

CLIMATE JUSTICE: BUILDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC EQUITY FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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ENERGY TRANSITIONS INVOLVE SOCIAL CHANGE -- INCLUDING NORMS, EDUCATION, EQUITY AND ACTIVISM

-- The upheavals of the global climate crisis affect everyone and raise risk levels; this is an exciting and dangerous time to be alive.

-- Our cultures and social norms reflect how humans respond to this uncertainty, and try to exert creativity and agency to address it.

-- Education and communication invite wide participation in these processes.

-- People usually start where they are and deal with local challenges first; wider and broader networking follows.

-- Humans created existing social, economic and political systems; changing them is part of the energy transition. Everyone is involved, as actors with agency and/or as those affected.

INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE AGAINST CARBON



Indigenous Resistance Against Carbon seeks to uplift the work of countless Tribal Nations, Indigenous water protectors, land defenders, pipeline fighters, and many other grassroots formations who have dedicated their lives to defending the sacredness of Mother Earth and protecting their inherent rights of Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination. In this effort, Indigenous Peoples have developed highly effective campaigns that utilize a blended mix of non-violent direct action, political lobbying, multimedia, divestment, and other tactics to accomplish victories in the fight against neoliberal projects that seek to destroy our world via extraction.

In this report, we demonstrate the tangible impact these Indigenous campaigns of resistance have had in the fight against fossil fuel expansion across what is currently called Canada and the United States of America. More specifically, we quantify the metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions that have either been stopped or delayed in the past decade due to the brave actions of Indigenous land defenders. Adding up the total, **Indigenous resistance has stopped or delayed greenhouse gas pollution equivalent to at least one-quarter of annual U.S. and Canadian emissions.**

Source:

www.ienearth.org/indigenous-resistance-against-carbon/

RAPID INNOVATION IN GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS IS DRIVEN BY PUBLIC OPINION

- Collaboration across traditional institutional boundaries and sectors**
- Improved communication and dispute resolution**
- Openness to innovation and sharing rather than profits, intellectual property claims, and ownership**
- Global awareness, prioritization of needs and expenditures based on ethical international understanding**
- Reliance on human interconnections, social trust, respect and creativity**

CONSUMER DEMAND, PUBLIC POLICY, COMMUNITY SUPPORT, TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE – all part of the energy transition

Can I use wind energy to power my home? More people across the country are asking this question as they look for a hedge against increasing electricity rates and a way to harvest their local wind resources. Although wind turbines large enough to provide a significant portion of the electricity needed by the average U.S. home generally require 1 acre of property or more, approximately 19.3% of the U.S. population lives in rural areas^[1] and may own land parcels large enough to accommodate a wind energy system.

A small wind electric system will work for you if:

- There is enough wind where you live
- Tall towers are allowed in your neighborhood or rural area (or you live in flat terrain with no tall obstacles nearby)
- You have enough space
- You can determine how much electricity you need or want to produce
- You can interconnect with your utility service provider (assuming you have a grid-connection application)
- It works for you economically.



Homeowners, ranchers, and small businesses can use wind turbines, like this Skystream 3.7 residential turbine, to reduce their utility bills. Photo from Southwest Windpower, NREL 15030

Current energy costs
(in cents per kilowatt hour):

3.9 -- wind, Alberta
4.8 -- solar, Alberta
8.6 – wind, Ontario
15.6 – solar, Ontario
16.3 to 21.5 – new small nuclear, Ontario

Source:

<https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/why-is-ontario-spending-billions-on-nuclear-energy-when-cheap-renewables-are-available>

Source: Small Wind Guidebook,
<https://windexchange.energy.gov/small-wind-guidebook>

