

RENEWABLE ENERGY

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Journal Articles

The more widespread use of renewable resources is constrained by the following factors:

*The public lacks information about the availability, costs, and benefits of renewable energy technologies.

*Project initiators and managers often fail to understand the energy and related social needs of rural communities, fail to adapt projects to meet these needs, and fail to involve the communities in project design.

*Governments and agencies frequently fail to assess costs and benefits correctly when comparing renewable to traditional energy options particularly given the heavy subsidization of traditional energy resources--and fail to value resources on a life-cycle basis, accounting for externality costs to society.



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*Research and development is needed to improve renewable technologies and lower initial costs.

*Many government, commercial, and industrial officers prefer known fossil resources to newer renewable resources.

*Pool power dispatchers, utilities, and government procurement agencies discriminate against intermittent energy sources such as solar and wind power, even though these resources often are available at peak times of power needs.

*Large, well-financed sales teams encourage traditional energy sources, and decision makers have a common financial stake in these sources.

*Few personnel are trained in renewable energy equipment installation, operation, and maintenance.

*General and energy-specific barriers discourage foreign investment, such as import duties on renewable equipment.

Reports

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USEFUL WEB SITES

Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS)

<http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/>

Clean Energy

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/index.html>

Harvesting Clean Energy

<http://www.harvestcleaneenergy.org/index.html>

National Renewable Laboratory

<http://www.nrel.gov/>

Renewable energy

world

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/home>

Union of Concerned Scientists

<http://www.ucsusa.org/>

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