

替代能源、環保建材 成為消費主力

文/鄔逸卉



目前的高油價，未來也很難回到低廉的價格，全球都為尋找替代品或是更新能源而努力。在全國上下一致的趨勢中，你是否也是一份子？

未來豐富的無污染能源：
今後數十年能源的主要趨勢和技術
生物燃料
風力發電
太陽能發電

能源替代品的趨勢

有那些替代品

能源枯竭日益嚴重，努力尋找替代品，並且提高能源效率的觀念，迅速在大眾心中成長。預估至2030年全球的能源消耗將增加2/3，這種壓力之下，能源替代品的增加使用率，並且提高能源的使用的效率，大幅成為消費主力。

油價飛漲至每加侖3美元，使美國人對油價備加關注，更長遠的趨勢是尋求能源替代品。美國依靠原油進口容易造成供應的問題，事實上全球面臨著石油短缺的狀況。全世界面對的暖化問題，強迫人們必須有

效運用能源。

根據去年Clean Edge市場研究公司調查，太陽能市場成長55%達到112億，風力發電增加47%價值為118億。

風險投資和投資人對能源市場看好，去年美國的風險投資公司投下9億1千7百萬在能源專業技術上，比前一年增加28%，這代表風險投資總數的4.2%，看起來不是很多，但是在6年前風險投資的技術投資費用還不到1%，這個領域的投資客將焦點放在國內能源和環境能源技術。

眾院支持聯邦政府計劃

如果去年是一個指標，那麼大眾已經準備好接受好的能源市場。

聯邦政府在能源技術的發展上佔有重要地位，基礎研究工作就像在人壽保險中的角色相似，布希總統要求能源部在清潔能源研究費用下增加22%，眾院一分未減通過總統提案。

最近在眾院的聽証會上顯示能源轉換現況和在成為主要市場上還有多少距離。



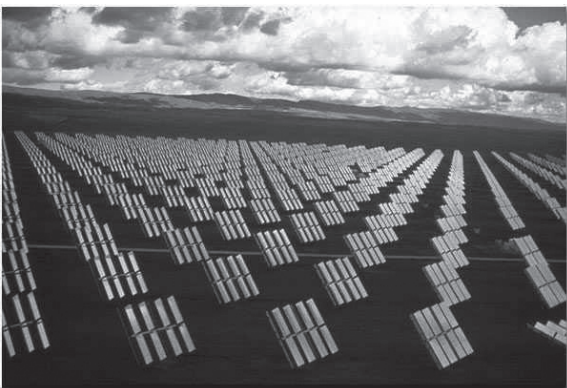
風力發電

在電力市場上已有多多年，它可以產生高達全國20%的電力需要。自1980年以來，因為科技進步，已將電力發電成本降低80%，去年奇異公司投資7千多萬元在研究改進上。

太陽能

太陽能也比從前便宜，雖然它比其他能源的電費要貴，一個現有的問題是缺少鈹，目前已有新技術可以大幅降低太陽能成本，匹茲堡Plextronics公司採用卡納基麥隆大學教授所發明的Polymer技術，可以吸收太陽光，做有如半導體功能產生電，Polymer轉換成墨水，可以印成像報紙的印刷品，

太陽能單位使用這些Polymer只有鈹的十分之一價格。



生物燃料

生物燃料預估可以取代美國目前30%的汽油消費，關鍵在於發展可以使用大量的農產品廢料、青草、樹木、廢水取代穀物。

目前它們被拋棄或成為廉價來源，經由產業革新成為燃料的先進技術。

此外，考慮有關環保房屋，石油銷售，從古老燃料來源產生新技術，油電混合車，現在油電混合車在加州市場熱賣，燃料電池進入不同領域及其他方法，同時降低穀物價格和技術提升，酒精製造提升，使得價格可以取代。

