

Petrochemical

Design Intent

Columns and stacks stretch up toward the sky, each higher than the last, reaching their long fingers out from the tangled labyrinth of pipes and tubes below. This strange belching beast takes oil and gas from the earth and works its magic, turning it into the things that power our world. So when you look around your town and see refinery after refinery, you know the world is depending on *Petrochemicals* for everything from plastic toothbrush handles to fuel in our cars.

Technology Components

Petrochemical Monitor-Collection of video clips

Mural Features

- Refinery-A refinery is a facility where raw materials, like crude oil or sugar, are stored (oil depot) and processed to create more valuable and usable products. These plants use various chemical and mechanical processes to purify or convert raw materials. In the United States, oil was first found in 1859 by Edwin Drake near Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Themes to Explore

- Cause and Effect
- Petrochemical Careers
- Oil and Water Comparisons
- Energy Forms
- Magnets
- Viscosity
- Recycling and Fossil Fuel Conservation
- Technology



Mounted Artifacts

- Piping-Large, extensive piping runs throughout oil refineries carrying fluid between chemical processing units. These systems of piping are essential for the entire refining process, from receiving crude oil to producing finished products like gasoline and kerosene.
- Energy Exploration Station-Energy is a basic concept that helps children understand how and why things move, work, and change. In preschool, children are introduced to energy through observation and experience. The energy exploration station can be used to explore light and heat energy, with conversations around other examples of energy from movement, sound, and food.

To Find Out More

- American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers
- International Energy Agency
- U.S. Energy Information Administration