

Toward a Cleaner Future: The Hydrogen Economy 环保氢燃料

We all know that **fossil fuels** are not going to last forever, and we also know they seriously pollute the environment. However, there is one **alternative** that is clean and totally renewable: hydrogen.

我们都知道化石燃料总有一天会枯竭，我们也知道化石燃料会严重污染环境。不过现在有一种干净又完全可再生的替代燃料：氢气。

It sounds **futuristic**, but the reality is that in the coming centuries, fuel will be **extracted** from water. Water is separated into hydrogen and oxygen through a process called **electrolysis**. Technically, cars – and pretty much everything else, **for that matter** – could run on hydrogen.

听起来很新潮，但实际上在将来数世纪里，燃料将从水粹取出来。透过电解过程，水分子可分解成氢跟氧，氢气就可当作汽车燃料。因此，几乎所有东西都可以用氢气作为能源来驱动。

Today, power is mainly used for two things: **transport** and electricity. The vast **majority** of world consumers use fossil fuels to power their cars, trucks, and airplanes. Fossil fuels also **generate** electricity for light bulbs, computers, and everything else we plug into an **outlet**. By **tapping into** hydrogen, though, we will finally have a truly clean fuel.

今日的能源主要用在两类东西上：交通和发电。全球绝大多数消费者用化石燃料来驱动车子、卡车和飞机。化石燃料也可产生电力供给电灯泡、计算机和所有电器产品使用。不过藉由开发氢气，我们终将获得真正干净的燃料。

When fossil fuels are burned, they **give off substantial** amount of **carbon dioxide**, a greenhouse gas. However, when hydrogen is used, the only exhaust is pure, harmless water. Researchers are trying to find ways to store hydrogen so that it can be used in **fuel cells**. Fuel cells act like batteries, except that they combine hydrogen and air to produce heat and water.

化石燃料经过燃烧就会释放出大量温室气体：二氧化碳。然而，使用氢气唯一的排出物则是无害的纯水。研究人员正尝试找出储存氢气的方式，以供燃料电池使用。燃料电池的作用就像一般电池，只不过燃料电池是结合氢气和空气来产生热能和水。

Hopefully, breakthroughs in technology will help **steer** the world in the direction of a **feasible** hydrogen economy. When that happens, we'll have a brighter, cleaner future to **look forward to**.

希望科技上的突破有助全球朝可行的氢经济方向迈进。如此，我们将可期待有一个更美好、更干净的未来了。

–by Joseph Schier

Vocabulary

extract [ɪk `strækt] v. 榨取

generate [`dʒɛnə,ret] v. 产生

substantial [səb `stænʃəl] adj. 大量的

feasible [`fizəb!] adj. 可行的

alternative [ɔl `tə:nətiv] n. 选择; 供选择的东西 (或办法等)

More Information

fossil [`fos!] **fuel** [`fjuəl] 化石燃料 (如煤、石油、天然气等)

futuristic [,fju:tʃə `ɪstɪk] adj. 未来的

electrolysis [ɪlek `trələsɪs] n. 电解作用

transport [`træns,pɔrt] n. 运输

outlet [`aʊt,let] n. 电源插座

tap into 利用, 开发

give off 发出, 发散

carbon dioxide 二氧化碳

look forward to 期待

steer [stɪr] v. 带领; 驾驶, 掌舵

for that matter: 就此而言 so far as that is concerned; as for that

majority [mə `dʒɔrəti] n. 大多数

fuel cell 燃料电池

Answer

1. (D)

2. (B)

3. (C)

4. (E)

5. (A)