

# Six Myths about Climate

**Tom Nelson Podcast**

**Bruce M. Everett, PhD  
CO<sub>2</sub> Coalition  
November 8, 2023**





# Myth #1 The “climate emergency”



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a dirt path winding through it. The text is overlaid on the image.

***Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a benign molecule, essential for life***

***Not pollution!***

***CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in 1800s was ~ 0.03%***

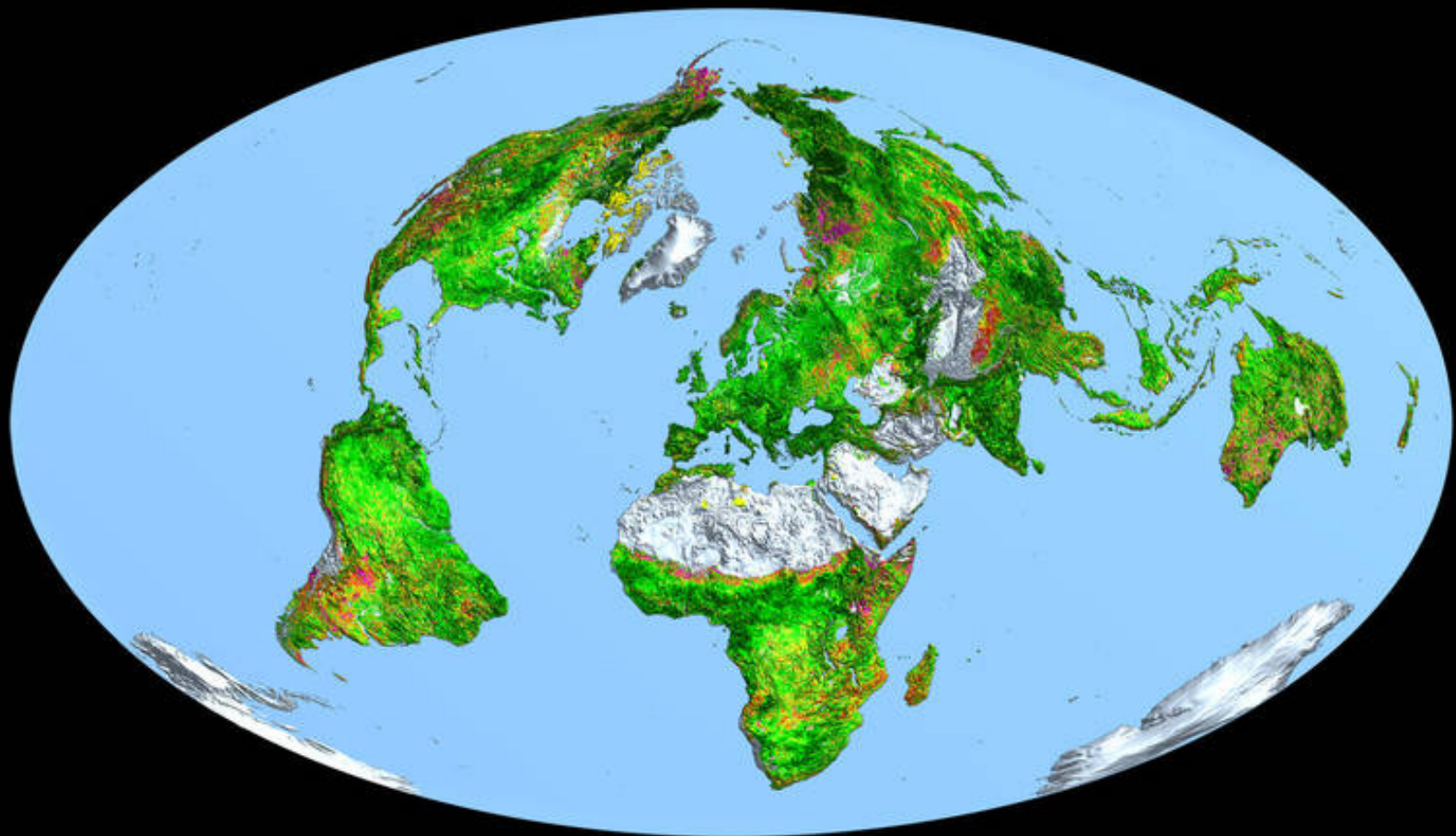
***CO<sub>2</sub> concentration now ~ 0.04%***





**This is steam!  
CO<sub>2</sub> is invisible!**

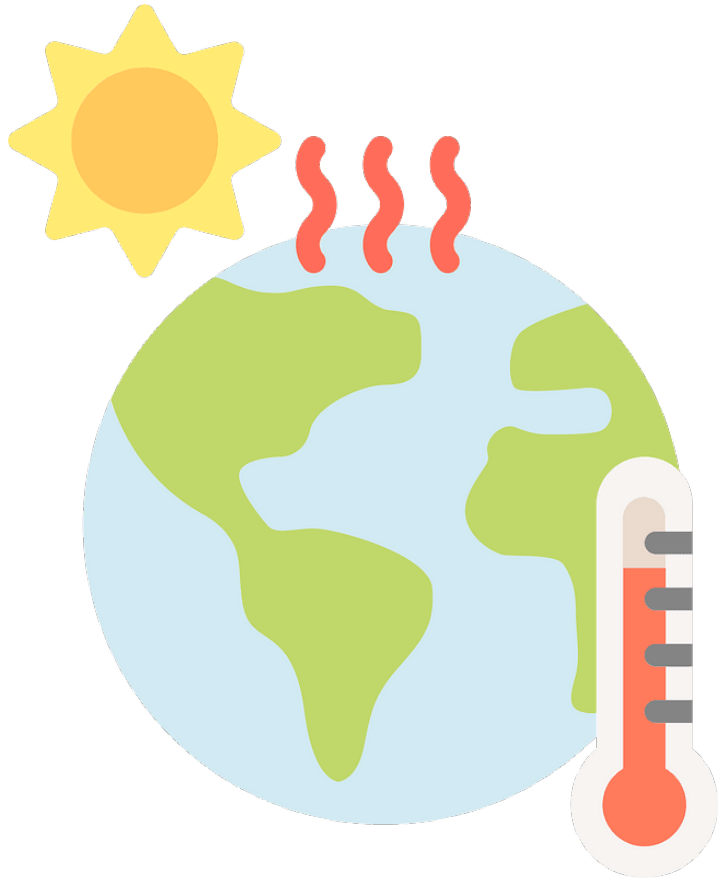




Change In Leaf Area (1982-2015)