能源法案

去年美國國會通過能源法案，強迫普及性汽油，加速調整酒精，並且強制可以重新使用的燃料，可以產生兩倍的產品。

高漲的原油價格，成為對燃料電池製造廠有利的一面，環保能源公司做出這樣的分析，油電燃料電池汽車至2030年將會取代傳統瓦斯能源汽車。

至2050年，轉換能源將成為供應全國1/2能源需求，使他們全心致力於這個全球技術。

未來節省能源有待每一份子的努力，而這不是一個容易的目標。

環保建築成為主流

油價節節上漲，自1990年代即走高不下的天然瓦斯價格，使得環保房屋大量在建造新屋時出現。

環保技術和材料愈來愈讓人們可以有能力付擔，也是一大助力，這些裝置大量的被採用。

許多地產開發商現在都加入這個行列，全美建商協會的一份報告指出，2005年躍增了20%的建商著重在環保建築，預估2006年將會再增加另一個30%，至2010年將近有二分之一的建商會興建環保房屋。但是環保的住宅和商業用建物在2006年，只能增加總數的2個百分點，這種情形至2010年會增加至10個百分點，那時每年花在環保建築的費用上將達到290億至570億。

美國環保建築委員會的哈洛克指出，全美只有500棟建築合於LEED（能源暨環保設計委員會leadership in energy and environmental design）環保規定，但是有4000個環保建築正在興建。

最初該機構只為商業建築服務，可是其後住宅建築大幅增加，而且將成為一大市場。

在一些地區正在進行若干大型建築，在亞特蘭大一個130英畝商業和住宅的大社區，擁有自己的郵遞區號，將有一萬人住在社區內。

花小錢 省大錢

北卡羅納州的一家環保建築公司，在總公司旁建了一座樣品屋，展示給發展商，表現他們擁有的環保技術，只要用一點點錢就可以在他們的開發案中，達到額外的效果。

這個房子用geo-source 的熱力幫浦，最後可以讓房屋保持在55度，使用一種新的絕緣體和創新的供水系統，將比一般傳統住家節省一半的燃料和用水，並且能夠回收或再生90%的有機廢料。

當發展商開發案子時，他們知曉經濟結構，然後會作價錢上的調整。

雖然目前環保工業處於中小型企業，隨著環保發展，勢將繼續成長，並且降低價格。估計，一個更有效的環保房屋，僅會增加10%的費用，可以節省二分之一的能源支出。

過去環保房屋在美國人口只佔少數，但是目前主流社會的建築裡含蓋了許多房屋建造的技術、設計和環保材質的運用。

環保建材使用在住宅區將從2005年的2%，增加到2010年的5%至10%。

對能源有效運用的必要性，已經成為建築物的領導趨勢，消費者也在尋找節省能源的方法。

這也使環保建築商被需要，並且引導許多傳統建商友善對待地球。

使許多人裹足不前的一個原因是他們感覺費用太高。

但是高漲的油價使大家改變，房屋所有人付每加侖\$ 2.70的汔油情況下，現在寧願多花點錢在這些設備上，那麼就可以節省了許多開銷。



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節省能源風潮再起

許多環保方法也可以保護房屋建材，這種風潮存在主要建商和消費者，使用更少的建材就等於降低建築費用。

使用耐用材質也就是節省更多的修理和更新費。建築師巴拉斯設計了一棟在華盛頓班布瑞島的住家，屋頂用鋼材建造，可以使用數十年。

建材使用回歸耐用自然

許多環保方法也可以保護房屋建材，這種概念存在大型建商和消費者，使用更少的建材就等於降低建築造價。

其他長期耐用材料包括纖維水泥牆板、泥土、石頭。他說，所謂的“新”材料，其實地球上存在已久



的老東西。

專家說，美國西南部炎熱、乾燥的天氣，不需要太多水的植物、仙人掌、草地、帶有肉質的植物和高耐熱的土地空間，與其他要花人工維護的

草坪、吸水大的植物相比，每年可以節省大量用水。

保存現有資源成為主流，現在許多木材是來自保育林區，使用耐用材料也成為風潮，如使用竹地板。

以前被丟棄的材料，像鋸木屑，現在也都拿來充份利用，做成一些配件、木片，甚至小片的廢木料，都被做成門框或其他裝備材料。

農業副產品像從穀物收成後的乾草、等剩餘物資。回溯10-15年前的加州，有許多過剩的大捆農業廢料，農人將它燒掉，但是今天人們拿它建造房屋。

健康住家成為未來潮流

環保不只於有益於環境，也有益於人體健康。

根據Balas表示，傳統的木材、milk paints、shallaces & waxes又開始流行，它們對敏感的肺和過敏病患比石化製材料更好。

事實上，環保建材已經成為房屋建材的主要部份，相對地，現在也出現許多環保設計和建造方法，已經相當地普遍存在，甚至傳統住家建商也是，他們有規則地使用，建材費用也隨之降低。

