APES Ch. 14 Notes: Renewable Energy

14.1 Notes

I. Putting Solar Energy to Work

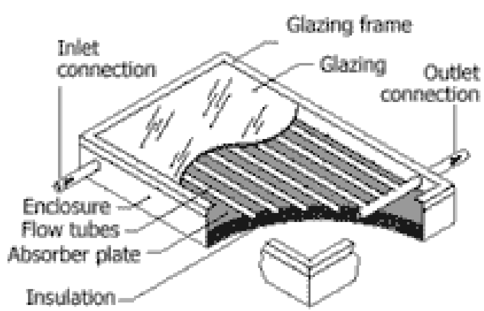
A. Principles of Solar Energy

1) *pros*
   a) *energy source is already present*
   b) *renewable*
   c) *will not disturb natural balance of energy*
   d) *products not radioactive*
   e) *will diminish our use of fossil fuels*
   f) *especially good for power generation in rural areas and developing countries*
2) *cons*
   a) *expensive (but still declining)*
   b) *requires a backup for nighttime or overcast conditions*
   c) *climate may not by sunny enough during winter for practical use in some parts of the world*

B. solar heating of water

1) **flat-plate collectors**—*solar collectors composed of a thin, wide box with a black bottom and imbedded water tubes*

   from www.flasolar.com :

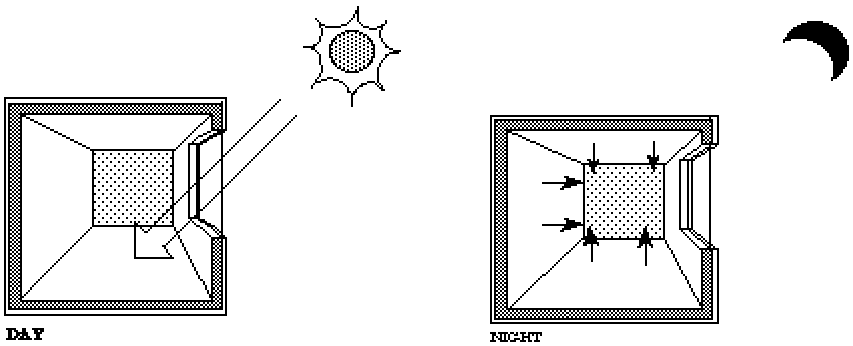


2) types of solar heating of water
   a) *passive*—uses natural convection currents and flat-plate collectors placed below the storage tank
   b) *active*—a pump is used to move the liquid

C. solar space heating: types of solar heating/cooling

1) *Passive* solar heating
   a) description

From http://www.greenbuilder.com
"*Passive solar design refers to the use of the sun's energy for the heating and cooling of living spaces… the building itself or some element of it takes advantage of natural energy* characteristics in materials and air created by exposure to the sun. Passive systems are simple, have few moving parts, and require minimal maintenance and require no mechanical systems."



b) characteristics
   i) *uses natural convection currents*
   ii) *south-facing glass*
   iii) *thermal mass to absorb, store, & distribute heat*
   iv) **earth-sheltered housing**—*using the earth as insulation* to a passive solar energy building
      - **earth berms**—*slopes of earth* built against the walls
         - cover the walls with clay, etc.
         - *in cold weather, insulated drapes can be used at night to trap the heat inside*
         - *in warm weather, awnings are used to block sunlight*
   v) landscaping
      - use *deciduous trees* or vines to block sunlight in summer, not in winter when they are bare
      - *evergreen hedge* on shady side protects from cold

c) examples
   i. trombe wall (from www.treehugger.com)

> "Trombe walls are particularly well-suited to sunny climates that have high diurnal (day-night) temperature swings, such as the mountain-west. *A Trombe wall is built on the winter sun side of a building with a glass external layer and a high heat capacity internal layer separated by a layer of air*. Light close to uv in the electromagnetic spectrum passes through the glass almost unhindered then is absorbed by the wall that then re-radiates in the far infrared spectrum which does not pass back through the glass easily, hence heating the inside of the building."

(from www.solarheating.org)

   ii. solar air panels
      - glazed – space heating/recirculation
      - unglazed – heating ambient air
         - perforated (transpired collector)
         - unperforated (back pass)

from http://www.canren.gc.ca

Type of collector	Ventilation Air Heating	Space Heating	Crop Drying
Unglazed perforated plate	Very Good	Poor	Very Good
Glazed flat-plate	Good	Poor	Good
Back Pass	Fair	No	Fair to Good
Trombe wall	No	Good	No

2) *Active* solar heating

a) *liquid* (water or antifreeze) heated in a "hydronic" collector

b) *air* heated in an "air collector"

(from http://energy.gov/energysaver/active-solar-heating)

"Active solar heating systems use solar energy to heat a fluid -- either liquid or air -- and then transfer the solar heat directly to the interior space or to a storage system for later use. If the solar system cannot provide adequate space heating, an auxiliary or back-up system provides the additional heat. Liquid systems are more often used when storage is included, and are well suited for radiant heating systems, boilers with hot water radiators, and even absorption heat pumps and coolers. Both liquid and air systems can supplement forced air systems."

D. U. S. **Energy Star Program**

(from https://www.energystar.gov/about/)

"ENERGY STAR is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) voluntary program that helps businesses and individuals save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency. The ENERGY STAR program was established by EPA in 1992… *the ENERGY STAR program has boosted the adoption of energy efficient products, practices, and services through valuable partnerships, objective measurement tools, and consumer education…* As of December 2013, families and businesses have realized estimated savings of more than $295 billion on utility bills and prevented more than 2.1 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the past two decades."

