

Fossil Fuels

Eliminating Poverty & Starvation

<https://factsanddata.org/fossil-fuels/>

Fossils Fuels

Introduction

What are fossil fuels

- Fossil fuels are hydrocarbon-containing materials such as coal, oil, and natural gas, formed from the anaerobic decomposition of buried dead plants and animals over millions of years. Burned to power engines or generate electricity, they replaced the extreme poverty of subsistence living, with ever-increasing wealth.
- Machinery powered by fossil fuels multiplied the output of each worker, creating the leisure time required for mankind to go beyond merely surviving to flourishing, through advances in science and technology.
- Synthetic fertilizers produced from natural gas, multiplied crop yields, bringing inexpensive food while preventing mass starvation.
- Virtually every product of modern life is dependent on fossil fuels.
- Learn about the miracles of fossil fuels in the following section.

What are fossil fuels



- Hydrocarbon-containing materials such as coal, oil, and natural gas
- Formed from the anaerobic decomposition of buried dead plants & animals over millions of years

How are fossil fuels used



- Burned
 - Provide heat for use directly (such as for cooking or heating)
 - Power engines (such as internal combustion engines in motor vehicles)
 - Generate electricity
- Used to produce
 - Fertilizers
 - Plastics
 - Most items used in modern life



Fossil fuels drove economic prosperity & industrial revolution

- Energy density of fossil fuels allowed for development of efficient machinery, transportation systems, and manufacturing processes
- Abundant reliable energy provided by fossil fuels facilitated mass production, spurring economic expansion, job creation, and improved standards of living

Energy accessibility & reliability

- Fossil fuels ensured a consistent stable energy supply enabling industries, homes, and critical infrastructure to function reliably

Medical advances & technological innovation

- Petroleum-based products contributed to the production of synthetic materials, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals that transformed healthcare
- Agriculture yields dramatically higher due to fertilizers from fossil fuels

Global connectivity & transportation

- Internal combustion engine powered by gasoline & diesel, revolutionized the way people & goods move across continents
- Air travel, shipping, and road networks facilitated trade, tourism & cultural exchange

Products Made from Fossil Fuels

(1 of 2)

A few of the more than 6,000 products made from oil & gas

- Adhesive
- Air mattresses
- Ammonia
- Antifreeze
- Antihistamines
- Antiseptics
- Artificial limbs
- Artificial turf
- Asphalt
- Aspirin
- Awnings
- Backpacks
- Balloons
- Ballpoint pens
- Bandages
- Beach umbrellas
- Boats
- Cameras
- Candies
- Car battery cases
- Car enamel
- Cassettes
- Caulking
- Cell phones
- Clothes
- Clothesline
- Clothing
- Coffee makers
- Cold cream
- Combs
- Computer keyboards
- Computer monitors
- Cortisone
- Crayons
- Credit cards
- Curtains
- Dashboards
- Denture adhesives
- Dentures
- Deodorant
- Detergent
- Dice
- Dishwashing liquid
- Dog collars
- Drinking cups
- Dyes
- Electric blankets
- Electrical tape
- Enamel
- Epoxy paint
- Eyeglasses
- Fan belts
- Faucet washers
- Fertilizers
- Fishing boots
- Fishing lures
- Floor wax
- Food preservatives
- Footballs
- Fuel tanks
- Glue
- Glycerin
- Golf bags
- Golf balls
- Guitar strings
- Hair coloring
- Hair curlers
- Hand lotion

