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Should we burn fossil fuels?

The answer to this question divides society and politicians. Search for new energy-related technologies is partially driven by the fear that the answer is no. I will try to provide an unbiased answer by using simple estimates and arguments. There exists a consensus that sooner or later we should stop using fossil fuels and, in fact, the only practical question is how much time we have for switching to other sources of energy without endangering future generations. It seems that we will have time for running this transition smoothly.

Biography

Anatoly K. Khitrin graduated from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology in 1978 and received Ph.D. in 1985 from the Institute of Chemical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences, where he worked until 1999. Since 2002 he is a Professor of Physical Chemistry at Kent State University, USA. Khitrin's research interests are spin dynamics and NMR spectroscopy and imaging. He has published more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

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