

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 1 : Why Environmentalists Will Eventually Hate Renewable Power | Human Events

Environmentalists do not see fossil fuels and CO2 as a threat to mankind; they see mankind as a threat to the environment. Advocating for renewable energy is just an excuse to implement a constriction of fossil-fuel use and development across the world.

Single-Payer was the goal all along. Obamacare was just another step in the single payer direction. Here is what Elizabeth Warren said that has me scratching my head because it is a lie fake recollection of the facts: Conservative to me means individuals making decisions about their healthcare in a free market instead of bureaucratic decision making backed by government force. This is where government run health care eventually ends up. The individual has no say. And in this case the answer was no even though the medical treatment was to be funded privately instead of being paid for by public dollars. The left is patient. They want Government to grow categorically. But they will take incremental increases. They understand how hard it is to get rid of government programs once they are implemented. Just look at Obamacare. The Arctic was supposed to be ice free by now. We were supposed to have cat 4 and cat 5 hurricanes on a yearly basis. And that is not even looking at replacing less costly energy from fossil fuels with more costly renewable energy. Excerpt from the article: Why do voters think politicians possess enough knowledge to make decisions outside their area of their expertise. Their area of expertise being getting reelected. Once again government bureaucrats making decisions that squash market solutions that would make the economy more productive. Another example of bureaucrats using power to interfere in free decision making by individuals in the market. I and some of my friends are watching CNN now because it is so funny. With more people like me watching, how much of their regular viewers are turning them off. The mainstream media is accusing Trump of what they have been doing for years. The Washington Post is forced to retract. We can see it. That is why this is so funny.

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 2 : Promoters of Renewable Energy Failed to Account for the Return of Cheap Oil | Human Events

Renewable alternatives to fossil fuels are unnecessary / Thomas Sowell Accessible oil reserves are running out / C.J. Campbell Oil reserves are not running out / Sarah E. Emerson.

There have been a host of debates this year between the Democratic and Republican candidates for president. Many of these candidates believe that among our top priorities is to address global warming by reducing carbon emissions. Yet few if any of the candidates have mentioned that nuclear energy—or, as I prefer, terrestrial energy—could serve both these ends. Right now there are operating nuclear reactors in America, but most are owned by utilities which also own coal plants. The few spin-offs that concentrate mainly on nuclear energy, of Jackson, Mississippi, and Exelon, of Chicago—are relatively small players. As for a nuclear infrastructure, it hardly exists. There is only one steel company in the world today that can cast the reactor vessels the foot, egg-shaped containers at the core of a reactor: As countries around the world begin to build new reactors, the company is now back-ordered for four years. Unless some enterprising American steel company takes an interest, any new reactor built in America will be cast in Japan. This is an extraordinary fate for what was once regarded as an American technology. Yet in America, we remain trapped in a Three Mile Island mentality, without even a public discussion of the issue. Almost all our energy derives ultimately from the sun. Plants store solar energy by transforming it into large carbon-chain molecules the process we call photosynthesis. This heat energy can break down other carbon chains, which causes combustion. Fire has been the principle source of energy throughout most of human history. All this began to change about years ago when human beings discovered an older source of stored solar energy—coal. Our most common fossil fuel, coal is the compressed remains of vegetable matter that covered the earth million years ago. Coal is superabundant and we will probably never run out of it. It is also the most environmentally destructive substance ever utilized. The EPA estimates that it kills 30, Americans each year through lung diseases and in China it is doing far worse. Oil, another fossil fuel, is rarer and is believed to be the remains of organisms that lived in shallow seas during the age of the dinosaurs. It was first drilled in , but was used only for lighting and lubrication until the invention of the automobile. Now it constitutes 40 percent of our energy consumption and is perhaps the most difficult fuel to replace. American oil production peaked in and is now declining rapidly—a fact that explains much of our subsequent foreign policy. The Arab oil embargo occurred three years following the peak, when the producing states realized we were vulnerable. The question now is whether world production will reach a similar peak and decline. As Matthew Simmons has written: Natural gas is generally considered the most environmentally benign of the fossil fuels. It gives off little pollution and only about half the greenhouse gas of coal. Natural gas was put under federal regulation in the s, so that by the s we were experiencing a supply shortage. Deregulation in the ,80s led to almost unlimited supplies in the ,90s. Then we began the fateful practice of using gas to produce electricity, resulting in a price crunch and the loss of many gas-dependent industries, such as fertilizer and plastics factories, which have since moved to Mexico and Saudi Arabia to be near supplies. Now American gas production seems to have peaked and we are importing 15 percent of our consumption from Canada. Huge gas supplies have been discovered in Russia and the Middle East, but will not do us much good since gas cannot be easily transported over water. Thus China, India and Europe will be able to buy pipeline gas much more cheaply and are already out-competing us on the world market. It just takes work—and energy—to recover them. They are often limited and may require extravagant use of other resources—mainly land. Hydroelectricity is a form of solar energy. The sun evaporates water, which falls as rain and then flows back to the sea, creating kinetic energy. Rivers have been tapped since Roman times and, beginning in the 19th century, dams were built to store this solar energy. Hydroelectric dams provided 30 percent of our electricity in the s, but the figure has declined to ten percent. And all the good dam sites are now taken. Wind energy has captured the imagination of the public and is touted by many as the fastest growing energy source in the world. The problem with wind is that it is

