

Twitter Thread by JPR007



JPR007

@jpr007

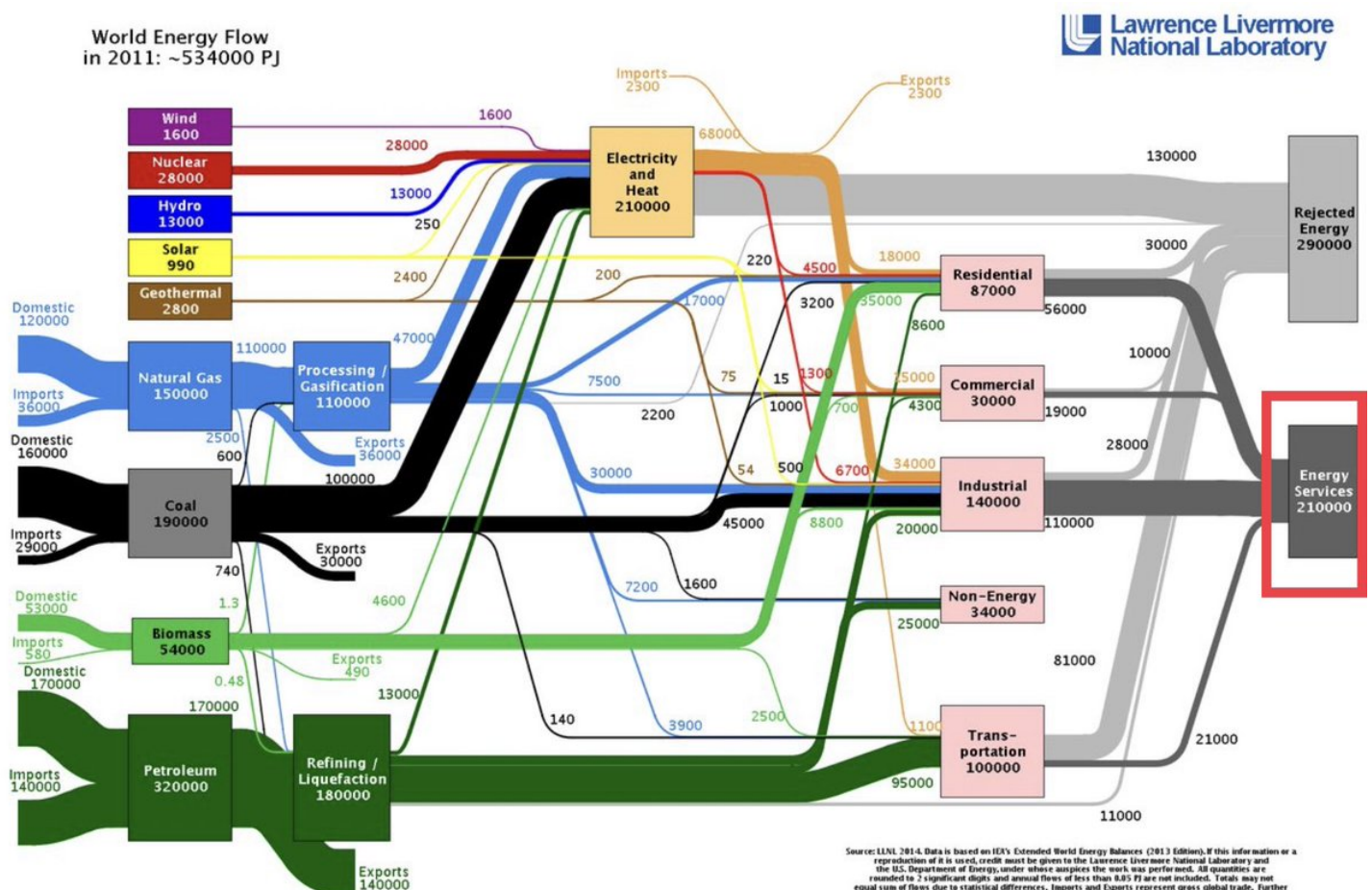


GLOBAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION - A PRIMER

We have hopefully all seen this wonderful diagram from LLNL showing the Flow Diagram of the world's Energy Consumption in a very useful form full of diagnostic power

So how did we get to here ?

And where are we going from here ?



1. The recent history of Global Energy Consumption

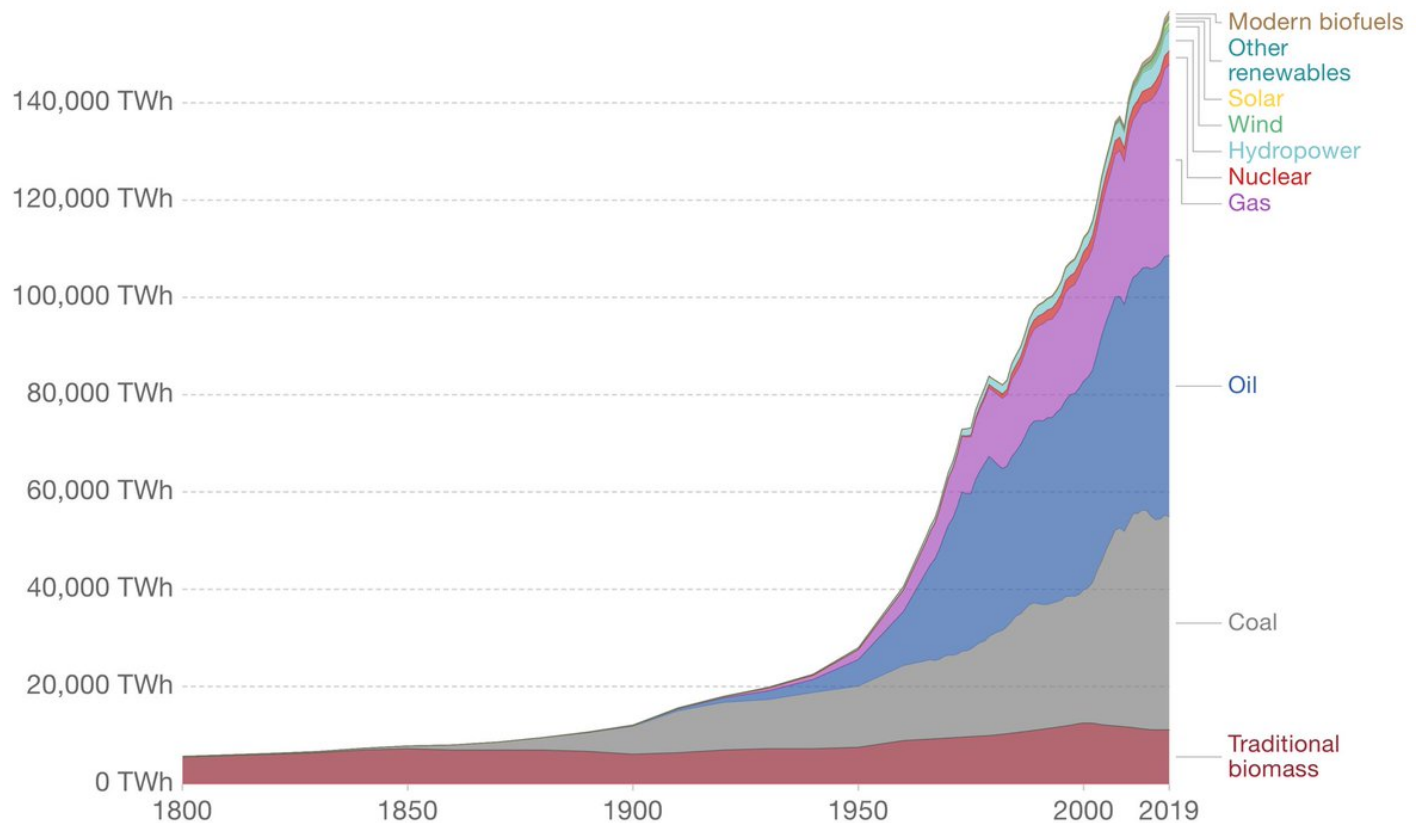
Back in the 1800s the primary use of energy was to generate heat by cutting down trees and vegetation and burning them as fuel - referred to here as "Traditional Biomass"

