CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER
AMERICA'S INVESTIGATIVE THINK TANK

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ENEMIES OF ENERGY

The Myths, the Movement, and the Money

BY KEN BRAUN

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The Capital Research Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As America's investigative think tank, CRC connects the dots between the philanthropic sector and the organizations that influence public policy so that the public knows which special interests are being protected.

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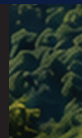

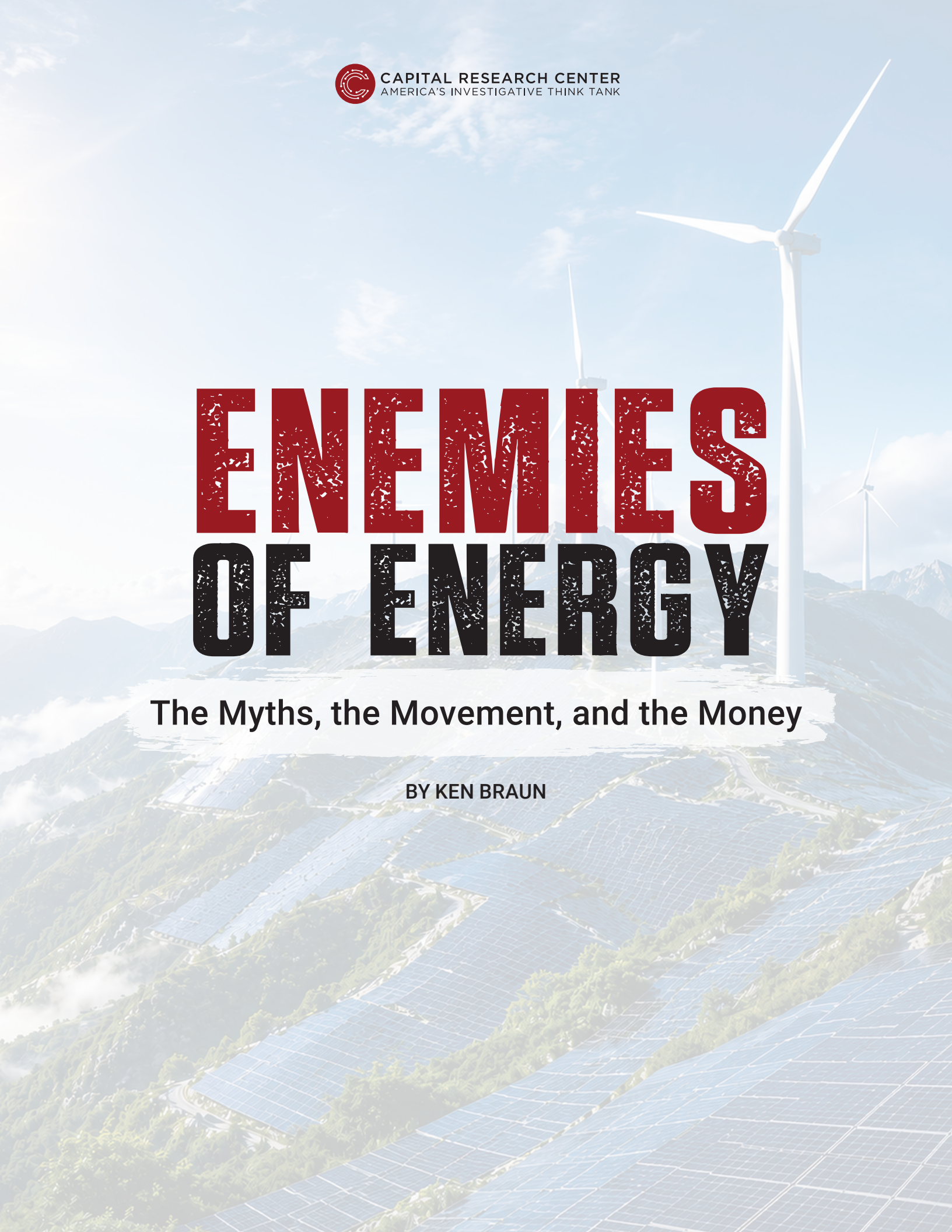

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The Myths, the Movement, and the Money

BY KEN BRAUN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Everything that created and sustains modern industrial civilization depends on reliable access to abundant and inexpensive energy, nearly all of which comes from either hydrocarbons (coal, oil, and natural gas) or nuclear reactors. These four fuels account for 85 percent of the planet's energy consumption and 88 percent of American energy consumption.[1]

This report profiles the largest and most influential American non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that oppose the use of these fuels, and their largest known funding sources. These NGOs promote instead an industrial civilization run on so-called "renewables" or "clean energy," marketing euphemisms that in practice mean replacing the reliable fuels with weather dependent and intermittent wind turbines and solar panels.

Though the policy players in this movement present themselves as environmentalists, we should refer to them instead as anti-*energy* NGOs.

If their world ever exists, then our world will not. Those without access to reliable hydrocarbon and nuclear fuels toil in primitive circumstances. Half of sub-Saharan Africans live without enough electricity to power basic lighting, a radio, or charge a cell phone for more than four hours per day.[2]

Energy poverty is the real crisis.

There are at least two-hundred NGOs that oppose American energy abundance. For the sake of brevity, this report profiles only the fifteen largest and most influential. The most recently reported combined annual revenue of just these fifteen exceeds $2 billion, which means they collectively rake in an average of $5.4 million *per day*.

Myths and Misconceptions

The first section of this report examines ten of the most important myths and misconceptions that have made the anti-energy movement possible.

One myth is the belief that sea level increases have triggered a climate "crisis" or "emergency." Many enemies of energy, such as the World Wildlife Fund and Al Gore, darkly claim that seas could rise 20 feet and inundate most of Florida. But this report shows that NASA has identified less than 4 total inches of sea level increase since 1993, or three millimeters per year. At that rate of increase, it will take nearly 1,400 years for seas to rise another 20 feet.[3,4]

That's not a crisis.

Another misconception is that preserving the actual environment is the goal of the anti-energy movement. An April 2021 study in *Bloomberg Green* calculated that solar energy needs 140 times the land area to produce the same kilowatts as a natural gas plant, 47 times more than an emissions-free nuclear plant, and nearly 18 times more than a coal-fired power station. The comparisons were even worse for wind.[5]

The old advice about the wisdom of investing in land is relevant: "they aren't making any more of it." A so-called "environmental" movement that wants to needlessly fill up the environment with far more machines than necessary has truly lost the plot.

And then there is China.

Even as they try to shut down access to reliable American energy, groups such as the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) celebrate supposed accomplishments against

CO_2 emissions in China. A January 2021 RMI news release praised the authoritarian regime of Chinese President Xi Jinping for providing "responsible global leadership" toward achieving "carbon neutrality before 2060."[6]

Xi rarely deserves praise. This was no exception.

China has cranked up its coal burning by 231 percent since 1995, and by 2024 was burning nearly 12 times as much coal as the United States. (And relative to 1995, American coal use has declined by more than half). By 2024 China accounted for 31.8 percent of the planet's industrial CO_2 emissions—by far the world leader—and is planning to build 100 new coal-fired power plants in 2026 alone.[7,8,9]

Despite being the planet's undisputed economic superpower, the United States produces a comparatively small share of CO_2 emissions relative to our massive economy; a little less than 13 percent of the total. American CO_2 emissions in 2024 were identical to the USA carbon dioxide emissions from 1988.[10,11]

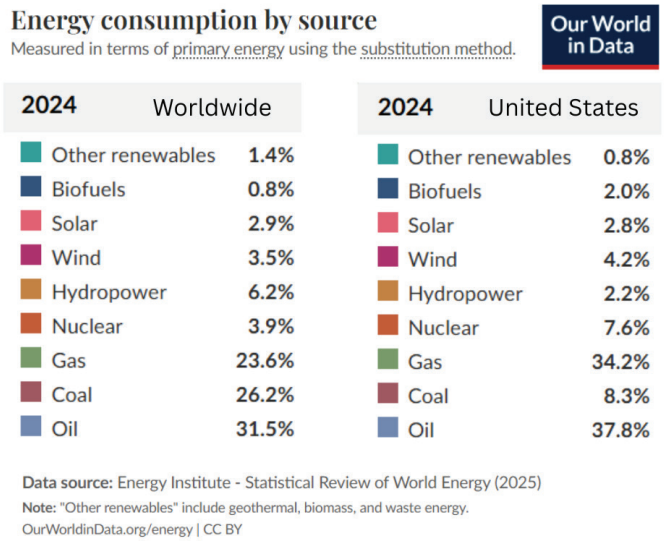
Examples of other myths and misconceptions addressed in this report include concerns about the safety of nuclear power, the alleged benefits of electric vehicles, world energy prices and the truth about plastic pollution. For example, despite producing 25 percent of the world's economic output, the United States is responsible for a tiny 0.25 percent of ocean plastic waste.[12]

The Anti-Energy Movement

The main sections of this report profile the most influential anti-energy NGOs and their major *known* donors.

Some of the NGOs are becoming richer and more powerful. The Rocky Mountain Institute was founded in 1982 and as recently as 2012 was a little-known nonprofit with total revenue of just $10 million. But by 2024 RMI reported total revenue of $164.7 million and was one of America's richest anti-energy nonprofits.[13]

Others have encountered serious recent challenges. Greenpeace is facing a legal judgement that could bankrupt it, and the Sierra Club has endured staff turmoil, leadership controversies and serious funding shortfalls.



But the main feature of all these profiles is an examination of the misinformation and hypocrisies that make up the agenda and messaging of the enemies of energy.

As demonstrated in the first section of the report, nuclear power is America's safest and largest source of emissions free electricity. It is also our most reliable source of electricity and one that has a functionally limitless potential for expansion. Anyone concerned about limiting carbon dioxide emissions should be a strong supporter of more nuclear power.

This report notes that The Nature Conservancy is the rare example of a very big, yet pro-nuclear, environmental nonprofit. But all fifteen anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report have either explicitly opposed the deployment of nuclear reactors or implicitly done so by amplifying exaggerated fears about safety and waste disposal.

In place of nuclear as an emissions-free electricity source, the anti-energy groups are strong promoters of weather dependent wind and solar energy. Because of the land-gobbling nature of these intermittent options, these self-identified "environmentalists" are promoting needless overuse of the environment. But as shown in many of the profiles that follow, none of them acknowledge this irony. Many have loaded up their

websites with photos of wind turbines and solar panels filling up and blocking the view of otherwise pristine mountains and other landscapes.

These hypocrisies and controversies are also common to the fifteen largest known donors to the anti-energy movement.

Some of these donors are the world's wealthiest people. As profiled in the pages that follow, a lot of these billionaires own mega-yachts that annually consume more hydrocarbon fuel than hundreds of middle-class people.

Some of these billionaires, like the anti-energy recipients of their grants, also amplify the lie that China is a leader in the fight against carbon emissions. And at least one, in line with the bad old days of China's "one child" policy, uses his grants to promote reducing the size of the human population.

A Better Way

The Sierra Club is more than a century old and is now "unequivocally opposed to nuclear energy" and the hydrocarbon fuels. But in 1966 the Sierra Club's board voted 9-1 to support construction of California's Diablo Canyon nuclear power station.[14,15]

Back in those days, today's enemies of energy were more commonly and justifiably known as "conservationists" because their objective was to preserve the creatures and natural features that please humans. The founding of our oldest national parks and the saving of the bald eagle from extinction are just two of the conservation movement's objectively great historical accomplishments.

If this report has a singular purpose, then it is to demonstrate that protection of the natural world never needed to become the enemy of reliable energy abundance—and need not remain so.

INTRODUCTION: Yosemite's Conservationists

Hetch Hetchy Valley today. Photo Credit: Vulpinus2 at Wikimedia Commons.

Born in 1892 and now firmly opposed to the continued use of oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear fuels, the Sierra Club is the oldest and most iconic of the anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report. Today, these enemies of energy are often referred to as "environment" or "climate" advocates. But this wasn't always the case. For a half century or so after the Sierra Club was created, it was equally, if not more common, to identify them as "conservationists."

The distinction is important. Those early conservationists were fighting to conserve landscapes and creatures treasured by humanity. Their primary goal was to enhance our general happiness and prosperity, rather than portray us and the reliable energy we need to survive as threats to the "environment" or the "climate." The creation of our greatest and oldest national parks and the saving of the bald eagle from extinction are just two of many objectively grand accomplishments that can be credited to the work of the conservationist movement generally, and the early Sierra Club specifically.

Ironically, an early Sierra Club *failure* provides the best example of the distinction between conservationism and anti-energy "environmentalism."

Formerly known as the "twin" of Yosemite Valley, because of its equally towering granite walls and waterfalls, Hetch Hetchy Valley is roughly 16 miles northwest of its supposed sibling. But since 1923, Hetch Hetchy hasn't been a "valley" at all, but instead a *reservoir* for a hydroelectric dam that has provided water and power for California's Bay Area. Flooding the valley cut 300 feet from the view of Hetch Hetchy's once awe-inspiring natural landscape. It has also denied several generations the opportunity to tour and stay within what was once a second, marvelous valley inside of Yosemite National Park.

More than century ago the Sierra Club began the ultimately futile effort to save Hetch Hetchy. Environmental historian Robert W. Righter has noted that this dam battle has been inaccurately portrayed as a fight between "wilderness and civilization," where only the needs of nature or human happiness could prevail, but not both.[16]

In his 2006 book, *The Battle Over Hetch Hetchy: America's Most Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism*, Righter tells a different tale:[17]

> *The problem with this assertion is that no matter how we might choose to define wilderness, it was not an issue in the Hetch Hetchy fight. The defenders of the valley consistently advocated development, including roads, hotels, winter sports amenities, and the infrastructure to support legions of visitors. The land use battle joined over one question: Would the valley be used for water storage or nature tourism?*[18]

It took decades for the Sierra Club to devolve from yesteryear's pro-progress protectors of Yosemite's natural beauty into the anti-energy zealots that they are today. Even in the late 1960s, as explained later in this

report, the Sierra Club was an important advocate for the construction of California's Diablo Canyon nuclear power station.

There are still a few old school conservationist NGOs.

The most prominent is The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Reporting $1.5 billion in annual revenue for the year ending June 2024, TNC is nearly four times wealthier than the richest of the anti-energy groups profiled in this report.[19]

> But today's superior energy options allow us to make superior decisions regarding how much of the natural world we can afford to protect.

But unlike all of them, TNC has demonstrated that it can be somewhat realistic about the world's need for *reliable* energy production. An October 2018 TNC white paper endorsed *quadrupling* the supply of zero emissions nuclear power (from 7.8 percent of total world energy to 33 percent) as a path towards a "sustainable" energy future by 2050. While the report did (unrealistically) propose that 54 percent of world energy could come from unreliable or "renewable" sources, it also conceded that "fossil fuels" will still be necessary for 17 percent of the total.[20]

Advocates for energy abundance can easily find concerns worth criticizing in TNC's energy agenda, such as the support for weather dependent wind and solar energy. TNC has also earned well-deserved criticism for its bare-knuckles tactics in securing land for preservation, most infamously and recently in the removal of ranchers from the Point Reyes seashore in California.[21]

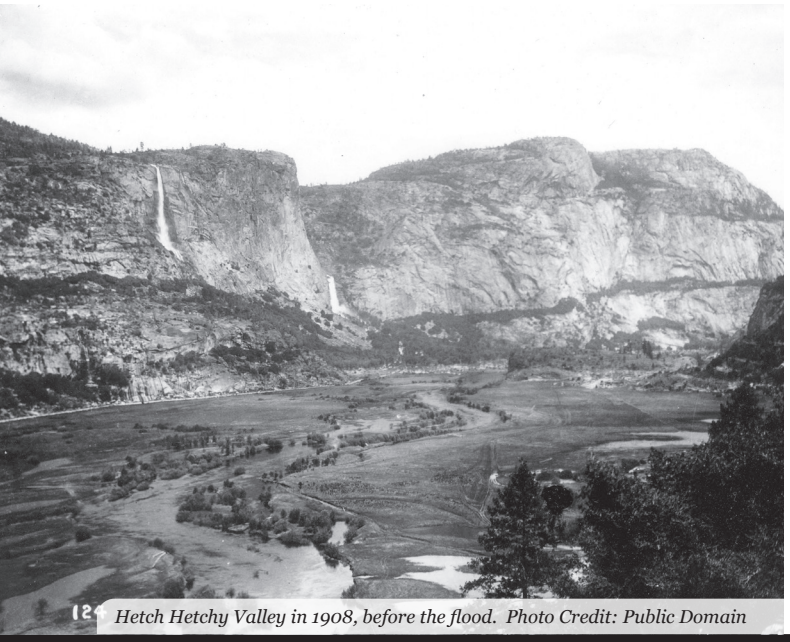
But those valid concerns aside, it is both inaccurate and unproductive to claim that TNC is an anti-energy group. The Nature Conservancy of today and the Sierra Club of yesterday both operated as if reliable energy was critical for human prosperity, which in turn created the wealth that made their conservation objectives possible.

That era should return.

As an example, Restore Hetch Hetchy is a nonprofit that promotes removal of the dam and restoration of the valley. Predictably, the major objection is the need to replace the water and power provided by the dam. Civilian nuclear power and America's natural gas abundance did not exist when the dam was built, but today both options could be used to provide the power and desalinated ocean water necessary to replace the Hetch Hetchy output. Whether and when this might become economically sensible is a challenge for engineers and politicians to sort out. That is how we got the dam in the first place, after all.

But today's superior energy options allow us to make superior decisions regarding how much of the natural world we can afford to protect. If the old Sierra Club still existed and took up this cause, then the argument for restoring Hetch Hetchy would be far harder to dismiss.

The Sierra Club and the other NGOs profiled in this report never needed to become the primary enemies of reliable energy. Advocates for both conservation and energy abundance could and should once again become—quite literally— *natural allies*.



