Energy: Questions to Explore

Questions to Trigger Exploration and Learning
• What are all the ways we consumed energy, directly and indirectly, during the course of one day, say, yesterday?
• With increasing demand for energy and global energy supply pushing its limits, what can we in Nebraska do to become more resilient to a future of a strained energy supply reflected in increased energy prices?
  For example, if we look gasoline consumption . . .
    • What would the impact on our economy and lifestyle if gas reached $6/gallon?
    • What aspect of my life would I have to change if gas reached $6 per gallon?
    • What are ways our community can build its resilience to withstand the impacts of $6/gallon gasoline?
    • What are other ways we can increase our resiliency to decreasing energy supply and higher energy cost?

Questions to Trigger Ideas for Change, New Action
• What actions can I take today to reduce the amount of energy I consume? What practices can I initiate where I work, and in my community, that could reduce energy consumption?
• What recommendations for action can we formulate today, to be shared with whom, when, and how best that could influence:
  • Energy consumption practices among everyday citizens of Nebraska?
  • City, state and federal policies that impact energy consumption practices??
• Is it possible to thoroughly study the pros/cons of moving from a “centralized, big system of power generation” to a decentralized system of generators? (For instance, farm based renewable generators, and commercial and institutional buildings that generate more electrical power than they consume.)
• Nebraska has some of the best natural assets of wind and solar sources of power production in North America. Why are there not more programs to incentivize more rapid development of the resources?
• Eighty-five to ninety percent of the existing building stock in the state will still exist in 50 years. These buildings are the largest users of energy. Why are there not more programs to incentivize energy efficient retrofits of our existing buildings?
• In Lincoln and Omaha why could we not use the streets and public right-of-ways, and public lands for well fields for geothermal energy systems for retrofitted existing buildings?