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ARE WE DOING ENOUGH TO REPLACE FOSSIL FUELS?

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The development of renewable energy such as Solar PV and wind energy (on-and off-shore) has shown remarkable strides over the past decade but their deployment is not keeping pace with the rapidly need for more electricity. Unfortunately the expanding electricity generation programmes worldwide is still relying on fossil fuels. This can be seen in the expanding export market for coal and the recent developments in fracking for natural gas (CH_4). The level of CO_2 in the atmosphere is showing little sign of abating and the temperature of the earth continues to increase as a result. The latest figures will be presented to support the above statements. The development of renewables (solar PV and wind) is being hampered by the lack of storing techniques for the intermittent electrical energy generated by the renewable energy sources. However there is much optimism as new storage processes are being investigated and in some cases are being deployed. The same is true for new renewable energy sources. A breakthrough in storage methods could set the scene for a major revolution in renewable energy and the possibility of staving off the 1.5°C rise in temperature.

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