E. solar production of electricity

1) **photovoltaic (PV) cell**—a wafer-thin *solar cell*, usually less than 2 x 2" with two layers, *converting sunlight directly into electricity*

a) types (from http://www.affordable-solar.com/learning-center/solar-basics/pv-technologies/)

i. single-crystal silicon

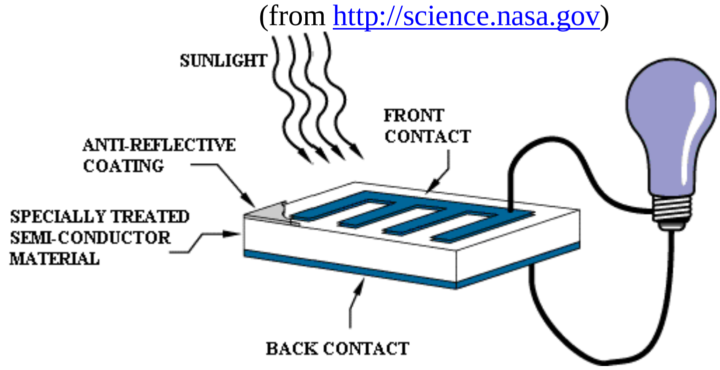
ii. polycrystalline silicon

iii. thin film

b) other characteristics

- first used in the 1950s on satellites
- cost has dropped 90+% since the 1970s
- *made of silicon, Si* **(**called c-Si, crystalline silicon)
- *thin-film collector* technology *(SnS and CuS or Cu_2S)*
- *electrical current caused by dislodged electrons in two thin layers*: one with electropositive elements and one with electronegative elements

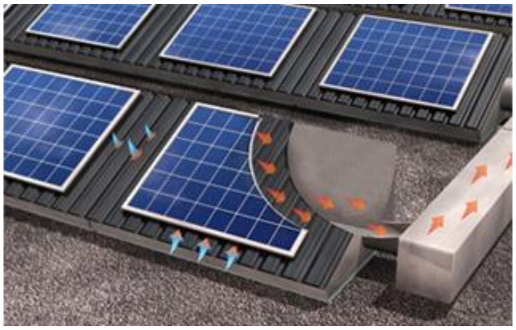
(from http://science.nasa.gov)



2) *hybrid technology – PV/T photovoltaic/thermal*

(from www.solarheating.org)

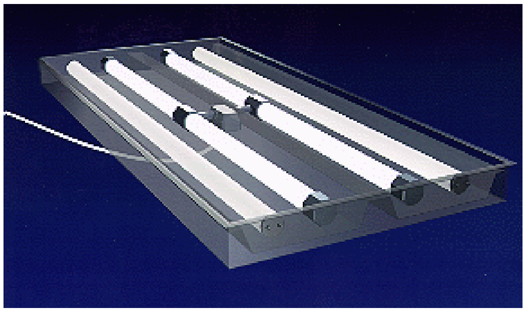
… the hybrid solar photovoltaic/thermal (PV/T) technology… combines PV with a solar thermal component to generate up to four times the energy from the same surface area.



3) *Hybrid Solar Lighting (HSL)*

(from http://www.ornl.gov/info/ornlreview/rev29_3/text/hybrid.htm)

"*Hybrid lighting is a combination of natural and artificial illumination to be used indoors for all lighting needs…* Hybrid light fixtures will allow use of all available natural light and supplement it with the amount of artificial light required to bring the total level of illumination to the rated value… By combining natural light and improved artificial sources available today—centralized, high-efficiency light sources—energy costs for lighting could be reduced by one-third."



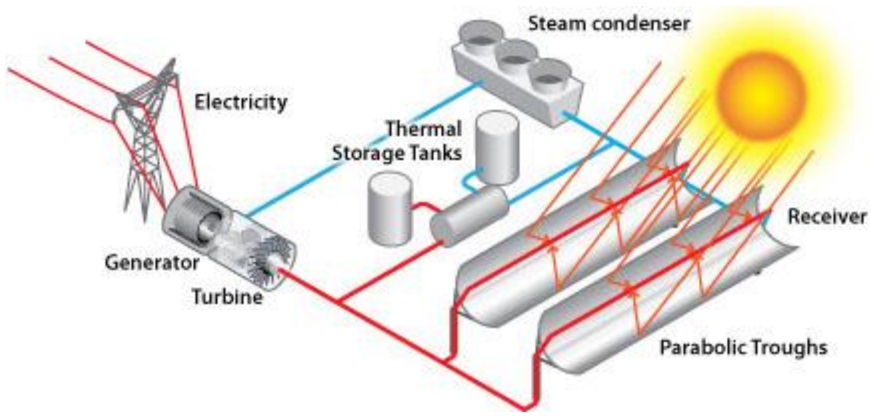
"A hybrid lighting fixture in which sunlight is routed through an optical fiber to two of the four 40-watt tubes. The fixture's sensors constantly monitor the room light level."

4) **solar-trough collectors**—*parabolic, trough-shaped solar collectors*

(from www.energy.wsu.edu)