Products Made from Fossil Fuels

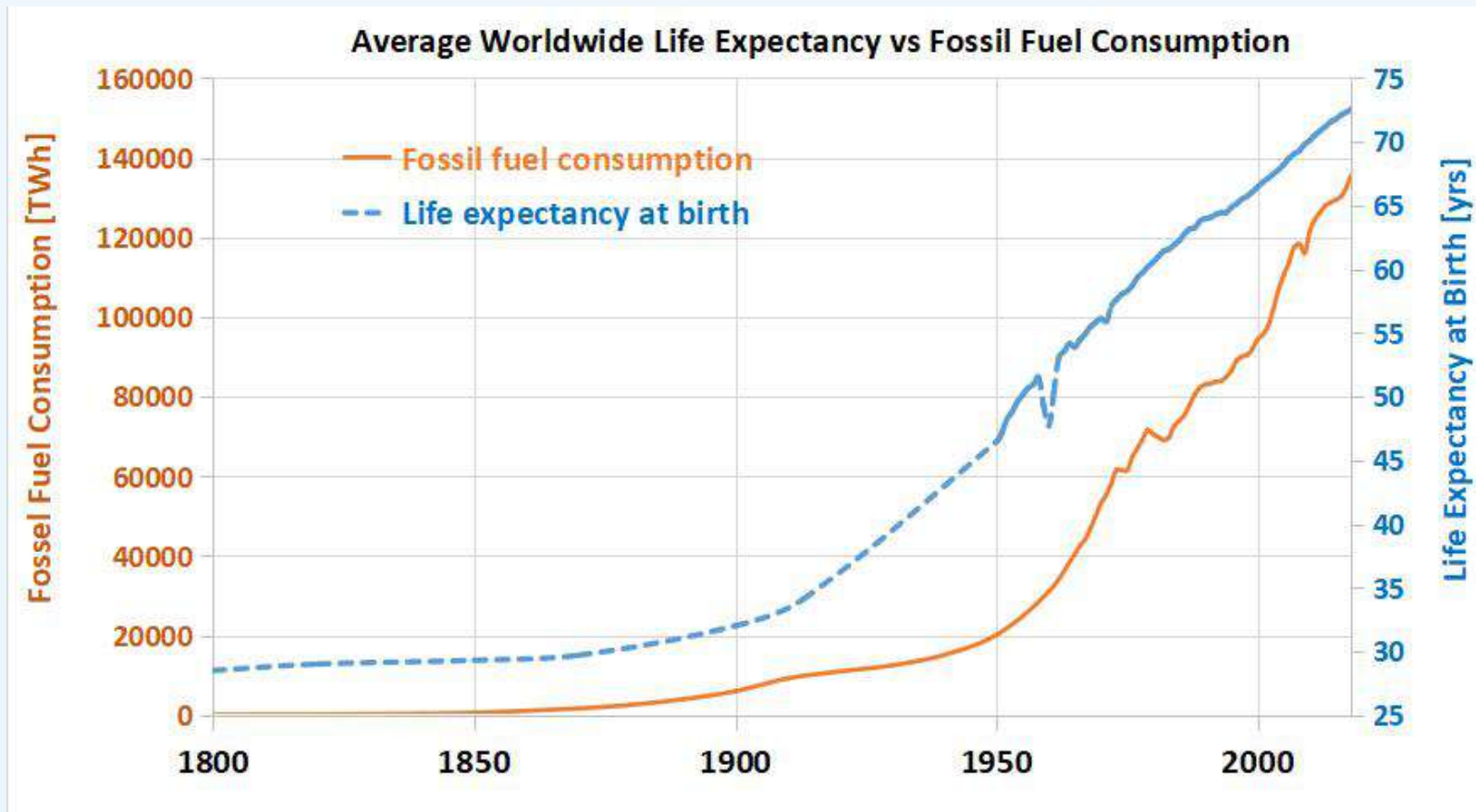
(2 of 2)

A few more of the more than 6,000 products made from oil & gas

- Hearing aids
- Heart valves
- House paint
- Hula hoops
- Ice buckets
- Ice chests
- Ice cube trays
- Ink
- Insect repellent
- Insecticides
- Insulation
- iPad/iPhone
- Kayaks
- Laptops
- Life jackets
- Light-weight aircraft
- Lipstick
- Loudspeakers
- Lubricants
- Luggage
- Model cars
- Mops
- Motorcycle helmets
- Nail polish
- Noise insulation
- Nylon rope
- Oil filters
- Packaging
- Paint brushes
- Paint roller
- Pajamas
- Panty hose
- Parachutes
- Perfumes
- Permanent press
- Petroleum jelly
- Pharmaceuticals
- Pillow filling
- Plastic toys
- Plastics
- Plywood adhesive
- Propane
- Purses
- Putty
- Refrigerants
- Refrigerator linings
- Roller skate wheels
- Roofing
- Rubber cement
- Rubbing alcohol
- Safety glasses es
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream
- Shoe polish
- Shoes/sandals
- Shower curtains
- Skateboards
- Skis
- Soap dishes
- Soft contact lenses
- Solar panels
- Solvents
- Spacesuits
- Car bodies
- Sunglasses
- Surf boards
- Swimming pools
- Synthetic rubber
- Tennis roackets
- Tents

