

CHANGE IS IMPOSSIBLE



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“Any measure to reduce emissions would run against ways of life or human nature and is thus impossible to enact in a democratic society.”

This argument suggests we are locked in to certain ways of doing and thinking about things, such as social acceptability, global capitalism, the overwhelming power of interest groups, the limited substitution possibilities of technology etc.

- Things have changed in the past! Think about how different our world is now to how it was 200 years ago; how attitudes have changed and how our ways of doing things have transformed
- Human societies are perfectly capable of collective reflection about long-term trade offs. Although there is some truth in suggesting we are locked in to certain patterns, the answer is to search for a way out rather than surrender
- Finding a way to break free of our current system is possible if we educate ourselves about the problems and work together to find solutions. One way of doing this is through “Citizens’ Assemblies”. These are groups of people who are brought together to learn about and discuss an issue or issues, and reach conclusions about what they think should happen. Governments can then follow the recommendations of the assembly, which is not only more democratic than our usual procedures, but allows politicians to enact difficult legislation that is the right thing to do but might otherwise lose them votes in the short term

