

## Energy Independence

America's economy is hampered by its dependence on foreign oil, which adds to our trade deficit, increases the nation's energy costs, especially for manufacturers, and is harmful to the environment. By dramatically reducing this dependence and investing in domestic sources of energy, we will create jobs, and strengthen the economy. Democratic Governors have made significant strides in the states, but need the federal government to do its part by:

1. **Redirecting Oil and Gas Subsidies to Alternative Energy Sources.** That money should be invested in other energy sources like alternative fuels, wind, and solar power.
2. **Cutting Down on Government's Use of Energy.** The federal government should lead the way toward energy independence by requiring 25 percent of its 600,000 vehicle fleet be equipped with hybrid technology. That alone could cut oil imports by more than a million barrels a year.
3. **Helping Make Hybrid Cars More Affordable For Families.** As the largest single purchaser of cars in the nation, doing the above would make a major impact on the demand for hybrids and higher fuel efficiency cars and make them more affordable for American families.
4. **Setting Alternative Fuel Standards for the Federal Government's Energy Consumption.** The federal government could significantly boost demand for alternative fuels by following the lead of 21 states that have passed laws requiring all energy companies meet "Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards". America should double its current federal requirement that U.S. fuel distributors must rely on bio-fuels for a half a million barrels per day by 2012. To accomplish this, America must make the existing tax credits permanent and ensure progressive net metering is in place nationwide.
5. **Creating a National Energy Strategy.** America needs a comprehensive national strategy to support a Manhattan Project-like effort to galvanize federal, state and private sector efforts to build America's energy independence.