What is Energy ?

- ¹/₂ mv²
- mgh
- $P_{ext} \Delta V$
- $C_v \Delta T$
- I²R
- hv
- mc²

• a 2 trillion dollar per year global industry





How much energy do we use each year?

- ~ 400,000,000,000,000,000,000 Joules/year (116,000,000,000,000 Kilowatt-hours / year)
- 1 Watt = 1 Joule used per second

12.8 TeraWatts

Global average = 2000 Watts per person (24 hrs/day, 365 days/year)



(Image by MIT OCW)

The issues:

- Increasing energy demand by increasing population
- Associated CO₂ emissions and accumulation
- Depletion of petroleum and other resource reserves
- 1.6 billion people without access to electricity or other forms of "clean" energy
- Energy-related security challenges, including
 - -- uneven distribution of resources (the Tenth Commandment does not apply!)
 - -- vulnerability to threats and natural disasters
 - -- geopolitical instability and tensions
 - -- nuclear weapons proliferation

M T What are our options for meeting the world's energy needs and reducing GHG emissions?

Hydropower: 0.7 ~ 2.0 TW ... if we dam all remaining rivers on earth

Nuclear: ~ 8 TW ... if we build and commission one new nuclear power plant every two days for the next 45 years

Wind: 2.1 TW ... if we place windmills everywhere that the mean wind speed exceeds 5.1 m sec⁻¹ at 10 m above the ground

Biomass: 7 ~ 10 TW ... if the entire arable land mass is used to grow crops for energy, not for food

Solar: 120,000 TW of radiant energy is intercepted by the Earth ... this is 10,000 times the energy we actually use but it is dispersed and intermittent

-- D. Nocera, *Dædalus*, Fall 2006, p. 112 – 115

Geothermal: 15 million exaJ stored energy in US alone (J. Tester) corresponds to 500,000 Terawatt-years ... *if technologically and economically feasible*

Energy efficiency and conservation are essential — *but improvements in efficiency are usually overwhelmed by increases in consumption* (bigger cars, bigger homes, more computers, etc.)

Fusion? Solar collectors in space? And what about hydrogen???

The nature of "the energy problem"

(J.P. Holdren, AAAS Past President; Director, Woods Hole Research Center)

- Few people, other than energy specialists, are interested in Exajoules, or terawatts, or quads ...
- We are interested in *energy services:*
 - comfortable rooms, cold beer soda, warm food, convenient transportation, web access 24/7, ...
- But all of us are interested in
 - the state of the economy and our piece of it;
 - the state of the environment and our piece of it;
 - our personal and national security.
 - This translates into concern about energy choices *if those put any of these values at risk.*