

SECTION IV  
ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY

INTRODUCTION

The seriousness of the gap between the present supplies and the rising demand for energy should, by now, be obvious. Conservation is one way this gap can be reduced; increasing the supplies is another. Typically, supplies are increased by exploring for new reserves of coal, oil, gas or uranium. However, these resources are nonrenewable, and we can now see the dark at the end of the tunnel. New methods for producing energy must be sought if our dependence on fossil fuel and nuclear energy is to be reduced. Some governmental policy changes are now being seen. However, only token research and development programs have been undertaken--mainly for solar, wind and some ocean energy sources. Other alternate energy sources should also be given consideration.

This section will consider the following alternatives for energy production in the Bay Area: solar, biomass, wind and energy from the ocean. It will not be suggested that any of these alternatives will supply the complete answer to our energy problem in the Bay Area at least in the near future. Rather, the hope is that some, or all of these, will be able to supplement the present sources. Indeed, though the technology and know-how exists to harness many of these alternative energies, they have understandably not been well enough developed. However, they are all renewable and most are clean and environmentally sound--an especially important consideration. The need for environmentally sound energy sources is obvious, and it is imperative that their development be accelerated.