這些方法不容置疑地在環境中展現。

專家們指出，環保將成為未來的潮流，現在所有人都應該回歸到保守的觀念。



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節省能源大家一起來

文/陳盈卉

能源是我們生活中不能欠缺的要素，能源需求隨著人口而增加，估計未來20年將增加60%的能源需要量，節省能源已經成為生活上重要的實質問題。

何謂能源保存？

能源保存對不同的人有不同的解讀，你是不是把家裡溫度在夏季時調高，冬季時降低，或是購買一些省電設備，像高效力馬達或是較輕設備。

你了解能源轉換嗎？什麼是太陽能吸熱板或是風力發電，目前它們在實際生活中和居住環境還不普及，但是這些願景包含了真實元素，隨著科技日新月異而日趨重要。

你對這些知識知道多少？

能源保存是利用能源最有效的方法，而且每個人都可以做到。

節省電費，是使商業可以獲得更大利潤的因素之

一，何以為之？十分簡單，電費是控制成本的重要因素，杜絕浪費，提供選擇性使用，會讓我們電費帳單數字明顯下降，在今日的經濟，我們都希望用更少費用得到更多使用價值。

辦公室省電秘訣

聽取各部門職員的意見，鼓勵每個人加入省電行列。即使一小步也很珍貴。

把執行節省能源當做工作計劃之一，要求職員養成在工作地點節省能源的習慣，離開房間時關掉電燈，將溫度設在68-72度，和職員們腦力激盪保存能源和用水的方法，電腦不用時關掉，換掉舊的馬達，替補為新而效率高的，記住，你不需要投資大筆錢才能享受省電的成果。

溝通和資訊可以使節省能源行動更加有效，下面是一些省能源的方法：

△印發省水、省電手冊

△未關機的電腦螢幕，經過一夜，每年消耗\$206。

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△未緊閉的冷氣房間，會增加1000瓦電。

室溫控制使房間更加舒適

人體眼睛喜愛自然光線，室內依照自然亮度調整沒有效率的使用能源將會造成溫室效應，浪費資源。懸掛節省能源海報鼓勵員工們節省能源，在電腦、電器用品開關旁貼上“關閉”的貼紙。

使用靈敏有效的感應裝置

加裝輕巧的使用感應設備可節省電費30%，洗手間、會議室、單獨使用辦公室加裝這個設備，當它們不被使用時會熄滅燈光，這種裝置也可以在不同工作地點地有不同的型式，以符合個別需要。

更新加熱和冷卻系統

近年來有許多新式冷氣設備上市，不少大樓因為採用省能源裝備來更新冷氣系統，使得單位使用面積更加有效，在大空間的辦公室可以裝置電風扇，將冷氣送到每個角落，或是盡量使用室外自然空氣，創造一個舒適的室內溫度。

有關電費你知道多少…？

燃料（石油、瓦斯、煤）每年要花上以百萬元計的製造費和更新費用。

從1930年到2030年的100年，是人類使用汽油和瓦斯最多的時期。

燃料也產生二氧化碳，被認為是使地球發生溫室效應的主要原因，目前全世界有數個計劃，將碳打進地下油田來保留。

未來這將可以使我們從煤來產清潔的能源，在地裡放出二氧化碳再進入大氣。

核能燃料是被廣泛使用的能源，但是會產生大量的廢棄物，所產生毒素能持續長達千年以上，專家們已經做了一些努力，從核燃料取得能源。

一些有高山和雨量豐沛的國家，從Hydro-electric得到大量能源，其他國家利用穀類如甘蔗，玉米，來製造汽車所需的酒精燃料。

加油站和瓦斯添加站隨其需求可以開始或結束，利用太陽和風力、潮汐的主要挑戰是，它們無法預估，並且無法正確產生或製造能源在需要的時間或地點。

未來我們將要使用可以更新且不同的能源，與石油瓦斯混合，來滿足供需之間的差異！

天然瓦斯	\$ 0.05
煤	\$ 0.05
核能	\$ 0.04
沿海風力	\$ 0.06
海上風力	\$ 0.10
潮汐	\$ 0.12
雞糞	\$ 0.12

不同燃料的每瓦消費



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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INCREASINGLY MAINSTREAM

by Varence Tan

Alternative Energy domain will be the future direction of the oil and gas industry. The next great clean energy sources :

- > Biofuels (Biomass)
- > Wind power
- > Solar power

Clean Energy Market		
Type:	2005:	2015:
Biofuels	\$15.7 billion	\$52.5 billion
Wind power	\$11.8 billion	\$48.5 billion
Solar power	\$11.2 billion	\$51.1 billion
Fuel cells	\$1.2 billion	\$15.1 billion
TOTAL	\$39.9 billion	\$167.2 billion

Source: Clean Edge Inc.


