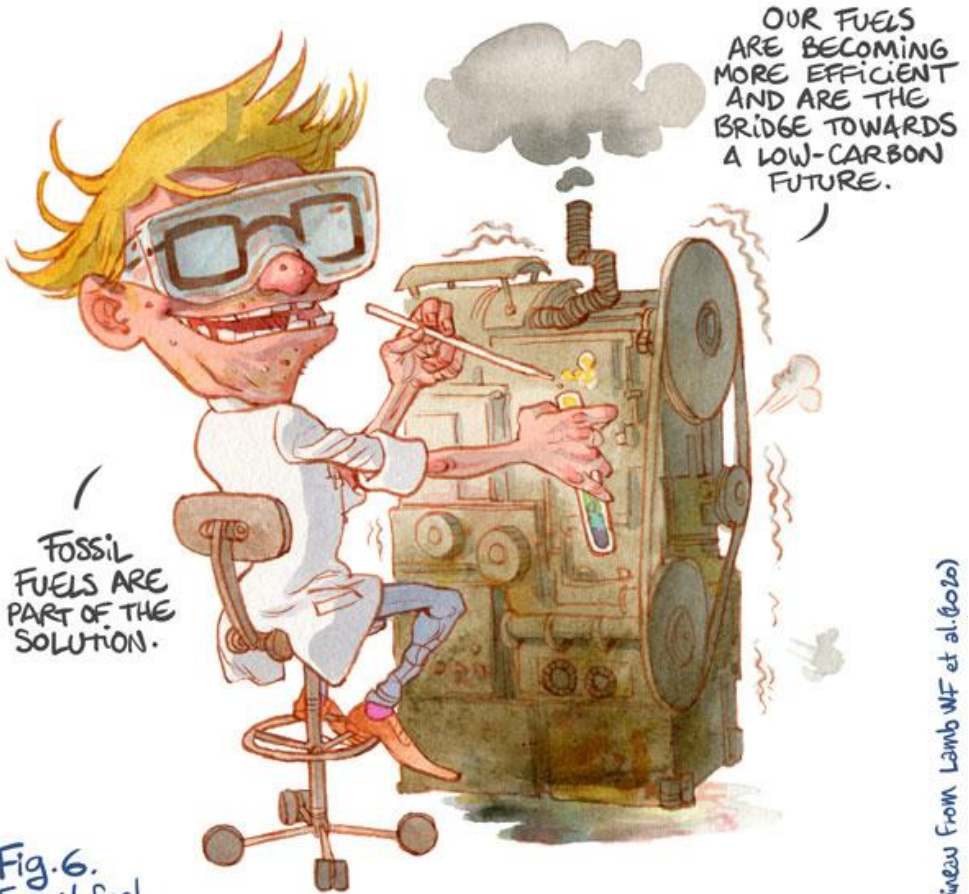


FOSSIL FUEL SOLUTIONISM



FOSSIL
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OUR FUELS
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Fig.6.
Fossil fuel
solutionism

Chemineau From Lamb WF et al.(2020)

FOSSIL FUEL SOLUTIONISM

“Fossil Fuels are part of the solution. Our fuels are becoming more efficient and are the bridge towards a low carbon future.”

The fossil fuel industry often argues that it is well positioned to advance climate solutions, predominantly through technological means. These arguments are similar to technological optimism, but they point to specific areas of progress: reducing fossil extraction and production emissions, investing in ‘cleaner fuels’ or ‘bridging fuels’ (e.g. gas) and developing carbon capture and storage. A central strategy is to connect fossil fuels to the good life, implying that any shift away from them will challenge prosperity and social progress.

- Fossil fuels will always emit more carbon than renewable energy, no matter how efficient they become. Alternatives to coal, oil and gas are already available
- The Centre for Alternative Technology has shown in its “Zero Carbon Britain” report how renewables can meet nearly all our energy needs in combination with smart technology and some reduction in demand (from insulating our housing stock, for example)
- There would still be a small shortfall in meeting demand at certain times, but this can be met using biogas, synthetic gas or nuclear power
- Fossil fuel companies have a long history of trying to mislead the public about how dangerous their products are. They will seemingly do or say anything to maintain their massive profits but there is ultimately no future in fossil fuels

