

Re: Viable hydrogen vehicle by 2010

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>I can think of only **one** application where this isn't true. For the
>chemical processes where hydrogen is a byproduct, and the process is already
>profitable, it makes a LOT of sense to recover the hydrogen. This implies
>that the chemical engineering types could purposefully attempt to bias
>process design towards chemistry that favors hydrogen as a byproduct.
>However, even if this was successfully done, I doubt that enough hydrogen
>would be generated to displace fossil fuels, as fossil fuel consumption in
>the U.S. is truly immense.
>

And I suppose people will happily abandon their homes in coastal communities when the Ocean Levels rise as they are willing to pay any price to keep on using fossil fuels. Now imagine the Ocean levels rise 30 feet. What is the value of all that real estate that is lost to the Ocean? A lot of people pay top dollar for a house with an ocean view, and because of global warming, they may lose those houses. Warming the Earth's oceans also fosters the conditions for the creation of Hurricanes, how many homes will that wreck? My question is what price extra are people willing to pay to avoid these calamities? Your saying not a single red cent extra for their automobile fuel? But apparently your saying that people are willing to pay the price in other ways except at the gas pump. Now tell me, does that really make sense? I'm willing to pay extra to avoid future climate change, because at least if you pay extra for fuel, you are paying on the installment plan instead of all at once when you lose your home. The use of hydrogen does not add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Technically you can say water vapor is a greenhouse gas, but the amount we would add would be as nothing compared to what evaporates off the oceans, and that hydrogen has to come from somewhere.

Producing hydrogen is like tree farming, if a farmer plants trees, takes care of them and then harvests them 10 years later, he is actually paying the price for bringing the lumber to market, yet he has to compete with the lumberjack who simply chops down trees in virgin forests denuding the landscape and not paying the price for growing those trees, he just acquires the trees with the land he bought and once all the trees are chopped down, he simply buys some more land and moves on. Now the clearcutting lumberjack can offer you cheaper prices for the lumber to build your house with, but you have to ask yourself, is it worth the price of buying the more expensive lumber from the tree farmer

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who uses the same land over and over again, or would you rather save a few pennies and turn forest into desert? Its the same sort of situation between gasoline and hydrogen, if all you do is pay attention to the dollar price of motor fuel and nothing else, your going to pay for all that savings later on, or your children will.

Tom