Climate Change Weighing Overview - Neg

As renewables continue to become the cheaper option, the status quo is solving.

Goodwin of SB 18' writes that,

> **"In 2016, renewable energy investments in poorer countries eclipsed investments in wealthier countries for the first time ever. Since then, the upward trajectories of their growth have held steady or increased**. China was the prime mover in 2017 and has been a reliable leader in the pack in recent years. According to the Renewables 2016 report from the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, China has played a "dominant role" in the industry, increasing its investment by 17 percent and contributing a staggering 36 percent of total global investment. From 2016 to 2017, China ramped up investments by 31 percent, imbuing a record $126.6 billion. Thanks to its commitment, China is home to half of the world's solar energy capacity. In the 2018 Global Trends In Renewable Energy Investment Report from Bloomberg New Energy Finance and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), nations in Africa, Southwest Asia and Latin America blew their 2016 contributions out of the water. In Latin America, Mexico increased investments by 810 percent, Argentina by 777 percent, Chile by 55 percent, Peru by 66 percent, and Costa Rica by 31 percent. Looking at the other side of the world, Egypt grew renewables investments by 495 percent, the UAE by 2,815 percent, Rwanda by 8,665 percent, and Jordan by 26 percent. By comparison, the wealthiest economies invested significantly smaller amounts into their renewable sectors. The UK's dropped by 65 percent to $7.6 billion, Germany's was down 35 percent at $10.4 billion, Japan's fell by 28 percent to $13.4 billion, while US investment slipped 6 percent to $40.5 billion. **With the most developed economies faltering in their renewables commitments, they're losing their leadership position to poorer countries**. Way back in 2006, Kenya led the world in solar panels installed per capita. As recently as 2015, Costa Rica subsisted on total renewable energy for 75 days, and the newly elected president declared the country would become the first carbon-neutral country by 2021."

Yu of The Diplomat 19' continues that,

> "If China continues to loosen its policies on coal, the world is destined to see increasing carbon emissions for some years to come, at a time when the science has told us so clearly that we must cut emissions rapidly. Similarly, **if Chinese financial institutions continue to back coal power overseas, the world is destined to see more countries take the dirty and polluting path to development, at a time when the technology and the economics allow for a cleaner path to be discovered and followed.** Despite its heavy investments in coal, China was also the top global investor in clean energy investments in 2017, accompanying a record-setting year for renewable installations in the country. **Competitiveness for new, clean energy technology is only increasing as renewables continue to fall in cost and market-moving climate risks unfold in real time.** It makes sense for China to continue to build on its position as the global leader in renewable energy development, both at home and abroad."

Climate change outweighs in four ways

1) **Timeframe -** This impact outweighs on urgency as it can only be prevented now. **Yu explains that,**

"With the second Belt and Road Forum held in Beijing over the weekend, the nature of these energy investments in the supposedly "green" initiative is in the spotlight. The world is watching. At home and abroad, it's time for China to pull away from coal. **Coal is the biggest contributor to climate change,** the effects of which are growing more severe by the day. **According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), meeting Paris climate goals requires coal power generation be radically reduced in just 12 years, by 2030,** and phased out by 2050. **New coal plants, which could have a lifespan of over 30 years or more, are impossible to reconcile with these requirements**. In addition, coal is a major contributor to outdoor air pollution, which recent studies estimate cause 4.2 million to 5.6 million premature deaths every year. Coal is also very water-intensive, using up crucial and dwindling freshwater resources."

2) **Reversibility -** The impact of climate change is irreversible
3) **Magnitude -** Climate change not only leads to human suffering by entrapping people into poverty but also leads to hunger and death.
4) **Scope -** 100 million people at risk of poverty and billions at risk of hunger globally

Third, air pollution

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