

## LET THEM EAT COOKIES: A LESSON IN THE INEQUITABLE USE OF RESOURCES

United States residents constitute less than 5% of the world's population. Yet our citizenry is responsible for about one quarter of the world's consumption of oil (World Watch Institute, 2003), and uses about one third of the world's paper and plastic (Hibbard, Wheeler & Church, 2004).

The following figures are based on the 2003 World consumption of petroleum-based energy (in thousands of barrels per day), according to Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Annual, 2003*, available at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/iea/>

Region	Population (millions)	Percentage of World Population	Consumption of petroleum (thous barrels per day)	Percentage of world's petroleum consumption
Asia & Oceania	3,550.43	56.2%	22,255.5	27.8
Middle East	182.16	2.8%	5,288.1	6.6
Africa	849.45	13.4%	2,702.9	3.4
Eastern Europe & former USSR	384.65	6.1%	5,407.9	6.8
Western Europe	486.91	7.7%	14,950.6	18.7
Central & So. America	410.42	6.4%	5,243.4	6.5
No. America (including US)	425.89	6.7%	24,250.3	30.3
<i>(United States alone)</i>	<i>290.79</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>20,033.50</i>	<i>25.0</i>
World Total	6,319.32	(doesn't equal 100% due to rounding error)	80,098.8	(doesn't equal 100% due to rounding error)