

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE

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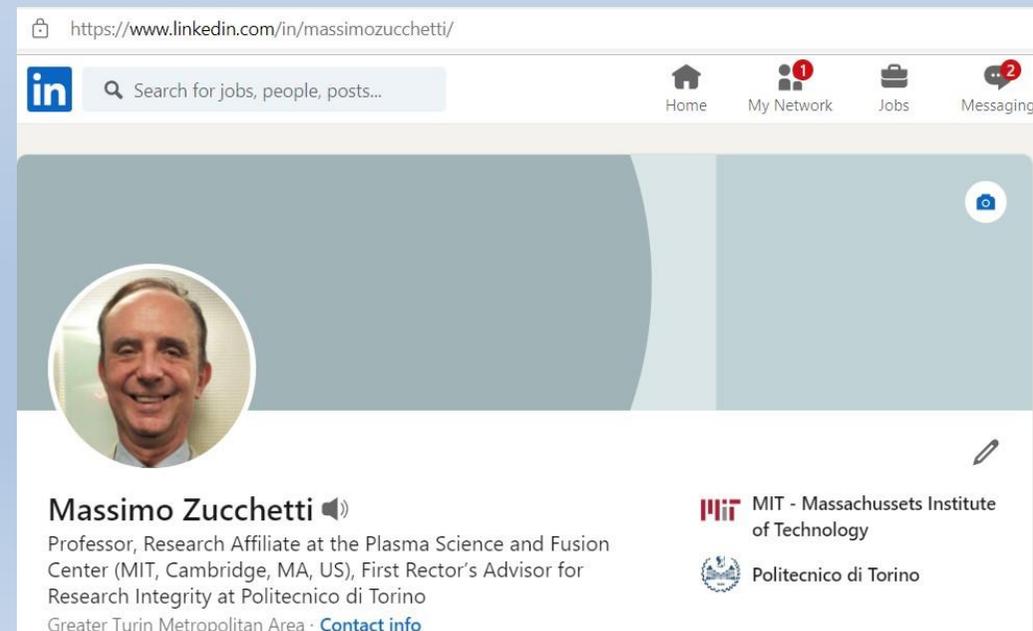
Sustainable development: a change of perspective

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The image shows a screenshot of a LinkedIn profile page for Massimo Zucchetti. The browser address bar at the top displays the URL <https://www.linkedin.com/in/massimozucchetti/>. The LinkedIn navigation bar includes the 'in' logo, a search bar with the text 'Search for jobs, people, posts...', and icons for Home, My Network (with a red notification badge '1'), Jobs, and Messaging (with a red notification badge '2'). The profile header features a circular profile picture of Massimo Zucchetti, a blue camera icon for uploading a new photo, and a pencil icon for editing the profile. Below the profile picture, the name 'Massimo Zucchetti' is displayed with a speaker icon. His current position is listed as 'Professor, Research Affiliate at the Plasma Science and Fusion Center (MIT, Cambridge, MA, US), First Rector's Advisor for Research Integrity at Politecnico di Torino'. The location is 'Greater Turin Metropolitan Area' and there is a 'Contact info' link. To the right, two organizational logos are shown: MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Politecnico di Torino.

- Some experts on climate change and energy express doubts about the direction that world's energy and technological advancement has taken, Some even say there's no such thing like "sustainable development", i.e. the meaning that developed countries give to these words.
- *Let us start from words and their meaning.*
- *Is the term "development" just "colonialism applied to the natural world"? **
- "Sustainable development" is a claim to virtue. But the word "development" used in this sense may be misleading.
- The word "develop" means "to grow", "to progress". For example: "Drama reached its highest development in the plays of Shakespeare."

* Derrick Jensen, Sustainable Development is a Lie, Fair Observer, 2015.

But here's the problem:

A child develops into an adult, a caterpillar develops into a butterfly.

However:

- A meadow does not "develop" into white-box houses,
a bay does not "develop" into an industrial port,
a forest does not "develop" into roads and clearings.

The reality is that the meadow is destroyed to make the "development."

The bay is destroyed to "develop" it into an industrial port.

The forest is destroyed when the "natural resources" are "developed."