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

completely unpredictable. Our electrical grid is one giant machine interconnected across the country, in which voltage balances must be carefully maintained in order to avoid damaging electrical equipment or losing data on computer circuits. Wind irregularities can be masked up to around 20 percent, but after that they become too disruptive. In addition, windmills are large and require lots of land. In the East, most are sited on mountaintops, since that is where the wind blows strongest. What about the sun? Solar energy is very diffuse. A square-meter card table receives enough sunlight to run only four watt electric bulbs. At best, solar could provide our indoor lighting, which consumes about ten percent of our electricity. But keep in mind: Sunshine can be harnessed directly in two ways— as thermal heat or through photovoltaics, the direct production of electricity. In the s, California built a Power Tower that focused hundreds of mirrors on a single point to boil water to drive a turbine. The facility covered one-fifth of a square mile and produced ten megawatts. It was eventually closed down as uneconomical. Photovoltaic cells have more promise. They are thin wafers where solar radiation knocks the electrons off silicon atoms, producing an electric current. At present, an installation about half the size of a football field could power one suburban home— when the sun shines, of course. Their greatest benefit is that they are able to provide electricity precisely when it is most needed— on hot summer afternoons when air conditioning produces peak loads. Nuclear or Terrestrial Energy There is one other form of alternative energy often mistakenly grouped with solar: Geothermal is produced when the natural heat of the earth comes in contact with groundwater. Where does this heat come from? Some of this heat comes from gravitational pressures and the leftover heat from the collisions of astral particles that led to the formation of the earth. In order to harness terrestrial energy in the form of uranium isotopes, we mine it, bring it to the surface, concentrate it, and initiate a chain reaction that releases stored energy in the form of heat— the very same process as that used to harness solar energy from coal. When Albert Einstein signed the letter to President Roosevelt informing him of the discovery of nuclear energy, he turned to some fellow scientists and said: The co-efficient, c^2 , is the speed of light squared, which is a very, very large number. What it signifies is that a very, very small amount of matter can be converted into a very, very large amount of energy. This is good news in terms of our energy needs and the environment. It means that the amount of fuel required to produce an equivalent amount of energy is now approximately two million times smaller. At an average 1, megawatt coal plant, a train with railroad cars, each loaded with 20 tons of coal, arrives every five days. Each carload will provide 20 minutes of electricity. When burned, one ton of coal will throw three tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We now burn 1 billion tons of coal a year— up from million tons in By contrast, consider a megawatt nuclear reactor. Every two years a fleet of flatbed trucks pulls up to the reactor to deliver a load of fuel rods. These rods are only mildly radio-active and can be handled with gloves. They will be loaded into the reactor, where they will remain for six years only one-third of the rods are replaced at each refueling. The replaced rods will be removed and transferred to a storage pool inside the containment structure, where they can remain indefinitely three feet of water blocks the radiation. There is no exhaust, no carbon emissions, no sulfur sludge to be carted away hourly and heaped into vast dumps. There is no release into the environment. The fuel rods come out looking exactly as they did going in, except that they are now more highly radioactive. There is no air pollution, no water pollution, and no ground pollution. Objections to Nuclear Energy What are the potential problems with nuclear power? First, some fear that a nuclear reactor might explode. But this is impossible. Natural uranium is made of two isotopes— U and U the latter having three more neutrons. Both are radioactive— meaning they are constantly breaking down into slightly smaller atoms— but only U is fissile, meaning it will split almost in half with a much larger release of energy. Reactor grade uranium— which will simmer enough to produce a little heat— is three percent U In order to get to bomb grade uranium— the kind that will explode— uranium must be enriched to 90 percent U Given this fact, there is simply no way that a reactor can explode. A valve stuck open and a series of mistakes led the operators to think the core was overflowing when it was actually short of cooling water. They further drained the core and about a third of the core melted from the excess heat. But did this result in a nuclear catastrophe? The public was disconcerted because no one was sure what was happening. But in the end the melted fuel