Hetch Hetchy Valley in 1908, before the flood. Photo Credit: Public Domain

Myths and Misconceptions

This report profiles the largest American nonprofits that oppose the continued use of hydrocarbon fuels (those based on oil, petroleum, and natural gas) and nuclear energy. These NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) promote instead an industrial civilization run on so-called "renewables"—a marketing euphemism that in practice means replacing the hydrocarbon and nuclear fuels with wind turbines, solar panels, and battery storage. These NGOs also promote a world where petroleum-powered vehicles can be replaced with electric vehicles. [22]

If their world ever exists, then our world will not. Everything that created and sustains modern industrial civilization depends on reliable access to abundant and inexpensive energy. The fuels these NGOs oppose are the only fuels that can deliver this.

Though these groups present themselves as environmentalists, we should refer to them instead as anti-*energy* NGOs.

While it is an exaggeration to say that we would be reduced to living cold, hungry, and in caves if the anti-energy NGOs accomplish their objectives, it isn't *that* much of a stretch. It is certainly not an exaggeration to state that the material comforts Americans have developed over the last century would become far more expensive, if not entirely impractical, without hydrocarbons and nuclear energy. The standard of living for middle income Americans would decline severely without these fuels, and the poverty faced by lower income Americans would increase sharply.

The agenda of these NGOs is an existential threat to the American civilization. The success they have had so far in promoting this agenda is a direct result of exploiting myths and misconceptions about the importance of the reliable fuels they oppose and the unreliable options they promote.

Here are ten of these myths and misconceptions:

1 THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Sea levels have been rising, carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels have been increasing, and human energy consumption has been a contributing factor. While these statements are objectively true, they are functionally meaningless. It is also true that fire is dangerous, but only a fool would presume this is the most relevant fact about fire. Relatedly, climate change is real, but this was true billions of years before there were humans to worry over it.

The belief that climate change is an existential crisis, or a "climate emergency" in the lexicon of the anti-energy NGOs, is not a fact—it's an opinion. The fear of flying is also based on an indisputable truth: gravity is dangerous. But the opinion that modern air travel is *relatively* dangerous is irrational, because flying is far safer than traveling by car.

While a valid opinion must be supported with facts, facts alone do not make the opinion valid. The most effective lies and phobias are those grounded in incomplete or even irrelevant facts. This is how the anti-energy NGOs have built the "climate emergency" fear.

NASA reports the current pace of sea level increase is 0.44 centimeters per year, or less than the thickness of three pennies stacked atop each other.

For example, the Sierra Club, the oldest of the major anti-energy groups, makes this alarmist claim:

> *The impacts of climate change are here, and they will only grow more frequent and more severe – from extreme weather and unnatural disasters like fires, floods, heatwaves, and hurricanes, to rising sea levels and global food or water shortages, to ecosystem collapse and biodiversity loss – if we don't act. We only have a few short years to implement the transformational changes needed to reduce greenhouse emissions and maintain a livable climate.*[23]

Central to all of this is the belief in massive sea level increases, with many alarmists hinting at 20 feet. "Glacial melt of the Greenland ice sheet is a major predictor of future sea level rise; if it melts entirely, global sea levels could rise 20 feet," claims the World Wildlife Fund.[24]

Do we really only have "a few short years" to save our "livable climate" from this? Hardly.

From February 1993 through December 2025, according to NASA, global mean sea level went up 103.8 millimeters—or 4 *inches*. NASA believes the current pace of increase is 0.44 centimeters per year, or less than the thickness of three pennies stacked atop each other. [25]

At that rate of increase it will take *1,387 years* for seas to rise another 20 feet. That would happen in the year 3413—or the early 35th century. The writers working on the *Star Trek* franchise still haven't imagined a universe beyond the 32nd century, and that's after more than sixty years of storylines.[26]

Looking backward in history, the sea was rising naturally, long before humans were burning hydrocarbons, and we adapted to it. Humanity has obviously adapted to the four inches of sea rise since 1993 without any substantive concerns, but that's less than half the story.

From February 1993 through December 2025, according to NASA, global mean sea level went up 103.8 millimeters—or 4 *inches*. NASA believes the current pace of increase is 0.44 centimeters per year, or less than the thickness of three pennies stacked atop each other.[25]

Earth.gov, a partnership of the federal government, the World Bank and the United Nations, reports that "global sea level has been rising since the 19th century, when modern records began" and have gone up 6-8 inches since 1920.[27]

Long before the 1800s (the 19th century) we figured out how to adjust our civilization to small differences in sea level and can continue to do so.

Consider the Netherlands, where the locals have been building dikes to reclaim land from the sea since the Iron Age. A 70-centimeter barrier, which is big enough to hold back a cumulative 140 years of our current rate of sea level increase, was built sometime before the 7th century. The 21st century Dutch have gone far beyond that: one third of the nation's land is below sea level, some of it 22 feet below.[28,29]

So, the seas are rising … but by less than the thickness of three pennies per year. It's manageable and not a crisis.

Similarly, humans have spent thousands of years, and in particular the last few decades, adapting successfully to hurricanes and other forms of "extreme" weather. If hurricanes were truly growing more frequent and more deadly, then we would be well-placed to respond.

But this is not what has been happening.

A page hosted by the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) examines "Global Warming and Hurricanes" with the assumption that gradually warming temperatures have increased the fuel (i.e.: warm ocean water) that

causes these storms. (As of this writing, the page was last revised in November 2024.) A section that examines a century of storms in the Atlantic Ocean reaches this conclusion, which the authors elected to emphasize with bold typeface:[30]

> ***We conclude that the historical Atlantic hurricane data at this stage do not provide compelling evidence for a substantial greenhouse warming-induced century-scale increase in: frequency of tropical storms, hurricanes, or major hurricanes, or in the proportion of hurricanes that become major hurricanes.***[31]

Much the same can be said of the other "extreme" weather claims made by the anti-energy NGOs. According to Our World in Data, which bases its claim on research from the Global Wildfire Information System, the land scorched by wildfires over the last two decades has *declined*.[32]

One thing that has gotten measurably worse is the *damage* inflicted by extreme weather of all sorts, particularly hurricanes and wildfires. This factor has led to erroneous claims that the *storms themselves* are growing worse at a dangerous rate.

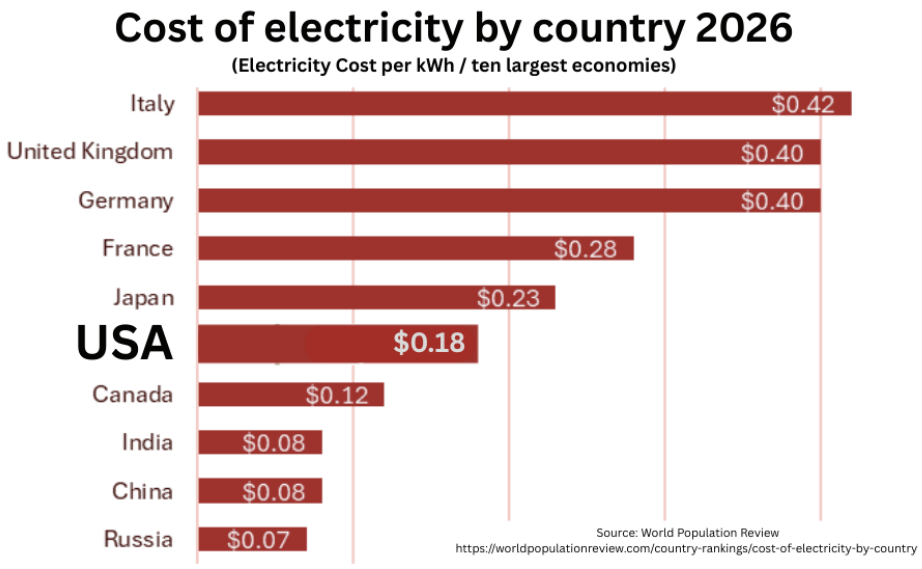
But for obvious reasons, Americans love to live near our western mountains and eastern shorelines—respectively prone to wildfires and hurricanes before there even was an America. So, many of our most expensive communities are in the path of predictable destruction. Fortunately, as with the (slowly) rising seas, the solution to this challenge is economic growth, which permits us to build back with even greater resilience.

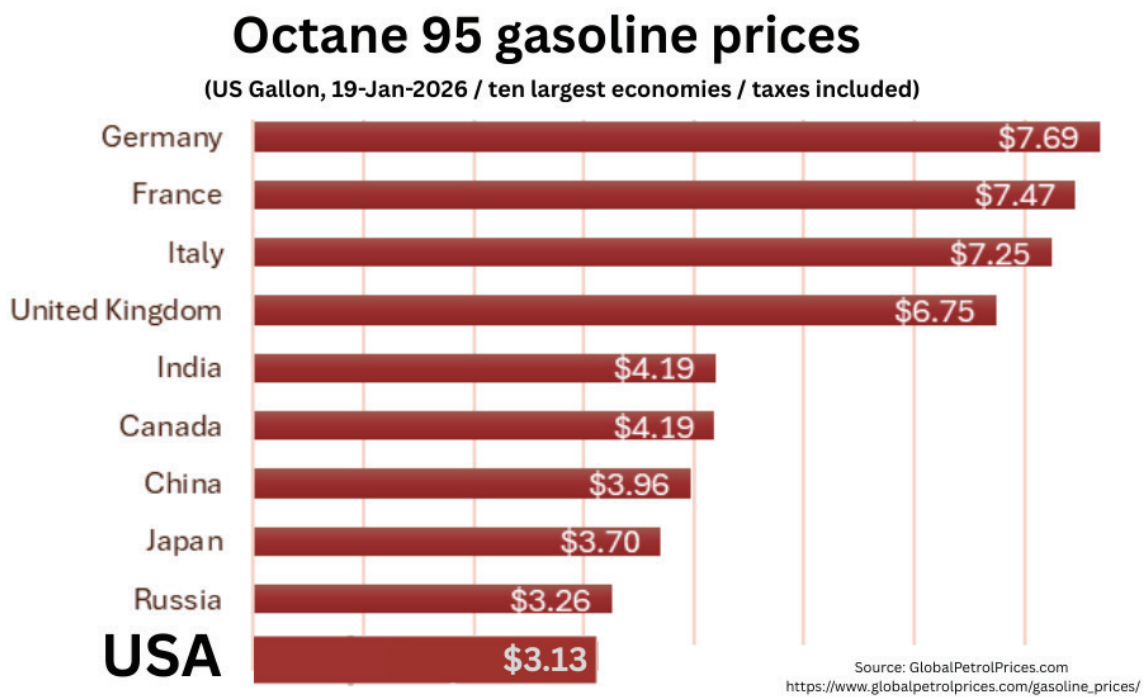
And here the anti-energy NGOs are correct about one thing. Cutting off our access to hydrocarbons and nuclear power will indeed reduce the economic damage done by hurricanes and wildfires, but only because it will wipe out the prosperity that permits us to build these communities in the first place.

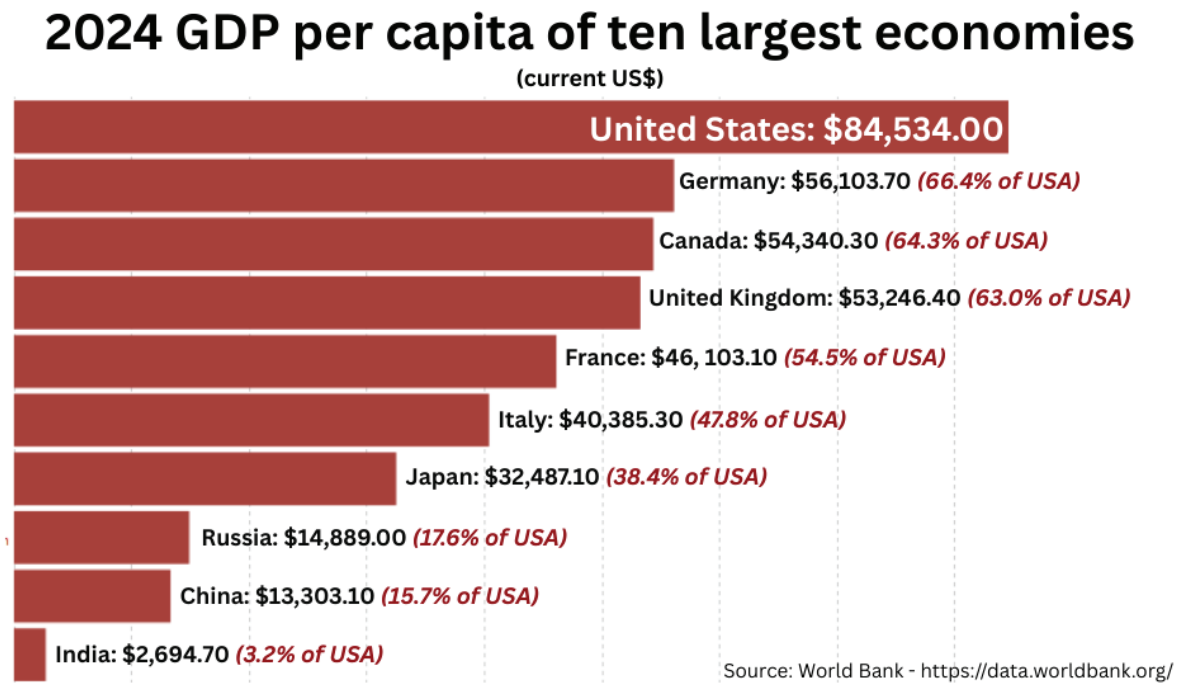
2 ENERGY PRICES

Anti-energy NGOs and the corporate media rarely address the low energy prices paid by Americans relative to the rest of the rich world.

The United States produces 26 percent of the Earth's gross domestic product (GDP), which is more than the next three largest economies (China, Germany, and Japan) *combined*. American economic dominance is more striking when displayed relative to population. The World Bank reported that American gross

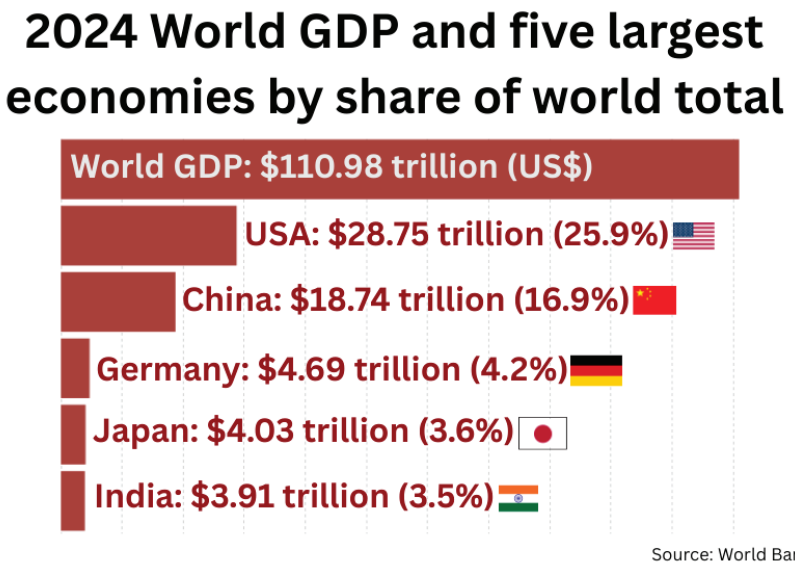






domestic product per person in 2024 (the latest year in their online database) was $84,534. The GDP per person of second place Germany was $56,103, or just 66.4 percent of the American total. Italy and Japan had less than half the GDP per person of the USA. And China—the world's second largest economy when measured by total GDP—provided just $13,303 per person, or less than *16 percent* of the American average.[33]

Far wealthier than the people living in the planet's nine other biggest economies, Americans could



afford to pay far more for energy. *But we do not*. Relative to the rest of the world, particularly the nations that have placed a high priority on phasing out hydrocarbon fuels, Americans pay comparatively little for power and gasoline.[34,35]

Of those ten largest economies, none have so fully embraced abandonment of hydrocarbon fuels *and* nuclear energy as Germany and the United Kingdom. Both have just as eagerly embraced replacing these reliable options with weather dependent wind turbines and solar panels. (In January 2026, the current German chancellor belatedly conceded that shutting down the nation's once-potent fleet of nuclear stations was a mistake.)[36,37]

The UK and Germany both pay more than double what Americans do for electricity, as does Italy.[38]

The story is similar for gasoline prices.[39]

For the above, it is important to note that these prices account for different taxes imposed by the respective nations. But tax policy, as it applies to energy purchases, is inseparable from energy policy.

For example, California, the American state that has most closely replicated the anti-hydrocarbon energy policies of Germany and the United Kingdom, also replicates the high energy prices.

In 2024, Californians paid the second highest retail price for electricity in the nation, behind only Hawaii (the state with the greatest logistical challenges to bringing in power and everything else). Californians paid more than double the USA average per kilowatt hour and—making the sting worse—more than double all three of their immediate neighbors (Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon).[40]

Similarly, for January 2026, AAA reported Californians paying an average of $4.21 for a gallon of regular gasoline. This was $1.36 more than the national average of $2.85 per gallon and (as with electricity) second highest behind only Hawaii. And once again, Californians living near their border could have saved 84 cents per gallon by driving to Nevada, 86 cents by going to Oregon, and $1.23 in Arizona.[41]

3 AMERICAN CO_2 EMISSIONS

The anti-energy NGOs operate from the presumption that major reductions in American use of oil, natural gas, and coal will meaningfully reduce the world's CO_2 emissions and thus reduce global warming. This assumption does not account for the unique size of the American economy nor our comparatively small contribution to total planetary carbon dioxide emissions.

Despite being the planet's undisputed economic superpower, the United States produces a comparatively small share of CO2 emissions relative to our massive economy; a little less than 13 percent of the total. Nearly 32 percent of world's CO2 comes from China.[42,43]

The trajectory of US and China CO_2 emissions also reinforces the relative insignificance of reducing American hydrocarbon use.