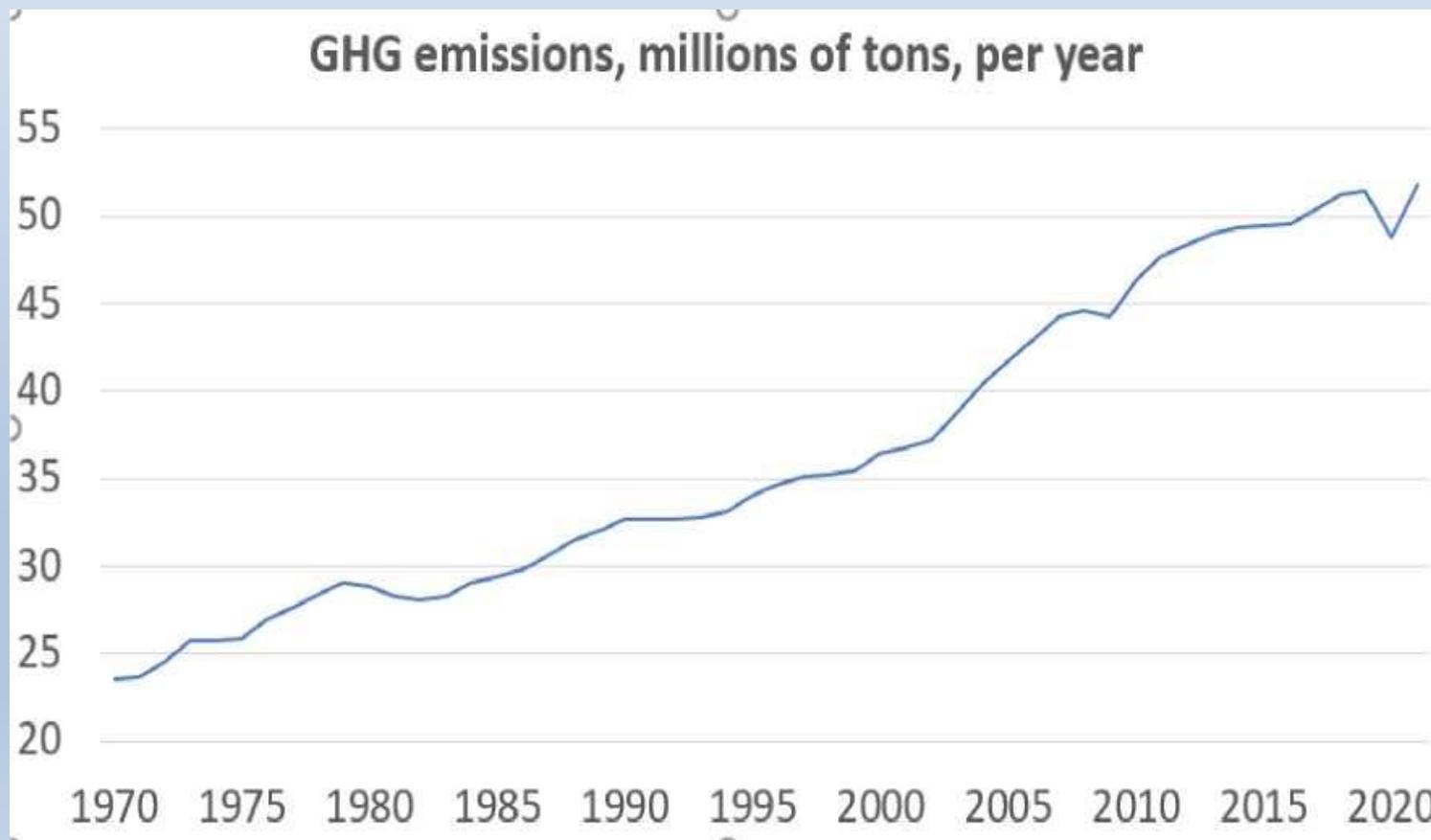
Green House Gases (GHG) emissions

Every biological indicator is going in the wrong direction, not only GHG emissions and Green House Effect.

And we all know why. The problems are not cognitively challenging.

“Development” is colonialism applied to the natural world.

“Development” is kleptocracy—a way of life based on theft.



Sustaining the Exploitative Lifestyle

Here's the problem: The word “sustainable” has since been coopted to not mean “helping the real world to sustain,” as in playing your proper role in participating in a larger community that includes your non-human neighbors, but instead to mean “sustaining this exploitative lifestyle.”

What do all of the so-called solutions to global warming have in common?

It's simple: They all take industrial capitalism (and the colonialism on which it's based) as a given, and the natural world as that which must conform to industrial capitalism. This is insane, in terms of being out of touch with physical reality.

