

Comparing countries by degree of freedom and greenness

Status ¹	Average Freedom Score 2021 ²	Green Recovery Spending 2020-21 ³		Fossil Fuel Dependency 2010-2020 Avg ⁴		Fossil Fuel Underpricing 2020 ⁵	
		\$ 10 ⁶	% Total	% Exports	% GDP	\$ 10 ⁶	\$ per capita
Free (48 countries)	89	\$930	23.8%	10.4%	1.4%	\$1,451	3.9%
Partly Free (29 countries)	54	\$7	12.0%	17.6%	2.0%	\$582	5.2%
Not Free (16 countries)	20	\$33	0.7%	35.4%	11.3%	\$3,476	19.7%

Notes: ¹Freedom House, *Freedom in the World Database*; ²Global Recovery Observatory, Oxford University Economic Recovery Project; ³World Bank, *World Development Indicators*; ⁴Parry et al. (2021), IMF; GDP = Gross domestic product. Fossil fuel rents are the difference between the value of production at regional prices and total costs of production for each type of fossil fuel (coal, natural gas and oil).

WEF Declares That The Color Of Democracy Is... Green?

Description

This thinly-veiled screed of propaganda protests that the reason “green energy” programs are failing is because the price of traditional energy is too low. Further, if we don’t fix this price disparity, we are not “protecting democracy.” Thus, driving up energy prices protects democracy. This insane reasoning is the bedrock ideology of the Great Reset, Green New Deal and Sustainable Development, aka Technocracy.

The fact is, the existence of democracy is being used and abused to accomplish the economic takeover of the world. Suckering people into thinking that the decline of democracy can be reversed by the implementation of Sustainable Development is a total logical disconnect. Scientific dictatorship is the polar opposite of a democratic society. ? TN Editor

- Climate change and the decline of democracy are two global crises that have come to a head in recent years.
- Transitioning to green energy is key to both tackling climate change and creating sustainable economies.
- Collective action on a green transition is thereby not only good for the climate but also vital for protecting democracy.

Two global crises have come to a head – climate change and the decline of democracy.

If global warming is to be kept below 1.5 °C, the world must act now to reduce carbon emissions. Achieving this objective requires substantially lowering fossil fuel use through a clean energy transition.

These two aims are not mutually exclusive but complementary. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels and transitioning to low-carbon alternatives also make democratic economies more sustainable. Major

democracies should work together to achieve these two goals.

Democracy and greenness are linked

Evidence for 83 advanced, emerging market and developing countries indicates that in recent years democracies have been more willing to adopt green recovery policies, lessen fossil fuel dependency and reduce the underpricing of these fuels (see table).

Those countries that have made steps to green their economies in recent years are largely free and democratic, whereas those who have not are typically less free and more autocratic.

But it is among the world's richest and largest economies – the Group of 20 (G20) – where the association between freedom and greenness is most striking (see figure). G20 countries with greater political rights and civil liberties tend also to have greener policies and economies. In comparison, countries that are less free are “browner”.

In addition, sacrificing further progress toward a low-carbon economy could put democracies in greater economic peril, not less. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought renewed focus on this economic weakness.

A collective strategy for a green transition

For the US, the EU and other major democracies to reduce their economic vulnerability, they must act collectively to foster a green transition. Such a strategy should have three key elements.

The leading democracies of the G20 should collectively commit to phasing out cost and tax breaks for the production and consumption of fossil fuels. They should also phase in more efficient pricing of fossil fuels through taxes or tradable permits to cover the costs of local air pollution, global warming, and other economic damages.

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1. ECO-Climate-Environment
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3. Main
4. NWO-Deep State-Dictatorship-Tyrrany

Date Created

07/13/2022