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## **Comment:**

The wind industry in Europe is burying millions of tons of toxic waste, as wind units near the end of their 20-year operating life. The European Union believed that intermittent renewables were the answer to meeting its carbon dioxide reduction goals. But, the regions carbon dioxide emissions rose by almost 2 percent in 2017 despite massive investments in renewable energy. A study of the wind industry in Europe has shown that wind energy produces idle capacity and expensive electricity as duplicative power sources must exist to provide power when the wind is not blowing and when wind capacity is not operating. Germany's onshore wind turbine boom is set to come to a halt next year with a government-requested report projecting only 9 GW to be added over the coming five years compared to 22 GW coming online over the past five years. New onshore wind additions will plunge to just 1.3 GW next year, the lowest annual growth since 2009 with additions only slowly recovering in 2020 and 2021. 2018, the report predicts some 3.3 GW, down from a record 5.5 GW in 2017. Monthly additions in May plunged to a four-year low, the latest data published this week shows, with only 1.5 GW added so far this year. Wind and Solar does Not reduce emissions., example is failed policy in EU, Germans are paying more, getting less and emitting more carbon dioxide. In 2017, of the 27 member countries in the European Union, 20 member countries had increased rates of carbon dioxide emissions. France and Italy each increased their carbon dioxide emissions in 2017 by 3.2 percent. Spain increased its carbon dioxide emissions by 7.4 percent in 2017 despite generating power from wind, solar and hydroelectric resources. Spain accounted for a 7.7 percent share of Europes total emissions output in 2017. despite massive investments in renewable energy, the European Union is far from hitting this goal. Germany invested heavily in wind and solar power, but it remains the Europes largest emitter of carbon dioxide emissions. Germany spent an estimated 189 billion euros around \$222 billion on subsidies for renewable energy since 2000 while its carbon dioxide emissions have remained at about 2009 levels. The country decreased its carbon dioxide emissions by just 0.2 percent from their 2016 levels in 2017. Germany decided in 2014 to move from fixed feed-in-tariffs to competitive auctions to reduce the overall costs for renewable subsidies with prices in the first auctions in 2017 dropping sharply and averaging below Eur40/MWh. Some 16 GW of old turbines will run out of their fixed 20-year contracts between 2021 and 2025, Germanys Energiewende has not made a major contribution to the environment or to Germanys climate. But since renewable energy subsidies are financed through electric bills, Energiewende is a major reason why prices for German consumers have doubled since 2000. Germans now pay about three times more for residential electricity than consumers in the United States. German wind farm operators will be forced to dismantle and recycle their turbines, which is very expensive and not included in their price of the wind power. Further, the large blades, which are made of fiberglass composite materials and whose components cannot be separated from each other, are almost impossible to recycle and burning the blades is extremely difficult, toxic and energy-intensive. According to German law, the massive 3000-metric ton reinforced concrete turbine base must be removed. Some of the concrete bases reach depths of 20 meters and penetrate multiple ground layers,

which can cost several hundreds of thousands of euros to remove. Many wind farm operators have not provided for this expense. Wind farm operators are trying to circumvent this expense by removing just the top two meters of the concrete and steel base, hiding the rest with a layer of soil. Germany has made it more difficult to obtain approvals for new wind farms due to an unstable power grid, noise pollution, blighted views and health hazards. So with fewer new turbines coming online, wind energy production in Germany is likely to recede in the future. Germanys 29,000 wind turbines are approaching 20 years of operating life and for the most part are outdated, requiring maintenance and expensive repairs. That means their earnings will not cover the cost of their operation. 2018 june, The Chinese governments announce significant cut down in subsidies offered to the nations solar projects, dealt a major blow to the solar industry worldwide. Since China is the largest solar market in the world, such an upheaval had a rippling effect on the global solar industry. Chinas National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Ministry of Finance and the National Energy Administration (NEA) jointly released the 2018 Solar PV Power Generation Notice. utility-scale solar projects will be cut and distributed generation (DG) projects will be capped until further notice. \*\square

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