



The 2026 Statistical Review of World Energy

Decarbonization is a myth. Global emissions are increasing; fossil fuels remain essential for economic growth and energy security.

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THE 2026 STATISTICAL REVIEW OF WORLD ENERGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 30, the Energy Institute published the 2026 edition of the *Statistical Review of World Energy*, the well-known and frequently referenced annual report that was once published by British Petroleum. In this article, I will instead focus on the important overall statistical trends, but focus to some extent on whether these trends reinforce or refute the views of those who advocate policies radically to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2025, total energy supply, as measured in exajoules (EJ), rose by 1.7% over 2024 to just over 600 EJ.

Oil continued to be the largest source, providing 201 EJ, or one third of the world's needs, followed by coal, which provided 166 EJ. Natural gas provided almost 151 EJ. Thus, the three fossil fuels provided 518 EJ, or 86% of the world's primary energy supply. Nuclear energy provided 31 EJ, Hydroelectricity 16 EJ and Renewables 35.45 EJ. The highly touted renewables thus provided only 6% of the world's primary energy supply.

Global oil production in 2025 was 100.6 million barrels per day. The OECD countries produced one third of that production (33.237 million barrels per day) and the non-OECD countries produced 67.352 million barrels per day. In 2025, total liquids consumption was 106.5 million barrels per day, an increase of 1.4 million barrels per day from 2024.

Global natural gas consumption in 2025 was 4,186 billion cubic metres, or 150.7 EJ, an increase of just 55 billion cubic metres over 2024. The United States was by far the largest consumer, with 913.4 billion cubic metres, followed by Russia, with 480 billion cubic metres and China with 441.9 billion cubic metres.

Global coal consumption in 2025 was 166 EJ, a slight increase of 0.68 EJ over 2024. China dominates the coal market, consuming 92.24 EJ, or 55.6% of the world's total.

Global electricity generation in 2025 was 32,202 terawatt-hours (TWh), an increase of 857 TWh, or 3%, over 2024. Generation has grown rapidly since 2015. The largest electricity generator was China, with 10,575 TWh, or 33% of the world's total, followed distantly by the United States with 4772 TWh, or 15 %.

Global renewable energy generation in 2025 was 10,749 TWh, an increase of 867 TWh, or 8%, more than 2024. Wind plants generated 2714 TWh, solar plants generated 2811 TWh, Hydro plants 4479 TWh and other renewables generated 745 TWh.

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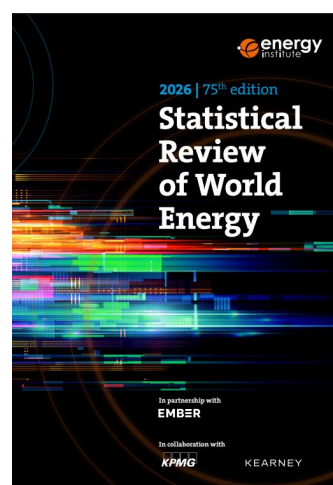
Global emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent totaled 35,806 million tonnes, an increase 1.1% from 2024. In 2025 the OECD produced only 11,161 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (31.2%), while the non-OECD countries produced 24,645 million tonnes (68.8%).

Decarbonization, to the extent that it is occurring, is largely the consequence of immense public expenditures in China, western Europe and some other OECD countries. The global data indicate that global emissions are increasing and that fossil fuels remain essential to economic activity and energy security.

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THE FACTS YOU WON'T SEE IN THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA

On June 30, the Energy Institute published the 2026 edition of the *Statistical Review of World Energy*, the well-known and frequently referenced annual report that was once published by British Petroleum. This year's edition departed somewhat from that of past years in that it led off with a series of narratives regarding what the authors view as some of the most important trends. These included what the authors view as the continuing major growth in the production and use of electrical energy generated by renewable energy sources and the important role that renewable energy can play in reducing countries' reliance on insecure oil supplies.



In this article, I will instead focus on the important overall statistical trends, but focus to some extent on whether these trends reinforce or refute the views of those who advocate policies radically to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

TOTAL ENERGY SUPPLY

In 2025, total energy supply, as measured in exajoules (EJ), rose by 1.7% over 2024 to just over 600 EJ.

Continuing a trend that has persisted for the past decade, the growth in supply was less in the non-OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), or wealthier countries and more in the non-OECD countries. Non-OECD supply was just over 380 EJ compared to 220 EJ in the OECD.

The data on supply by fuel show that in 2025, oil continued to be the largest source, providing 201 EJ, or one third of the world's needs, followed by coal, which provided 166 EJ. Natural gas provided almost 151 EJ. **Thus, the three fossil fuels provided 518 EJ, or 86% of the world's primary energy supply.** Nuclear energy provided 31 EJ, Hydroelectricity 16 EJ and Renewables 35.45 EJ. **The highly touted renewables thus provided only 6% of the**

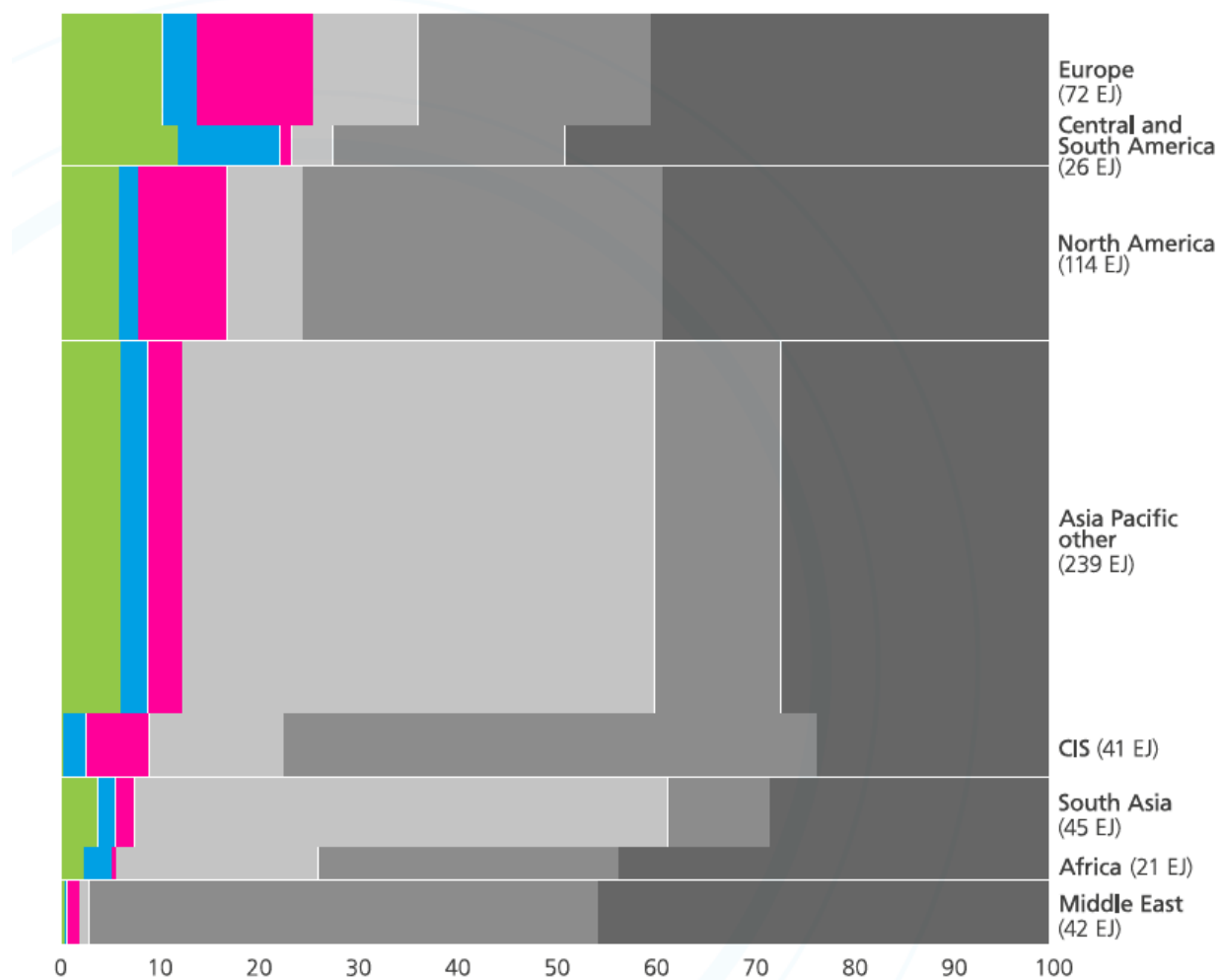
world's primary energy supply. After 35 years of international conferences, promises to almost completely eliminate fossil fuel energy sources and the expenditure of many trillions of dollars in public funds, we are still a long, long way from completely “decarbonizing”. In fact, the percentage of global energy supply met by fossil fuels is actually increasing!

A regional breakdown of the 2025 global energy system

Length of the bars = share of total energy supply per region (%); height of the bars = total energy supply (EJ)

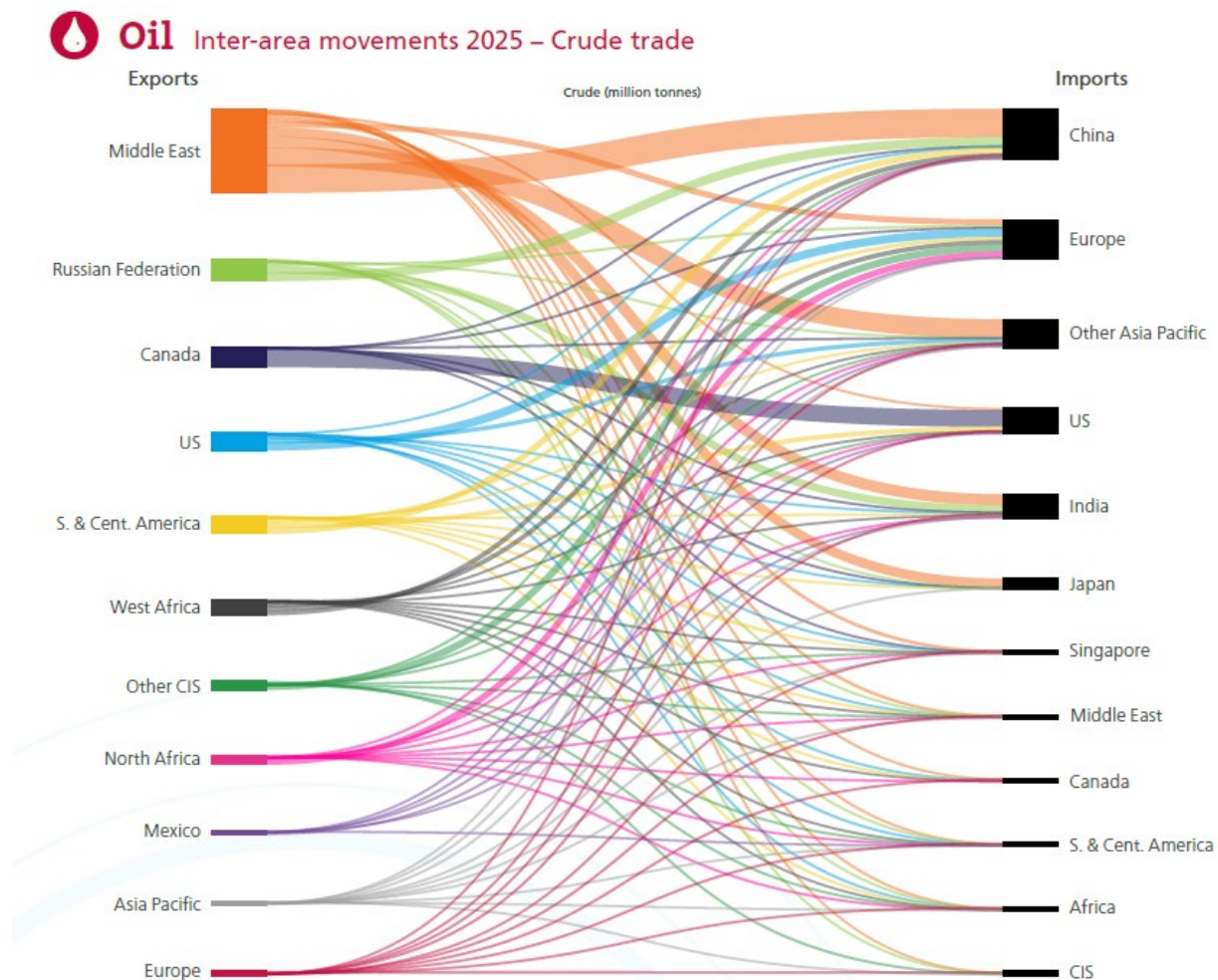
Global energy system = 600 EJ

Renewables Hydro Nuclear Coal Gas Oil



Source: [Statistical Review of World Energy](#)

Global oil production in 2025 was 100.6 million barrels per day, a growth of 3.434 million barrels per day from 2024, or 3.5%. The OECD countries produced one third of that production (33.237 million barrels per day) and the non-OECD countries produced 67.352 million barrels per day.



Source: [Statistical Review of World Energy](#)

The United States was the largest oil producer, supplying 21.065 million barrels per day, followed by Saudi Arabia with 11.408 million barrels per day and the Russian Federation with 10.737 million barrels per day. **US oil production thus almost matched the combined output of the next two largest producers. North America's oil**

production (i.e. that of the United States, Canada and Mexico combined) almost matched the oil production of the middle east. Energy security of supply is not a North American problem.

The Statistical Review reports on production of both oil and condensate in its analysis of liquids consumption. In 2025, total liquids consumption was 106.5 million barrels per day, an increase of 1.4 million barrels per day from 2024. **With the exception of the pandemic period (2020-2021), global liquids consumption has increased by over one million barrels per day per year since 2012.**

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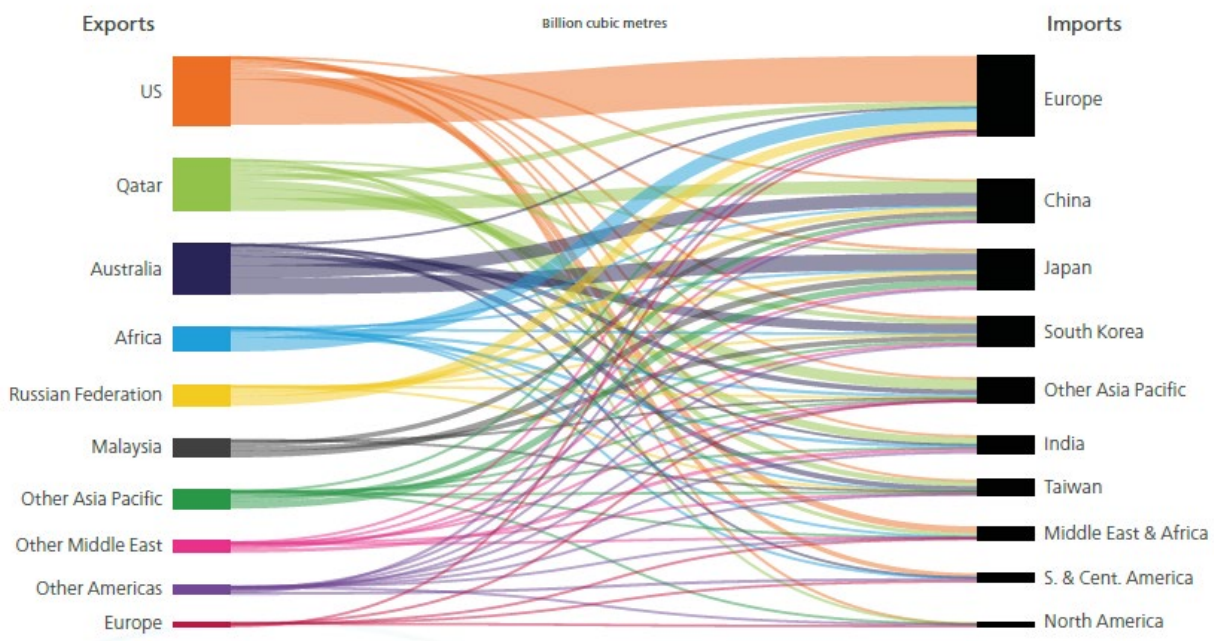
The non-OECD countries consumed 59.466 million barrels per day, or 59% of the world total, while the OECD countries consumed 47.965 million barrels per day.

NATURAL GAS

Global natural gas consumption in 2025 was 4,186 billion cubic metres, or 150.7 EJ, an increase of just 55 billion cubic metres over 2024. The United States was by far the largest consumer, with 913.4 billion cubic metres, followed by Russia, with 480 billion cubic metres and China with 441.9 billion cubic metres.

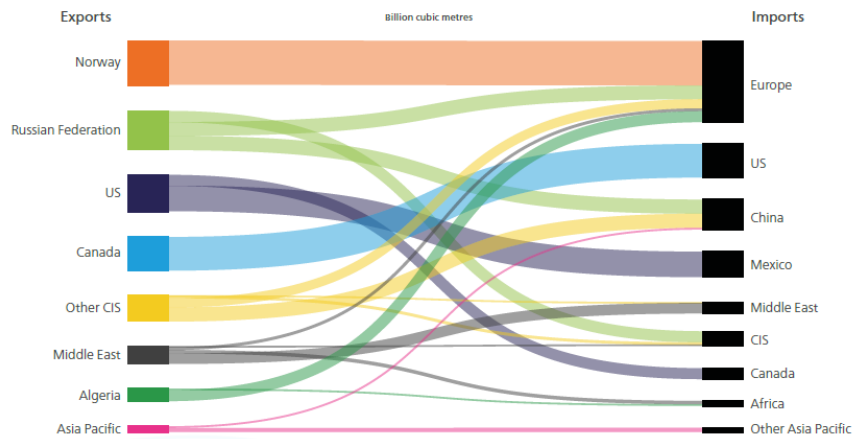


Natural gas Major trade movements 2025 – LNG



Source: [Statistical Review of World Energy](#)

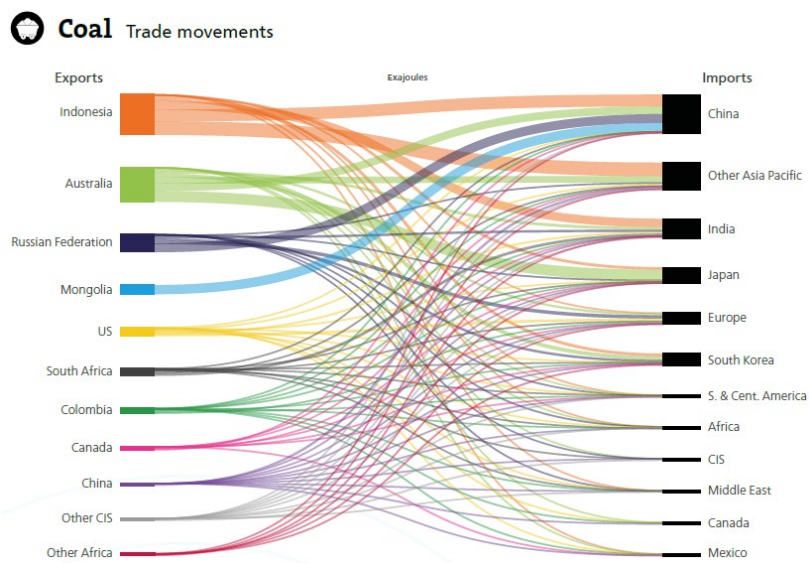
Natural gas Major trade movements 2025 – pipeline