(Illustration 1)

What is on the horizon?

The clock is ticking for conventional resources, and industry players have begun to seek alternatives to supplement their crude oil portfolio. The total amount of energy used by 2030 is projected to be increased by almost two

third. The drive to increase alternative energy capacity, as well as to raise energy efficiency, comes amid high global fuel prices and recent domestic shortages, given its rapidly growing consumption of energy.

Soaring utility bills and \$3-a-gallon gasoline



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have caused the average American to focus on energy costs, but longer-term trends also are behind the new emphasis on alternative energy. The United States' dependence on foreign oil makes it vulnerable to supply disruptions, and the world eventually will run out of fossil fuels any way. Environmental concerns like global warming also may force changes in energy use.

Everyone is doing their share in “Alternative Energy” - Are you in?

Lawmakers are following the lead of the private sector, which already is putting more of its money into alternatives to oil and natural gas. The market for solar energy grew 55 percent last year to \$11.2 billion, and the wind power market jumped 47 percent to \$11.8 billion, according to Clean Edge Inc., a market research company. (Illustration 1)

Venture capitalists (VCs) and investors also are bullish on alternative energy. U.S.-based venture capital firms invested \$917 million in energy technologies last year, a 28 percent increase over the previous year. This represented 4.2 percent of total VC investments. That may not sound like much, but six years ago, VCs invested less than 1 percent of their money in energy technology. The trend of investors invest in the energy venture capital market is apparent with a focus on domestically sourced, environmentally preferred energy techniques and to expose us to opportunities in alternative energy markets.

Meanwhile, solar companies accounted for the technology industry's three largest initial public offerings in 2005. If last year was any indication, the public markets are ready to absorb a good energy technology story.

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The federal government will play a key role in the development of new energy technologies by sponsoring basic research; similar to the role it plays in life sciences. President Bush called for a 22 percent increase in clean energy research at the Department of Energy, and House appropriators gave him much of what he wanted.

Alternative energy and renewables

A recent House hearing showed how much progress already has been made in alternative energy technologies, and how far they still have to go before they become mainstream.

Wind power, for example, already is a cost-competitive source of electricity in many areas. It eventually could generate up to 20 percent of the nation's electricity supply, according to Dan Arvizu, director of the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo.

The cost of wind-generated electricity has declined by 80 percent since 1980 thanks to technology advancements. GE invests more than \$70 million a year in wind turbine technology. It was said making a federal tax credit for wind production permanent would ensure further progress.

Solar power also is much cheaper than it was in the past, although it still costs more than other sources of electricity. One problem is a shortage of silicon, the material now used for most photovoltaic cells. New technologies, however, could cut the cost of solar power dramatically. Pittsburgh-based Plextronics uses a polymer technology created by a Carnegie Mellon University professor that absorbs

the sun's light and acts like a semiconductor to generate electricity. These polymers are turned into inks that can literally be printed much like a newspaper is printed. Solar modules using these polymers can be 10 times cheaper to manufacture than silicon-based modules

Biofuels, meanwhile, is expected to replace 30 percent of current U.S. gasoline consumption. The key is developing new technologies that will enable ethanol to be made from biomass like agricultural wastes, grasses, trees and municipal waste instead of corn.

Abundant, inexpensive resources have fuel technologies advances from the industrial revolution to the present. In addition, concern about green

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house -gas emission from fossil fuel sources is generating a new set of technological requirement.

Hybrid vehicles -- which use a combination of gasoline and electricity -- are hot sellers in markets like California, while fuel cells are finding their way into fork lifts and other machinery.

