

Offshore Oil Drilling: A False Solution to our Energy Crisis

Drilling will not lead to energy independence

The United States is responsible for 24% of total global oil consumption, but we only produce 6% of the world's oil and only control 2.5% of the world's reserves. The U.S. imports approximately 66% of our oil needs from both allies and hostile political regimes. The other 34% comes from domestic crude oil production, which means that the U.S. imports approximately two-thirds of our oil needs each day.



Domestic offshore drilling only generates 9% of the total amount of oil Americans consume, and most of that oil (around 8%) currently comes from the Gulf of Mexico.

Drilling is dirty and unsafe



Each year, U.S. offshore drilling operations spill an average of 880,000 gallons of oil into the ocean. More drilling means more oil spills, and new leases would be near shores and sensitive habitats that are critical to the livelihoods of millions who work in the tourism and fishing industries.

In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed 113 oil platforms, damaged 457 pipelines, and spilled 9 million gallons of petroleum products in the Gulf of Mexico.

Since the *Deepwater Horizon* drilling rig explosion in April 2010, scientists estimate that between 1.9 million to 3.5 million barrels (or about 80-150 million gallons) have gushed from the seabed, spreading along the Gulf Coast from the Louisiana coastline all the way to the Florida panhandle.



Increasing fuel economy: A cost-effective way to reduce fuel use

Raising fuel economy standards to 40/miles per gallon (mpg) by 2012 would save more than 50 billion barrels of oil over the next 50 years, more than 20 times what has already flowed into the Gulf of Mexico and more than 15 times the likely yield of economically-recoverable oil from Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Each interim step toward a higher mpg target has huge benefits: each 3-mpg increase in fuel economy would conserve 1 million barrels of oil per day, save consumers as much as \$25 billion per year in fuel costs, and reduce CO₂ emissions by 140 million tons per year

Let's drill for solutions, not oil

One million new plug-in hybrid vehicles on our roads that get up to 100 mpg on a single gallon of gas could save ~10 million barrels of oil annually by shifting fuel consumption to the electrical grid and incentivizing a variety of clean, renewable energy sources.



EPA estimates that with effective technologies for new vehicles, market incentives for electrified vehicles and fuel reductions due to highway efficiency measures, our nation could realize a cumulative savings of 21-31 billion barrels of oil by 2030—resulting in a 19-23% reduction in lifetime oil consumption for vehicles bought from 2010-2030.

Advanced biofuel sources like woody biomass and switchgrass can sustainably produce 300-1000 gallons of fuel per acre. These dedicated energy crops can provide alternative fuels that won't affect food prices and will keep energy dollars in our local economies.

Contact your elected officials at the state and federal levels to encourage them to end our reliance on oil and other fossil fuels by supporting clean, renewable energy policies.

**For more information contact
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