

# Energy politics (climate change) Notes

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## The political economy of Energy

- Energy IS NOT electricity
  - Different sources for different uses
    - \* Fossil fuels
    - \* Renewable and non-renewable
  - Technology-economics-politics
  - Energy and politics
  - Energy and growth % The importance of vested interests

## International politics

- Big money
- Not just big money
  - Germany 40% of gas from Russia #choke
    - \* Dams are kind-of like this as well
    - \* Energy security

## Discuss the statement:

“Energy dependence is a source of conflict”

## Climate change

Current global energy supply

What needs to happen? - Change the type of energy used - Change source of electricity - Most electricity is still produced by coal, gas second - How do they interact? What happens when we try to shift demand toward green?

## The grid

## The Green Shift

## Market mechanisms

- Make renewable energy competitive
  - Subsidise renewables and research (expensive and inefficient)
  - Carbon taxes and ETS (Taxes depress the economy)

## Alternatives to the market?

- Short of revolution, this is pretty much what we got
- Fiat is an option, but seems even more unlikely

## Will it work? % ARGUMENTS!

### Potential problems

- Vested interests
- Energy systems are built around fossil fuels
- Energy efficiency
  - Energy efficiency is an alternative to structural/system change
  - Cost effective, make a plane use less fuel > make an electric plane
  - Good, but not enough?
- Only works if our assumptions hold
- What is the cheapest source of energy? Clean/not-clean?

### Electricity prices

## Discuss Norway and wind? Thorium? - NO, nuclear maybe...

- Green? yes
- Ugly? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
- Kills birds? Yes, but not that bad. US 110 million killed by cats, 46thousand by wind. Would kill birds at sea as well
- Moving wind off shore mostly solves the “ugly” problem at an enormous cost