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Mindful and Compassionate Use of Energy

A Buddhist Approach to Energy Policy

"Faith, Energy and Society" workshop
St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge
March 3, 2017

Mindful consumption

Buddhism suggests
**simplifying one's own
desires** by meditation
and mindful living in
order to achieve
**happiness, peace, and
permanence.**



Compassionate consumption



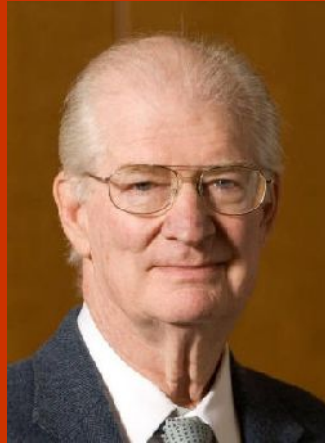
Buddhism requires to **consider the impact** of one's own **consumption** on **other sentient beings** (human, non-human and future beings)

Drastic „cut back” of energy use

Western economies use about **100 times more** energy per capita than it is **biological necessary** for the survival of human individuals.

Both **direct** and **indirect energy consumption** should be drastically reduced.

Efficiency is not a solution



Herman Daly
University of Maryland

"An **improvement in efficiency alone** is equivalent to having a **larger supply** of the factor whose efficiency increased. The price of that factor declines and more uses for the **cheaper factor** are found. So **scale** continues to **grow**. The main task of our age is to **reduce** the **scale** of the economy relative to the ecosystem." (H. Daly)

The Role of Business Models

Current **business models** in the energy sector are **not appropriate** for ecological sustainability and resilience.

Business model innovation is needed.

Sufficiency

Community-based, sufficiency oriented, decentralized energy production and distribution systems are needed.

Living lightly

