Announcements

1. Papers Due Next Week

2. Presentations in two weeks; Come in early to load PowerPoints prior to class. No Makeups.

3. Final in three weeks on 12/8 at 6:00 pm

Tonight's Plan

- Energy Policy
- Environmental Justice

Energy Policy History

1. Oil Embargo of 1973-1974
2. President Nixon established the Federal Energy Office (later the Federal Energy Administration, later the Department of Energy)
   ✓ Required passenger car and light trucks to meet CAFE Standards

CAFE Standards

Energy Policy History (cont.)

1. President Carter: Energy policy was number one priority
   ✓ Carter created the DOE and provided for federal research in developing clean energy technology
2. President Reagan rewrote most energy policy
   ✓ Energy conservation and renewable energy
Energy Policy History (cont.)

1. President Bush Sr. signed an E.O. on Federal Energy Management
   ✓ Government buildings, fleets, fuels
2. He also signed the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) in 1992
   ✓ This was a comprehensive Act that made an attempt to strike a balance between energy development and energy efficiency, renewable energy, and alternative fuel vehicle programs

Energy Policy History (cont.)

1. President Clinton
   ✓ Issued EO in 1999 to promote energy efficiency in federal buildings
   ✓ Raised the speed limit back to 65 MPH in 1995
   ✓ Promoted voluntary programs such as Energy-Star and Green Lights

The Energy Policy Act of 2005

1. Signed into law in August 2005
2. Heavily favors traditional sources of energy including coal, petroleum, natural gas, and nuclear
3. Provides some tax incentives for conservation and energy efficiency
4. Extends the Price-Anderson Act through 2005 (more later)

Looking Into the Future

Coal Mining

1. Provides the U.S. with 25% of our energy needs
2. Provides 50% of our electricity needs
3. Problems include:
   ✓ Acid rain
   ✓ Mercury, NOx, and CO2 emissions
   ✓ Mountain top mining practices

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977

1. Required mining industry to restore the land to its prior contours and return land to level of productivity at least equal to pre-mining condition
2. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement established to police regulations
3. Regulation, funding, and staffing were gutted during the Reagan administration (James Watt)
4. Agencies and courts have not provided any significant enforcement mechanisms
Petroleum and Natural Gas

1. Provides 2/3 of our energy needs

2. Development of existing reserves is problematic since these are typically in environmentally sensitive areas

3. Another problem is oil spills

Nuclear Energy

1. Provides 8% of our energy needs

2. Problems include safety, mismanagement, waste, decommissioning of nuclear plants, and ECONOMICS

3. We subsidize every aspect of nuclear power

Price-Anderson Act (1957)

- Sets a limit on the monetary liability of nuclear power companies in the event of an accident

- When first enacted, it was designed to be a temporary measure since insurance companies refused to insure for severe nuclear accidents

- The result is that either the government or private individuals will be forced to pay the costs for a catastrophic accident

Price-Anderson Act

- Provides a major subsidy to the nuclear power industry

- Distorts electricity markets

- Gives nuclear power an unfair competitive advantage over safer renewable energy alternatives

- Shifts the burden of nuclear safety from the plant operators to the government or to victims of a nuclear accident

Renewables

1. These include hydropower, solar energy, wind, and biomass

2. In 2004, these provided 6% of our

Environmental Justice

- EJ Definition

- Warren County

- Current Topics