Our Future(s)

Four Scenarios for the Coming Energy Transition

Proactive Response
Government, Society, Technology, Markets

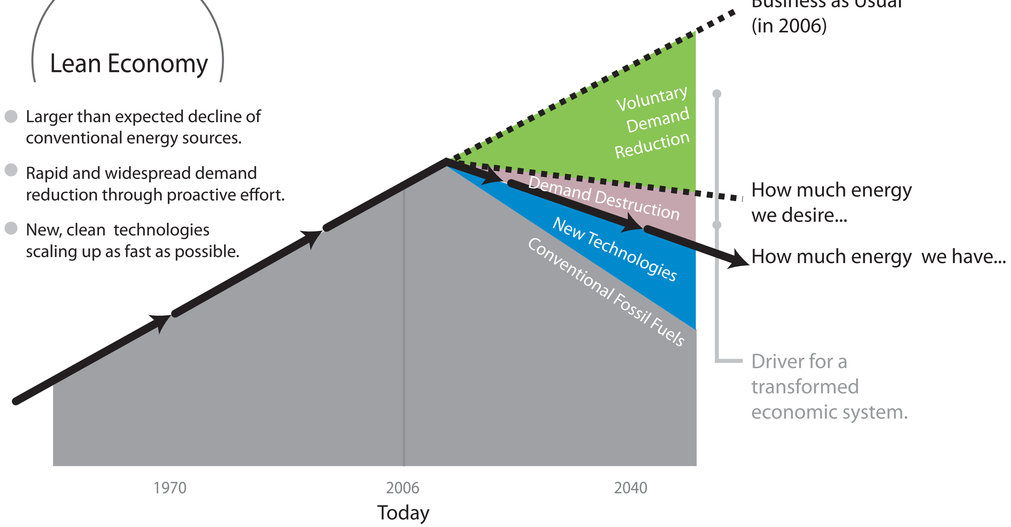
Rapid Depletion
(or early peaking)

Slow Depletion
(or later peaking)

Reactive Response
Markets, Technology, Society, Government

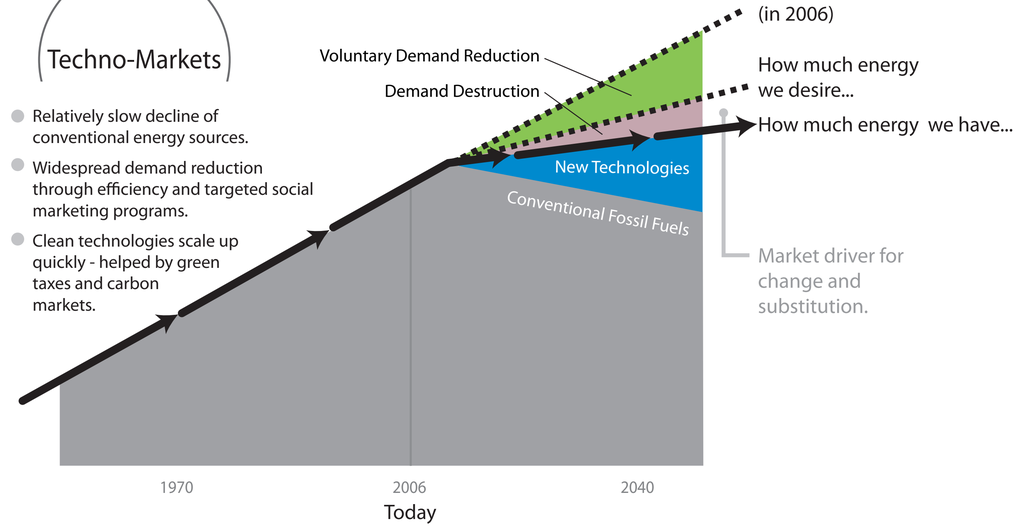
Lean Economy

- Larger than expected decline of conventional energy sources.
- Rapid and widespread demand reduction through proactive effort.
- New, clean technologies scaling up as fast as possible.