- this was a defining feature of our World 2.0

Global direct primary energy consumption

Direct primary energy consumption does not take account of inefficiencies in fossil fuel production.

Our World
in Data



Source: Vaclav Smil (2017) and BP Statistical Review of World Energy

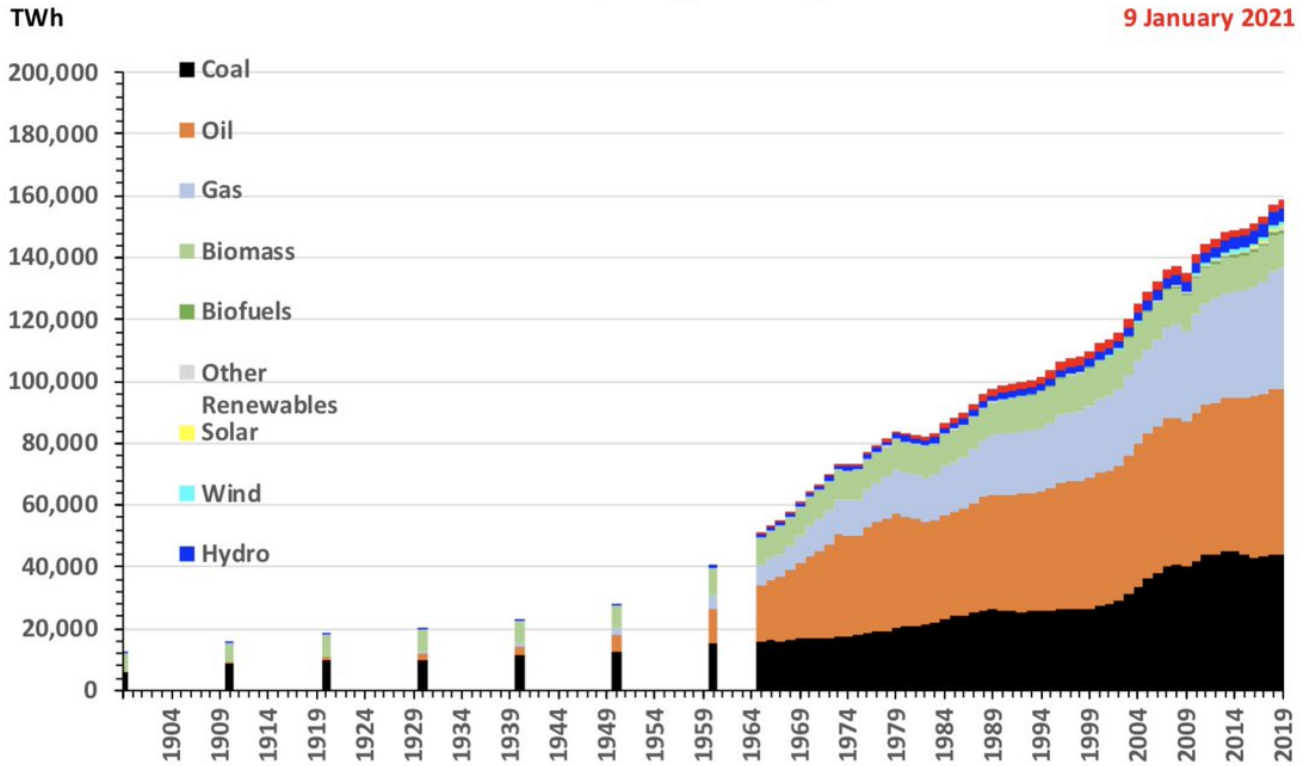
OurWorldInData.org/energy • CC BY

2. And then with the advent of the Industrial Revolution fossil fuels like Coal, Oil and Gas became increasingly important

