

Consuming the Earth: Where are we going?

US and World per Capita Consumption



Phosphate and Cement per Capita Consumption



Crude Oil & Natural Gas per Capita





Global resource extraction per capita by world region 1980 vs. 2013



This figure illustrates global resource extraction (only economically used extraction) per capita in 1980 and 2013 by major material category.

What If Scenarios

- We are calculating psuedo-life spans for selected resources
- A psuedo-life (PL) is the time it would take to exhaust a resource at the present rate of consumption
- PL = Proven Reserves / Annual Consumption

PL = 10 million tons / 1 million t/y = 10 years

• We can vary reserves and consumption to create scenarios under different conditions: What if . . . Scenarios

What Are We Assuming?

- Population data is from the 2015 World Population data sheet
- Resources are the 2016 USGS Mineral Summary Estimates of Reserves or the 2015 EIA Estimate of Proven Reserves
- Economic conditions remain the same, unless changed for the scenario
- A few other (hidden) assumptions

Psuedo-Life of Select Commodities



Psuedo-Life of Fuels



What If: 10 Billion People



What If: 10 Billion People



What-If: World Consumption at US Rates



What If: World Consumes at US Rates



Material consumption per capita and day in 2007



In this figure, material consumption per capita and day is illustrated, using the indicator "Raw Material Consumption". Material consumption equals domestic resource extraction plus imports (and the indirect resource flows of imports) minus exports (and the indirect resource flows of exports). One full rucksack (world average consumption per capita and day) equals 27 kilograms of material consumption. The numbers only include economically used materials and thus exclude unused materials, such as overburden from mining.

Trends in Global Resource Extraction, GDP & Material Intensity



This figure illustrates global trends in resource extraction, GDP, population and material intensity in indexed form (1980 equals a value of 100)

A Very Brief History of Sustainability Thinking



http://transform.ricoh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Sustainable-thinking.jpg





Thomas Malthus 1798 "Essay on the Principle of Population"





Kenneth Boulding 1966 Spaceship Earth



Jay Forrester 1996

Exhibit 1: Modeling System Dynamics



vizuarse: Adapte d'From Tuncustrial, Dynamikus: A Najor Breaklinnvugn for Decision Halsers," *Fioreant Greateure Beelers*, July-August (933



Forrester and Whirlwind 1951 (MIT)



Dennis Meadows and The Club of Rome 1971 Limits to Growth



Critiques of Meadows et al (1)

- Used unfamiliar commodity measurements
- Mineral and fuel resources were seriously under estimated in the models
- There was no allowance for technological developments
- There was no provision for a price mechanism.

Critiques of Meadows et al (2)

- Recent discussions, most notably the Brundland report (1987), on sustainability have attempted to incorporate future generations into the economic analysis.
- What/who is a future generation? Not alive now.
- Pearce argues that capital consists of three parts: Man-made, human, and natural resources. As natural resources are depleted, the total stock of capital may be maintained or even increased if there is an offsetting increase in human capital or manufactured capital.









THE BAKELITE MOMENT

'I know this will be an important invention.' Baekeland's diary, 11 July 1907

After five years of intensive research, the breakthrough came on 11 July 1907. It was all about finding the right conditions.

As he came closer to his goal, Baekeland worked solidly for five days in his laboratory next to his home in Yonkers, New York.

He was experimenting with two chemicals, formaldehyde and phenol. It was only when he combined them at over 150°C, under pressure and with an alkaline catalyst, that his dream became a reality.

Baekeland worked quickly, improving his material and designing the Bakelizer, a machine that would control the violence of the reaction.





- 1. PET Polyethylene Terephthalate Soda bottles: widely recycled
- 2. HDPE High Density Polyethylene Milk bottles: recycled
- 3. PVC Polyvinyl Chloride Pipes, outdoor furniture: some recycled
- 4. LDPE Low Density Polyethylene Dry cleaning bags: some recycled
- 5. PP Polypropylene Bottle caps, straws: rarely recycled
- 6. PS Polystyrene Styrofoam peanuts: some recycled
- 7. Other Tupperware, other food containers: very rarely recycled

Recycling requires

1. A market

2. Materials that can be recycled



But why bother?

Exhibit 1: Energy Savings Per Ton Recycled*

(Million Btu)

* Assumes recycled materials would otherwise have been landfilled. Includes embedded energy.

Choate et al 2005: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/downloads/Energy%20Savings.pdf

Does Government Have a Role in Sustainability? Is Government Contemplating Such a Role?

http://www.antitrustinstitute.org/sites/default/files/cartoon_rr_lg.jpg

Table 6. Development legislation of the post-frontier period.

