

# APPEAL TO WELLBEING

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Fig. 10.  
Appeal to  
well-being.

Overviews From Lomb WF et al. (2020)

# APPEAL TO WELLBEING

**“Fossil fuels are required for development. Abandoning them will condemn the global poor to hardship and their right to modern living”**

The appeal to well-being is an extreme variation of the appeal to social justice. It claims that fundamental livelihoods are threatened by climate mitigation, particularly those in poor and developing countries. The central strategy is to conflate energy access and its associated wellbeing benefits (e.g. mobility, lighting, heating) with fossil fuels. “Abandoning fossil fuels as quickly as possible, as many environmental activists demand, would slow the growth that has lifted billions of people out of poverty”.

- There’s no reason why renewable energy wouldn’t provide those same benefits, without the pollution and carbon emissions
- In fact, drilling for fossil fuels carries extra risk in the form of spills and escapes in countries where they’re used, and devastation of vast areas in countries where they’re drilled (look up Shell’s influence on the Niger delta)
- Even if the use of fossil fuels was required for development, it would still make no sense as the worsening problems caused by climate change would wipe out any improvements
- The corporations and NGOs who put forward this argument are really just advocating for “business as usual” which may make them profit in the short term but would wipe us all out in the long term

