



Global Options for Alternative Energy

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While global demand for energy is growing, the environmental impact of fossil energy use is becoming an increasing concern. This has prompted worldwide efforts to develop alternative energy sources. In highly developed nations, there is a massive energy infrastructure in place that relies on fossil fuels. To replace this infrastructure with renewable energy sources is very challenging from a practical and economic viewpoint. However, in emerging economies that have not yet made massive investments into conventional energy infrastructure, tremendous opportunities exist to rethink our approach to energy. This lecture will provide an overview of options for alternative energy sources for the future, with special focus on opportunities to introduce solar energy-based microgrids in areas of the world that are currently off-grid.

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