



Clean Energy: The Solution to Volatile Gas Prices

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With gas prices fluctuating in recent years, Americans may feel uneasy at the pump. While some advocate drilling as a solution, there are better ways to provide stability for consumers. Newly updated NRDC analysis shows that the oil savings from clean energy measures can far outpace the potential oil production of drilling in America's protected areas. The real solution to volatile gas prices and oil dependency is a strategy that relies on energy efficiency, clean fuels, and transportation choices such as commuter rail—not drilling.

A comprehensive but achievable clean energy strategy can cut U.S. oil consumption by 9.7 million barrels per day (mbd) by 2030. This is roughly 11 times the amount that we could produce from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Outer Continental Shelf in the same timeframe.

Drilling for Oil is Not the Answer

There have recently been an abundance of proposals related to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and protected areas of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Framed as a response to the current pain of high gas prices, these proposals are misleading. Not only would it be almost a decade before production could occur in either place, but with America accounting for 2 percent of global oil reserves and 25 percent of total consumption—the U.S. consumes about 21 million barrels of oil per day—additional drilling will not significantly reduce gas prices or enhance energy security.

Clean Energy Strategy Offers Greater Benefits

As shown in the figure on page 2, the potential oil savings from a comprehensive strategy far outpace the amount of oil we could scrape from the Arctic Refuge and protected OCS areas. Oil savings accrue immediately, remain higher, and grow faster. In 2030, the results of a broad clean energy strategy trump drilling by nearly 9 million barrels per day.

And unlike drilling, clean energy provides substantial environmental and economic benefits to the United States. Clean energy will not harm our coasts and wilderness areas, while drilling



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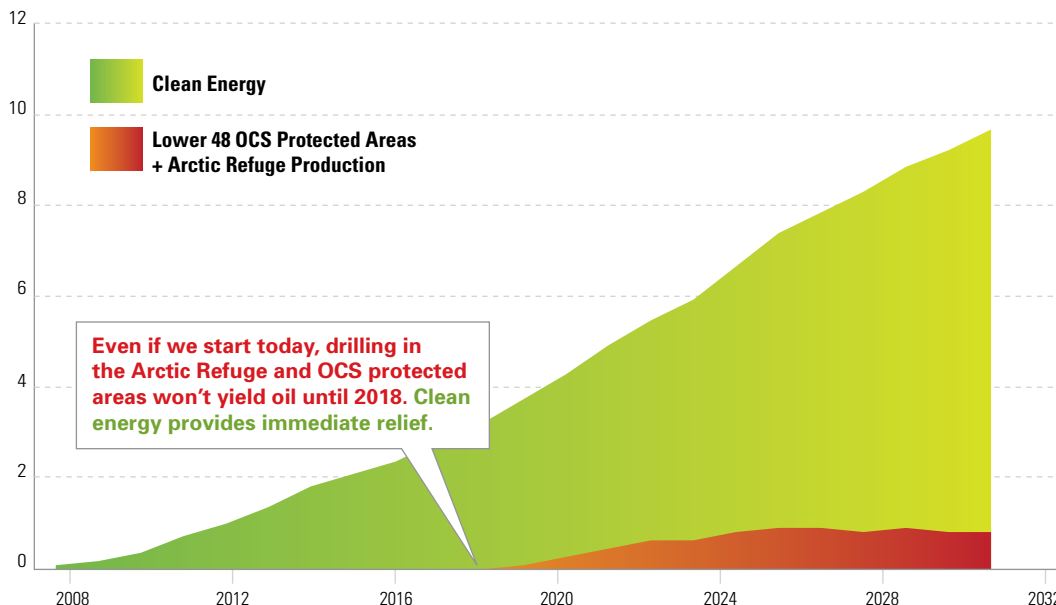
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Clean Energy vs. Drilling (Million Barrels of Oil per Day)



Recommendations for Saving Oil With a Clean Energy Strategy

NRDC has identified a package of realistic steps we can take to save 10 million barrels of oil per day by 2030—about 11 times more oil than drilling would produce.

Saving 10 Million Barrels of Oil per Day by 2030

Measure	Description
Higher Fuel Economy for New Cars and Light-Duty Trucks	Implement fuel economy standards as authorized by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007), using realistic assumptions to determine feasibility. Continue to increase fuel economy so that new cars and light trucks achieve a fleet-wide average of at least 42 miles per gallon in 2020 and at least 55 mpg by 2030.
Improved Fuel Economy of On-road Vehicle Fleet	Improve fuel economy of on-road fleet of cars and light trucks by 4 percent through low rolling resistance tires, tire inflation, and fuel-efficient motor oil.
Improved Fuel Economy for New and On-road Heavy-duty Trucks	Implement fuel economy standards as authorized by EISA 2007 to increase fuel economy of new medium- and heavy-duty trucks by at least 40 percent by 2030. Retrofit tractor trailer stock with fuel-efficient EPA SmartWay technologies such as trailer aerodynamic improvements, single-wide tires, and idling reduction equipment by 2014.
Building Efficiency	Retrofit oil-heated homes and commercial buildings to cut fuel consumption by 50 percent.
Advanced Biofuels	Produce 47 billion gallons of sustainable ethanol and 2 billion gallons of renewable diesel per year by 2030.
Air Travel Improvements	Improve fuel consumption per revenue mile by 1 percent per year from 2009-2012, then at least maintain efficiency levels.
Smart Growth and Transit	Keep per capita vehicle miles traveled at today's levels through smart community planning and development and investments in public transit. Maintaining per capita mileage results in a 21 percent reduction from 2030 forecasts.
Plug-in Hybrid Electric Cars	Promote plug-in hybrid electric vehicles so that 8 percent of vehicle miles traveled are powered by electricity by 2030.

will cause serious environmental damage. Clean energy will directly benefit Americans, who will need to buy less gasoline and diesel. And the domestic investments that produce clean and efficient technology can reinvigorate America's manufacturing and construction industries that have struggled in the midst of an economic slowdown, further relieving the squeeze on consumers by generating good jobs.

It's Time for Clean Energy

A comprehensive clean energy strategy not only dwarfs potential production from increased drilling, but can also provide benefits before oil would even begin to flow from the wells—while simultaneously creating jobs and decreasing environmental damage. Adopting these policies would also slash our nation's dependence on oil, putting the United States on the road toward a future where we are no longer hostages to unpredictable, harmful oil price spikes.