

A Letter from Samuel W. Bodman, U.S. Secretary of Energy

Over the past century our Nation's growing use of gasoline-powered vehicles – for both business and pleasure – has led to an over-reliance on hydrocarbons, specifically petroleum. To quench this thirst for gasoline, America must import about 15 million barrels of crude oil every day. This clearly displays an uncomfortable dependence on foreign sources of energy.

To help reduce this dependence, President Bush launched the Advanced Energy Initiative, which provides a \$383 million increase in clean energy research at the U.S. Department of Energy. This funding will be used for new vehicle technologies in efficient hybrid and lithium batteries, advancements in cellulosic ethanol for fuel, and additional research in solar and wind power.

While the Energy Department remains committed to providing research and support critical to diversifying our Nation's energy portfolio, we also need our partners in industry, academia, and at our national laboratories to continue their creativity and ingenuity to help us reach our national energy goals. Together, we can help tip the scales and bring more environmentally friendly, domestically produced fuels into the marketplace soon.

Together, the Energy Department and industry are investing in hydrogen fuel cells and are furthering hybrid and “plug-in” technology for electric cars; both are becoming increasingly attractive and affordable options for consumers. We are making great strides at reducing the production cost of alternative fuels such as ethanol, cellulosic ethanol, and biodiesel, as well as fuels produced from biomass.

These fuels burn cleaner and, in many cases, can be used in conventional vehicles already on the road. And that is just the beginning. With a focused strategy and efficient use of resources, the Bush Administration will continue to light the path toward a stable and secure energy future.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy

