

## How today's global anti-fossil-fuel agenda is crippling American small businesses

By Alex Epstein, founder of the Center for Industrial Progress and author of *The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels* (2014) and *Fossil Future* (2022).

*Testimony to the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Supply Chains*

Because energy is a major input in every business, the lower cost and more reliable energy is, the lower cost and more reliable everything is. The higher cost and less reliable energy is, the less efficient and less competitive US businesses, including small businesses, are.

Today we're hearing how irrational policies are crippling one crucial area of the energy business: offshore oil production, which provides almost 1/6th of our domestic oil production—production without which gasoline would be far more expensive and far, far less secure.<sup>1</sup>

What I would like to do today is put the irrational attack on offshore drilling in its broader context, which is that it is just a tiny piece of today's rabidly irrational global anti-fossil-fuel agenda—an agenda that poses as rational and scientific but is actually the opposite.<sup>2</sup>

The dozens of discrete attacks of the Biden Administration on the fossil fuel industry are not isolated incidents; they are all attempts to impose today's global anti-fossil-fuel agenda, which says that fossil fuel use must be essentially eliminated by the year 2050.

At the beginning of his administration, President Biden announced a US “whole of government” approach to “climate change”—which in practice means an overarching commitment to rapidly eliminate fossil fuels. Every agency was told to figure out new ways to attack fossil fuels.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [U.S. Energy Information Administration - Oil and petroleum products explained, Where our oil comes from](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Alex Epstein - How a fake climate emergency created a real energy emergency](#)

<sup>3</sup> “The order establishes the National Climate Task Force, assembling leaders from across 21 federal agencies and departments to enable a whole-of-government approach to combatting the climate crisis.” [The White House - FACT SHEET: President Biden Takes Executive Actions to Tackle the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, Create Jobs, and Restore Scientific Integrity Across Federal Government, January 27, 2021](#)

The Biden administration is systematically committed to attacking fossil fuels on 4 fronts, every one of which drives higher cost and lower reliability:

1. Fossil fuel investment
2. Fossil fuel production
3. Fossil fuel transport
4. Fossil fuel use, e.g. electricity generation

## The costs of punishing fossil fuel investment

Fossil fuels investments are long-term commitments that require confidence in a payoff. Our government, often colluding with activists, incessantly discourage fossil fuel investments directly and by threatening the industry's future.

The Federal government has been a major driver of ESG anti-fossil-fuel climate policies, with regulators pressuring financial institutions to declare their commitment to getting off fossil fuels. The SEC's recent "climate disclosure rules" are taking the damage to the next level.<sup>4</sup>

The screenshot shows the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) website. At the top left is the SEC logo. To its right is the text "U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION". On the top right is a search bar with the text "Search SEC.gov" and a magnifying glass icon, with "COMPANY FILINGS" written below it. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with white text for "ABOUT", "DIVISIONS & OFFICES", "ENFORCEMENT", "REGULATION", "EDUCATION", "FILINGS", and "NEWS". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is a sidebar with a "Newsroom" header and a "Press Releases" sub-header, with a list of links: "Speeches and Statements", "SEC Stories", "Securities Topics", "Media Kit", "Press Contacts", "Events", and "Webcasts". The middle column features a "Press Release" header and a large headline: "SEC Proposes Rules to Enhance and Standardize Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors". Below the headline is the text "FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 2022-46" and a paragraph starting with "Washington D.C., March 21, 2022 – The Securities and Exchange Commission today proposed rule changes that would require registrants to include certain climate-related disclosures in their registration statements and periodic reports, including information about climate-related risks that are reasonably likely to have a material impact on their business, results of operations, or financial condition, and certain climate-related financial statement metrics in a note to their audited financial statements. The required information about climate-related risks also would include disclosure of a registrant's greenhouse gas emissions, which have become a commonly used metric to assess a registrant's exposure to such risks." The right column is titled "Related Materials" and contains three bullet points: "Proposed Rule", "Fact Sheet", and "Comments Received".

## The costs of punishing fossil fuel production

<sup>4</sup> [SEC - SEC Proposes Rules to Enhance and Standardize Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors](#)

Punishing restrictions and onerous taxes specifically on fossil fuel production are common in developed countries, suppressing supply from the freest nations on the globe.

One of the many punishments President Biden has inflicted on the supposedly-preferred fossil fuel industry was his early moratorium on issuing oil and gas leases on Federal lands. And the Biden admin continues to delay and decline holding lease sales.<sup>5</sup>

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

POLITICS


## Federal Oil Leases Slow to a Trickle Under Biden

President, citing climate change, spurns resources his predecessors relied on to boost U.S. energy production

By [Timothy Puko](#) [Follow](#) and [Anthony DeBarros](#) [Follow](#)

Sept. 4, 2022 5:30 am ET

[Share](#) [Bookmark](#) [Print](#) [Gift unlocked article](#) [Listen \(9 min\)](#)



President Biden has promoted a transition to clean energy and away from fossil fuels. PHOTO: MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

WASHINGTON—The Biden administration has leased fewer acres for [oil-and-gas drilling offshore and on federal land](#) than any other administration in its early stages dating back to the end of World War II, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis.

## The costs of punishing fossil fuel transport

One of the most effective ways of punishing the fossil fuel industry has been attacking critical transport infrastructure, including pipelines and export/import facilities, with delays, regulations, and lawsuits.

Biden's destruction of the Keystone XL pipeline inhibited Canada from bringing oil to market, which prevents Canada from using its vast oil deposits to their full potential—meaning lower global supply and higher prices for oil.<sup>6</sup>

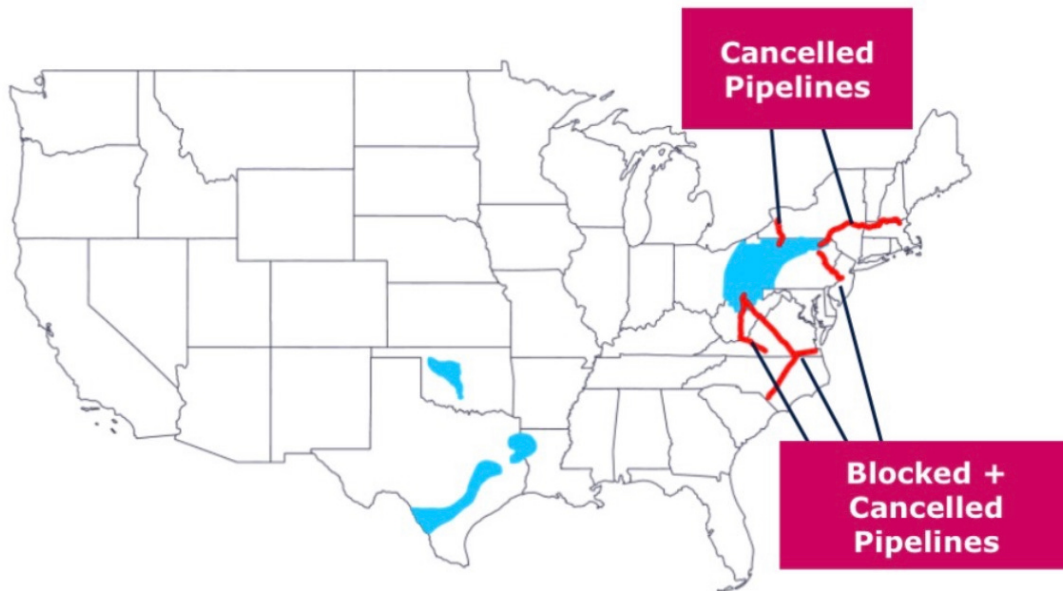
<sup>5</sup> [WSJ - Federal Oil Leases Slow to a Trickle Under Biden](#)  
[The White House - Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis](#)

<sup>6</sup> [CNBC - Keystone pipeline officially canceled after Biden revokes key permit](#)  
[Competitive Enterprise Institute - Lessons from the Demise of ANWR and Keystone XL](#)

Perhaps our most destructive way of singling out fossil fuel transport for punishment has been killing natural gas pipelines.

We have a virtually limitless supply of gas and an incredible ability to ramp up production.

But we're blocking pipeline after pipeline.<sup>7</sup>



Project	Status	Gas Volumes (Bcf/d)
Constitution	Cancelled	0.7
Penn East	Cancelled	1.1
Northern Access	Opposed	0.5
MVP	Opposed	2.0
Atlantic Coast	Cancelled	1.5
Northeast Direct	Cancelled	1.2
Total		7.0 Bcf/d

### The costs of punishing fossil fuel use

Our government's "whole of government" attack on fossil fuels seeks out every way it can to punish fossil fuel use.

<sup>7</sup> [EQT - Nationwide Poll Shows Nearly 70% of All Voters Support Increasing Natural Gas Production](#)

Perhaps the most destructive form of this is punishing reliable, fossil fueled electricity generation and thereby destroying our grid.

As a Californian, I am well aware of the costs of punishing fossil fuel electricity generation. Prematurely shutting down vital fossil fuel plants led to devastating statewide blackouts in 2020.<sup>8</sup>

And 5 days after pledging to go all EVs, Newsom told us there wasn't enough power to charge our EVs.<sup>9</sup>

*Flex Alert Conservation Actions*

Before 3 p.m.:

- Pre-cool home by setting the thermostat to as low as 72 degrees
- Use major appliances, including:
  - Washer and dryer
  - Dishwasher
  - Oven and stove for pre-cooking and preparing meals
- Adjust blinds and drapes to cover windows

From 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.:

- Set thermostat to 78 degrees or higher, if health permits
- Avoid using major appliances and **charging electric vehicles**
- Turn off all unnecessary lights

Nationally, we're in an electricity crisis, with reliable power plants shutting down far faster than they are being built.<sup>10</sup>

And yet the Biden EPA plans to make things much worse with 7 policies that gravely threaten 10-20% of our reliable capacity in the next 7 years.<sup>11</sup>

Every one of the hundreds of actions that the Biden Administration takes in the name of its "whole of government" anti-fossil-fuel agenda is harmful to American businesses, including small businesses, who have to struggle with higher energy costs and lower reliability.

---

<sup>8</sup> [Alex Epstein - Talking Points on California Blackouts](#)

<sup>9</sup> [The Babylon Bee - State With No Electricity Orders Everyone To Drive Cars That Run On Electricity](#)  
[CAISO - California ISO issues Flex Alert for today, Aug. 31](#)  
[FoxWeather.com - California asks residents to avoid charging electric cars amid intense heat wave](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Alex Epstein - Electricity Emergency](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Alex Epstein - The EPA vs. the grid](#)

## **The lie that solar and wind can rapidly replace fossil fuels**

The anti-fossil-fuel agenda pretends it's not harming us by claiming, in contradiction to all evidence, that rapidly eliminating fossil fuels won't make energy more expensive and less reliable—because unreliable solar and wind can somehow replace fossil fuels.

If solar and wind could actually replace fossil fuels, they wouldn't need massive government punishments of fossil fuels plus massive government preferences of their own—mandates, subsidies, and no penalty for unreliability.<sup>12</sup>

If solar/wind could actually replace fossil fuels, China, which dominates the production of solar/wind components, wouldn't be using coal to produce these components—and wouldn't have > 300 planned new coal plants designed to last over 40 years.<sup>13</sup>

## **How to fight back against the global anti-fossil-fuel agenda**

To counter the global anti-fossil-fuel agenda, American businesses need to use their powerful voices to do two things above all:

1. Refute the falsehood that fossil fuels are bringing about climate apocalypse
2. Offer a pro-freedom energy agenda

In my supplemental testimony, I have included a document, “Countering the world's rigged conversation about energy and climate,” that thoroughly exposes the faulty thinking methods and abuse of science behind the falsehood that fossil fuels are bringing about climate apocalypse.

In my supplemental testimony I have also included a document, “The Energy Freedom Platform,” that lays out a positive, pro-human, pro-science, pro-freedom energy agenda based on liberating our ability to empower the world using fossil fuels and to develop truly cost-effective alternatives.

My goal in testifying and answering your questions today, as well as in my work more broadly, is to give pro-freedom legislators, businesses, and other influencers the resources they need to fight for the energy freedom that all Americans and our businesses need to flourish.

---

<sup>12</sup> [Alex Epstein - The Myth of Fossil Fuel Subsidies](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Global Energy Monitor - Global Coal Plant Tracker](#)

# Countering the world's rigged conversation about energy and climate

Today's conversation about energy and climate is "rigged" with bad thinking methods, misleading terms, false assumptions, and anti-human values—all of which serve to promote deadly policies

JUL 13, 2023 • PAID

♡ 79

💬 4

🔄 6

Share

⋮

*I've been in Washington, DC this week speaking to major groups of legislators about how to effectively champion energy freedom, including the freedom to use fossil fuels. (Here's a [story in Energy & Environment News](#) covering one of my presentations.)*

*In preparation for my visit I put together this guide for how to discuss energy and climate issues in the face of a cultural conversation that is incredibly biased against fossil fuels. I think it's one of the most valuable things I've ever written. I hope you enjoy it.*

## Our rigged conversation about energy and climate

### Just as legal systems can be rigged, so can cultural conversations

We are all familiar with the idea of a legal system that is rigged against certain types of people. For example, in the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the legal system of (fictional) Maycomb County, AL, has a deep racist bias against black individuals that dismisses strong evidence of their innocence and embraces pseudo-evidence of their guilt.

A rigged legal system inevitably leads to immoral results—as captured by the saga of Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a good man who, after resisting the sexual advances of a white woman, was arrested, prosecuted, and convicted for rape.

Just as it is possible for a legal system to be rigged, so it is also possible for a culture's intellectual conversation to be rigged. To continue with the example of racism, it is unfortunately commonplace throughout history for the conversation about particular

racial minorities to be rigged. One element this almost always involves is **ignoring the positives of individuals in the disfavored group and exaggerating or fabricating negatives.**

For example, in (the unfortunately numerous) anti-Semitic cultures it is commonplace to ignore any positive attributes and contributions of individuals of Jewish descent, while fabricating the idea that all Jews are miserly and uncaring.

## **4 common ways in which cultural conversations are rigged**

4 common dimensions in which a culture's intellectual conversation can be rigged are:

1. **Bad thinking methods.** For example, with racist conversations, the aforementioned examples of ignoring positives and exaggerating or fabricating negatives.
2. **Misleading terminology.** For example, criticisms of Jews as “greedy” misleadingly associate 1) financial success earned by productive achievement, a good thing, with 2) getting money by uncaringly exploiting others, a bad thing.
3. **False assumptions.** For example, racist cultural conversations falsely assume that an individual's ideas and character are determined by their skin color.
4. **Anti-human values.** For example, racist cultural conversations treat some categories of human beings as intrinsically non-valuable.

## **Rigged conversations are common—no conspiracy required**

To say that a conversation is “rigged” is not to assert a conspiracy in which a few people covertly decide to craft a cultural conversation with bad thinking methods, misleading terminology, false assumptions, and/or anti-human values. (Although this can happen.)

It is to recognize that very frequently, for whatever set of reasons, cultural conversations operate on bad thinking methods, misleading terminology, false assumptions, and anti-human values that rig them against coming to true and pro-human conclusions.

And the cultural conversation that I study, the conversation around energy and climate, is rigged to a degree that almost no one can imagine.

## **To counter the rigging you must first understand it**



To help you counter the rigged nature of this conversation, I will identify 12 distortions that rig our global energy and climate conversation to reach the deadly conclusion that we should rapidly eliminate fossil fuel use to prevent climate catastrophe.

By making you aware of these distortions, I hope to

1. Help you point them out explicitly whenever they occur (which is all the time).
2. Help you lead and have energy/climate conversations without these distortions.

After explaining the 12 distortions I'll share some of my favorite "talking points" that reframe—de-rig—the conversation, so that we can make others see the truth.

## **12 distortions around which the energy and climate conversation is rigged**

1. (Bad thinking method) **Looking only at the negative side-effects of fossil fuels**, while ignoring the massive and unique benefits of fossil fuels.
2. (Bad thinking method) **Only looking at the positives of solar and wind** while ignoring obvious negatives. E.g., praising solar and wind as "secure" because they don't depend on Russia like oil and gas do, when in fact they depend on China far more than oil and gas depend on Russia.
3. (Bad thinking method) **Only looking at the negatives of CO2 emissions** while ignoring the positives (such as greater plant growth and the prevention of cold-related deaths—which far outnumber heat-related deaths).
4. (Bad thinking method) **Engaging in "partial cost accounting" for solar and wind**—claiming they are cheap by only looking at some of their costs (e.g., solar panels, wind turbines) while ignoring other huge costs (e.g., the cost of 24/7 life support for an unreliable input that can easily go near-0).
5. (Bad thinking method) **Ignoring the massive climate-related benefits of fossil fuels**—their benefits in helping us master climate danger—even though these benefits have thus far overwhelmed any negative climate side-effects of fossil fuels.
6. (Misleading terminology) **Using the vague term "climate change,"** which conflates *some* human impact on climate (which the vast majority of climate scientists agree

with) with *catastrophic human impact on climate* (which is not supported by climate science and economics).

7. (Misleading terminology) **Using “climate crisis” or “climate emergency”** as the basic noun to refer to the state of today’s climate—thereby asserting a catastrophe without needing to provide any evidence.
8. (Misleading terminology) **Using the terms “energy” and “electricity” interchangeably**, even though the vast majority of the energy that powers our machines is not electricity but the direct burning of fossil fuels for transportation, industrial heat, or residential heat. This (along with “partial cost accounting,” helps promote the false idea that solar and wind electricity can rapidly replace all fossil fuel energy.
9. (False assumption) **Treating climate** (and, more broadly unimpacted nature) as a **“delicate nurturer”**: a stable, sufficient, safe phenomenon that human impact ruins, when in fact climate (and more broadly unimpacted nature) is dynamic, deficient, and dangerous—and human impact makes it a lot safer (e.g., irrigation radically reduces drought-related deaths).
10. (Anti-human value) **Treating today’s global energy use as sufficient or even excessive**, when in fact most of the world is desperately lacking in energy. E.g., 3 billion people use less electricity than a typical American refrigerator.
11. (Anti-human value) **Treating human impact on climate, and more broadly human impact on nature, as intrinsically bad**. E.g., assuming all “climate change” is bad even though rising CO2 clearly leads to beneficial greening and warming will clearly save many lives in many places (far more people die of cold than of heat).
12. (Anti-human value) **Making eliminating human impact on climate at all costs** (e.g., “net zero”) **our number one global climate, energy, and political goal**—instead of embracing the proper, pro-human goals of maximizing climate livability, human empowerment, and human flourishing.

## **Countering our rigged conversation about energy and climate**

Understanding the distortions around which our energy/climate conversation is rigged is one key to countering them, because once you understand these distortions you can

explicitly and effectively point them out.

3 other keys are:

- Explaining what you think is the right way to think about energy and climate issues—not just criticizing the wrong ways.
- Explaining the essential facts about energy and climate that are relevant to policy-making—not just counters to various myths.
- Advocating a positive energy and climate policy—not just negatively reacting to bad ones.

## **Explaining what you think is the right way to think about energy and climate issues—not just criticizing the wrong ways**

*Here are some ways I explain what I think is the right approach to thinking about energy and climate—including my thinking methods, assumptions, and values—all using precise terminology.*

### ***Thinking methods***

**Summary: I believe that we should think about fossil fuels the way we should think about every other product or technology: we should carefully weigh the benefits and the side-effects. And that includes the many climate-related benefits of fossil fuels that no one talks about, such as their ability to power irrigation systems that alleviate drought.**

- When we're evaluating what to do about any technology we must **factor in not only its negative side-effects but also its benefits**. E.g., oil-powered equipment and natural gas fertilizer are crucial to feeding 8 billion people.
- Even though we obviously need to factor in fossil fuels' benefits, not just their negative side-effects, **most designated experts totally fail to do this**. E.g., "expert" climate scientist Michael Mann 100% ignores fossil fuels' unique agricultural benefits in his book on fossil fuels and climate. [1](#)
- **One huge benefit we get from fossil fuels is the ability to master climate danger**—e.g., fossil-fueled cooling, heating, irrigation—which can potentially neutralize

fossil fuels' negative climate impacts.

- Even though we **obviously need to factor in fossil fuels' climate mastery benefits**, our **designated experts totally fail to do this**. E.g., the UN IPCC's multi-thousand-page reports totally omit fossil-fueled climate mastery! That's like a polio report omitting the polio vaccine. [2](#)
- When we're carefully **weighing the climate side-effects of fossil fuels** we must **consider both negatives** (more heatwaves) **and positives** (fewer cold deaths). And we must **be precise, not equating some impact with huge impact**.
- Even though we obviously need to factor in both negative and positive impacts of rising CO2 with precision, **most designated experts ignore big positives** (e.g., global greening) **while catastrophizing negatives** (e.g., Al Gore portrays 20 ft sea level rise as imminent when extreme UN projections are 3ft/100yrs).

## **Assumptions**

*Summary: I believe that Earth is not a “delicate nurturer” that human impact inevitably ruins, but rather “wild potential” that human impact generally improves, transforming Earth's naturally deficient and dangerous environment into an unnaturally abundant and safe environment.*

- Much of our energy and climate conversation **operates on the false assumption I call “the delicate nurturer”**: Earth (including climate) exists in a delicate, nurturing balance—that's **stable, sufficient, and safe**—but human beings are “parasite-polluters” whose impact inevitably destroys the delicate balance and us with it.
- **Insofar as you believe that Earth is a “delicate nurturer” and humans are “parasite polluters,” you expect that continuing human impact on Earth will inevitably lead to disaster**. That's why catastrophists keep thinking their next catastrophe prediction will be the one that's right.
- In reality, **Earth is not a “delicate nurturer” but “wild potential”—it's dynamic, deficient, and dangerous—and human beings are not “parasite-polluters” but “producer-improvers”** whose impact generally produces new value and therefore makes the world much more livable for us.

## **Values**

*Summary: When we are evaluating what to do about global issues such as energy and climate, I believe our primary moral goal should be advancing human flourishing on Earth—which means a lot of impact, since Earth and its climate are not naturally very livable. I reject the idea that our primary goal should be to eliminate our impact on Earth.*

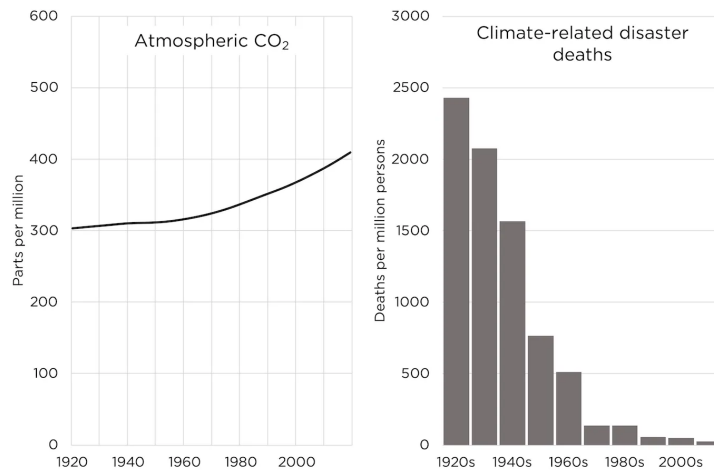
- Many “experts,” when evaluating what to do about global issues such as energy and climate, are implicitly or explicitly **operating on the goal of minimizing or eliminating human impact on Earth**. For example, the leading climate-related goal today is “net-zero emissions,” which means “eliminate human impact on climate.”
- If your primary goal is to eliminate human impact on Earth, then you will **inevitably regard today’s highly-impacted Earth as bad, even though it’s never been more livable for human beings**. Note how many “experts” say we have “destroyed” the Earth and its climate, even though humans have never flourished more—including being safer than ever from climate danger.
- **I believe that our goal for the Earth should not be to eliminate human impact on Earth—which, taken consistently, means mass poverty and ultimately death—but to advance human flourishing on Earth**. That means we need to impact Earth a lot, just to do so intelligently such that the benefits to human flourishing of our impacts far outweigh the negative side-effects.
- I believe that our goal for climate should not be to eliminate human impact but to **maximize climate livability**. We want a climate that’s as livable as possible for human beings. If we use fossil fuels and the planet is a little warmer overall as a side-effect, but the benefit of all the energy is that we have made ourselves 50 times less likely to die from climate-related disasters like temperature extremes and storms and floods, that’s a great thing. <sup>3</sup>
- Over the last century, fossil fuels have made us far better off climate-wise, driving down climate disaster deaths by a factor of 50. Compare today’s fossil-fueled “climate mastery” to the real “climate crisis” of the past, when we were having very little impact on climate but were terrorized by climate—since climate is naturally so dangerous and we had so little energy and technology to master it.

**Explaining the essential facts about energy and climate that are relevant to policy-making—not just counters to various myths**

## ***Benefits of Fossil Fuels***

***Summary: If 8 billion people are going to have the cost-effective energy they need to flourish—including to master our naturally dangerous climate—in the far greater quantities needed, fossil fuel use needs to increase. Rapidly restricting fossil fuel use, as many experts advocate, is deadly.***

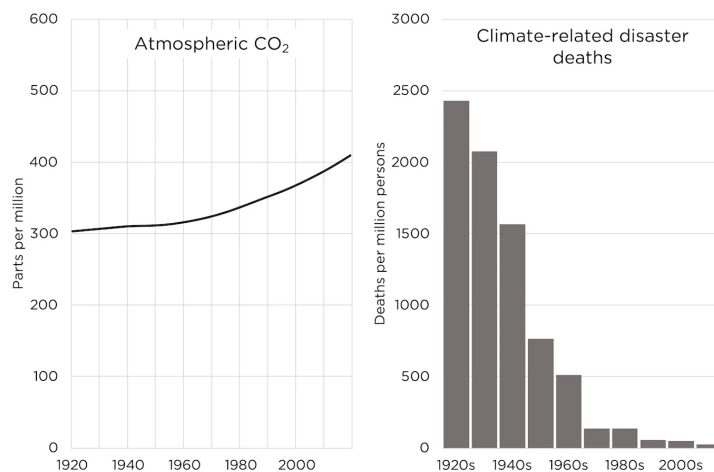
- ***Undeniable energy fact 1: Cost-effective energy is essential to human flourishing***  
Cost-effective energy—affordable, reliable, versatile, scalable energy—is essential to human flourishing because it gives us the ability to use machines to become productive and prosperous.
- ***Undeniable energy fact 2: The world needs much more energy***  
Billions of people lack the cost-effective energy they need to flourish. 3 billion use less electricity than a typical American refrigerator. 1/3 of the world uses wood/dung for heating/cooking. ***Much more energy is needed.*** [4](#)
- ***Undeniable energy fact 3: Fossil fuels are uniquely cost-effective***  
Despite 100+ years of aggressive competition, fossil fuels provide 80%+ of the world's energy and they are still growing—especially in the countries most concerned with cost-effective energy. E.g., China.
- ***Undeniable energy fact 4: Unreliable solar/wind are failing to replace fossil fuels***  
Despite claims that solar + wind are rapidly replacing fossil fuels, they provide < 5% of world energy—only electricity, 1/6 of energy—and even that depends on huge subsidies and reliable (mostly fossil-fueled) power plants. [5](#)
- ***Undeniable energy fact 5: Fossil fuel energy gives us an incredible climate mastery ability***  
Fossil fuels have helped drive down climate disaster deaths by 98% over the last century by powering the amazing machines that protect us against storms, extreme temperatures, and drought. [6](#)



### ***The climate side-effects of fossil fuel use***

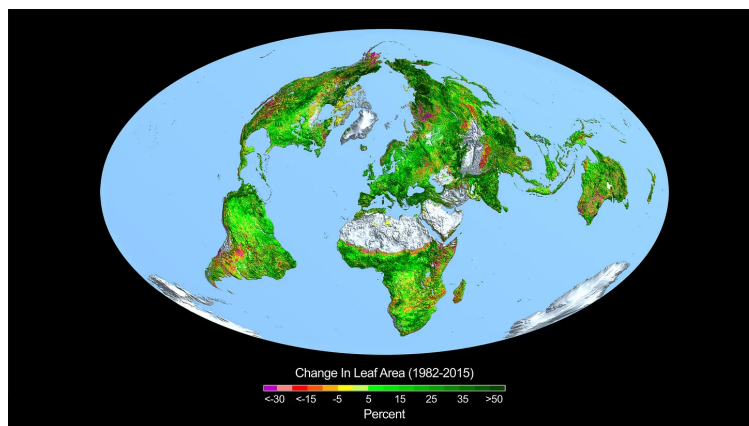
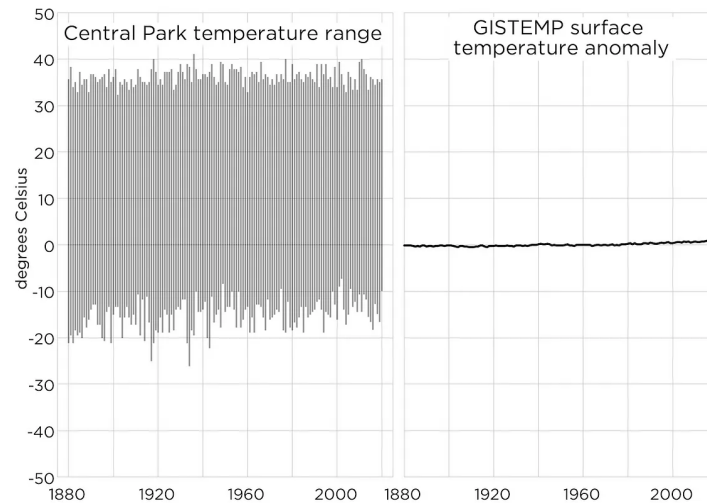
Summary: If we're free to use fossil fuels, we'll continue to have a warming impact that we can master and flourish with. If we follow “net zero” policies we'll have a less-impacted climate in the short-term, but the climate and the world as a whole will be incomparably less livable, with billions plunging into poverty and premature death.

- ***Undeniable climate fact: Fossil fuel energy gives us an incredible climate mastery ability***  
Fossil fuels have helped drive down climate disaster deaths by 98% over the last century by powering the amazing machines that protect us against storms, extreme temperatures, and drought. [Z](#)



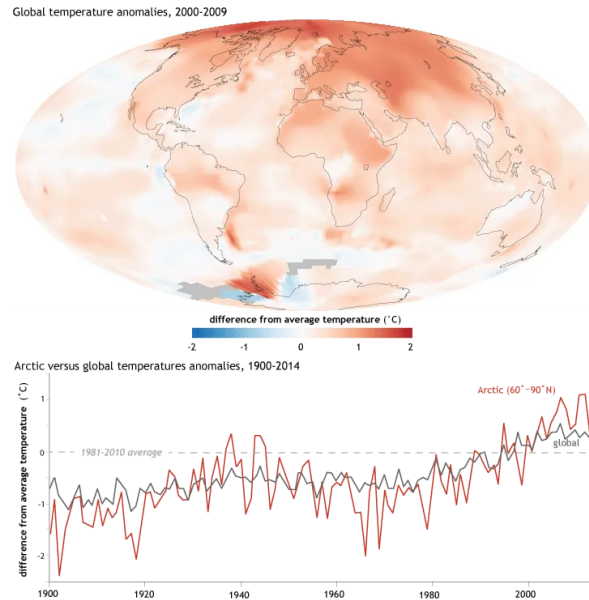
- ***Undeniable climate fact: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions correlate with 1°C warming, + greening***  
Fossil fuels' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have contributed to the warming of the last 170 years,

but that warming has been mild and manageable—1° C. Here's what that looks like compared to normal temp changes. [8](#)



- ***Undeniable climate fact: Deaths from cold far exceed deaths from heat***  
While leading institutions portray a world as increasingly riddled with heat-related death, the fact is that even though Earth has gotten 1°C warmer far more people die from cold than heat (even in India!). [9](#)
- ***Undeniable climate fact: Warming from CO2 occurs more in colder places***  
The mainstream view in climate science is that more warming will be concentrated in colder places (Northern latitudes) and at colder times (nighttime) and during colder seasons (winter). This is good news. [10](#)





- ***Undeniable climate fact: Rising CO2 leads to diminishing warming***  
Mainstream climate science is unanimous about a conclusion that the public is, shamefully, not made aware of: the “greenhouse effect” of CO2 is a *diminishing* effect, with additional CO2 leading to less warming.
- The only moral and practical way to reduce CO2 emissions is innovation that makes low-carbon energy globally cost-competitive. So long as fossil fuels are the most cost-competitive option for people, especially in developing nations, they will (rightly) choose to emit CO2 vs. plunge even further into poverty.
- So long as America and other wealthy nations follow the anti-development “green energy” movement and the “climate emergency” narrative, they will continue to adopt senseless policies that harm their economies and security while doing nothing to bring about globally cost-competitive low-carbon energy.

### ***The truth about alternatives***

**Summary:** No alternative or combination of alternatives to fossil fuels have any near-term hope of replacing fossil fuels’ unique combination of affordability, reliability, versatility, and scalability in a world that needs far more energy. We should, however, liberate alternatives from any and all restrictions that are preventing them from reaching their full potential.

