

Watt's Happening? #253

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Clean Energy QUICK FACTS ...with some opinion thrown in!



Wind and solar renewable energies are the fastest growing energy sources in the world not because they are a large part of the climate change solution

(which they are), but because they are profitable to run and their energy is inexpensive.

AN UNLIKELY LEADER

One of the big announcements from the UN climate conference in Dubai was the pledge by more than 110 countries to triple the amount of renewable energy they are generating by 2030. This radical energy transition is already well underway in a most unlikely place: Texas.

Most folks are surprised to hear that Texas is a leader in renewable energy. The state that got rich powering the nation for decades with oil and gas is now the country's biggest producer of wind and solar.

This did not happen to slow climate change or help the environment. They did it because it makes a lot of money for landowners and developers and

saves a lot of money for consumers. Now over 30% of Texas energy comes from wind and solar, with lots more on the way.

RENEWABLES ARE CHEAPER

The electricity from some renewable energy sources is now cheaper than any other and continues to fall. That is why renewables are experiencing such rapid growth around the world.

Renewables are inherently cheaper than conventional energies because they do not **create** energy (or pollution during operation), they merely **convert it or collect it**: solar panels convert sunlight to electricity, wind turbines convert the energy in moving air to electricity, a heat pump

collects and concentrates heat from the outside air, geothermal collects and concentrates heat from the earth. Renewable energy “fuel” is provided free of charge. This, along with the rapid up scaling of production, makes renewables, especially solar and wind, the cheapest energies ever invented.

THE CARBON TAX

Right now, it pays to pollute. It is so much cheaper and easier to just dump your waste into the environment than having to deal with it. The carbon tax is a tax on carbon dioxide and methane air pollution that encourages polluters to deal with it: reduce it now then over time get it down to zero.

Canada’s Carbon Tax contributes just 0.15% to increased consumer prices overall and yet is one of our best tools for fighting climate change. “Axe the Tax” is a political movement with very little basis in fact.

INDIGENOUS ENERGY

In a bid to achieve “energy sovereignty” indigenous led renewable energy projects number over 2000 across Canada. Indigenous clean energy is paving the way and provides hope in the face of the conventional media’s doom and gloom.

DON’T SAVE THE PLANET!

I hear too often from conventional media, and even from COP 28 speakers, that we must do so-and-so to “save the planet” or because “the environment is in big trouble.”

Actually, the planet will do quite well either with us or without us. It has been through much worse

than this (ice ages and asteroid impacts come to mind), and “the environment” is not something “over there, separate from us” that we need to save or fix because we “care about it.”

No, what we need to save and fix is us, because we care about ourselves, our friends and relatives, and our children. We are now a critical piece of the planet and the environment. Our day-to-day actions are radically affecting all planetary systems. We are locked in: their fate is our fate.

We cannot hurt the environment without hurting ourselves. Every species lost, every tonne of air pollution, every tenth of a degree of global warming, hurts us directly. We are not above or better than the environment. We are 100% reliant on it for our happiness, prosperity and survival. We are raising the planetary alarm not to “save the planet” but to make a last ditch effort to save ourselves.

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IS CANADA a BIG POLLUTER?

Although Canada contributes less than 2% of global carbon pollution (about the same as global air travel) our per capita consumption and emissions are among the highest in the world. That means we have room to improve. Lot’s of room.

If we say that Canada’s global contribution is insignificant, then the same reasoning applies to provinces, cities and individuals: there’s no point in doing anything. That’s just crazy logic.

Sure, we are each just a drop in the bucket, but individual action has a collective impact: with enough drops we can fill that bucket.