

Those of us who, for the past 30 years, have urged sweeping changes in the nation's energy posture have always understood the power of the interests aligned against change. We were challenging the oil, coal, electric utility and automobile industries, all of which were profiting handsomely from the status quo. We thought we needed a crisis—an energy “Pearl Harbor” or “Sputnik” challenge—to mobilize the public behind such a far reaching change. We thought we might have had it in a war in the Middle East, a Chernobyl meltdown or an Exxon Valdez oil spill. But these crises came and went without producing discernible improvement in national energy policy.

Instead, the opportunity now has come in an unexpected form: a global economic crisis coupled with the election of a new president with an unusual willingness to take a fresh look at everything, as well as a House and Senate dominated by his political party and a robust mandate for change from the American public. Already, President Obama has begun working to promote renewable energy, boost energy efficiency, combat climate change, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and create green jobs. All of these changes are desperately needed, and better yet, investing in these areas has the potential to heal the economy and the environment at the same time.

Excerpt from “A Plan for the Solar Revolution,” (2009) from *Mother Earth News*, by Denis Hayes

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#PoetsForScience

Instructions

Create an Emerge poem using the excerpt on the front of this card. Mark out words and phrases with a marker so that other expressions can *Emerge* from the author's original work. Share your work through social media and tag your poem with #PoetsForScience and #TravelingStanzas. Also consider sharing to #ScienceMarch. If you'd like, mail your poem to a friend or loved one by using a first class stamp. Through the collaborative efforts of The Wick Poetry Center and The March For Science we proudly stand together to advocate for the conservation of our environment and the importance of science through the intimate and inclusive voice of poetry.



The Poets For Science Collection

Curated by Jane Hirshfield

Visit Science.TravelingStanzas.com

Experience all of the #PoetsForScience Emerge poems in an online collection, read poems about nature and science, and download printable signs and posters for the march

Visit MarchForScience.com

Please visit the online home of the march to learn more and get involved

Denis Hayes

President of the Bullitt Foundation, Board Chair Emeritus of Earth Day Network and organizer of the first Earth Day in 1970

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