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Center on Global Energy Policy

Oil Producing States and the Energy Transition

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Jason Bordoff Saudi Association for Energy Economics (SAEE) Webinar June 24, 2021

Energy transitions are really hard

Historically, energy consumption has been additive rather than a fuel substitution story



Global mix of fuels, share (%)

Global mix of fuels, quadrillion BTUs (quads)



Source: Center on Global Energy Policy; Smil, Energy Transitions; ExxonMobil Energy Outlook 2018

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Income and energy go hand in hand

Total final energy consumption per capita (toe/capita) vs GDP per capita, 2018



Source: IEA; OECD

Global oil demand continues its recovery

World Oil Products Demand



Global oil demand is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels by Q4 2022, supported by increased economic activity in major demand centers.

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Source: IEA

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Oil production recovers through 2022

Selected Non-OPEC+ Oil Supply Changes (2020-2022)



After two years of declines, the United States is set to drive oil production outside of the OPEC+ alliance.

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OPEC+ production ramps up

Saudi Crude Oil Production



In May, Saudi Arabia began to phase out its voluntary reductions as OPEC+ eased its supply cuts. Overall compliance with the cuts remained at 114% in May.



The world is not yet on a path to net zero



There is no need for investment in new fossil fuel supply in our net zero pathway







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Global commitments require a VERY rapid transition

Global annual net CO₂ emissions



CO₂ emissions cuts of 1 to 2 billion tonnes are needed each year between 2020 and 2030 to limit climate change in line with the Paris Agreement goals

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Source: Global Carbon Project

The Ambition – Reality Gap Is Enormous



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Oil demand is nowhere close to on track for net zero 2050

Global Oil Demand (mb/d)



Global Gas Demand (bcm)



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Promises and actions are two different things

Mid-century net zero pledges cover 70% of the world's emissions

Legally-binding midcentury net-zero pledges cover only 20% of the world's emissions





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The barrels best positioned to compete will be the lowest carbon intensity...

Estimated upstream crude oil carbon intensity



At 33 g CO_2e/MJ , Saudi oil is some of the least carbon-intense oil in the world.



... and the lowest cost

Extractable oil reserves by break-even price, January 2020 (% of total reserves)





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