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

stayed within the reactor vessel. In fact, the only radioactive debris was a puff of steam that emitted the same radiation as a single chest x-ray. Three Mile Island was an industrial accident.

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 3 : Alaska's Promise for the Nation - Imprimis

That's what happens when the world is awash in cheap fossil fuels. This isn't the first time American taxpayers have been fleeced by false green energy dreams. In the late s, the Carter administration spent billions of dollars on Synthetic Fuels Corp., which was going to produce fuel economically and competitively.

A friend just introduced me to Peter Watts , a Canadian biologist, author, and blogger. I wish I could think and write half as well as this guy. Every concert pianist knows that the surest way to ruin a performance is to be aware of what the fingers are doing. Every dancer and acrobat knows enough to let the mind go, let the body run itself. Every driver of a manual vehicle arrives at destinations with no recollection of the stops and turns and roads traveled in getting there. You are all sleepwalkers, whether climbing creative peaks or slogging through some mundane routine for the thousandth time. You are all sleepwalkers. Ultimately it always came down to bloodlines and limited resources. Brains are survival engines, not truth detectors. Science is so powerful that it drags us kicking and screaming towards the truth despite our best efforts to avoid it. Not even the most heavily-armed police state can exert brute force to all of its citizens all of the time. Meme management is so much subtler; the rose-tinted refraction of perceived reality, the contagious fear of threatening alternatives. Perfect hexagonal tubes in a packed array. Bees are hard-wired to lay them down, but how does an insect know enough geometry to lay down a precise hexagon? Put a bunch of bees on the same surface, chewing side-by-side, and the circles abut against each other " deform each other into hexagons, which just happen to be more efficient for close packing anyway. I got it in Lviv. I got it in an epic email interview with BiFrost. Even a dozen years ago, the backdrop of my stories" not the plot or the theme, mind you, just the context in which the story took place" might have been described as a forlorn fire alarm: We have to hit the brakes! Hope" dims, as time runs out. Bear with me, though. I have at least one more happy ending in me. You know what it says. Only million will be inundated. Fish stocks in low latitudes will be irreparably hammered, but it might be possible to save the higher-latitude populations. You get the idea. We have twelve years to show results. Marine fisheries crash pole to pole. The number of species that loses at least half their traditional habitat is times higher than would have been the case at 1. Methane clathrates released from a melting Arctic could turn the place into Venus, for all I know. You probably know all this. To shrug, from what I can see. To go back to squabbling over gender pronouns, and whether science fiction has too many dystopias. Remember the pile-on that happened in its wake? Activists and allies all decryig the story as hyperbolic and defeatist? Remember the Hope Police insisting that we had to inspire, not doomsay? Where are they now? One of them is Michael Mann, Climate Science superstar. Jem Bendell, who argues that society is bound for inevitable collapse just a decade down the road and that we might as well start grieving now and avoid the rush. Optimistic or not, this latest report is unprecedented by IPCC standards. In terms of media reaction, the usual suspects say the usual things. David Suzuki " well, zero points for guessing where David Suzuki comes down. The Guardian talks about food. But perhaps the most telling reaction from the right wing comes courtesy of petro-shill Anthony Watts, who" unable to deal with the actual science" simply ran a cartoon showing IPCC authors whining for more money, alongside a guest editorial suggesting that even if it is all true, it would be way cheaper to just give everyone air conditioners. What about the people who actually call the shots? It seems to be a lot more than mere thought experiment to these people: Does it include the approximately 5. To which I say, Bullshit. Down in the states both mainstream parties are sucking too hard on the corporate teat to do anything that might actually endanger the profits of their owners. All of this is true. But you know what, people? There were always alternatives. You could have voted for Sanders. You could have voted Green. You could have voted for Ralph fucking Nader, when he was running. I still remember his announcement, the Three Priorities he laid out for his administration: All it got him was jokes from Johnny Carson about how Jerry Brown had locked up the Grey Whale vote, and jokes from everyone else that usually revolved around the fact he was fucking Linda Ronstadt. None of them had a chance. You knew what they

