

# Techno-Fixes

## A review by Martyn Lowe

Fauset, Claire. *Techno-fixes: a critical guide to climate change technologies*. Corporate Watch. 2008  
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The continual use of fossil fuels must end if we are ever to going to solve the problems which face us due to climate change. The only question is just how we might be able to achieve such a change. In *Techno-fixes*, Claire Fauset examines the issue by looking at the various technological and social issues which need to be addressed if we are ever going to reduce our energy needs. Thus her pamphlet probes various available types of energy generating technologies and numerous proposals for reducing carbon levels in the atmosphere - which are the result of burning fossil fuels. She does this by describing how each of these technologies works and highlighting its advantages and disadvantages. She also scores each technology for its effectiveness, democratic ownership and control, sustainability, and scalability.

The most important conclusions which are reached by Fauset relate to how we cannot solely depend upon alternative technology to fix things for us; we must also change our social structures in order to solve global warming. This position then is very much rooted in political action and economic change. For example: The use of biofuels for private transport may be used to illustrate why we need to look at the social and other costs which some so-called alternatives impact upon us. The multinationals are never going to solve these problems while they are still very much focused upon profits and economic growth. The thing that this pamphlet clearly illustrates is that carbon trading is a complete failure. To quote the pamphlet: "Corporations may fool the market, but they can't fool the environment."

This is a pamphlet which everyone should read, and then think about its conclusions. And for more information about this publication and about Corporate Watch, see: <http://www.corporatewatch.org>

Note: One of the technologies which is sometimes now being quoted as "alternative" is Nukiller power (please don't laugh)! Aside from any arguments on radiation which one make here, it should be noted that the mining and transportation of Uranium generates a lot of pollution and carbon emissions. It is also a highly centralised power source which must always be resisted. The ineffectivrnness of carbon trading was also illustrated in an article by Carl Mortished in the business pages of *The Times*. (See: "Policy leap vital for any serious cut in carbon emissions." *The Times* - November 5th 2008.) The main point of the article is that method of cutting down global warming is a failure because the price of carbon trading has collapsed.