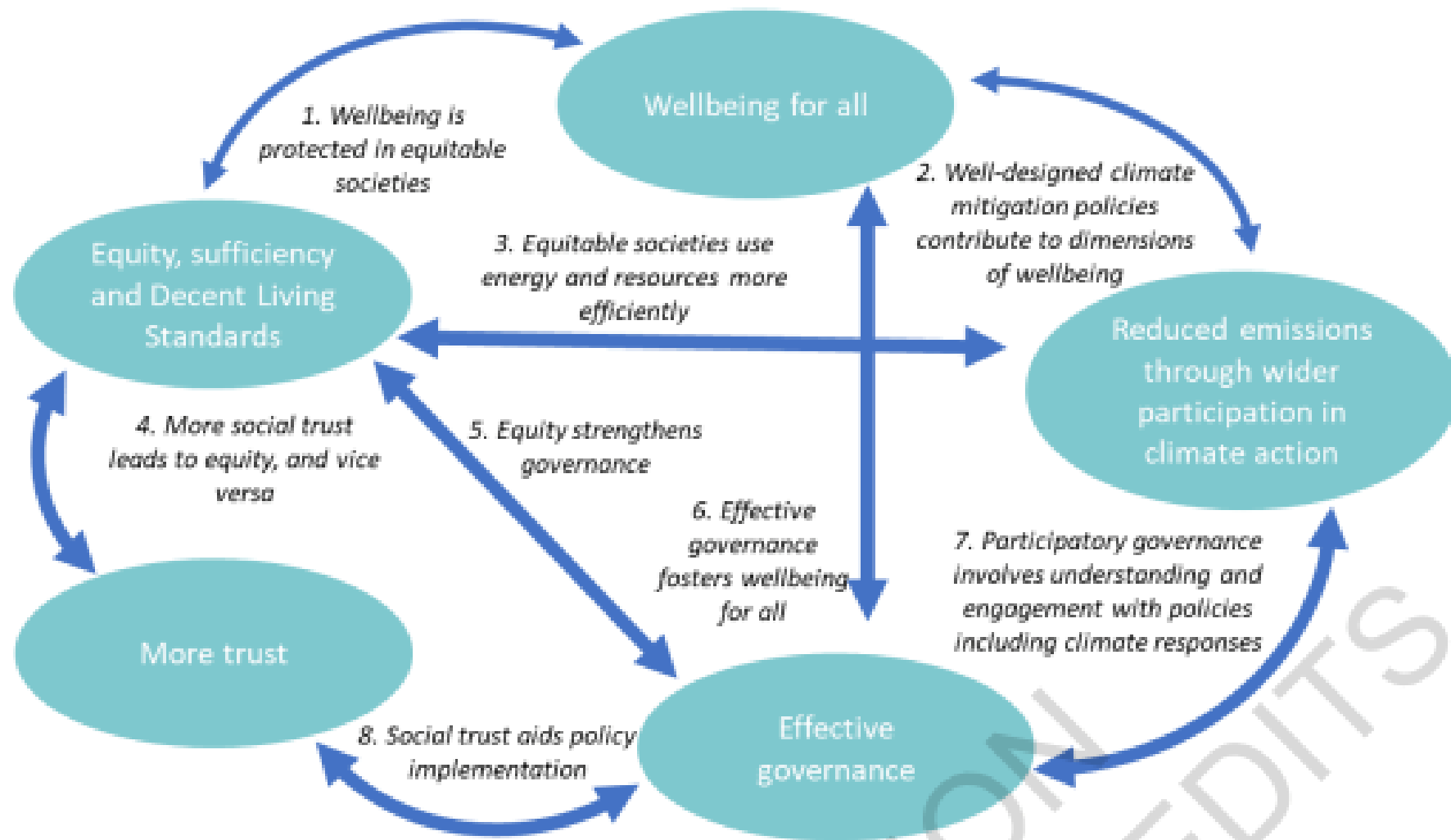
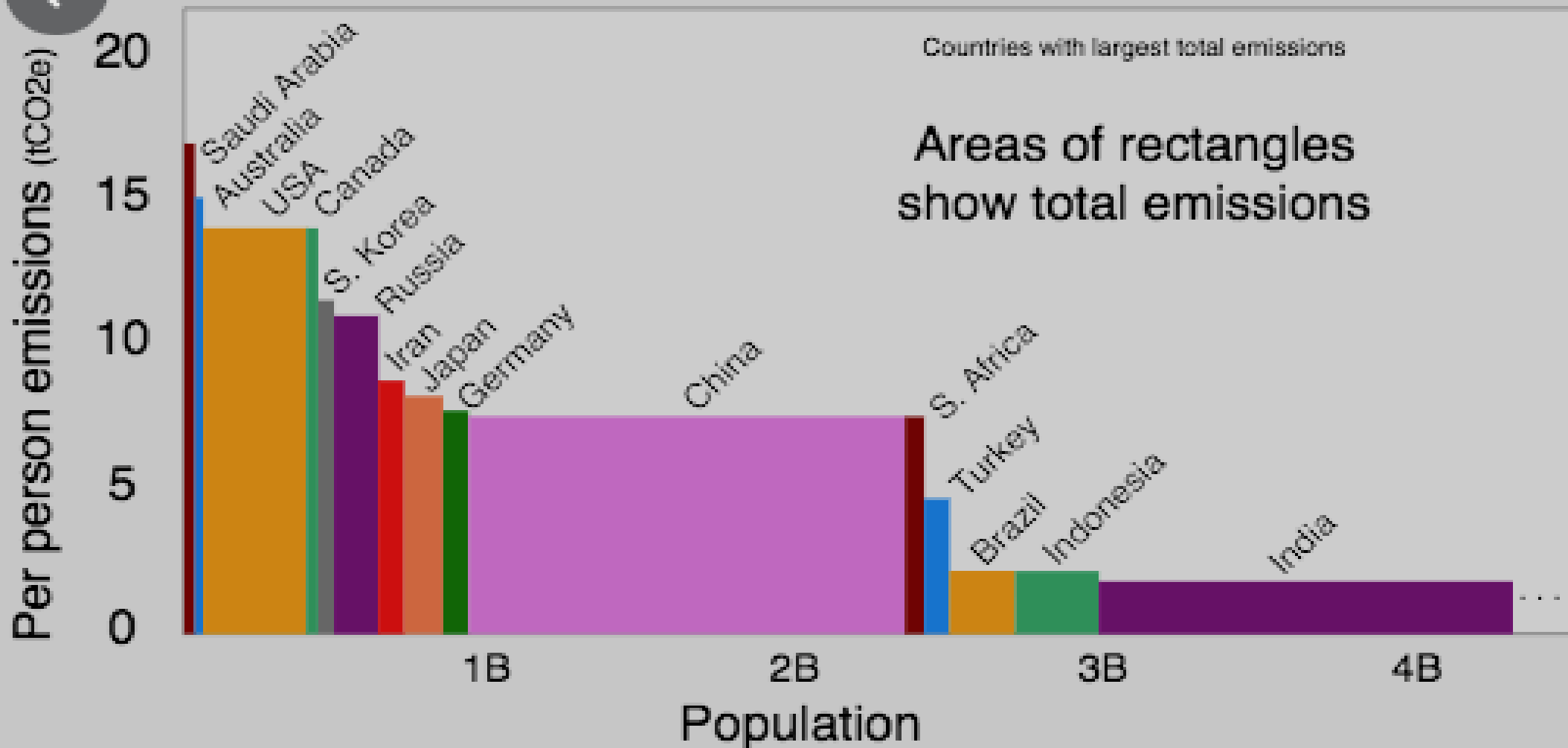