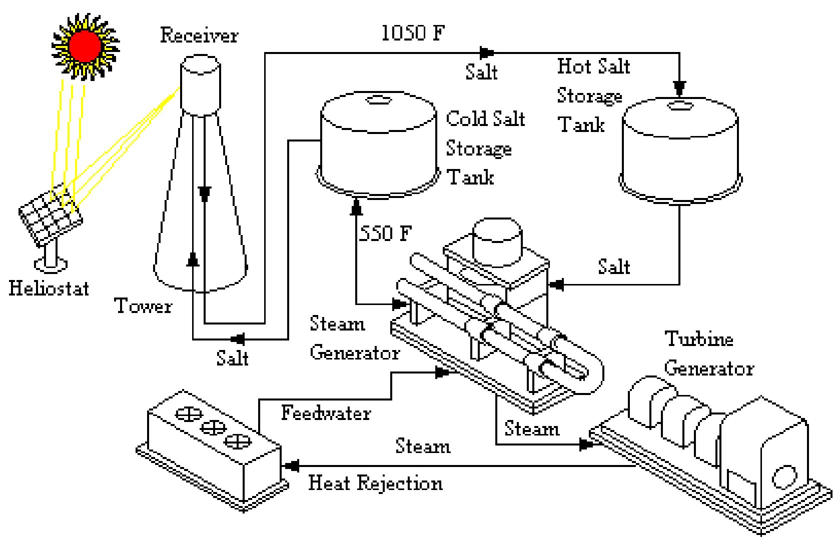
"*Parabolic-trough solar collectors use mirrored surfaces curved in a parabolic shape that linearly extend into a trough shape.* The collector focuses sunlight on a tube running the length of the trough. A heat transfer fluid is pumped around a loop through this tube, picking up heat. The fluid then goes to a heat exchanger where it either directly heats potable water or heats a thermal storage tank. *As with all concentrating solar collectors, parabolic-trough collectors use tracking systems that keep them facing the sun throughout the day maximizing solar heat gain*."

From C&S Enterprises: A linear concentrator power plant using parabolic trough collectors



5) experimental technology, 1995-1999
   a) **Solar One**, 1982-1986
      i) pilot solar-thermal project in the Mojave Desert near Barstow, CA
      ii) building completed in 1981
      iii) converted into Solar Two (see below)
   b) *The Power Tower Project* – **Solar Two** (California), 1996-1999
      i) 1,926 *sun-tracking heliostats (mirrors)*
      ii) *molten salt thermal storage system*
      iii) 300 ft tower with central receiver
      iv) conventional steam driven turbine and generator
      v) produced about 10 MWe, enough to serve 10,000 homes
      vi) cost about $40 million
      vii) converted into a telescope measuring gamma (γ) rays

From http://www-stud.fht-esslingen.de/projects/alt_energy/sol_thermal/powertower.html



6) **Gemasolar** (formerly Solar Tres), in Spain

From http://www.torresolenergy.com/TORRESOL/gemasolar-plant/en

"Gemasolar is the first commercial-scale plant in the world to apply central tower receiver and molten salt heat storage technology.

Characteristics of Gemasolar:

Rated electrical power: 19.9 MW

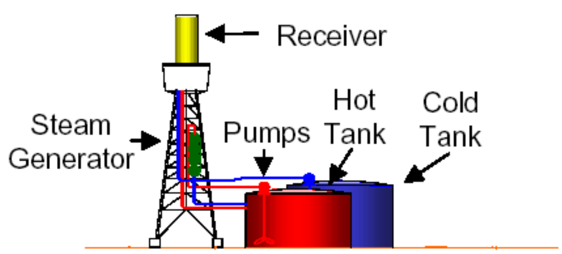
Net electrical production expected: 110 GWh/year

Solar field: 2,650 heliostats on 185 hectares

Heat storage system: the molten salt storage tank permits independent electrical generation for up to 15 hours without any solar feed

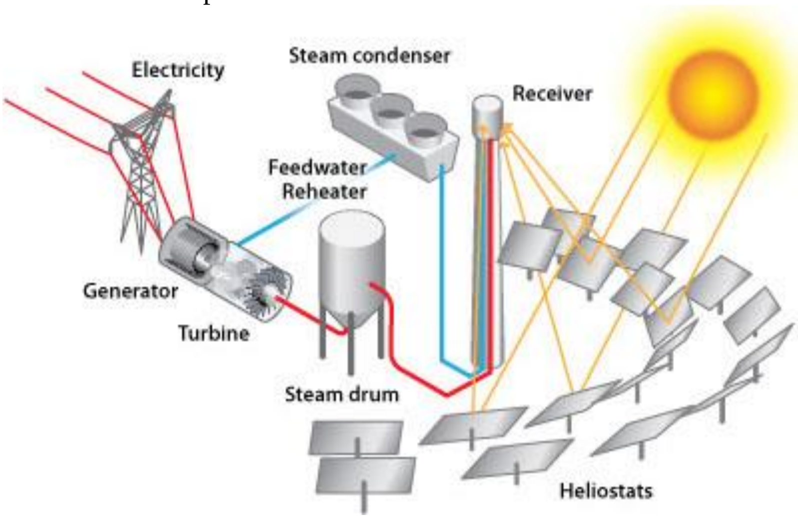
The solar heat will be directed at a receiver at the top of the tower. *Molten salt* is then pumped through the tower receiver which heats the liquid to around 600ºC. A portion of the fluid is then pumped to a heat transfer unit to create super-heated steam. The balance is pumped into a hot tank where it is stored for use in times when the sun is not shining. By using this storage method the electricity production can be more reliable and will ensure the power plant is producing power for longer periods throughout the day.

… The notable increase in the plant's power efficiency guarantees electrical production for 6,500 hours a year, 1.5 to 3 times more than other renewable energies. The plant will thus supply clean, safe power to 25,000 homes and reduce atmospheric CO_2 emissions by more than 30,000 tons a year. The power generated by Gemasolar will be sent through a high-tension line to the substation of Villanueva del Rey (Andalusia, Spain), where it will be injected into the grid."



