

Contact:

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ENERGY PLANET

Opening Date: Fall 2010

Square Footage: 7,300 sq. ft.

Museum Location: Main Floor, Previous *Petroleum Planet* space

The new *Energy Planet* exhibit will engage guests and school groups alike in an exciting and dynamic presentation of America's energy future. The exhibit will take a thought-provoking look at our current energy consumption, the long-term effects of this consumption and how science and industry are looking toward a myriad of alternative ways to power our future.

The exhibit will present energy as a story of innovation, conservation, economic opportunity and fundamental science—and will point to a future that balances sustainable use of fossil fuels with new, energy-efficient technologies. Examples of the topics the exhibit may explore are as follows:

- Petroleum as an essential energy resource. How do we find and refine it? How has advanced technology given us access to vast new energy reserves?
- Nuclear energy and natural gas as clean and viable energy options.
- New and emerging technologies that will reduce the impact of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Innovative transportation technologies that can reduce energy demand, including hybrid and hydrogen fuel-cell technology.
- Renewable energy—including solar, wind, biomass and geothermal—and how these resources are being developed today around the world.
- Conservation as an essential element of a sustainable energy future, and how you can be a part of the solution.

There is no single answer to our energy challenge. It will take multiple strategies and an array of new technologies to bridge to a sustainable energy future along with unprecedented creativity, brainpower and entrepreneurial know-how. This exhibit will offer students, teachers and all of our guests an opportunity to think and act creatively, to capture the best of the American spirit, and to imagine and invent a new energy world.

The iDesign Competition

Chicagoland middle-school and high-school students are even playing a role in the design of this experience. Through *iDesign*, a Museum-initiated competition to help create a component of the *Energy Planet* exhibit, hundreds of students answered the call—with more than 60 creative entries! The finalists' innovative energy-related ideas include:

- Powering public transportation with solar energy—and the opportunity for Museum guests in the exhibit to design and test solar cars, explore a solar train and more.
- Using hydropower and the energy in your own faucet to power appliances.
- A Conservation Tree that invites Museum guests to pin yellow “achievement” and green “commitment” leaves to the tree, symbolizing their personal actions of conservation.

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