

10/22/2018

Re: Mission Impossible (Not)

Dear Editor,

The recent column by economist Robert Samuelson on climate change was an unconditional surrender to fatalism. Even worse, his purported justifications for giving up were simply wrong. For example, driving electric is in fact a significant benefit to reducing CO2 emissions. Even in West Virginia, where the electrical grid is almost 98% coal powered, driving an electric car still produces 50% less CO2 than a fossil fuel car produces. In Eugene where our EWEB grid is 100% renewable, the resulting CO2 emissions are 100% less, not to mention the reduction in particulate emissions.

Yes, globally the grid is only 4% solar and wind, but he left out hydro and nuclear. In the US our grid is now 15% renewable, not even counting nuclear energy. It should be noted that 5 years ago, solar provided almost no power generation, and 10 years ago the same could be said for wind power generation. It's also worth noting that in the US (and elsewhere) the wind and solar industry now employ more people than the oil and gas industries.

Samuelson needs to have a little faith in human ingenuity before he throws in the towel for all of us.

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