

Solar and Wind Renewable Energy Projects are Environmentally Destructive

Description

On Sunday, Michael Shellenberger shared a Twitter thread that detailed the dark side of renewable energy projects that climate alarmists want you to ignore while they fanatically push to “save the world” from their alleged “catastrophic global warming.”

Michael Shellenberger, amongst many other things, is a leading energy expert who testifies and advises governments around the world including in the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany.

On 15 September he was invited to testify at the United States Congress hearing on ‘*Fuelling the Climate Crisis: Examining Big Oil’s Prices, Profits, and Pledges*’. “All references can be found in my [full \[written\] testimony](#), which draws on much of what I have published here on Substack over the last 18 months,” [he wrote](#). Ten days later he shared an [extract from his oral remarks](#), see the video below.

“Communities around the world are fighting back against the imposition of environmentally-destructive solar and wind projects by bankers, coastal elites, and subsidy farmers,” Shellenberger tweeted in a Twitter thread on Sunday.

Solar farms require more land than other energy sources. The low energy density of sunlight and wind is why solar and wind projects require so much land and mining, he said. Solar farms also produce more toxic waste and devastate wildlife habitats. Additionally, there is the human cost: solar panels and batteries made in China, for example, use forced labour – incarcerated Uyghur Muslims against whom genocide is being committed.

Wind turbines are a danger to birds and their blades are sent to landfills because it’s too expensive to recycle them.

Below is Shellenberger’s [Twitter thread](#) which you can also read on Thread Reader App [HERE](#).

By Michael Shellenberger

People like the idea of solar farms in the abstract, but hundreds of communities around the world are

currently fighting them because they require 300-600x more land than other energy sources, produce 300x more toxic waste, and devastate critical wildlife habitats.

Many rich nations dump used solar panels and batteries on poor African nations.



Electronic Marvels Turn Into Dangerous Trash in East Africa (Published 2019)

Companies seek solutions to the unintended consequences of rising wealth that allows for more electronics — and the e-waste that inevitably comes next.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/12/climate/electronic-marvels-turn-into-dangerous-trash-in-east-africa.html>

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Other rich nations send used solar panels to “landfills where in some cases, they could potentially contaminate groundwater with toxic heavy metals such as lead, selenium and cadmium.”



California went big on rooftop solar. Now that's a problem for landfills

California, a national leader in the solar market, has no plan for safely recycling more than 1 million photovoltaic panels that will soon need to be discarded.

<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2022-07-14/california-rooftop-solar-pv-panel-recycling-danger>

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By 2035 there will be 3x more used solar panels than new ones, which will make them 4x more expensive.

“The economics of solar,” wrote Harvard Business Review researchers, “would darken quickly as the industry sinks under the weight of its own trash.”



The Dark Side of Solar Power

Solar energy is a rapidly growing market, which should be good news for the environment. Unfortunately there's a catch. The replacement rate of solar panels is...

<https://hbr.org/2021/06/the-dark-side-of-solar-power>

<https://hbr.org/2021/06/the-dark-side-of-solar-power>

Solar farms are killing the critically threatened desert tortoises. “A team of biologists relocated 139 tortoises from their habitat to make way for the solar panels...In a span of a few weeks, 30 tortoises

were killed.”



Desert tortoise deaths raise concerns as solar farms solve energy need

The loss of the tortoises illustrates the challenges of bringing alternative energy sources to the Mojave Desert while still protecting its biodiversity.

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/science-and-technology/desert-tortoise-deaths-ra...>

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/science-and-technology/desert-tortoise-deaths-raise-concerns-as-solar-farms-solve-energy-need-2408456/>

Wind turbines chop the wings off of big, endangered, slow-to-reproduce birds. “USGS scientists concluded that if anticipated growth in wind energy by 2040 occurs, increased turbine-caused deaths could cut golden eagle populations by half over 10 years.”