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

stood for and you wrote them off. You were told they were fringe, that they never stood a chance, so you went out and made it true. Sure, the Neolibs conned you. Because you wanted to be conned. Reap the whirlwind, you miserable fuckers. May your children choke on it. I still watch Netflix. Sure, there are fewer insects, fewer frogs, less wildlife than I remember from childhood more pigeons, at least. More raccoons “ but the ravine across the fence is still green, the sky still blue. There is still so much to love in the Moment. But the second part of that line is even truer: I am scared shitless of the future. Because those birds are closer than even I allowed myself to think, and not so far from now I could be a skeleton in the background of a Mad Max movie. The only hope I can see lies in Donald Trump. Hope for maybe an extra decade or two before the ceiling crashes in. Because what do you do when your family is starving and the guys next door have food? If your family is starving and the house next door has food, you break in. After a couple of terms of Trumpism, though, who knows? The US is already at war with itself. It tears itself apart even as we speak:

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 4 : The Case for Terrestrial (a.k.a. Nuclear) Energy - Imprimis

A transition to renewable energy sources is necessary / Christopher Flavin --Renewable alternatives to fossil fuels are unnecessary / Thomas Sowell --Accessible oil reserves are running out / C.J. Campbell --Oil reserves are not running out / Sarah A. Emerson --The fossil fuels industry is destroying the environment / David Cromwell.

So why is it that across the country they are pushing one of the most regressive taxes in modern times? I am talking about the fad "green" initiative in states such as California, Arizona and New Jersey that require local utilities to buy expensive renewable energy. These renewable energy standards require that utilities to buy expensive wind and solar power. They then pass these costs onto the poor and working class who get stuck paying the tab. In Sacramento, California, the legislature is speeding ahead with one of the most absurd proposals of modern times by mandating percent renewable energy by This would mean no coal, no natural gas and no nuclear power. Meanwhile in Arizona, voters will decide on a ballot initiative funded by billionaire Tom Steyer that would increase renewable mandates to 50 percent over the next decade or so. The goal of these initiatives is to shut down fossil fuel and nuclear energy production in America. These are industries that supply millions of jobs. We have more coal and natural gas than any other nation and liberals want to shut it all down. It is worth mentioning that today in America about 80 percent of our electric power comes from natural gas, coal and nuclear power. In , about 1 percent of our power came from solar power and about 6 percent from wind. The idea of moving from 7 percent to 50 percent or percent reliance on renewable energy without severe disruptions to the way we live our lives is a "Star Wars" fantasy. If you want to keep the lights or the air conditioning on at home, or recharge your iPhone or iPad, or keep the factories and hospitals and schools open, we are going to need the reliability of fossil fuels. If we go hog-wild on green energy mandates we may be facing a future of potential routine brownouts and blackouts. That has been the pattern in many nations and localities that have shutdown their reliable fossil fuel capacities. Just look at the disruption and havoc from the loss of electric power from the hurricane in the Carolinas. That was an act of nature. These brownouts would be from an act of government and radical green groups. They will raise electric power costs sharply. The Wall Street Journal reported last week that residents of states like California and New Jersey with strict renewable mandates pay about 25 percent more in monthly electric utility bills than states that let the market place choose the lowest cost forms of power. The folks at the Manhattan Institute looked at green energy mandates from to They found that of the 10 states with the highest electric power costs, eight of them had renewable mandates " typically 30 percent to 40 percent. Only two of the 10 states with the lowest energy costs had these mandates. The 10 lowest-cost states had electric power costs about half of what is charged in high-cost states. We are talking about hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars of higher costs every year to homeowners to enrich billionaires like Elon Musk and Tom Steyer. This is Robin Hood in reverse: Rob the poor to pay the super rich. Low-income households spend at least four to five times more out of their incomes in energy costs than do millionaires. All of this is so unnecessary. If wind and solar are truly the energy sources of the future " with reliability and low costs " let the market determine that. Why do they need mandates and billions of dollars of federal subsidies to make them work? This is an experiment of imposing high costs on American small businesses, farms and families to pay off wealthy green energy investors. Could anything be more illiberal than this? He is the co-author of "Fueling Freedom: Exposing the Mad War on Energy.

