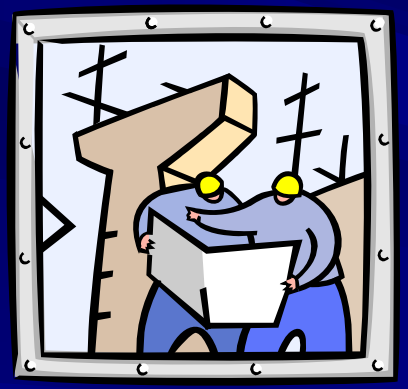
US National Energy Plan: *How Can We Make a Difference?*



Senator Nathan Anderson from California
Senator Lisa Jordan from Massachusetts
Senator Jessica Sanders from Wisconsin
Senator Anthony Rodriguez from Idaho

Mrs. McGill
4th Period Social Studies

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OVERVIEW OF OUR POLICY CHOICES

- Our Energy Priorities
- Overview of Our Energy Plan
- Comparison with Previous Policies
- Comparison with the Energy Policy Act of 2005
- Justification and Impacts
- Counter-Arguments
- Conclusion

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Our Energy Priorities

- Initially, the five factors that we felt should be energy priorities are:
  - Preserving the environment
  - Decreasing the amount of non-renewable energy consumed
  - Decreasing our dependency on other countries for our energy resources
  - Encouraging alternative fuels/vehicles
  - Maintaining/growing our economy

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Visual Ranking of Priorities

From the priorities created and decided upon by the whole class, our top three energy priorities are:

ENVIRONMENT

- Protect for future generations
- Allow for new discoveries

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- We need to be able to have money to find and develop additional energy resources

SECURITY

- Protect our resources and future
- Be more self-reliant

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Overview of Energy Plan

- 14.5 Quads of Energy for 10 years
  - Only 1 Quad planned for "Building Codes" (less restrictive/costly)
- Fulfills our priorities and the interests of our states:
  - Promotes the environment
  - Somewhat less dependent on foreign resources
  - Helps to develop our future energy resources

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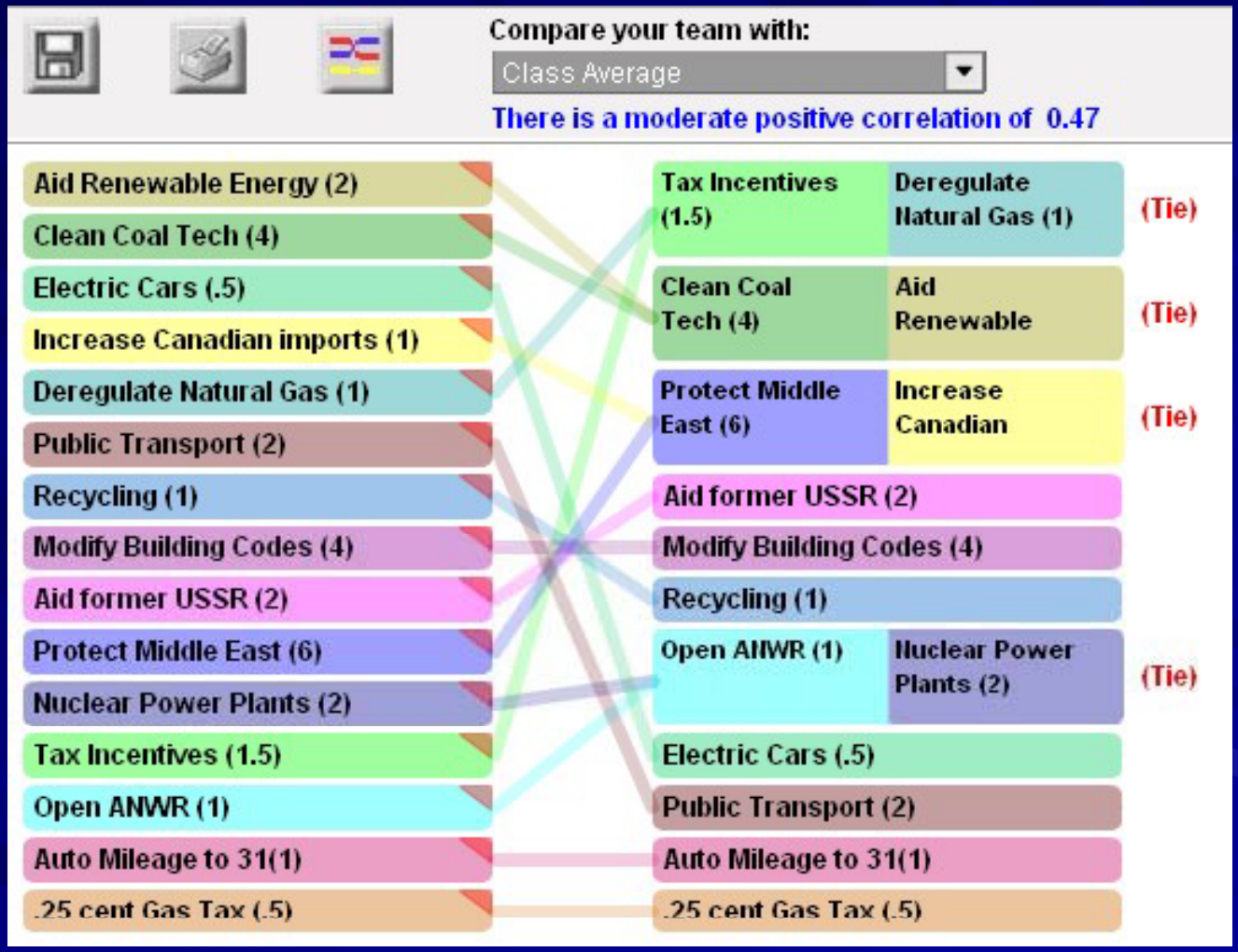
Class Average