Meanwhile, lower corn prices and technological advances have made **ethanol** a cost-effective fuel additive and substitute. An energy bill that passed the U.S. congress last year has also accelerated the adoption of ethanol by forcing oil companies to scrap a popular gasoline additive, and mandated the doubling of production of renewable fuels. Skyrocketing crude is a silver lining for many fuel cell makers and “green” energy companies by research analyst, **Hydrogen fuel -cell vehicles** will overtake conventional gas powered automobiles in the year 2030.

By 2050, alternative energy sources are expected to supply half of the nation’s energy needs. There is sufficient evidence of the seriousness for the industry players to gear up applying their technology to this global challenge. There is also considerable controversy over the best ways to utilize energy sources. However, it is crucial to implement comprehensive and coherent initiatives to offset energy shortages in the future and it will definitely require a significant and sustained national effort.

(Information compiled and adapted from on line sources)



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MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF ENERGY CONSERVATION

by Varence Tan

Energy plays an essential role in our lives, at work, home and play. As our population grows, we are placing increasing demand on the world's energy. Worldwide energy demand is expected to rise by 60% over the next twenty years, so we must increase our awareness and knowledge of conserving our energy resources. As one century comes to a close and another begins, energy conservation is not only a challenge, it's a necessity.

What is energy conservation?

Energy conservation is making the most efficient use of resources. And that's something everyone can do. How does it apply to the way we manage our businesses and homes? Energy costs are factors we can control to make our businesses more profitable and help us save on household energy bills. In the pages that follow, you'll find many ideas and examples that should help you look at energy conservation in a whole new light.

Here's an Energy Awareness Quiz to get you started:

1. What is your facility's average total monthly expenditure for energy (include electricity, natural gas)?

2. What percentage of your monthly costs is related to gas? Electricity?

3. Are lighting and air conditioning loads reduced at night when the building is unoccupied?

4. Who is responsible for energy management at your facility?

So, How aware are you?

Your responses to the quiz are a good indicator of your overall awareness of energy management. As business owners, employees and global citizens, we are all responsible for energy management at the workplaces as well as in our homes.

Look to your utilities as a resource.

Contact the electric and gas utilities that serve your facility for advices and recommendations for energy saving. Most utilities have programs to help businesses become more energy-efficient customers. Many utility companies provide energy audits to identify areas where offices and homes are wasting energy. These audits may be free or low cost.

Get Everybody Involved.

For business operations, once we have conducted

an energy audit, we can form an Energy Management Steering Committee that include employees from a variety of functional areas, listen to their ideas, and encourage everyone to join the energy conservation effort.

For our home, every family member can make a difference in the home energy saving effort. Remember, every small step counts.

Energy Saving For Offices

Turn Off The Lights, Turn On The Savings

In our businesses, conserving electricity is one of the easiest ways to lower operating costs and improve the bottom line. By working with your electric utility conducting an energy audit, you'll be able to pinpoint ways to conserve electricity. Improving the efficiency of lighting and air conditioning systems are two measures every facility should consider.

Look into energy-efficient lighting.

Did you know that lighting accounts for about 15% of the energy consumption in a typical plant? High energy lighting retrofits and occupancy sensors can be implemented to make significant lighting load reductions in office spaces of any size, whether in a five-person sales office or a large manufacturing facility. Today's lighting fixtures and ballasts use electricity much more efficiently than older lighting equipment. Even fluorescent tubes are more efficient, delivering more light per kilowatt than traditional standard efficiency models. Standard efficiency 3-tube fixtures can be replaced with high-efficiency 2-



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tube fixtures that deliver more light to a space with energy savings of 33% or more.

Upgrade heating and cooling systems.

So many improvements have been made in air conditioning technology in recent years; many buildings can achieve cost-justified energy-savings by upgrading inefficient cooling systems to higher efficiency units. Small to medium-sized offices can achieve significant energy savings simply by reducing the operating hours of the cooling equipment. Consider installing fans to control the volume of cooled air delivered to each building zone.

Occupancy sensors make good sense.

Lighting load savings of as much as 30% can be achieved by implementing occupancy sensors in office spaces. Occupancy sensors can be installed in restrooms, conference rooms and individual offices to turn lights off when they are not needed. These sensors are available in many configurations to meet the control requirements of many different types of workspaces. In addition to the direct energy savings that result from lighting adjustments, there is also a reduction in the amount of cooling required. In the areas where lighting load has been reduced,

the heat dissipated into the space by inefficient or unnecessary light is reduced.

Here are some suggestions to make your office energy saving campaign successful :

We can publish material that promotes energy efficiency awareness.

