

Title: The Reality of Fossil Fuels: Mass Environmental Devastation

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Fossil fuel directly affects a key mechanism to the atmosphere's cooling process: the albedo effect. The albedo effect is the deflection of sun radiation from ice causing less heat being absorbed on Earth's surface. Fossil fuels produce greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide that trap heat causing the temperature to increase thus more ice melting. This disruption in the atmosphere results in extreme temperature patterns. Marine pollution stems from horrific petroleum oil spills. The Deepwater Horizon spill released 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico and killed 8,000 animals ("11 Facts About..." 2). This creates irreversible damage as the methods for cleanup such as burning the oil spilled cause air pollution killing the already struggling species. Beyond the ocean and onto land, natural gas (methane) destroys water sources. The process of extracting natural gas, hydraulic fracturing, uses a fluid containing chemical additives like hydrochloric acid ("Environmental Impacts..." 3). The margin of error when disposing and utilizing the fluid causes groundwater contamination evidenced in Wyoming where toxic levels of methane and fracturing fluid in the water (Sinding 3). Such environmental destruction calls for an immediate solution seen in the innovation of renewable energy such as solar and wind power. However, the greatest fuel to fight the polluted reality of fossil fuels is more than renewable energy, it is the voice of the youth

Works Cited

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