

Energy Resources and Sustainable Development

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The development of economy is marked by the constant rise in use of mineral resources, including energy resources. At the end of the millenium the world energy consumption is as follows: oil – 40%, coal – 27%, gas – 23%, nuclear energy and others – 10%. World explored fuel reserves are: coal – 68%, oil – 17%, gas – 15%. The countries with en developed economies account now for 36% of world output; energy consumption in these countries is less then 21%, and the population is 52% of the world's total. Normal functioning of industrial sectors, economic growth and improving of living standards is impossible without energy sector's development. For these countries, to achieve the level of energy consumption of industrial countries means to double the energy output.

Sustainable development means that of economy and energy sector. It should provide the growth of well-being, without causing the irretrievable loss for the environment. Even oil and gas aren't absolutely safe for the atmosphere and climate. Before new safe technologies of coal and nuclear energy use are developed and put into practice, it's necessary to consume gas and use resource saving technologies.