- Leaving a computer screen on overnight costs about \$206 per year.
- Leaving a door open in an air-conditioned room increases the load on the air conditioning system by 1000 Watts.

Emphasize the following points:

- Controlling the lighting according to the natural light available is easier on the eyes, because eyes prefer daylight to artificial light.
- Inefficient use of energy harms the environment through global warming, waste disposal, etc.
- Put up posters promoting energy saving.
- Promote an energy-efficient attitude among employees.
- Decide on an energy-saving objective and post the company's current position and progress.
- Meet with supervisors to discuss the objectives and circulate information.
- Promote routine equipment maintenance to ensure efficient performance.

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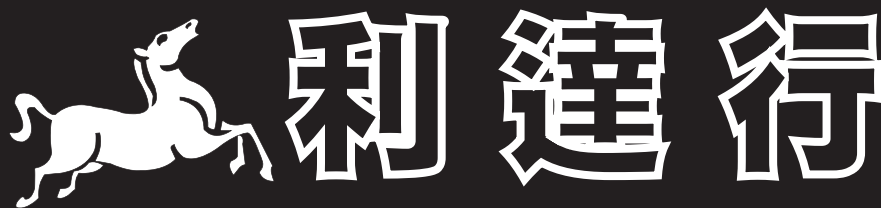
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- Put “Switch me off” stickers next to switches on computers, electricity and compressed air supplies.

Home Energy Saving

Home energy checklist for action

Below is a simple checklist to give you an idea of the things you can do for home energy saving.

To Do Today

√ Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

√ Turn off lights when leaving a room and keep thermostats set at energy-conserving levels (68° - 72° F).

√ Check if your water heater has an insulating blanket. An insulating blanket will pay for itself in one year or less!

√ Start using energy-saving settings on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers.

√ Survey your incandescent lights for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescents (CFLs). These lamps can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescents. The best targets are 60-100W bulbs used several hours a day. New CFLs come in many sizes and styles to fit in most standard fixtures.

√ Check the age and condition of your major appliances, especially the refrigerator. You may

want to replace it with a more energy-efficient model before it dies.

√ Clean or replace furnace, air-conditioner, and heat-pump filters.

To Do This Week

√ Visit the hardware store. Buy a water-heater blanket, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and compact fluorescents, as needed.

√ Rope caulk very leaky windows.

√ Assess your heating and cooling systems. Determine if replacements are justified, or whether you should retrofit them to make them work more efficiently to provide the same comfort (or better) for less energy.

To Do This Month

√ Collect your utility bills. Separate electricity and fuel bills. Target the biggest bill for energy conservation remedies.

√ Crawl into your attic or crawlspace and inspect for insulation. Is there any? How much?

√ Insulate hot water pipes and ducts wherever they run through unheated areas.

√ Seal up the largest air leaks in your house—the ones that whistle on windy days, or feel drafty. The worst culprits are usually not windows and doors, but utility cut-through for pipes (“plumbing penetrations”), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Better yet, hire an energy auditor to point out where the worst cracks are. All the little, invisible cracks and holes may

add up to as much as an open window or door, without you ever knowing it!

√ Install a clock thermostat to set your thermostat back automatically at night.

√ Schedule an energy audit (ask your utility company or state energy office) for more expert advice on your home as a whole.

To Do This Year

√ Insulate. If your walls aren't insulated have an insulation contractor blow cellulose into the walls. Bring your attic insulation level up to snuff.

√ Replace aging, inefficient appliances. Even if the appliance has a few useful years left, replacing it with a top-efficiency model is generally a good investment. Many energy efficient appliances may cost more to buy, but save money in lower energy costs. Over the life of an appliance, an energy-efficient model is always a better deal.

√ Upgrade leaky windows. It may be time to replace them with energy-efficient models or to boost their efficiency with weatherstripping and storm windows.

√ Have your heating and cooling systems tuned up in the fall and spring, respectively. Duct sealing can also improve the energy efficiency and overall performance of your system (warm-air furnace and central air conditioners).

√ Landscaping - Although it isn't possible to control the weather, landscaping can reduce its impact on home energy use. By placing trees, shrubs, and other landscape structures to block the wind and provide shade, people can reduce the energy needed to keep our homes comfortable during heating and cooling seasons.