- *Myth: We can rapidly reduce fossil fuels at very low costs.*

Truth: Fossil fuels are a **uniquely cost-effective** form of energy, which is why they are 80% of global energy and still growing. **Rapidly reducing fossil fuels, in a world that needs far more energy, is catastrophic.** [11](#)

- *Myth: Solar and wind are cheap.*

Truth: Solar and wind are **unreliable, parasitical sources of energy that add costs to the grid.**

Claims of “cheapness” are based on **ignoring the full costs of solar + wind**—above all the cost of a reliable grid that gives them 24/7 life support.

- *Myth: Solar/wind is cheaper than fossil fuels because Lazard’s “Levelized Cost of Energy” (LCOE) is lower for solar/wind.*

Truth: LCOE, by Lazard’s own admission, **doesn’t include many costs of solar/wind**—above all the **cost of a reliable grid needed for 24/7 life support.** [12](#)

- *Myth: Solar and wind are “winning in the marketplace,” out-competing fossil fuels and nuclear with superior economics.*

Truth: Unreliable, parasitical solar and wind are only **“winning” when given massive preferences**—mandates, subsidies, and no penalty for unreliability.

- *Myth: Nuclear is too expensive, so we should use solar/wind instead.*

Truth: **Solar/wind can’t provide reliable energy; nuclear can.** And nuclear is only **expensive** because it has, with the help of many “green” activists, been **falsely labeled unsafe and effectively criminalized.**

- *Myth: Solar and wind will reduce our dependence on adversaries for energy.*

Truth: If Europe’s level of dependence on Russia for natural gas scares you, know this: **America is even more dependent on China for many of the key components of solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries than Europe is on Russia for natural gas.** [13](#)

**Advocating a positive energy and climate policy—not just negatively reacting to bad ones**

***Overall energy policy***

- **What's your policy on energy, environment, and climate?**

I believe in energy freedom: the freedom to use all forms of energy, with laws against emissions that are truly harmful and reasonably preventable.

- 5 key energy freedom policies are:
  1. Liberate responsible development
  2. End preferences for unreliable electricity
  3. Reform air and water emissions standards to incorporate cost-benefit analysis
  4. Reduce long-term CO2 emissions via liberating innovation
  5. Decriminalize nuclear

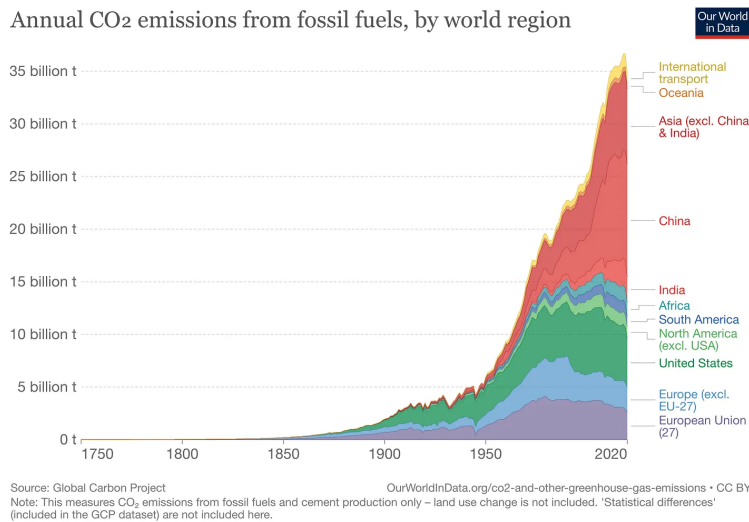
For a detailed positive energy policy, see [The Energy Freedom Platform](#).

## **A pro-human, pro-energy, pro-freedom policy toward GHG/CO2 emissions**

*Summary: America is taking a “punish America” approach to CO2 emissions, making our energy more expensive and less reliable while China, Russia, and others increase their emissions.*

*We need a “liberate American innovation” policy instead.*

- The only moral and practical way to reduce CO2 emissions is innovation that makes low-carbon energy globally cost-competitive. **So long as fossil fuels are the most cost-competitive option for people, especially in developing nations, they will (rightly) choose to emit CO2.**
- The US causes < 1/6 of global CO2 emissions—and falling. The main reason global CO2 emissions are rising is because **billions of people in the developing world are bringing themselves out of poverty by using fossil fuels to power factories, farms, vehicles, and appliances.** [14](#)



- The developing world overwhelmingly uses fossil fuels because that is **by far the lowest-cost way for them to get reliable energy**. Unreliable solar and wind can't come close. That's why **China and India have hundreds of new coal plants in development.** [15](#)
- The only way to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and benefit America is to promote innovation that makes low-carbon energy truly reliable and low-cost. **Are China and India going to stop using fossil fuels so long as they are the lowest-cost option?** They won't and they shouldn't.
- The only moral and practical way to reduce emissions long-term is **liberating innovation that makes low-carbon energy globally cost-competitive—while ending all policies that punish America via rapid short-term emissions reduction.**

Some key policies 🙌

- **Reject the false idea of “climate emergency.”**

Our government's disastrous anti-fossil fuel policies are justified by the disastrous conflation of “climate impact,” which is real, with “climate emergency,” which is not, given today's unprecedented safety from climate danger.

- **Withdraw from the Paris Agreement and encourage others to do the same.**

The Paris Agreement is an immoral agreement that calls for rapidly eliminating

fossil fuels, which are the only near-term way to provide reliable energy for billions of people at prices they can afford.

- **Reject and eliminate all carbon taxes.**

Carbon taxes increase our energy costs based on the false premise that the “negative externalities” of fossil fuels’ CO<sub>2</sub> emissions outweigh the “positive externalities” of the uniquely low-cost, reliable energy they provide for billions.

- **Amend the Clean Air Act to explicitly reject the bogus “endangerment finding.”**

Much of today’s “punish America” CO<sub>2</sub> policy is rooted in EPA's “endangerment finding,” which treats fossil fuel use as a net harm to “public health and welfare” even though it radically improves both.

- **Decriminalize nuclear energy.**

The overregulation of low-carbon nuclear verges on criminalization, making nuclear costs 10X higher than they need to be. Decriminalizing nuclear, including radical reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Environmental Protection Agency, will make energy far cheaper, safer, and cleaner.

- **End all preferences for unreliable electricity.**

Today's electric grids are being ruined by systemic preferences for unreliable electricity, which causes prices to rise and reliability to decline. Eliminating them can help make America a leader in low-cost, reliable electricity.

- **Allow free-market competition for EVs.**

The proper policy toward EVs, which are promising but not cost-effective for the vast majority of Americans, is 1) let them compete on a free market and 2) make sure we have plenty of low-cost, reliable electricity.

