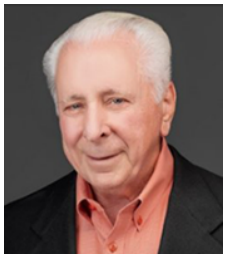
The World's Population Explosion Demands New Energy and Electricity Channels



Co-authored by Ronald Stein and Nancy Pearlman

December 26, 2025

Utilizing but not replenishing the natural resources of Planet Earth has limitations.

The United Nations graph is an image worth 1,000 words as virtually no further explanation is needed as the world's population explosion occurred after we discovered ways to process that black tar, i.e., crude oil, through refineries into various oil derivatives that are the basis of more than 6,000 products, and transportation fuels, to support the publics' demands for those products, which is the one of the main reason we continue to explore for that black tar.

One of the main causes of the world population growing from 1 to 8 billion was the products made from oil that supported the population growth, the same products that continue to be demanded by today's humanity, that only come from processed crude oil. A voluntary global reduction in population growth would put less pressure on the extraction of our earth's resources

Just a few hundred years ago, before oil, the world was less spoiled and dominated by mother nature and the wild animal kingdom. There were fewer humans competing with the animals due to humanity's limited ability to survive what mother

nature provided. Before oil, life was hard and dirty, with many weather and disease-related deaths.

After oil, the products made from oil allowed us to create various modes of transportation, a medical industry, and electronics and communications systems. Those products from oil reduced infant mortality, extended longevity from 40+ to more than 80+, and gave the public the ability to move anywhere in the world via planes, trains, ships, and vehicles, and virtually eliminated deaths from many diseases and from all forms of weather. All that apparent "progress" is being "blamed" on the introduction of oil into society.

We've been trying to "clone" crude oil for two hundred years to maintain the supply chain of products that supported the population growth from 1 to 8 billion in those 200 years.

The main reason we continue to use that useless black tar, i.e., crude oil, is to break it down via refineries, into oil derivatives and transportation fuels.

We don't NEED oil; we need the PRODUCTS and TRANSPORTATION FUELS that they provide. We should also develop renewables while we explore new technologies and products not based on oil. While alternative plant-based products are being developed, we still need to invest more in these non-fossil fuel initiatives.

The best that the GREEN movement has come up with for energy is wind and solar, but those renewables only generate electricity but CANNOT make any of the PRODUCTS and TRANSPORTATION FUELS. Most insulting is that wind and solar are made with those products that come from processed crude oil!

It seems that most PEOPLE on this planet are 100% in favor of ridding the use of that natural resource of crude oil from this 4-billion-year-old planet, but we have yet to identify its replacement that can support the supply chain demands of

our materialistic society and economy. Of course, reducing our consumption of resources is just one small step but more is needed.

Since we've been unable to replace oil, we need to focus on improving our conservation and efficiency and recycling to make that natural resource last as long as possible.

Electricity came AFTER oil, as ALL electrical generation methods from hydro, coal, natural gas, nuclear, wind, and solar are ALL built with the products, components, and equipment that are made from oil derivatives manufactured from crude oil.

Without Crude Oil there can be no Electricity! But we can and should be developing renewables that do not depend on crude oil.

In addition, electricity can charge an iPhone, but neither wind turbines nor solar panels can MAKE an iPhone, thus everything that needs electricity consists of products that are also made from oil derivatives manufactured from crude oil.

Without Crude Oil there will be no products like iPhones, X-ray machines, etc., that NEEDS electricity!

We can develop a "few" products from bamboo or hemp, etc., but all the experts in the world have been unable to match the versatility and diverse products that have resulted in more than 6,000 products that did not exist a few hundred years ago. So, until alternatives to these oil-based products are found, oil should be used as little as possible for transportation and other uses where there are alternatives. And of course we go back to the root cause of environmental destruction, overpopulation. Changes must be made to reduce the number of people on the planet to a viable carrying capacity.

The world extracts from Mother Earth over 100 million barrels of oil **per day**, while the United States consumes around 20 million barrels **daily**. That oil is not being replenished, and those poorer developing countries want to be “like us”, thus worldwide extraction rates may increase to meet the demands of humanity for all 8 billion now on this planet. The United States should be taking a leading role is reducing demand for oil and take a leading role in solving our climate crisis.

At that horrific rate of extracting that “one” natural resource, the question is “what are the oil reserves”? Technology keeps changing, but current estimates are 100 to 200 years of oil reserves left on this planet. Let us use it wisely so it will last!

Even if the estimated reserves are way off, and we have 500 or 1,000 years left, this 4-billion-year-old planet will still be part of the Solar System with or without us.

We don’t mean to be pessimistic, but reality is right in our face.

Oil-based products, mainly plastic, are causing ecological havoc. Microplastics are in the land, oceans, and our bodies and are unhealthy for humans and wildlife. Recycling and reuse are crucial.

Hopefully, we, in the wealthier and healthier countries, can co-exist with the poorer and less healthy countries that are enslaving labor in mines and factories to provide the exotic minerals and metals required for the green energy technologies for the construction of EV batteries, solar panels, and wind turbines, and with the Saudis, Russians, and Chinese without chaos for the oil demands of America.

Humanity exists in all weather extremes of the world, from the hot and dry Sahara Desert to the frigid northern hemispheres. The animal kingdom has adjusted to climate change over billions of years but can’t evolve fast enough for the human

impacts we have caused. And now humanity, without a replacement for raw crude oil, may need to use the tools provided by oil products and fuels to master the continuous climate change adjustment challenges.

Please share this information with teachers, students, and friends to encourage Energy Literacy conversations at the family dinner table.

Click this Link to **Sign up for Energy Literacy from Ronald Stein**

[BIO: Nancy Pearlman is an award-winning environmentalist and anthropologist. She has produced 600 programs for ECONEWS TV and has created over 2700 Environmental Directions radio shows. She was honored as a United Nations Environment Programme Global Five Hundred Laureate. Nancy is Director of the nonprofit organization Educational Communications. To reach Nancy Pearlman and to find out about her environmental activities, go to **http://www.ecoprojects.org**.]

E-Mail Ronald Stein: Ronald.Stein@EnergyLiteracy.net