American CO_2 emissions in 2024 were 4.9 billion tonnes—identical to the USA carbon dioxide emissions from 1988. But Chinese CO_2 emissions in 2024 were 12.29 billion tonnes, *five times* more than China's emissions in 1988, and obviously more than double the American emissions.[44]

A reasonable counterpoint is that China was still an immature economy in 1988, and by 2024 had grown to the world's second largest.

Fair enough. By 2005 China was growing rapidly and this was the last year that its CO_2 emissions were lower than the USA. Since then, China has become (by far) the largest national emitter of carbon dioxide. Conveniently for this analysis, 2005 also marked the year American emissions peaked at an all-time high of 6.13 billion tonnes. From 2005 until 2024, USA

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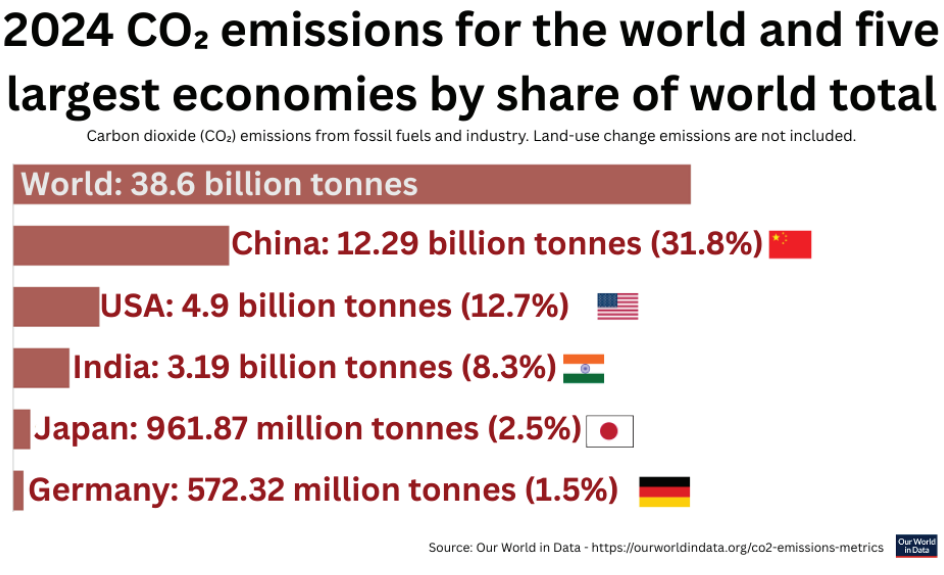
carbon emissions fell by 20 percent while China's increased by 109 percent.[45]

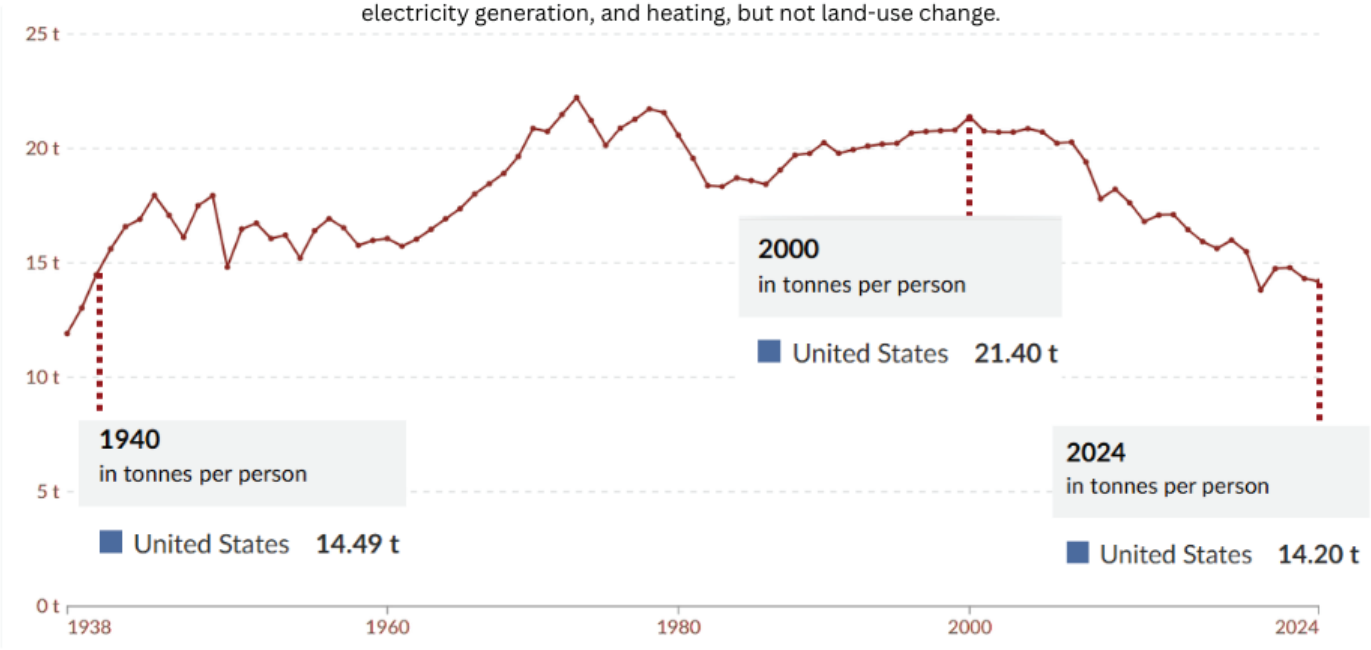
Unlike China and other developing nations (such as India) the USA has mastered a growing and prosperous economy without increasing CO_2 emissions. This becomes even more clear when we look at American carbon dioxide emissions per person.

USA CO_2 emissions per capita in 2024 were less than in 1940—the year before the attack on Pearl Harbor and American entry into World War II. The dramatic decline began this century, starting in 2000. From there until 2024, USA CO_2 emissions per person plummeted by 33.6 percent.[46]



USA CO_2 emissions per capita (1938-2024)

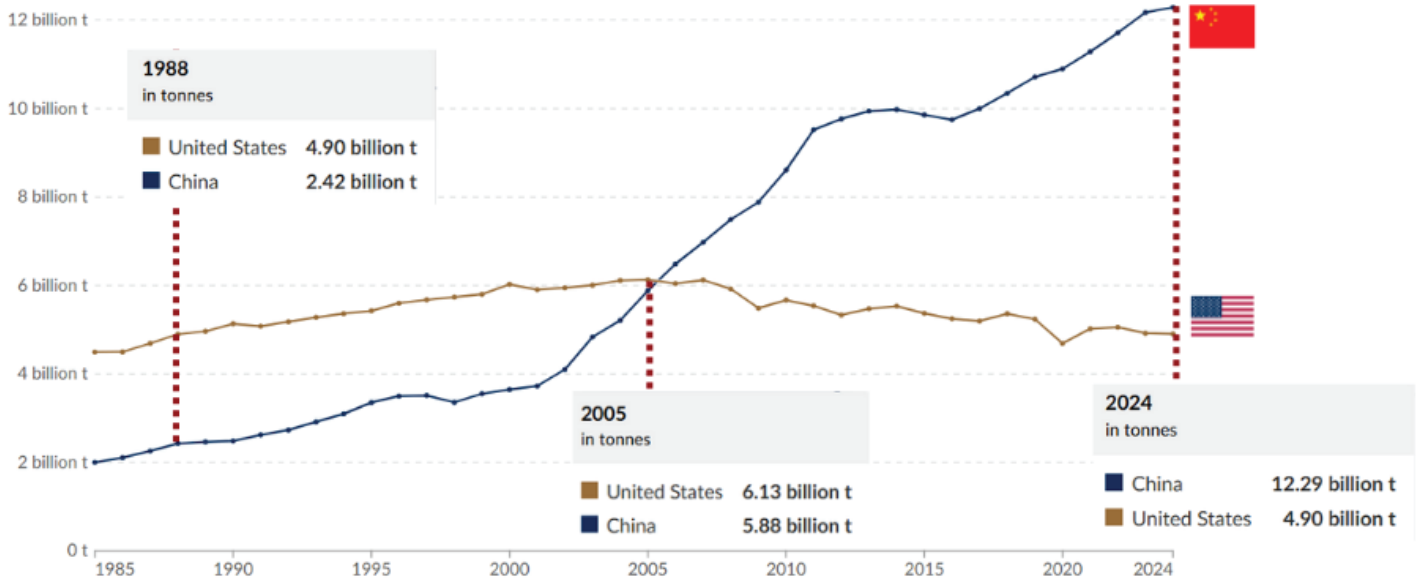
Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from burning fossil fuels and industrial processes. This includes emissions from transport, electricity generation, and heating, but not land-use change.



Source: Our World in Data - https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/co-emissions-per-capita

China and the USA CO_2 emissions (1985-2024)

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from fossil fuels and industry. Land-use change emissions are not included.



Source: Our World in Data - https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/annual-co2-emissions-per-country

4 FRACKING AND NATURAL GAS

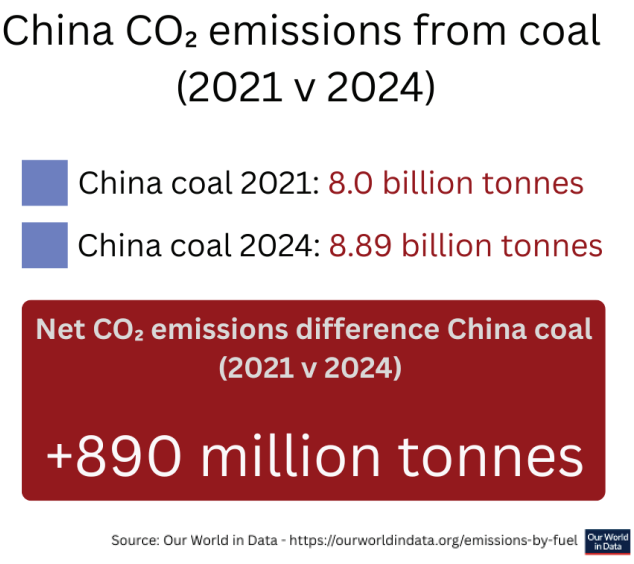
The anti-energy NGOs all oppose the expansion of natural gas production and use. For example, a January 2024 news release from Greenpeace referred to the USA's liquified natural gas terminals as "climate Death Stars that will decimate both local communities and our planet."[47]

The American left was not always so hostile to natural gas.

Ramparts, for example, was a stridently left-wing, often communist-sympathizing glossy magazine that was published from the early 1960s through 1975. But for the October 1973 issue, Ramparts environmental reporter James Ridgeway wrote the following: "In the late 1960s there was a particularly keen demand for the **clean burning natural gas** because of air pollution in big metropolitan areas." [emphasis added][48]

Ridgeway was correct. Natural gas was then and remains today a far cleaner fuel than any other hydrocarbon.

A 2010 report in *Scientific American* stated that when natural gas is used to fuel a power plant it "emits about half of the carbon dioxide emissions as conventional coal plants." This assertion is confirmed by multiple reports from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Agency (EIA). In June 2021 the EIA posted an analysis with this headline: "Electric power sector CO2 emissions drop as generation mix shifts from coal to natural gas."[49,50,51]



That's putting it mildly.

Since 2000, hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), combined with advanced geological mapping has turned the United States into the world's top natural gas producer. The International Energy Agency (IEA) credited the USA with more than 25 percent of the world's natural gas output in 2023. This was more than the *combined* gas production of second place Russia and third place Iran.[52]

Of course, this also made America the undisputed top producer of CO_2 emissions from natural gas. But remember the trade-off: replacing kilowatts from coal with cleaner-burning gas kilowatts means a dramatic cut in overall carbon dioxide emissions.[53]

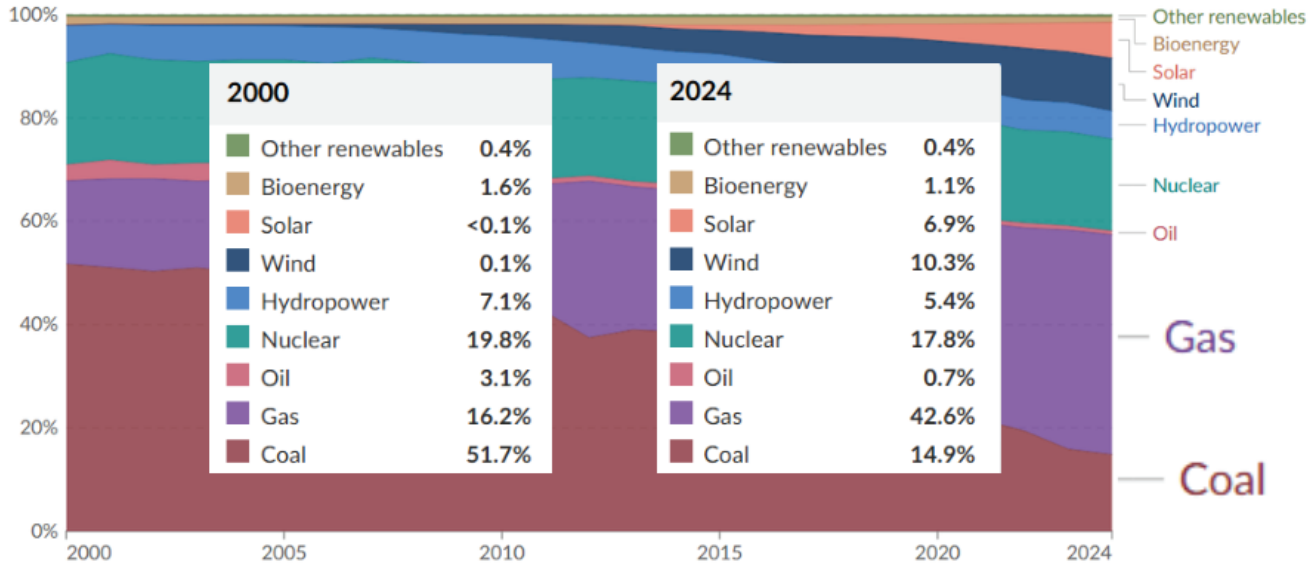
In 2000, natural gas was the clear third-place fuel for American electricity generation, contributing just 16.2 percent of the total. Coal was the undisputed champion, fueling 51.7 percent of total electricity production. By 2024, the two hydrocarbons had traded places: natural gas had been developed into the top fuel, at 42.6 percent of total electricity production, and coal had fallen to third place at 14.9 percent.[54]

The impact on CO_2 emissions was just as striking.

According to Our World in Data, USA carbon dioxide emissions in 2024 equaled 4.9 billion tonnes, a big drop from the 6.02 million tonnes of CO_2 produced by the American economy in 2000. Because of the transition from coal to gas, CO_2 emissions from gas in 2024 were 520 million tonnes higher, but coal emissions were 1.39 *billion* tonnes *lower*.[55]

The net annual reduction from the coal-to-gas switch (867 million tonnes) accounted for more than 77 percent of the drop in CO_2 emissions in 2024 as compared to 2000.[56]

USA electricity production by source (2000 v 2024)



Source: Our World in Data - https://ourworldindata.org/electricity-mix

USA CO_2 emissions by fuel or industry type (2000 v 2024)

Source: Our World in Data - https://ourworldindata.org/emissions-by-fuel

2000 in tonnes	
Other industry	155.46 million t
Flaring	35.98 million t
Cement	41.45 million t
Gas	1.23 billion t
Oil	2.44 billion t
Coal	2.12 billion t
Total	6.02 billion t

+

2024 in tonnes	
Other industry	135.34 million t
Flaring	61.33 million t
Cement	37.27 million t
Gas	1.75 billion t
Oil	2.19 billion t
Coal	732.89 million t
Total	4.90 billion t

=

Total annual CO_2 emissions reduction from all sources (2000 v 2024)

-1.12 billion t

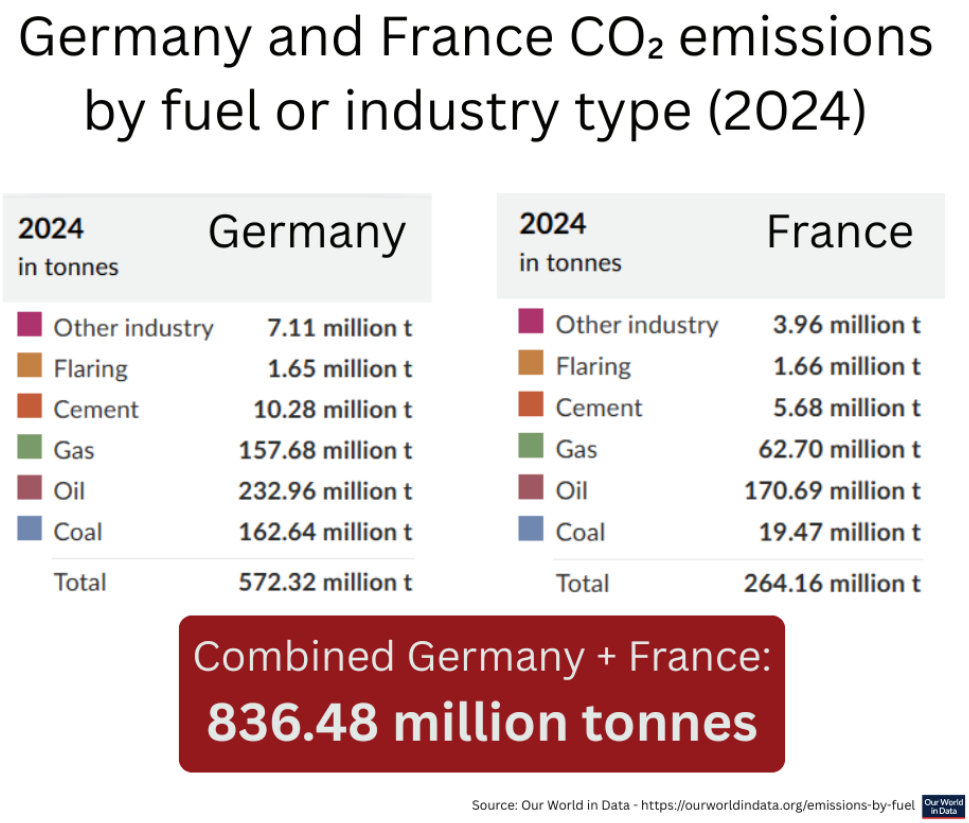
Gas (2000) **1.23 billion t** + Gas (2024) **1.75 billion t** = **520 million t** *increase*

Coal (2000) **2.12 billion t** + Coal (2024) **732.89 million t** = **1.39 billion t** *decrease*

Net CO_2 emissions difference between gas and coal (2000 v 2024)

-867 million t

77.4% of total annual CO_2 reduction



To put that number in perspective, in 2024 Germany's *total* CO_2 emissions amounted to only 572.32 million tonnes. Similarly, France's total 2024 CO_2 emissions equaled 264.16 million tonnes. And that's not just gas and coal emissions (as in the American example) but gasoline, jet fuel, and everything else that drove the German and French economies in 2024.[57]

Germany and France are the world's third and seventh largest economies. So, just the American transition from coal to natural gas in electricity production since 2000 has cancelled out the *combined annual* CO_2 emissions from two of the planet's biggest economic engines.