Solar Tres

From C&S Enterprises   A Power-Tower Power Plant

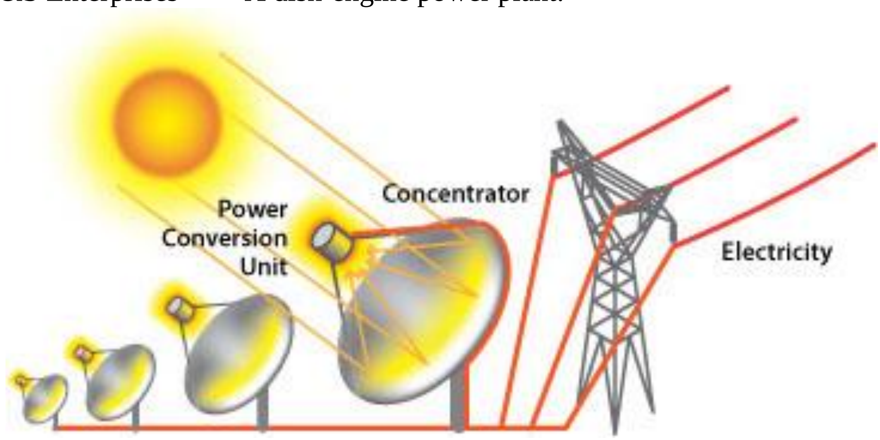


7) Dish Engine

From http://www.sandia.gov

"The solar dish generates electricity by focusing the sun's rays onto a receiver, which transmits the heat energy to an engine. The engine is a sealed system filled with hydrogen, and as the gas heats and cools, its pressure rises and falls. The change in pressure drives the pistons inside the engine, producing mechanical power. The mechanical power in turn drives a generator and makes electricity."

From C&S Enterprises   A dish-engine power plant:



F. Costs of solar energy

from http://education.seattlepi.com/solar-power-vs-fossil-fuels-3937.html

"Because solar power is generated in a completely different way from fossil fuel-based power, it's a little complicated to compare the price. Fossil-fuel plants are not as expensive per megawatt as solar power systems, but you'll need to pay for the fuel as long as you use the plant. Solar power costs more up front, but the fuel is free, and the maintenance costs are much lower than for fossil fuel plants. *Putting the factors together, the basic costs of solar power generation are about two to three times the cost of fossil fuel plants. When you add in distribution costs and specific local variables, there are some places where solar energy is already as cheap as fossil-fuel energy -- and solar costs are likely to fall more than fossil-fuel costs*."

"According to a (2015) report from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), solar energy prices are at an all-time low, with the average price of solar energy in the United States having dropped down to 5¢/kWh, representing a 70% decline in power purchase agreement (PPA) prices since 2009."

G. Million Solar Roofs Initiative – California
(from http://rgsenergy.com/californias-million-solar-roofs-program/)

…"the Million Solar Roofs vision introduced in 2007 sought to install solar photovoltaic cell panels on an additional million rooftops of home or businesses in the state by 2018… The Million Solar Roofs legislation, also known as the California Solar Initiative (CSI) or colloquially as Go Solar California, is well on the way to the goal."

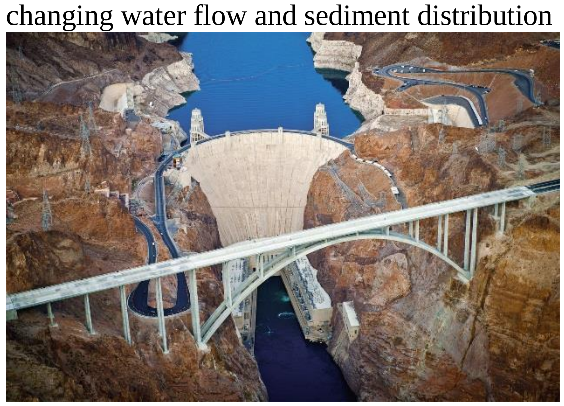
14.2 Notes

II. Alternative Energy Sources

A. **hydropower** (**hydroelectric**) power from dams

http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/wuhy.html 26% of the renewable energy in the U.S.

1) pros
   a) *nonpolluting: no fuel burned*
   b) *renewable energy source (rainfall renews the water in the reservoir, so the fuel is almost always there)*
   c) *reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions*
   d) *relatively low operations and maintenance costs*
   e) *technology is reliable and proven over time*
2) cons
   a) *high investment costs*
   b) *hydrology-dependent (on precipitation)*
   c) *possible inundation (flooding) of land and wildlife habitat*
   d) *possible loss or modification of fish habitat*
   e) *fish entrainment or passage/migration restriction, even when "ladders" are built in*
   f) *possible changes in reservoir and stream water quality*
   g) *possible displacement of local populations*
   h) changing a cold-flowing river into a warm-water reservoir changes humidity, increases decomposition/disintegration
   i) changing water flow and sediment distribution



HOOVER DAM From www.hdrinc.com

TOP 10 HIGHEST DAMS in the U.S. (Source: USSD Register of Dams)

DAM NAME	RIVER	STATE	OWNER	FEET	COMPLETED
Oroville	Feather	California	California DWR	770	1968
Hoover	Colorado	Nevada	Bureau of Reclamation*	730	1936
Dworshak	N. Fork Clearwater	Idaho	Corps of Engineers	717	1973
Glen Canyon	Colorado	Arizona	Bureau of Reclamation	710	1964
New Bullards Bar	North Yuba	California	Yuba County Water Agency	645	1969
Seven Oaks	Santa Ana	California	Corps of Engineers	632	1999
New Melones	Stanislaus	California	Bureau of Reclamation	625	1979
Mossyrock	Cowlitz	Washington	City of Tacoma	606	1968
Shasta	Sacramento	California	Bureau of Reclamation	602	1945
Don Pedro	Tuolumne	California	Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts	585	1971

TOP 10 LARGEST HYDRO PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES Source: USSD Register of Dams

DAM NAME	RIVER	LOCATION	MW
Grand Coulee	Columbia	Washington	6180
Chief Joseph	Columbia	Washington	2457
John Day	Columbia	Oregon	2160
Bath County P/S	Little Back Creek	Virginia	2100
Robert Moses - Niagara	Niagara	New York	1950
The Dalles	Columbia	Oregon	1805
Ludington	Lake Michigan	Michigan	1872
Raccoon Mountain	Tennessee River	Tennessee	1530
Hoover	Colorado	Nevada	1434
Pyramid	California Aqueduct	California	1250

