

Nathan Pollard [mentor, Jessika Trancik]

Climate change due to the emission of green house gases is a growing concern, and there is therefore an increased emphasis on energy sources other than fossil fuels. Unfortunately, most renewable energy technologies, despite having low carbon intensity, have an extremely high cost per unit energy when compared to conventional energy sources. With such a large difference in price, there is little incentive to adopt the less carbon intensive sources on a mass scale based on price alone. We intend to analyze the cost per unit energy of various energy technologies over time as well as cumulative production and the percent and absolute changes in the various technologies. Based on this analysis, we should be able to comment on future cost and carbon trends. Ultimately, we would like to model how a price on carbon would shift the price per unit energy for all technologies and affect the energy mix over time.