

The Project Place

are now so large (5 of the largest 10 companies in the world are oil companies) that they appear to be more powerful than state governments.

The objective of this new IUPAC project is to publish a book that first considers the reasons for developing alternate forms of energy and then details all the possible forms available to us. Each chapter of the book will be written by an engineer or scientist working in the field.

Each of the book's 22 chapters will detail a form of energy that will be available to us, globally, over the next few decades. The review will focus on all types of energy available to us, taking into account our major problems: reducing our dependence on fossil fuel, reducing the amount of carbon dioxide we produce, and finding a suitable fuel for our transportation system.

The book will be unique among available titles in the same genre because each chapter will be written by a scientist or engineer who is an expert in his or her field. Each chapter highlights the details, scope, and problems associated with a particular type of energy. New and emerging forms of energy will be covered, including wave power, tidal energy, recent developments in battery and fuel cell technology, the hydrogen economy, tar sands, wind energy, solar (concentrated), solar (photovoltaic), and geothermal. However, old forms of energy will not be forgotten and there will be chapters on the latest improvements in coal burning, oil and gas burning, oil from coal and methane technology, bio-fuels, carbon dioxide capture and storage, hydroelectric power, and nuclear fission. Areas of great potential that have not yet come of age, such as pebble bed nuclear reactors, methane gas hydrates, energy storage, and nuclear fusion, are also dealt with. Looking at the whole spectrum of options in the book, it should be possible to discern which forms of energy best suite us now and in the future.

This book is part of the education process needed to boost public appreciation and understanding of science. It will present a non-political and unemotional

set of solutions to the problems facing us—and it will offer a way forward. We hope that the book will be of interest to students, teachers, and professors and researchers of new energy, as well as politicians, government decision makers, captains of industry, corporate leaders, journalists, and editors.

For more information, contact the Task Group Chair Trevor Letcher <trevor@letcher.eclipse.co.uk>.

 www.iupac.org/projects/2007/2007-015-2-100.html

Green Book: Abridged Version

The new project "Green Book: Abridged Version" aims at creating a condensed version of the third edition of the *Green Book—Quantities, Units, and Symbols in Physical Chemistry**—that will consist of only 40 to 50 pages and be more suitable for university teaching and continuing education in an industrial context. The project aims to support the typical contents of physical chemistry at the university level by restricting the range of topics covered in the Green Book to those that are most important for students: general chemistry, thermodynamics, kinetics, spectroscopy, and basic physics. This "light" version of the Green Book will focus on examples of best practices in the use of terminology, quantities, and units and their symbols and will be made available both as printed material and via the Web.

*www.iupac.org/publications/books/author/cohen.html

For more information and comments, please contact Task Group Chairperson Roberto Marquardt <roberto.marquardt@chimie.u-strasbg.fr>.

 www.iupac.org/projects/2007/2007-032-1-100.html

Postgraduate Course in Polymer Science

The 12th and 13th runs of this course will be held in the academic years 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, in Prague. The courses are sponsored by UNESCO with minor financial assistance from the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. The institute, with more than 100 scientists and offering more than 40 years of experience in postgraduate education, offers up-to-date facilities

