

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : WIND

Re: WIND

Author: : salvelinusfontinalis

Date: : 2010/5/19 1:46:27

URL:

Quote:

That's 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 it's 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, that's 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. That's why there's the terminology of "recoverable" resources. I've seen estimates that at the current technology 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, that's like leaving a large bank account as a safety net for later generations.

pcray,

A well thought out post and I do agree with you except for just one thing.

I keep seeing we in your sentences. Like:

"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."

The American people and the people of the world are users of the product. I don't think any of us really want to use fossil fuels if we didn't have to. They are unclean and expensive. The truth of the matter is there is no we in that statement.

It should read:

It is most likely that, if they want to, they could make us use fossil fuels for a very long time. The question is whether they want us to.

They = big business/oil companies

And yes they want us to use the product as long as they can make us.

One could argue that everyone could stop driving but that is kind of not really realistic. One could also argue to change your heating unit to solar but that is also expensive and with everything going up in price.....isnt realistic either.

"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. "

Even if they could get by with fossil fuels for hundreds of years, it is their best interest to make us use them as much as they can until we find cleaner and safer types of energy.

Unfortunately .....money rules the world and we have not much of a choice but to buy at this point.