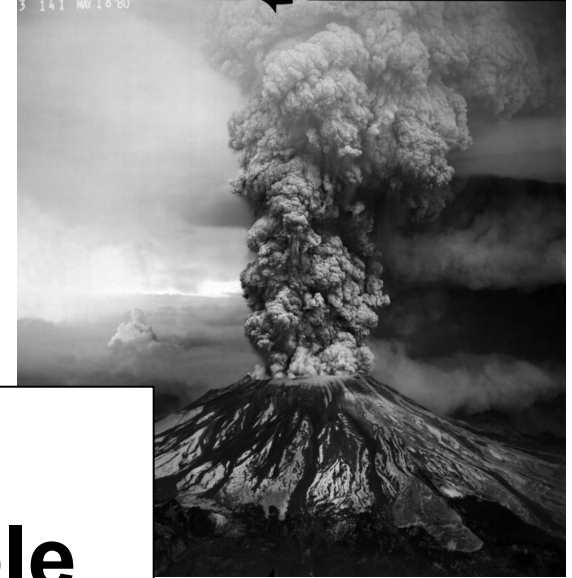
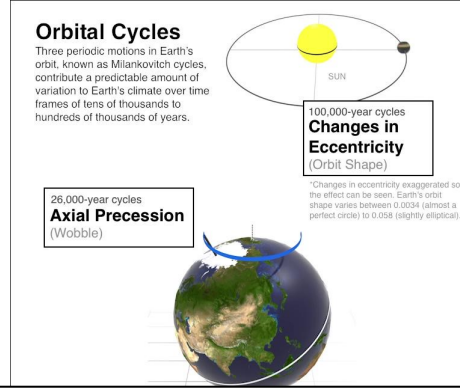
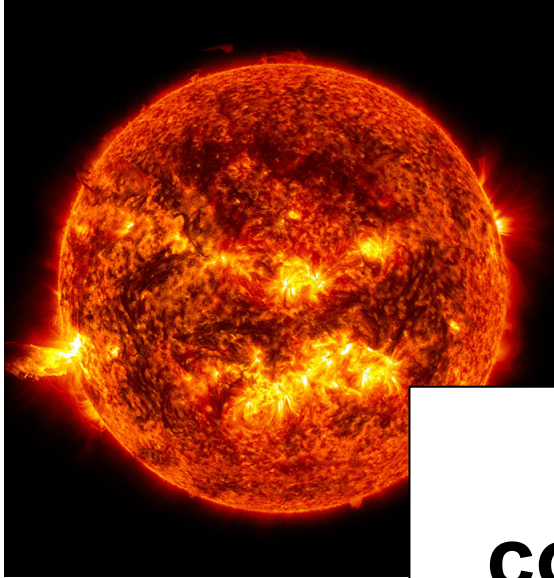


***NASA satellite photos show the  
“fertilization effect” of CO<sub>2</sub>***

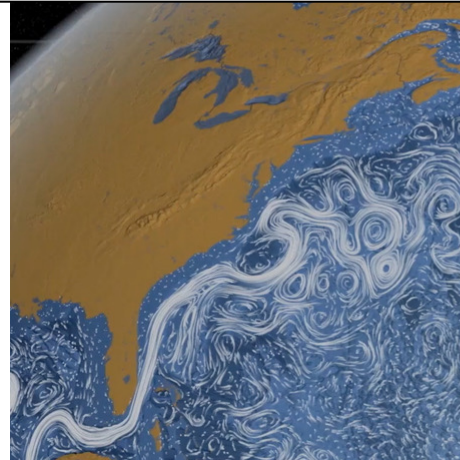


**Predicted massive  
temperature increases  
have not materialized**

**Only about 1° C in the last  
120 years**



**Climate is too complex for simple answers**





A photograph of a server room with rows of server racks. In the foreground, a white server unit is visible with the 'STORAGETEK' logo. The background shows a perspective view of the server racks receding into the distance, illuminated by blue and white lights.

***Disaster predictions  
are artifacts of  
computer models***



A scenic landscape featuring a large body of water in the middle ground, surrounded by lush green hills and mountains. The foreground is dominated by a vibrant green lawn, with a dark green hedge running horizontally across it. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

