

Why are the fuel and petrochemical industries so important?

The fuel and petrochemical industries power human progress

These industries make modern life possible and keep America moving and growing – strengthening our communities, providing economic and national security, and supporting millions of American jobs. As global population increases and as global economies develop beyond mere subsistence, global energy demand will grow – and petroleum and products made from petroleum will remain essential to fueling human progress.

These industries fuel our 24/7 global economy

We fuel the cars, trucks, and busses that carry millions of passengers to work and school each day. We power the trailers, trucks, and vans that deliver goods across the country, and the cargo ships that make trade possible. In the skies, more than 33,000 US flights, every day, count on fuel and petrochemical manufacturers for everything from fuel to strong, light-weight interior products, including windows, overhead storage bins, and seats.

Petrochemicals are used to make things that keep us healthy and safe

In the world of medicine, petrochemicals are used for everything from insulin and syringes, to MRI machines and advanced prosthetics. Every time we play a sport or exercise, chances are the gear we're using – like shin pads, shoulder pads, helmets, balls and shoes – is made with petrochemicals. Even farming relies on fertilizers made from fossil fuels to improve production and on petroleum fuels to plant and harvest.

Petrochemicals help open up a world of new possibilities

More than half the components in the smart phones, tablets, and laptops that connect us are made with petrochemicals. And innovations like high-performance thermoplastics, made with petrochemicals, continue to revolutionize all phases of scientific discovery.

Did you know?

Petrochemicals are used to manufacture just about everything not made from rocks, plants, other living things, or metals.