

by Scott Luft 3 years ago

A vision that sees only WWS

Mark Jacobson and others published "A path to sustainable energy by 2030" in 2009, and subsequently produced spreadsheet after spreadsheet in which jurisdiction after jurisdiction is shown to be capable of powering with only wind water and sun. Are these claims coming from an objective perspective?

My only encounter with the [@mzjacobson](#) twitter account suggests not.



Todd De Ryck
@tder2012

[@mzjacobson](#) [@OnPointRadio](#) [@COP21](#) [@100isNow](#) You said [@jsfreed](#) wrong nukes being replaced by natural gas theconversation.com/as-us-shutters...

3 YEARS AGO



Josh Freed
jsfreed @jsfreed

[@tder2012](#) [@mzjacobson](#) [@OnPointRadio](#) [@COP21](#) [@100isNow](#) Didnt happen in VT. thirdway.org/third-way-take...

3 YEARS AGO



Mark Z. Jacobson
mzjacobson@mzjacobson

[@jsfreed](#) [@tder2012](#) [@OnPointRadio](#) [@COP21](#) [@100isNow](#) Jan-May '15, 74% new electricity in US=wind+solar cleantechnica.com/2015/07/06/sol... VY closed Dec 14

3 YEARS AGO

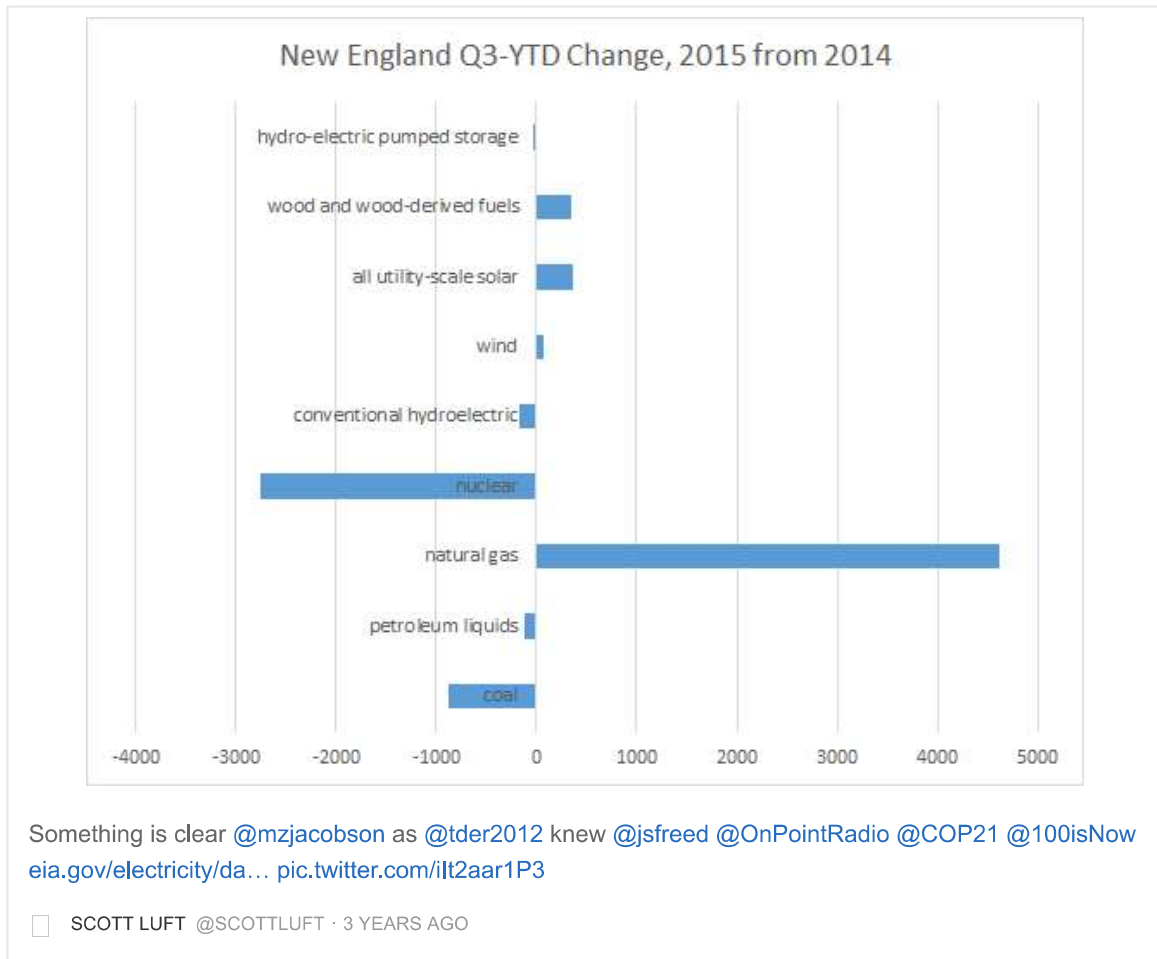


Mark Z. Jacobson
mzjacobson@mzjacobson

[@jsfreed](#) [@tder2012](#) [@OnPointRadio](#) [@COP21](#) [@100isNow](#) Clearly means VY replaced by more wind+solar than NG in US avg. Cant cherry pick locations

3 YEARS AGO

Comparing growth in capacity throughout the United States to generation in one small part of it is a strange thing to do. One might compare generation in Vermont before and after the closure of its only nuclear power plant, but in Vermont's case that was most of the state's generation. I chose to look at data from the US Energy Information Administration for the New England states




[@mzjacobson](#) felt there was obviously a trick in comparing the 3 quarters prior to the shutdown of the nuclear power plant (Vermont Yankee) to the 3 quarters after it.