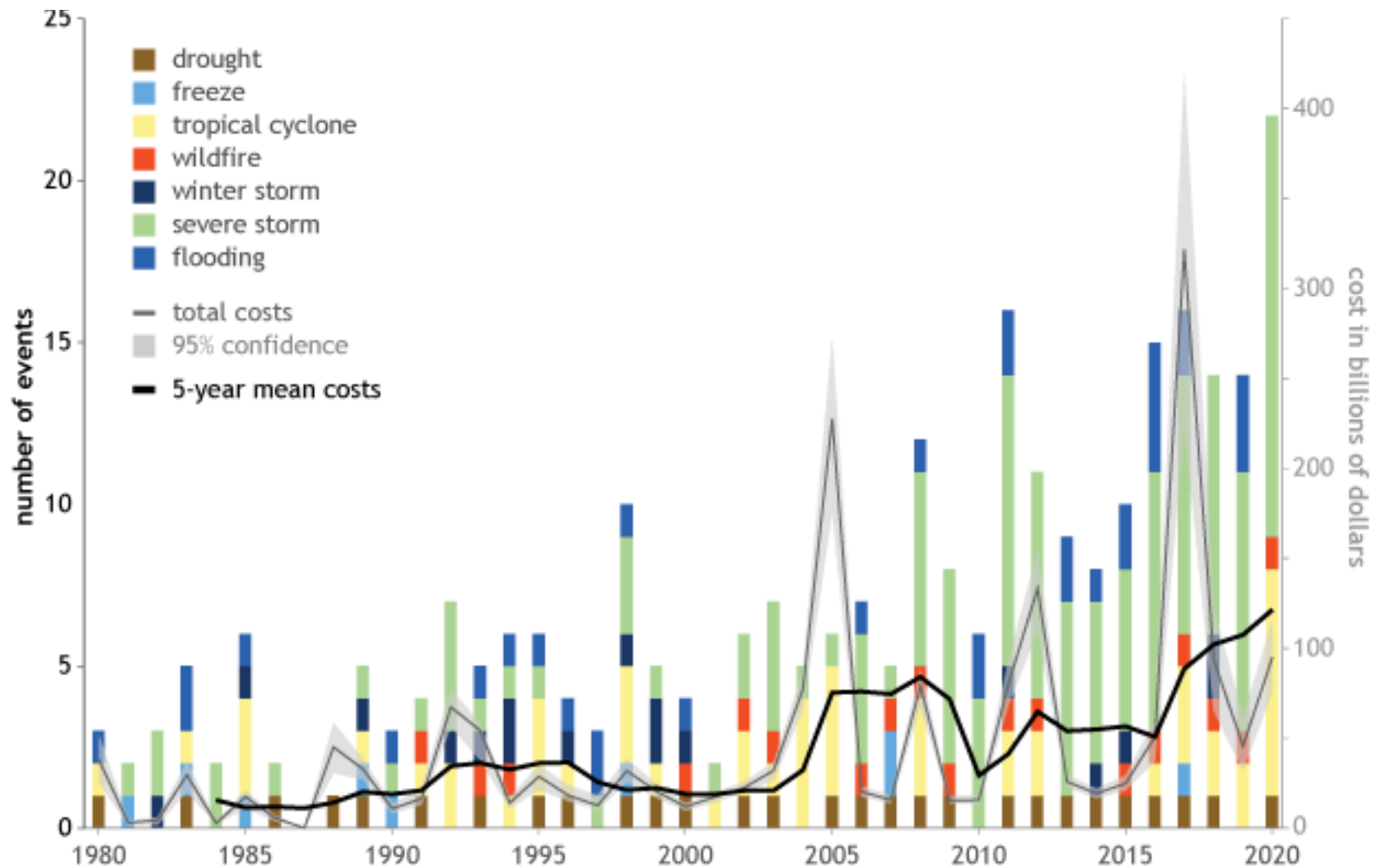
**There is no climate  
emergency!**

# Myth #2: Carbon dioxide has made natural disasters worse



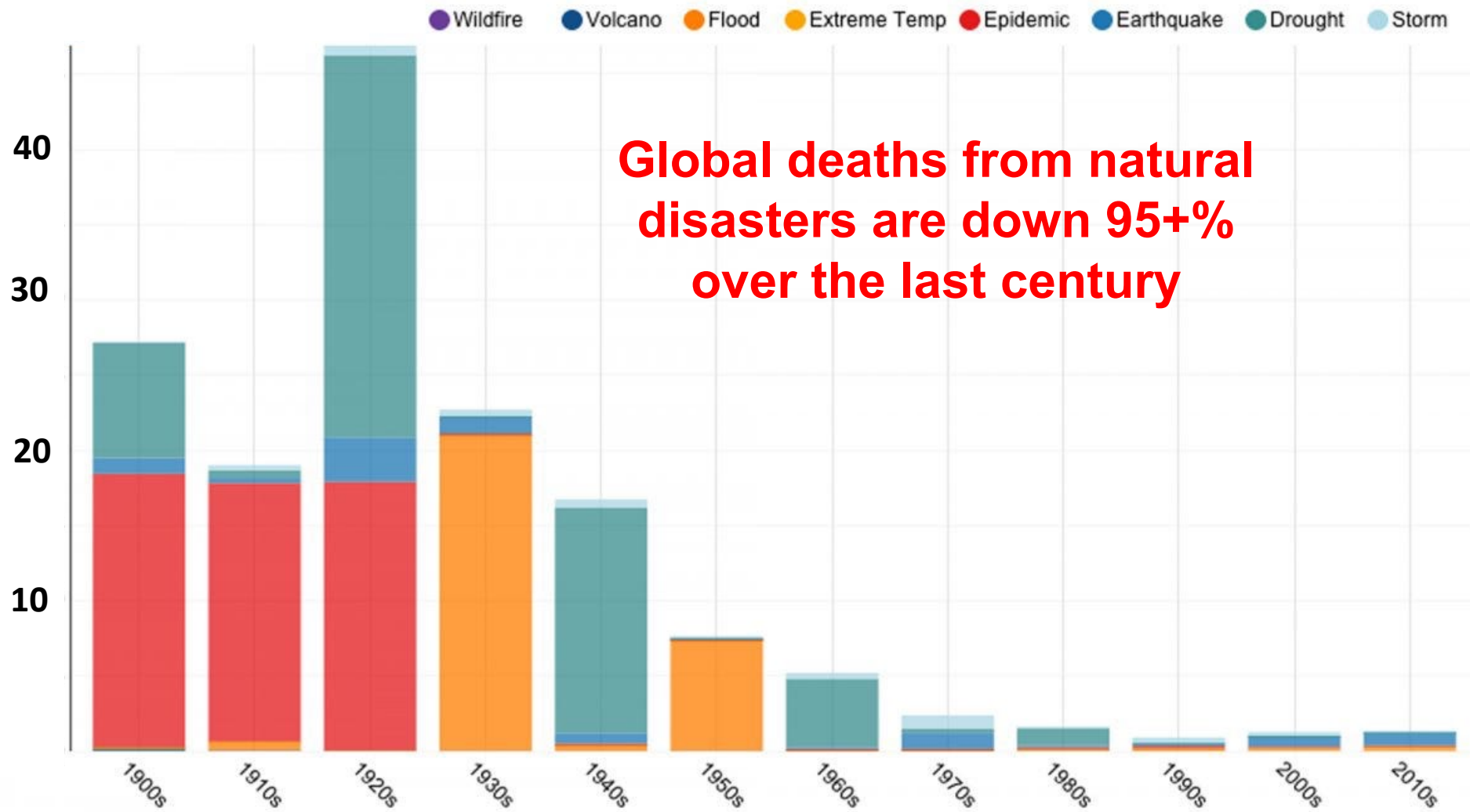


# Billion-dollar disasters, 1980-2020



Source: US National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration

# Annual Deaths per 100,000 from Natural Catastrophes, 1900-2020



# Calculating storm damage

**Since 1980:**

**Inflation = 4X**

***But:***

**Number of houses = 1.7X**

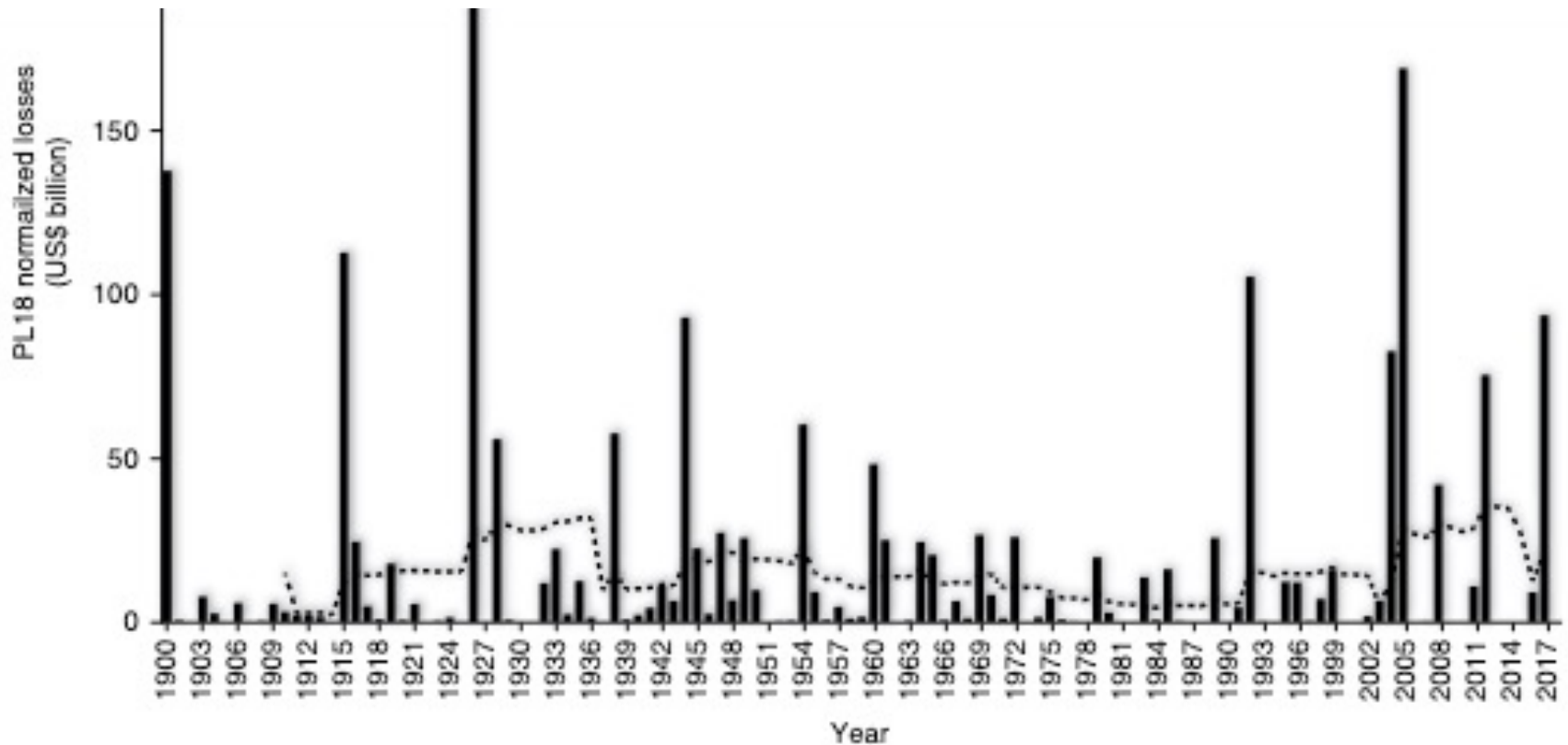
**Median home value = 6.4X**

**Average \$\$\$ in path of storm = 11X**





# Roger Pielke's Normalized Hurricane Damage 1900-2017



Source: Weinkle, Landsea, Collins, Musulin, Crompton, Klotzbach and Pielke, "Normalized hurricane damage in the continental United States 1900–2017", *Nature Sustainability*, December 2018.\*

