Energy Myths and Realities

lecture by
Dr. Vaclav Smil
Order of Canada recipient
October 17th, 2:30-3:30 pm
Room: 223 Wallace Building
Reception to follow

Dr. Vaclav Smil (Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Environment and Geography in the Riddell Faculty) was recently appointed to the Order of Canada. Dr. Smil is a renowned expert on global energy issues and he provides critical insights into energy development, distribution, and usage challenges. His diverse and prolific writings are considered essential reading by policy makers, scientists and academics in the field. Bill Gates wrote in June 2013 that “There’s no author whose books I look forward to more than Vaclav Smil. With his vast knowledge of science and energy, history and business, he brings new insights to every topic he examines.”
Atomic energy is the energy released during the transformation of atomic nuclei. The source of atomic energy is the internal energy of the atomic nucleus. A more precise name for atomic energy is nuclear energy. There are two types of nuclear energy production: - realization of nuclear chain reaction of fission of.
Myth. Reality. 1. The United States can be energy independent in the next 25 years. The world is "flattening" commodity interdependence is becoming the norm. Energy infrastructure transitions take time and are very expensive ($ trillions). The United States imports over 30 percent of its energy, mostly as oil, and the trend is increasing. Independence requires realistic, scalable alternatives, which do not currently exist but can be developed over several decades. 2. "Renewable energy" can reduce dependence on fossil fuels significantly in the next 25 years. Energy is not renewable