- and they started to define many of the characteristics of our World 3.0

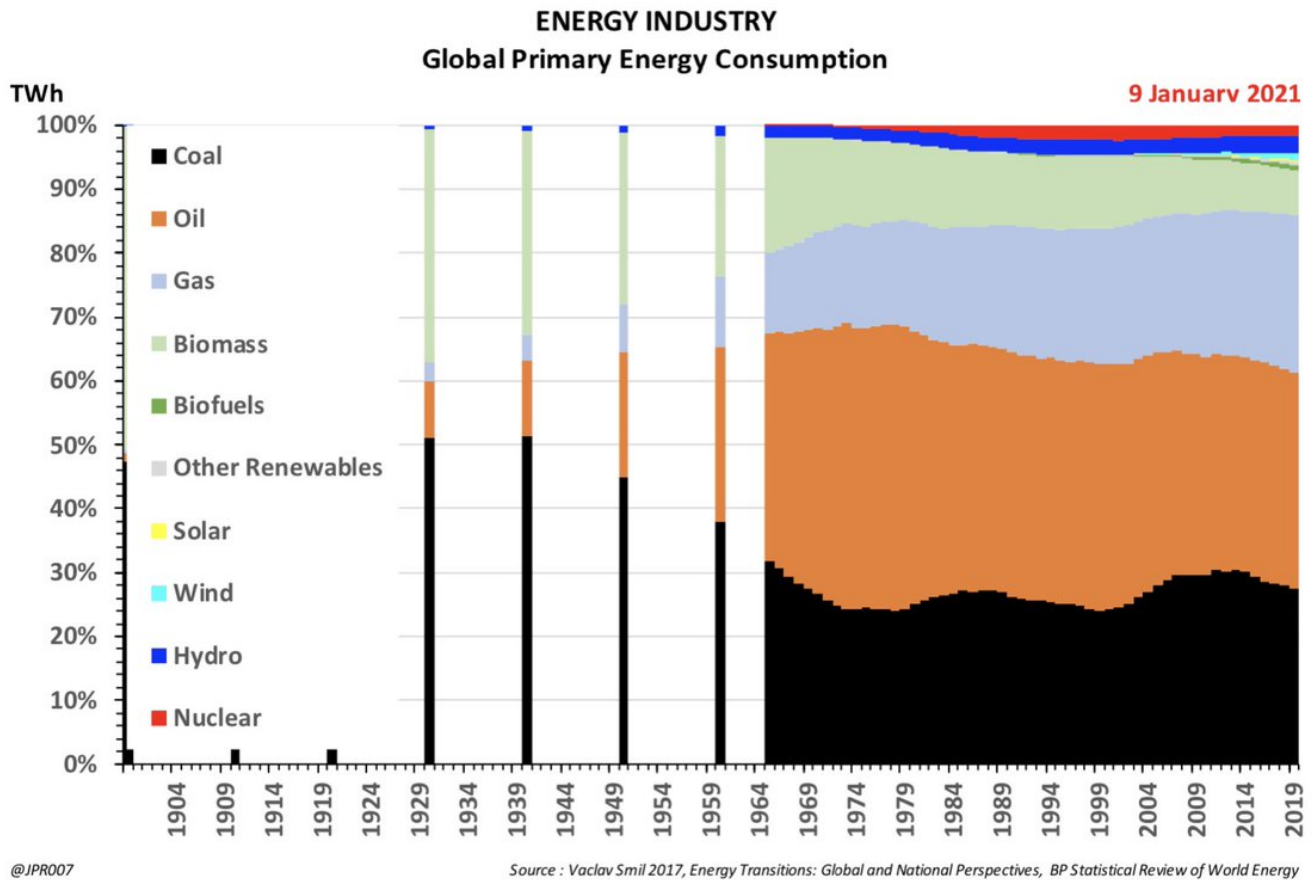
ENERGY INDUSTRY Global Primary Energy Consumption

9 January 2021



3. Wood-burning Biomass has remained as a significant source of Energy even though its proportion has declined

4. Coal reached as high as 50% of our Energy supply and has continued to grow in absolute terms even though its proportion has shrunk to around 25%



5. Oil took over 40% of the Energy market until the Oil Shock of 1973 started changing our attitudes about the efficiency of its consumption

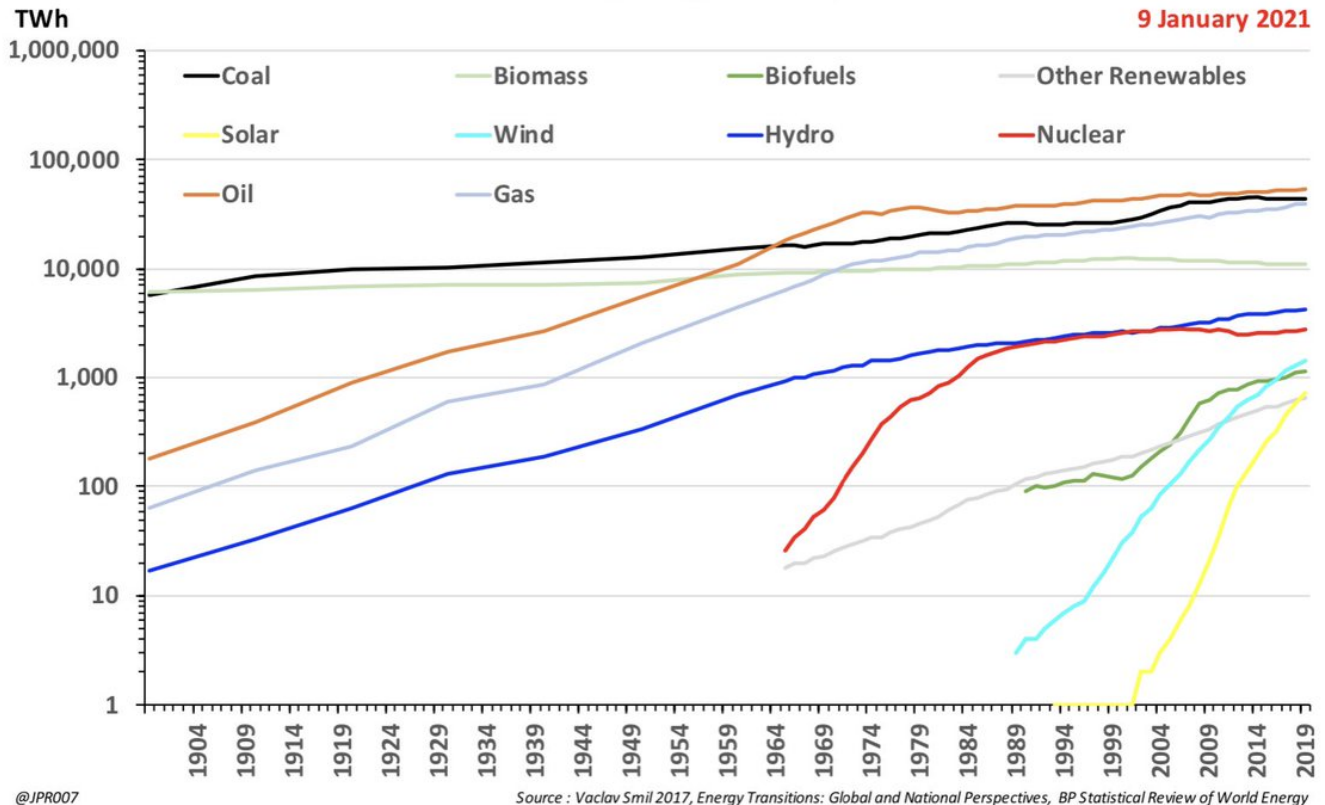
6. And Gas has been steadily growing its share of the market

7. Hydro has long been a part of our Energy sources

8. And technology has more recently enabled Wind and Solar to have growth potential as Energy sources, but their scale remains very small