And then there's the world's second largest economy—China.

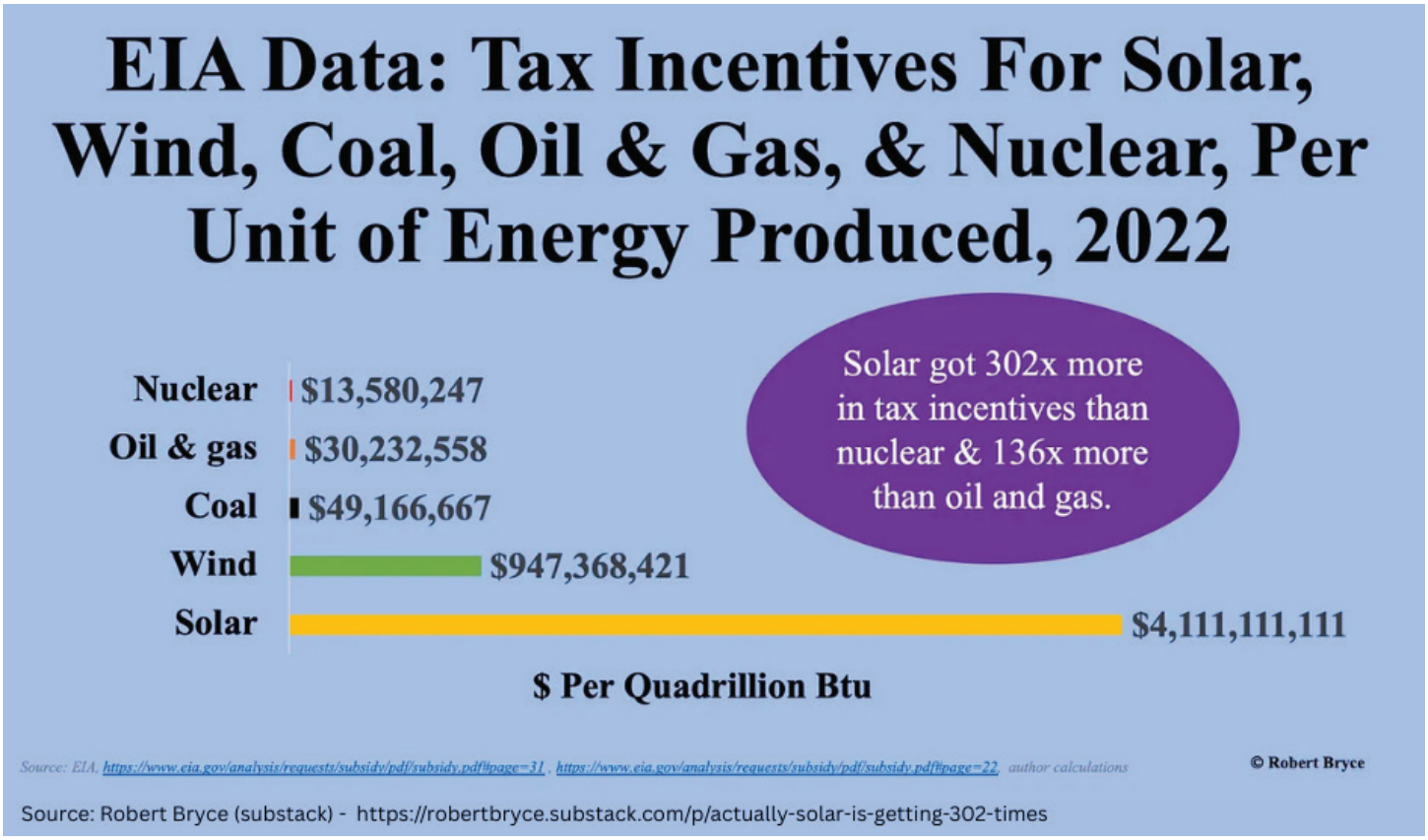
Our World in Data statistics show CO_2 emissions from Chinese coal burning jumped by 890 million annual tonnes between 2021 and 2024. This wiped out all of the CO_2 emissions savings the Americans made from the coal-to-gas switch. And in January 2026 the *Financial Times* reported that China will open more than 100 new coal-fired power plants during the year.[58,59]

5 "FOSSIL FUEL" SUBSIDIES

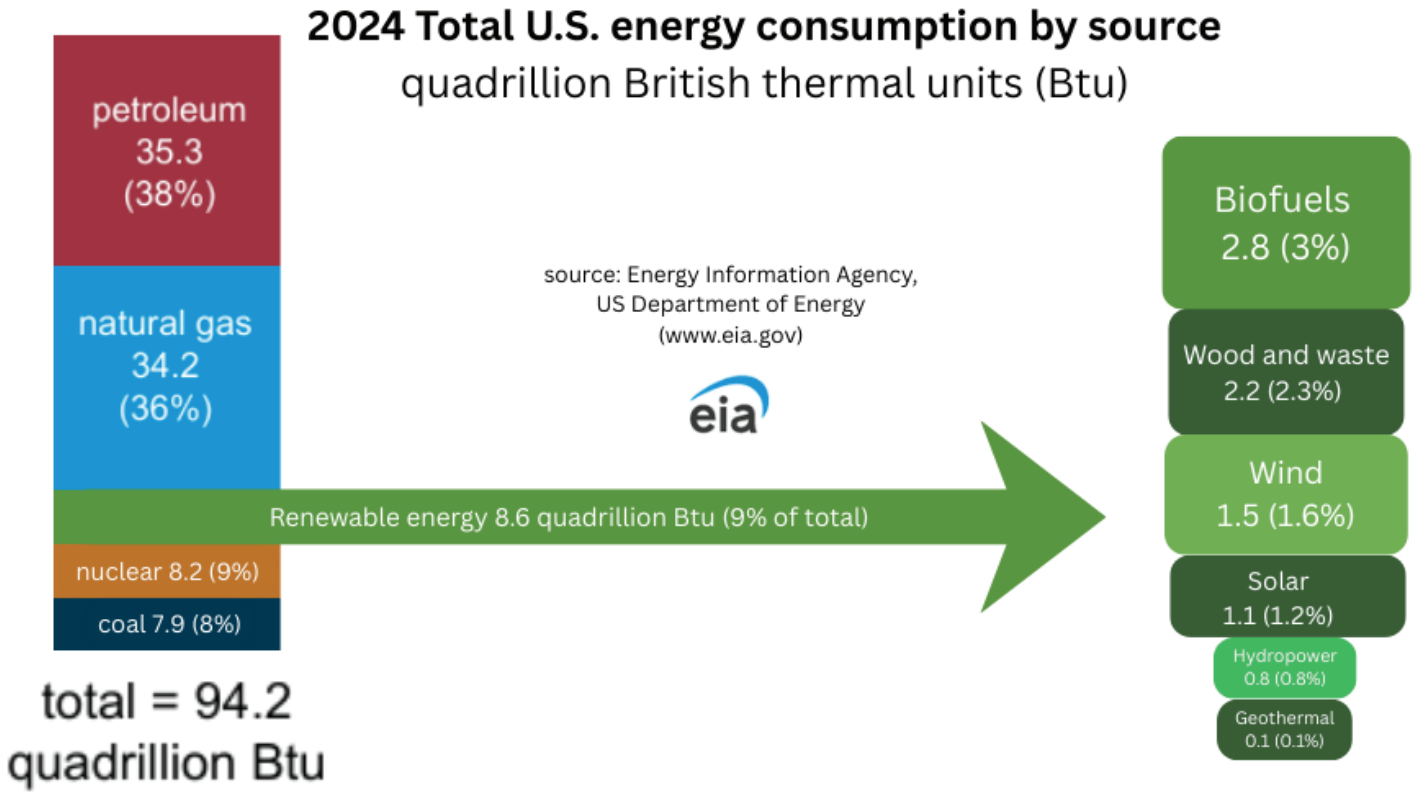
In a 2014 interview, billionaire investor Warren Buffett made this observation about federal energy subsidies:[60]

> *I will do anything that is basically covered by the law to reduce Berkshire's tax rate. For example, on wind energy, we get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That's the only reason to build them. They don't make sense without the tax credit.*[61]

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 91 percent of all the energy used in America in 2024 was generated from hydrocarbon and nuclear fuels. We are not unique: Our World in Data reports that more than 85 percent of the planet's energy consumption comes from these four fuels.[62,63]



Robert Bryce on Substack (https://robertbryce.substack.com/) Used with creator's permission.



During a 14-year stretch from 2010 through 2023, according to an October 2024 report from the Texas Public Policy Foundation, hydrocarbon and nuclear fuels combined received $79 billion in federal energy subsides.[64]

That report also shows a far larger subsidy of $141 billion combined for wind and solar energy development over the era.[65]

> So, after more than three decades of outsized federal subsidies that were supposed to turn wind and solar into the fuels of our future, they are still unable to rival the output of an energy option that has existed since we first harnessed fire 400,000 years ago.[71]

Similarly, in September 2023, energy journalist Robert Bryce compared federal subsidies against the energy produced by each system subsidized for 2022. He found that solar power received 302 times more in tax incentives per British thermal unit (Btu) of energy output than nuclear power, and 136 times more than oil and gas. Wind subsidies were 69 times more than nuclear and 31 times more than oil and gas.[66]

And all of this is just a partial look at the huge corporate subsidies that have been dedicated to weather dependent energy systems. The federal wind and solar credits for commercial energy developers were first enacted way back 1992.[67,68]

Wind power contributed just 1.6 percent of total American energy in 2024 and solar just 1.2 percent. For comparison, the Department of Energy claims the burning of wood and other biomass was good for 2.3 percent of total energy output.[69,70]

So, after more than three decades of outsized federal subsidies that were supposed to turn wind and solar into the fuels of our future, they are still unable to rival the output of an energy option that has existed since we first harnessed fire 400,000 years ago.[71]

6 ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND EMISSIONS

Another major recipient of federal subsidies has been the electric vehicle (EV) market. Just one of these, a $7,500 consumer tax credit for the purchase of EVs, was created in 2008 and lasted for the next 17 years until Congress and the Trump administration killed it off in 2025.[72]

The assumption promoted by politicians and anti-energy NGOs to justify these payoffs is that EVs produce no greenhouse gas emissions because rather than running on gasoline or diesel they use … *electricity*.

But electricity is a mere carrier of energy, not a source. And according to the U.S. Department of Energy, 78 percent of American electricity is still generated with hydrocarbons and nuclear fuels.[73]

Each electric vehicle charging up in America is more likely to be powered by coal, natural gas, or petroleum (60 percent of total electricity generation fuels) than it is to run on wind or solar (14 percent of total electricity fuels). Coal alone still accounts for 16 percent of total electricity production.[74]

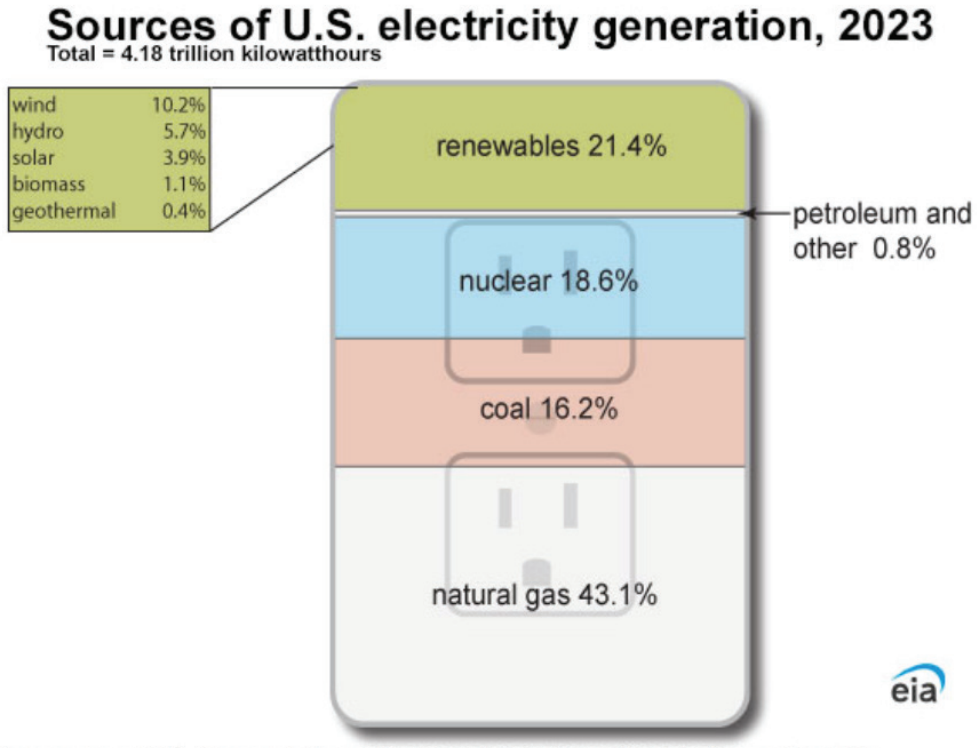
So, after 17 years of taxpayer support, many EVs are literally coal-powered cars.

While that's an ironic outcome, it is not a major one because nearly two decades of EV subsidies didn't lead to many EV buyers. The market share for American EV purchases did not break above 10 percent until the final year of the program—last year—and then only because the subsidy had been killed off, which led to the last holdout buyers cashing in before the subsidies expired.[75]

Ford Motor Company is emblematic of the EV disaster. In December 2025, Ford announced it was shifting away from the EV market to focus on gasoline engines and gas-electric hybrids. According to a *Wall Street Journal* report, Ford had lost "$13 billion on its EV business since 2023" and was taking an additional write down of $19.5 billion, for a total EV red ink bath of $32.5 billion. The report noted

smaller losses and similar pivots away from EVs by General Motors.[76]

Putting the Ford debacle in concrete terms, energy journalist Robert Bryce kept tabs in real-time on the EV deficits as a share of each EV sold. In Q2 of 2023, he reported $72,762 was lost for each EV Ford dealers moved out the door. (When the red ink exceeds the total price of most new vehicles, perhaps "sold" is a misleading term?) For Q3 of 2024, Bryce calculated the deficit was down to a mere $58,391 per EV. On and on it went, with quarterly losses always at or exceeding $40,000 per vehicle.[77,78]



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Monthly*, February 2024, preliminary data

In June 2022, Ford CEO Jim Farley boasted that he didn't need to advertise the F-150 Lightning EV pickup because the truck would sell itself. By December 2025, the *Wall Street Journal* was reporting that Ford would "stop making an EV version of its F-150 pickup truck, called the Lightning."[79,80]

7 "UNIQUELY DANGEROUS" NUCLEAR POWER

Despite not having a tailpipe, most electric vehicles operating in America generate carbon dioxide emissions because at least 60 percent of our electricity is generated with fuels that emit CO_2. This is true for most of the world, with the important exception of France, which produces 70 percent of its electricity from nuclear power stations.[81,82]

Nuclear power production does not create greenhouse gas emissions, let alone carbon dioxide. Nuclear power plants emit only water vapor—the clouds that rise out of the iconic cooling towers. No nation collects remotely as much of its electricity from nuclear power as the French, and as a result few economies—and none of the world's largest—have lower CO_2 emissions per person than France.[83]

Nuclear is the second largest worldwide generator of electricity without CO_2 emissions—ahead of both wind and solar and behind only hydro-electric dams.[84]

As the massive French buildout of nuclear power demonstrates, it is also the only CO_2-free electricity option that is both limitlessly scalable *and* reliable. There are only so many rivers on Earth that can be dammed up, and that's assuming they should be used for this purpose, because hydro dams require a lot of land use and impose other environmental issues. Wind and solar, which have land use problems as well, carry the additional burden of working only when the wind and sun cooperate.

