

## Re: Tilting At Windmills

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.energy/2004-12/0009.html>

---

**From:** Dez Akin ([dezakin\\_at\\_usa.net](mailto:dezakin_at_usa.net))

**Date:** 11/30/04

Date: 30 Nov 2004 01:09:35 -0800

fumblus <[fumblus@nospamYahoo.com](mailto:fumblus@nospamYahoo.com)> wrote in message  
news:<41aba8a4\$0\$3603\$61c65585@un-2park-reader-02.sydney.pipenetworks.com.au>...

> > *Imagine if ancient Egypt had generated a large amount of toxic and*  
> > *mutagenic waste product that had to be stored securely for a hundred*  
> > *millennia. What if ancient Rome did? Imagine being the ancestor of*  
> > *people from a civilisation who left you a legacy of waste that is*  
> > *absolutely no use to you, and that you simply \*must\* continue to*  
> > *maintain, expensively, for a time frame that might as well be forever.*  
> >  
> > *I'm imagining being an ancestor of a civilization large and*  
> > *economically powerful enough to generate such waste and not find a use*  
> > *for it. It would have to be quite rich, and unless in fell in some*  
> > *unbelievable catastrophe, that would make me quite rich.*  
>  
> *If we already have a use for it, why are we storing it?*  
> *If not, if we already have solid plans for using it, where are the*  
> *proposed re-use technologies?*

Its cheaper to store it than use it today. Its unlikely to remain that way forever.

> *Egypt, Rome, Greece and other ancient civilizations were all "rich".*  
> *They exploited various resources to their own betterment. A Pharaoh or*  
> *an Emperor or a privileged Citizen, enjoying the fruits of their(?)*  
> *labours, would have had no concept of their civilisation failing and*  
> *falling to ruin. But fail they did. Even the Third Reich was meant to*  
> *last for 1000 years.*  
>  
> *Where is the trickle-down wealth from these defunct civilisations?*  
> *Their legacies may enrich our lives culturally, but their material*  
> *wealth died with them.*

I'm afraid thats just not the case. The per-capita wealth has been climbing since the days of ancient rome, built on every minor innovation that comes to pass. Several hundred years ago, the rate of that economic growth