## Myth #3

**Renewable energy is less expensive than fossil fuels**



## Natural Gas Combined Cycle

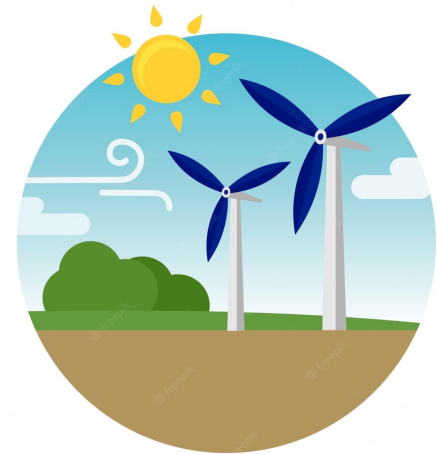
**200 MW**  
**\$230M capex**  
**(1 square block)**  
**1.5B kWh**



**7¢/kWh required price**

## Onshore Wind Farm

**200 MW**  
**\$375M capex**  
**(13 mi<sup>2</sup>)**  
**0.6B kWh**



**8¢/kWh required price**

## Natural Gas Combined Cycle

200 MW

\$230M capex

(1 square block)

~~1.5B kWh~~ 0.9B kWh

## Onshore Wind Farm

200 MW

\$375M capex

(13 mi<sup>2</sup>)

0.6B kWh

\$\$



9¢/kWh required price (~30%↑)



## Natural Gas Combined Cycle

200 MW

\$230M capex

(1 square block)

~~1.5B kWh~~ 0.7B kWh



## Offshore Wind Farm

200 MW

\$1,050M capex

(NA)