Despite creating the first reactor and having the largest fleet of nuclear stations on Earth, the United States now generates less than 20 percent of its electricity this way.[85,86,87]

If present trends continue, the USA will soon be eclipsed by China. According to the World Nuclear Association, China is currently building out more than 41,000 megawatts of nuclear capacity, equal to 42 percent of the current American nuclear capacity. As of this writing, the nuclear industry trade group does not credit the United States with even a single reactor under construction. Total American nuclear capacity has been flat for more than two decades.[88,89]

In spite of this, and despite years of lavish subsidies for wind and solar electricity, nuclear power remains America's single largest emissions-free electricity source, generating more annual kilowatts than wind and solar *combined*. If the will were there to increase America's production of CO_2-free power generation, then there is no better option than building a lot of nuclear reactors. The United States clearly has the ability and wealth to match and eclipse the Chinese nuclear program. Like the French, we could generate at least 70 percent of our electricity from nuclear power, or even more.[90]

The anti-energy NGOs, all of them gravely concerned about the impact of CO_2 emissions, are a major reason this is not happening. They also deserve blame for America's abandonment of its nuclear energy leadership over the last half century. The Sierra Club is "unequivocally opposed" to nuclear power and claims it is "uniquely dangerous." Over the last decade hundreds of other American NGOs have made similar statements, engaged in legal actions opposing nuclear power, or otherwise tried to impede it. The combined annual revenue of this anti-nuclear, anti-energy movement now exceeds $3.4 billion.[91,92]

That means these enemies of American energy, and nuclear power in particular, are collecting an average of *$9.3 million per day*.[93]

Their claims do not match reality.

One person died of an assumed radiation-related lung cancer several years after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear incident in Japan. All other reasonably-claimed radiation fatalities from the world's entire history of nuclear energy are credited to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in the then-Soviet Union.[94]

In a 2017 analysis, Our World in Data reported the "*confirmed* death toll from Chernobyl is less than 100," and that the "best approximation is that the true death toll is in the range of 300 to 500 based on the available evidence." With these assumptions the report concluded that nuclear "is one of the safest energy sources"[95]

The vagueness of that estimate is due to the difficulty in attributing cancers discovered long after the Chernobyl accident to radiation exposure that occurred during the accident. Other reputable sources have come up with even lower fatality numbers.[96]

A June 2024 report from the U.S. Department of Energy stated the following:[97]

> *U.S. nuclear plants are among the safest and most secure industrial facilities in the world. […] In the nearly 70-year history of civil nuclear power generation, with over 20,000 cumulative reactor-years of operation across 36 countries, there have been three significant accidents at nuclear power plants resulting in fewer than 30 deaths due to radiation exposure.*[98]

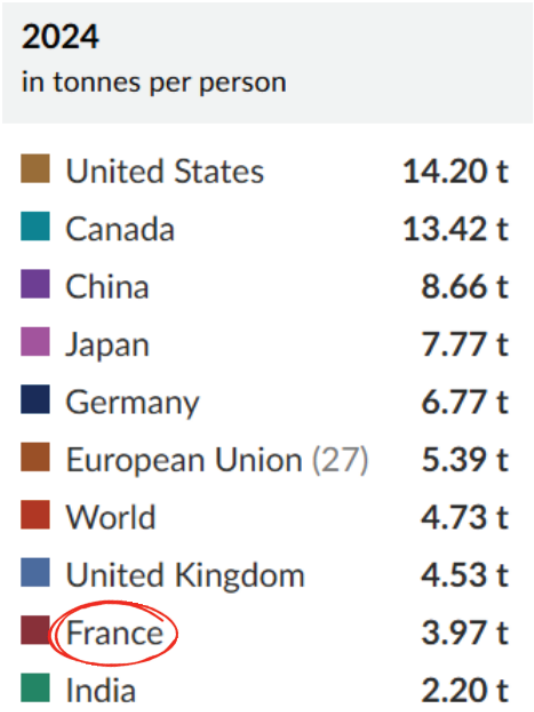
But whether the true number of radiation fatalities from the history nuclear power is 500 or 30, it's comparatively tiny when weighed against other energy options.

For example, 29 people died on a single day because of an April 2010 coal mine explosion in West Virginia. Just in American history, several coal mine accidents have claimed more than 100 lives, and three led to more than 250 fatalities each. A 1975 hydro dam failure in China killed tens of thousands immediately and 100,000 later on due to the impact of the flood.[99,100]

The oil and gas industry is also more dangerous.

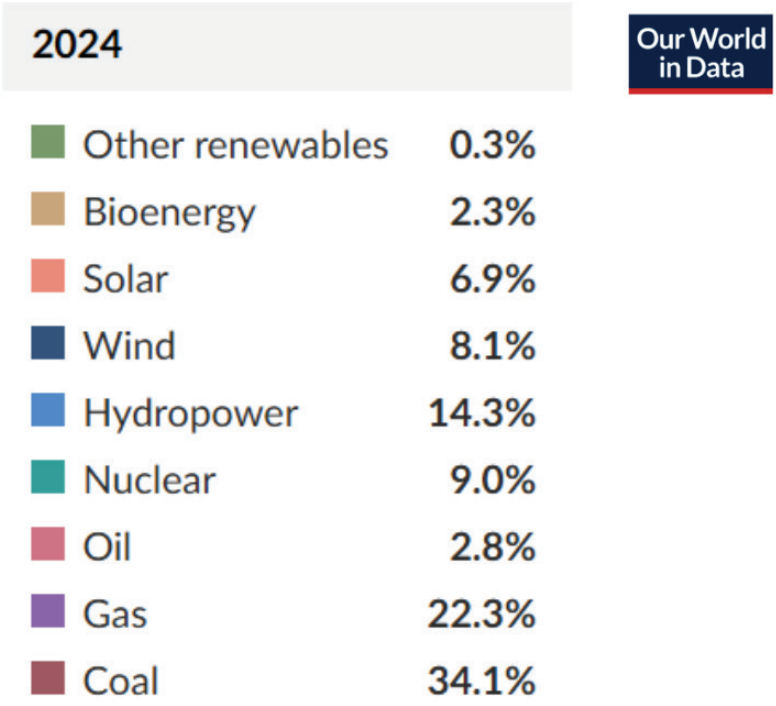
CO_2 emissions per capita

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from burning fossil fuels and industrial processes. This includes emissions from transport, electricitygeneration, and heating, but not land-use change.



Source: Our World in Data – https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions

Worldwide electricity production by source



Source: Our World in Data – https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/electricity-prod-source-stacked

Examples include the 2010 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform off the coat of Louisiana that killed 11 workers, and the 1988 Piper Alpha oil platform disaster in the North Sea that killed 167.[101,102]

And while wind and solar produce far less energy than hydrocarbon and nuclear fuels, even these technologies claim lives due to accidents such as falls, fires, and drownings.[103]

In a February 2020 report, Our World in Data compared the safety profiles of all forms of energy production, compared to the energy generated, and also included assumed deaths from air pollution. "Nuclear energy," they concluded, "results in 99.9% fewer deaths than brown coal; 99.8% fewer than coal; 99.7% fewer than oil; and 97.6% fewer than gas."[104]

Our World in Data also rated nuclear power as being as safe and clean as wind and solar energy. A March 2021 analysis from the Department of Energy confirms this point, stating that nuclear power "produces minimal waste."[105,106]

The Department of Energy report added this context:[107]

> *All of the used nuclear fuel produced by the U.S. nuclear energy industry over the last 60 years could fit on a football field at a depth of less than 10 yards!*
>
> *That waste can also be reprocessed and recycled, although the United States does not currently do this.*[108]

That last part is a feature, not a bug. Having never recycled, the United States has essentially gifted itself a large stockpile of zero emissions fuel. France does reprocess and recycle its spent nuclear fuel and now obtains 17 percent of its electricity from the supposed "waste." As such, there is a good argument that there is no such thing as "nuclear waste."[109]

8 SAVING THE EARTH

Real estate is the shrewdest investment, according to the old adage, because "they're not making more of it!"

Policy changes can and have led to the creation of more bald eagles, wolves, whales, and other flora and fauna. But no policy can create more mountains and shorelines. At the most basic level, the land, skies, and waterways are our *environment*, and what we have is all we have. Those who claim to be conservationists should aim to conserve as much of what we cannot replace as possible.

Most studies on the subject have concluded that wind and solar energy systems are wasteful consumers of real estate. That makes them enemies of conservationists.

For example, a 2020 report on from the Brookings Institution, a DC think tank that excels at confirming the conventional wisdom of the center-left political establishment, reached this conclusion:[110]

> ***Wind and solar generation require at least 10 times as much land per unit of power produced than coal- or natural gas-fired power plants**, including land disturbed to produce and transport the fossil fuels. Additionally, wind and solar generation are located where the resource availability is best instead of where is most convenient for people and infrastructure, since their "fuel" can't be transported like fossil fuels. Siting of wind facilities is especially challenging. Modern wind turbines are huge; most new turbines being installed in the United States today are the height of a 35-story building. **Wind resources are best in open plains and on ridgetops, locations where the turbines can be seen for long distances.** [emphasis added]*[111]

However accidentally, even the anti-energy NGOs admit that wind turbines and solar panels block pretty

NRDC photo of solar panels covering a previously green mountain top in China's Nanping City. Photo Credit: Natural Resources Defense Council | sellmore/Getty

views. The Natural Resources Defense Council's web page for "Renewable Energy" features an infamous photo of a previously green mountain range in China that is now buried under solar panels.[112]

Power stations running on hydrocarbon and nuclear fuel need not be placed in these pretty places, and they fill up far less land in the places where they are needed. The Brookings estimate that wind and solar "require at least 10 times as much land per unit of power produced than coal- or natural gas-fired power plants" is very conservative. Other analysts have come up with far worse land use comparisons.

An April 2021 study in *Bloomberg Green* calculated that solar energy needs 140 times the land area to produce the same kilowatts as a natural gas plant, 47 times more than an emissions-free nuclear plant, and nearly 18 times more than a coal-fired power station. The comparisons were even worse for wind: 370 times more land needed than natural gas, 123 times more than nuclear, and 46 times more than coal.[113]

Putting this in perspective, the *Bloomberg* report revealed that a 200-megawatt wind farm would need 19 square miles to do what a natural gas plant can do within the space of just a city block.[114]

Putting this in perspective, the *Bloomberg* report revealed that a 200-megawatt wind farm would need 19 square miles to do what a natural gas plant can do within the space of just a city block.[114]

The U.S. Department of Energy reports a similar conclusion regarding nuclear power:[115]

> *Despite producing massive amounts of carbon-free power, nuclear energy produces more electricity on less land than any other clean-air source.*
>
> *A typical 1,000-megawatt nuclear facility in the United States needs a little more than 1 square mile to operate. NEI says wind farms require 360 times more land area to produce the same amount of*

> *electricity and solar photovoltaic plants require 75 times more space.*[116]

Using this math, that typical nuclear reactor would fit on a patch of land about the size of a small golf course, while wind turbines would need 360 square miles. Indianapolis, the 15th largest American city by land area, is just a tiny bit larger: 361.4 square miles.[117]

9 WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY ARE CHEAPER

According to an August 2025 report from the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), wind and solar energy systems have become cheaper than using hydrocarbon fuels to generate power:[118]

> *With natural gas prices rising, and the costs of renewables declining, markets are quickly tipping. Before 2018, most clean energy projects were more expensive than their fossil fuel alternatives* ***(on a levelized cost basis)****. But in 2024, more than 90 percent of installed renewable energy capacity was cheaper. [emphasis added]*[119]

This myth about the alleged cost advantages of wind and solar is common to many of the anti-energy NGOs. The bolded words in the quote above refer to a metric known as the "Levelized Cost of Electricity" (or sometimes the "Levelized Cost of Energy"). LCOE was developed to compare power generators that are all more or less dispatchable, meaning they can be switched on as needed and run reliably until not needed.

Unique among all the ways we generate electricity, wind and solar are *not* dispatchable. They are weather dependent. Comparing them to reliable sources on the basis of total cost per kilowatt is deeply misleading because not all kilowatts are created equal.

Think of a typical paramedic who works regular shifts and is also on call to pitch in when there are more emergencies than usual. Compare him to a hypothetical *non-dispatchable paramedic*, who is paid less, but only works when he feels like it, not when car accidents happen. Which one is worth more? Isn't one of them worth almost nothing?

Reliability is the gold standard of power generation. Dispatchable power stations that can be turned on quickly whenever demand peaks are much more valuable than power that arrives only when the wind blows or sun shines.

Conversely, energy that arrives when it isn't needed and there's nobody to use it can be as functionally worthless as that shiftless paramedic.

This is not the only flaw in using LCOE to compare reliable systems to unreliable ones.

For example, reliability of an electrical grid declines exponentially as more unreliable producers are added.

If the shiftless and needless paramedic is just one among a dozen emergency workers, then it might still be possible to schedule the other eleven around his laziness and keep the system from collapsing without further hiring. But if lazy paramedics become six out of a dozen—half the staff—then creative scheduling is no longer an option. A duplicative staff of reliable paramedics will need to be hired to cover for the unreliable ones, driving up costs further.

And when that happens, expect the fans of unreliable paramedics to put out reports boasting that the "levelized cost" of shiftless emergency workers is far less than the cost of those you can trust to show up when you're bleeding.

The same is true of weather dependent power. As *unreliable* wind and solar energy are added, and reliable power stations replaced, the electrical grid logically becomes … *less reliable*.

If restoring reliability requires retaining (or adding back) reliable power stations, then the real cost of wind and solar should account for all the generators necessary to retain reliability.

Sometimes weather dependent power advocates try to evade this fact by claiming battery storage will do the job for them. But here again, reliable power generators—by definition—do not need batteries to retain reliability.

And battery backup might be even more expensive.

A 2018 report from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) estimated a $2.5 trillion price tag for using lithium-ion batteries to back up an American power grid that is 80 percent wind and solar dependent. (Yes, that's *$2,500,000,000,000*.)[120]

The MIT report correctly noted the insanity of this idea:

> *If we plan to rely on them for massive amounts of storage as more renewables come online—rather than turning to a broader mix of low-carbon sources like nuclear and natural gas with carbon capture technology—we could be headed down a* ***dangerously unaffordable path****. [emphasis added]*[121]

Wind and solar do indeed provide energy that is "cheaper," but only cheaper in terms of quality, not in true cost.

10 PLASTIC POLLUTION

"Plastics," according to the Earth Day Network, "are a danger to humanity and all living creatures, disrupting the delicate balance of life on Earth." This hostility to plastic (Earth Day Network promotes a "plastic-free world") is shared by many anti-energy NGOs.[122]

There is a method to their madness because plastic is derived from petroleum and natural gas. If plastic is *not* a danger to humanity, but instead a necessary ingredient for modern prosperity and survival, then the war against hydrocarbons will never be won.

MIT Technology Review

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

The $2.5 trillion reason we can't rely on batteries to clean up the grid

Fluctuating solar and wind power require lots of energy storage, and lithium-ion batteries seem like the obvious choice—but they are far too expensive to play a major role.

By James Temple

July 27, 2018

View of Freshkills North Park in Staten Island, New York.
Photo Credit: Shuttersock | quiggyt4

Plastic pollution is the key to their complaint. "The flow of plastics into our environment has reached crisis proportions, and the evidence is most clearly on display in our oceans," claims Greenpeace.[123]

The Philippines is the world champion plastic polluter, according to a 2021 report from Our World in Data. The report credited the low-income island archipelago, home to just 1.5 percent of world population, with dumping 36 percent of the discarded plastic that reached the high seas.[124]

Logically consistent with this finding, Our World in Data's proposed solution to plastic pollution is to improve waste disposal options for low-income countries such as the Philippines. The other big contributors to ocean plastic trash cited in the report were India (12.9 percent of global total), China (7.2 percent), Indonesia (5.8 percent) and Brazil (3.9 percent). No rich nation came remotely close to contributing even half of one percent, while the nations of Asia and Africa combined racked up 90 percent.[125]

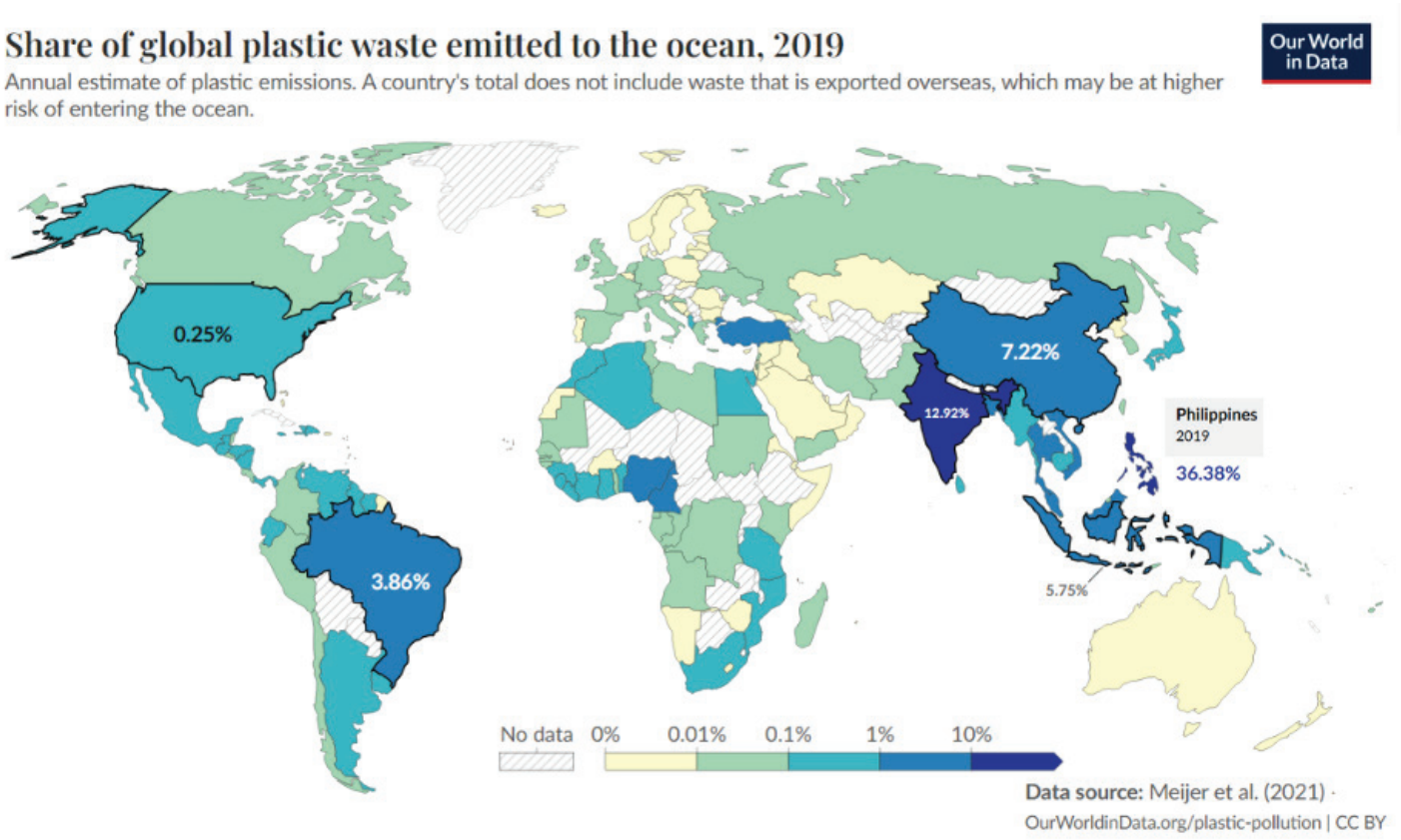
The United States was responsible for just 0.25 percent of ocean plastic waste—one quarter of one percent. Richest of the rich nations, the USA produces more than 25 percent of planetary GDP.[126]

Americans have obviously created and used lots of plastic. So, what have we done with all of it?