Legislation/Program	Vor	Public Durnose
Legislation/Program	1001	Authorized minorel house Table 1
Indian Lands Leasing Act	1891	Authorized mineral leases on Indian land.
Stock Raising Homestead	1916	Authorized mineral location and claims on
Act	S	homestead claims ² .
Mineral Leasing Act	1920	Authorized and governs leasing of public lands
		for development of deposits of coal, oil, gas
		and other hydrocarbons, sulfur, phosphate,
		potassium and sodium ³
Various Acts to create	1033	The "New Deal" featured the building of many
Undra alastria Dama	1955	high profile dame. These provided
Hydro-electric Dams	1044	nigh prome dans. These provided
	1944	employment, river transportation, recreation,
		imgation, and inexpensive electricity'.
Mc Mahon Act	1946	Established the Atomic Energy Commission.
		Commission uranium purchases created an
		industry boom, until purchases ended in 1970 ⁵ .
Strategic and Critical	1950	Authorized government stockpiling of
Minerals Production Act		"strategic" minerals, effecting production
		subsidies for many ⁶ .
Federal Aid Highway Act	1956	Authorized construction of the U.S. Interstate
		Hishway System increasing the demand for
		accrecates coment and steel ⁷
Interne del Surface	1001	Continually funds transportation infractoreture
Intermodal Surface	1991	Continuary runds transportation intrastructure
Transportation and	to	expansion and repair, sustaining the construc-
Efficiency Act (ISTEA)	present	tion industry and its materials suppliers".
 California State University, 2000§. 		Feriancek, 2001b§.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 20005.		U.S.Bureau of Reclamation, 2001§.
Uranium Institute in London, 19895.		U.S. Department of Agriculture, 20005.
Weingroff, R.F., 1996§.		U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics,
undated§.		

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World Energy Consumption: 1970-2015

World Energy Consumption

Breakdown of Likely Energy Sources

^a Includes: United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, other Europe, and Australia.

^b Includes: Developing Asia (China, India, South Korea, other Asia), Turkey, Africa, Brazil).

US Department of Energy.

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Note: Global demand grows by more than half over the next quarter of a century, with coal use rising in absolute terms.

Source: PFC Energy International.

CIA/NIC 2010

6 2010

DI Cartography Center 753973AI (R00353) 12-00

CIA/NIC 2010

Di Design Contei: 375777Ai 09-00

Projected Global Water Scarcity, 2025

- Physical water scardty: More than 75% of fiver flows are allocated to agriculture, industries, or domestic purposes. This definition of scardty — relating water availability to water demand — implies that dry areas are not necessarily water-scarce.
- Approaching physical water scardty: More than 60% of river flows are allocated. These basins will experience physical water scardty in the near future.
- Economic water scarcity: Water resources are abundant relative to water use, with less than 25% of water from rivers withdrawn for human purposes, but mainutrition exists.
- Utile or no water scarcity: Abundant water resources relative to use, Less than 25% of water from dvers is withdrawn for human purposes. Not estimated

Source-International Water Management Institute

782575A1 (G00675)423598A1 11-08

CIA/NIC 2010

THE URBAN PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION, 2010-2030

The proportion of the population living in urban areas, 2010 estimates and 2030 projections. Data are drawn from the United Nations Population Division (2010). The criteria that define an urban area were selected by individual states.

CIA/NIC 2010

SHALE OIL (LIGHT TIGHT OIL) US PRODUCTION ESTIMATES, 2005-2020

CIA/NIC 2005

The Bottomline

These trends will converge at an unprecedented pace to make governing and cooperation harder and to changethe nature of power—fundamentally altering the global landscape. Within states, political order will remain elusive and tensions high until societies and governments renegotiate their expectations of one another. ...

What do we know about the sources of energy? Are we gaining or losing energy when we extract and process various sources?

1 Includes lease condensate.

² Natural gas plant liquids.

- ³ Conventional hydroelectric power, biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind.
- ⁴ Crude oil and petroleum products. Includes imports into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

⁵ Natural gas, coal, coal coke, biofuels, and electricity.

⁶ Adjustments, losses, and unaccounted for

- 7 Natural gas only; excludes supplemental gaseous fuels.
- ⁸ Petroleum products, including natural gas plant liquids, and crude oil burned as fuel.

⁹ Includes -0.02 quadrillion Btu of coal coke net imports.

¹⁰ Includes 0.23 quadrillion Btu of electricity net imports.

¹¹ Total energy consumption, which is the sum of primary energy consumption, electricity retail sales, and electrical system energy losses. Losses are allocated to the end-use sectors in proportion to each sector's share of total electricity retail sales. See Note 1, "Electrical System Energy Losses," at the end of U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review* (April 2016), Section 2.

Notes:
 Data are preliminary.
 Values are derived from source data prior to rounding for publication.
 Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review* (April 2016), Tables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4a, 1.4b, and 2.1,

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- Present resource consumption patterns pose problems for later generations even if the population stabilizes by 2100.
- As the population approaches 10 billion people present resource consumption patterns pose significant problems for present and future generations in 25 to 100 years

- Most resource consumption patterns within the US cannot be extended to the rest of the world without major problems of supply developing very quickly.
- Economists recognize problems of resource supply created by increasing global populations.
- Note that our discussion does not address carbon dioxide/methane emissions

 No consensus has developed among economists regarding changes in the present economic system that will remedy these problems. Technological innovation, pricing mechanics, and moral persuasion are the principle suggestions for effecting change.

- Political leaders and their advisors are preoccupied by short term, regional governance issues that obscure important large-scale issues such resource availability, pollution, or consumption patterns.
- Drucker (1999): using external information in an organization's decisions is a major management challenge.

U.S. Energy Flow, 2015 quadrillion Btu

Includes lease condensate ² Natural gas plant liquids.

³ Conventional hydroelectric power, biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind,

Natural gas only; excludes supplemental gaseous fuels.

9 Includes -0.02 quadrillion Btu of coal coke net imports.

⁴ Crude oil and petroleum products. Includes imports into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

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"The Stone Age came to an end but not for a lack of stones and the oil age will end not for a lack of oil"

Ahmed Zaki Yamani

Sun Yuan and Peng Yu Saatchi Gallery, London December 2008