

3rd International Conference on Earth Science & Climate Change

July 28-30, 2014 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Francisco Airport, USA

Energy vs. ecosystem sustainability: Combining solar and hydrogen technologies

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Media coverage of American economic policy has often focused on the need to insure long-term energy supplies, ignoring evidence that CO₂ releases from our currently used fuels are a major factor in global warming. Linking sufficient energy supply with ecosystem sustainability will be impossible without finding alternatives to oil and coal, responsible for America's emissions of 5.76 billion tons of CO₂ (which were only exceeded by China's 6 billion tons from coal). The energy market has already selected the fuels of the future. All major automobile countries are developing, and several will soon be selling, vehicles powered by hydrogen or hydrogen-electric hybrids like the Toyota Prius FCV (ending the age of gasoline fuel). Electricity supplies for huge coal-powered generating plants are already being supplemented by solar energy. New technologies, like a novel road surface composed of heavy plastified sheets containing solar collectors, when installed throughout our highways, promise to replace existing coal-fired generating plants with a non-polluting system of low operating cost. Our future energy policy can achieve energy independence and reduce CO₂ emissions by focusing investment on these new technologies. Since our economic competitors in Europe and Asia have begun subsidizing hydrogen and solar energy to replace oil and coal, we need to develop a coherent energy policy based on these new, domestically available and non-polluting fuels (with - if possible - technologies "patented in the U.S.")

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