A lot went into Freshkills near New York City, once the largest landfill on Earth. (The trash dump made a cameo in *The Godfather* as the disposal site for a discarded gangster.) After Freshkills was filled up it was sealed up and rebuilt as Freshkills Park, a wildlife sanctuary where osprey and other cool creatures now thrive. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a page on repurposing landfills that reports "increasingly common end uses include parks, hiking trails, wildlife habitat, sports fields, and golf courses."[127,128]

"Recycling the land, revealing the future" is the apt motto of Freshkills Park.[129]

While landfilling plastic and then recycling the real estate back into natural beauty is our major solution to avoiding plastic pollution, this is not the only thing that keeps our discarded items from hitting the high seas.



Another option is referred to by the EPA as "combustion with energy recovery," which means burning municipal solid waste (trash of all sorts) to spin a steam turbine and generate electricity. Using 2018 data, the EPA shows 21 percent of discarded plastic was recycled into kilowatts.[130]

Energy recovery has likely increased since 2018 because the American petroleum industry has advanced its production of pyrolysis oil, a recycling process that converts discarded plastic into fuels that can power aircraft and other engines.[131,132]

These options for responsible plastic recycling and disposal are opposed by most of the major anti-energy NGOs. Some even oppose the most responsible uses of plastic imaginable.

For example, lead water lines really are a proven "danger to humanity." Regulators at the Food and Drug Administration and researchers at the National Science Foundation have concluded that PVC plastic water pipes are a safe, low cost replacement option. Similarly, the American Water Works Association supports PVC for its durability when transporting water in ground that is prone to frost, earthquakes and other stressors.[133,134]

Lead water pipes are most common in low-income American communities where they are an acute threat to the mental development of small children. Far quicker pipe replacement has occurred and will continue to occur because of the low cost and unique benefits of PVC. But even this great leap forward for public health has been opposed by anti-energy NGOs such as Beyond Plastics. In December 2023, Beyond Plastics called on the Biden-administration's EPA to prohibit the use of PVC in water line replacement projects.[135]

In addition to the benefits to human health, plastics have been a major conservation tool. Before plastics, humans made eyeglass frames and other products from the tusks, shells, and other body parts of

endangered creatures. This means the earliest plastics landing in the landfills of rich nations helped save elephants, sea turtles, and other beloved species.

Plastics helped the rich world become wealthy enough to safely use and properly dispose of those plastics. The solution to plastic pollution is to help the developing world acquire the energy necessary to make them wealthy as well.

The preceding ten myths and misconceptions are not the only ones promoted by the anti-energy NGOs. Where appropriate, other examples will be discussed in the next section that describes the advocacy of the most influential anti-energy NGOs.

The Anti-Energy NGOs

There are more than two hundred anti-energy NGOs with annual budgets exceeding $500,000. Each promotes the functional (and often literal) abolition of hydrocarbon energy use. They have also opposed the deployment of nuclear power.

Listed below are the 15 most influential, selected and ranked through a combination of their opposition to reliable energy access, the size of their annual revenue, and the grants they have received from federal taxpayers. Their most recently reported combined annual revenue exceeds $2 billion.

1 LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS (LCV)

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is a national network of nonprofits and political committees that collectively behave as the political enforcement arm of the anti-energy movement.

An OpenSecrets "Environment Summary" credits LCV-affiliated political groups with contributing $50.2 million during the 2024 federal election cycle, all of it going to "liberal groups" or Democrats. The LCV was by far the biggest political spender on this list, dwarfing committees affiliated with other anti-energy movements such as the Environmental Defense Fund ($17.3 million), the Natural Resources Defense Council ($7.1 million), Tom Steyer's NextGen network ($5.2 million), Environment America ($4.4 million), Greenpeace ($1.5 million) and the Al Gore-founded Climate Reality Project ($892,537). In a similar ranking for the "Energy/Natural Resources Sector," OpenSecrets credited energy behemoth Koch Industries as the biggest spender for the 2024 election cycle, but with $47.8 million—or $2 million less than the LCV.[136,137]

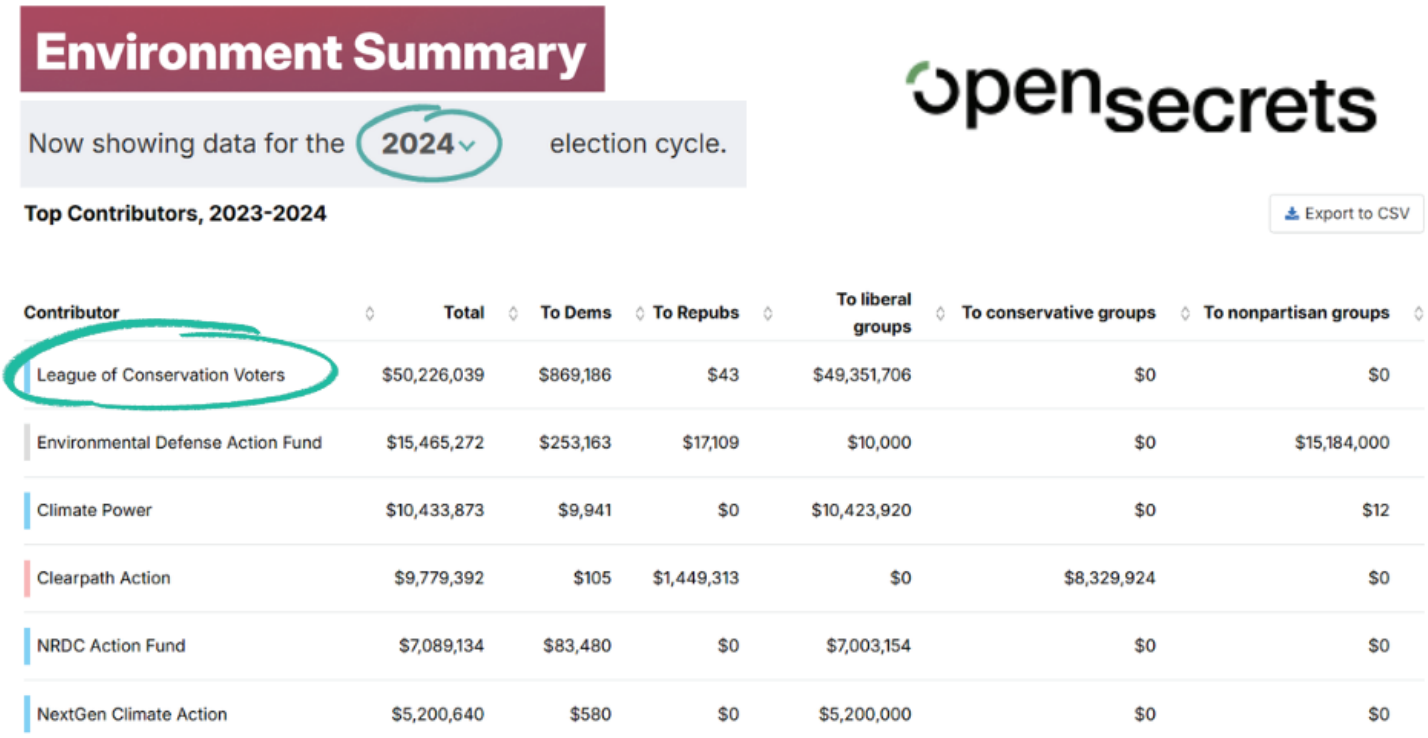
Like the Sierra Club, the LCV's corporate mothership is a 501(c)(4) advocacy nonprofit (though it is affiliated with a 501(c)(3) educational, tax-exempt nonprofit—the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund). But while the subject tabs across the Sierra website's masthead are "About Us," "Explore Issues," "Get Involved," "Get Outside," and "Ways to Give," the LCV masthead has these options: "Advancing Policy," "Building Grassroots Power," "Congressional Scorecard," and … most revealing … **"Winning Elections"** [emphasis added].[138]

In March 2024, LCV announced it would spend $120 million influencing 2024 election outcomes. This is more than triple the total revenue for all projects reported by Greenpeace in 2024.[139,140]

In their 2024 IRS filing, the League of Conservation Voters reported revenue of $159.3 million and net assets of $29.7 million. This was LCV's most successful financial year ever. In fact, for the two previous years combined LCV reported a cumulative revenue total of just $136.4 million. And as recently as 2011 LCV reported annual revenue of only $11.6 million.[141]

There are also 30 state-level affiliate LCV groups, many of them 501(c)(3) tax exempt educational nonprofits that are funded (at least in part) by the LCV and the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (LCVEF). As an example, in its 2024 IRS filing the LCVEF reported a grant of more than $2.8 million to the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters Foundation.[142,143]

Taken as a whole, LCV's dozens of political committees, nonprofits, and state affiliates are arguably America's largest anti-energy political movement. The website for the LCV Victory Fund (a political committee) claims the following results from the 2024 election: 147 federal candidates elected, 819 state and local candidates elected, 2.2 million phone calls made, 6 million mail pieces shipped out, and 3.6 million doors knocked.[144]



Environment Summary

Now showing data for the 2024 election cycle.

opensecrets

Top Contributors, 2023-2024

Export to CSV

Contributor	Total	To Dems	To Repubs	To liberal groups	To conservative groups	To nonpartisan groups
League of Conservation Voters	$50,226,039	$869,186	$43	$49,351,706	$0	$0
Environmental Defense Action Fund	$15,465,272	$253,163	$17,109	$10,000	$0	$15,184,000
Climate Power	$10,433,873	$9,941	$0	$10,423,920	$0	$12
Clearpath Action	$9,779,392	$105	$1,449,313	$0	$8,329,924	$0
NRDC Action Fund	$7,089,134	$83,480	$0	$7,003,154	$0	$0
NextGen Climate Action	$5,200,640	$580	$0	$5,200,000	$0	$0

All the numbers on this page are for the 2023-2024 election cycle and based on Federal Election Commission data released on February 06, 2025.
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"Climate change is the greatest challenge of our generation," claims the LCV website, without equivocation or mention of competing threats to human flourishing. The LCV agenda is so comprehensively opposed to hydrocarbon fuels that they list "job placements for displaced workers from the fossil fuel industry" as one of their policy objectives.[145]

Relatedly, with their "Clean Energy for All" program LCV promotes state-level ballot initiatives that impose weather-restricted power mandates and supports local candidates who agree. The NGO boasts that these efforts have led to 40 percent of the American population living under these anti-energy restrictions.[146]

Finally, no opposition to energy would be complete without opposition to nuclear power, the only reliable, safe, clean, and limitlessly scalable source of emissions-free energy option we have. Not coincidentally, even after decades of taxpayer subsidies for the weather restricted energy options promoted by the LCV (wind and solar), nuclear power is still America's largest source of emissions-free electricity.[147]

In November 2020, the LCV's legislative director co-signed a statement to the U.S. Senate opposing the American Nuclear Infrastructure Act of 2020. Signed by more than 100 other anti-energy activists, the letter disingenuously claimed that nuclear power "amplifies and expands the dangers of climate change" and creates "an immense environmental hazard for which there is no solution."[148]

That message has since been amplified by the LCV's state-level affiliates.

In April 2023 the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters denounced a proposal in the state legislature that would have permitted nuclear power to be added alongside solar and wind power as a source of "clean" energy within the state's

carbon reduction goals. The statement characterized a "nuclear-powered future" as a "poisonous pipe dream." [149]

And in July 2024, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters criticized Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) for supporting a plan to revive the recently closed Palisades nuclear power station. Michigan LCV claimed the money spent reopening the plant should have been used to subsidize wind and solar energy.[150]

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the Palisades nuclear facility alone provided more than 7 million megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity in 2021, the plant's final full year of operation. For comparison, every wind turbine and solar panel in Michigan combined produced 8.3 million MWh in 2021.[151,152]

2 ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND (EDF)

Many of America's largest anti-energy NGOs work in nations across the globe. The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) deployed a spy satellite to hover above it all.

EDF's MethaneSAT, an $88 million project funded by the Bezos Earth Fund and other partners was shot into orbit in March 2024. The ostensible objective was to track methane (i.e.: natural gas) leaks that escape during oil and gas production. Supporters interviewed by NPR claimed that energy firms don't want to know about wasteful gas leaks. One said that the "beauty of having MethaneSAT" is that "we don't have to ask [oil companies] permission nicely to go on site and make measurements, right?"[153,154]

The perverse assumption is that the oil and gas industry isn't greedy enough. Because if MethaneSAT was truly revealing serious diversions of natural gas that could otherwise be captured and profitably sold, rather than wasted, then the energy firms would presumably be delighted to have that information and use it. As the kids like to say, they have one job, and that job is to sell fuel.

A related observation from the NPR report: "Sometimes oil companies deliberately burn methane gas if they can't pipe it somewhere." True enough, but this leaves out the inconvenient truth that the EDF is a consistent opponent of energy pipelines. Just weeks before the lightly-informed NPR reporter wrote that line, EDF released a research paper titled "Non-Pipeline Alternatives."[155,156,157]

If MethaneSAT were truly about preventing gas from being wasted, rather than preventing the production of it, why is EDF working to block the pipelines that permit the otherwise wasted gas from being transported and sold?

The absurdity of all this must have affected even the spy satellite, because MethaneSAT went dark after a little more than a year. "On Friday, June 20, the MethaneSAT mission operations lost contact with MethaneSAT," announced EDF in the summer of 2025. "After pursuing all options to restore communications, we learned this morning that the satellite has lost power, and that it is likely not recoverable."[158]

Which joke works best: The one about the anti-energy satellite that has a power failure; or the one about the anti-energy NGO looking for wasted natural gas that ends up wasting $88 million instead?

EDF can afford to lose the loot. Among the anti-energy nonprofits, EDF is second in annual revenue to only the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). But as the name implies, the latter has more of a worldwide focus, while EDF's area of influence is more concentrated on the United States.

EDF is a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit. For the year ending September 2024, it reported $298.7 million in total revenue and net assets of $299.8 million. (Corporate affiliates of EDF include the Environmental Defense Action Fund—a legally independent 501(c)(4) advocacy NGO—and EDF Action Votes, a political committee.)[159]

In addition to promoting weather dependent power while impeding energy pipelines and natural gas, EDF is also an opponent of emissions-free nuclear power.

In a 2016 news release that predicted "clean" energy would replace the literally clean electricity that comes from nuclear power, EDF promoted the closure of California's Diablo Canyon nuclear station. Fortunately, and in a rare respite for California's perpetually abused electricity consumers, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has so far supported keeping Diablo in service.[160]

New York wasn't so fortunate.

In January 2017 EDF praised then-New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo for agreeing to shut down the Indian Point nuclear power plant, previously the source of electricity for millions in the New York City region. "The plan to close Indian Point will ensure that the electric system remains stable without increasing pollution and will secure the health and welfare of millions living and working in the Tri-State area," claimed the EDF news release.[161]

Instead, according to a February 2022 analysis by *Politico's E&E News*, it was mostly natural gas powerplants that replaced the nuclear energy, and this corresponded to an 18.8 percent spike in New York's annual emissions. "In New York, power-sector emissions reached 28.5 million tons in 2021, up from 24 million tons in 2019, according to EPA figures," reported *E&E*. "The increase coincided with the shutdown of Indian Point's two nuclear units in 2019 and 2021."[162]

The ironies are piled high.

> **"...they were able to launch an anti-gas surveillance satellite. But their opposition to nuclear power led directly to a lot more natural gas getting burned in New York City's electricity production."**

EDF's opposition to low-emissions natural gas was so strident, and EDF so wealthy, that they were able to launch an anti-gas surveillance satellite. But their opposition to nuclear power led directly to a lot more natural gas getting burned in New York City's electricity production.

To top it all off, EDF's headquarters is on Park Avenue in New York City. So, right in their own hometown the anti-methane NGO's policies led directly to the replacement of emission-free power with methane-generated electricity.

3 NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL (NRDC)

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has reported taking in more than $100 million in annual revenue every year since their 2013 IRS filing (these numbers are not adjusted for inflation). A 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit, the NRDC is one of only three American anti-energy NGOs to be so consistently flush. (The others are the World Wildlife Fund and the Environmental Defense Fund.) The NRDC reported $204.3 million total revenue for the year ending June 2024 and net assets of nearly half a

Original caption from NRDC website: "Coffee plants destroyed by frost due to extremely low temperatures near Caconde in the São Paulo state of Brazil, August 25, 2021"
Photo Credit: Natural Resources Defense Council / Jonne Roriz/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Original caption from NRDC website: "Limiting dirty fossil fuel production and transitioning to clean energy, like wind and solar, are critical in building a livable future."
Photo Credit: Natural Resources Defense Council | Getty Images

billion bucks. Their biggest known revenue year so far was 2021, when the NRDC reported taking in $273.7 million and having more than a half billion in net assets.[163]

The NRDC is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit, and is also aligned with the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund (an advocacy nonprofit) and political committees such as NRDC Action Votes.