0.8B kWh



**17¢/kWh required price**



**Myth #4:**

**The global  
community has  
united to reduce  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

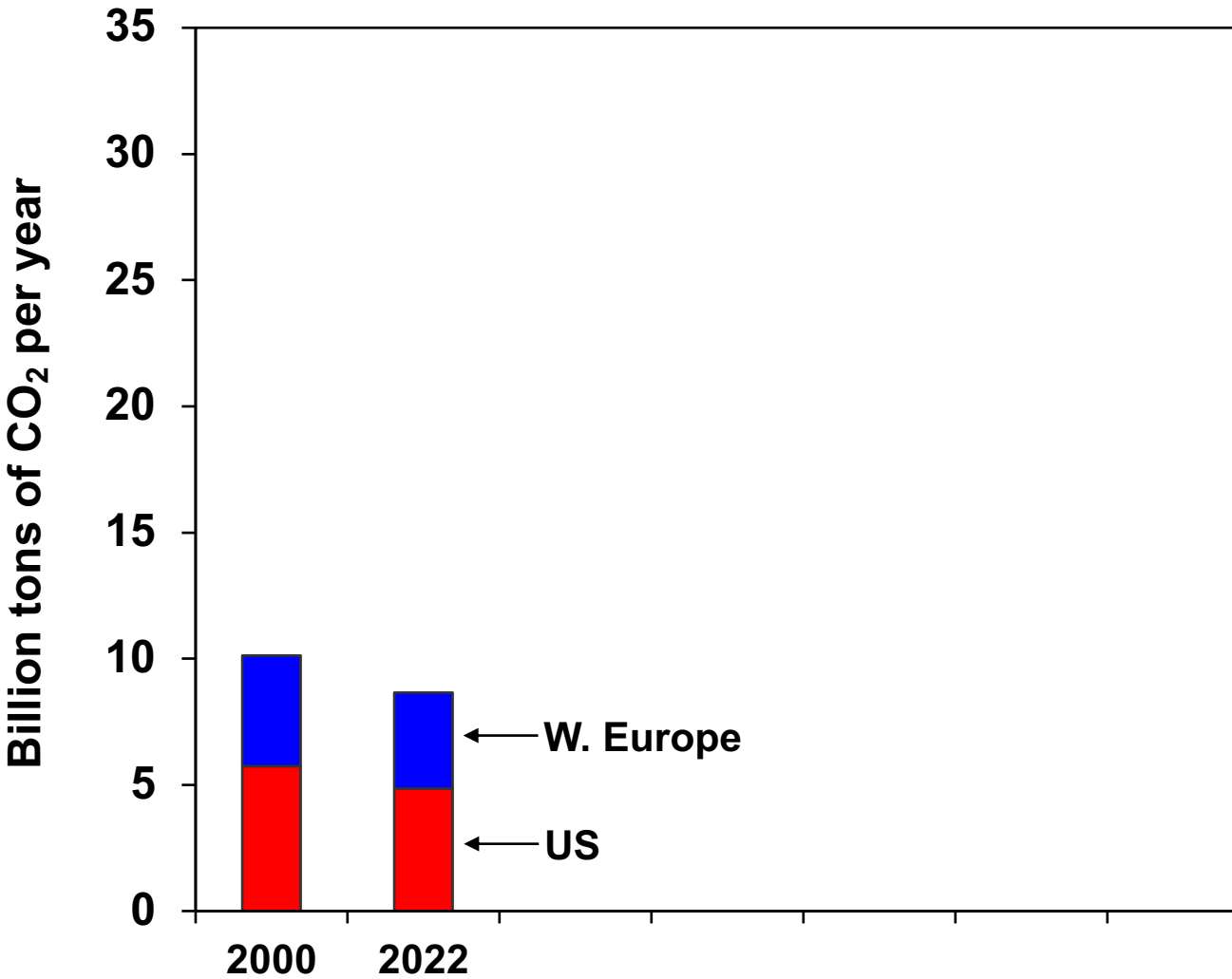


***Where does CO<sub>2</sub>  
come from?***

# *CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 2000-2022*

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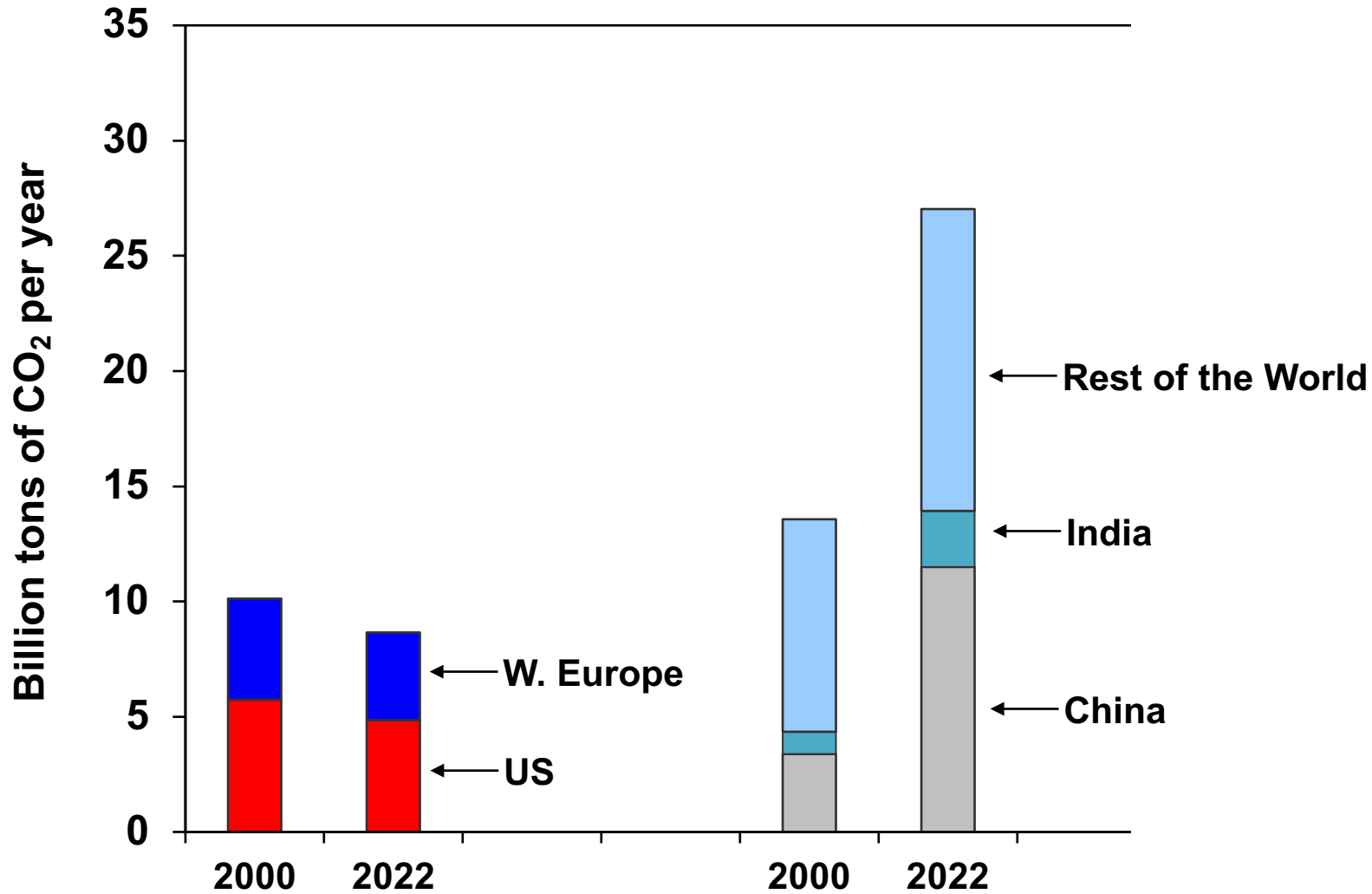
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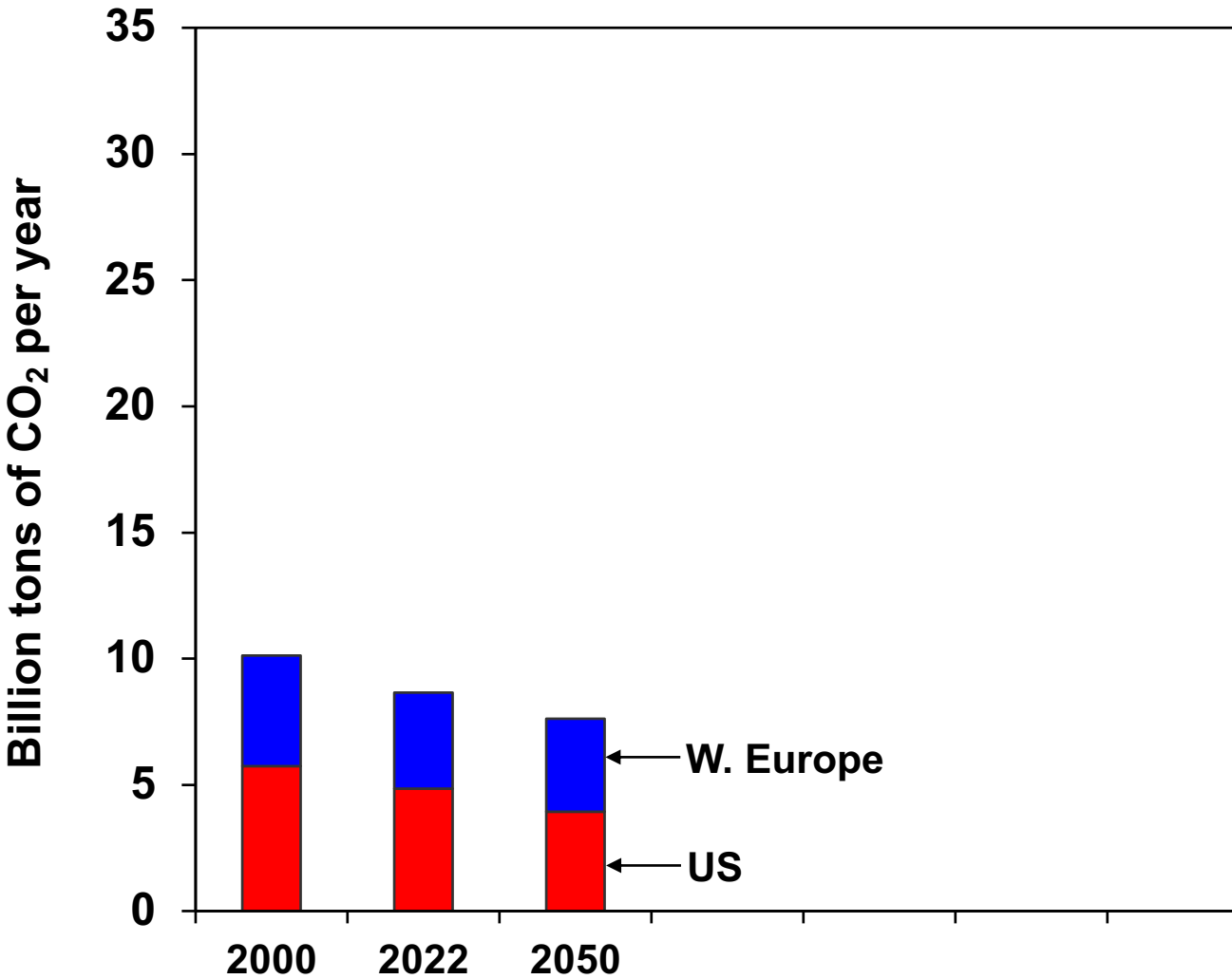
Source: Energy Institute & EIA



# CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 2000-2022

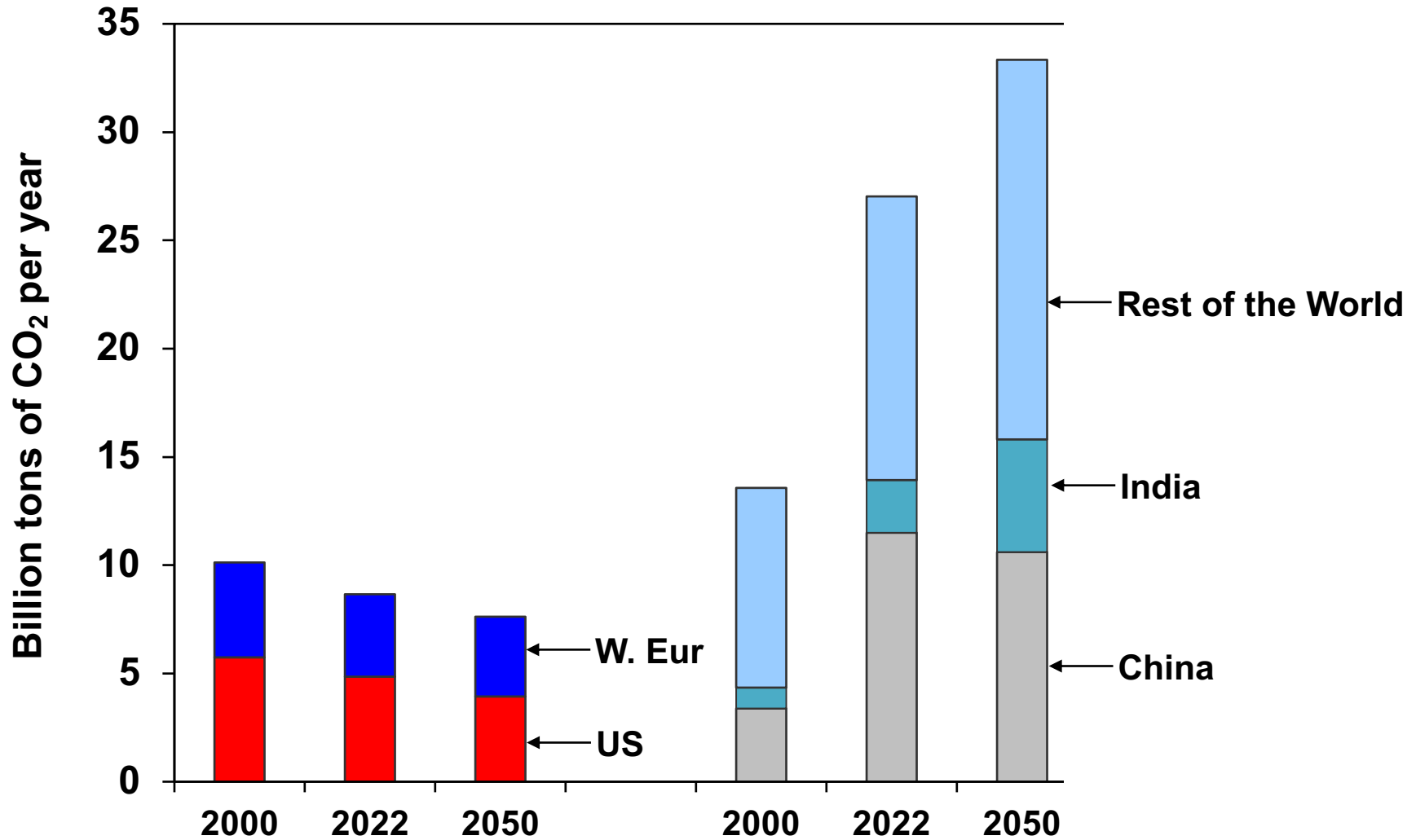


# CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 2000-2050



Source: Energy Institute & EIA

# CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 2000-2050



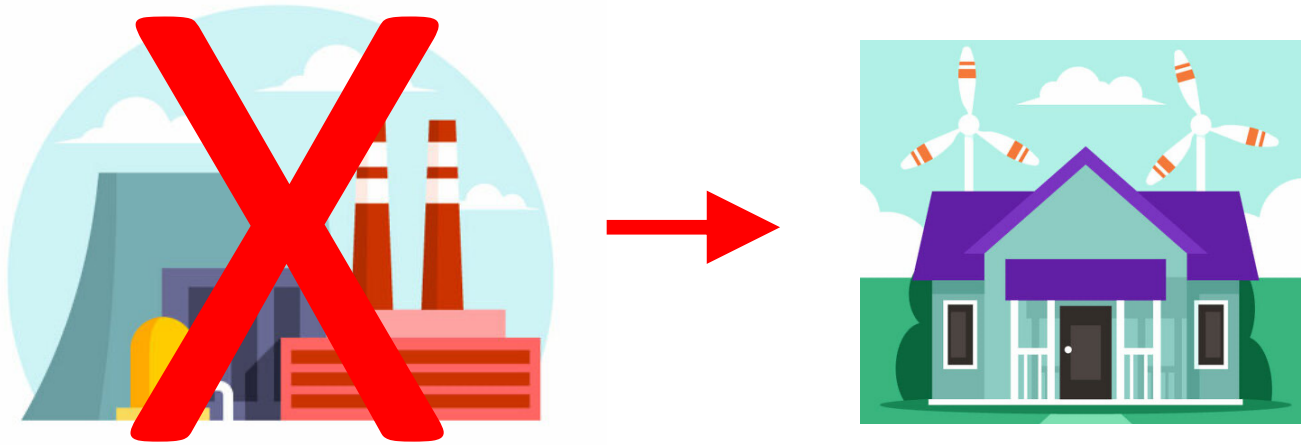
Source: Energy Institute & EIA





**Why are countries  
not decarbonizing?**

**Because fossil fuels  
are the only  
economically viable  
source of plentiful,  