TOP 10 LARGEST HUMAN-MADE RESERVOIRS IN THE UNITED STATES
Source: USSD Register of Dams

DAM NAME	RESERVOIR	LOCATION	OWNER	ACRE-FEET	COMPLETED
Hoover	Lake Mead	Nevada	Bureau of Reclamation	28,255,000	1936
Glen Canyon	Lake Powell	Arizona	Bureau of Reclamation	27,000,000	1964
Oahe	Lake Oahe	South Dakota	Corps of Engineers	19,300,000	1966
Garrison	Lake Sakakawea	North Dakota	Corps of Engineers	18,500,000	1953
Fort Peck	Fort Peck Lake	Montana	Corps of Engineers	15,400,000	1957
Grand Coulee	F D Roosevelt Reservoir	Washington	Bureau of Reclamation	9,562,000	1942
Libby	Lake Koocanusa	Montana	Corps of Engineers	5,809,000	1973
Shasta	Lake Shasta	California	Bureau of Reclamation	4,552,000	1945
Toledo Bend	Toledo Bend Reservoir	Louisiana	Sabine River Authority	4,477,000	1966
Fort Randall	Lake Francis Case	South Dakota	Corps of Engineers	3,800,000	1954

B. wind power
Stats from http://www.awea.org

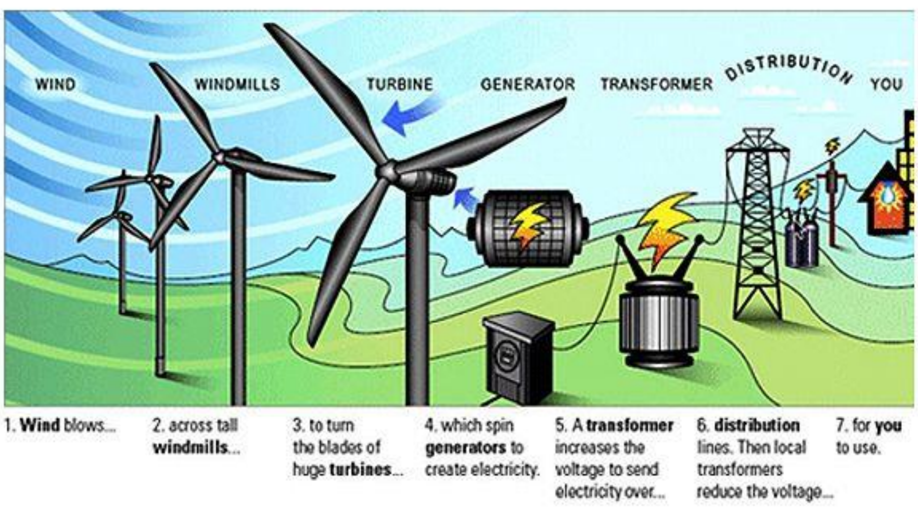
1) types of wind power
   a) *utility-scale wind* (> 100 kW turbines) for power to the grid
   b) *distributed "small" wind* (< 100 kW tubines) for direct local use
   c) *offshore wind* (turbines placed in bodies of water)
2) **wind turbine**—"windmill" made of a *propeller (rotor) and shaft (tower)*, hooked up to a generator
   a) sizes
      i) residential or small business turbines: rotor < 8 m tall, tower < 40 m tall
      ii) utility turbines: rotor 50-90 m tall, tower 50-90 m tall
   b) materials
      i) tubular tower: steel
      ii) rotor: fiberglass-reinforced polyester or wood-epoxy
   c) power range: 250 W to 5 MW per turbine

“Example: A 10-kW wind turbine can generate about 10,000 kWh annually at a site with wind speeds averaging 12 miles per hour, or about enough to power a typical household. A 5-MW turbine can produce more than 15 million kWh in a year—enough to power more than 1, 400 households. The average U.S. household consumes about 10,000 kWh of electricity each year.”

3) **wind farm**—*area of thousands of wind turbines*
4) cons—*intermittent source of power; damaging to scenery, bird collisions*

“When wind blows past a turbine, the blades capture the energy and rotate. This rotation triggers an internal shaft to spin, which is connected to a gearbox increasing the speed of rotation, which is connect to a generator that ultimately produces electricity. Most commonly, wind turbines consist of a steel tubular tower, up to 325 feet, which supports both a "hub" securing wind turbine blades and the "nacelle" which houses the turbine's shaft, gearbox, generator and controls. A wind turbine is equipped with wind assessment equipment and will automatically rotate into the face of the wind, and angle or "pitch" its blades to optimize energy capture… Wind turbines often stand together in a windy area that has been through a robust development process in an interconnected group called a wind project or wind farm, which functions like a wind power plant. These turbines are connected so the electricity can travel from the wind farm to the power grid. Once wind energy is on the main power grid, electric utilities or power operators will deliver the electricity where it is needed. Smaller transmission lines called distribution lines will collect the electricity generated at the wind project site and transport it to larger "network" transmission lines where the electricity can travel across long distances to the locations where it is needed, when finally the smaller "distribution lines" deliver electricity directly to towns and homes.”

http://www.awea.org/resources/statefactsheets.aspx?itemnumber=890 wind energy state facts



C. **biomass energy** (**bioconversion**)

1) *plant and animal matter that can be used as an energy source*
   a) includes paper, wood, plant waste, manure, etc.
   b) uses up wastes
   c) uses up methane (CH_4) which acts as a Greenhouse Gas (GHG)
2) *burning firewood (fuelwood)*
   a) burning wood as is (developing countries)

b) *wood-burning stoves* (20 million U.S. homes use wood for some heating)
c) *pellet stoves*—burn pellets of wood, which are compressed wood waste