Without question the NRDC is one of America's richest and most powerful anti-energy NGOs. What they're really accomplishing is less obvious.

"What Are the Effects of Climate Change?" is the title of a tutorial page on the NRDC website. The supposed agenda is further explained by the sub-headline: "A **rapidly warming planet poses an existential threat** to all life on earth. Just how bad it gets depends on how quickly we act." [emphasis added][164]

How bad is it getting? About halfway down the same page is a photo with this caption: "Coffee plants **destroyed by frost due to extremely low temperatures** near Caconde in the São Paulo state of Brazil, August 25, 2021." [emphasis added][165]

Like the Environmental Defense Fund, the NRDC is located in New York City. And like EDF, the NRDC agitated for the closure of the Indian Point nuclear facility that powered 25 percent of Gotham's homes and businesses with emissions-free electricity. An April 2021 NRDC "Expert Blog" claimed that "New York is better positioned today than ever to achieve its ambitious climate and clean energy goals without this risky plant." The triumphant headline was "Indian Point is closing, but clean energy is here to stay."[166,167]

This isn't what happened. *Sixteen days before* the NRDC "expert" made that claim, a *New York Times* report carried this headline: "Indian Point Is Shutting Down. That Means More Fossil Fuel." Demonstrating why weather dependent power could not replace Indian Point's lost energy, the *Times* quoted from a February 2021 analysis by a pro-nuclear group that showed Indian Point was producing electricity equal to "2.5x the amount annually produced by all the solar panels and wind turbines in the state."[168,169]

Less than a year later an *E&E News* report confirmed that natural gas powerplants had been used to replace Indian Point's electricity, with a corresponding 18.8 percent increase in the state of New York's annual greenhouse emissions.[170,171]

In its hometown, the NRDC's advocacy succeeded. But what it accomplished led to a lot more of the CO_2 emissions they claim to be fighting against, and fewer options for generating electricity. These perverse outcomes make sense if the real agenda is to oppose energy production rather than carbon emissions.

However, a potential break from this behavior occurred in March 2026 when *Axios* reported that the NRDC was tentatively supporting the reopening

of the Duane Arnold nuclear power station in Iowa. This significance of this break from past policy was not lost on the NRDC president:[172]

> *"**This is unprecedented** for us because it marks the first time in our history that we have taken action in support of an individual nuclear power plant," Manish Bapna, president and CEO of NRDC, told Axios in an exclusive interview. [emphasis original]*[173]

In its memo supporting the transfer of ownership over the Duane Arnold facility, the NRDC still reiterated many of the conventional exaggerations about the alleged dangers of nuclear power. The NGO also stipulated that it reserved the right to oppose the Duane Arnold nuclear project if these concerns were not addressed.[174]

But the Duane Arnold development appears to be a hopeful sign, assuming the NRDC in fact continues to support the Duane Arnold project and also advances to supporting other nuclear power projects.

Further from home, the NRDC claims to have been the "first international nonprofit to launch a clean energy program in China" and to have been "supporting China's sustainable development" since the mid-1990s.[175]

Since 1995, China has cranked up its coal burning by 231 percent, and by 2024 was burning as much coal as the entire world did back in 1995 when the NRDC first came to help China. For comparison, China was burning nearly 12 times as much coal as the United States in 2024 (and relative to 1995, American coal use had declined by more than half). Not coincidentally, by 2024 China accounted for 31.8 percent of the planet's industrial CO_2 emissions—by far the world leader—and shows no sign of arresting its coal burning.[176,177]

Using their own standard of success (cutting CO_2 emissions) it's not clear what the NRDC has accomplished in China other than public relations projects and encouraging China to wreck its landscapes. In another "Expert Blog" from November 2022, the NRDC boasted of "continued rapid growth in wind and solar" in China. Reinforcing the point, the NRDC web page for "Renewable Energy" features a photo of solar panels littering what appears to have once been a beautiful, tree covered mountain range. The caption reads: "Accelerating its shift to a new clean energy system will help China to ensure that it can peak its fossil fuel use and carbon emissions as early and as low as possible. Here, a mountaintop solar power plant in China's Nanping City."[178,179]

While giving China a pass, the NRDC holds North American energy development to much stricter standards. And their hypocrisy on this front doesn't end with their opposition to CO_2-free nuclear energy.

"Mercury's Journey from Coal-Burning Power Plants to Your Plate," is the headline of an NRDC post for February 2026 that attacked the Trump administration's electricity policies. Imagine the NRDC telling the citizens of China that they should stand up against the repressive communist regime's far more prolific coal burning.[180]

A "Take Action" page on the NRDC website calling for "No oil and gas drilling off U.S. coasts" makes the NGO's anti-energy agenda abundantly clear:[181]

> ***The U.S. already has more than enough energy to meet demand:** Tell the Trump administration that you stand with thousands of Americans across the country in opposition to more drilling off our coasts. [emphasis added]*[182]

But when the energy is pulled from giant, weather restricted offshore wind turbines, the NRDC changes its mind and decides we're not exploiting the oceans for nearly enough energy. Yet another "Expert Blog" posted in February 2026 made this claim:[183]

> *For those keeping score, that makes it offshore wind: 5, Trump: 0, at least for now. […] This is great news for consumers and for electricity reliability. This struggle is playing out at a time when **electricity***

> ***demand is growing across the United States**... [emphasis added]*[184]

Just one week earlier, a different "Expert Blog" shrieked about the ocean ecosystems that could be damaged if the federal government permitted deep-sea mining and demanded a "precautionary approach" to "protect our ocean." Their precautionary principle must not apply to anchoring those massive wind towers to the floor of that same ocean. And what if the deep-sea mining produces the minerals and metals needed to build wind turbines and solar panels?[185]

On a single day in early February, each of the three aforementioned features appeared on the NGO's homepage at the same time. The combined message: "The U.S. already has more than enough energy to meet demand ... electricity demand is growing across the United States."

NRDC's supposed experts need more expertise in getting their stories straight.

Then there is the NRDC's "Fossil Fuels" page. On the one hand, the page describes the anti-energy NGO opposition to natural gas flaring—burning the fuel when it comes up with oil production because infrastructure such as pipelines to transport it safely to market isn't yet available. Why isn't it available? On the same page they oppose the creation of new pipelines.[186]

Of course, the page also includes a photo promoting the NRDC's favorite environmental pollution: dozens of wind turbines blocking the view of a snow-capped mountain. The ironic caption reads: "Limiting dirty fossil fuel production and transitioning to clean energy, like wind and solar, are critical in building a livable future."[187]

4 SIERRA CLUB

Founded in 1892 by naturalist John Muir and his allies to protect the boundaries of Yosemite National Park, the Sierra Club is one of America's original conservationist nonprofits and for a long time the most influential. Sierra deserves partial credit for the establishment of some of our oldest national parks, a badge of honor few if any other modern American NGOs can claim.[188]

The Sierra Club is a 501(c)(4) advocacy nonprofit that is affiliated with the Sierra Club Foundation, a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit, and Sierra Club Independent Action, a political committee. In the IRS filing covering 2024 the Sierra Club reported revenue of $169 million.[189]

The latest publicly available IRS filings show the combined net assets of the Sierra Club advocacy and educational nonprofits to be $291.9 million. (Unusual among the richest anti-energy NGOs, Sierra lists large net assets parked in both its advocacy and educational nonprofits, which is why they were combined for this analysis.)[190,191]

Today's Sierra Club has drifted a long way from the conservation-focused mission described above. One hint is the image on the "About the Sierra Club" webpage that is used to depict the NGO's "4,500 rallies and events." It is a picture of protesters holding Sierra-branded signs about ... gender equity.[192]

A lot of this behavior may be driven by the Progressive Workers Union (PWU), a radical-left labor union that represents more than 500 employees at left-wing NGOs. It was started at the Sierra Club in 1992 and represents more than 300 workers there.[193]

A good example of the PWU agenda was a June 2023 vote in favor of a resolution denouncing "Israel's oppressive apartheid rule" of the "Palestinian People." The resolution was supported by 86 percent of the Sierra Club's PWU members who voted on it. The vote followed a decision by the Sierra Club to reinstate its educational trips to Israel, despite the PWU's opposition to same.[194]

Anti-Energy Evolution

For most of its long history the Sierra Club wasn't

In 1966 the board of the Sierra Club voted 9-1 to approve the site for California's Diablo Canyon nuclear power station.
Photo Credit: Mike Baird at Wikimedia Commons

so radical and could not be easily pigeonholed as an anti-energy NGO.

In 1966 the Sierra Club board voted 9-1 to support construction of California's Diablo Canyon nuclear power station. Pacific Gas & Electric had previously hoped to build the plant on Nipomo Dunes, a site the Sierra Club opposed for conservation reasons. PG&E and representatives from the Sierra Club took this as an opportunity to reason together, rather than fight, and compromised on the Diablo Canyon site instead.[195]

William Siri was the Sierra Club board president during the 1966 vote and was a supporter of nuclear power. A biophysicist who studied radiation, Siri defended the Diablo vote, arguing that "we are an energy-based society" and that "consumption of energy has for decades accurately followed projections of need and nothing short of world-wide disaster could alter the growing power needs of the nation."[196,197]

Under Siri's leadership, Sierra was not an anti-energy group.

But today, the NGO's website proclaims that the "Sierra Club remains unequivocally opposed to nuclear energy." Following that introduction, the Sierra Club's "Nuclear Free Future" web page adds this conventional and scientifically illiterate scaremongering:[198]

> *Besides reactor safety, both nuclear proliferation and the required long-term storage of nuclear waste (which remains lethal for more than 100,000 years) make nuclear power a uniquely dangerous energy technology for humanity. Nuclear is no solution to Climate Change and every dollar spent on nuclear is one less dollar spent on truly safe, affordable and renewable energy sources. Help us work to phase out nuclear as quickly as possible.*[199]

The 1966 vote to approve the Diablo Canyon compromise touched off what Siri later referred to as a "civil war" within the Sierra Club. An anti-Diablo board was elected in 1968, and by 1979 the Sierra Club had voted to oppose all new nuclear power and even rescind its support for Diablo Canyon.[200]

One of Siri's allies on the Sierra Club board was legendary nature photographer Ansel Adams, who argued the Diablo deal was an example of "constructive cooperation" between conservationists

and industry. Later in the 1980s Adams told an interviewer that "nuclear energy is the future," the "only practical alternative that we have to destroying the environment with oil and coal," and that "you are at infinitely more risk driving around in your car than you are around any nuclear plant."[201,202]

By that point Adams was no longer on the Sierra Club board. Today the profile page for him on the Sierra Club website does not mention the Diablo controversy and his support for nuclear power.[203]

A prominent voice on the other side was David Brower, longtime executive director of the Sierra Club. By his own admission, Brower had been "pro-nuclear for twenty-three years." But during the Diablo dispute, Brower morphed into a "born-again anti-nuclearist." He resigned in May 1969 and went off to form another anti-energy NGO: Friends of the Earth. In his final speech, Brower denounced America's "addiction to growth," foreshadowing today's anti-energy Sierra Club.[204]

The "constructive cooperation" with the energy industry that Ansel Adams championed for the Sierra Club later became hypocritical cooperation.

"The national Sierra Club is one of natural gas's biggest boosters," reported the *Wall Street Journal*, in December 2009. "Carl Pope, the Sierra Club's executive director, has traveled the country promoting natural gas's environmental benefits, sometimes alongside Aubrey McClendon, chief executive of Chesapeake Energy Corp., one of the biggest U.S. gas companies by production."[205]

The Journal further explained: "Some activists, such as Mr. Pope, believe increased drilling -- with appropriate safeguards -- is the best way to wean the U.S. off coal, which they see as the greater environmental threat."[206]

> **"...*Time* magazine reported "that between 2007 and 2010 the Sierra Club accepted over $25 million in donations from the gas industry, mostly from Aubrey McClendon, CEO of Chesapeake Energy—one of the biggest gas drilling companies in the U.S. and a firm heavily involved in fracking—to help fund the Club's Beyond Coal campaign."[207]**

The sincerity of this claim was obliterated in 2012, when *Time* magazine reported "that between 2007 and 2010 the Sierra Club accepted over $25 million in donations from the gas industry, mostly from Aubrey McClendon, CEO of Chesapeake Energy—one of the biggest gas drilling companies in the U.S. and a firm heavily involved in fracking—to help fund the Club's Beyond Coal campaign."[207]

Michael Brune replaced Carl Pope as the Sierra Club executive director in 2010. *The Time* report noted that fracking "wasn't really on the environmental radar" when Sierra was taking the loot from Chesapeake. Even Al Gore, in his 2000 presidential campaign, pledged to "promote expanded exploration for cleaner burning natural gas."[208,209]

But a lot had changed by 2012. Fracking was turning America into a natural gas superpower and, not coincidentally, the burgeoning anti-energy movement—Al Gore included—was turning against gas. "It's time to stop thinking of natural gas as a 'kinder, gentler' energy source," wrote Michael

Brune on the Sierra Club website, hours after the *Time* report posted.[210]

Sierra has since added a "Beyond Gas" campaign to the "Beyond Coal" effort that was funded by the natural gas industry. "'Natural gas' is what the fossil fuel industry calls methane gas to make it sound safer for the environment and our health," claims the Sierra Club today, conveniently forgetting their recent public relations with and financial support from the "fossil fuel industry."[211,212]

Like all anti-energy NGOs, the only energy production Sierra supports now is that which comes from weather dependent, unreliable, wind turbines and solar panels.

This too produces moments of comical irony. A January 13, 2026, Sierra Club news release praised a wind energy project in the ocean off Rhode Island as a source of "steady, affordable energy." Exactly two weeks later another Sierra news release blasted the Trump administration for "trying to sell out our coastal communities and our public waters" by expanding offshore oil and natural gas drilling leases. "These lease sales are privatization in everything but name," claimed Sierra Club executive director Loren Blackford, who failed to note whether leasing the ocean to a Big Wind corporation is also privatization.[213]

The Turmoil Years

Ms. Blackford was permanently appointed executive director in September 2025, after holding the post on an interim basis since August 2025. A long-time official with Sierra Club, Blackford became the fourth person within four years to hold the post, following yet another period of turmoil at the Sierra Club.[214]

In August 2021, the findings of a damning report from an independent consulting firm commissioned by the Sierra Club was leaked. The investigation was launched in September 2020, following a rape allegation against a prominent figure at the NGO. *Politico* quoted from the report's findings:[215]

> *"One of the most prevalent themes we heard was that there was generally a culture at the Sierra Club that tolerated, excused, or failed to correct those managers and leaders who regularly displayed anger and aggression — yelling, berating, shaming, and otherwise demonstrating unprofessional and abusive behavior in the workplace," the executive summary said. "It became clear that many of these individuals were well-known for engaging in this behavior and that nothing was done to meaningfully curb the behavior."*[216]

A former employee from the era told *E&E News* that too many employees from the "social justice warrior segment" had made the Sierra Club "an intolerable hothouse" and toxic work environment.[217]

The Sierra Club's executive director, Michael Brune, resigned in August 2021 after 11 years on the job. The Sierra Club news release that announced this departure did not mention the existence of the still-secret investigation but did name two people to fill in for Brune on an interim basis. Less than a week later, *Politico* broke the story about the internal investigation.[218]

In January 2023 Sierra named Ben Jealous as the new executive director. Widely described as the first "person of color" to lead the NGO, Jealous had been the president of the left-wing activist group People for the American Way, and before that president of the NAACP.[219]

But this didn't work out either. In August 2025, the Sierra board fired Jealous for cause after an "extensive evaluation of his conduct." No specific details were officially provided by the Sierra Club.[220]

Shortly afterward, *Bloomberg* and *E&E News* separately reported that a sexual harassment complaint had been made against Jealous. Then in April 2026 a sexual harassment lawsuit was filed by a former direct report of Jealous. The Sierra

Club has maintained radio silence regarding the specific reason for the termination, citing the legal proceeding, but noting that "we handled the matter with sensitivity and care, in line with our values, policies, and the law." Jealous responded to the firing and the allegations by denying them and accusing his former employer of "racial retaliation" and "personal attacks."[221]

A former Sierra Club board member (not involved in the decision to fire Jealous) said the firing "smells of retaliation" because it occurred right after Jealous had filed "a very lengthy complaint of harassment" against members of Sierra's executive committee. Similarly, Al Sharpton warned the world that the firing of Jealous might lead to "serious racial implications."[222]

Adding to the scandal, the *New York Times* reported revenue shortfalls, disgruntled staff and an irritated labor union as factors that preceded the firing:[223]

> *In a statement, Erica Dodt, president of the Progressive Workers Union, which represents Sierra Club employees, said, "We hope that his departure will open the door for a stronger relationship between workers and management, and allow the Sierra Club to better focus our efforts on fighting the Trump administration and protecting the environment."*[224]

Facing a $40 million funding deficit left to him by his predecessors, Jealous had announced layoffs in May 2023, including the Sierra Club's entire "equity team." This was the beginning of a dispute between Jealous and PWU that lasted for the rest of his time at Sierra.[225,226]

In a November 2023 interview Jealous accused the PWU of being "uniquely destructive," running a "campaign against the Sierra Club for years" and spreading "racist tropes about Black leadership" (Jealous is Black). In June 2024, the PWU announced the first strike authorization in its history, issuing a news release accusing the Sierra Club and Jealous of "union-busting." Additional layoffs over the following year led to a June 2025 decision by the PWU to file a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board that accused the Sierra Club (i.e.: Jealous) of targeting PWU members in the layoffs.[227,228]

"This is not the first time we have been tested in our 133-year history," said Blackford in September 2025. "And we will meet this moment by rising together to carry our mission forward with even greater strength and clearer sense of purpose than ever before."[229]

The conservation movement might not have evolved into an anti-energy movement if the Sierra Club had stuck to the sense of purpose they had at their founding.