 **Mark Z. Jacobson**
[mzjacobson](#)
[@ScottLuft](#) [@tder2012](#) [@jsfreed](#) [@OnPointRadio](#) [@COP21](#) [@100isNow](#) Your EIA data shows betw 14Q4&15Q1 NG declined 10413 to 9520; wind&sol went up

3 YEARS AGO

This one did annoy me to the point of rudeness - but good data management discipline demands using the most comprehensive, most comparable, data - in this case I was using the same 3 quarters of 2 consecutive years, excluding the quarter the plant shut down in, and the reply compared a first quarter to a fourth quarter.

 **Scott Luft**
[ScottLuft](#)
 it's data [@mzjacobson](#) YTD-end Q3 is longest/best comp period I'd ask you not to be silly, but I'd feel bad if I ended a career.

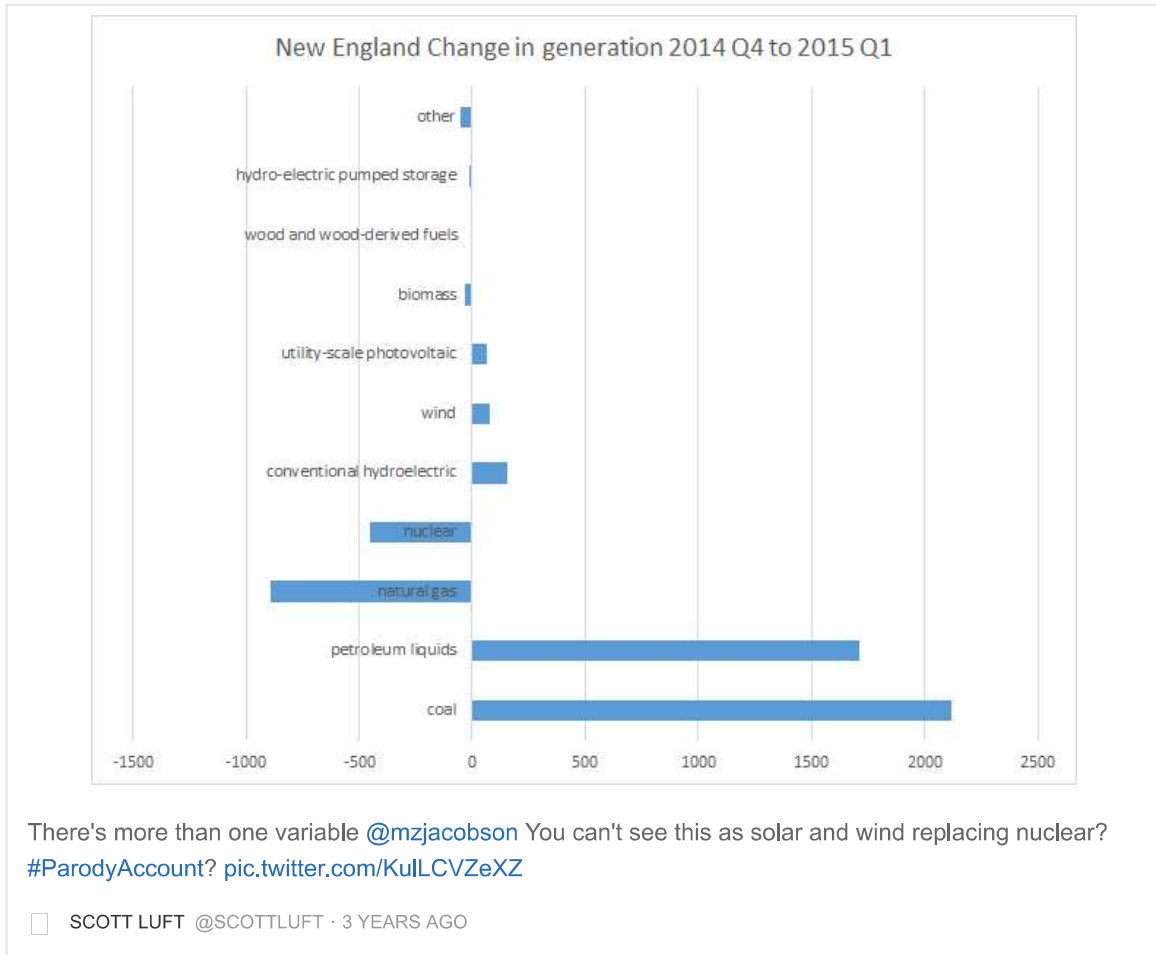
3 YEARS AGO

 **Mark Z. Jacobson**
mzjacobson@mzjacobson

@ScottLuft Exactly, your data disprove your claim. The reactor was shut in Dec - There was no immediate increase in gas - your claim fails.

3 YEARS AGO

Well, my charted data included all New England production, so I figured I'd produce the same chart from the same EIA data source for the period @mzjacobson opined as showing my "claim fails" (I hadn't made a claim, only showed a graphic)



~~With hindsight... New England prices skyrocket in the first months of 2014 as natural gas supplies ran very low during a particularly cold winter. The first quarter of 2015 showed the reaction to that experience a year earlier, with efforts made to increase security of supply throughout the winter.~~

Update: Save Vermont Yankee [commented on my facebook page](#), which corrected my hindsight. They note, "During the cold days of January, New England electricity percentage from natural gas always goes DOWN because gas is used for home heating. Coal and oil take its place..." Comparing the first quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2014 generation from gas is up the most and nuclear down the most.

The long-term trend, to gas, was apparent in the longer period I started with.

I'd describe the conversation as academic, because what replaces Vermont Yankee long-term probably shouldn't be based on what replaced it in the quarters immediately following its shut down, but I hesitate to use the word academic in this thread.

Did anybody else view data as showing WWS replaced Vermont Yankee?