

What is our Best Energy Policy?

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Debate continues across the country on our nation's energy future. What is our best energy policy going forward?

Few doubt that energy has improved lives and enabled human progress. Yet one of the biggest challenges facing the world is the polarized debate over the future of energy. Facts and economics are too often replaced with assertions and emotions. Discussion about fossil fuels and alternative energy sources often degenerate into a battle to delegitimize the other side. This is a recipe for inaction. And it keeps billions of people trapped in energy poverty.

Concerns About Carbon – The most affordable and reliable forms of energy come from fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels to generate electricity or provide power necessarily releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a gas we exhale every time we breathe. Erupting volcanoes, decaying trees, wildfires, and the animals on which we rely for food all emit CO₂. This by-product, which is essential for plant life and an unavoidable aspect of human life, is at the center of today's climate change controversies.

Those who believe that increased CO₂ emissions inevitably lead to global warming believe this change is directly attributable to the widespread use of fossil fuels. Because they believe further warming will have catastrophic effects, they have waged a war on carbon for many years. They advocate restricting carbon-based fuels in favor of subsidized alternative energy and encourage policymakers to make fossil fuels more expensive in hopes of discouraging their use.

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the U.S. emitted 12% fewer energy-related carbon emissions in 2018 than 2005. Thanks to innovations and improved technologies, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have declined by 20% over the last decade.

The Biden Administration's desire for extensive climate regulations will drive up the cost of energy significantly. Higher energy costs disproportionately harm low-income families, who would be directly hurt by Biden's plans. Studies indicate Biden's climate plans would increase the average American family's energy costs by \$4,550 per year and the loss of 6 million jobs.

Recent studies indicate that if the U.S. eliminated all CO₂ emissions immediately, it would avert 0.07 degrees of warming by 2050. How many lost jobs is that worth?

Reality has a way of biting back if you're not paying attention to it. The whole idea behind the Biden Administration's climate plan is to take fossil fuels away from the people. And the bureaucrats are nowhere near having a replacement for fossil fuels. Sooner or later, people will figure this out.

Beware of Crocodile Tears - All too often state and federal climate plans propose launching new carbon tax schemes that have much more to do with raising revenue than helping our environment.

Ideological opposition to fossil fuels is an anti-human stance that views ordinary people not as problem-solving sources of ingenuity, but as only mouths to feed producing environmental damage.

A Better Way – Inexpensive energy is necessary for economic advancement by the world's poor and for recovery from the staggering economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. By focusing on more efficient use of energy, it is possible to lower emissions without imposing carbon tax schemes or even more environmental restrictions. You can't address the risks of climate change without America's oil and natural gas industry, which continues to lead the world in emissions reductions while delivering affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy to all Americans. Energy policy that values innovation over tax schemes and regulation can turn energy policy challenges into great opportunities for economic growth. This approach is not just good business, it's good stewardship and a much better strategy for improving the quality of life for all.

The U.S. has a unique opportunity to show the world how energy abundance can be used as a positive force to lift people up, which is different than a zero-emissions world. We should work to ensure more people have access to safe, affordable, and reliable energy. Because to rise out of poverty and enjoy health and safety, people need more energy, not less.