- **Summary: The pro-human CO<sub>2</sub> policy is to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions long-term through liberating innovation, not punishing America.**

This will ensure plenty of energy for the foreseeable future and enable truly promising alternatives such as nuclear to be globally cost-competitive.

## Bonus: Concise answers to common questions, including loaded questions

- [How to answer loaded climate questions](#)
- [Snappy answers to energy questions](#)

## Popular links

- [EnergyTalkingPoints.com](#): Hundreds of concise, powerful, well-referenced talking points on energy, environmental, and climate issues.
- My new book [Fossil Future: Why Global Human Flourishing Requires More Oil, Coal, and Natural Gas—Not Less](#).
- [Speaking and media inquiries](#)

*“Energy Talking Points by Alex Epstein” is my free Substack newsletter designed to give as many people as possible access to concise, powerful, well-referenced talking points on the latest energy, environmental, and climate issues from a pro-human, pro-energy perspective.*

---

1 [Michael E. Mann, Tom Toles - The Madhouse Effect](#)

2 [Alex Epstein - The IPCC's perversion of science](#)

3 For every million people on earth, annual deaths from climate-related causes (extreme temperature, drought, flood, storms, wildfires) declined 98%--from an average of 247 per year during the 1920s to 2.5 in per year during the 2010s.

Data on disaster deaths come from EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium – [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be) (D. Guha-Sapir).

Population estimates for the 1920s from the [Maddison Database 2010](#) come from the Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Faculty of Economics and Business at

University of Groningen. For years not shown, population is assumed to have grown at a steady rate.

Population estimates for the 2010s come from [World Bank Data](#).

- 4 [IEA - Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all](#)  
[Robert Bryce - A Question of Power: Electricity and the Wealth of Nations](#)
- 5 [BP - Statistical Review of World Energy](#)
- 6 [UC San Diego - The Keeling Curve](#)

For every million people on earth, annual deaths from climate-related causes (extreme temperature, drought, flood, storms, wildfires) declined 98%--from an average of 247 per year during the 1920s to 2.5 in per year during the 2010s.

Data on disaster deaths come from EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium – [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be) (D. Guha-Sapir).

Population estimates for the 1920s from the [Maddison Database 2010](#), the Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Faculty of Economics and Business at University of Groningen. For years not shown, population is assumed to have grown at a steady rate.

Population estimates for the 2010s come from [World Bank Data](#).

- 7 [UC San Diego - The Keeling Curve](#)

For every million people on earth, annual deaths from climate-related causes (extreme temperature, drought, flood, storms, wildfires) declined 98%--from an average of 247 per year during the 1920s to 2.5 in per year during the 2010s.

Data on disaster deaths come from EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium – [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be) (D. Guha-Sapir).

Population estimates for the 1920s from the [Maddison Database 2010](#), the Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Faculty of Economics and Business at University of Groningen. For years not shown, population is assumed to have grown at a steady rate.

Population estimates for the 2010s come from [World Bank Data](#).

8 [NASA - Carbon Dioxide Fertilization Greening Earth, Study Finds](#)

Regional trends vary, but overall the world's leaf area increased by 5.4 million square kilometers, or an amazon rainforest worth of greening, between 2000 and 2017 alone with over 1/3 of vegetated land showing an increase while only 5% showed a loss of green vegetation.

“Long-term satellite records reveal a significant global greening of vegetated areas since the 1980s, which recent data suggest has continued past 2010. ... Global vegetation models suggest that CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization is the main driver of global vegetation greening.”

[Piao, S., Wang, X., Park, T. et al. Characteristics, drivers and feedbacks of global greening. Nat Rev Earth Environ 1, 14–27 \(2020\).](#)

[NASA - GISS Surface Temperature Analysis](#)

[NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information - Daily Summaries Station Details, NY, Central Park](#)

9 [Zhao et al. \(2021\)](#)

10 [NOAA - Climate change rule of thumb: cold "things" warming faster than warm things](#)

11 [BP - Statistical Review of World Energy](#)

12 “Other factors would also have a potentially significant effect on the results contained herein, but have not been examined in the scope of this current analysis. These additional factors, among others, could include: capacity value vs. energy value; network upgrades, transmission, congestion or other integration-related costs...” “This analysis does not take into account potential social and environmental externalities or reliability-related considerations”

[Lazard’s Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis — Version 14.0](#)

13 [Alex Epstein - How the Biden Administration threatens energy security](#)

14 [Our World in Data - Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by world region](#)

15 [Global energy Monitor - Global Coal Plant Tracker](#)





## Energy Talking Points

by Alex Epstein



# The Energy Freedom Platform

By Alex Epstein

The root of our global energy crisis is Green Energy Fascism. The solution is Energy Freedom.

Originally published August 10, 2022

The root of our global energy crisis is Green Energy Fascism—the idea that government should have total control over the energy industry (fascism) used for the “green” goal of rapidly eliminating fossil fuels and nuclear.

The solution is Energy Freedom—the idea that individuals should be free to produce and consume energy how they judge best, provided they follow laws protecting everyone from truly harmful emissions and dangerous practices.

- **There is no inevitability whatsoever to today's energy crisis.**

In fact, if we replace Green Energy Fascism with Energy Freedom policies, America can lead the world in producing low-cost, reliable, plentiful, and cleaner energy—enriching ourselves and billions around the world.

- **The Opportunity**

Human beings' knowledge of how to produce energy in a way that is low-cost, reliable, and plentiful has never been greater. And we can do it in ever-cleaner ways.

As the world's leading economy and energy producer, America can lead a global energy renaissance.

- **The Problem**

Even though the world could be in an energy renaissance, it is instead in an energy crisis—with skyrocketing costs and declining reliability around the world.

Europe fears industrial collapse and citizens freezing this winter. Poorer regions fear literal starvation.<sup>1</sup>

- **The Cause**

The direct cause of our unnecessary energy crisis is simple: governments around the world have restricted the supply of energy through anti-fossil-fuel, anti-nuclear policies. When demand outstrips supply, energy prices rise—which causes all other prices to rise.

- **The Root Cause**

The reason that governments have been able to get away with anti-fossil-fuel, anti-nuclear policies is that they have used the pretext of climate apocalypse to justify Green

Energy Fascism—total government control over the energy industry to achieve “green” goals.

- Today's energy policy is fascist.

Economically, “fascism” means: unlimited control of govt over private industry.

Our leaders exercise such control by using mandates, subsidies, prohibitions, and ESG rules to dictate the behavior of energy producers and energy consumers.

- Using energy fascism to achieve “green” goals makes a terrible policy far worse.

“Green” = “minimal impact.” Since all energy impacts nature, all energy can be opposed as not “green.”

In practice, “green” energy means, disastrously: oppose everything but unreliable solar and wind.