The real world must be primary, with whatever social system you are talking about being secondary and dependent, because without a real world, you don't have any social system whatsoever.

“Sustainable development” is misleading because it is attempting to sustain this exploitative, destructive culture, not the world on which it depends.

And that will never work.

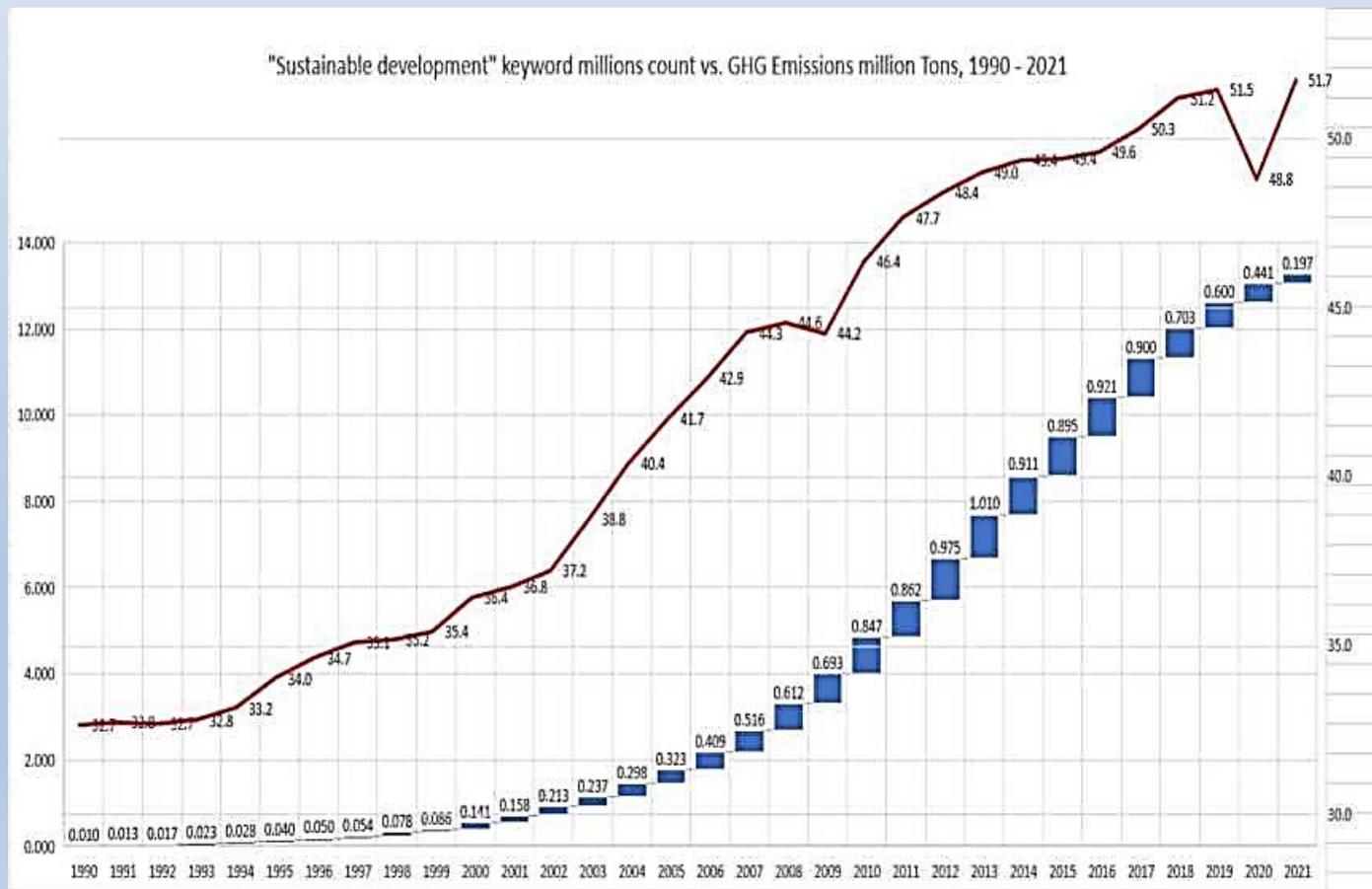
A first lesson learned

- With all the world at stake, it's not good enough for us to paste the word *sustainable* in front of the deceptive word *development*, when what we really mean is “continue this exploitative and destructive way of life a little bit longer.”
- That destroys the words *sustainable* and *development* and, of course, contributes to the ongoing destruction of the world. It wastes time we do not have.
- With all the world at stake, we need to not only do what we can to protect the victims of this culture, but we have to question the continuation of this *culture* that is working the world to death, starving the world to death, poisoning the world to death.

