

Renewable Energy Project

Renewable energy can run Minnesota. Minnesota used 362 btu's of energy in 2005. this is how much energy 5,114,000 people use in a year. Minnesota produces twice the national average percentage of electricity from wind. Unfortunately that is only 2%. One big area of energy use in Minnesota is transportation using 29%. In order for renewable energy to run all of Minnesota we have to reduce our use as well as increase infrastructure of renewable energy sources (Energy Summary).

An important element to having a fully renewable state is conservation. Without significantly reducing our energy use it will be much more expensive to have a renewable energy system. There are many ways that we can reduce our energy use on a personal level and on a governmental one. On a personal level we can travel less, use more efficient devices, use in moderation, and encourage the government and industry to be more efficient. On a societal level we can give support for more efficient methods of travel, and pass laws that restrict the energy use of homes and industry. If industry could reduce its energy use by 25% and individuals could reduce theirs by 50% then we would have a jump start into a fully renewable energy system.

Currently Minnesota is one of the leading states for renewable energy but we still have barely broken into changing our energy sources into renewables. At the beginning of 2008 MN had 1300 MW of wind power installed but that still only covers 2% of our electrical use (Energy Summary). In order to successfully have all of our electrical use from renewable sources we will have to drastically increase wind power as well as develop other renewable energy source like hydropower. And that is only to turn our electrical energy use to renewables. In order to change the other energy uses like transportation to renewables we will need to think creatively. There is no easy fix so we must find many different alternatives to work together to convert all Minnesota's energy use to renewables.

"Energy Summary Fact Sheet". Minnesota. 4/13/2010

<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/states/energy_summary_print.cfm?state=MN>.