

History

Three out of four of the alternative energy forms discussed at this site have a long history that dates back in one form or another to the beginning of time. The reason for this is that three of the four alternative energy forms utilize nature, and have been around since the beginning of time. Wind power, water power, and solar power take advantage of the natural forces and create electricity from them. These three could be found in several societies together. For example, the Romans built their houses to allow the sun to shine in, packed grain and other small edibles through the power of the water, and used the wind to sail all over the world. In modern times, wind, water, and the sun continue to take a major share in the world's energy needs.

Water and Wind power both have a similarity with nuclear power's history in that the steam engine was the predecessor of any turbine, not just the steam turbine. While the nuclear power history page included a lengthy description of the history of the steam engine and later the steam turbine, water and wind power were also greatly important to the development of a steam turbine. The first turbines were ones that were moved by direct force. It was not until superheated steam was discovered that a turbine could be pushed directly by steam. The history of many alternative energy forms is intertwined because the scientific concepts that underly most alternative energy forms is the same.

Solar power and nuclear power have a very modern history that shows the path of technology. In recent years solar cells have gained in efficiency and their cost has decreased. The speed of change in technology has no doubt helped the solar power industry. Nuclear power also has a great modern history mostly because of the will of scientists to perfect nuclear power. On the whole, water power and wind power have not changed greatly since biblical times. But solar power and nuclear power are constantly changing and many innovations are made all over the world. It is important to compare the history of alternative energy forms because mistakes that harm the environment should be avoided if possible, and other alternatives should be tried, if the current alternatives do not work. Comparing the history of alternative energy opens new doors of how some things could have been invented, and generates new ideas about the current alternative energy forms and those that have yet to be discovered.