Sustainable development and GHG emissions - Figure 1

In blue, you see the millions of "sustainable development" keywords that have been used in scientific literature from 1900 until 2021 (source: googlescholar)

In red, you see - in the meantime - the yearly millions of Tons of GHG (GreenHouse Gases, weighted with the CO2 equivalent method) that we have poured into the atmosphere each year (source IPCC). •



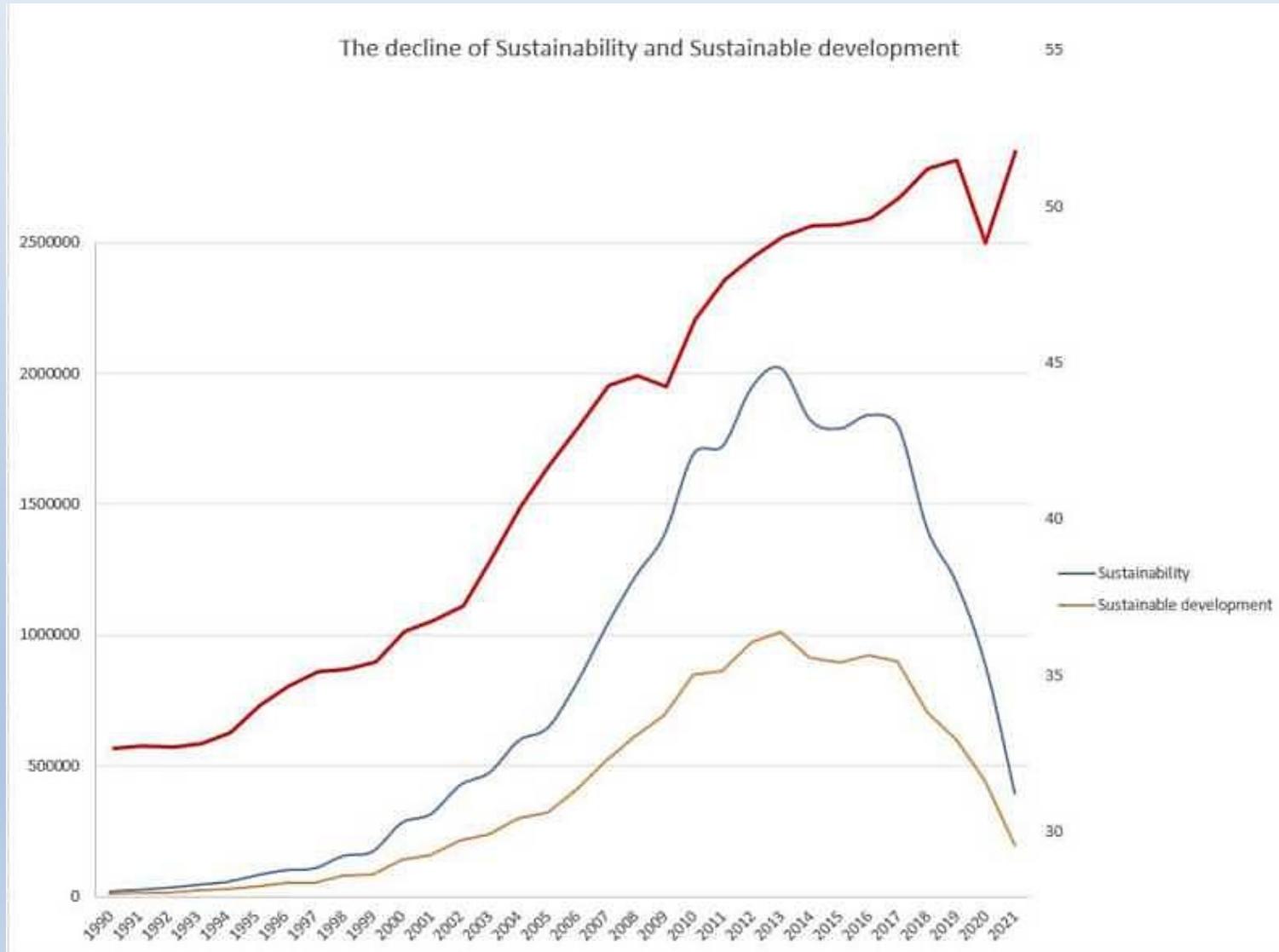
There has been a maximum of around 1 million papers per year coherent with the "sustainable development" keyword, but in the meantime the only event to temporarily halt the unstoppable emissions growth was the 2020 COVID pandemic (nobody was bouncing around like crazy with airplanes and cars, industries drastically reduced their energy demands, etc).