3) the fuelwood crisis
   a) developing countries: 1 billion people rely on fuelwood for their energy source
   b) *consumptive* use, contributing to *deforestation*
   c) there needs to be more regulation of wood consumption and incentives for replanting

UN FTPP (Forest, Trees, and People) Program http://www.cof.orst.edu/org/istf/ftpp.htm

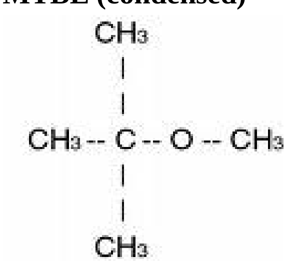
4) *burning waste*
   a) sugar refineries burn sugar cane
   b) wood working companies burn wood waste
5) producing methane (CH_4)
   a) anerobic digestion by bacteria of organic matter produces *biogas (digester gas)* and sludge
   b) biogas is 2/3 methane; used as fuel
   c) the sludge is excellent as fertilizer
6) producing *alcohol (ethanol = ethyl alcohol = CH_3CH_2OH)*
   a) product of fermentation
   b) *gasohol*: usually *90% gasoline : 10% ethanol* or *97% gasoline : 3% methanol* (wood alcohol, CH_3OH)

from http://www.encyclopedia.com

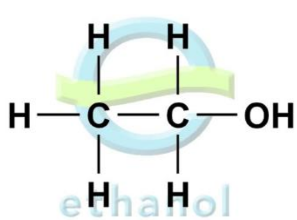
> "Gasohol has higher octane, or antiknock, properties than gasoline and *burns more slowly, coolly, and completely*, resulting in reduced emissions of some pollutants, *but it also vaporizes more readily*, potentially aggravating ozone pollution in warm weather. *Ethanol-based gasohol is expensive and energy intensive to produce, and can damage rubber seals and diaphragms and certain finishes* if the ethanol is present in higher concentrations. Since 1998, however, many American automobiles have been equipped to enable them to run on *E85, a mixture of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline*. *Methanol-based gasohol is also expensive to produce and is toxic and corrosive*, and its emissions produce cancer-causing formaldehyde."

   c) MTBE: methyl tert-butyl ether, used as a gasoline additive; may be phased out since it is a carcinogen

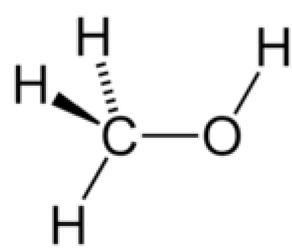
MTBE (condensed)



ETHANOL



METHANOL



14.3 Notes

III. Renewable Energy for Transportation

http://energy.gov/eere/vehicles/vehicle-technologies-office US DOE vehicle technologies

A. Biofuels

1) *gasohol*
   a) *E10 (90-% gasoline, 10% ethanol)*
   b) approved for cars but not for aircraft
   c) also E5 and E7 forms

2) *E85*
   a) *85% denatured fuel ethanol, 15% gasoline or other hydrocarbon*
   b) more info

Increasingly common in the U.S., mainly in the Midwest where corn is a major crop and is the primary source material for ethanol fuel production

3) *biodiesel* http://www.biodiesel.org
   (not the same as raw vegetable oil)
   a) official definition:

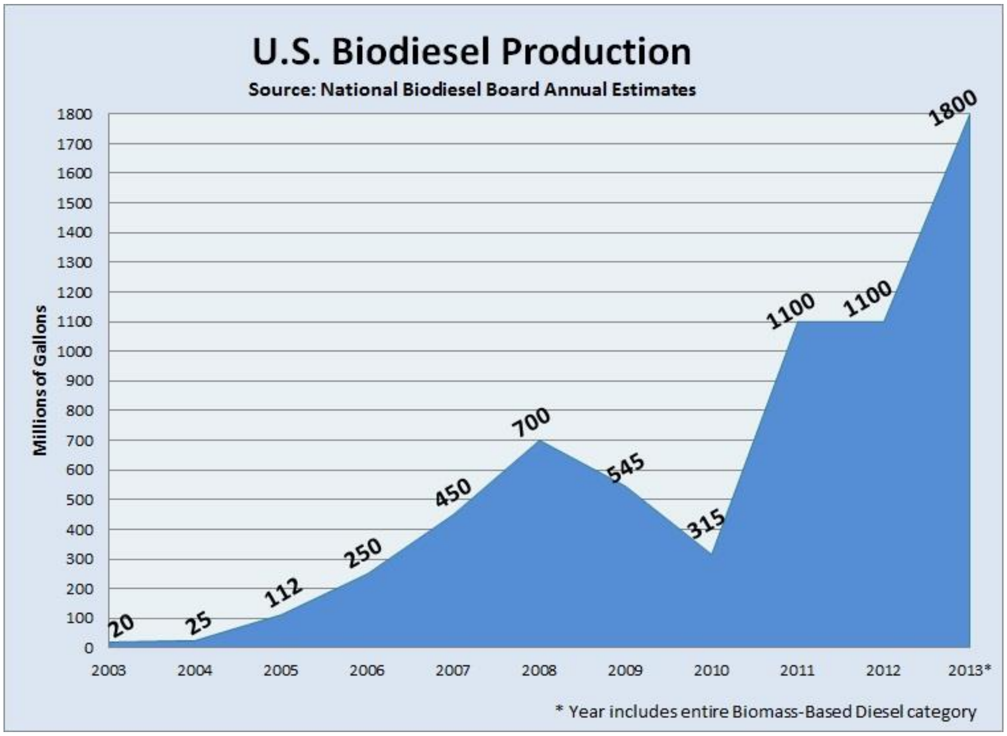
> "Biodiesel is defined as mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats which conform to ASTM D6751 specifications for use in diesel engines. Biodiesel refers to the pure fuel before blending with diesel fuel. Biodiesel blends are denoted as, "BXX" with "XX" representing the percentage of biodiesel contained in the blend…

