

DON'T BET ON NET ZERO:

# Why Eliminating Fossil Fuels Would Be Catastrophic!



Governments, corporations and utilities are adopting the Paris Climate Accord "Net Zero by 2050" pledge and related carbon neutral policies that eliminate the use of all fossil fuels to avoid "cataclysmic climate change." However, if implemented, "net zero" mandates will ultimately thrust millions of people into energy poverty, robbing them of accessible, affordable, and plentiful food, water, and healthcare, as fossil fuels are and will likely remain the fundamental building blocks of the modern world.



## Climate Change is Real, Man-Made Climate Catastrophe is Not

Since the 1960's doomsday predictions have been peddled by people in government, science, education and politics. These fatalistic ideas have successfully captured headlines and the collective imagination over the decades - assertions such as "there will be a new Ice Age by 2020" and "entire nations would be wiped off the planet by 2000 due to a warming planet." However, none of these sensationalized claims about ecological collapse have materialized. Why have these environmental alarmists repeatedly gotten it wrong? A combination of ignorance and a political agenda.

## The Modeling is Bunk

Though modeling has its value, models don't predict the future. The problem is that assumptions are made, the input data are not necessarily causally related, and complex formulas are used to force fit trendlines that accurately reflect past events to imply reliable future predictions. Therefore, they only provide some insight into what happened in the past and are very unlikely to predict future scenarios. Aside from the inherent limitations of modeling, what winds up getting distilled, packaged, and distributed to policy makers and the public is typically far worse, including cherry-picked data, context dropping, a refusal to recognize benefits while overstating costs, and lies of omission. This typical manipulation of facts reveals an obvious hidden agenda.

## What Climate Alarmists Are Really After

Climate alarmists are not opposed to fossil fuels as much as they are opposed to "excessive" energy usage. It is common knowledge that transitioning to intermittent and unreliable sources such as

wind and solar will lead to black outs. That seems to be the point. To Net Zero adherents, the real end goal is a radical political agenda to control and suppress consumption of energy altogether. Afterall, it was only less than a decade ago, environmentalists were evangelizing a transition from coal powered plants to natural gas. As soon as fracking technology enabled the industry to efficiently utilize new sources of natural gas, making it abundant and affordable, the environmental lobby turned on it too. They also consistently oppose the expansion of nuclear generation as well as hydropower, both of which produce energy with no emissions. These perplexing positions become easily explained when their motivations are clearly understood.

## The Agenda is Hiding in Plain Sight

An article published in the New Yorker just this year argues, "A green-energy boom...would come with 'monstrous ecological costs,' because of the mining for the minerals needed to produce and use electricity at the required scale." Instead, the recommendation is "that we return 'to living standards of the 1960s' so that we can 'consume less, travel less, build less, eat less wastefully.'" Finally, "If we are to avoid ecological collapse," ...we must pursue "contraction and simplification, a *downsizing of the economy and population*, so that Homo sapiens can prosper within the regenerative and assimilative capacity of the biosphere."

A journalist for the Los Angeles Times recently wrote, "Again and again, I've found myself asking: Would it be easier and less expensive to limit climate change — and its deadly combination of worsening heat, fire and drought and flood — if we were willing to live with the occasional blackout?"

In other words, the agenda is to normalize blackouts and to generate less energy to limit growth.



# ✓ THE CASE FOR FOSSIL FUELS

The discovery that fossil fuels, an abundant supply of raw material, can be turned into energy set up an unparalleled advancement in human flourishing. Intentionally ignored by the Net Zero alarmists are the immense benefits this previously unknown and untapped source of power provides. The industrialization enabled by fossil fuel energy has lifted billions out of energy poverty, increased life expectancy, created food abundance, and provided access to more clean water than ever before. The truth is that fossil fuels have made every individual more productive, they continue to make us resilient to weather and climate, and they are the only source of affordable, reliable, and abundant energy.



## ✓ Fossil Fuels are Affordable

Coal and natural gas are the most cost-effective sources of energy. Solar and wind are not affordable, which is why they require trillion-dollar tax credits and incentives from congress to be “competitive.” As recently as 2021, the Arizona Corporation Commission released a study that showed the pursuit of Net Zero by 2050 would cost ratepayers \$6 billion. The City of Phoenix recognized this in its 2021 Climate Action Plan, acknowledging their Net Zero aspirations for residents would cost the average ratepayer at least \$720 a year. And in practice, our neighbor California provides a clear case study on the unaffordability of “renewables.” There, residents pay 66% more for electricity than the rest of the country and during the past two summers, while experiencing rolling blackouts, faced double digit spikes in rates.

## ✓ Fossil Fuels are Reliable

Fossil fuels are uniquely reliable as they can be supplied 24/7 at an affordable cost whereas “renewables” such as wind and solar are intermittent and rely on when the sun shines and the wind blows. Fossil fuels can also be transported and stored, providing extraordinary versatility in the types of machines they can power. Again, “renewables” prove woefully unsustainable in this regard, with battery technology continuing to be expensive and less efficacious.

The inadequacy of “renewables” to deliver reliable energy was exposed in Texas during the winter freeze of 2021, where a quarter of their generation comes from wind farms. This was known. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the regulatory body responsible for monitoring the region’s grid reliability, warned that Texas was at risk for capacity shortfalls. After years of shedding fossil fuel assets especially coal, combined with extreme weather conditions and non-weatherized renewable technology – 10 million Texans were left without power. Over 200 people died.

## ✓ Fossil Fuels Create Energy Abundance

Most of us take our energy abundance for granted. To this day, three billion people in the world live on less electricity than a refrigerator and a third of the world still uses wood or dung for heating and cooking. The forced “transition” of energy production to meet Net Zero targets would thrust the rest of the world into energy poverty too. Energy abundance means cleaner homes, more productivity, increased food production, greater resiliency to the climate. The path to energy poverty looks like Germany, where high costs for electricity caused by lower supply (as a result of Net Zero policies) have forced people to chop down trees and burn wood to stay warm because they can’t afford to turn on their heater.

## ✓ Fossil Fuels Make Us Resilient

Few discoveries have done more to make us resilient to our climate than fossil fuels. Climate alarmists claim their Net Zero plans improve resiliency, but it’s necessary to understand what they mean by the term. For them, it means shielding the “natural world” from the impacts of human activity. For us, it means protecting humans from a naturally hostile environment. Since the mass adoption of fossil fuels, climate related deaths have plummeted. We can heat ourselves in the cold, cool ourselves in the heat and live in areas with severe natural events, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes because we are able to build structures to withstand whatever nature throws at us. And when governments go full steam ahead in their Net Zero goals, banning carbon-based fertilizers to, in their words, be more “resilient,” you arrive in the position of Sri Lanka – a nation that once overflowed with agriculture to one plunged into famine. Continued use of fossil fuels will make us more and more resilient to ensure we have not just food, water, shelter, but abundance and prosperity.



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