Source: [Statistical Review of World Energy](#)

COAL

Global coal consumption in 2025 was 166 EJ, a slight increase of 0.68 EJ over 2024. It is notable, however, that **coal consumption was 8.74 EJ higher than it was in 2015, despite many media reports about the alleged “death” of coal**. China dominates the coal market, consuming 92.24 EJ, or 55.6% of the world’s total. India is in second place with 23 EJ of consumption. No other country was even close to these two. Several Asian and African countries increased their coal consumption. Even the United States increased coal consumption by nine percent.



Source: [Statistical Review of World Energy](#)

ELECTRICITY GENERATION

Global electricity generation in 2025 was 32,202 terawatt-hours (TWh), an increase of 857 TWh, or 3%, over 2024. Generation has grown rapidly since 2015.

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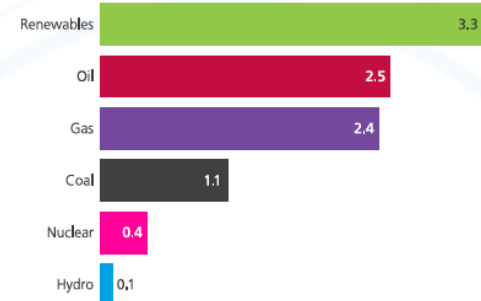
The largest electricity generator was China, with 10,575 TWh, or 33% of the world's total, followed distantly by the United States with 4772 TWh, or 15 %. All of Europe consumed 3956 TWh, or 12% of the world's total. The Statistical Review's celebration of the growth of electricity generation is in fact an applause for China's central-planned expansion of its electricity sector, not an accurate description of a global trend.

RENEWABLE ENERGY (EXCLUDING HYDRO) GENERATION BY SOURCE

Global renewable energy generation in 2025 was 10,749 TWh, an increase of 867 TWh, or 8%, more than 2024. Generation in the OECD countries totaled 4128 TWh and that in the non-OECD countries totaled 6621 TWh.

Source: *Statistical Review of World Energy* Despite impressive growth in renewables, "Fossil fuels continued to expand in absolute terms and retained their dominant position, accounting for 86% of TES. All sources of energy supply, globally, saw increases in 2025."

Renewables were the largest source of energy supply growth for the first time outside of a recession
Change in total global energy supply by source, 2025 (EJ)



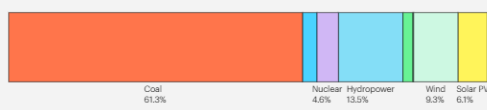
Renewables includes solar, wind, geothermal and biofuels. It excludes hydro and nuclear power. Absolute changes are adjusted for leap years.

Wind plants generated 2714 TWh, solar plants generated 2811 TWh, Hydro plants 4479 TWh and other renewables generated 745 TWh.

Energy mix

Electricity generation mix, China, 2023

Total energy supply Production Electricity Consumption



<https://www.iea.org/countries/china>

China's remarkable build out of renewables over the past couple of years is not reflected in this 2023 chart from the IEA, none-the-less, it is clear that coal still predominates and China continues to build coal-fired power plants.

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY

The Energy Institute report is full of references to the “progress” that is being made in developing alternatives to fossil fuels as part of the goal of global decarbonization. Given this, it is striking that the report does not highlight and acknowledge what the data actually indicates with respect to carbon dioxide emissions from energy. It states that the global emissions totaled 35,806 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2025. In an allegedly decarbonizing world, this means that once again (as in almost every year since 1990) global GHG emissions have increased, this year by 1.1%. This follows a period of eleven years in which global expenditure on emissions reduction measures and technologies has exceeded US \$14 trillion!

