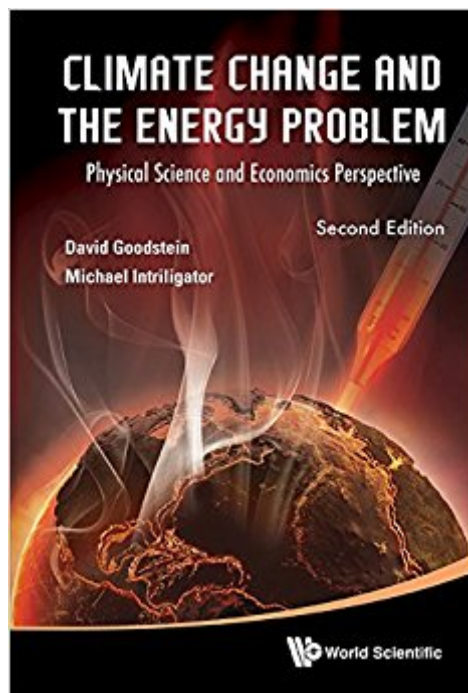




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Climate Change And The Energy Problem: Physical Science And Economics Perspective



Synopsis

This important compendium deals with the primary world problems of global warming and the coming energy crisis. In alternating chapters, it lays out the nature of the two interrelated problems, and specifies the various economic considerations. Thus, it describes the coming shortfall of fossil fuel energy in detail and then presents the economic factors governing possible solutions. Written by two world renowned academics a physicist who writes about the nature of the problem, and an economist who discusses various scenarios and solutions, this unique must-have book highlights the problem from the point of view of a scientist and an economist. Readership: Undergraduates, graduates, professionals, academics and the general public interested in energy studies, environmental economics, geophysics and public policy.

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Customer Reviews

Dr David Goodstein is Professor of Physics and Applied Physics and the Frank J Gilloon Distinguished Teaching and Service Professor, Emeritus at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. He was on the faculty there for more than 45 years and was Vice Provost for nearly 20 years. He was host and project director of The Mechanical Universe, a 52-part college physics telecourse based on his popular lectures at Caltech. He was awarded the 1999 Oersted Medal of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the 2000 John P McGovern Medal of Sigma Xi, the Research Society. Dr Michael D Intriligator was Professor of Economics, Emeritus at the University of California Los Angeles. His interests included economic theory and mathematical

economics, econometrics, and strategy and arms control. He was appointed Professor in the Department of Public Policy, School of Public Affairs at UCLA in 2004. He passed away in 2013.

I ordered this little (89-page) book with high hopes, but am very disappointed. Apparently it was written for a middle-school audience, not even high school, certainly not college students. It has no footnotes, no bibliography, no index, and not a single graph or table. The authors dismiss anyone who disagrees with them in the second paragraph of the book as deniers (”we are also motivated by the fact that many prominent people today deny that these are problems at all!”) and later, ”conservative economists and political leaders” (p. 58). It is superficial, full of inaccurate and imprecise comments, and is mostly about the authors’ opinions (we are running out of fossil fuels! we need an Apollo Program to stop global warming!) than science or economics. All the important arguments and issues are simply ignored. The authors ”believe” and ”strongly believe” and take ”unequivocal positions” without taking the time to prove or dispute anything. I often tell my staff that the most common mistake writers make is to think it is easier to write for a popular audience than for an audience of specialists. This book epitomizes what happens when two academics think children should be spoon-fed opinions and mythology instead of facts and rigorous logic. It is a waste of paper and time.

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