ENERGY INDUSTRY Global Primary Energy Consumption

9 January 2021

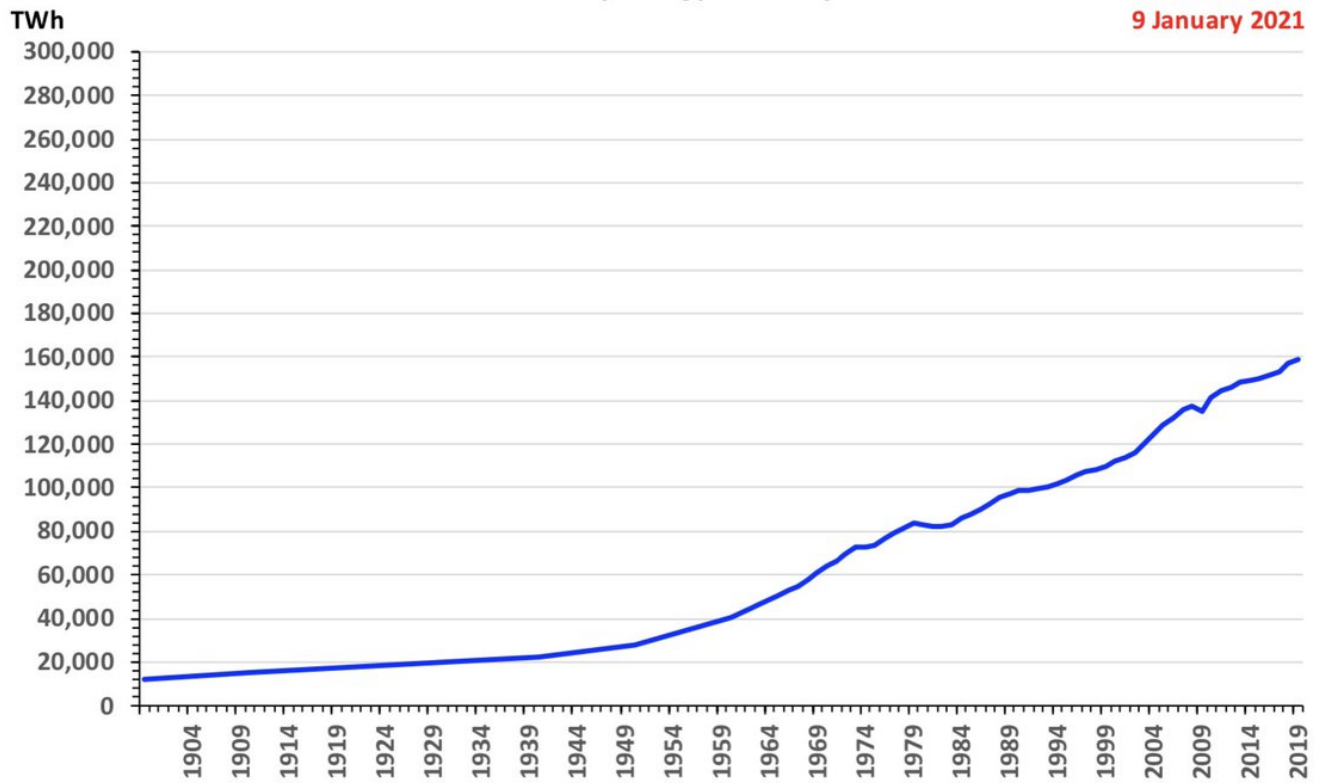


9. During the last 120 years our primary energy consumption has grown from 12,100 TWh per year in 1900 up to 158,839 TWh per year in 2019, or an increase of 13.1x

ENERGY INDUSTRY

Global Primary Energy Consumption

9 January 2021



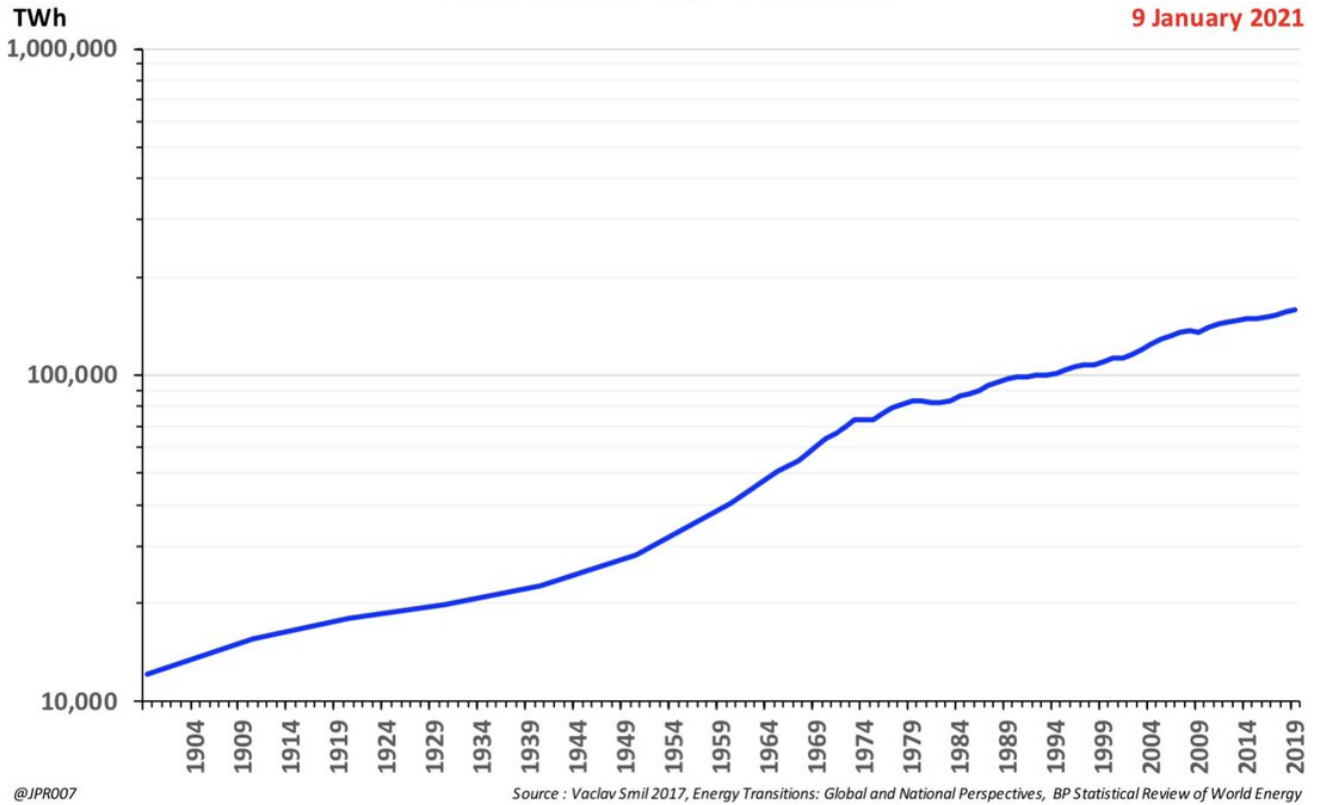
@JPR007

Source : Vaclav Smil 2017, *Energy Transitions: Global and National Perspectives*, BP Statistical Review of World Energy

