



Invite to TheOilDrum Community for Guest Posts

Posted by [nate hagens](#) on April 14, 2011 - 11:15am

We invite anyone with the skills and interest to contribute to the body of knowledge posted here. Though 'Peak Oil' isn't acknowledged per se, there is increasing acceptance in the mainstream that the era of cheap energy is likely over. This has myriad implications for our lives. Our hope is to get the online community to attack those topics which Wall St. firms and energy institutions won't/can't that would be of value to better understanding our situation, what got us here, and what we can do going forward. Below the fold is a short list of guest post topics that long time contributors here considered relevant to 'energy and our future' but don't have either the expertise or time to undertake.

First, here are the [Editorial Subject and Content Guidelines](#):

"1. Standards for article subject matter

The Oil Drum features a wide range of content and opinion related to energy and the connection between energy and society. This includes:

Energy extraction, generation, conversion and storage technologies (e.g., advantages, disadvantages, progress, externalities, EROI, cost, long-term availability).

Energy application technologies (e.g., transportation, processes, space heating, etc.).

Energy systems integration (e.g., electricity grids, supply chains for transportation fuels, etc.) and transitions.

Implications of transformation of energy systems to societies, including discussions about limits, societal EROI, demand drivers, and other relevant aspects.

Thought-provoking opinions about the future of societies, provided that there is a clear connection to energy issues.

2. Standards for article quality

The Oil Drum explicitly seeks to provide a platform for a variety of perspectives that may differ and contradict each other, leaving readers to judge the value of an article by comparing and integrating it with other information. Thought-provoking and non-mainstream ideas are encouraged, so long as they are well-argued. Content should conform to the following guidelines:

As described in Section 1, articles should mainly revolve around energy, though may include a focus on energy's connection to society as a whole.

Article content should consist of data from clearly identified sources and logical

reasoning. Results should be reproducible by interested readers.

Articles should not be marketing material or written with the direct purpose of marketing technologies, products or services.

Opinion pieces are welcomed (but should be clearly identified as such), and are intended to provoke thought and provide readers with interesting philosophical questions as opposed to prescriptive answers or speculative predictions.

Ideally articles should strive to meet as many of following adjectives as possible: Energy related, original, credible, relevant, concise, logical, neutral tone, non 'in group' language, and 'better' (if exploring similar subject as prior TOD posts).

It is understood that people write here because they care about/are passionate about a certain topic of relevance to the energy debate. As such the editors will use the above list as initial filters, but no post has to fit all criteria -those are general guidelines.

Here is a short list of welcome topics suggested by current TOD writers:

- an analysis on what would happen to global economic systems if we retreated, gradually, or sharply from the assumption of 100% reliable electricity
- in calculation of EROI or various fossil fuels, what is % of energy inputs that has 'already been spent'? Renewables?
- is population or 'aspiration' more influential on future energy use?
- can one interpolate a relationship between OECD debt levels and future oil decline rates? (i.e. if there was zero debt, decline would be pinned with geology -but after that?)
- instead of aggregate EROI numbers or various fuels, what is 'point of use' energy return for various uses of energy: agriculture, heat, transportation, etc.
- using widest reasonable boundaries possible, what % of wind/solar etc are fossil fuels?
- what impact would social equity disparity limits have on energy and resource consumption?
- at what energy price/availability does theory of comparative advantage for international trade break down
- A thorough analysis of coal availability looking at various qualities and regions.
- A review of shale gas economics and the future delivery capability at current natural gas prices in the U.S.
- A full review/or multiple reviews of energy subsidies and their impact around the world
- Better life cycle analysis of energy and resource use of most renewable energy technologies (including batteries)
- A U.S. wind delivery model based on accurate current hourly or sub-hourly wind data

- The effect of demand reduction policies that impair peoples choices versus demand reductions that do not
- An analysis of the potential and costs of local grids (as opposed to large interregional) with a large variety of intermittent energy sources
- A sector comparison of cost impacts of oil/energy prices changes
- An update on gas hydrate projects and studies conducted in the U.S. gas hydrate research program(s)
- A review of pilot projects of underground coal gasification
- An summary of the analyses of energy-economy interlinkages of the big economies (G20)
- Large scale energy storage (e.g. geological compressed air, high sea compressed air, ammonia, ...)
- Small scale electricity storage (zinc-air, etc)
- World's agricultural carrying capacity without fossil fuels
- Hydroelectric potential in Europe and the World
- Substitution of rare minerals and its impacts on energy spent in mining
- Ultimate limits: the amount of power/energy available from wind, solar and nuclear.
- Limits of scale: How far can non-combustion energy be ramped up, and how fast?
- Twofers: Using a solution to address more than one problem.
- Connections: What happens when formerly isolated energy systems, aren't?
- Dark horses: Nuclear energy went from the first chain reaction to the first nuclear-powered submarine in 12 years and the first grid-connected powerplant in 15. What's coming? How soon can it take up the slack, and how much?

Many of the above suggested topics may be 'undoable' given lack of available data, etc.. (But in my opinion, sometimes asking unanswerable questions can also be instructive in shaping our understanding).

Please add your own suggestions of what questions/issues might be relevant and worthwhile at this stage of the energy debate. And, if you have the interest/ability to address them (or your own), submit your posting to theoildrum@gmail.com.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).