



Energy supply is more important than climate change

Nobody's Fuel explains, from a practical scientific perspective, why there are currently no viable substitutes for fossil fuel on the scale required by society. The film emphasizes how important energy is to human welfare and why energy efficiency and conservation will not limit atmospheric carbon dioxide. Nobody's Fuel provides a practical science-based analysis of renewable energy (e.g., wind, solar, hydro, biomass, and geothermal power) showing how it is woefully inadequate to meet our current and future energy needs. Nobody's Fuel is not a doomsday scenario, instead recommending where action and research initiatives must focus in order to develop a viable carbon-free form of energy. With 85% of world energy currently supplied by fossil fuels, it is clear that solutions must not only mitigate atmospheric carbon dioxide but secure a predictable and affordable fuel supply.

Energy conservation

People use energy in many ways to make their lives more enjoyable, which is their right in a free society. This is often controversial because what is considered frivolous by some is seen as essential by others. Conservation saves a relatively small amount of energy, but can extend fossil fuel supplies and give more time to implement solutions. We must all save energy in our own way, however we can.

Energy efficiency

All increases in energy efficiency are good. However, most of the easy increases have already been achieved. Many technologies are already mature, such as wind, hydro and electricity generation, thereby leaving little potential for increased energy efficiency.

Furthermore, improved efficiency has a history of spurring energy consumption. Computers of the 1960s consumed much power and were housed in air conditioned rooms. Total power consumption was negligible. Today's computers are much more efficient, but there are so many that electricity demand has increased.

Renewable energy

Hydroelectric power is virtually the perfect form of energy, but its world-wide growth potential is limited. Biomass projects, such as making ethanol from corn, provide little net energy benefit. By the time you plant, water, harvest, transport, and process the corn, you have used almost as much high grade energy as there is in the final fuel. Wind and solar power are intermittent, contain very little power and reliable power from fossil fuels or hydro must cover the gaps. Wind power is small and will remain small for good technical reasons – it only exists through generous subsidies. Considered in total, renewable energies are much too small to replace fossil fuels now and in the future.

The hydrogen economy

Hydrogen is not a source of energy, but an energy carrier, like electricity. It is manufactured using energy. Although hydrogen is often suggested as the transportation fuel of the future when oil is scarce, the difficulties of supply and use are daunting and success is not certain.

Nuclear fission energy

There are 442 nuclear power plants in 30 countries today. One kilogram of uranium is roughly baseball-sized and contains the power of 2.3 million litres of gasoline. There are no perfect substitutes for fossil fuels, however only nuclear fission has the potential to: 1) Support 3 times current world energy use in 2100; 2) Continue protection of the environment; 3) Sharply reduce carbon emissions; 4) Provide long term supply of high quality energy; 5) Supply transportation energy.



Energy supply is more important than climate change