10. Since 1973 the growth rate of our global energy consumption has slowed down as we have learned to use these vast amounts of energy more efficiently and more cleanly

ENERGY INDUSTRY Global Primary Energy Consumption

9 January 2021



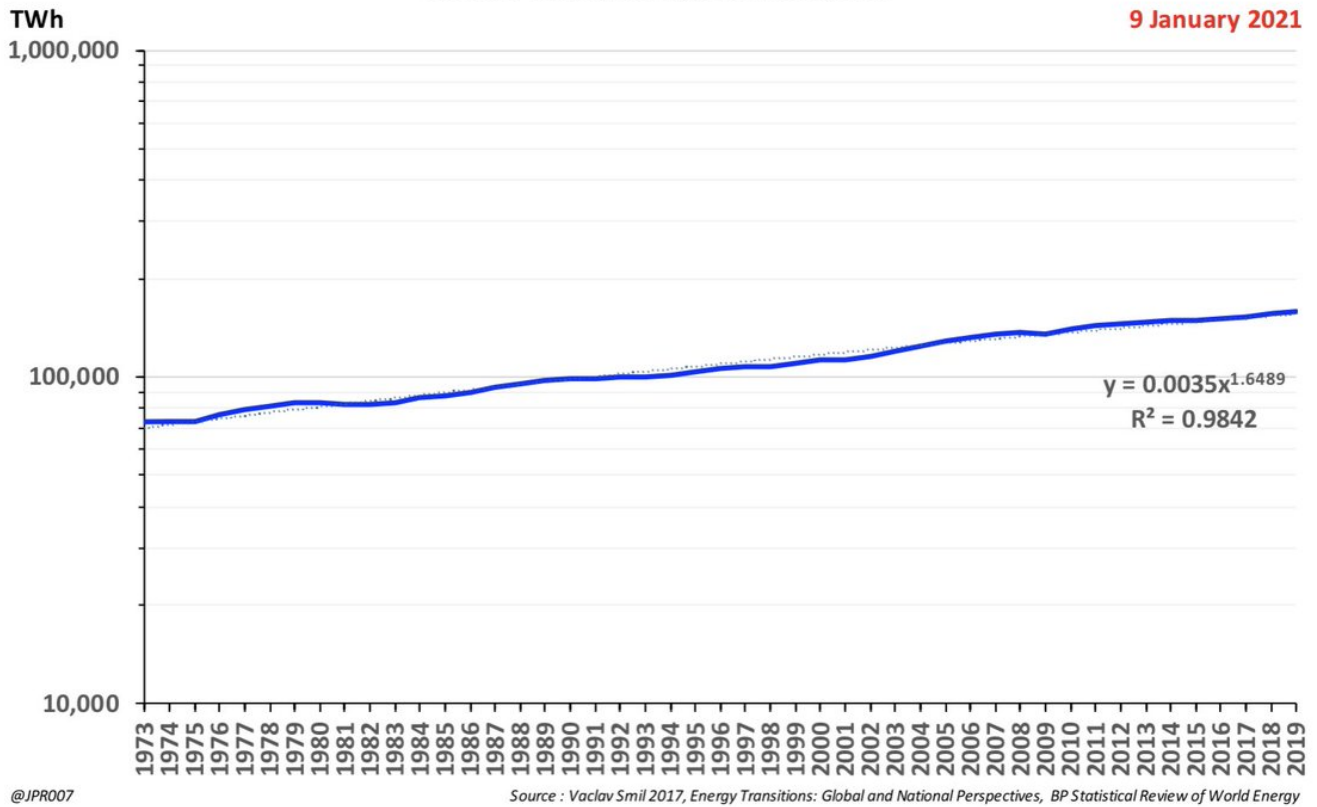
11. And the trend-line growth rate has been about +1.65% per annum

- which is almost half of the growth rate of Global GDP which runs at about +3.0% per annum on a trend-line basis

