

Learning From Your Neighbor: The Energy Policies of the U.S. & Latin America

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Introduction

The energy policies of the U.S. and Latin America are historically rooted in fossil fuels. However, as a result of increased popularity in alternative energy, corporations going green, and citizen involvement, a transition towards alternative energy is taking place in the U.S. Many countries in Latin America remain dominated by fossil fuel industries, but nations such as Cuba and Brazil are making progress towards an alternative energy based economy. Ultimately, Latin America and the U.S. will be forced to make a transition to alternative energy, and the two parties can assist each other in reaching this goal by learning from each other's mistakes and successes in terms of energy policy.

Lula da Silva: Brazil



<http://www.publispain.com/revista/imagenes/lula-da-silva.jpg>

Hugo Chavez: Venezuela



<http://aporrea.org/imagenes/2005/09/hugo-chavez-02.jpg>

Green Steps In U.S. Energy Policy:

Wal-Mart advertisement



<http://images.fastcompany.com/slideshows/walmart-goes-green/01.jpg>

Wind farm in Texas



<http://www.greenpowergovs.org/wind/LCRA%20turbines.jpg>

Conclusion

The U.S. and Latin America should learn from each other's energy policies. The U.S. should learn from Cuba because of Cuba's rapid transition to alternative energy. Also, the U.S. should learn from Brazil by integrating alternative energy and biofuels into their energy policy. Latin America should learn from the U.S. by incorporating items such as industry investment in alternative energy, corporations going green, and citizen involvement into an alternative energy policy. If the U.S. and Latin America can learn and benefit from one another then a transition to alternative energy is closer than we think.

Energy Policies of the U.S. & Latin America

	Fossil Fuel Dominance	Positives for Fossil Fuel Transition
The U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large subsidies provided for coal & oil 86% of the nation's energy supply comes from the burning of fossil fuels Bill rejected in congress requiring 15% of the nation's energy supply to come from fossil fuels by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid growth in wind power. Texas utilities must produce as much electricity from renewables as 10 coal fired power plants by 2015. Increased amount of corporations going green. CAFE standards increased to 35 miles/gallon by 2020.
Latin America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chavez promotes fossil fuel based policies. New oil wells discovered in Bolivia. Columbia's Ecopetrol plans on increased investment in gas and oil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lula da Silva wants to incorporate biofuels into Brazil's energy policy. Cuba transitioned to sustainable agriculture and alternative transportation after the collapse of the Soviet Union.