

An energy plan that will work to fight warming

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PROFESSOR LINO Guzzella insists we cannot wait for technological breakthroughs to solve climate change but must lower emissions with available techniques. (“[No magic bullet for climate change](#), Swiss scientist says,” July 12). Similarly, Stanford’s Mark Jacobson asserts, “Drastic problems require drastic and immediate solutions.” So Jacobson has prepared [plans](#) to provide virtually all America’s energy needs (transportation, electricity, heat) by 2050, without fossil fuels, using immediately obtainable know-how.

For each of the 50 states, Jacobson drafted a specially tailored plan relying primarily on wind, water, and solar. With an engineer’s precision, he detailed numbers of turbines and solar panels needed, the amount of land required, and the cost-benefit savings. Jacobson’s plans eschew futuristic magical procedures or massive use of natural gas as a transition to undiscovered technologies.

We can make Jacobson’s plans real by correcting fossil fuel pricing. When fuel producers pay for the harm their fuels cause, emissions-free energy will become cheaper than high emissions energy. Plans to lay natural gas pipelines and erect natural gas power plants will disappear. When investors see clear government policy towards carbon emissions, they’ll increase investments in renewable energies, bringing their prices down.

Correcting fossil fuel pricing will allow existing technologies to do the trick.

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