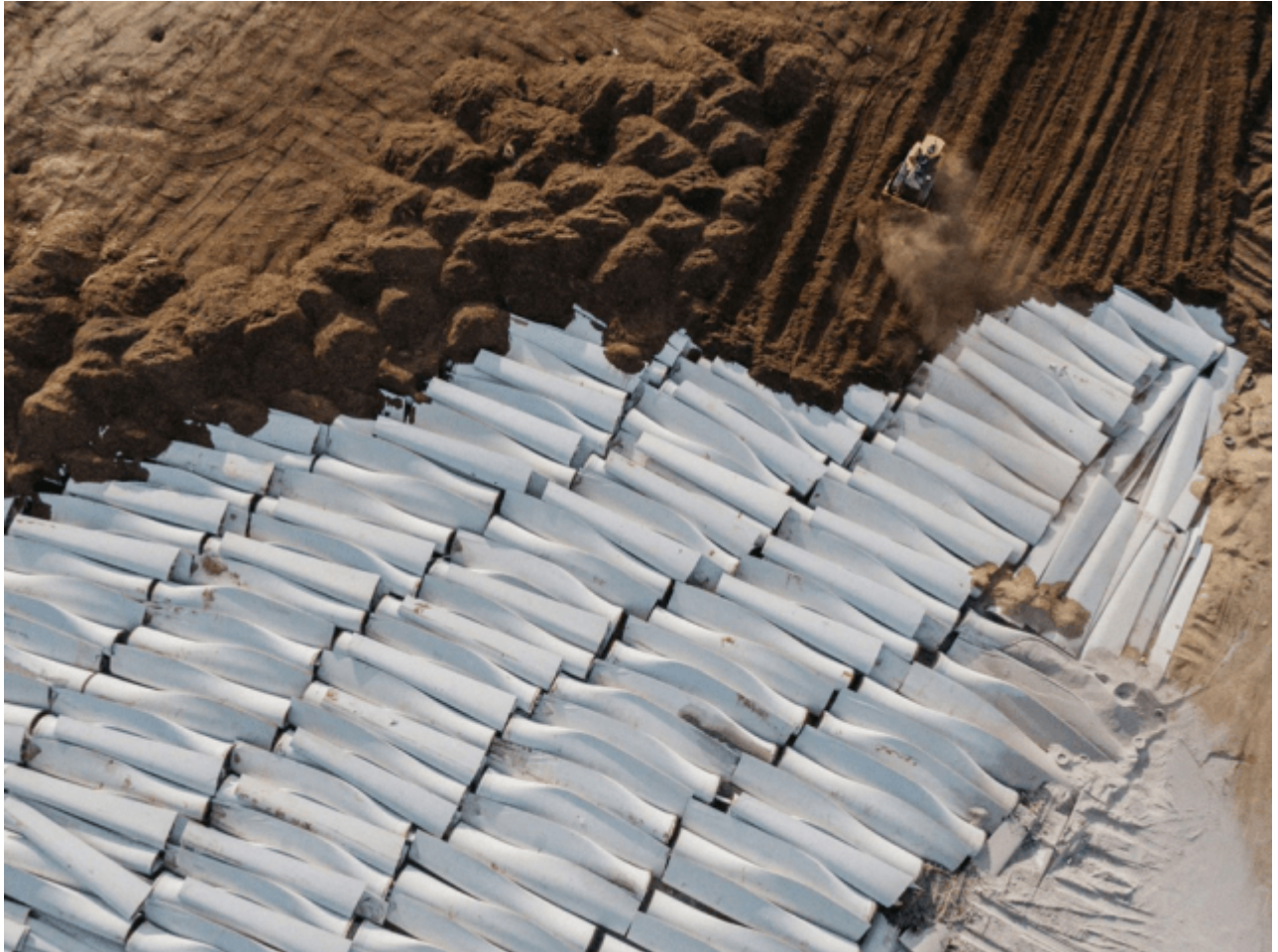
Wind energy boom and golden eagles collide in the US West

CODY, Wyo. (AP) — The rush to build wind farms to combat climate change is colliding with preservation of one of the U.S. West’s most spectacular predators — the golden...

<https://apnews.com/article/science-wyoming-eagles-climate-and-environment-294161...>

<https://apnews.com/article/science-wyoming-eagles-climate-and-environment-294161a39e84ac1e102d22a4c342b298>

After wind turbines spend decades killing threatened species, their blades are sent to landfills because it’s too expensive to recycle them. (That little object in the upper right of the photo is a tractor burying the blades.)



<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-02-05/wind-turbine-blades-can-t-be-recycled-so-they-re-piling-up-in-landfills>

Communities around the world are fighting back against the imposition of environmentally-destructive solar and wind projects by bankers, coastal elites, and subsidy farmers. Over 40 townships have blocked or restricted projects in Ohio alone this year.



Rural Backlash Against Renewables Surges, With 67 Rejections of Solar in U.S. O...
The hype about wind and solar energy keeps colliding with the hard reality of land-use conflicts. Nowhere is that more obvious than in Ohio, where 41 townships have...
https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2022/10/14/rural_backlash_against_renewables...

[Rural Backlash Against Renewables Surges, With 67 Rejections of Solar in U.S. Over Past 11 Months](#)

If you would like to fight one of these hideous, environmentally-destructive projects in your own community, you can reach out to @LinowesLisa who is organizing a worldwide movement that is successfully fighting back.