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 5 : Posts “ un-Denial

Energy shortages in the West have rekindled the debate about whether the United States should turn to alternatives to fossil fuels. Authors argue the merits of nuclear power, wind energy, and electric cars in the following chapters: Are Alternatives Energy Sources Necessary?

Are droughts, hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters getting stronger and more frequent? Are carbon dioxide emissions, global temperatures and sea levels putting us on a path for climate catastrophe? Bjorn Lomborg, Director of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, breaks down the facts about the environment and shows why the reality of climate change may be very different from what you hear in the media. And if it is true, do they agree on both the severity of and the solution to climate change? Alex Epstein of the Center for Industrial Progress explains how modern societies have cleaned up our water, air and streets using the very energy sources you may not have expected—oil, coal and natural gas. Climate change is an urgent topic of discussion among politicians, journalists and celebrities—but what do scientists say about climate change? Does the data validate those who say humans are causing the earth to catastrophically warm? Are electric cars greener than conventional gasoline cars? If so, how much greener? And where does the electricity that powers electric cars come from? Environmental economist Bjorn Lomborg, director of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, examines how environmentally friendly electric cars really are. Is man-made climate change our biggest problem? Are the wildfires, droughts and hurricanes we see on the news an omen of even worse things to come? The United Nations and many political leaders think so and want to spend trillions of tax dollars to reverse the warming trend. Will the enormous cost justify the gain? Economist Bjorn Lomborg, director of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, explains the key issues and reaches some sobering conclusions. Is green energy, particularly wind and solar energy, the solution to our climate and energy problems? Or should we be relying on things like natural gas, nuclear energy, and even coal for our energy needs and environmental obligations? Alex Epstein of the Center for Industrial Progress explains. What began as a mission to improve the environment for the sake of humanity became a political movement in which humanity became the villain and hard science a non-issue. The EPA has even classified it as a pollutant. But maybe this is the wrong message. Maybe we should instead reflect on how human progress, even use of fossil fuels, has made our environment cleaner and healthier. Are organic foods really healthier than non-organic foods? Are they better for animals? Are they better for the environment? Bjorn Lomborg, president of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, explains. From California to Africa, we are facing a global water shortage. But one tiny country, in the middle of a desert, has found remarkable solutions. And can we replicate its success?

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 6 : Fossil Fuels Vs. Renewable Energy | AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS ADDICT

Let's reduce use of fossil fuels, declared Philippa Solomon Edison in a letter published in the New Jersey theinnatdunvilla.com?

