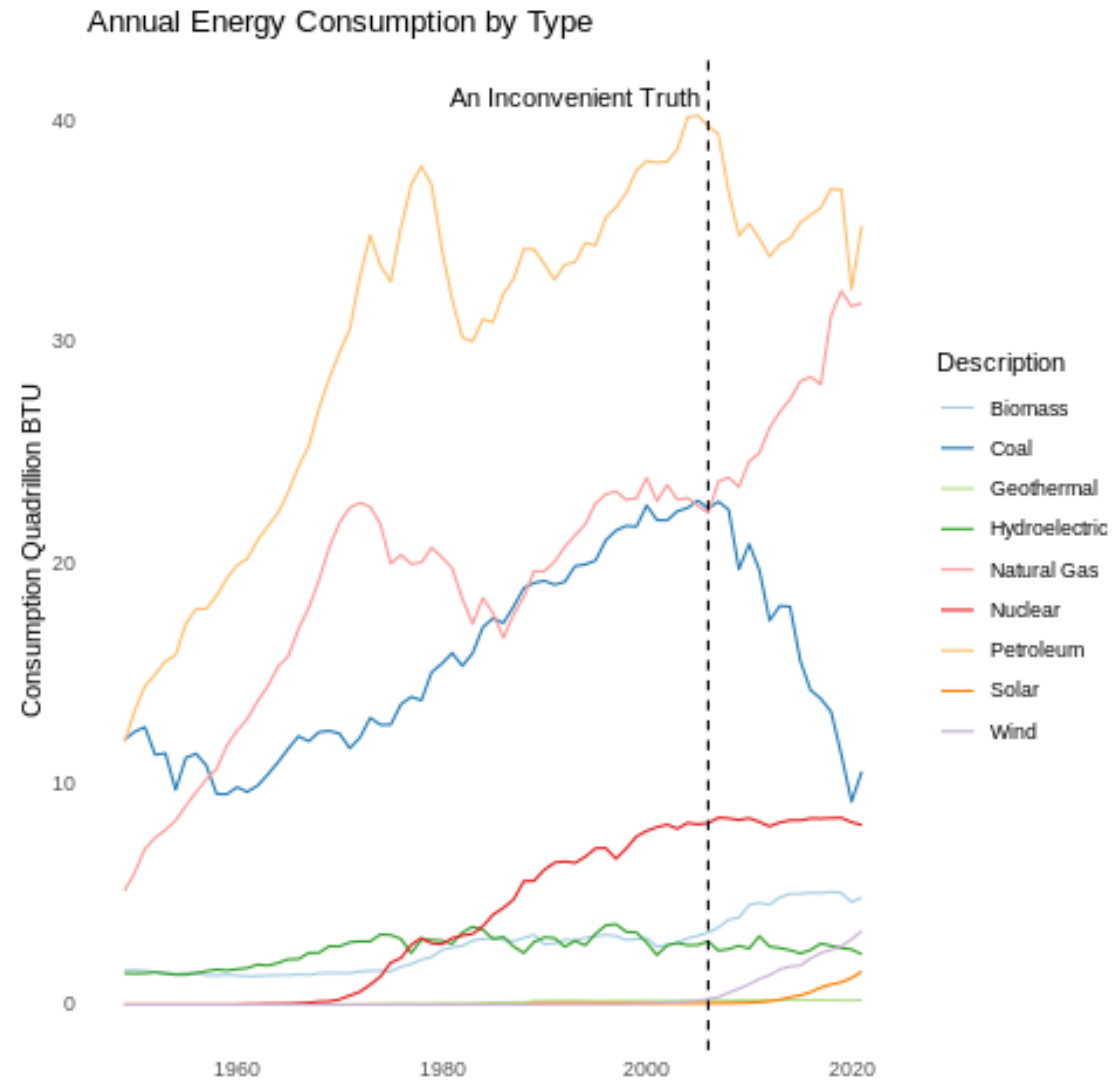


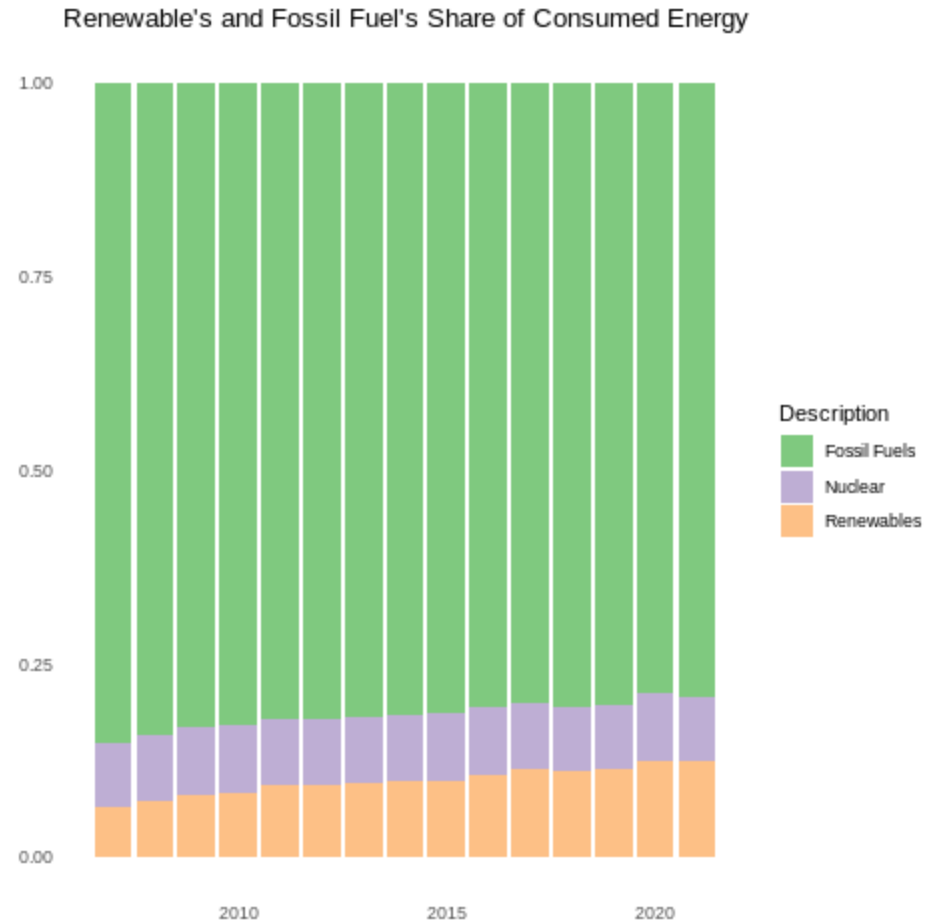
How Has Climate Change Impacted Energy Policy?

