

Reading Response 1

In reading Covert, Greenstone, and Knittel's "Will We Ever Stop Using Fossil Fuels?" I found myself really grappling with the complexities of our dependence on fossil fuels. The authors lay out a strong case for why, despite the growing awareness of climate change and its risks, the global economy remains so tied to these energy sources. One thing that really stood out to me was the discussion about technological advancements in fossil fuel extraction. I had always assumed that as these resources became scarcer, we'd naturally see a decline in their use. But the way the article highlights how technology keeps expanding what's economically recoverable really challenged that idea. It's unsettling to realize that we might not "run out" of fossil fuels anytime soon, and that our reliance on them could continue for decades, if not longer.

This also got me thinking about the ongoing policy debates around climate change, especially the push for carbon taxes and renewable energy subsidies. The authors suggest that without strong policy action, market forces alone won't be enough to shift us away from fossil fuels. That idea resonates with the current discussions in the news, where there's a lot of talk but not as much concrete action. It's frustrating to see how economic interests often outweigh environmental concerns, and this reading made it clear just how challenging it will be to break our dependence on fossil fuels without significant changes in policy.