

October 2011 Manager's Column

**Have you heard this statement before?**

*"We need to get more of our energy from right here in the United States and not be held hostage from foreign lands – so to do that, we need more wind and solar power."*

Well, I agree we need to get more of our energy from right here in the United States and not be held hostage from foreign lands – but are we accomplishing that by adding wind and solar?

Ninety five percent of our electricity in this country is generated with coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower. Very little of our coal or natural gas comes from outside the U.S. or Canada. Virtually all of our nuclear and hydropower comes from here in the U.S..... so creating wind or solar power for electricity generation simply replaces other U.S. homegrown resources and doesn't make us any less dependent on foreign nations. Now, if you could use wind or solar to create gas for our vehicles, you might have something, but I haven't seen that done. What few electric cars we do have out there are already using home grown coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower to keep them running.

There may be good honorable reasons for using wind and solar, but making us less dependent on the oil of foreign nations is not one of them.