> Biodiesel is the name of a clean burning alternative fuel, produced from domestic, renewable resources. *Biodiesel contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend*. It can be used in compression-ignition (diesel) engines with little or no modifications. Biodiesel is simple to use, biodegradable, nontoxic, and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics."

   b) *"neat biodiesel" = 100% natural oils*
   c) *standard biodiesel = B20 (a blend of 20% by volume biodiesel with 80% by volume petroleum diesel)*
   d) comparison of emissions vs. diesel fuel

> "Biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to have fully completed the health effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act. The use of biodiesel in a conventional diesel engine results in substantial reduction of unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter compared to emissions from diesel fuel. In addition, the exhaust emissions of sulfur oxides and sulfates (major components of acid rain) from biodiesel are essentially eliminated compared to diesel… A 1998 biodiesel lifecycle study… concluded biodiesel reduces net CO_2 emissions by 78% compared to petroleum diesel."

From http://biodiesel.org/production/production-statistics



B. production of **hydrogen** (**H_2**): the fuel of the future
http://www.hydrogencarsnow.com/
http://www.hydrogencarsnow.com/index.php/2016-2017/

1) pros
   a) *H_2 burns pretty cleanly, releasing water vapor*
      $$2\,H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O + energy$$
   b) no CO_2 produced
   c) cars have been developed to run on H_2
   d) we can set up vast solar arrays in the desert areas to obtain power to be used for electrolysis
   e) underground pipelines for transport are already in place
2) cons
   a) *there is very little H_2 gas on Earth*
   b) *production of H_2 gas is expensive (electrolysis):*
      $$2H_2O + energy \rightarrow 2\,H_2 + O_2$$
3) **fuel cell vehicles (FCVs)**
   https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/fuelcell.shtml
   a) what they are…

from http://www.howstuffworks.com/fuel-cell.htm/printable

"A fuel cell is an *electrochemical energy conversion device*. *A fuel cell converts the chemicals hydrogen and oxygen into water, and in the process it produces electricity*... With a fuel cell, chemicals constantly flow into the cell so it never goes dead -- as long as there is a flow of chemicals into the cell, the electricity flows out of the cell... This reaction in a single fuel cell produces only about 0.7 volts. To get this voltage up to a reasonable level, many separate fuel cells must be combined to form a *fuel-cell stack*."

b) example: *proton exchange membrane fuel cell (PEMFC)*

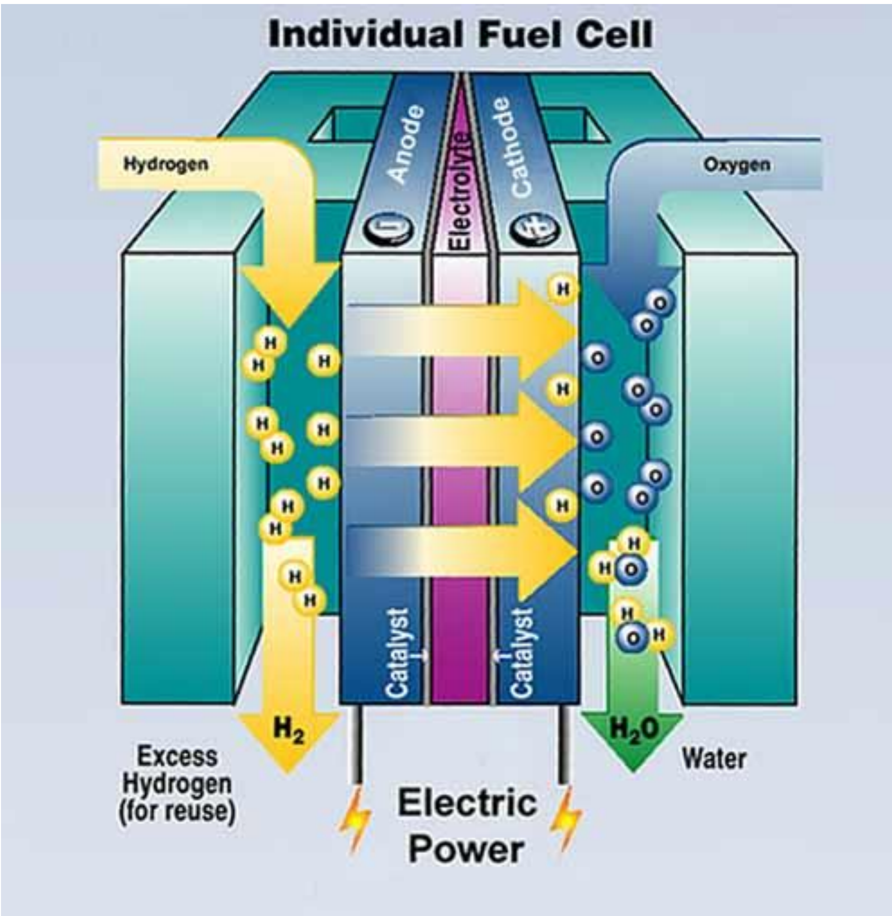
c) reactions:

Anode side: $2H_2 \rightarrow 4H^+ + 4e^-$

Cathode side: $O_2 + 4H^+ + 4e^- \rightarrow 2H_2O$

Net reaction: $2H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O$

from http://www.geni.org



14.4 Notes

IV. Additional Renewable-Energy Options

A. **geothermal energy** *(geo-therm = "Earth heat")*

1) background info.

a) *using naturally heated water for steam turbines to produce electricity*

b) water is heated by *magma*

three categories: high temp. >150 °C; medium temp. 100-150 °C; low temp. < 100 °C

c) used in over 30 countries

2) pros

a) no radioactive waste products

b) *can aid agriculture and aquaculture in cold climates*

c) helpful to areas without access to fossil fuels
d) some scientists believe *we have barely tapped into this power supply*

