

BEG director: Don't keep it in the ground

Use of fossil fuels will help reduce poverty, head of UT bureau says

By Mella McEwen, mmcewen@mrt.com Published 4:55 pm, Tuesday, May 2, 2017

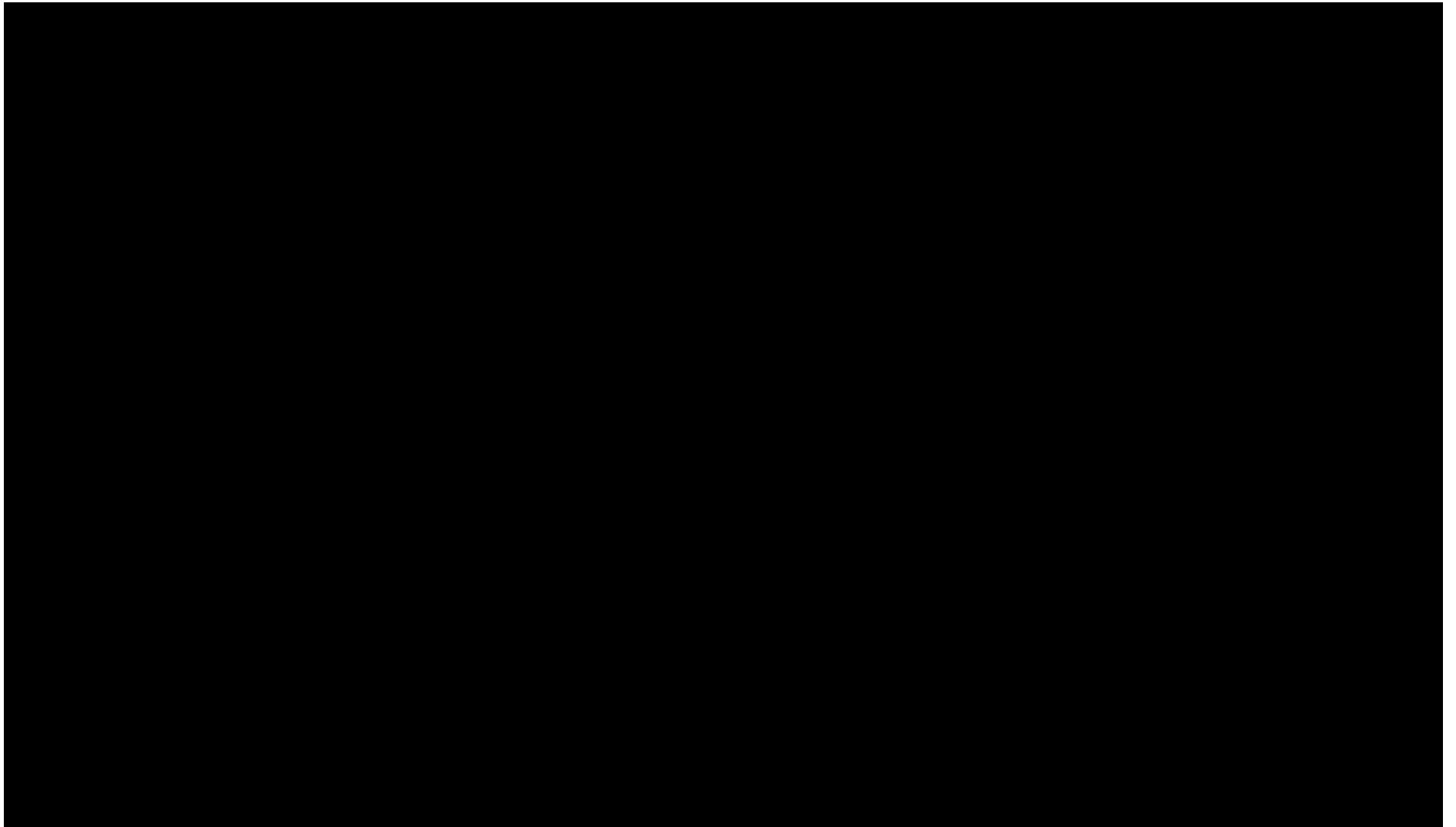




Photo: Houston Chronicle

Scott Tinker, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas, spoke at the Southwest section, American Association of Petroleum Geologists' annual convention this week at the Horseshoe.

Seizing on the slogan "Keep it in the ground," Scott Tinker proceeded to explain why the globe's fossil fuel resources shouldn't be kept in the ground.

Tinker, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas, opened this week's Southwest section, American Association of Petroleum Geologists' annual convention at the Horseshoe.