Using the release of “An Inconvenient Truth” in 2006 as a proxy for public awareness of climate change, we can see that it has had a major impact on energy policy in the United States. Looking closely at coal, we can easily see that its usage has decreased, and the usage of renewables, like wind and solar, have increased.



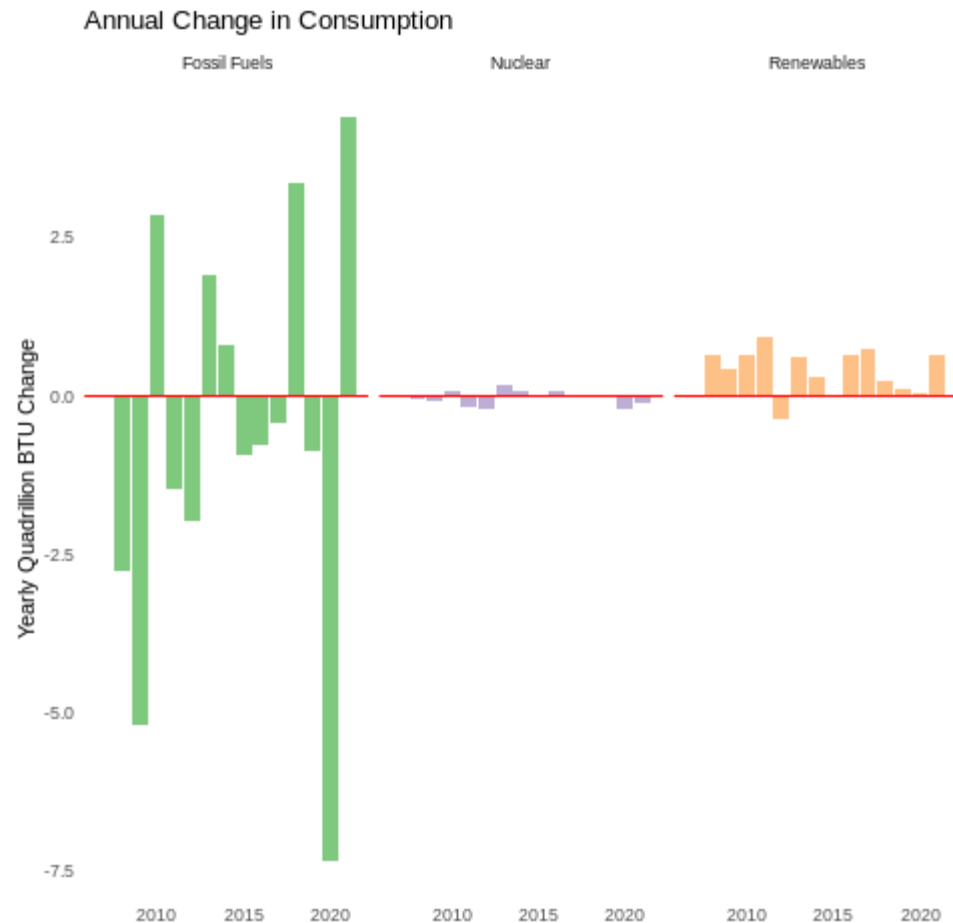
But Has it Decreased the Use of Fossil Fuels?

The overall share of fossil fuels has not decreased in a significant way since 2006. Renewables have not filled the gap left by the decreased use of coal. This gap was filled by the increased use of natural gas.



But Has it Decreased the Use of Fossil Fuels?

Again, we see generally no strong trend in the use of fossil fuels and only a slight positive change in the use of renewables. To understand this graph, anything above the red line indicates a positive change in the usage of an energy type compared to the previous year, and anything below the line indicates a decrease on the previous year.



Maybe We Are Ignoring a More Important Trend?

There are two sides to making energy, how much electricity is produced to meet demand, and how much fuel is used to meet that demand. Since public awareness of Climate Change, there has been a halt in the growth of electricity the United States has needed to produce. A focus on energy efficiency has stabilized electricity usage, and, overtime, will allow time for renewables to fill the gap in energy production. It will be important to watch this trend as we increase the number of electric vehicles on the road.