In 2021, emissions have reached a new all-time record.

- We did not need, however, millions of innocent victims of a terrible pandemic to learn this lesson: talking about a generic "sustainable development" is so unuseful, nothing else than a scam we rich people use to show that we care.

Some data - Figure 2

The decline of the "sustainability" illusion is evident if we look at the frequency of those keywords. The peak of sustainability occurred - more or less - when the infamous "oil peak" was due to occur, around 2013.



Sustainability and Seneca

Do you remember the Oil Peak? The Hubbert Curve?

They were saying that World Oil Production would peak in 2000 and decline following the Hubbard Curve.

This prediction in the late fifties was partially confirmed by the peak in US oil production in 1970. However, in this century, oil production even in the US has seen a big resurgence. (See Figure 3)

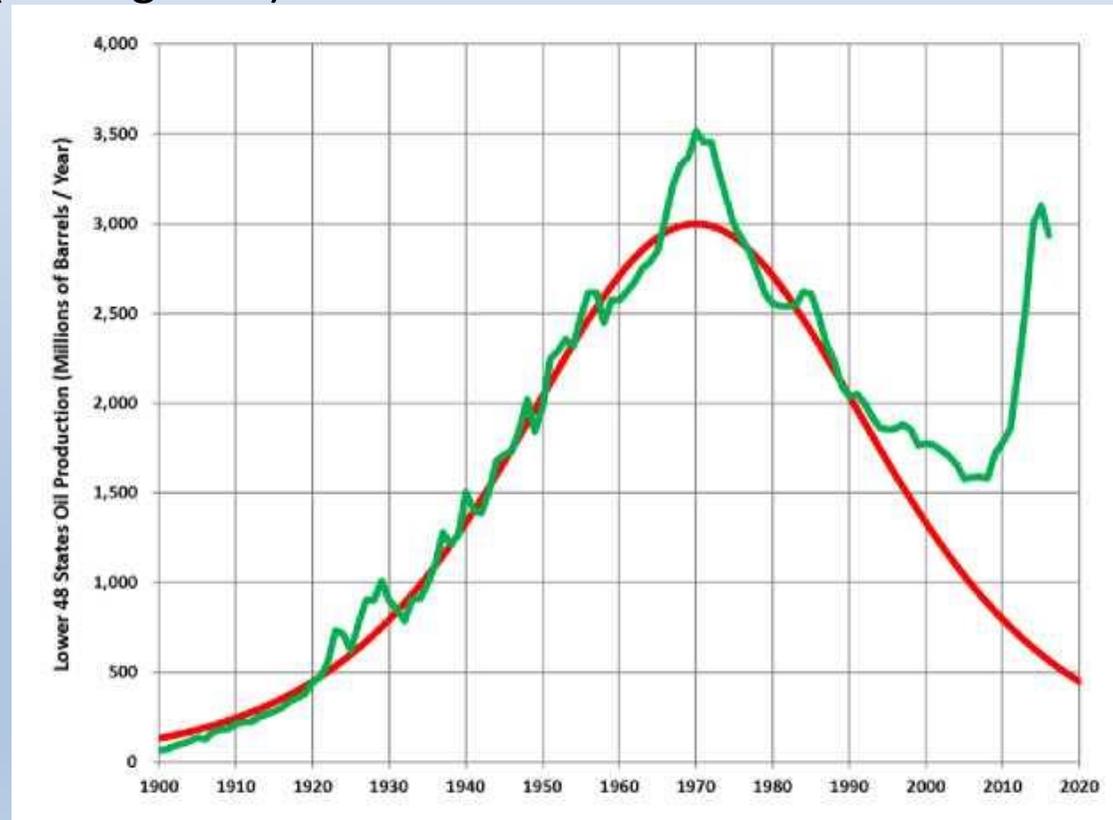
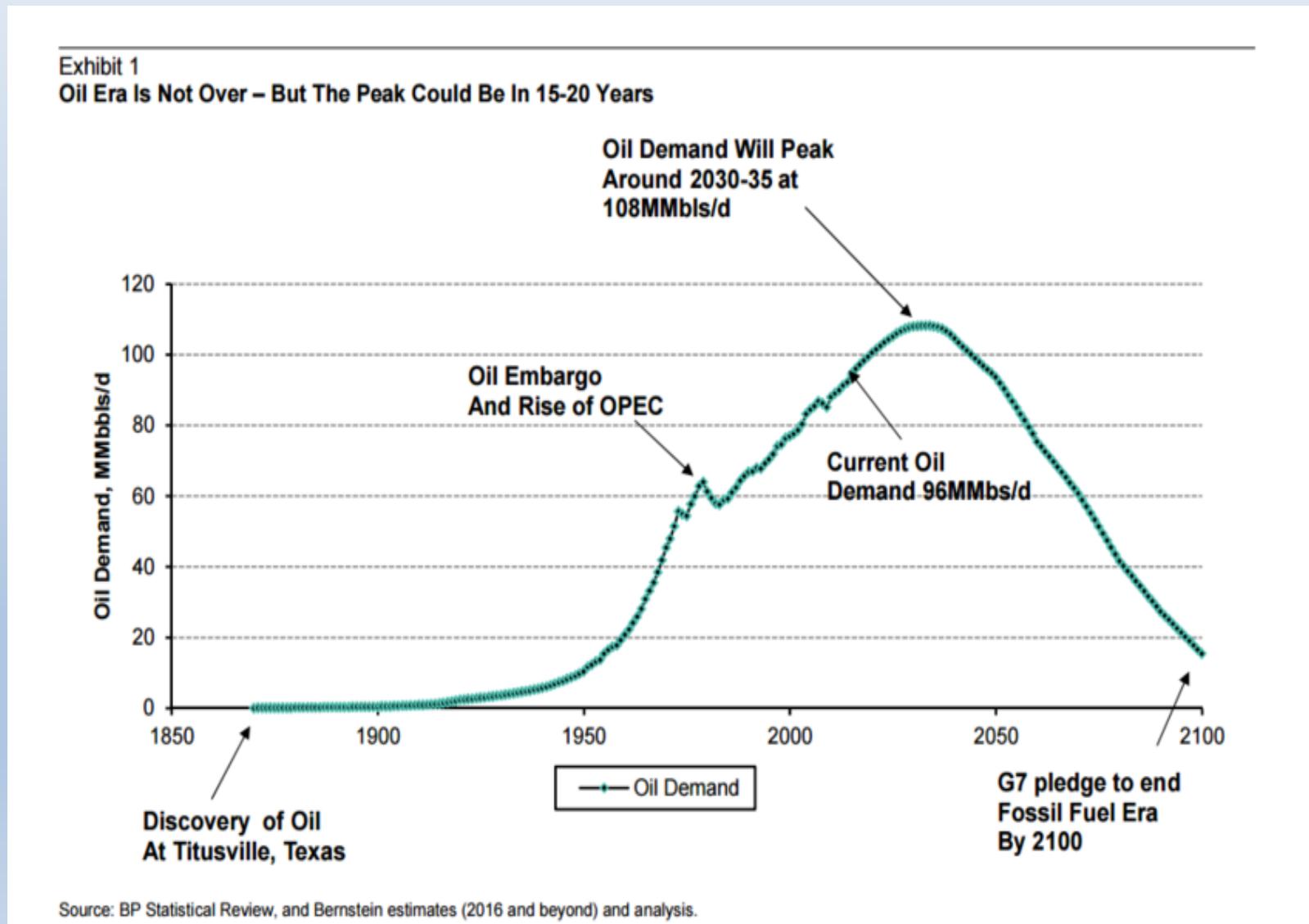


Figure 3 - The resurgence of oil production in the US: it ain't Hubbert!

Figure 4 - Other experts foresee a possible oil peak around 2035. That is not due to depletion of reserves, but to the reduction of the demand following the G7 pledge to end the fossil fuel era by 2100.



Conclusions

- Western Countries' "Sustainable development" and "Sustainability" are just wishful thinking, and they do not seem effective in reducing GHG emissions, in the end.
- Since some years, however, the "Sustainable development" fairy tale is being quickly abandoned
- Getting back to our question. The only way to make it - in the climate change battle - is to quit most of our energy-hungry modern attitudes NOW.
- Like it was a pandemic, but with everybody healthy and volunteering to abandon the worst aspects of "progress" and "development".