

Climate Change and Energy

Cathal O'Grady

DCU

This blog discusses climate change and energy. The topic of energy being our expenditure of oil reserves, and the topic of climate change being how our actions are promoting rapid change in our earth's climate.

These two topics are very much linked, in so much as our increasing use of oil releasing CO_2 , there is a shift in average global temperature. In this way by solving the problem of expending oil, we directly reduce our impact on the climate.

I categorise two key areas of change needed in order to stunt the rate of climate change and the growing lack of energy, the individual and the governmental/enterprise. Though governmental change is the most important.

It is frustrating that despite the clear need for change no meaningful change has come. Is it on us to innovate and come up with a solution that companies and governments can't refuse? I don't think so. Though the future is clear, whether people like it or not, energy will run out and it is a matter of us being prepared or not.

Development of sustainable and even fully renewable energy is well under way and even put in place already. I am personally optimistic of nuclear energy, nuclear fission plants are highly secure and safe these days, despite past events and the prospects of nuclear fusion seem promising. Although nuclear energy has an immense upfront cost and people don't fully trust it due to its history.

Depending on the climate wind energy is also a viable option, in the case of the Orkney Islands in Scotland[1] they have a surplus of energy year round supplied entirely by wind energy. For warmer climates, solar energy seems a promising option too, especially as the technology improves and efficiency is better. Aptera[2] have already released a car that boasts 40 miles of driving per day purely from solar energy.

Though climate change and energy issues seem to spark innovation in many, currently it is more convenient to damage the environment and use non-sustainable energy than pursuing the more ethical options. This is why governments need to instill stricter regulation on such practices.

References:

[1] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UmsfXWzvEA>

[2] <https://aptera.us/>