Together We Do Our Part - Every Small Step Counts

I hope you would find the above information on energy saving is helpful and motivate you to do your part. Keep in mind that sometimes we don't have to make a large capital investment to enjoy rewarding results from our conservation efforts. Remember, every small step counts.

(Suggestions on energy saving were compiled and adapted from on line sources)



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Are We Driving Toward Greener Pastures?

by Varence Tan

What is a hybrid vehicle?

A hybrid vehicle, in simplest terms, is the combination of two or more sources of power. Hybrids are able to utilize the combination of the internal combustion engine and the electric motor. They significantly improve fuel economy without sacrificing performance. This engine represents the best of both worlds because it decreases emissions of conventional vehicles and rises above the shortfalls of purely electric cars.

Sales Numbers and Forecasts for Hybrid Vehicles

Hybrid car sales have risen consistently in the U.S., since the Honda Insight debuted in the American market in 1999. In that year, only a couple of hundred Insights were sold. U.S. hybrid sales have generally doubled every year:

- 9,350 in 2000
- 20,287 in 2001
- 35,000 in 2002
- 47,525 in 2003
- 88,000 in 2004
- 205,749 in 2005
- 93,823 in 2006 (thru May)

Hybrids represented 1.2 percent of the total vehicles sold in 2005. The Toyota Prius led the way

with 107,897 cars sold for the year—52 percent of the total hybrid market. The next most popular hybrid was the Honda Civic Hybrid, which sold nearly 26,000 units. For the 5 months ended May 2006, Toyota Prius remained the top Hybrid sales by model.

2006 Hybrid Sales - By Model

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.
Toyota Prius	7,654	6,547	7,922	8,234	8,103
Honda Civic	3,165	1,780	2,232	3,087	2,890
Toyota Highlander	2,263	2,631	2,987	3,786	3,755
Lexus RX 400h	1,477	1,803	2,470	2,247	2,006
Ford Escape 801	1,233	1,590	3,420	2,862	
Mercury Mariner	97	108			
Toyota Camry	-	-	-	86	3,032
Lexus GS 450h	-	-	-	-	294
Honda Accord	351	783	581	614	520
Honda Insight	59	72	79	110	92
Totals	15,867	14,957	17,861	21,584	23,554
Total for Year (to date)		93,823			

(Source: HybridCars.com)

Regional Breakdown

The best indicator of adoption rates by geography is new hybrid vehicle registrations. In 2005, California strongly outpaced all other states with 52,619 new hybrid vehicle registrations, about 5

times that of second place Florida with 10,470. Texas came in third with 9,632; New York came in fourth with 9,372; and Virginia rounds out the top five with 8,650 new hybrid vehicle registrations in 2005.

Where Do We Go From Here?

What are the market research firms predicting for the rest of the decade? Some are more optimistic than others, but all see a dramatic and consistent increase over the next several years:

- By 2006, sales of hybrid vehicles will account for 10 percent of the 2 million mid size vehicles sold annually in the United States (ABI Research)
- By 2007, at least 20 new hybrid models will appear in America (CSM Worldwide)
- By 2007, over 400,000 hybrid vehicles will be sold in the USA (J.D. Power)
- By 2008, 1.2 million hybrids will be sold in the U.S. market (Oak Ridge Labs)
- By 2008, car buyers will have a choice of 35 hybrids (J.D. Power)
- By 2010, 5 - 6% of all cars sold in America will be hybrids, assuming current petrol prices persist (ABI Research & Automotive Technology Research Group).
- By 2011, about 35 hybrid models will be on the market, with that number exceeding 50 in 2012 (J.D. Power).

The U.S. Energy Information Administration takes a more conservative long term view, projecting hybrid sales at about seven percent, or 1.5 million

sales, by 2025. Despite rapid increases, hybrids as a percent of all vehicles in use will remain modest for a long time.

What Are The Manufacturers Saying?

Hybrids are different than most technologies,” said John German, manager of Environmental and Energy Analyses for American Honda, “If an OEM is sitting back on developing diesel engines, he won’t be in too much trouble. But with hybrids, it’s becoming more and more sophisticated. You just can’t turn it on. If you don’t make the system now, as Toyota continues to make hybrids much cheaper and in greater numbers, the others won’t be able to catch up.” German pondered that hybrids could reach 50 – 70 percent of the market in 10 years.