ENERGY INDUSTRY

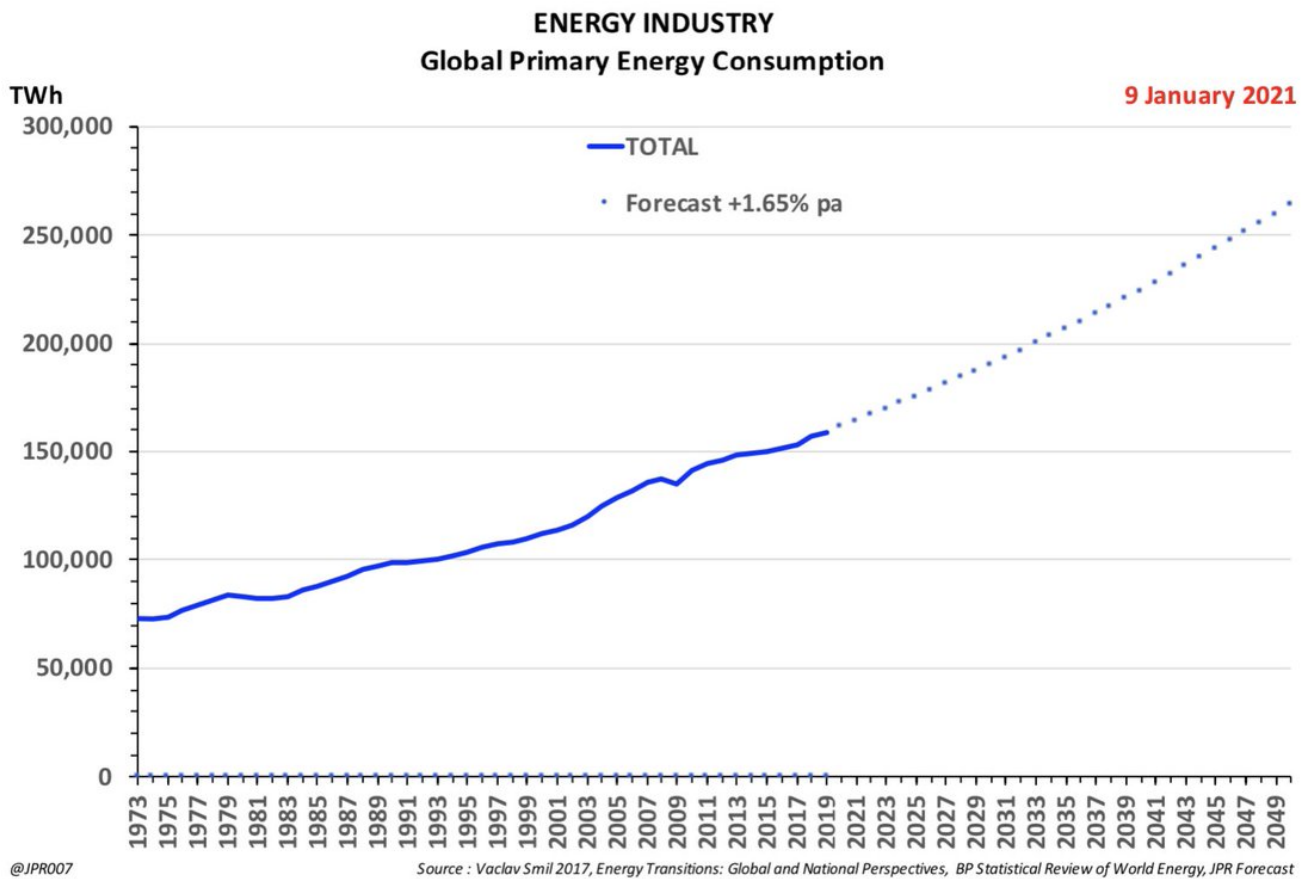
Global Primary Energy Consumption

9 January 2021



12. We can use this to extrapolate the growth in our primary energy consumption if nothing were to change in our current habits and practices

- and the result would be a consumption rate of TWh 263,800 per year by 2050, or 1.66x higher than the current level as of 2019



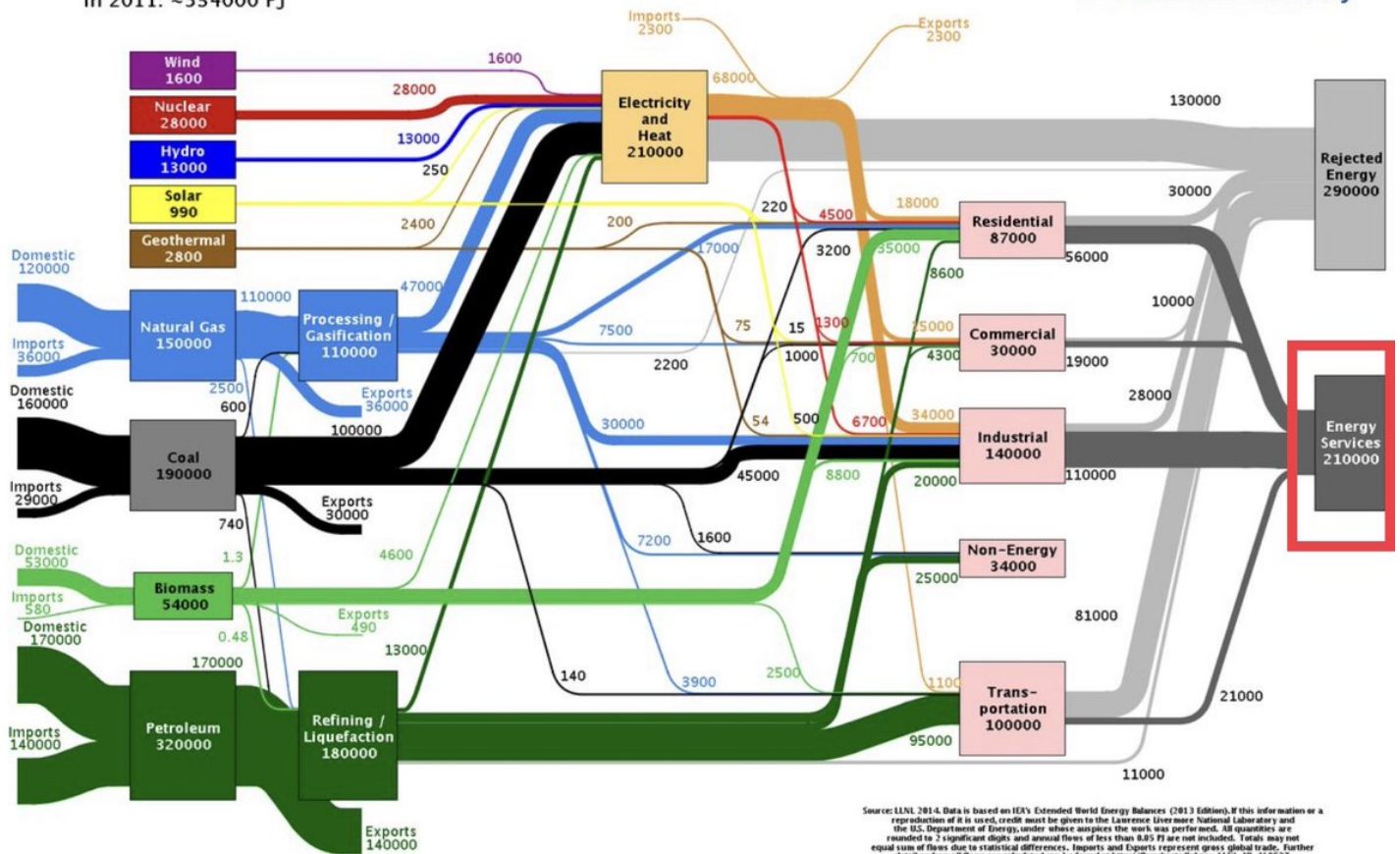
13. Which takes us back to our original diagram

This chart tells us that we are consuming 534,000 PJ of primary energy

- but we are only getting 210,000 PJ of useful work out of that

- and 58% of what flows through the system is getting wasted as Rejected Energy

World Energy Flow
in 2011: ~534000 PJ



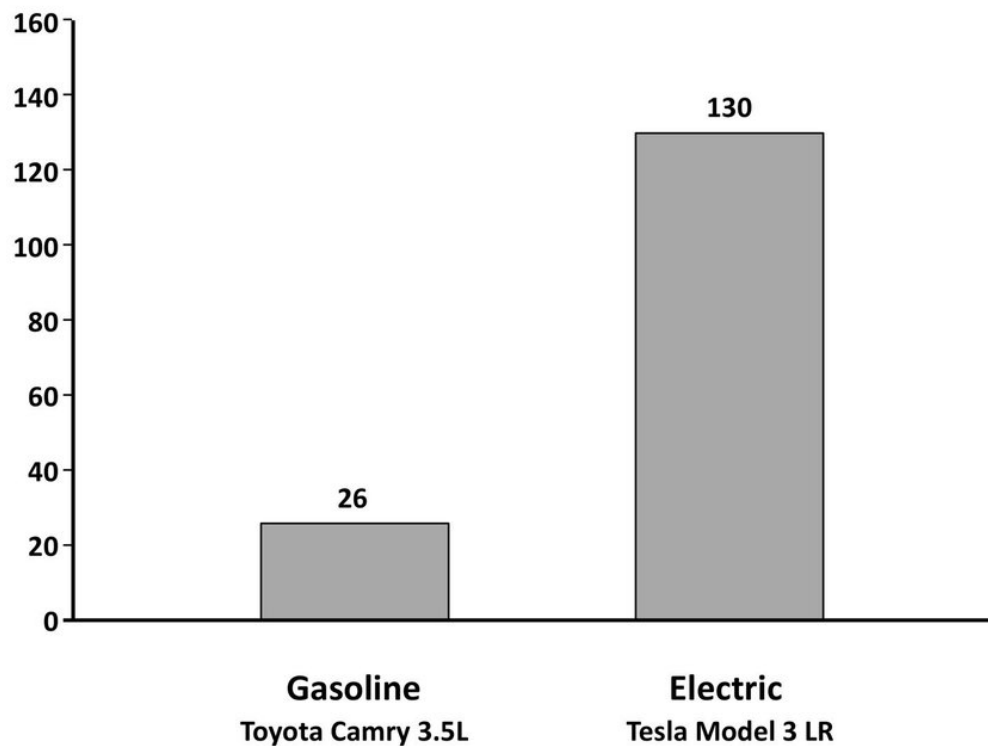
14. This Rejected or wasted Energy is largely a consequence of using Fossil Fuels in heat-cycle engines

