

Clean energy works

Despite the obstacles ahead, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had a positive message on the issue of global warming (“Kerry: Climate change battle must continue,” Jan. 10). Speaking in Cambridge at MIT, Kerry said that addressing the problem of climate change does not mean making a choice between the environment and economic growth.

In fact, recent international contracts for solar electricity have companies promising to provide electricity more cheaply than coal and natural gas. The current trend is that renewables are being used more and more worldwide — leading to prices that are dropping more and more.

Consequently, we must avoid investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure, such as pipelines and overseas shipping facilities. Bloomberg News analysts expect natural gas to remain important “when the sun isn’t shining and the wind isn’t blowing.” But natural gas use will decline as storage battery prices decline. A Bloomberg report emphasizes that “the price of batteries to store solar power when the sun isn’t shining is falling in a similarly stunning arc” as solar prices have experienced.

— Judy Weiss, Brookline

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