

Combustion Comparison

The similarity of the combustion process of cars and alternative energy processes has already been noted on the nuclear power history pages. This page extends the comparison of all kinds of alternative energy forms that heat water and use a steam turbine and generator to produce energy.

Any energy production form that creates heat can be utilized. The nuclear power process generates a great amount of heat and turns water into steam that is harnessed directly to turn a turbine. Solar heating could be used to heat water until it boils and turns into steam. In fact, of the thousands of exothermic reactions, they can all be harnessed to heat water to steam. The ancient practice of burning wood for heat can be easily hooked up to a bowl of water that eventually steams. In the future a scientist could create a volcano power plant that works in the exact same way as a nuclear power plant. Geothermal power works exactly as nuclear power does, but creates no waste. There are many other forms of alternative energy that uses heat to steam water and push the turbine.

A common misconception is that there are very few ways to produce energy. It is true that there are only a small number of energy production methods that are cost effective and are available to a great number of people. Alternative energy in the future will most likely be power stations that heat water by some action, either chemical or through nature. In the exploration of outer space, a satellite could be made to go only so close to the sun and continually heat water and then condense it again, and have the electricity created sent back to earth through microwaves. Many different new alternative energy forms will be available in the future for those people who compare the basic scientific processes that govern alternative energy.