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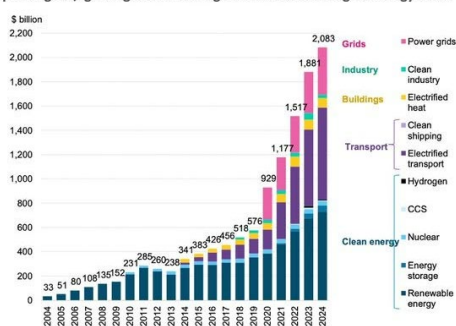
During most of the past decade, the promoters of decarbonization have taken some comfort in the fact that emissions in the OECD countries were declining every year, even as those in the non-OECD countries steadily grew. In 2025, however, emissions growth in the OECD countries matched the percentage increase in the non-OECD!

There is no question as to where the majority of the emissions increases are occurring. In 2025 the OECD produced only 11,161 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (31.2%), while the non-OECD countries produced 24,645 million tonnes (68.8%). The United States, Canada and Europe combined produced 8,888 million tonnes, or less than 25% of the global total, while China and India combined produced 14,182 million tonnes or almost 40 %.

Green Transition \$14+ trillion

From 2004-2024, the world has squandered at least \$14 trillion on green. That is 100+x what we spent on avoiding hunger through World Food Programme.

Costs are rapidly increasing and underestimated — this counts only pure costs of renewables, electric cars, heat pumps, hydrogen, carbon capture, and power grids; ignoring considerable growth losses from higher energy costs.



million tonnes (68.8%). The United States, Canada and Europe combined produced 8,888 million tonnes, or less than 25% of the global total, while China and India combined produced 14,182 million tonnes or almost 40 %. **To place that in context, if by some miracle the United States, Canada and Europe were able to completely cease GHG emissions within the next five years, the United Nations-endorsed goal of reducing global emissions by at least 43% by 2030 still would not come even close to being met.**

Source: Bjorn Lomborg: Climate campaigners tell you green is cheap. It isn't. Global green transition cost is now \$14+ trillion, rising with over \$2 trillion/year (2% of global GDP) - 105x our spending to avoid hunger.

Still, CO₂ emissions set another record last year

https://assets.bbhub.io/.../951623_BNEF-Energy-Transition...

You can see all the references in my Twitter thread:

<https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1900933656966803808>

CONCLUSION

By focusing most on the trends that suggest a weakening in the growth of GHG emissions and increasing decarbonization, the 2026 *Statistical Review of World Energy* distracts readers from the conclusions that can be drawn from a simple reading of the data. Decarbonization, to the extent that it is occurring, is largely the consequence of immense public expenditures in China, western Europe and some other OECD countries. China's

build-out is likely due to China's [overproduction of solar panels](#) and [wind turbines](#) simply being put to use domestically. The global data indicate conclusively that global emissions are increasing and that fossil fuels remain essential to economic activity and energy security.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Lyman is an economist with 27 years of experience as an analyst, policy advisor and manager in the Canadian federal government, primarily in the areas of energy, transportation, and environmental policy. He was also a diplomat for 10 years. Subsequently he has worked as a private consultant conducting policy research and analysis on energy and transportation issues as a principal for Entrans Policy Research Group. He is a frequent contributor of articles and reports for Friends of Science, a Calgary-based independent organization concerned about climate change-related issues. He resides in Ottawa, Canada. [Full bio.](#)

ABOUT FRIENDS OF SCIENCE SOCIETY

Friends of Science Society is an independent group of earth, atmospheric and solar scientists, engineers, and citizens that is celebrating its 23rd year of offering climate science insights. After a thorough review of a broad spectrum of literature on climate change, Friends of Science Society has concluded that the sun is the main driver of climate change, not carbon dioxide (CO₂).

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