This does not mean that Google gets its electricity directly from solar panels on the roofs of its data centers or from wind turbines churning away on its corporate campuses. The company basically makes purchasing commitments to renewable projects that offset the conventionally generated electricity that it gets from local utilities. There is, of course, nothing wrong with a business legally adopting measures that it thinks are in the best interests of its customers and shareholders. But if clean energy really does cost less than dirty energy, then what is there to resist? In that case, surely the invisible hand of the marketplace will make the transition to a clean-energy economy irrevocable. So can we all put aside our worries about catastrophic climate change? You see, policies are needed. Google notes that during "the last six years, the cost of wind and solar came down 60 percent and 80 percent, respectively, proving that renewables are increasingly becoming the lowest cost option. As Google obliquely puts it, "We believe the private sector, in partnership with policy leaders, must take bold steps. This group is supported by the media mogul Michael Bloomberg, the Bush-era treasury secretary Henry Paulsen, and the hedge fund manager and prominent Democratic Party donor Thomas Steyer. While the paper does not favor any of those four pathways—renewables, nuclear, carbon capture, and a mix—it focuses mostly on the costs and benefits of the fourth, which reduces emissions via a combination of renewables, nuclear, carbon emissions captured from fossil fuels, and the transformation of transportation toward reliance on electricity, hydrogen, and biofuels. By , the report projects, the extra expenditures for building out low-carbon energy production and consumption infrastructure would be more than offset by fuel costs. The authors argue that clean energy is unfortunately not yet ready to compete head-on with fossil fuels. First and more foremost, they want government to put a price on carbon emissions. From their point of view, this would level the energy playing field. In addition, they rightly want to eliminate tax incentives for fossil fuel extraction, end subsidized flood insurance in high-risk areas, and lower regulatory and financing barriers to clean energy projects. Also, they want companies to disclose material climate-related risks; presumably this would include risks related to capricious public policy. Speaking of capricious public policy, what is the Trump administration likely to do with regard to energy policy—and, in particular, to renewable energy subsidies? As it happens, Congress passed legislation just last year that gave a three-year extension to the 30 percent tax credit for solar investment, then will ramp it down incrementally until it reaches a permanent 10 percent level in . Republicans voted for these subsidies in exchange for Democratic votes in favor of lifting the year ban on exports of crude oil produced in the U. Since these subsidies are already scheduled for a phase-out, it seems unlikely that the Trump administration will regard going after them as a high priority. If Lazard is right, the clean energy transition does look irresistible. Who would want to resist cheaper energy? Other research points out that increasing dependence on renewable energy means building back-up generation that can take over when clouds obscure the sun or wind dies down. In any case, federal energy policy is not the only game in town. As the Natural Resources Defense Council report observes, one-fifth of Americans live in states that currently plan to get at least 50 percent of their energy from renewable sources by around . It will be interesting to see how such states fare economically against states without such mandates.

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 7 : Principled Perspectives: The "Jihad on Pipelines,"™ New Jersey Front

And that is not even looking at replacing less costly energy from fossil fuels with more costly renewable energy. Wind News Update: Catastrophic Failures Jump, Maryland Gets Serious, by Lisa Linowes, at theinnatdunvilla.com

Hipster energy backed by welfare cheques to depleted regions. South Australia has recently completed that transition to renewables. As South Australians discovered, a working definition of renewable energy is unreliable energy. It might also be characterised as unprofitable energy, relying upon subsidies to survive and on reliable fossil-fuel energy as backup. The fact is, it is not a reliable energy source at all - it is imply parasitical upon energy that is. It is an entire alleged industry on the mooch. It quite literally keeps us alive, and thriving ; The fact is, nature is not naturally benevolent. We have to work to make it so, for us. The very point of human production "the reason we get up in the morning and go to work, if we can" is to make our lives better. If human life is our standard, then making human lives better and the natural environment more humane is a good thing. A Very Good Thing. And, therefore, that the fossil fuels people burn to stay warm are not a bad thing. New Zealand was "a long way away" from generating all its electricity from renewables [said Binns], questioning whether that might ever be possible. These are facts the Prime Minister and her messengers refuse to face. The fact is however that we should be against the loss of these jobs not because they are jobs, but because fossil fuels are a life-enhancing product that is being legislated out of existence not competed out without even a real reliable expectation of any viable alternative to replace them. The fact is, we need good reliable energy to survive. We need it to flourish. A good comment below by MarkT: If and when it is found, it will naturally out-compete oil in the market without government intervention.