Dr. Michael Tamor, manager of Ford’s Sustainable Mobility Technologies stated that If we think about the 15- to 20-year time frame, we could argue that all vehicles are going to be hybrids. It’s just a matter of which power plant is used in the hybrid system. He highlighted that to freeze time and pretend that hybrids are not going to happen doesn’t make sense. Therefore, driving toward greener pastures would not merely a dream of us....

(Information adapted from HybridCars.com.)



University General Hospital Is Coming To Chinatown

by Varence Tan

A 300,000 sq ft and majority physician-owned 9-story hospital of 80 beds, which is outfitted to the standard of five Star hotels with an array of facilities and services, that set in aesthetically pleasing and tranquil surroundings with views of oriental landscape, providing a comfortable and conducive environment for rest and recovery is coming to Chinatown soon.

This brand new concept is conceived by Kamran Nezami, CEO of Houston-based University Hospital Systems and managing partner of the University General Hospital project, who has already realized the concept in the University General Hospital, the first physician-owned general acute care hospital in the Houston area, which will be located at 7501 Fannin, is slated to open in

September this year. As well, project of a similar high-end outpatient medical office building and 30-room boutique hotel, including a day spa for recovering patients, in Sugar Land near the corner of Highway 59 and Texas 6 and resort-like hospital in Chinatown will also be in the pipeline.

Naming his project a “metaphorical health care island” and is taking a cue from the growing medical industry, Nezami believes there are many advantages to operating a hospital that was designed by physicians. He is of the view that the physicians who give more of their lives through education and time commitment than any other profession, know what it takes to provide the highest level of patient care and will have a say in how the hospital is operated.

Walter Leleux, who has 25 years of experience in the health care industry, will serve as the CEO of University General Hospital. Having access to a high degree of specialist skills, patients of University General Hospital project also have the quality assurance of medical services. At the University General hospital in Chinatown, a dedicated team of professional and multilingual speaking medical assistants will ensure that every patient’s visit is comfortable, pleasant and hassle-free.

With the establishment of a distinctive hospital in Chinatown, Chinatown is well positioned to continue its growth into a vibrant town of opportunities with complete amenities that serve the needs of the community.



中國城的五星級醫院

文/鄔逸卉

被譽為超五星級的 University General Hospital 即將進入中國城，以優美的景觀，舒適的環境結合東方風水建築原則，為病患提供調養身心的場所。

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總部位於休士頓的醫院集團執行長納塞米表示，將這一特別定位亞裔市場的綜合醫院套觀念是一項創舉，它也是第一個由醫師所擁有的醫院。位於休士頓醫學中心附近的7501 Fannin，將在今年9月開幕，同時，一個高級的辦公大樓和個人房間的醫院，其中並有日間供病患使用的蒸汽浴，將在糖城位於59號公路與六號公路間啟用，而該集團也將在中國城開辦一家類似的醫院。





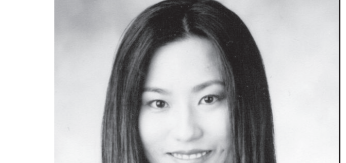




Walter Leleux 具有25年醫學領域工作經驗，將出任集團執行長，該集團擁有特別專科精良



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技術，病患在旗下醫院將會得到最佳醫療服務。在中國城的 University General Hospital，是一個有堅強的專業陣容和能用多種語言服務的醫學助理團隊，他們已經準備好為中國城的病患工作。



 <p>\$380,000 4 Bedrooms, 3 Full & 1 Half Bath(s), 2 層樓 1998年, 3,495 Sqft, Crestwater</p>	 <p>\$151,900 4 Bedrooms, 2 Full & 1 Half Bath(s), 2 層樓, 2003年, 2,385 Sqft, Cypress/290</p>	 <p>\$459,000 3 Bedrooms, 3 Full & 1 Half Bath(s), 3 層樓, 1998年, 3,000 Sqft, Houston</p>	 <p>\$1,700 1 Bedroom, 1 Full & 0 Half Bath 4 層樓, 2003年, For Lease Uptown, Galleria</p>		
<p>\$599,000 3-4 Bedrooms, 2 Full & 1 Half Bath(s), 2 層樓 1934年, 2,166 Sqft, West University</p>				<p>Gina Li Cell: (713) 591-0988 (832) 276-6668 Broker Associate / Loan Officer</p>	

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