



SDG 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Our Congregational Gathering 2012 Invites us –
“to live sustainably and use our resources creatively for the promotion of justice, peace and integrity of creation.”

Hymn: ‘Touch the Earth’ (Kathy Sherman) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJ8JZDgmNBc>

Stillness time – Be aware of the energy we receive each time we breathe in, energy which nourishes and purifies us deep within. (5 Mins)

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser holds that the energy we see around us and feel irrepressibly within us, tells us that underneath, before and inside everything - animate and inanimate, flows a sacred force, both physical and spiritual, which is joyous, effervescent, deeply personal and loving. That energy speaks of God. (<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/flavour-god's-energy>)

- ✚ Be aware of the consistency of thought and purpose in SDG 7 and our C.G./IPA invitations.
- ✚ Also be aware of your feelings with regard to this consistency. (5 Mins)

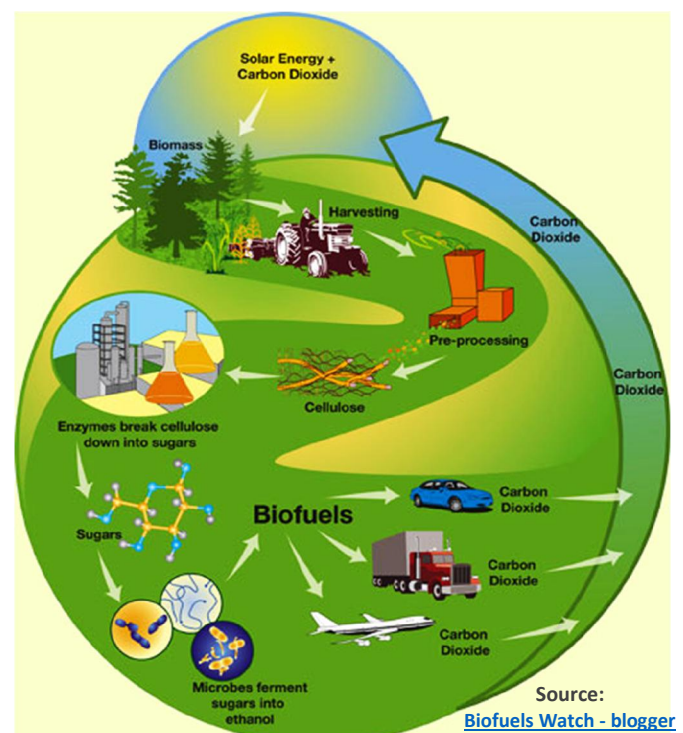
Introduction

Our Universe is full of energy, which we cannot create or destroy. The primary source of energy for us Earthlings, is the Sun. Energy, trapped in different forms, is essential to our daily lives, providing us with the capacity to work and helping us make real our dreams and goals. We are constantly using a significant amount of our planet's supply of renewable and non-renewable energy. Every day, our use of this energy is producing carbon dioxide (CO₂) that is released into the Earth's atmosphere. This increases the warmth of our planet and is the main cause of the so-called “Global Warming Effect”. As long as we're emitting CO₂, it continues to build up in the atmosphere – and it is now doing so at record levels.

Fossil fuels - like oil and coal, with their diverse components, are non-renewable. Plants, animals and other life forms trapped under pressure, deep inside earth, billions of years ago, have created the oil, coal and gas, on which so many of us depend for our energy. The burning of these fuels causes air pollution and contributes to global warming and climate change.

Alternative sources of energy - like solar/wind/water/nuclear/geo-thermal energy, along with human energy, are renewable resources.