While renewable fuels such as biomass, solar and wind are rising, fossil fuels from coal to crude to natural gas remain the dominant energy source, Tinker said.

Leaving those resources in the ground will leave much of the globe in the dark both literally and economically, he said, showing a slide of the world, lights glowing in developed nations, and darkening the picture as energy resources remained in the ground.

"Electricity does not end poverty, but poverty cannot be ended without electricity," he said. "Limited access to electricity propagates inequality."

Tinker cited estimates that 1.2 billion people worldwide are being left behind because the economic gap between developed nations and economically stagnant nations is growing.

As importantly, lifting people out of poverty establishes the conditions for peace, he said.

Turning to the topic of climate change and the effect of fossil fuels on climate, Tinker showed several slides detailing climate history from millions of years ago to the present. He noted, for instance, that none of the more than 100 locations along both U.S. coastlines and in the Pacific showed an acceleration in the rise of sea levels.

Of the debate on whether or not human activities — and the use of fossil fuels — have caused or exacerbated climate change, he merely referenced the findings on the slides.

“You saw the data,” he said. “Some impacts are accelerating, others are flat.”

He said that secure energy — such as that offered by fossil fuels -- is required to fund investment in the environment and help address any impact from climate change.

Stay Connected



Top Jobs

JOBS | TOP JOBS

Tech Help Wanted Ultrasonic Thickness Tech - needed immediately. Experience a plus. Salary DOE. Midland / Big Spring area. Cathodic Protection Tech - needed immediately. Cathodic or pipeline expe...

JOBS | TOP JOBS

Dental Assistant/ Hygienist & Front Desk New Dental Office opening. Need Dental Assistants, Dental Hygienist and Front Desk. Email resume to kidsdental43@gmail.com

JOBS | TOP JOBS

Assistant Plant Manager Ingram Concrete LLC, has an immediate opportunity for anyone seeking employment

as an Assistant Plant Manager. This is a full-time position with varied hours in a fast-pace...

JOBS | TOP JOBS

\$1000 Hire On Bonus for Landscapers Excellent Opportunity for Landscapers! Weidner Apartment Homes is NOW HIRING for 2 Landscapers to work in the Midland/Odessa area. Successful candidates will be...

JOBS | TOP JOBS

CDL MIXER DRIVERS As a rapidly growing concrete manufacturing company, Ingram Concrete is currently seeking CDL MIXER DRIVERS for our Midland facility. We are looking for full time and permanent ...

JOBS | TOP JOBS

EXPERIENCED HAZMAT DRIVERS NEEDED \$3,000 BI-WEEKLY GUARANTEED MINIMUM CDL - HazMat & Tanker Endorsements Required Primarily Working In The Permian Basin Complete Benefits Package Include...

JOBS | TOP JOBS

Security guards needed ASAP Need a job? Want to work? We have immediate openings available full time and part time weekends in Odessa and Midland . Come in today, start work tomorrow! No experien...

JOBS | TOP JOBS

CDL Drivers Owner/Operator looking for additional drivers from Midland/Odessa to haul Oilfield equipment. Your duties would include driving a Semi with 48 ft float or a 1 ton with 32 ft float depe...

JOBS | TOP JOBS

Mechanic ISCO Industries is now hiring an experienced Equipment Mechanic to repair and refurbish fusion equipment in our Midland, TX location. Full-time position with established company. To appl...

JOBS | WEST TEXAS JOBS

The Contract Specialist assists in the systematical and efficient contract creation, execution, and analysis for the purpose of maximizing financial and operational performance. The position prov...

[Latest News & Sports Video](#)

[Latest Stories](#)



4B early voting totals trails TRE, other recent elections



Midland College coach sues MC

Senate confirms Concho's Leach to A&M board of regents

MDC approves agreement to fund Loop 250 overpass

Local contributions could see Loop 250 finished

City spokeswoman: Driver cited for hitting police car

MPD officer resigns after disturbing interaction with complainant

Council OKs another attempt at 'pedestrian-friendly' downtown

Most Popular

- 1 Midland College coach sues MC

- 2 Orthodontists warn against DIY teeth straightening

- 3 4B early voting totals trails TRE, other recent elections

- 4 Bean & Grape, Taco de Vino get new alcohol permits

- 5 Senate confirms Concho's Leach to A&M board of regents

- 6 Internet bewildered by unknown object, 'smoky trail' over San...

- 7 MDC approves agreement to fund Loop 250 overpass

[View Comments](#)

[Return to Top](#)

[About](#) | [Our Company](#) [Careers](#) [Terms & Conditions](#) [Ad Choices](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Your California Privacy Rights](#)

[Contact](#) | [Contact Us](#) [FAQ](#)

[Connect](#) | [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