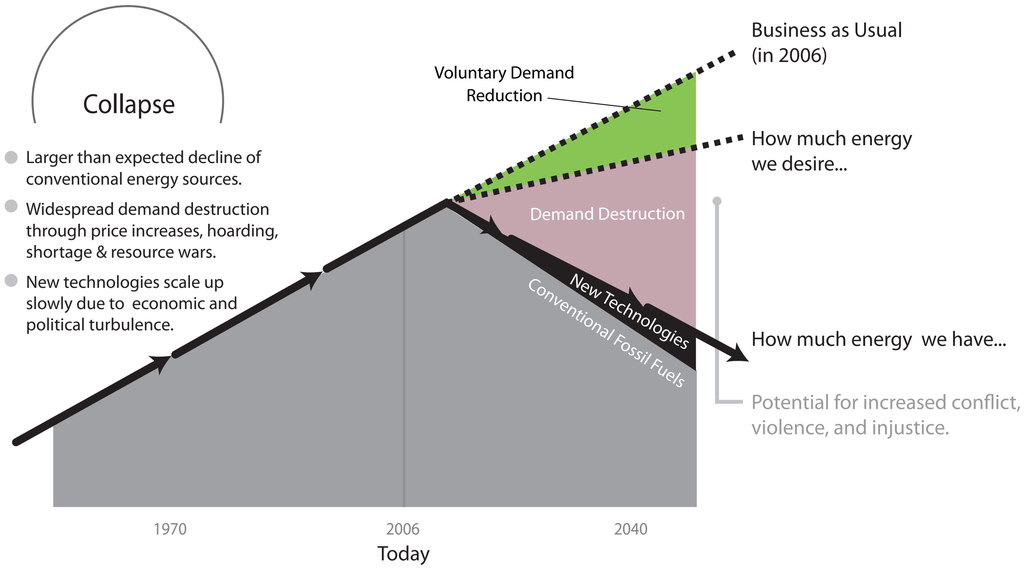
Techno-Markets

- Relatively slow decline of conventional energy sources.
- Widespread demand reduction through efficiency and targeted social marketing programs.
- Clean technologies scale up quickly - helped by green taxes and carbon markets.



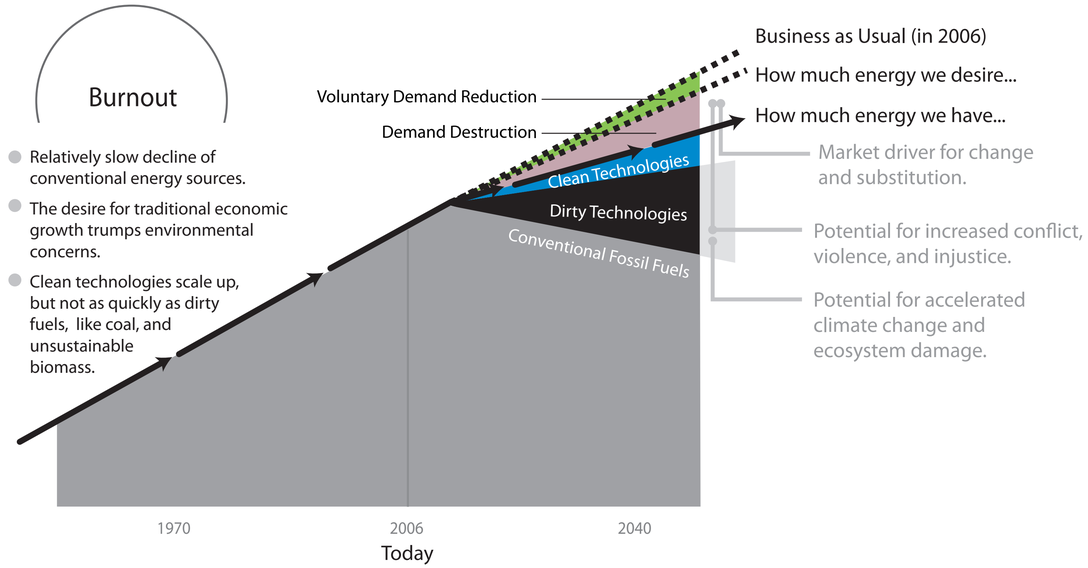
Collapse

- Larger than expected decline of conventional energy sources.
- Widespread demand destruction through price increases, hoarding, shortage & resource wars.
- New technologies scale up slowly due to economic and political turbulence.



Burnout

- Relatively slow decline of conventional energy sources.
- The desire for traditional economic growth trumps environmental concerns.
- Clean technologies scale up, but not as quickly as dirty fuels, like coal, and unsustainable biomass.



Dynamic Cities Project www.dynamiccities.org
Rao/D Cityworks www.rao-d.com