# AT Asteroid Mining Good

## 1. Asteroid mining is an impossibility – gravity proves.

### Fickling 20

(David Fickling, Dec 2020, “We’re Never Going to Mine the Asteroid Belt”)

**Gravity poses a** more **technical problem**, too. **Escaping Earth’s gravitational field makes transporting the volumes of material needed in a mining operation hugely expensive.** On Falcon Heavy, the large rocket being developed by Elon Musk’s SpaceX, transporting a payload to the orbit of Mars comes to as little as $5,357 per kilogram — a drastic reduction in normal launch costs. Still, at those prices **just lofting a single half-ton drilling rig to the asteroid belt would use up the annual exploration budget** of a small mining company.

## 2. Asteroid mining is an impossibility due to power needs.

### Fickling 20

(David Fickling, Dec 2020, “We’re Never Going to Mine the Asteroid Belt”)

**Power is an**other **issue**. The international space station, with **35,000 square feet of solar arrays, generates up to 120 kilowatts of electricity.** That **drill would need a similar-sized power plant** — and most mining companies operate multiple rigs at a time. **Power demands rise drastically once you move** from exploration drilling **to mining and processing.** Bringing material back to Earth would raise the costs even more. Japan’s Hayabusa2 satellite spent six years and 16.4 billion yen ($157 million) recovering *a single gram* of material from the asteroid Ryugu and returning it to Earth earlier this month.

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## 3. Asteroid mining is too expensive for most private companies to even attempt

### Dorminey Aug 31

Dorminey, Bruce. “Does Commercial Asteroid Mining Still Have A Future?” *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 10 Dec. 2021, www.forbes.com/sites/brucedorminey/2021/08/31/does-commercial-asteroid-mining-still-have-a-future/?sh=3822a0821a93.

Kargel says **not only will asteroid mining require additional new advances in** both spacecraft **technology** and launch capability, **it will need someone** with deep pockets **to fund** serious **space-mining** development **in a way that enables them to absorb losses of billions of dollars year after year** until the technology and mining operations can be scaled up to be profitable.

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## 4. And even if one could afford to fund it, there would be no point for private companies as the profit would be so low

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Paradoxically, what was **extraordinarily precious** may **become extraordinarily cheap**. While that may lead to new ingenious and more economical uses of PGMs on earth, **it would** probably **make a space-mining operation’s balance sheet insolvent.** If the PGM price per troy ounce is driven down on earth due to this new cornucopia of asteroid metals, says Kargel, prices for **space metals would be driven down to such an extent that** launch and space **operational costs would again make space-mining untenable.**

## 5. Therefore, any positive impacts would be nonexistent as asteroid mining will never come to fruition

## 1. Life on other planets is impossible – no impact.

## Marx July 13

(Paris Marx, “Leave the Billionaires in Space”, https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/07/billionaires-space-richard-branson-jeff-bezos-elon-musk)

As Sim Kern explains, **keeping just a few people alive on the International Space Station**[**takes a staff of thousands**](https://www.salon.com/2021/07/07/no-billionaires-wont-escape-to-space-while-the-world-burns/) — **and it gets harder the farther away people are from the one world we can truly call home.** **Mars colonies or massive space stations are not happening anytime soon;** **they won’t be a backup plan, nor an escape hatch**. As billionaires chase profit in space and boost their egos in the process, they’re also planning for climate apocalypse down here on Earth — but they’re only planning for themselve[s](https://jacobinmag.com/2020/01/elon-musk-climate-apocalypse-tesla-spacex).

**2. The NC must answer this question: Who gets to get off the rock? The already present structural barriers that disenfranchised groups face on the earth are only an indicator that the minority of the population will be able to get off the rock. This turns the NC because getting off the rock will heighten climate violence against those who are denied access to space infrastructure, leaving them for dead.**

**3. The focus on abandoning earth is alarmist and side-steps real solutions to mitigating climate change. There’s an important difference between climate change being inevitable and the WAY climate change takes place. Although we can’t forgo the fact that human induced warming is happening, we can massively reduce the effects climate change has on us. Any risk of solvency means you side with aff given the point about how the majority of the population won’t enter space.**

**4. Ecological destruction was brought on by unsustainable mindsets, fleeing space with those same mindsets will produce the same destruction we see. This turns because getting off the rock exacerbates unsustainability and will bring climate disaster on other planets.**