

TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIMISM



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“We should focus our efforts on current and future technologies, which will unlock great possibilities for addressing climate change.”

Technological optimism concentrates on the possibility of future technologies which will help reduce carbon emissions. It implies that human ingenuity and market forces will provide a solution before it's too late.

- The risks posed by climate change are so great that we simply can't afford to gamble on technology saving us at some unknown point in the future. If a viable technology becomes truly useful then that's great, but in the meantime we have to concentrate on what we know works – ie stop burning fossil fuels and reduce our overall energy demands. We don't have any more time to wait
- Tech solutions are typically presented as imminent enough to discourage other forms of climate action (e.g. reducing demand), but also as far enough in the future to justify why it is not happening already. For example, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is often touted as a solution but as it stands the 28 CCS facilities currently operating globally have a capacity to capture only 0.1 percent of fossil fuel emissions or 37 megatons of CO₂ annually
- Hying reduced carbon intensity in existing technologies is misguided if the total emissions are still rising due to increased demand for goods or services. Consider absolute emissions vs relative emissions