[Home](#) [Events and News](#) [Join the Movement](#) [About](#)

WILDLIFE, ENERGY & COMMUNITY COALITION

<https://www.wecprotect.org/>

We must ban all solar panels imported from China. They are being made by incarcerated Uyghur Muslims against whom genocide is being committed. They're cheap because they're made with slave labour. The subsidy for solar is blood money.



Ban Chinese Solar Genocide Panels

Manchin-Schumer energy bill must include ban on Chinese solar panels, which are a moral catastrophe.

<https://michaelshellenberger.substack.com/p/ban-chinese-solar-genocide-panels>

<https://michaelshellenberger.substack.com/p/ban-chinese-solar-genocide-panels>



China Made Solar Cheap With Coal, Subsidies, And "Slave" Labor — Not Efficiency

Low power density means high environmental impacts and poor labor practices

<https://michaelshellenberger.substack.com/p/china-made-solar-cheap-with-coal>

<https://michaelshellenberger.substack.com/p/china-made-solar-cheap-with-coal>

It's easy to calculate the massive impact of solar and wind projects. Just draw a circle around an energy project and divide by the amount of electricity they produce. Here are calculations from around the world.



Power Density Slide Deck — Environmental Progress

<https://environmentalprogress.org/power-density-slide-deck>

<https://environmentalprogress.org/power-density-slide-deck>



End Of Renewables Craze Is Near

Renewables have stalled out in California and Germany :: UK announces it will frack for natural gas :: South Korea cuts renewables to fund nuclear

<https://michaelshellenberger.substack.com/p/end-of-renewables-craze-is-near>

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What about batteries? Also made by enslaved Muslims in China. For fundamental moral reasons, we must ban all solar panels and batteries made in China.



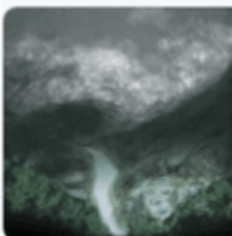
Red Flags for Forced Labor Found in China's Car Battery Supply Chain

Ties to potentially coercive labor practices could prove a problem for an industry that is heavily dependent on China, once a new law barring Xinjiang products goes into...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/20/business/economy/forced-labor-china-supply-c...>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/20/business/economy/forced-labor-china-supply-chain.html>

Rainforests are being ravaged by the toxic elements required for renewables and batteries.



'The Sacrifice Zone': Myanmar bears cost of green energy

The birds no longer sing, and the herbs no longer grow. The fish no longer swim in rivers that have turned a murky brown. The animals do not roam, and the cows are...

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-forests-myanmar-75df22e8d7431a6757ea4a426...>

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-forests-myanmar-75df22e8d7431a6757ea4a426fbde94c>



Are we headed for a solar waste crisis? — Environmental Progress

How big of a problem is solar waste? Environmental Progress investigated the problem to see how the problem compared to the much more high-profile issue of nuclear...

<https://environmentalprogress.org/big-news/2017/6/21/are-we-headed-for-a-solar-w...>

<https://environmentalprogress.org/big-news/2017/6/21/are-we-headed-for-a-solar-waste-crisis>



If Solar Panels Are So Clean, Why Do They Produce So Much Toxic Waste?

Environmental scientists and solar industry leaders are raising the red flag about used solar panels, which contain toxic heavy metals and are considered hazardous waste....

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2018/05/23/if-solar-panels-are-so...>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2018/05/23/if-solar-panels-are-so-clean-why-do-they-produce-so-much-toxic-waste/>



Dark Side To Solar? More Reports Tie Panel Production To Toxic Pollution

A major new study of the economics of solar, published in Harvard Business Review, finds that the waste produced by solar panels will make electricity from solar four...

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2021/06/21/why-everything-they-s...>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2021/06/21/why-everything-they-said-about-solar—including-that-its-clean-and-cheap—was-wrong/>



This Mojave Desert solar plant kills 6,000 birds a year. Here's why that won't ch...

A macabre fireworks show unfolds each day along I-15 west of Las Vegas, as birds fly into concentrated beams of sunlight and are instantly incinerated, leaving wisps of...

<https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-solar-bird-deaths-20160831-snap-stor...>

<https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-solar-bird-deaths-20160831-snap-story.html>

Q: What about the waste from other sources of energy like nuclear? A:

Madi Hilly is the founder of the campaign for a [Green Nuclear Deal](#). You can read her Twitter thread by clicking on the tweet above or on Thread Reader App [HERE](#).

Hilly's thread ends with a link to another of [her Twitter threads](#) which you can read on the Thread Reader App [HERE](#). Embedded within this thread is a [two-tweet thread](#) by Mark Nelson which you can

read on Thread Reader App [HERE](#).

Featured image: [Solar Panels Creating a Huge Waste Problem](#)

by Rhoda Wilson

Category

1. ECO-Climate-Environment
2. Main

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