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Final Essay

Over the course of this semester, I have learned quite a bit on the topics of energy and the environment. On the topic of energy, I have learned the difference between energy and power. Power is the rate of spending energy or doing work, or energy spent per unit of time. Energy is the capacity for doing work, generating heat, and emitting light or radiation. I did not know this going into the semester. I also learned to do conversion equations and finally learned what a btu is, what they describe, and how to use them in equations. I also learned much more about the many different ways that humans generate energy, such as hydroelectric, wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal. I also have a much better grip on how energy businesses are run and how the energy market in general operates.

On the topic of the environment, I learned much more about global warming. I also learned about the processes that lead up to our current global warming issues. One of these processes would be the greenhouse effect. Another thing I learned about the environment was the notion of the commons. Before coming to this class, I had never heard of the commons or the paper, “The Tragedy of the Commons”. Now that I know what these are, I have a better understanding of the modern energy market and the abuses that the commons within our modern society have been suffering. From this class, I have also been able to gain a much better understanding of current energy and environmental policies that have been passed and are currently being debated in our legislatures. Finally, I learned about many things that I can do to help save the environment. Many of these are things that I had been told to do several times by several different people. Some other ones that I learned were new and I really enjoyed learning new ways to help benefit the environment.

Overall, I enjoyed this class. I will attempt to take what I have learned in this class and apply it to the real world through better understanding of situations that I experience every day. I will also try and implement the information I have gained in this class through better understanding some of the science surrounding major political topics.