- where the laws of physics dictate natural limits to energy conversion efficiency

15. Using Electricity in place of Fossil Fuels completely changes this picture

- we can achieve the same functional outcomes with dramatically less energy consumption because less input energy is rejected as waste heat

Miles per Gallon - Average

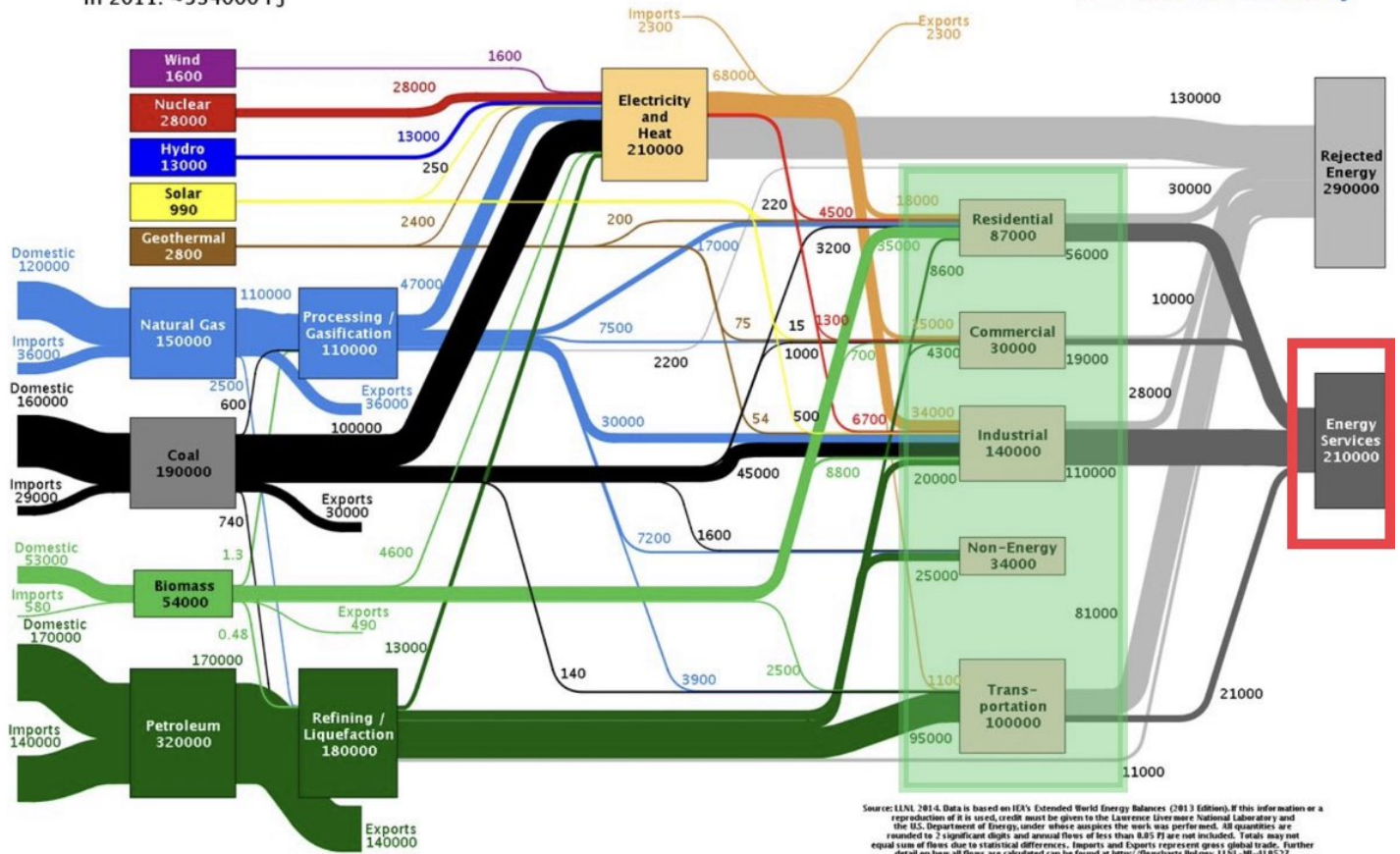


Source : This diagram has been prepared from data provided by the U.S. Department of Energy on their website at www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/atv.shtml
The numbers represent dimensionless units of energy or work for comparison purposes between Gasoline and Electric vehicles

