“Green New Deal” is a great slogan. Unfortunately, the campaign ignores inconvenient facts. We are beyond the limits to growth of non-renewable fossil fuels and of “renewable” resources such as forests, fish, soil, fresh water and food. Overconsumption and overpopulation equals overshoot.

Using unprecedented levels of energy does not mean there are equally sized alternatives to power the American Way of Life (AWOL).

I have used solar panels since 1990; they are great but not as concentrated as oil. It takes fossil fuels and mineral ores to make, move and install them. Claims we could have 100 percent of current consumption without fossil fuels don’t describe how to heat cold cities.

We will live radically differently on the resource downslope, but the end of economic growth doesn’t poll well in Democratic Party focus groups. Greenwashing (the false claim of environmentalism) and wishful thinking are popular but unable to sustain social safety nets.

Merely acknowledging the reality of climate chaos means little unless accompanied by efforts to relocalize food production and other efforts to live with less energy.

Most Democratic politicians profess concern for climate while promoting exponential growth, highway expansions, urbanization and industrial clearcutting.

Data for Progress, a think tank working with 350.org and Sunrise Movement, says “clean” nuclear power should be part of the Green New Deal [“New Green Deal Policy Report,” dataforprogress.org, Sept., 2018, p. 5]. Atomic fission is the most dangerous way to boil water. Only time, lots of it, can detoxify nuclear waste.

As the fracking bubble subsides (due to geology) we will enter the new world of permanent energy rationing, which will collapse the exponential growth economy and fuel scapegoating of whom to blame. Living on our solar budget as oil, coal and unnatural gas are depleted will force us to relocalize production whether we want to use less or not. Thermodynamics cannot be changed by politics. Entropy is not a good idea, it’s the law.

We are damned if we drill because of toxic pollution and climate chaos.

We are damned if we don’t because fossil fuels power food supplies, keep cities warm in the winter, and run electric power grids.