

Europe Mauvais modèle d'énergie

Europe's Energy and Electricity Policies are a Bad Model Forbes Jude Clemente 27 December 2015

It's quite telling that COP21 took place in Paris. Western leaders, environmental groups, and international institutions are convinced that Europe is the model for the rest of the world to install more renewable energy and efficiency.

Entered into force in 2005, Europe has been a mainstay of the failed Kyoto Protocol, the first agreement for country-by-country reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. And the [European Union Energy Roadmap 2050](#) wants the EU to cut its emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, setting milestones for reductions of the order of 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2040.

But, the truth is much different. Europe is a ["green energy" basket case](#) with surging prices, fleeing industry, falling economic and population growth, growing dependence on Russian energy, and rising "fuel poverty," where even the Middle Class often can't afford the most basic energy services. ["Soaring energy costs make Europeans poor."](#)

To illustrate, Denmark and Germany are the proud wind capitals of Europe, but they also have the highest home electricity prices on Earth, 42 and 40 cents per kWh, respectively, against just 12.5 cents in the U.S. Germany has embarked on a \$1.4 trillion energy transition ("Energiewende") that has resulted in recent Der Spiegel headlines like: ["Germany's Energy Poverty: How Electricity Became a Luxury Good."](#)

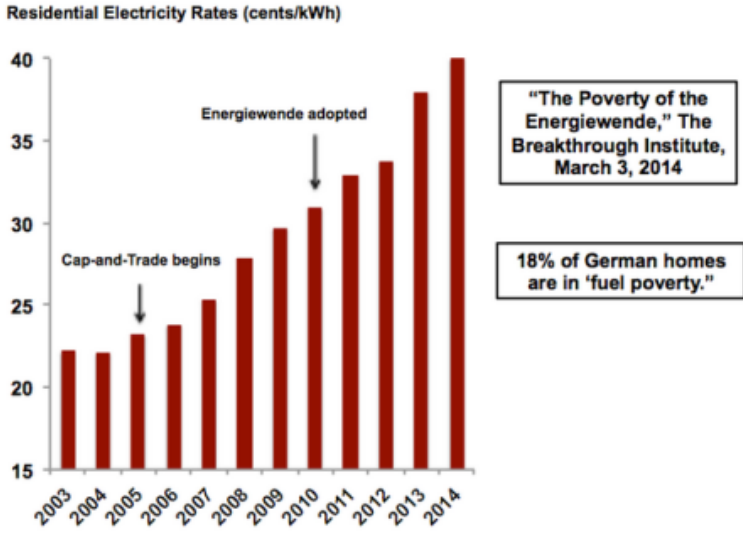
Naturally intermittent and more expensive, wind and solar power have surged under Germany's very expensive energy plan, and the goal remains to get as much as 60% of power from renewables in 2035, versus 28% today. Undeniably nonsensically, Germany has been paying over \$26 billion per year for electricity that has a wholesale market value of just \$5 billion ([see here](#)).

Yet, the influential Bloomberg, one of the biggest renewable energy promoters and investors in the world, still declared in August: ["On Clean Energy, the U.S. Should Be More German."](#) As a side note, I've noticed that Manhattanites can afford ridiculously high costs for pretty much...everything.

Endlessly ignored by those promoting renewables and/or those directly invested in the business itself, higher cost electricity (and energy) is horrible for our health. That's because, since electricity is so indispensable, meaning that it "cannot not be used," higher cost power drastically erodes our disposable income, which is the very basis of our health – while also disproportionately hurting the poor most. As a percentage of income, poor families pay 5-9 times more for electricity than rich families do.

Predictably silently, higher cost electricity in Europe is killing tens of thousands of people a year, "Excess Winter Deaths," where older residents on fixed budgets in particular are forced to turn their heat down to avoid overly expensive utility bills. For example, there were 44,000 Excess Winter Deaths in England and Wales in 2014-2015 ([see here](#)). Critically, although we keep hearing about the dangers of a warmer world, ["cold kills 20 times more people than heat."](#)

German Electricity Prices are Surging



Source: JT

Europe's industry is being ravaged by exorbitant energy costs: ["Brussels fears European 'industrial massacre' sparked by energy costs."](#) The once-vaunted UK steel industry, for instance, has been decimated by higher cost electricity ([see here](#)), and [annual production is down 15% to 12 million tonnes since 2007](#), now just yielding 1.5% of what mighty China does.

