

The Green Tax Rebate

Why do we Americans deeply desire to protect our environmental and our energy future, yet we see them increasing degrading? It would seem alarming enough if we consumed twice as much energy & resources as the average world citizen, but we actually consume six times their average. Our nation of 5% of the world population devours 25% to 30% of the world's energy & resources. We value the environment highly yet are lured into driving overfed dinosaurs, alias SUV trucks, burning 2 to 3 times more the gasoline and polluting up to 5 times as much, as would an amply big efficient car. We could go on with many more examples, but it ought to be clear that something is profoundly wrong with our perverted economy & government. It is not just us. The problem is systemic and so must be the solutions.

Somehow we need to redirect the financial incentive from using more resources wastefully, to utilizing less resources efficiently, instead, (as obvious as this may sound). From my 20 years in energy efficiency engineering, I know the technology is there, but is merely waiting for the financial opportunity to blossom and grow. In a nutshell, what we need is the likeness of the Green Tax Rebate.

The **Green Tax Rebate** shall gradually increase taxes on non-renewable energy and other “environmentally taxing” products, yet refund all the Green taxes and more by lowering other taxes. The Green Tax Rebate initiative will result in lowering your overall taxes on the average. This is also known as “tax shifting” or the “ecological tax reform.”

As an example of a green tax rebate initiative, consider raising gasoline taxes by a modest 10% per year and refunding all this tax back by lowering income tax rates. At the same time, cease paying for road-building with our general tax revenue, and further lower our State & Federal income taxes and eliminate the food sales tax. Indeed the road building costs will naturally need to come from gasoline/diesel sales, especially considering that the amount of wear on roads is closely proportional to the amount of gas one burns. Because this tax shifting will be gradual, we would hardly notice it, except for when we decide upon buying our next car or finally start enjoying not having to drive alone so often.

How can the Green Tax Rebate lower our net taxes? One main way is by reducing the awkward bureaucracy of government grants and instead utilizing the efficient market forces. Although government energy grants were certainly helpful, they were inefficient, expensive and provided very limited market penetration. We can save the billions of dollars of grant subsidies and let the free market forces with Green tax incentives effectively provide us the much desired progress on energy & environment. Reducing government spending as such, is the best way to reduce our taxes. This is some of what the Green Tax Rebate can do for us.