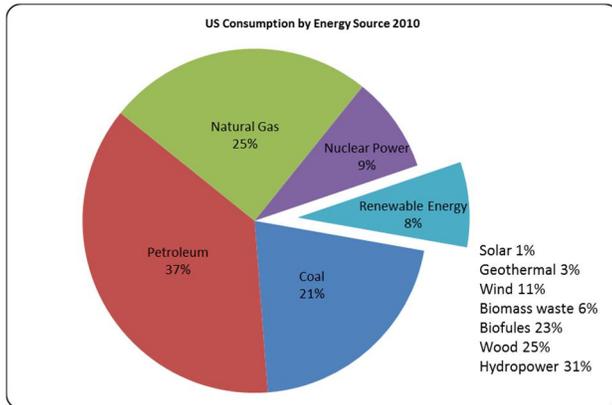


# THE BRIDGE TO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

**Alternative energy is important for energy independence and good stewardship of the earth.** However, alternative energy provides only **8%** of our total energy use. Fossil fuels provide **92%**.

Renewables face challenges for widespread use at this point in their development. [1]



US Energy Information Administration –

[http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=us\\_energy\\_home](http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=us_energy_home)

- 1) They lack **infrastructure** to produce and deliver energy.
- 2) They use **rare earth elements** sufficient in the development stage, but not in wide-spread use.
- 3) An **inconsistent supply** of energy (wind, solar, seasonal crops) creates supply and demand problems.
- 4) Renewables require **more resource consumption** (land, water) because they do not produce as much **energy per unit** as coal, petroleum, etc.
- 5) They are **not yet profit making entities**. Without generous taxpayer funded subsidies, renewables would not be competitive with conventional energy.

**Because of these challenges, it is doubtful that the increase in renewable energy will be as great as many believe or desire. [2] Here are just two examples.**

- The Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that 82% of our total electrical generation will still be provided by fossil fuels and nuclear power in 2035. [3]
- By 2015 only 7 % of the car market will be hybrid cars – using either gasoline or diesel and electricity generated onboard – up from 2.2% in 2007, according to J.D. Powers & Associates. [4]

**We Need A Bridge.** Realistically, it will take time to make alternative energy sources available for widespread use. In the meantime, we will need to be prudent as individuals and a country in our energy usage, and continue the responsible development and management of our fossil fuel and nuclear industries. These abundant and readily available resources will provide the **energy we need now** and serve as a **bridge to energy independence in the future**.

## What you can do

**[Stay informed](#) • [Voice your opinion](#) • [Contact your reps](#) • [Encourage civil discussions](#)**

[1] <http://www.postcarbon.org/Reader/PCReader-Fridley-Alternatives.pdf>

[2] Manhattan Institute's report Energy and the Environment; [www.manhattan-institute.org/energymyths/myth2.htm](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/energymyths/myth2.htm)

[3] EIA Annual Energy Outlook 2010, Electricity Demands, page 66, [http://www.eia.gov/oiaf/aeo/pdf/trend\\_3.pdf](http://www.eia.gov/oiaf/aeo/pdf/trend_3.pdf)

[4] See "J.D. Power Sees Three-Fold Growth for Hybrids by 2012," HybridCars.com, April 8, 2008