

Levelize the playing field for CHEAP renewables, because it's not

-Congress could direct FERC-

Any discussions about the Green New Deal are often met with **fierce opposition** about wanting to **crush the economy** with a carbon tax. However, there is an argument that immediately **silences fierce opposition**. An argument that clearly **wins the battle**, and, has the potential to **bring people together**, to find common grounds: "Why wouldn't we simply go for **renewables** which are **half the price** now?" That's the KEY POINT. Everybody can agree on this.

So where are the issues? We need to **LEVELIZE THE PLAYING FIELD** for cheap renewables to happen, because it's not. And that's up to Congress:

ROAD TO MARKET

Why are there so many new natural gas plants even though renewables are cheaper now?

Because the road to market is open for gas, and blocked for cheap renewables!

Let me explain this. It is easy to supply gas plants through a **new pipeline** that can be permitted under **federal jurisdiction** by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). It only takes a few years, perhaps **3 years**, to build a pipeline.

For **wind & solar** however, the road to market is a **new transmission line** which is not under federal, but States' jurisdiction. It therefore often takes **10 or more years**, i.e. forever, to get new transmission built (and cost allocations settled), especially between States. *Renewables are simply lacking the road to market*, that is being built for more expensive natural gas plants all the time.

How can this be changed? Congress has authority to direct FERC, and could direct FERC to permit transmission lines under federal jurisdiction (and settle cost allocations). That simple!

HALF THE COUNTRY WITH CHOICES

Secondly, Congress could free up power markets by directing **FERC** to order **wholesale market choices** throughout the country, and not just in half (the unregulated markets). With such wholesale market choices, each company could **choose** to buy cleaner and CHEAPER renewable power.

How great is this? And, quickly you would not talk about another 1,000 MW in Georgia (as an example) with lots of fortune 500 companies wanting to buy clean & CHEAP, but rather another 10,000 MW to satisfy industrial & customer demand for clean and CHEAP renewables with many of these companies having 100% renewable mandates.

COMPROMISE

If federal jurisdiction for new transmission lines through FERC cannot be achieved, a compromise could be to direct FERC at the very least to open up existing powerline **right of ways (ROW)** for **OPEN ACCESS** to repower them. i.e. the right for market participants to use and rebuild existing ROWs through a FERC controlled permitting process. This would possibly **fix the system** and lead to much higher installations of CHEAPER renewables throughout the Country.

If Congress were to act on both critical path items to LEVELIZE the playing field for renewables (ROAD to market & wholesale MARKET CHOICES), we could soon see much higher installation rates for wind and solar energy.

To the benefit of ratepayers.

CHEAP will happen faster.

Ingo Stuckmann, Zero Emission Think Tank



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New Solar + Battery Price Crushes Fossil Fuels, Buries Nuclear



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Green Tech

From Chicago, I write about climate change, green technology, energy.

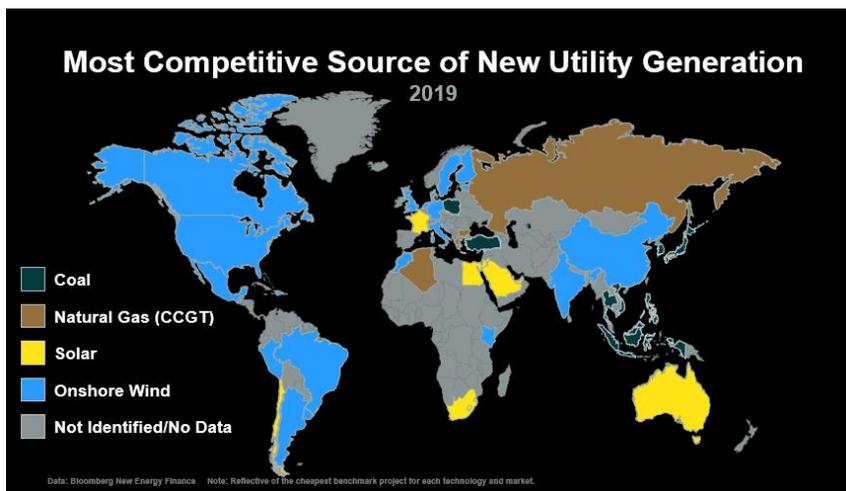


BARREN RIDGE, CA - APRIL 4: The new project will join the current large Barren Ridge solar panel array in Kern County, California. (Photo by George Rose/Getty Images) GETTY IMAGES

New solar half the price than natural gas.

Los Angeles Power and Water officials have struck a deal on the largest and cheapest solar + battery-storage project in the world, at prices that leave fossil fuels in the dust and may relegate nuclear power to the dustbin.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2019/07/01/new-solar--battery-price-crushes-fossil-fuels-buries-nuclear/#17e7a78c5971>

