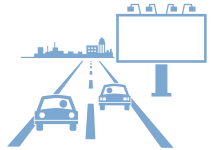


PETROCULTURE

- The attributes, capabilities, and the character of society's daily existence are **fundamentally shaped** by energy sources [1].
- Oil has become **extremely entangled and influential** in our culture and everyday life; the transition away from fossil fuels to other energy sources will require a coinciding transition of social and cultural values [1].
- Fossil fuels have **shaped society in very physical and material ways** through the significant use of highways, automobiles, and plastics, to name a few [1].
- The essential **values, practices, habits, beliefs, and feelings** of people around the world have been shaped by the fossil fuels we use [1].



What is it?

Petrocultures essentially refer to the cultures created by fossil fuel-intensive societies, and refer to everything that we do, our capacities, and how we live our lives.

This would all be different without the energies that we have and use [2].





OIL AND EVERYDAY LIFE

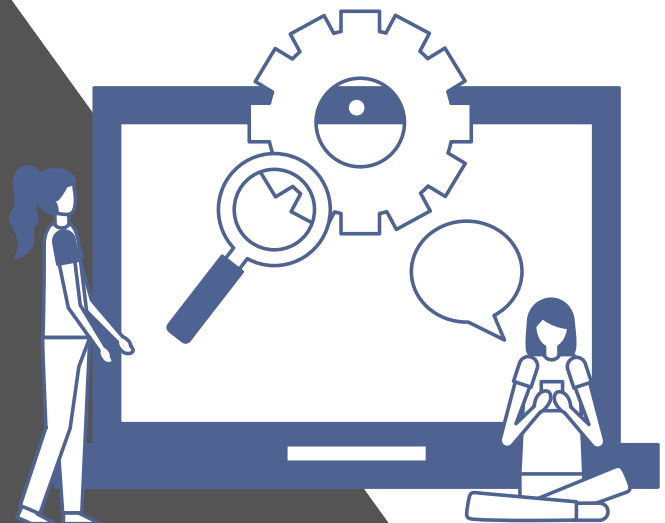
- Energy anxiety stems from the knowledge that the particular forms of energy that people depend on to live their lives are **often harmful, unsustainable, and inaccessible** to many people worldwide [4].
- Petrocultures in everyday life have given many people a **privileged ability** of not having to think about energy sources, despite living energy-intensive lifestyles [4].
- As the petroleum industry has fueled transportation, wars, policies, and economies for the last 150 years, it has also **influenced literature, film, museum displays, wartime propaganda, and fine art**, amongst many other areas [5].
 - Oil, along with electricity, was effective in surrounding people with infrastructures including roads, pipelines, telephone lines, and power cables, as well as **restructuring people's private lives, identities, bodies, thoughts, emotions, and geographies** [5].
 - Oil is associated with **feelings of agency** that people have over their lives; the capacity to go or do anything one wants or to move where one wishes are dependent on the energy sources available [2].
 - In many parts of the world, **maturity is linked with the ability to drive a conventional gasoline-powered vehicle** and the sense of independence that goes along with driving [2].

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Petro-capitalism refers to the capitalist system that is extremely reliant on the energy of fossil fuels, notably oil, which in turn helps to create petrocultures.

Petro-capitalism describes not only the requirement of infinite growth and increasing consumption for the system to function, but also that this system is fundamentally based on the increased extraction and consumption of fossil fuels [3].

If this system is to continue, more damage will be done to the environment and beyond. Discussions around petrocultures encourage and enable us to ask questions about the ways we use energy in society, and how we can move beyond too much reliance on one particular system [2].

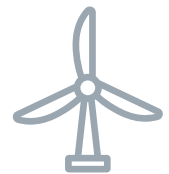


TRANSITION AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUEL CONSUMPTION



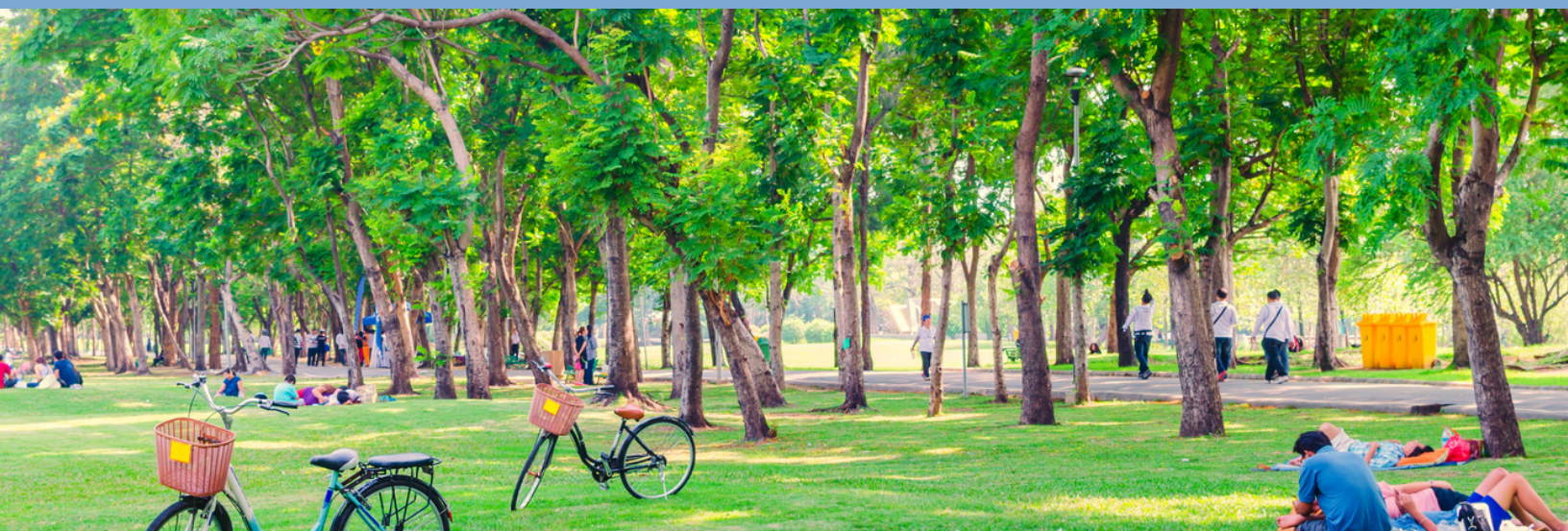
In whichever way the transition from fossil fuel consumption arrives, it will not be the world's first transition to a different energy regime. Earlier energy transitions may provide valuable insight to the current situation [4].

Much of modern life is premised on access to cheap and easy energy; in order to transition away from these energy sources, people must reckon with and understand its importance [2].



Various symbolic practices and cultural representations associated with fossil fuels have forestalled efforts of seeing beyond petroculturalism and envisioning future alternative energy economies [5].

Visions of the future largely imagine just swapping out oil for a different energy source that precisely replicates and takes its place, similar to vegan "cheese" or a vegetarian "hamburger". Petrocultures indicate that certain sociopolitical assumptions, aspirations, and social practices may also have to be reconsidered during such a transition [5].



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