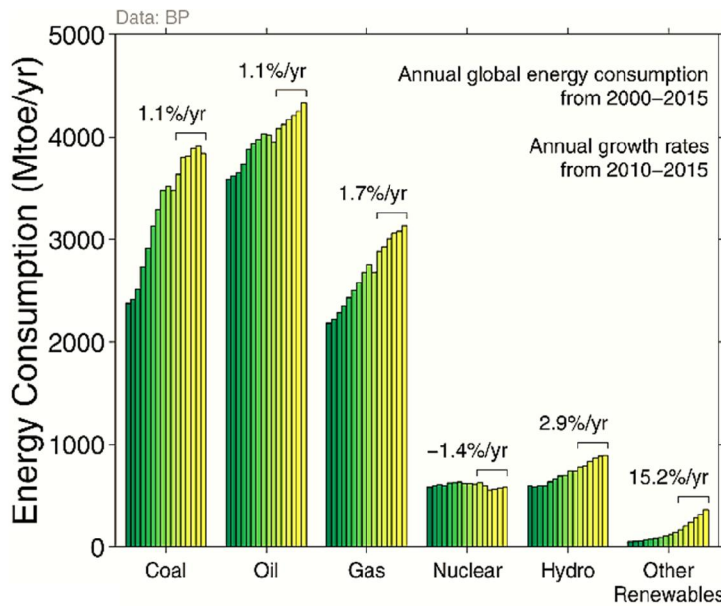
Biofuel is produced through contemporary biological processes, such as agriculture and anaerobic digestion, rather than the fossil fuels produced by geological processes from prehistoric biological matter. But the disadvantages are: the actual production of biofuels requires energy from fossil fuels and growing biofuel crops can lead to deforestation and habitat loss.



Our ways of generating and using energy have become unsustainable. The 'greenhouse gas' emissions causing global warming are – carbon dioxide from fossil fuel use, methane and nitrous oxide, primarily from agriculture.

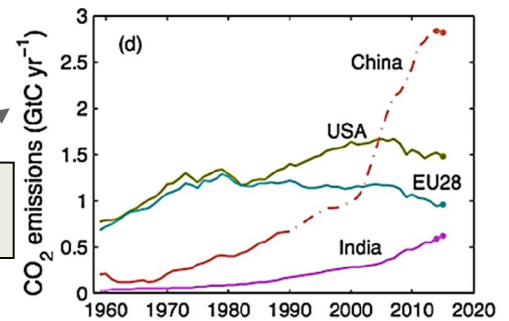
Native American wisdom suggests that we should use Earth's resources with care for the '7th generation' i.e. seven generations into the future. At a global level we need to work towards a fairer way of sharing energy with people of every nation. We hear the phrase 'Sustainable Development' defined as a capacity, "to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs". (Brundtland Report 1987)

Some Facts



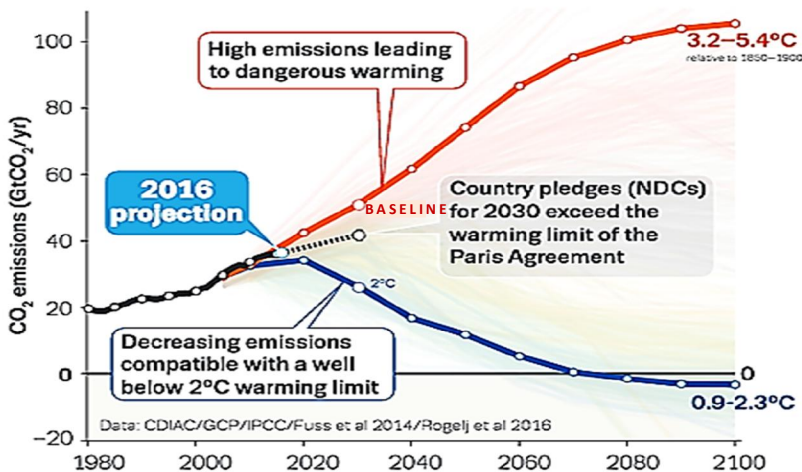
The average person in the more developed countries uses 80 times more energy than a person in a less developed country. More than 50% of all energy is also wasted in developed countries due to inefficiency and lack of awareness.

Source
carbonbrief.org



2 DEGREES: We hear all the time that in order to avert the worst ravages of climate change, we need to stop the planet from warming an additional two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This measure represents a crucial tipping point.

Unchecked rising temperatures will destroy plant and animal habitats, and reduce yields of important food crops. More people will be exposed to the ravages of flooding and drought.



EMISSIONS

New research finds that global fossil fuel emissions grew by 0.7% in 2014, then held steady in 2015.

As the 2nd biggest emitter, the USA was responsible for 15% of global emissions in 2015. Burning more oil and gas, but less coal, saw the US's emissions fall 2.6% in 2015 and they were projected to fall a further 1.7% in 2016.

The EU's emissions rose by 1.4% in 2015, despite having declined over the long term. The bloc is the world's third largest emitter, responsible for 10% of global CO₂ emissions in 2015. "EU emissions have been going down for two decades, so we can comfortably say it has peaked" (carbonbrief.org).

