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## **Why Solar Hydrogen**

**By Harry Braun**

Many of the most serious economic, environmental and foreign policy problems are directly related to America's addiction to non-renewable and environmentally destructive nuclear and fossil fuels, including oil, coal and natural gas. While there are a wide-range of alternative fuels that have been under development in recent years, including ethanol, methanol, propane, butane, natural gas, and reformulated gasoline, the focus needs to be placed on shifting to a "solar hydrogen economy" for the following reasons:

1. Hydrogen is the only combustion fuel that is non-toxic, essentially pollution-free, and inexhaustible, assuming it is made from water with electricity generated from wind and other solar technologies and resources.
2. Hydrogen is the first and most abundant element in the universe, and it is the only energy option that can integrate all energy sources with all energy uses.
3. Hydrogen made from water with solar energy is the only energy option that can make the U.S., as well as the the rest of the world, permanently energy independent of all fossil and nuclear fuels. Indeed, all green plants on the earth have been successfully using this solar hydrogen process on a global scale for over 3.5 billion years.
4. Hydrogen is what makes the intermittent solar energy process practical. This is because the sun goes down at night and the wind only blows about one-third of the time, which greatly limits the contribution from solar and wind systems. However, if hydrogen is made from the solar processes, it does not matter when the sun shines or when the wind blows because unlike electricity, the hydrogen can then be stored and transported to worldwide markets in tankers and pipelines and used as a pollution-free fuel to power vehicles, appliances and power plants.
5. Hydrogen is the lightest element in the universe, which makes it much safer than gasoline or other hydrocarbon fuels in the event of a leak or an accident. Even in the horrific Hindenburg accident, two-thirds of the passengers and crew lived, and no one was burned to death by the hydrogen.
6. Solar-sourced hydrogen is the only energy option that can allow the U.S. to become a Saudi Arabia-class energy exporter.

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7. Solar-sourced hydrogen is the only carbon-free energy option that can fundamentally reverse the global warming and the related climate change that could disrupt global food production systems.
8. Hydrogen is the only "universal fuel" that can power virtually every existing engine or vehicle, including SUVs, trucks, aircraft, ships, spacecraft, existing power plants or a Coleman stove on a mountain-top.

### Hydrogen Production Options

Hydrogen can be made from water with any source of electricity, as well as from microorganisms, enzymes, sewage, paper and garbage. However, President Bush and Senator Kerry are focusing on developing the "Dirty" or "Toxic" hydrogen options, which include extending the life of existing nuclear plants and building a new generation of fossil fuel and nuclear plants. Such policies will not solve the more fundamental energy supply problems and the related environmental impact would be devastating.

The *Phoenix Project* ([phoenixproject.net](http://phoenixproject.net)), by contrast, is a plan to have the U.S. "change course" by shifting from fossil and nuclear fuels to solar hydrogen economy with wartime-speed (i.e. by 2010) by mass-producing wind systems for large-scale hydrogen production and modifying every existing vehicle to use hydrogen fuel. Millions of Americans would be employed in the process as oil companies become solar hydrogen companies. As a result, the need for oil wars, urban air pollution, oil spills, strip-mining the tops off of mountains for coal, or the production of any new radioactive wastes will finally be ended.

For more information on this "transition of substance" that will provide sustainable prosperity without pollution, please refer to the **BraunforPresident.US** website.



Harry Braun

Analyst and Author

Independent Candidate for President

6128 North 28th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Telephone: 602-977-0888

Fax: 602-955-5444

Email: [hb@BraunforPresident.US](mailto:hb@BraunforPresident.US)