

- +Archives
  - Issue Archives
  - President's Column
  - Director's Corner
  - Geophysical Corner
  - Policy Watch
  - Historical Highlights
  - Regions/Sections
  - Foundation Update
  - DPA Column
  - EMD Column
  - DEG Column
  - ProTracks
  - Making a Difference
  - Spotlight On
  - A Look Back
  - Business Side of Geology
  - Wildcat Recollections
- Advertise
- Search
- [aapg.org](http://aapg.org)



Gunchukwa, Colombia, where the Switch Energy Alliance brought first electricity in 2018. Photo credit Sterling Richard.

**More like  
this**

## Energy Transition Must Address Energy Poverty

Tinker calls for solutions from the 'radical middle'

November 2019 | Ken Milam, Explorer Correspondent

**W**hile many see the energy transition as the switch from carbon-based to non-carbon-based fuels, Scott Tinker sees a broader definition.

Tinker, past AAPG president, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology and Texas state geologist, suggested the goal of a successful transition is lifting some 2.5 billion people out of poverty by addressing energy poverty, as well as by minimizing environmental impacts.

Renewable energy and other, “cleaner” sources, have environmental impacts, Tinker said.

Those impacts occur at all steps – from mining, to manufacturing, to collection, to disposal, Tinker said.

“It’s not the fuel that is the issue, but the environmental impacts,” he said.

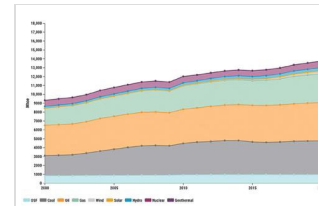
A successful transition will require understanding and nonpartisan discussion. And solutions will differ from region to region around the globe, he said.

“The energy dialogue in the West centers around the ideas of ‘good and bad,’ ‘clean and dirty,’ and ‘believer and denier.’ But these are false dichotomies. No form of energy is inherently clean or dirty. They just have different impacts at scale,” said Tinker.

“Education is critical to making thoughtful decisions,” he added.

### Coming Soon: ‘Switch On’

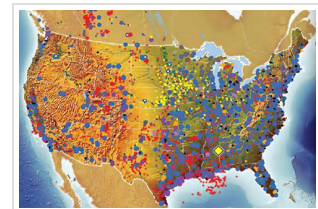
He has been involved in the making of two films, “Switch” and Switch On,” the latter due to be released later this year.



### Hydrocarbons Expected to Remain the World's

...

Lower cost and lower carbon. That's the energy future for w...



### Carbon Capture and Storage Is a Necessity fo...

Wind, solar and biofuels have a long way to go before they'...



### Intermittency, Not Cost, Holds Back Renewabl...

'Undoubtedly, yes, the world must accelerate its transition...

Please log in to read the full article

Log in to Submit a Comment

## Comments (3)

### Energy Poverty by Scott Tinker

In discussions with environmental activists who are protesting new industrialization to expand the distribution of fossil fuels, my mantra has been "good science, good policy and good sense". Scott eloquently presents this argument in a thoughtful and well researched manner that every scientist and activist should hear..

11/13/2019 8:57:33 AM **Roland Robertson**

### The Moral Case For Fossil Fuels...

...by Alex Epstein, is an informative look at how fossil fuels have shaped our lives over the past several decades, providing an increase in standard of living, quality of life and life expectancy. "For decades, environmentalists have told us that using fossil fuels is a self-destructive addiction that will destroy our planet. Yet at the same time, by every measure of human well-being, from life expectancy to clean water to climate safety, life has been getting better and better." Scott, your article does a good job in summarizing, in large part, what the book breaks down in eye-opening detail. Yes, education is the key! Thank you. Paul Belvedere - Geologist

11/12/2019 11:43:23 AM **Paul Belvedere**

### Climate Change

Thank you Scott Tinker for sensible discussion and solutions. get this to wider distribution. Tom Cambridge--geologist

11/12/2019 10:56:19 AM **Thomas Cambridge**

## You may also be interested in ...

## Popular articles

Copyright 2019 AAPG | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Terms Of Use](#) |  