

Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

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Summary:

The aim must be for all countries to become self-sufficient when it comes to food and energy. Support to farmers should only be allowed as long as that nation lacks self-sufficiency, otherwise the food market might get distorted. At the same time it is important to pull down on fossil fuels and increase renewable fuels. But the responsibility must be transferred from consumers to politicians. Only our elected officials can with tools as legislation, taxation and funding research and technology ensure sustainable change.

Essay:

Today the consumer or the organization that yearns for a healthy environment is penalized with higher costs. It can be cheaper to buy a shirt made in a coal-powered factory from a distant part of the world than from a local environmental shop. It can be cheaper to turn up the central heating than insulating the heat leak.

I believe that effective change can only come when it is profitable for change. The consumer's wallet is a powerful motivator for such. Individuals should make a profit when changing to more environmentally friendly means.

For the society to improve its well-being regarding the energy crisis, the society has to ensure that our elected representatives adhere to these points: Minimize consumables, maximize renewable and implement resourcefulness.

There are several different tools our elected officials can use to address the matter. Here are three examples: legislation, taxation and funding research and technology. I will here and forth use these three to suggest improvements for the above-mentioned points.

Lets start with minimizing consumables. With consumables, energy from fossil fuel such as gas, oil and coal is regarded. With global and local laws that hinder spreading of carbon emission, like the Kyoto-protocol, can help decrease the consumption of energy. Laws are great foundation for a sustainable change but to motivate change it still has to be profitable. By taxing energy from fossil fuel these products get less affordable and there will be a less demand for unnecessary consumption. And by investing in technology that lowers energy consumption such as research for better engines and gadgets that consumes less energy, we can learn to endure with less energy.

Maximizing renewable, which considers energy from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, water and biofuels. Laws are needed and can help to simplify the spread of renewable energies. In Germany and Denmark there are laws simplifying the building wind power and other renewable energy sources. Such laws help the expansion of

green energy. Governmental funding for research for better solar, water, wind and bio-fuel are essential for boosting development. But most importantly it is important to make it profitable for consumers. Therefore tax cuts for renewable energy products are essential.

Our energy consumption should be effective and not wasted unnecessarily. In our daily life the use of energy is everywhere. All consumption costs energy, direct and indirect. But sadly it is not obvious from where the cost emerges. Manufacturing, transportation, preservation, heating, fuel, electricity are all steps that should be considered. With legislation one can make sure that the energy cost of products are declared with energy certification. Then by taxing sectors and products where the energy losses are comparatively high should discourage the waste. And likewise tax cuts for products that are energy effective should be implemented for encouragement. With the use of digital technology it is possible to calculate the cost of itinerary and transport. Continuous research is needed to see where the energy loss is worst and where the bottlenecks are, and where efforts should be put to do as much improvement as possible.

For all societies the aim must be to become self-sufficient in terms of renewable energy. It is important not only for the environment but also to not become dependent on energy-producing regimes benevolence. The same must apply to food resources. It is important that every society is self-sufficient and not dependent on import to cover its need for food. Dramatic rises in world food prices can create global crisis as hunger and have negative effect on the economy.

Monetary support for farmers can be argued for keeping prices low and thus creating a buffer during a food crisis. The question is what can be called a crisis, that the food prices raise some percent or that people are starving to death. Support to farmers in OECD countries distorts food prices by overflowing the market with cheap commodities. Farmers in developing countries without support cannot compete with subsidized competition when it's no longer profitable to produce food. Support to farmers should only be allowed as long as that nation lacks self-sufficiency, not for dumping prices. The essential principal for all countries is that they can meet its own demand for food, and even create a reasonable export buffer to distribute into the world market. By maximizing food self-sufficiency for every nation a global crisis can be averted.