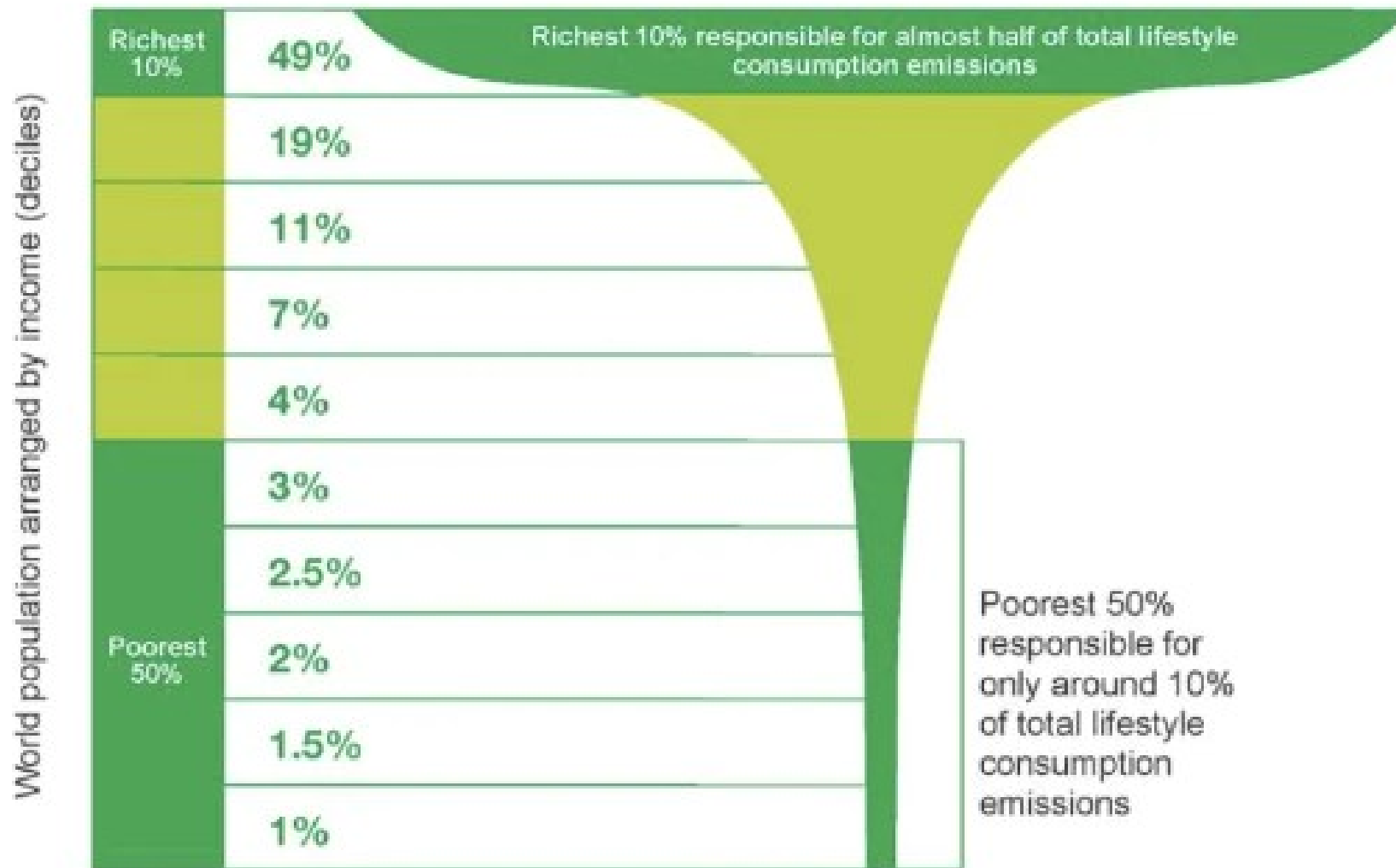
Figure 5.5 Well-being, equity, trust, governance and climate mitigation: positive feedbacks. Well-being for all, increasingly seen as the main goal of sustainable economies, reinforces emissions reductions through a network of positive feedbacks linking effective governance, social trust, equity, participation and sufficiency. This diagram depicts relationships noted in this chapter text and explained further in the Social Science Primer (supplementary material I in this Chapter). The width of the arrows corresponds to the level of confidence and degree of evidence from recent social sciences literature.

