







YEN JING



UNIVERSITY

Speaker favors wind power

By Kirsten Lucas Emerald Reporter

The United States needs to implement a long-term, innovative national energy policy that includes renewable energy sources, said the director of research for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

In a Wednesday night lecture titled "Fueling the Future," Michael Brower stressed the economic and environmental necessity for alternatives to fossil fuels, such as wind and solar power.

The burning of fossil fuels for energy is the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions, Brower said.

Carbon dioxide is one of the dreaded greenhouse gases, which are widely believed to contribute to the recent trend of global warming, otherwise known as the greenhouse effect.

This trend, blamed for seven of the all-time hottest years in the last decade, should be of great concern to the United States, Brower said.

Computer-generated scenarios project a temperature increase of 5 degrees Celsius for the central United States in the latter half of the next century, he said.

Not only should the United States be worried about the environmental and economic impact of global warming, it should take responsibility for solving the problem as well, Brower said.

"The reason I think it's so important to focus on U.S. energy policy is because we are responsible for 21 percent of the greenhouse gases," Brower said.

"We have a great deal of responsibility for the problem," he said. "One part of the solution is to switch from fossil fuels to alternatives.



Michael Brower

Such alternatives include advances in the technology of renewable resources, particularly in the area of wind power, Brower said.

California is at the forefront of this technology, he said. Although California has relatively low wind resources, turbines at large wind farms there generate 1-2 percent of the state's electricity, providing enough kilowatt-hours to meet the residential needs of approximately 1 million people.

A kilowatt-hour is the amount of electrical energy consumed when 1,000 watts are used for one hour.

Compared with California, Oregon's wind resources have the potential to generate 10 percent to 100 percent of the state's electricity, he said.

Moreover, wind power is becoming the cheapest renewable electricity resource, close in price to fossil fuel, Brower said. Solar energy, on the other hand, is a more expensive alternative in the short run because it is a capital-intensive technol-

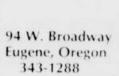




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- word for love, as this root was considered an aphrodisiac Adapted from The Whole Foods Encyclopedia by Rebecca Wood & Jane Bredy's Go