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Comparison with Previous U.S. Policies

- **Similarities – Focus on:**
  - Conservation
  - Renewable energy
  - Decreasing pollution of energy resources
- **Differences:**
  - Nuclear energy (our group was split)
  - Specific gasoline conservation goals
  - Restricting foreign oil imports

- **Atomic Energy Act of 1946 - Develop the use of atomic energy for civilian and military purposes[1]**
- **"Energy Policy and Conservation Act" (1975) - Reduce dependence on imported oil and increase energy efficiency[2]**
- **"Energy Tax Act" (1977) - Tax credit for wind and solar power and other renewable energy[2]**
- **1980 - Reduce overall petroleum consumption and establish a maximum amount for importing foreign oil[3]**
- **Clean Air Act Amendments (1990) - emissions-reduction program, specifically targeted at coal[2]**
- **National Energy Policy (2001) - Funding of research and development into renewable technologies[2]**

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Comparison with the Energy Policy Act of 2005

- Similarities:
  - Electric cars
  - Alternative energy
  - Clean coal
- Differences
  - Daylight savings time
  - Nuclear power

- **Tax break for hybrid (electric) vehicles**
- **Loan guarantees for "innovative technologies"**
  - **Advanced nuclear reactor designs**
  - **Clean coal**
  - **Renewable energy**
- **Clean coal as an energy source**
- **Subsidies and provisions for encouraging renewable, alternative energy producers**
  - **Wind, wave, tidal, geothermal**
- **Extends daylight savings time by four weeks**
- **Six new nuclear power plants**

Cost estimate: $1.6 billion directly and reduced revenue by $12.3 billion between 2006 and 2015[4]

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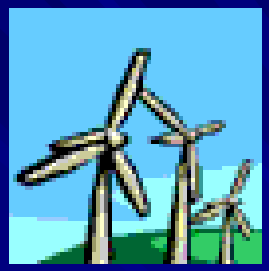
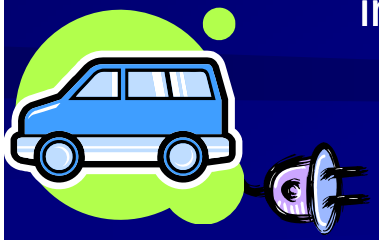
Justification and Impacts



- Healthy Environment
  - What else have we got?
  - Need to make changes now for the future
  - Support recycling, clean fuels, electric cars
  - Cost is an issue, but worth it

- Economic Growth
  - Plans are not too restrictive or burdensome
    - Example: less restrictive building codes than initially proposed
  - Allow the market to choose alternatives--with incentives from government
    - Example: Hybrid cars – Costs more to buy and maintain, but tax incentives, carpool lane access in some locations, and gas savings
      - 81% increase of sales in 2004 over 2003 [5]
      - 2005 already doubles 2004 figures
      - Calif. buys 4.5 times more than any other state[6]



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Justification and Impacts

- Security
  - Less dependent on foreign resources
  - Developing resources to be more self-reliant in the future
  - Use of coal
    - Plentiful resource that doesn't need to be imported
    - New methods in the near future
      - Produces electricity and hydrogen
      - Clean use – gasifies coal before burning, captures carbon dioxide[7]
- Supports the needs/priorities of our states
  - Supports our current policies and available renewable resources
    - California - Wind, solar, hydroelectric, and geothermal resources/programs
    - Massachusetts – Solar, wind, and hydro programs/resources (small)
    - Wisconsin - Wind, hydroelectric, and solar programs/resources
    - Idaho – Solar, wind, and geothermal programs (small), but greater potential resources available[8]

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Counter-Arguments

- Cost
  - Government spending is huge (estimates of $13.9 billion over 8 years for the Energy Policy Act of 2005[4])
  - People don't like anything that might cost them more money like recycling or more expensive cars

- Out of People's "Comfort Zones"
  - People don't want weird houses or cars—especially if they will cost more
- Industry and Big Business Resists
  - Powerful lobbies in Washington D.C. prevent change

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Conclusion

- We were surprised that much of the class chose what we view as “anti-environmental” measures.
- Protecting the environment is much more complex.
  - Need more policies to promote change and new ideas, rather than just producing more of the same
  - We need to develop renewable alternatives *before* we run out of non-renewable resources
- Use of clean domestic resources, such as coal, will help our more immediate energy needs
- Energy choices have broad-range and long-term impacts.

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