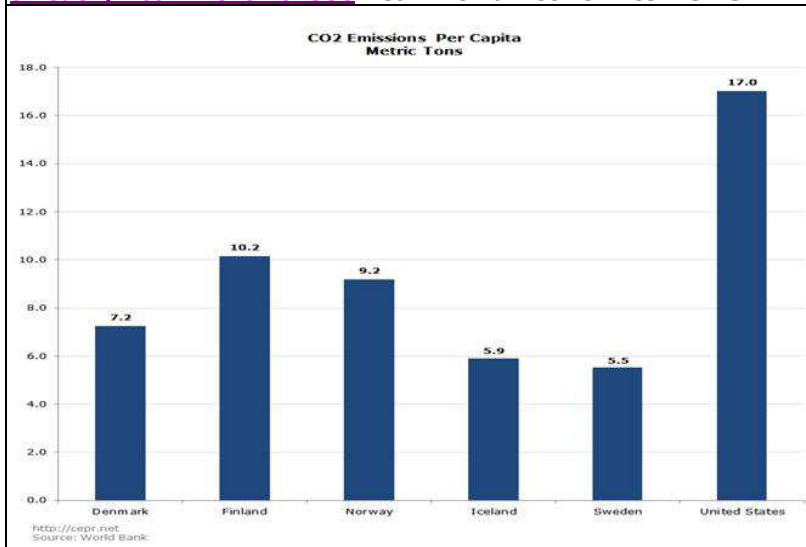


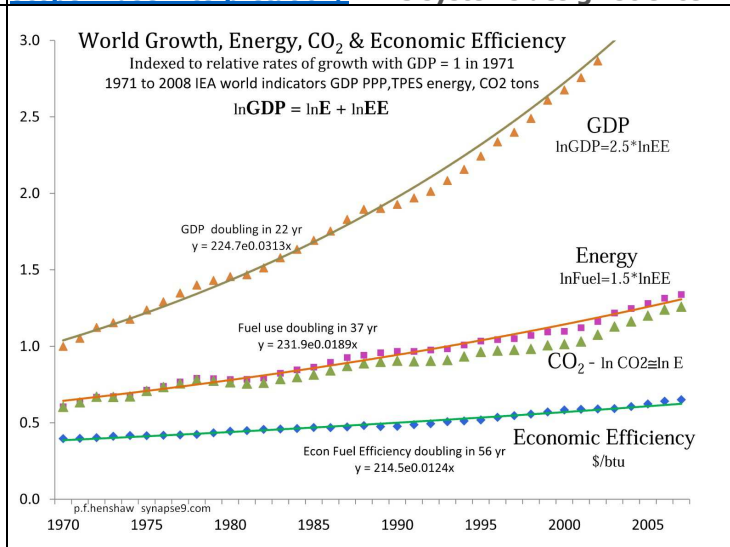
The report on A Growth of “Decoupling” (GDP & CO₂), the data says it was more A Growth of “Outsourcing” instead

7 Apr 2016 Jessie Henshaw

Decoupled national accounts for CO₂ per capita: United States, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Sweden
<https://rwer.wordpress.com/2016/03/31/co2-emissions-per-capita-united-states-denmark-finland-norway-iceland-and-sweden/#comment-107558> Real World Economics Review



Strong Constant Coupling shown in world accounts of GDP, CO₂, Energy and economic energy efficiency, + local GDP shown to use energy at global rates
<http://synapse9.com/signals/2014/04/08/easy-intro-scope-4-use-interpretation/> HDS systems design science



Green Biz also reports decoupling
“21 Countries are Cutting carbon while growing GDP”
<http://tinyurl.com/zs5vwwc>

Green Biz,

I’ve been trying to communicate the very clear major flaw in the data used for this analysis for years. It unfortunately seems to confuse or disappoint the great majority of people doing sustainability statistics. The problem is people are not really looking at the composition of national statistical accounts, so everyone ends doing ratios of apples to acorns, unaware of the different measurement boundaries for different numbers.

I recently did a calculation of the scale of the error implied for the current CO₂ per capita for Sweden and the United States, as shown in this World Bank bar chart. What I found was the CO₂ per capita for the US economy, with GDP derived mostly from its own energy sources, is underestimated by ~40%. For the CO₂ per capita for the Swedish economy, with GDP derived mostly from external energy services, I found it underestimated it by ~395%. I have solid peer reviewed history and research to back this up too.

I would be happy to help you work it out for yourselves, so you can correct the article (and be the hero to bring it to popular attention). Why it isn’t out in the public yet seems to be that people in the business don’t like reading my articles. They like reading your kinds of articles... So instead of my mentioning them right off, I should wait to hear your interest.

Jessie

Fyi World Bank CO₂ data <http://wdi.worldbank.org/table/3.9>

The big problem is:

GDP consumption is Global and has been measured as local, and we mistakenly trust the reported data!

- Each country’s energy use is recorded locally, within national boundaries.
- Each country’s GDP uses resources globally.
 - As a result, the locally recorded energy use will most often be either a great over or under statement of what its GDP consumes.
 - So no country’s national account of energy use is at all meaningful to compare to its GDP, just plain *not meaningful*.
- Each country’s economic data only reports data tabulated in I/O table accounts,
 - Those records count only material exchanges between businesses, as consumption costs from the exchange of technology services
 - I/O tables totally ignore the often much larger consumption costs resulting from the exchange of human services.
 - These definitions were just the arbitrary way economists chose to standardize economic accounting, I think a hundred years ago, and never checked to see if they were relevant for measuring sustainability.
 - If pressed, it is explained that the omission consumption costs for the human services for one business, is counted as a production costs for *other businesses*... as if that would explain why no one ever traces that
 - The quite sound method I developed for correcting the error has not been adopted, so leaving all human services costs unaccounted for remains another source of gross error in scale for estimating GDP impacts.