16. And this can be true across many of the use cases where we consume Energy

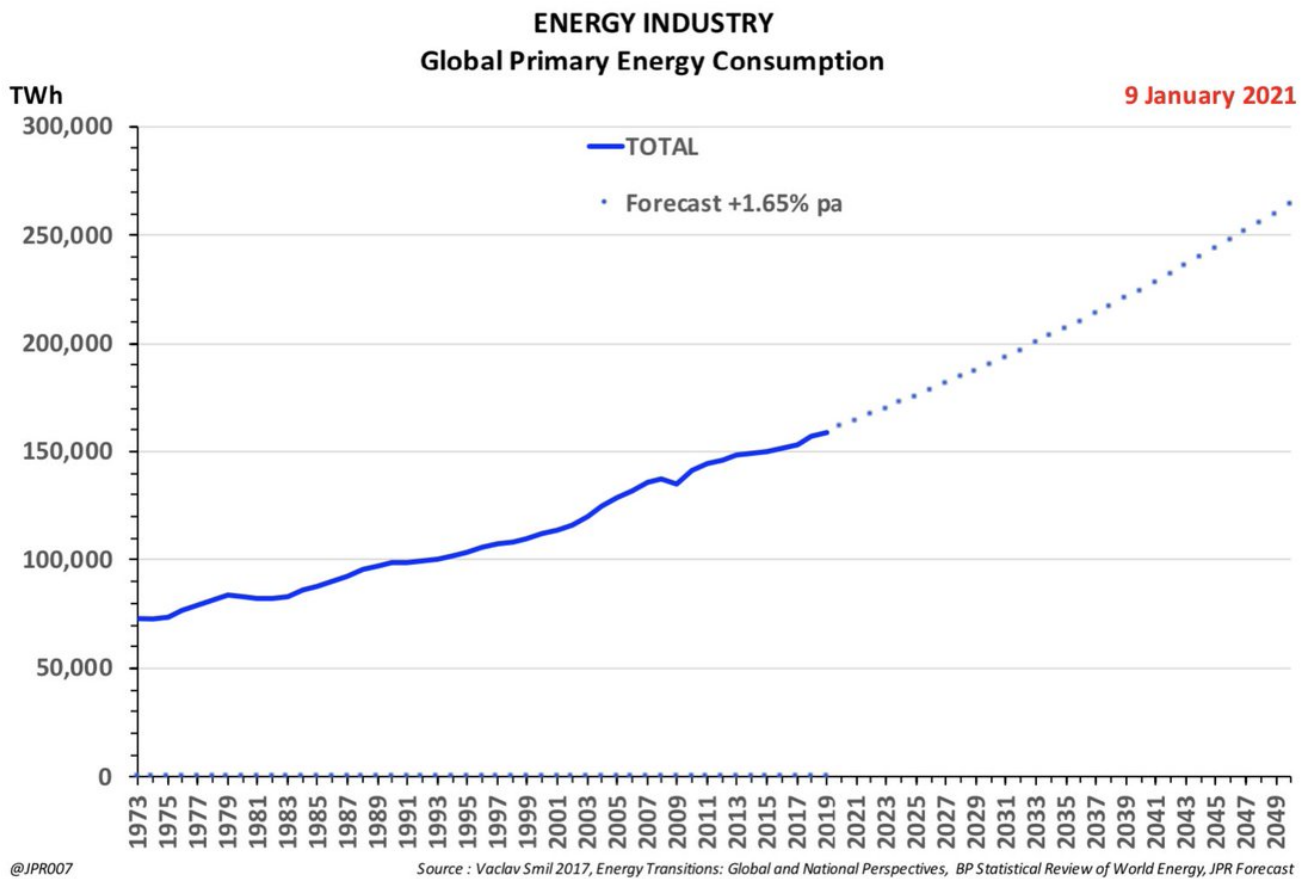
- with Transportation as the single biggest area of opportunity

World Energy Flow
in 2011: ~534000 PJ

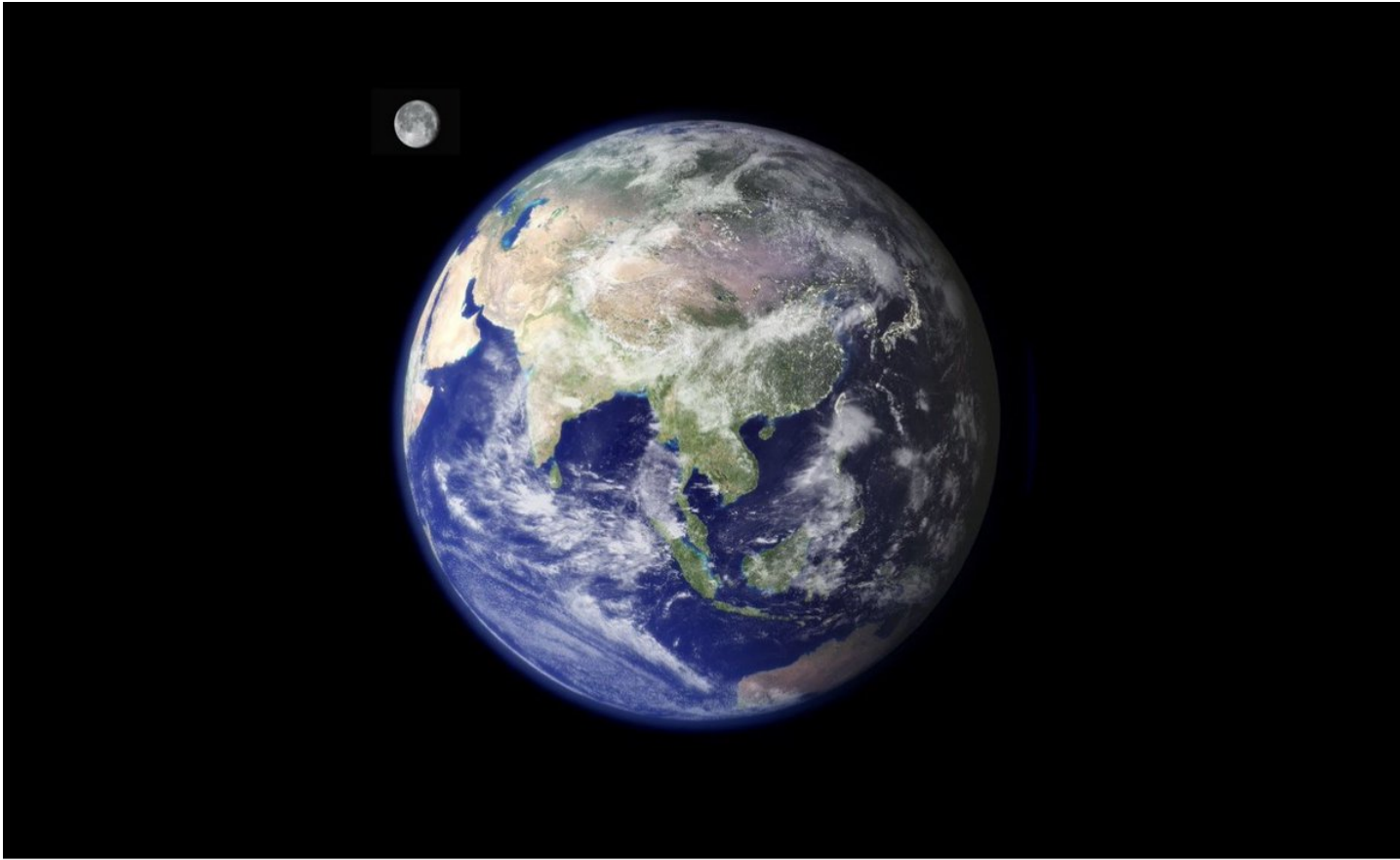


17. The opportunity exists to reduce our Primary Energy footprint by -50% or more

- which can make a huge difference in many ways even with the natural growth in our Energy needs



18. Achieving this through comprehensive and fundamental changes needs to become one of the most important defining features of our World 4.0



WORLD 4.0