secure energy.**



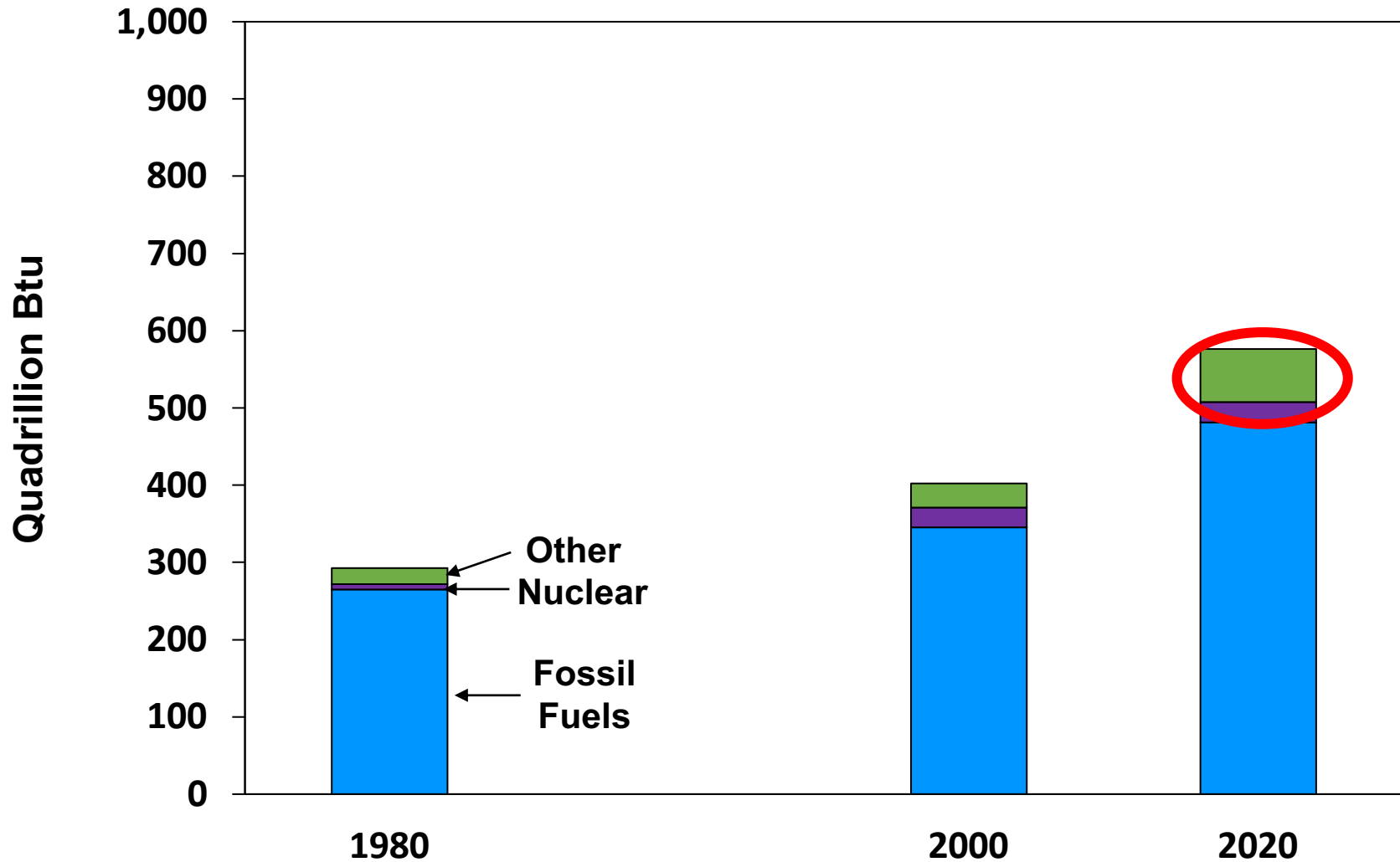
***Myth #5:***

***The world is undergoing a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy***

# World Energy Consumption 1980 - 2020

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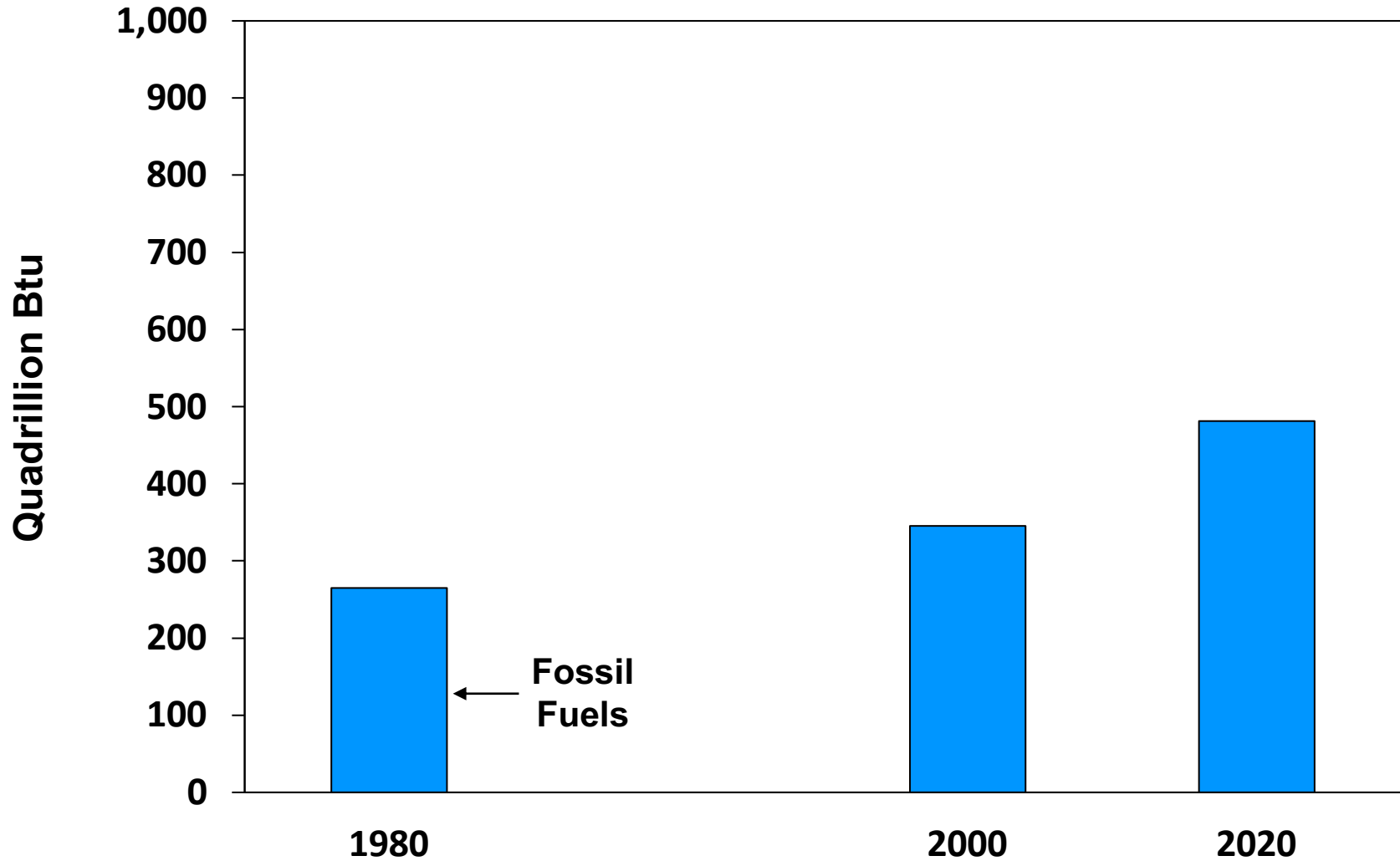


Source: Energy Information Administration

# World Energy Consumption 1980 - 2020

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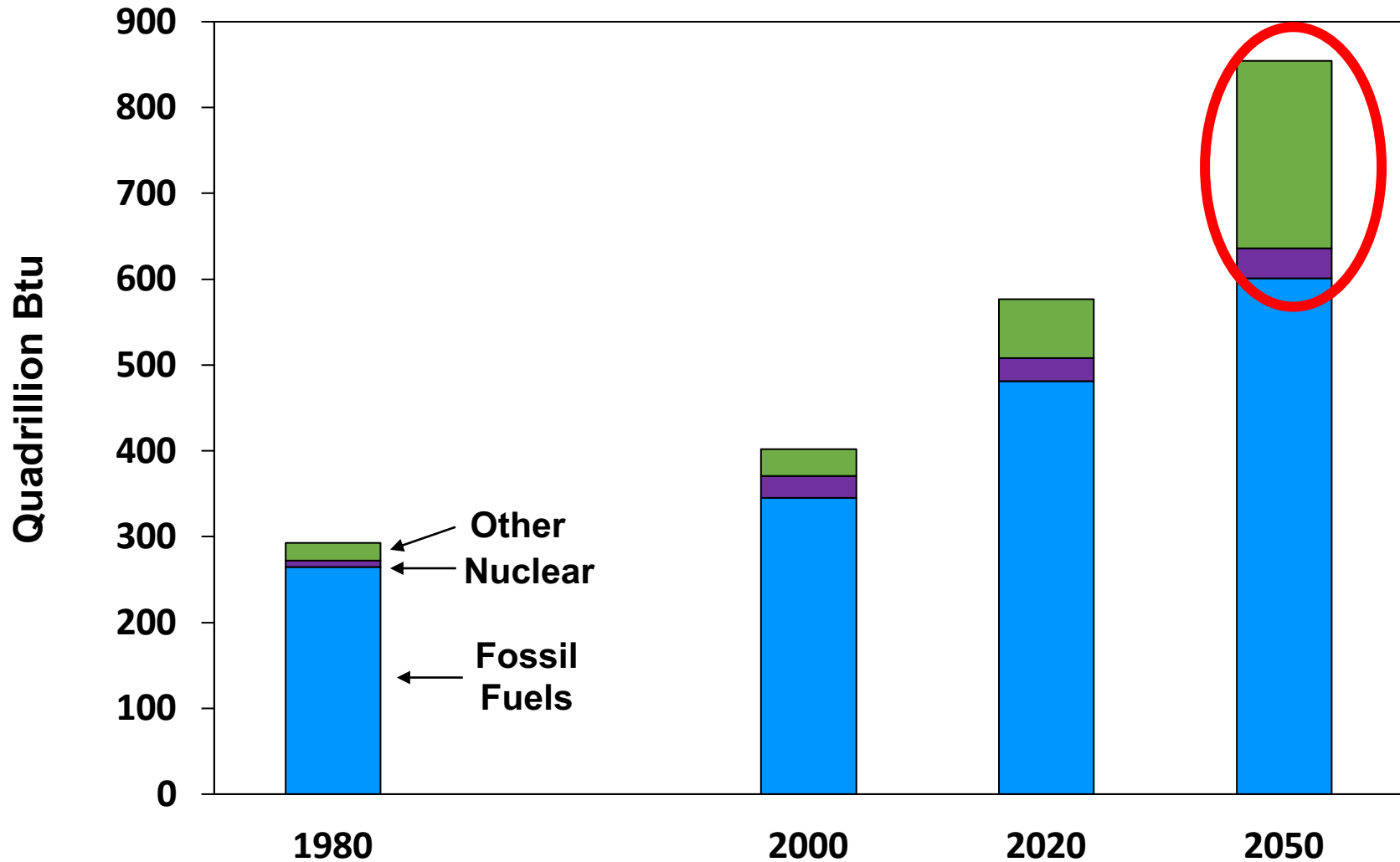


