



## Peak Problem

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on April 21, 2008 - 7:00pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

*While many of us are rightly focussed on the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change, reader Greg Baker (meganerd) believes we have a lot more than just two problem 'peaks' to deal with. See what you think :-)*

1. Our first problem is peak oil. This is happening now.
  2. We have another major problem, and that is how we are going to scale up renewable energy power plants. We need to very quickly reach a very rapid rate of production -- "peak foil" and "peak coil". This will need to happen in the next few years.
  3. We need to reduce our ecosystem impact so that we have future crop diversity, new pharmaceuticals and good health. That is, by 2030 or 2040 we need to have reached "peak spoil".
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4. We need to cut back on greenhouse gas emissions, so that we won't have climate-changed induced greenhouse effect raising global temperatures -- i.e. "peak boil"
  5. None of the above will be possible without population control, or at least, without the population peaking. Actually, since the environmental impact of children, students and the elderly is relatively small, what we really need is "peak toil".
  6. Politically, the biggest time bomb we face is the masculinisation of the Chinese and Indian populations. The gender ratios are imbalanced in places, and probably presages cultural instability. With a lot of men and not enough women, the danger of "macho" politics and militarism is higher than it would otherwise be, which would throw environment protection out the window. This the problem of "peak girl".
  7. Longer term, soil degradation could become a significant global problem affecting our ability to feed the world population, so "peak soil" needs to be considered.



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