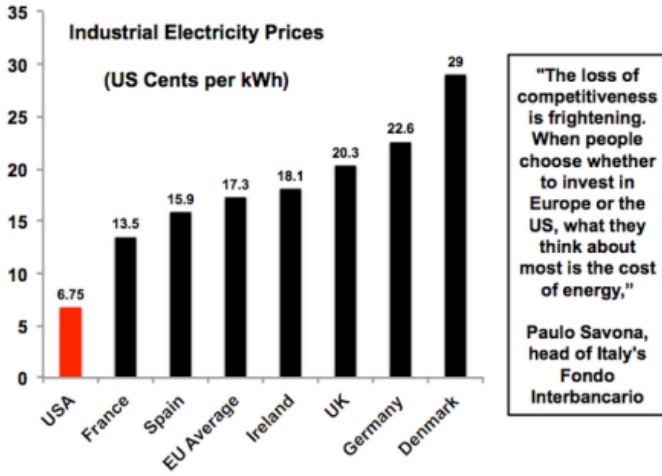
In contrast, The American Chemistry Council finds that low

cost shale natural gas has given the U.S. a “profound and sustained competitive advantage” in chemicals, plastics, and related industries. And The International Energy Agency concludes that higher cost energy will hamper Europe for “[at least 20 years.](#)”

Any of us that have taken even just one basic Economics class must stop those in the sacred-cow business of promoting renewable energy from constantly ignoring these higher costs that devastate. After 12 years in the energy/environment arena, I learned real quick that altruism is typically an illusion. “Climate change” is now a \$1.5 trillion industry ([see here](#)).

The direct loss of industry because of higher cost electricity is particularly destructive. Manufacturing jobs are very high-paying and the manufacturing business greatly advances nations with a massive “multiplier effect,” where 1 new manufacturing job can create as many as 6 or 7 across the overall economy.

Europe’s Ridiculously High Industrial Electricity Prices (1st half, 2015)



“The loss of competitiveness is frightening. When people choose whether to invest in Europe or the US, what they think about most is the cost of energy.”
 Paulo Savona, head of Italy’s Fondo Interbancario

While the manufacturing sector in the EU now employs about 30 million persons directly, down from 37 million 10 years ago, the real devastation is far worse because manufacturing is a building block of a strong economy.

Moreover, energy dreams that are based on more renewable energy at all costs, exacerbated by [a refusal to more realistically produce as much domestic coal, oil, and natural gas as possible](#), have upped Europe’s dependence on Vladimir Putin’s more reliable hydrocarbons. Russian gas, for instance, now supplies 65% of Europe’s natural gas imports, compared to 45% in 2010. More reliable coal and gas still supply 5 times more electricity than wind and solar do in the EU, even after tens of billions in subsidies for renewables.

And never forget that, given the importance of energy, higher cost energy trickles down to increase the costs of EVERYTHING

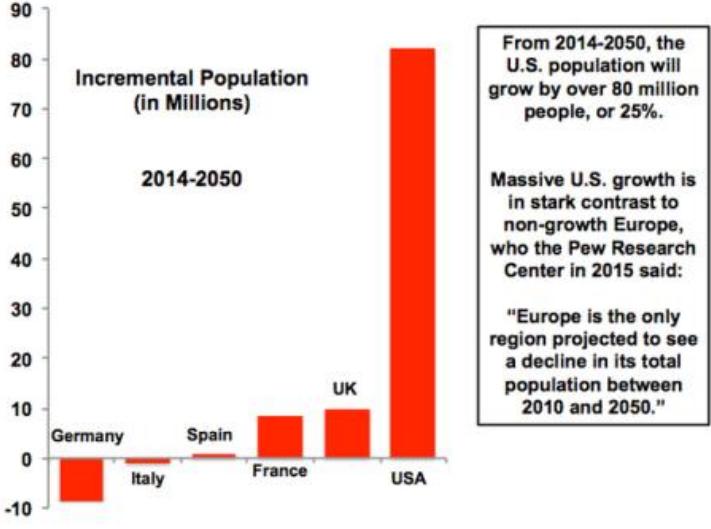
that we do and/or enjoy. For example, the costs of water, an even more indispensable necessity than electricity, are dangerously much higher in Europe because power is way too expensive (see [here](#)):

- “Because the energy required for treatment and delivery of water accounts for as much as 80% of its cost, an insufficient supply of affordable energy will have a negative impact on the price and availability of water,” Sandia National Laboratories
- Source: Eurostat; EIA
- And beyond forcing the acceptance of much higher costs, energy policies in Europe aren’t just undesirable but they’re also impractical due to basically non-existent population growth on the continent, explaining why I use the term “non-growth Europe.” In fact, one main reason why Europe has so suspiciously and gladly accepted refugees and/or economic migrants is because the continent needs more able-bodied workers (a must read on that [here](#)). In short, Europe’s importance is declining.

Indeed, contrary to what the mainstream media keeps depicting, the United Nations reports that 72% of those arriving in Europe are men (see [here](#)), and about 54% of the asylum seekers are men aged 18-34 (see [here](#)).

The U.S. is a Rapidly Growing Nation, those in Europe are NOT

Forbes



From 2014-2050, the U.S. population will grow by over 80 million people, or 25%.
 Massive U.S. growth is in stark contrast to non-growth Europe, who the Pew Research Center in 2015 said:
 “Europe is the only region projected to see a decline in its total population between 2010 and 2050.”

Sources: UN; Pew