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Keep Diablo Canyon Open

The word, sustainability shares its root with sustenance. Any discussion of sustainability must therefore include discussions of sustenance. In modern society, sustenance requires energy. The world needs lots more energy—cubic miles of oil worth of energy—just to allow the current population a decent standard of living. It takes energy to lift people out of abject poverty and lead healthy productive lives. More than 80% of the energy we currently use comes from fossil fuels. However, using fossil energy added carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, causing climate change and acidification of oceans threatening marine life.

We must balance energy needs with the urgency to curtail emissions. The US faces a dire shortage of clean electricity, which will worsen with the increasing electrification of transportation (EVs), industrial (clean hydrogen), and commercial sectors (cloud services). In the US, the demand for electricity is likely to increase two-fold with

The only effective solution that scientists like James Hansen are telling us to embrace, is nuclear power. Nuclear power is the one source of clean energy that is scalable to the levels needed. It is also the has safest record (fewest fatalities per TWh generated) and the smallest environmental footprint, both in terms of area covered and tonnage of commodity materials required per unit of electricity delivered. Yet, our current policies such as subsidies and portfolio standards, and the manner in which electricity is marketed is making nuclear power uncompetitive. The unfounded fear of radiation and years of anti-nuclear misinformation has placed such strict and expensive standards on the nuclear power plants that they are being priced out. In many states even fully functioning nuclear power plants are being shuttered. We have a shortfall of clean electricity, and we are digging ourselves deeper in the hole!