In contrast, emissions are rising across the developing world. India, which contributes 6.3% of global emissions, saw its emissions rise by 5.2% in 2015.

Global CO₂ Emissions since 1980 (solid black) and country pledges under the Paris Agreement (dashed line), compared to a high emissions scenario (orange) and a scenario compatible with limiting warming to 2C above pre-industrial levels (blue).

[Source: Le Quéré, C. et al. (2016) based on Rogelj et al, (2016)]

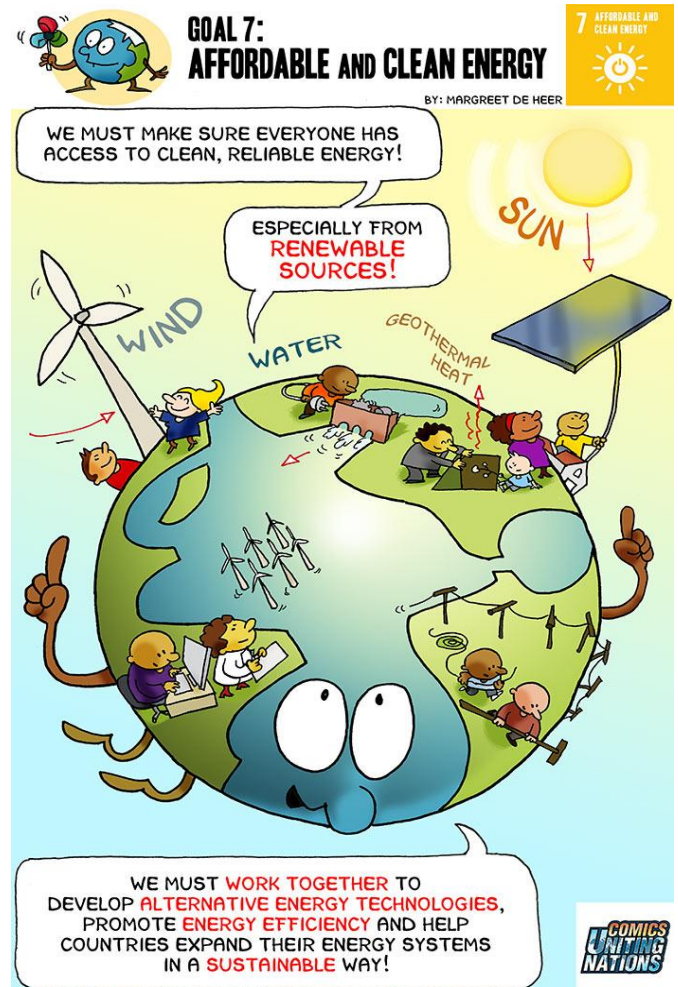
{NDCs = Nationally Determined Contributions}

For Community Sharing

- Imagine a world where energy is produced sustainably, where we enjoy a clean atmosphere, with no pollution from burning oil, coal, and with no emissions from nuclear radiation? How would it be?
- What would life be like if all have access to renewable energy, poor and rich alike?
- How would we be in a future where humans minimize their impact on Earth's biosphere?

For Personal Reflection and choice

- **Recall Mahatma Gandhi's talisman to inspire one's choices -**
<http://www.mkgandhi.org/gquotes1.htm>
- **Calculate your carbon footprint:**
<http://www.foe.ie/justoneearth/carboncalculator>
- **Guide to Energy Saving:**
<http://www.seai.ie/Power of One/The Steps/>



<http://margreetdeheer.com/eng/globalgoals.html#goal7>

Suggested Activities

- ✚ Organise for an audit in your community to know how energy is being used, to further plan for alternative energy you can choose.
- ✚ Gather and share information on companies / agencies which install alternative energy systems.
- ✚ Gather and share information of Government Schemes which subsidise installing alternative energy systems.
- ✚ Is there some energy issue / NGO / Group, with which the community wishes to raise its voice in solidarity?

Closing Ritual

As a symbolic gesture of the community's ongoing commitment to this global process on SDGs during the next 15 years, form a circle, place your right palm on the left palm of your neighbour, feel and pass on the energy to one another in silence.

Hymn: Choose a suitable hymn to close the time of reflection.

Reflection on SDG 7 was prepared by Srs. Flora, Sahayam, Rabekka and Lancia, South India Unit

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