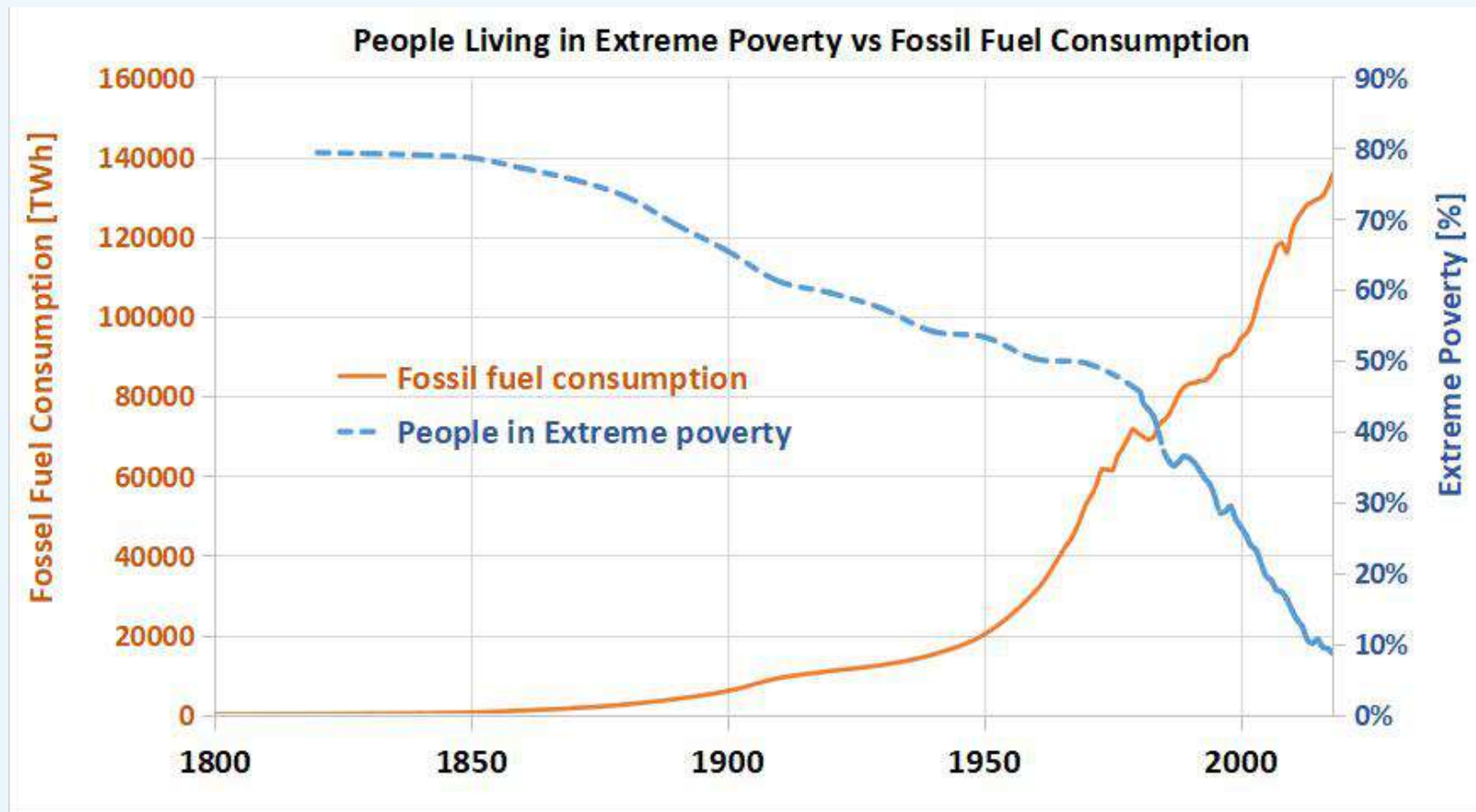
Life Expectancy vs Fossil Fuel Consumption