3) cons
   a) *water issues*
      i) *water from watershed/waterways being depleted*
         - *damming / diverting water flow*
      ii) *water taken from reservoir*
         - *subsidence*
         - *salt water intrusion*
         - *lowered water table*
   b) *land issues*
      i) *loss of vegetation*
      ii) *soil erosion / landslides*
      iii) *ownership issues*
   c) *waste (brine and condensate) disposal issues*
      --*biological and chemical implications*
   d) *reinjection issues*
      i) *cooling of water*
      ii) *possible seismic activity*
   e) *air emissions*
      i) *fogging of the area*
      ii) *slight heating of the area*
      iii) *biological and chemical effects*
   f) *noise pollution*
      i) *hearing loss*
      ii) *nuisance/ disturbance*
4) geothermal direct-heat usage: space heating, bathing, aquaculture, greenhouses, heat pumps, industrial, etc.

from GEO – Geothermal Education Office http://geothermal.marin.org/

- *"Aquifer* - a porous or fractured body of rock carrying cold or hot water.
- *Basin or Sedimentary basin* - a bowl-shaped depression in the earth filled with sedimentary rocks (rocks usually formed in water such as sandstone, limestone, etc.).
- *Fault* - a break in the earth's crust which extends a considerable distance (horizontally and vertically) along which relative (sliding) movement occurs.
- *Fumarole* - a flow of steam from the ground. Fumaroles can be weak or strong, noisy and superheated (temperature above boiling).
- *Hot spot* - a relatively small area of a plate heated by a rising plume of magma from deep within the mantle which produces local volcanic activity over a long time period.
- *Plate* - a rigid part of the earth's crust that moves relative to other plates. The map shows eight major plates and several minor ones.
- *Plate boundary* - where two plates meet.
- *Rift* - a part of the crust that has been pulled apart, usually bordered by faults. A rift zone is a rift with bordering faults. When rifting occurs, magma can move near the surface, forming volcanoes and geothermal systems. Rift zones may become plate boundaries.

U.S. Geothermal Energy Overview:

"The west coast boundary between the North American and Pacific plates is "sliding" along the San Andreas fault… from the Gulf of California up to northern California and subducting from the Cascade volcanoes north through the Aleutians. There are also volcanic hot spots under Yellowstone and Hawaii and intra-plate extension with hot springs in the Great Basin…

California generates the most geothermal electricity… (much less than its capacity, but still the world's largest developed field and one of the most successful renewable energy projects in history)… There are also (geothermal) power plants in Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii, with plans in other states. Due to environmental advantages and low capital and operating costs, direct use of geothermal energy has skyrocketed …

In the western United States, hundreds of buildings are heated individually and through district heating projects. Large greenhouse and aquaculture facilities in Arizona, Idaho, New Mexico, and Utah use low-temperature geothermal waters, and onions and garlic are dried geothermally in Nevada."

B. **tidal power**

From http://www.alternative-energy-news.info/technology/hydro/tidal-power/

"Tidal energy is produced through the use of tidal energy generators. These large underwater turbines are placed in areas with high tidal movements, and are designed to capture the kinetic motion of the ebbing and surging of ocean tides in order to produce electricity. Tidal power has great potential for future power and electricity generation because of the massive size of the oceans."

From http://www.darvill.clara.net/altenerg/tidal.htm

1) *pros*

a) *clean and renewable*
b) *reliable and predictable*
c) *produces no liquid or solid pollutants*
d) *little aesthetic impact*
e) *acts as coastal shelters*
f) *minimal difficulty to migrating fish*
g) *no land waste*

2) *cons*

a) *tidal difference is too close (usually less than 2 ft)- must be above ~15 ft (4.6 m) differential*
b) *only 30 places have the topography (land layout) to do this, and 20 locations are sited as possible places*

3) locations

   a) *Nova Scotia, Canada: Annapolis Tidal Generating Station*
      BEC - Blue Energy Canada

   b) *France:* La Rance estuary in Northern France

      i) first tidal power station, built in 1966

      ii) 8-13.5 m tidal differential

   c) Other locations: China, Russia, South Korea, U.K.

   d) More proposed locations in South Korea, China, Russia, Philippines, India

C. **Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)**

1) experimental technology – most of the R & D work is done in Europe

2) Types of systems (from http://www.nrel.gov)

   a) *Closed-cycle systems*

"Closed-cycle systems *use the ocean's warm surface water to vaporize a working fluid*, which has a low-boiling point, such as ammonia. *The vapor expands and turns a turbine...*"

   b) *Open-cycle systems*

"…Open-cycle systems actually *boil the seawater* by operating at low pressures. This produces steam that passes through a turbine/generator."

   c) *Hybrid systems* – use both methods

14.5 Notes

V. Policy for a sustainable energy future:
Energy Efficiency and renewable-energy technology

White House Energy and Environment http://www.whitehouse.gov/energy

A. **Energy Star** program

B. **Global Change Research Program** http://www.globalchange.gov

C. **Deregulation** of power companies—choosing your provider

D. Commitments from oil companies to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions

E. Clean Energy blueprint

1) supply

   a) *renewable portfolio standard (RPS*) guidelines

   b) production tax credits

   c) more R & D on renewable energy

   d) *net metering*—pay less if you have solar cells, etc.

2) demand

   a) improved efficiency standards

   b) enhanced building codes; tax incentives for more improvements

   c) incentives for *CHP (combined heat and power)/cogeneration*

   d) *raise fuel economy (CAFE) standards*

   e) *incentives for hybrid and fuel-cell vehicles*

   f) *carbon tax* – proposal based on CO_2 emissions