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 8 : Climate-Change | Religio-Political Talk (RPT)

These renewable energy standards require that utilities to buy expensive wind and solar power. They then pass these costs onto the poor and working class who get stuck paying the tab.

Save Coal , one of the fossil fuels A fossil fuel is a fuel formed by natural processes, such as anaerobic decomposition of buried dead organisms , containing energy originating in ancient photosynthesis. Fossil fuels range from volatile materials with low carbon to hydrogen ratios like methane , to liquids like petroleum, to nonvolatile materials composed of almost pure carbon, like anthracite coal. Methane can be found in hydrocarbon fields either alone, associated with oil , or in the form of methane clathrates. Although fossil fuels are continually being formed via natural processes, they are generally considered to be non-renewable resources because they take millions of years to form and the known viable reserves are being depleted much faster than new ones are being made. The burning of fossil fuels produces around It is estimated that natural processes can only absorb about half of that amount, so there is a net increase of A global movement towards the generation of low-carbon renewable energy is underway to help reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Origin Since oil fields are located only at certain places on earth,[10] only some countries are oil-independent; the other countries depend on the oil-production capacities of these countries Aquatic phytoplankton and zooplankton that died and sedimented in large quantities under anoxic conditions millions of years ago began forming petroleum and natural gas as a result of anaerobic decomposition. Over geological time this organic matter , mixed with mud , became buried under further heavy layers of inorganic sediment. The resulting high levels of heat and pressure caused the organic matter to chemically alter , first into a waxy material known as kerogen which is found in oil shales , and then with more heat into liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons in a process known as catagenesis. Despite these heat driven transformations which may increase the energy density compared to typical organic matter , the embedded energy is still photosynthetic in origin. Terrestrial plants also form type III kerogen , a source of natural gas. There is a wide range of organic, or hydrocarbon, compounds in any given fuel mixture. The specific mixture of hydrocarbons gives a fuel its characteristic properties, such as boiling point, melting point, density, viscosity, etc. Some fuels like natural gas, for instance, contain only very low boiling, gaseous components. Others such as gasoline or diesel contain much higher boiling components. Importance A petrochemical refinery in Grangemouth , Scotland , UK Fossil fuels are of great importance because they can be burned oxidized to carbon dioxide and water , producing significant amounts of energy per unit mass. The use of coal as a fuel predates recorded history. Coal was used to run furnaces for the melting of metal ore. Semi-solid hydrocarbons from seeps were also burned in ancient times,[11] but these materials were mostly used for waterproofing and embalming. Heavy crude oil , which is much more viscous than conventional crude oil, and tar sands , where bitumen is found mixed with sand and clay, began to become more important as sources of fossil fuel as of the early s. These materials had yet to be fully exploited commercially. More recently, there has been disinvestment from exploitation of such resources due to their high carbon cost , relative to more easily processed reserves. The widescale use of fossil fuels, coal at first and petroleum later, to fire steam engines enabled the Industrial Revolution. At the same time, gas lights using natural gas or coal gas were coming into wide use. The invention of the internal combustion engine and its use in automobiles and trucks greatly increased the demand for gasoline and diesel oil , both made from fossil fuels. Other forms of transportation, railways and aircraft , also required fossil fuels. The other major use for fossil fuels is in generating electricity and as feedstock for the petrochemical industry. Tar , a leftover of petroleum extraction, is used in construction of roads. Reserves An oil well in the Gulf of Mexico Levels of primary energy sources are the reserves in the ground. Flows are production of fossil fuels from these reserves. The most important part of primary energy sources are the carbon based fossil energy sources. Coal, oil, and natural gas provided Levels proved reserves during “ Coal: Hodgson, a senior research fellow emeritus in physics at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, expects the world energy use is

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

doubling every fourteen years and the need is increasing faster still and he insisted in that the world oil production, a main resource of fossil fuel, is expected to peak in ten years and thereafter fall. Therefore, higher prices will lead to increased alternative, renewable energy supplies as previously uneconomic sources become sufficiently economical to exploit. Artificial gasolines and other renewable energy sources currently require more expensive production and processing technologies than conventional petroleum reserves, but may become economically viable in the near future. Different alternative sources of energy include nuclear, hydroelectric, solar, wind, and geothermal. One of the more promising energy alternatives is the use of inedible feed stocks and biomass for carbon dioxide capture as well as biofuel. While these processes are not without problems, they are currently in practice around the world. Biodiesels are being produced by several companies and source of great research at several universities. Some of the most common and promising processes of conversion of renewable lipids into usable fuels is through hydrotreating and decarboxylation.

