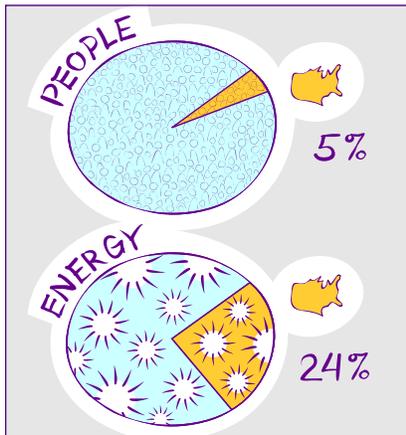# How We Use Energy

What kind of an energy future will you have?

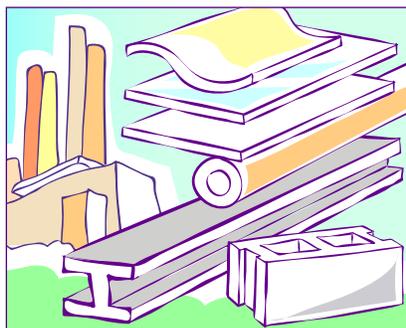Will you live in a world with plenty of energy?

For a secure energy future, we need to use energy wisely today.

How much energy do we use? We Americans use more energy than people in any other country. The United States has about 5% of the world's population, yet we consume 24% of all the energy used on the planet.

In fact, American use of energy at home has grown 19 times since 1949, when the government first began keeping track. Your grandparents probably remember when televisions were a luxury and many homes kept food cold with big blocks of ice, before refrigerators were common. Today many American households have several televisions, one or more refrigerators, plus computers, air conditioners, DVDs and microwaves. No wonder we use so much more energy!

We use energy to manufacture things too. Energy provides the heat needed to make iron and steel, concrete, glass, aluminum, plastic, rubber, and many other materials.

These materials are made into all kinds of products, used in our highways, shopping centers, office buildings, airports, houses and cars.

These manufactured materials also become the millions of items we use every day and often throw away -- things like aluminum cans for soft drinks and glass and plastic containers for food products.
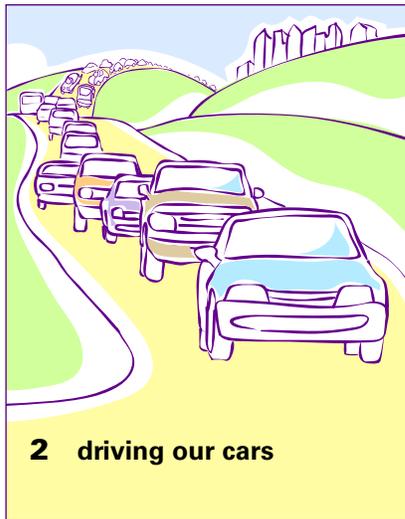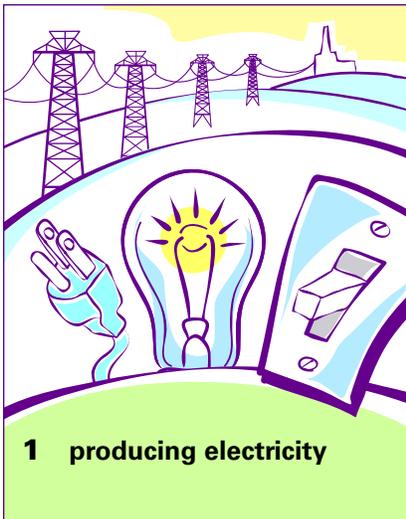
How We Use Energy

In our homes, we use more energy for heating than for any other purpose.

And people in the United States keep their homes much warmer than people in most countries with similar climates.
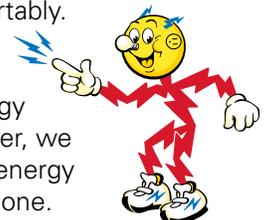
The activities that use the most energy and natural resources are:

1 producing electricity

2 driving our cars

There are good reasons to use energy. There are good reasons to save it, too. Saving it can help us and help the environment too.

3 manufacturing goods and products

4 heating our homes and businesses

We can use less energy and still live comfortably. It's important for each of us to use energy wisely. Together, we can make our energy future a bright one.

Reddy Kilowatt ®