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OPINION

Clean-energy conversion helping, but climate-heating pollution threatens to get worse

Valient efforts are being made to convert to emission-free energy sources, but evidence indicates the disturbing continuation in increased release of heat-trapping fossil-fuel pollution worldwide. Billions of dollars in funding and tax credits for conversion to clean energy provided by the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act [IRA] are definitely speeding the transition to the new technology. The rapidly plummeting cost of using these clean energy sources is also boosting the needed transformation.

Although use of clean energy sources is growing at unprecedented rates, according to the [Global Carbon Project](#), worldwide emissions from fossil-fuel combustion are expected to reach a new record of 37.4 billion metric tons in 2024, even greater than last year. This troubling trend results from the increasing use of fossil fuels by still-developing countries.

While Europe and the U.S. have achieved modest reductions in emission of heat-trapping carbon dioxide, China and other industrializing nations are retarding such gains through continued combustion of coal and other dirty fuels. However, prominent experts predict that this trend in greater pollution will soon reverse, as more nations responsibly convert to clean energy sources.

In light of these momentous issues, it's profoundly discouraging that, in cavalier defiance of overwhelming scientific evidence, Trump portrays climate change as a hoax, promoting reckless fossil-fuel supports that will heedlessly harm the environment, human health, and quality of life. Moreover, such defiance ignores thousands of jobs created through IRA-initiated investments in clean-energy technology, including enormous benefits in Republican districts whose Congressional representatives refused to support those funding incentives.

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