**Mighty Consumer**

**Kristin Berger**

**I was born a mighty consumer of energy.**

**The year I was born, my parents bought Amana’s Radarange to microwave my food. I was two when NASA fired up its first Apollo rocket and achieved Kennedy’s moonshot. The electric company was a kid’s show on public television, and something to buy on the Monopoly game board.**

**I grew up in Texas enjoying all of the modern conveniences: summer air conditioning, hot showers, fast food, dishwashers, clothes dryers, heated pools, and gas-guzzling road trips. I was blissfully unaware of the undercurrents of energy enhancing every electron around me. Equal and opposite reactions, and the law of conservation did not have a practical application or affect on my lifestyle.**

**Energy’s value became more apparent to me when I moved into my first apartment. To eat, have light, heat, hot water, and drive my car, I needed to pay for it. My mighty consumption now had a cost. But it was worth every penny. I was hardwired for my mighty consumer lifestyle.**

**Today, how I spend energy means more to me than what it costs. I think about where all the energy I spend goes when I drive my car to buy food and clothers for my family, plug in my phone, and heat my house. I think about how much energy is used to make and transport everything I buy. I'm trying to use energy more wisely because I know that the energy I spend affects the health of my family, and the world in which I live.**

**I am still a mighty consumer compared to most and I am changing my relationship to energy. I can switch fuels, and still maintain and enhance my lifestyle. My buildings, machines, and cars can all source and use energy more efficiently.**

**Since that microwave came to market and NASA brought a man to the moon, much has happened. My 16 year-old daughter Galina shared with me that NASA has an innovative EmDrive engine that appears to gain intense amounts of propulsion via ambient microwave energy. Supposedly, this could make for spaceships that can gain speed without propellant in the vacuum of space. If it's true, then this technology would be a revolution in space—a way to drastically cut down on the mass of spaceships and keep them going by producing continuous thrust, bringing long voyages closer to reality.**

**Less is more: it’s a revelation in the way we think about and manage energy. This EmDrive could someday do more than take me to Mars in 70 short days. Could it be part of the solution to save my home planet?**

**Learn more about the Center for Climate Protection’s solutions here.**

**-link to our homepage?**

**P.S. More information I learned about energy*: maybe not for the blog.***

**The word energy's latin and greek origins mean activity, work.**

**Every object has usable power which can be transferred to another object. That usable power is a property of the object that we call energy, or the object's ability to do work.**

**Energy comes in many forms, and it has many uses, terms of measurement and laws that define it. For example, in physics, the law of the conservation of energy states that energy cannot be created or destroyed. It can be transformed from one object to another and is conserved in that process, rather than lost. To demonstrate potential and kinetic energy roll a pencil off the table.**

**Newton's third law states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. As you sit in your chairs right now, your body is exerting a downward force on the chair and the chair exerts an upward force on your body. There are two forces resulting from this interaction - a force on the chair and a force on your body.**

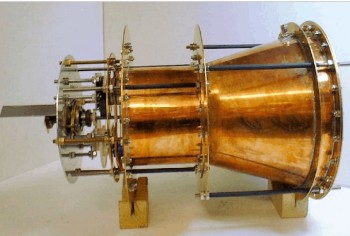
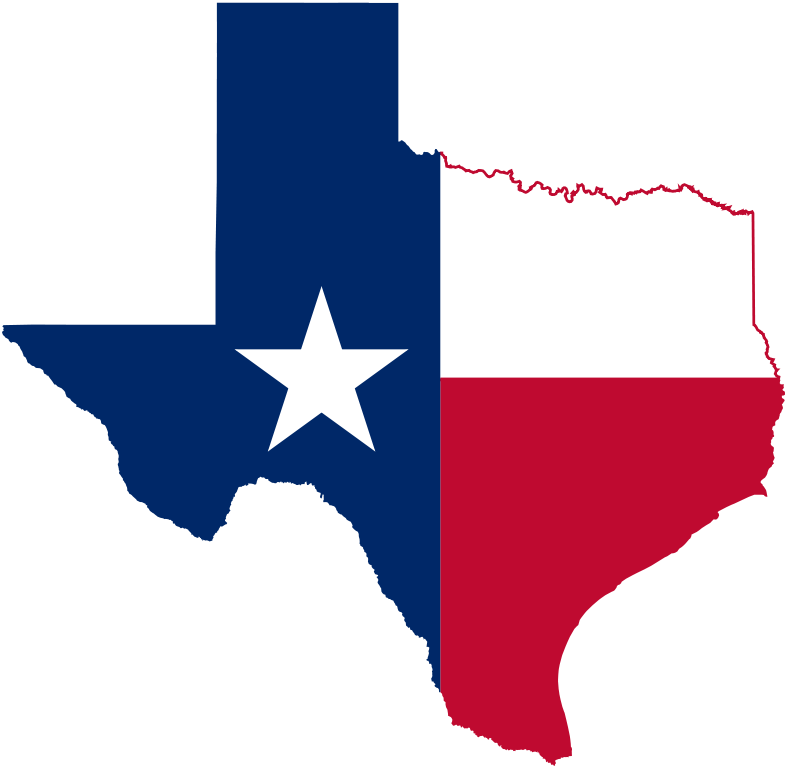
**We are all living organisms, and we all depend up energy sources to stay alive. The radiant energy delivered by the sun and the geothermal energy contained in the Earth drive the Earth’s climate and define the nature and status of all ecosystems. Although you can’t see it, it is why you are alive.**

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