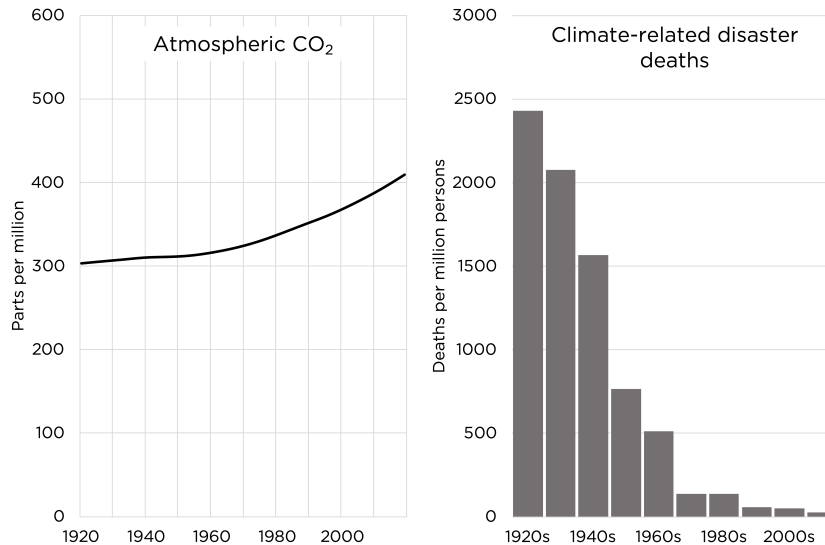
- The pretext of Green Energy Fascism is “climate emergency.”  
But:

1. While humans impact climate, there is no emergency; in fact we're safer than ever from climate.

2. Trying to lower CO2 emissions by favoring unreliable solar/wind and punishing nuclear is wildly ineffective.

- While “climate change”—humans impacting climate—is real, “climate emergency” is not. The world is slowly becoming warmer—at a cold point in geological history, when many more people die of cold than of heat. This doesn't at all justify rapidly restricting global fossil fuel use.<sup>2</sup>
- Fossil fuels actually overall make us far safer from climate by providing low-cost energy for the amazing machines that protect us against storms, protect us against extreme temperatures, and alleviate drought. Climate disaster deaths

have decreased 98% over the last century.<sup>3</sup>



- The only practical way to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions long-term is to make low-carbon energy globally cost-competitive.

Green Energy Fascism policies of dictating the energy industry in favor of unreliaables against nuclear—the most proven low-carbon form of energy—are unjustifiable.

- Green Energy Fascism not only ruins energy via dictatorial, anti-fossil-fuel/anti-nuclear control of industry, but also via “green” hostility to all development. Every aspect of energy is held back by “green” policies—including the massive mining and development solar and wind require.<sup>4</sup>
- America and the world need an energy policy that ensures plenty of fossil fuel energy and fosters cost-competitive low-carbon alternatives like nuclear—making energy increasingly lower-cost, more reliable, more plentiful, cleaner, and lower-carbon.

That policy is Energy Freedom.

- **The Energy Freedom Solution**

America can enrich itself and empower billions with policies that free human ingenuity to produce energy in as low-cost, reliable, plentiful, and clean way as possible—while protecting us against harmful emissions and dangerous practices.

- **The 5 steps to Energy Freedom are:**

1. Liberate responsible development
2. End preferences for unreliable electricity
3. Reform air/water emissions standards to incorporate cost-benefit analysis
4. Reduce long-term CO2 emissions via liberating innovation
5. Decriminalize nuclear

- **1 Liberate responsible energy development**

Anti-development policies prevent every form of energy from reaching its potential—from natural gas to nuclear to solar. Liberating responsible development throughout America will create unprecedented energy abundance and progress.

- **2 End preferences for unreliable electricity**

Today's electric grids are being ruined by systemic preferences for unreliable electricity, which causes prices to rise and reliability to decline.

Eliminating them can help make America a leader in low-cost, reliable electricity.<sup>5</sup>

- **3 Reform air/water emissions standards based on proper cost-benefit analysis.**

Today's Environmental Protection Agency does huge harm to prosperity and health via energy-crippling emissions standards that fail any reasonable cost-benefit analysis.

Such analysis will lead to more energy and better health.

- **4 Reduce CO2 emissions long-term through liberating innovation, not punishing America.**

The only reasonable way to reduce CO2 emissions long-term is innovation that makes low-carbon energy globally cost-competitive. Punishing US emissions is senseless self-destruction.

- **5 Decriminalize nuclear energy**

The overregulation of low-carbon nuclear verges on criminalization, making nuclear costs 10X higher than they need to be. Decriminalizing nuclear, including radical reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Environmental Protection Agency, will make energy far cheaper, safer, and cleaner.<sup>6</sup>

- Despite the fact that Green Energy Fascism policies are causing a global crisis, our leaders just passed a bill that should be called the Green Energy Fascism Act because it increased government control over energy, further punished fossil fuels, and did nothing to liberate nuclear.<sup>7</sup>
- This Fall, Congressional and gubernatorial candidates have the opportunity to do the right thing and win over voters by rejecting this Administration and Congress's green energy fascism, and embracing Energy Freedom.

Americans rightly want cheap energy and prosperity back.

## References

---

1. [Reuters - BASF says it would stop output if gas supplies fell to half its needs Politico - Europe's looming coal crisis](#)  
[↪](#)
2. [Zhao et al. \(2021\)](#)  
[↪](#)
3. For every million people on earth, annual deaths from climate-related causes (extreme temperature, drought, flood, storms, wildfires) declined 98%--from an average of 247 per year during the 1920s to 2.5 in per year during the 2010s.  
  
Data on disaster deaths come from EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium – [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be) (D. Guha-Sapir).\br/>  
Population estimates for the 1920s from the [Maddison Database 2010](#) come from the Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Faculty of Economics and Business at University of Groningen. For years not shown, population is assumed to have grown at a steady rate.  
  
Population estimates for the 2010s come from [World Bank Data](#).



4. E&E News - Biden EPA deals major blow to Pebble mine



5. Alex Epstein - An Open Letter to Senator Joe Manchin



6. Lovering et al. (2016) - Historical construction costs of global nuclear power reactors



7. Alex Epstein - Stop The Manchin Green New Deal



## Next up: Manchin GND →

Type your email...

Subscribe

☰ substack

Center for Industrial Progress

Home

Overview

Maui's wildfire tragedy caused by "green" policies, not warming

25 myths in the media's Idalia coverage

Electricity Emergency

irrefutable FF

CO2 policy

20 Myths

EFP

Manchin GND

energy crisis testimony

education opportunity

NDCs

AR6

UN IPCC

Positive Alternative to ESG

30 by 30

Resilience

LNG Exports