Source: IPCC WGIII report, p. 5-28: https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg3/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf

Carbon dioxide emissions per person



Percentage of CO₂ emissions by world population



Source: Oxfam

Source: Oxfam, 2015:

https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/mb-extreme-carbon-inequality-021215-en.pdf

IPCC MESSAGES, 2022

Eradicating extreme poverty, energy poverty, and providing decent living standards to all ... in the context of achieving sustainable development objectives, in the near-term, can be achieved without significant global emissions growth. (*high confidence*)

At least 18 countries have sustained production-based GHG and consumption-based CO₂ emission reductions for longer than 10 years. Reductions were linked to energy supply decarbonisation, energy efficiency gains, and energy demand reduction, which resulted from both policies and changes in economic structure.

By 2050, comprehensive demand-side strategies across all sectors could reduce CO₂ and non-CO₂ GHG emissions globally by 40–70% compared to the 2050 emissions projection of two scenarios consistent with policies announced by national governments until 2020. With policy support, socio-cultural options and behavioural change can reduce global GHG emissions of end-use sectors by at least 5% rapidly, with most of the potential in developed countries, and more until 2050, if combined with improved infrastructure design and access. Individuals with high socio-economic status contribute disproportionately to emissions and have the highest potential for emissions reductions, e.g., as citizens, investors, consumers, role models, and professionals. (*high confidence*)

ACTION IN CANADA IS IMPORTANT

6th largest carbon footprint per capita

4th largest fossil fuel producer in the world

Vast solar and wind potential

Lived experience with fires, floods, melting, extreme weather and other climate impacts

Wealth, diversity, Indigenous leadership

Public support for climate action

Photo: Carlos Osorio, Calgary Herald. <https://calgaryherald.com/news/national/photos-across-canada-protesters-take-to-the-streets-in-climate-strike>



WE ALL HAVE A KEY ROLE IN ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Let's discuss what we can do together.

Thank you for your engagement in addressing the climate crisis.

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