Environmental effects Global fossil carbon emission by fuel type, " According to Environment Canada: Electricity generation produces a large share of Canadian nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide emissions, which contribute to smog and acid rain and the formation of fine particulate matter. It is the largest uncontrolled industrial source of mercury emissions in Canada. Fossil fuel-fired electric power plants also emit carbon dioxide, which may contribute to climate change. In addition, the sector has significant impacts on water and habitat and species. In particular, hydropower dams and transmission lines have significant effects on water and biodiversity. Monuments and sculptures made from marble and limestone are particularly vulnerable, as the acids dissolve calcium carbonate. Fossil fuels also contain radioactive materials, mainly uranium and thorium, which are released into the atmosphere. In, about 12, tonnes of thorium and 5, tonnes of uranium were released worldwide from burning coal. Coal mining methods, particularly mountaintop removal and strip mining, have negative environmental impacts, and offshore oil drilling poses a hazard to aquatic organisms. Oil refineries also have negative environmental impacts, including air and water pollution. Transportation of coal requires the use of diesel-powered locomotives, while crude oil is typically transported by tanker ships, each of which requires the combustion of additional fossil fuels. Environmental regulation uses a variety of approaches to limit these emissions, such as command-and-control which mandates the amount of pollution or the technology used, economic incentives, or voluntary programs. Under regulations issued in, coal-fired power plants will need to reduce their emissions by 70 percent by This aims to make fossil fuels more expensive, thereby reducing their use and the amount of pollution associated with them, along with raising the funds necessary to counteract these factors. According to Rodman D. Griffin, "The burning of coal and oil have saved inestimable amounts of time and labor while substantially raising living standards around the world". These health effects include premature death, acute respiratory illness, aggravated asthma, chronic bronchitis and decreased lung function. So, the poor, undernourished, very young and very old, and people with preexisting respiratory disease and other ill health, are more at risk. This is around three times more than the cost of the Greek bailout up to

DOWNLOAD PDF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS ARE UNNECESSARY THOMAS SOWELL

Chapter 9 : An eco-futurist miscellany | Small Farm Future

"There is only one power that determines the course of history the power of ideas." â€” Ayn Rand.

The green energy movement in America is dead. May it rest in peace. No, a majority of American energy over the next 20 years is not going to come from windmills and solar panels. What crushed green energy was the boom in shale oil and gas along with the steep decline in the price of fossil fuel that few saw coming just a few years ago. National Geographic infamously advertised on its cover in When fracking and horizontal drilling technologies burst onto the scene, U. Oil production from to grew by more than 70 percent and natural gas production by nearly 30 percent. The shale revolution is a classic disruptive technology advance that has priced the green movement out of the competitive market. Oil prices have fallen by nearly half. Instead of letting the green energy fad die a merciful death, the Obama administration only lavishes more subsidies on the Solyndras of the world. Washington suffers from what F. According to a report by the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, over the past five years, the U. A recent report from the trade publication Fusion notes: In the late s, the Carter administration spent billions of dollars on Synthetic Fuels Corp. Solar and wind power were also brief flashes in the pan. A lesson should have been learned there â€” but Washington went all in again under Presidents Bush and Obama. At least private-sector investors have lost their own money in these foolish bets on bringing back energy sources from the Middle Ages like wind turbines. The tragedy of government as venture capitalist is that the politicians lose our money. These government-backed technologies divert private capital away from potentially more promising innovations. Obama at the White House in to tell him about the fracking revolution. Obama arrogantly responded that electric cars would soon replace fossil fuels. Was he ever wrong. But if it does happen, it will be a result of market forces, not central planning.