

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : WIND

Re: WIND

Author: : pcray1231

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URL:

Quote:

Seriously , the newest theory from the science end is that the earth is abiotic , it manufactures oil consistantly , and replenishes oil over time.

Thats not exactly a new theory, it's a fact, and I don't remember a time when that wasn't known. Coal, oil, and gas all three are formed from decaying plant matter. And yes, this process is happening as we speak to make more coal, oil, and gas.

That doesn't escape the fact that its a slow process. There's not much question that we're using it at a much faster rate than the Earth can replenish it at. Now, as far as when we'll run out, thats a heck of a question. The Earth has a huge inventory of the stuff, enough to last probably thousands of years. The problem is that all of it is not easy, or even feasible to get, we've gotten most of the low hanging fruit. Thats why there's the terminology of "recoverable" resources. I've seen estimates that at the current techology our supply will start to diminish significantly in x number of years (estimates vary, but usually less than 100). But those estimates usually ignore the increases in technology which are occurring, and allowing us to get at more resource. So x doesn't seem to change much with time, we are constantly moving some reserves from "unrecoverable' to "recoverable". It's most likely that, if we wanted to, we could use fossil fuels for a very long time.

The question is whether we want to. We are butting up against climate change issues, importation issues (esp. oil), and as we go after more difficult reserves, the immediate environmental impact also increases. Even if we could get by with fossil fuels for hundreds of years, it is in our best interest to use them sparingly and increase cleaner and safer types of energy. Plus, thats like leaving a large bank account as a safety net for later generations.