Source: Energy Information Administration

# World Energy Consumption 1980 - 2050

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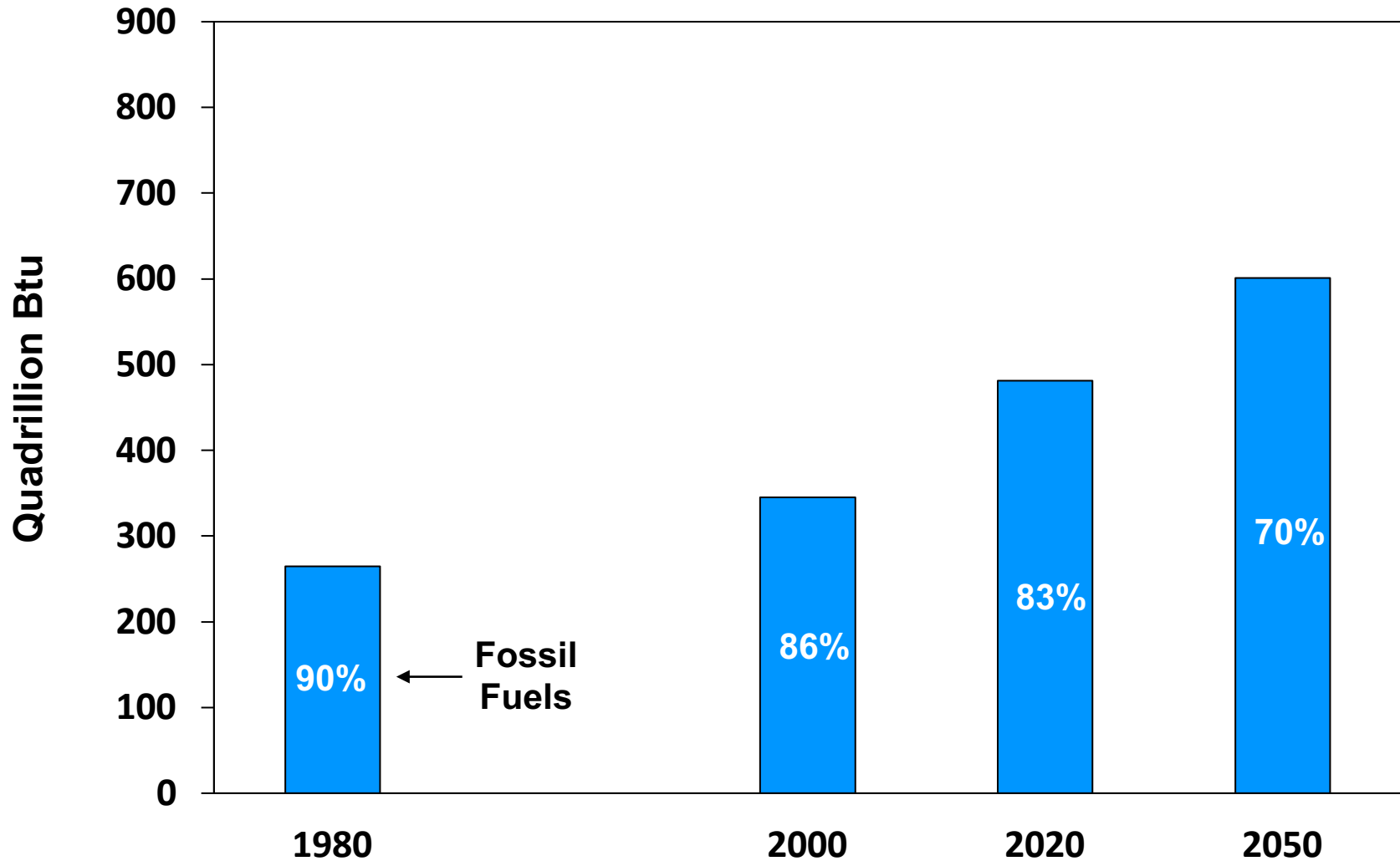
Source: Energy Information Administration



# World Energy Consumption 1980 - 2050

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Source: Energy Information Administration



## **Myth #6**

# **The Moonshot Fallacy**

**“If we can put a man  
on the moon, we  
can.....”**

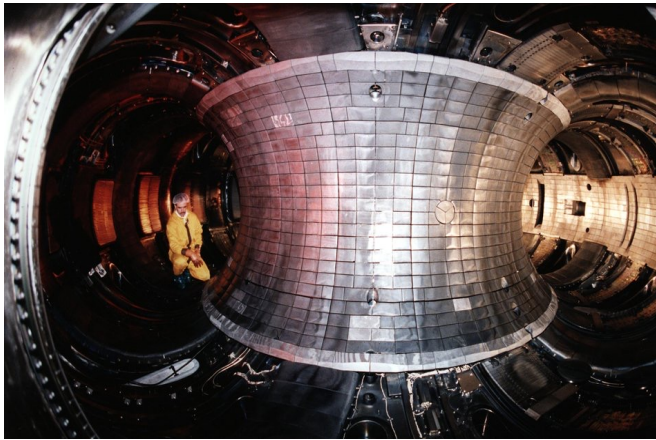
# ***Apollo achieved:***

- A technically difficult feat *a few times* at *great cost*
  - ~\$15 billion (\$2023) per astronaut landed
- Energy technologies must *scale up* at *low cost*
- *The “moonshot” is not the right model for commercial development*



## ***Two corollary fallacies:***

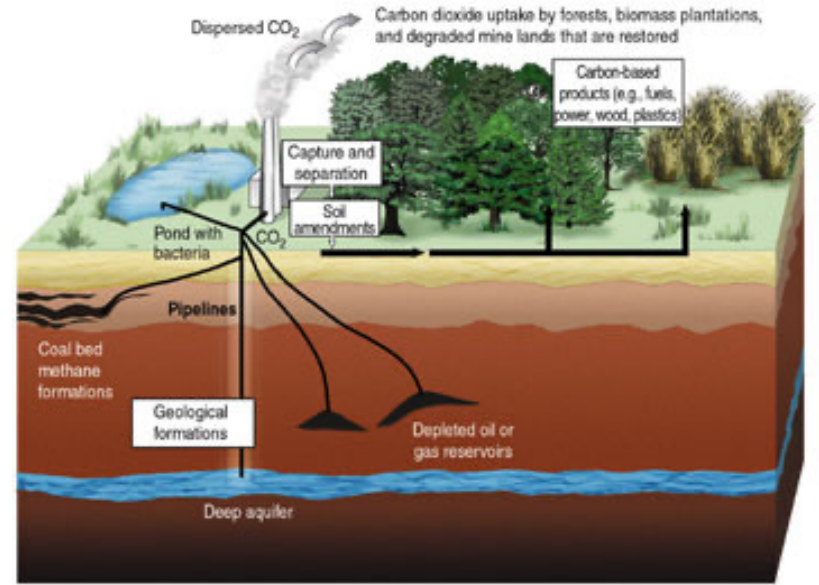
- 1. R&D can produce whatever we want.**
- 2. Scaling up inferior technologies improves them.**







**Batteries?**



**Carbon capture?**

**Technologies can be deployed when they are ready, not before!**



