBr₂/Fe oxide; H_2SO_4/HI ; Cu–I cycles
- What is the best thermal cycle to produce carbon solids/liquids from $CO₂$?
	- Reactions with soils/clays
	- Reactions with minerals
	- Reactions with saline solutions
	- (Photo)Electrochemical reduction to methanol

Challenges in Nanoscience & Solid State Chemistry

- Solar! Solar!! Solar!!!
	- Nanocrystalline materials for light conversions
	- Charge transfer dynamics
	- Thin films of conducting organic polymers
	- Solar fuels
- Hydrogen production
- Hydrogen storage
- Fuel cells
- Interfaces
	- Catalysis
	- Electrode/Electrolyte
- Materials
	- Superconductors
	- Thermoelectrics
	- Smart windows

Managing Opportunities

• Systems approach

- Chemistry has an ESSENTIAL role to play in finding solutions
- The best science can only be implemented with good policy
- Pick a problem that interests you and work for solutions
- Sustainability as core of industrial, political and educational agenda

