Modern developed countries have very high energy demands. They need huge amounts of energy every day to run machines in manufacturing, in offices and homes, for communications and for transport.

World energy demand
The world population is rapidly increasing and more and more people across the globe are using more and more energy each year. Since the 1850s, industrial development has depended on fossil fuels for energy. Oil, coal and gas are still the main energy sources used today.

Fuel consumption today
Fuel consumption worldwide is increasing fast. Nations with well developed industry are continuing to demand more and more energy to run more and more devices. Many people in developing countries, particularly in Asia, Africa and South America, are moving from a rural lifestyle to an industrial lifestyle with a high energy demand.

CASE STUDY
The US - world's largest energy consumer
Of all the countries in the world, the United States of America consumes by far the most energy. The US is the world's largest energy producer, consumer and importer.

It is predicted energy consumption in the US will increase by 25 per cent by the year 2025. Transport will account for most of this growth in demand for oil through to 2020.

Cars in the US
Cars account for a large part of the huge demand for oil in the US. About 80 per cent of total travel each year is by private car. Airline travel is the second most popular way to travel. Very little travel is by public transport such as buses and trains. Passenger vehicles use about 40 per cent of all the petroleum consumed in the US.