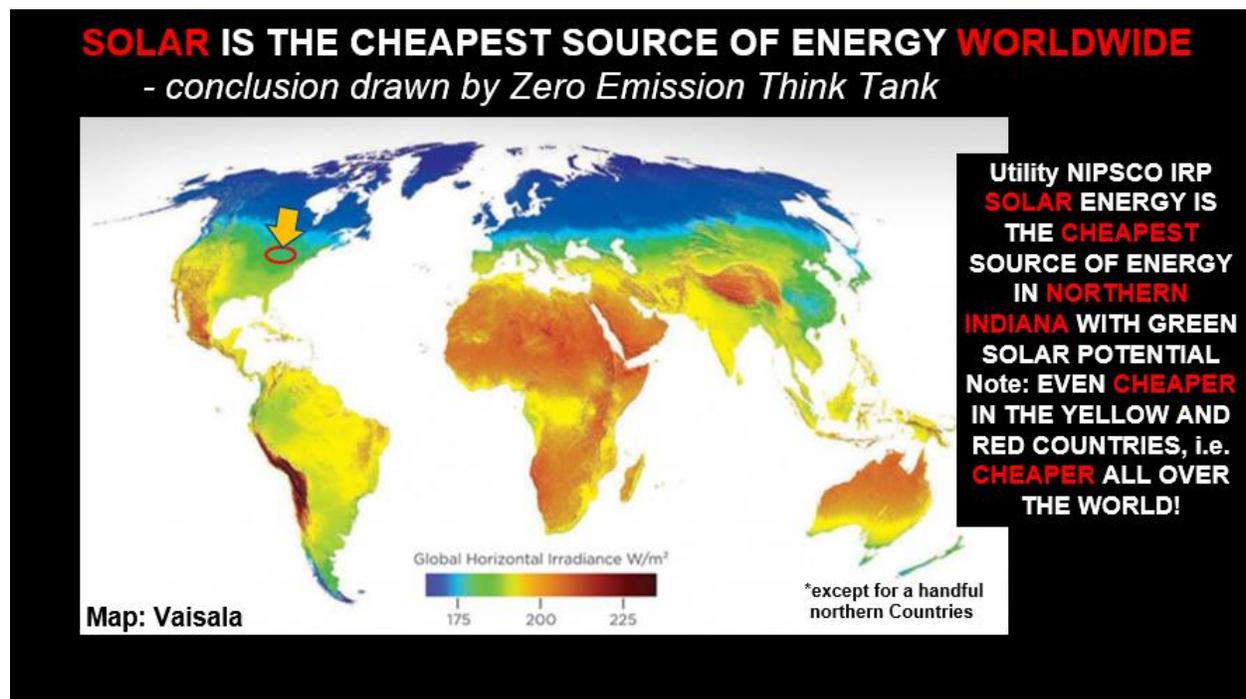
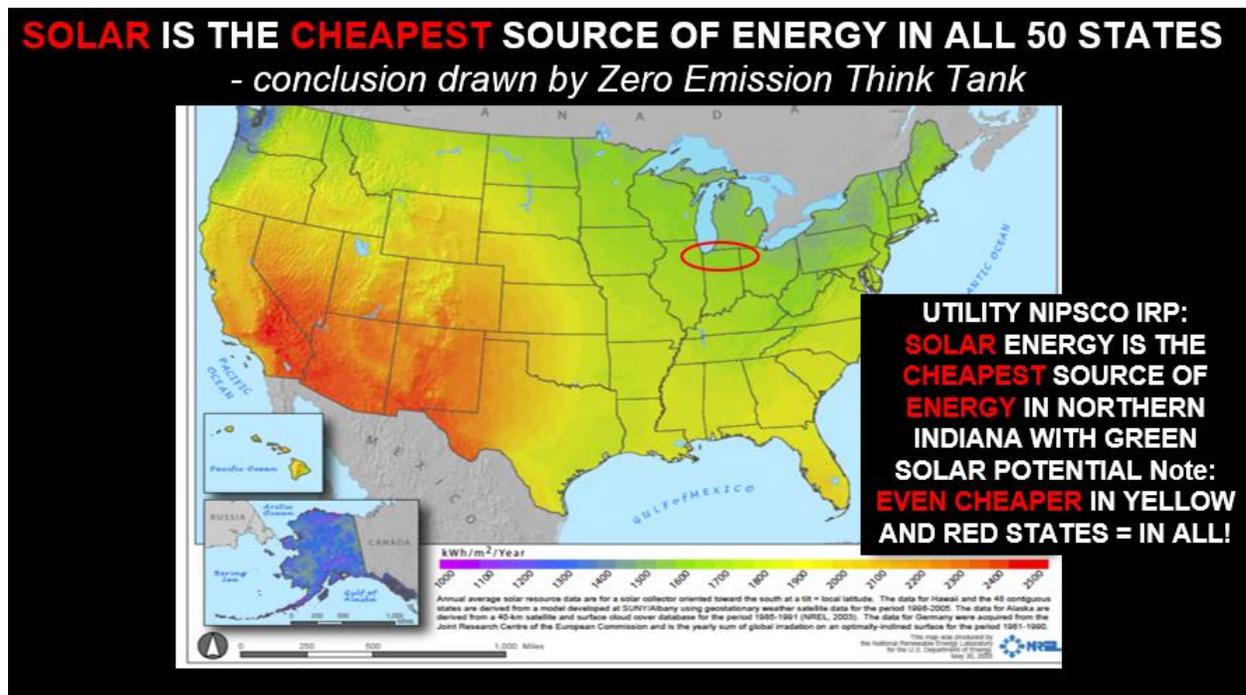


Bloomberg

2/3 of the people in the world live in countries where either wind or solar are the CHEAPEST source of energy. In the US, wind is the CHEAPEST source of energy – New Energy Outlook 2019

NIPSCO:

Utility NIPSCO of Northern Indiana evaluated power options in their recent 2018 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The CHEAPEST source of energy is new solar (and new wind). They will now replace 65% coal by new solar (and wind), saving customers \$4BN. http://www.zepface.it/info/Solar_cheapest_SourceOfEnergy_inALL50States_2019.pdf



Investment bank Lazard: Wind and Solar CHEAPER than even operating gas, coal, nuclear (Lazard 2018)

