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Closing Remarks: The Three Pillars of Energy

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The Three Pillars of Energy

Christopher F. D'Elia, Professor and Dean
John Day, Distinguished Professor
Adrian Wiegman, Graduate Student
The Energy Conundrum: The economy is held up by three primary fossil fuel energy pillars: High EROI **Coal, Oil and Natural Gas**. (Each pillar is proportional to its contribution to the primary energy mix, data from IEA 2013)
Take away renewable energy sources and fossil fuels will support the modern economy with little small sacrifices but little noticeable changes. However, the climate effects may be substantial.
Take away fossil fuels and the economic system would collapse quickly; agriculture, global transportation and the industrial complex would fail. Famine, war and societal upheaval would result, as people struggle to live off of local resources.