Length of life has dramatically increased as oil, gas, & coal (fossil fuel) consumption increased



Poverty vs Fossil Fuel Consumption

Extreme poverty plummets as fossil fuel (oil, gas & coal) consumption increases



Fossil Fuel based Fertilizers & Pesticide Ban Facts and Data.org *Food Production Plummetts*

Fossil fuel based (synthetic) fertilizer & pesticide benefits

- Help farmers grow **more food on less land** than organic methods
- Helped **lift countries out of grinding poverty**
- **Lowers food costs & saves more land for nature**

Sri Lankan President bans synthetic fertilizer and pesticide imports

- Millions of Sri Lankan farmers forced to adopt organic farming practices
- Some environmental groups applaud this effort

Food production plummetts due to agrochemical ban

- Rice production **dropped 20%** in the six months after ban initiated
- From **self sufficiency to importing \$450 million** of rice
- Tea production **dropped 18%** (their biggest export)

Governments need to increase yields not decrease them

- Learn to optimize use of fertilizers & pesticides instead of banning them

Sri Lanka's Food Crisis Reveals the Dangers of Environmental Planning

Sri Lanka's tragedy is a classic example of a supposedly "green" policy achieving very little—beyond human suffering.

Fossil Fuel based Fertilizers & Pesticide Ban Facts and Data.org

Food Production Plummet

Sri Lanka transition to organic farming

- President Gotabaya Rajapaksa bans synthetic fertilizers and pesticides
- Fulfilling 2019 promise based on claims that organic farming can produce comparable yields as conventional farming

Farm yields collapse

- Rice production drops 20% in the first 6-months
- Sri Lanka forced to import \$450 million worth of rice as prices increased 50% after being self-sufficient for years
- Tea production

Fossil Fuel based Fertilizers & Pesticide Ban *Food Production Plummet*

**Fossil fuel based
(synthetic) fertilizer &
pesticide benefits**

AGRICULTURE — 11 Aug 2022 | 09:05 UTC — Insight Blog

Sri Lanka waking up to reality of food shortages after failed organic farming dream

POLITICO

[Israel-Hamas war](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Podcasts](#)

[Poll of Polls](#)

[Policy news](#)

[Events](#)

NEWS > DEFENSE

Ditching gas to save the planet risks mass starvation, top UN economist says

Divestment from fossil fuels will raise food prices, Máximo Torero says.

Sri Lanka's Food Crisis Reveals the Dangers of Environmental Planning

Sri Lanka's tragedy is a classic example of a supposedly "green" policy achieving very little—beyond human suffering.

Effect of European Anti-Fossil-Fuel Policies Facts and Data.org

Alex Epstein's Prophetic 2016 Testimony

Today we are experiencing a global energy crisis leading to horrific consequences, such as shortages of natural-gas-based-fertilizers

Energy expert & philosopher Alex Epstein warned US Senate 2016

- **Anti-fossil-fuel policies** in Europe & US threatened to cause **energy crisis**
- Energy industry powers all other industries
 - When the price goes up everything you buy or do costs more
- When energy is **cheap, plentiful, and reliable** human beings **thrive**
- When energy is unaffordable, scarce, or **unreliable** human beings **suffer**
- Policies to restrict cheap & reliable fossil fuels & mandate unreliable solar & wind has been tried before in multiple countries with the same results
 - **Germany** perused popular ideal of running on unreliable energy solar & wind
 - Has to be propped up by reliable energy mostly fossil fuels
 - Solar panes & wind turbines are an unnecessary & enormous cost to the system
 - Average **German pays 3 to 4 times** what Americans pay **for electricity (5 times as of Dec 2022)**

US should learn from the German experiment