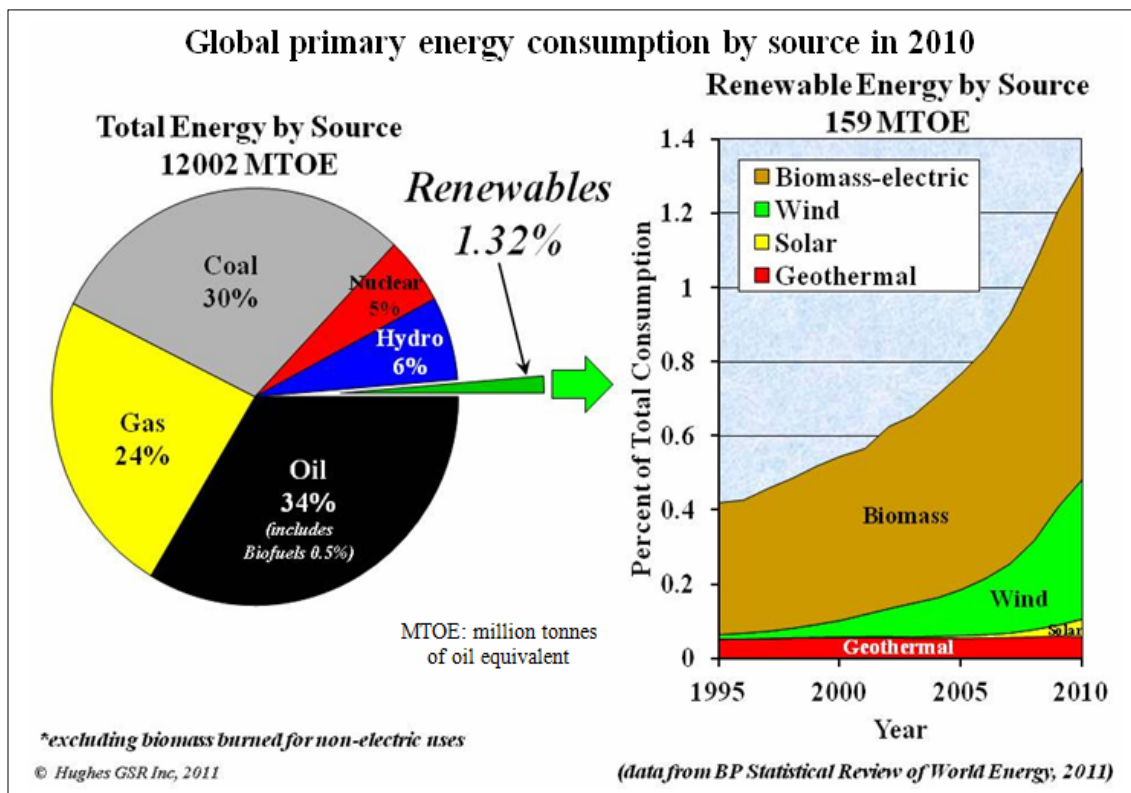


*Free Public Lecture*

# The Energy Sustainability Dilemma: Powering the Future in a Finite World



**David Hughes**  
**Global Sustainability Research Inc**

The Energy Sustainability Dilemma will profoundly impact future generations, unless non-renewable resources are managed for long term sustainability. The limits to non-renewable energy resources are evident. Given the magnitude of the contribution of non-renewable hydrocarbons to our energy consumption, the peaking of production of non-renewable fuels has tremendous implications for our modern way of life, unless we move toward more sustainable levels of consumption. The concept that renewable forms of energy, such as wind, solar, geothermal and tidal can replace fossil fuels at the current levels of energy use is highly unlikely, given the low energy density and intermittent nature of these sources. A more sustainable energy future will require a rethink of the way we use energy and the paradigm of continuous growth that has served us over the past couple of centuries. Notwithstanding these issues, the current mindset of governments in Ottawa, Alberta and British Columbia is to ramp up production of oil and gas for export as quickly as possible. The Northern Gateway, Keystone XL pipelines and the Kitimat LNG export facilities exemplify this policy, and may come back to haunt us as fossil fuel resources grow increasingly scarce. This presentation focuses on the "Big Picture" and how the industrialized and developing countries fit into it, as well as what must be considered to assure a more sustainable energy future. The presentation will also touch on both Northern Gateway and the LNG export proposals, and why these don't make sense for long term Canadian energy security.

*David Hughes is a geoscientist who has studied energy resources for nearly four decades, including 32 years with the Geological Survey of Canada. He developed the National Coal Inventory to determine the availability and environmental constraints of Canada's coal resources. As Team Leader for Unconventional Gas on the Canadian Gas Potential Committee, he coordinated the publication of a comprehensive assessment of Canada's unconventional natural gas potential. He has studied, published and lectured on global energy and sustainability issues across Canada and internationally. He is a Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute and his work has been featured in newspapers, radio and television. He is president of Global Sustainability Research Inc, which is dedicated to research on energy and sustainability issues.*

**Wednesday, January 25, 2012**

**7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Vancouver Island University, Building 356, Room 109

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