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RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BIOREGIONS

Energy and environmental issues are directly related, they aren't two different items on the same shelf.

Take the most negative case, the one we're about to live with. "Re-industrialization" with synthetic fuels will be more of what we've already seen but worse. The announced U. S. energy policy for the next four years will also feature: (1) relaxation of criteria for licensing nuclear power plants; (2) reduction of environmental controls on energy production and use; (3) opening of more federal lands for energy resources exploitation and (4) de-control of oil and natural gas prices to stimulate increased production. If we want more-better-plus from the Industrial Age, we have to give up hope for preserving the biosphere.

The most positive case for appreciating the link between our use of energy and our interdependence with the overall web of life has yet to be stated as a public policy. We've all seen glimpses... lawns converted into gardens, solar structures added onto houses, a recycling depot under a freeway, a few windmills and more bicycles... we've all had reason to hope that both our energy and planetary biospheric concerns could be resolved together. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BIOREGIONS is an attempt to establish a foundation for doing that. If energy considerations are to become dominant for society, let them be based on reciprocity with the flow of energy through natural systems so that we can restore and maintain the places where we live. If there is an appropriate location to go along with appropriate technology and renewable energy, it is the local watershed within a bioregion.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BIOREGIONS is intended to be useful to anyone who wants to understand bioregional energy conditions and possibilities, and it sets out criteria for examining current public energy policies. It approaches some traditional concepts with a spirit for resolving the conflict between energy and biospheric concerns and issues, and it advances new cultural reference points for balancing our energy needs with the requirements of natural systems.

Planet Drum Foundation expects and welcomes comments, criticism and refinements regarding the ideas presented in RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BIOREGIONS, and offers to serve as a networking and information exchange membrane between alternative energy practitioners, working professionals, social activists, and anyone else who is interested in a transition toward renewables and reinhabitation.

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