Not in My Back Yard!

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Energy return on investment from U.S. oil and gas

With the desperation of a true addict.

Murphy and Hall. 2010. “Year in Review – EROI”
From Jed Clampett’s bubbling crude....

To the Deepwater Horizon

And the Canadian Tar Sands
U.S. Natural Gas Supply, 1990-2035

Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2011
1,300 wells in our backyard
(Denton and ETJ)

Nearly 15,000 wells on the Barnett Shale

**Pro:** 100,000 jobs created, economic growth, domestic energy

**Con:** Environmental and health concerns, property values

Source:
http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=2170
The Good Life

To be immersed in a growing array of commodities (ends) while being insulated from the conditions (means) that make those commodities possible.

1. Need more energy and materials
2. Want to be disburdened from the nasty business of getting those goods
2. U.S. Primary Energy Consumption per Capita, 1949-2010

Million Btu

U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review*, Table 1.5

Thousand Btu per Chained (2005) Dollar

U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review*, Table 1.5
Electricity generation by fuel

People's Republic of China

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For more detailed data, please consult our on-line data service at http://data.iea.org.
Means
Production
Background

Ends
Consumption
Foreground
Means
Production
Background

Ends
Consumption
Foreground
What happens when the dividing line is gone?
Some options

• Not in my backyard, but please do put it in someone else’s backyard so that I may consume its commodity.

• Equal shares in everyone’s backyard. We all owe a debt to the collective.

• Honest embrace – own the ugly – yes, put it in my yard!

• Make the offensive facility a good neighbor….no one will object to it in their yard. (Engineer – tech fix – control the outer world).

• Not in anyone’s backyard. (Buddha – control our inner world).
Selfish or Principled?

• I support wind power, but I don’t want a wind farm in my beloved Nantucket Sound!
Calvin and Hobbes

Get what you can while the getting's good—that's what I say! Might makes right? The winners write the history books!

It's a dog-eat-dog world, so I'll do whatever I have to, and let others argue about whether it's "right" or not.

Why'd you do that?? How'd you in my way. Now you're not. The ends justify the means.

I didn't mean for everyone, you dolt! Just me!

Ahh...
UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

—The Lorax
Own the ugly!
Make fracking a good neighbor

Fracking fluid container trucks, PA
The Buddha or the Engineer?