

Demand a Sustainable Planet

Aside from ending violent conflicts and increasing international cooperation in general, the most important global priority is developing and establishing sustainable energy sources. The urgency for this has greatly increased because of the need to reduce CO₂ emissions, which are resulting in climate change.

Even without that factor we would need to reduce and eventually end our dependence on petroleum and natural gas. Both are becoming harder and more expensive to obtain, and because they are found in some areas and not others, have had a long history of causing conflicts and economic exploitation of the countries where they are most plentiful.

Energy that cannot be produced locally is more expensive and less available for countries without wealth or products suitable for international trade, and this holds back their economic development and the quality of life in those places.

As the global demand for energy increases, the Earth's supply of fossil fuels is being diminished faster. It will eventually be entirely exhausted, but long before that point it will become so expensive that the living standard of humanity will be severely worsened. We are already having to resort to higher-cost and more environmentally damaging means such as fracking and [extracting oil from shale.](#)

Coal, of course, is not a desirable alternative. It pollutes the air even more than oil and gas, and requires either dangerous and unhealthy mining or devastating strip mining to produce.

Fortunately, if we can overcome the influence of the huge and powerful fossil-fuel corporations, we can make the transition to clean and sustainable energy production, and make it available to those in every nation in the world, not just those who are rich or lucky. The technologies already exist to make this happen, and new methods are being researched and developed.

There is no single source that will be used exclusively, but a large array of ways that will work together. One of the interesting combinations is the use of wind power, especially at night, to synthesize artificial carbon-neutral fuels. This not only enables storing the energy for use when sun and wind energy need to be supplemented, but also produces a fuel that is portable for use in vehicles.

Sustainable Energy

Without the immense wealth and power of the old energy interests and related corporations, and the propaganda they can dispense, accelerating the transition would be far easier. Not only the oil companies and those who depend directly on them resist change, but the military arms industry, and many multinational companies that depend on US economic domination, which in turn is focused on energy security-- foreign oil. It is a complex web of corrupting interests, and there is

nothing new about it. Commercial and industrial entities have been influencing foreign policy for our entire history.

Breaking their power will not only enable us to take control of our energy policy, but our foreign policy as well, making it more humane, less aggressive, making our nation a better and more just citizen of the world. We, the people, still wield the ultimate power whenever we come together to use it.

--cosmicrat *February 1, 2013*