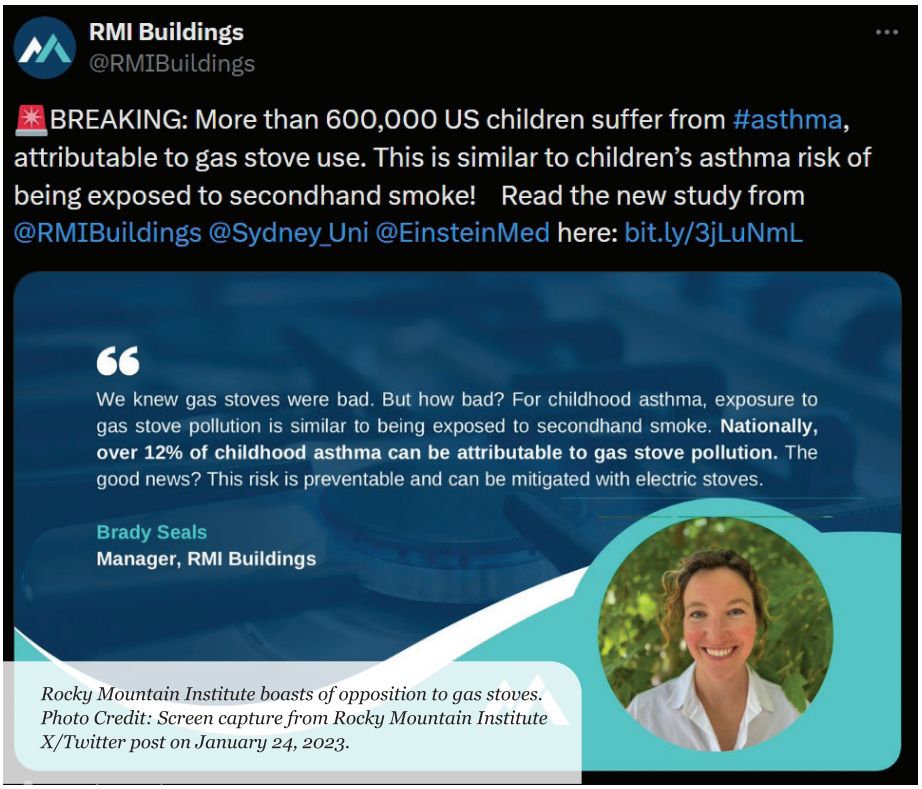
5 ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE (RMI)

While not nearly as well-known as older and established anti-energy NGOs such as the Sierra Club and Environmental Defense Fund, the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) has spent the last fifteen years growing into one of the largest and most influential.

RMI was founded in 1982 as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit by a stridently anti-energy gadfly named Amory Lovins. In a 1977 interview, Lovins made this wild but revealing statement:[230,231]

> *If you ask me, it'd be little short of disastrous for us to discover a source of clean, cheap, abundant energy* ***because of what we would do with it****. We ought to be looking for energy sources that are adequate for our needs, but that won't give us the excesses of concentrated energy with which we could do mischief to the earth or to each other. [emphasis in original]*[232]

While Lovins' hostility to energy abundance is hard to exaggerate, for a lot of RMI's history it was easier to ignore.



Rocky Mountain Institute boasts of opposition to gas stoves. Photo Credit: Screen capture from Rocky Mountain Institute X/Twitter post on January 24, 2023.

As recently as its 2012 IRS filing, RMI reported total revenue of just $10 million, and net assets of almost $7.6 million. At the time, that was a small anti-energy nonprofit. For example, in their respective IRS filings for 2012 the Sierra Club reported almost $90.4 million in revenue, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) raked in $98.7 million, and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) $111.9 million.[233,234]

A dozen years later a lot had changed. For 2024, RMI reported total revenue of $164.7 million, just a little bit behind the Sierra Club's $169 million. RMI has become one of America's most influential anti-energy NGOs and done so in a remarkably short period of time.[235]

Because public access to nonprofit IRS reports lags the reporting period by 18-24 months, it is possible that the 2025 data will show that RMI has already overtaken the Sierra Club and other anti-energy NGOs. But there is also evidence of weakness.

USASpending.gov shows RMI receiving $19.5 million in federal grants during the Biden administration, with $11.5 million of that sent from the Department of Energy. In April 2025 the Trump administration Energy Department announced it was cancelling two of these grants, which together totaled $6.8 million. One month later, RMI announced it was laying off 10 percent of its staff, due to what an internal email claimed was "increased uncertainty around revenue sources."[236,237,238]

The Anti-Energy Agenda

True to its founder's original vision, the RMI agenda is to replace all of the world's reliable energy systems with weather dependent wind and solar. "Pursuing the phase-out of fossil fuels is the only currently viable pathway to reduce energy waste, boost national security, and enhance resiliency, while also creating economic opportunity and delivering affordable energy for all," claims the RMI website.[239]

Their replacement options do not include clean burning natural gas and emissions-free nuclear power.

"Accelerating the build-out of the new clean energy system is the only viable long-term solution to the double crisis facing Europe in terms of both energy security and the climate emergency," an RMI report advised in February 2022. "Instead of looking backward to domestic fossil or large-scale nuclear, European officials should prioritize the multiple clean energy technologies that are available to them today to cut both emissions and energy dependencies." The RMI researcher even criticized the electricity-independent French for planning to add to their admirable fleet of emissions-free nuclear power stations.[240]

Americans do not suffer from energy dependency, in part because of our world-leading access to and

production of natural gas. As shown in the prior section, natural gas burns far cleaner and with less emissions than any of the other hydrocarbon fuels. The use of it in place of coal in electricity generation has been a major reason for declining CO_2 emissions in the United States.[241,242,243]

During the Biden administration, RMI became America's most influential opponent of natural gas.

According to the official calendar of former Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, she had a private meeting in June 2021 with Jules Kortenhorst, then the CEO of RMI. (The former energy secretary's calendar was obtained in a freedom of information request filed by Americans for Public Trust and publicly revealed in February 2023.)[244]

Six months later in late-December 2022, RMI co-produced a science journal report that attributed 12.7 percent of American childhood asthma cases (600,000 annually, according to RMI) to the use of natural gas stoves in private residences.[245,246]

Cooking with gas is done in at least 35 percent of American homes. Gas ranges are widely considered by both amateur and professional chefs as far superior to electric stoves. The methodology of the anti-gas study was criticized by at least one neutral academic interviewed by the *Washington Free Beacon*:[247,248]

> *The study—which spans just nine paragraphs—was based on a hodgepodge of different data and methodologies spanning various years and countries, ranging from 2019 U.S. Census data to conclusions from a 2018 analysis in Australia.*
>
> *Structuring a study that way is questionable, according to Yale University professor of medicine Dr. Harvey Risch. […]*
>
> *"This paper does not do any research on possible association between residential natural gas use and risk of childhood asthma," Risch told the Free Beacon. "It only calculates a percent of childhood asthma that could be attributable to residential natural gas use and risk of childhood asthma."*
>
> *That distinction is important, Risch said, particularly when calling for such a dramatic public policy proposal that would change how tens of millions of Americans prepare their food. The study was also ethically dubious, according to Risch, as its authors stated they held no conflicts of interest despite working for climate change activist groups. The Rocky Mountain Institute's board, for example, is filled with executives at green energy corporations with a financial interest in banning the use of fossil fuels.*[249]

In January 2023, shortly after the RMI study was released, Consumer Product Safety commissioner Richard Trumka, Jr, referenced it when he proposed banning the sale of new gas stoves. And in mid-December 2022, just two weeks before the RMI report was posted, the Biden administration's Energy Department announced a plan to phase out gas appliances in federal buildings.[250,251]

The China Agenda

RMI has long sponsored a China Program that is (as of this writing) still "focused on finding technical and economic solutions to help China decarbonize." Beginning in 2013, RMI partnered with China's National Development and Reform Commission to examine how China could "use energy efficiency and renewable energy to meet the growing demand of its population for a clean, low-carbon, efficient, safe, reliable, and cost-effective modern energy system."[252,253]

When this collaboration began in 2013, China was responsible for 28.1 percent of world CO_2 emissions. As covered in the previous section, China's annual CO_2 emissions had jumped to 32 percent of the world

total in 2024. This was far and away more than any other nation. And there's no end in sight, as the Chinese are planning to open more than 100 new coal-fired power plants in 2026.[254,255]

While this collaboration hasn't done much to decarbonize China, the greenwashing has provided the authoritarian communist regime with a public relations triumph. For example, China's dictator received this wet kiss in a January 2021 RMI news release:[256]

> *On September 22, 2020, President Xi Jinping announced that China will strive to peak emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. This new climate pledge is a critical step forward in the global fight against climate change and reflects China's determination to provide responsible global leadership.*[257]

Among other developments since then, China's decision to open more than 100 new coal plants obviously isn't anywhere on the path to ceasing CO_2 emissions growth by 2030. In a November 2025 report, energy journalist Robert Bryce put the impact of this propaganda in perspective:[258]

> *But the media's relentless propaganda campaign about China's solar, wind, and EV sectors is obscuring the country's soaring use of hydrocarbons, and coal in particular. By itself, China consumes more coal than the rest of the world combined — and it will keep doing so for decades to come. As I reported in August, China is now building 227 gigawatts of coal-fired capacity. When all those coal plants are brought online, China's coal-fired generation capacity will total about 1.4 TW, meaning China's coal fleet will be more than seven times larger than the US coal fleet. Put another way, China's coal fleet alone will be larger than the entire US electric grid, which has 1.3 TW of generation capacity.*[259]

Bryce also reported that the Chinese have been investing heavily in new natural gas and nuclear powerplants. He wrote that "China's production of natural gas and nuclear energy has grown *1.4 times faster than solar and wind combined"* and "China's domestic gas sector is now producing nearly three times more energy than all of China's solar panels." [emphasis in original][260]

China obviously accomplished these triumphs for low carbon natural gas and zero carbon nuclear electricity production without encouragement from RMI.

6 WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (WWF)

According to the U.S. government's spending database (USASpending.gov) the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has received a cumulative total of $395.3 million in federal grants and contracts since 2008—an average of $20.8 million per year. Most of this ($305.7 million) was for overseas projects funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Common with many USAID programs, the listed purpose for the awards is often piteously vague. As an example, "USAID biodiversity conservation activity" is the only description provided for a $31.3 million grant awarded to WWF in July 2020.[261,262]

These healthy subsidies from the taxpayers have helped make WWF the wealthiest anti-energy NGO in America. It is also (alongside the World Resources Institute) the most geographically diversified, with headquarters on six continents. In many of the nations where it operates it does business as the "World Wide Fund for Nature."[263]

The American branch of WWF, a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit, reported $374.8 million total revenue for the year ending June 2024, and $644.4 million net assets.[264]

Best known by the iconic panda logo, WWF is unquestionably involved in good work to preserve treasured creatures. Support for this legitimate

WWF: Nuclear path to net-zero is a 'false narrative'

Posted on March, 20 2024

Ahead of Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels, WWF argues that building nuclear power generation is too slow, too expensive and too risky.

World Wildlife Fund urges opposition to emissions-free nuclear power in March 2024 as world's government leaders meet to discuss how more nuclear power can be beneficial for the climate and the economy. Photo Credit: Screen capture of WWF news release.

conservation mission is certainly the reason for a lot of the federal funding sent to WWF from American taxpayers, and the private donations the NGO receives.

But just as clearly, WWF is opposed to nearly all of the energy that provided the wealth necessary to pay for its conservation mission.

In 2021 the European Union made a modest proposal to allow natural gas and nuclear power to be defined as "sustainable" investments under the EU's energy taxonomy rules. Science supports this rhetorical objective. As noted in the prior section, natural gas burns far cleaner than the other hydrocarbons, notably coal, when used to produce electricity. So, if changing the marketing label caused EU nations to switch from coal to natural gas (the change made in the United States over the last two decades) then this would lead to reduced CO_2 emissions.[265,266]

But even this was unacceptable to the WWF. Along with Greenpeace and Client Earth, the European branch of the WWF opposed the EU's "sustainable" label for gas and nuclear.[267]

And as the world's governments have continued to warm up to the benefits of emissions-free nuclear power to meet their environmental goals, the WWF has ramped up its complaints.

In December 2023, at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai, the United States and 19 other nations announced a goal of tripling nuclear power output by 2050. (Important for context: this agreement was reached while the U.S. Department of Energy answered to a president from the Democratic Party.)[268]

But for the World Wildlife Fund, opposition to reliable energy trumped their opposition to carbon dioxide. When the pro-nuclear governments followed up with a "Nuclear Energy Summit" in March 2024, the WWF issued a news release with this headline: "Nuclear path to net-zero is a 'false narrative.'" Dean Cooper, the WWF's global lead for energy policy elaborated:[269]

> *Nuclear energy cannot, and must not, be considered part of the urgently required energy transition. Rather,*

> *governments must prioritize investments towards energy efficiency and deploying renewables, such as wind and solar, to decarbonize the grid.*[270]

Cooper also said the quiet part out load by claiming that developing nuclear power "diverts efforts away from real solutions," by which he meant wind and solar.[271]

It's true that money and time are always limited. Using the WWF's logic against them, every minute and dollar spent developing unreliable, weather dependent electricity from wind and solar detracts from producing reliable, abundant power from emissions-free nuclear reactors.

On a web page explaining WWF's "Advocating for renewable energy deployment," the anti-energy NGO further defines the only power systems they will support. Some sample quotes from the page:[272]

> *Still, to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, the US must install 85 gigawatts (GW) of wind and solar energy per year through 2035, along with the necessary transmission and energy storage infrastructure to integrate these resources into the grid.*
>
> *[…]*
>
> *WWF is working with conservation leaders, renewable energy, and transmission developers to break down the barriers to deployment.*[273]

The real question is whether WWF's climate mission is to reduce carbon emissions while preserving reliability and energy abundance or to merely help shovel out corporate welfare for unpredictable power output. Recall that this is an NGO that annually receives tens of millions of dollars from American taxpayers and as such should not be working against their economic security in a matter so critical as reliable energy infrastructure.

7 EARTHJUSTICE

"Because the Earth needs a good lawyer," is the official Earthjustice motto. Another brief, and much more revealing, slogan can be created by mashing up subject headings from their "50 Landmark Legal Cases" page:[274]

> ***End extraction and burning of fossil fuels.***
>
> ***Power everything with 100% clean energy.***[275]

Earthjustice is the public interest law firm for the American anti-energy movement. Its list of clients runs into the hundreds. Just a few examples of some of the biggest clients include the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Defense Fund, the World Wildlife Fund and the League of Conservation Voters.[276]

Earthjustice is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public interest law firm and was known as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund until 1997. (An affiliated advocacy nonprofit, Earthjustice Action, was created in 2018.) Sierra and Earthjustice were always separate NGOs, and today Earthjustice is nearly as influential—some might argue more so, given its unique place as the legal defender of other large anti-energy groups.[277]

In the tax filing covering the year ending June 2024, Earthjustice reported revenue of $139.6 million and net assets of $244 million. The NGO has reported at least $100 million annual revenue every year back through 2019. That's a standard of financial consistency unmatched by many of today's best funded anti-energy NGOs, such as the League of Conservation Voters and the Rocky Mountain Institute.[278]

Hypocrisies

"We are cultivating a zero carbon emissions, pollution-free electricity grid by phasing out fossil-fuel power generation, eliminating barriers to renewable energy, and more," boasts Earthjustice.

North Atlantic Right Whale
Photo Credit: Moira Brown and New England Aquarium at Wikimedia Commons.

But like many of their clients, Earthjustice has also objected to emissions-free energy options that don't fit its definition of "renewable."[279]

One example is nuclear power, which produces no emissions and—unlike weather dependent wind and solar—is abundant, reliable, and limitlessly scalable. Not coincidentally, nuclear reactors have for decades been the largest source of emissions-free energy produced in America.

In 2017 the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) granted electricity firm FirstEnergy permission to collect higher rates and use the proceeds for electricity grid upgrades. The Sierra club objected, claiming the funding was a "bailout" for FirstEnergy's coal and nuclear power plants. Earthjustice took on the case for Sierra and in June 2019, in a 4-3 vote, the Ohio Supreme Court overturned the PUCO decision. The decision was based on the Court's belief that the PUCO didn't include guardrails to ensure that FirstEnergy would spend the money as claimed. The fiercer accusation that this was a "bailout" was made by the Sierra Club and Earthjustice.[280,281]

Not that they're opposed to bailouts.

As one example, the Biden-administration's so-called "Inflation Reduction Act" (IRA) was largely a subsidy for wind and solar energy production, electric vehicles and more of the anti-energy movement's priorities. Before it was partially repealed by the Trump administration, multiple analysts had projected the IRA's cost to federal taxpayers would hit at least $1.2 *trillion* (with some projecting trillions more than that). Both the Sierra Club and Earthjustice enthusiastically supported the IRA subsidies, but referred to the loot not as a "bailout," but instead an "investment."[282]

The hypocrisy didn't deter the victorious Earthjustice lawyer in the PUCO case:[283]

> *FirstEnergy wants massive corporate welfare and expects hardworking families in Ohio to pay for it. Ohioans want clean energy investments that will create jobs, not bailouts of aging and costly coal and nuclear plants. Ohio should do more to boost its clean energy supply because it doesn't create toxic pollution, safety risks, or harm the climate.*[284]

Similarly, in December 2024, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R) signed legislation that added nuclear power to the state's definition of "green" energy. These legal distinctions are created because anti-energy groups want to prioritize the production of wind and solar power systems. So naturally, the Ohio anti-energy groups opposed the competition. A representative of the Ohio Nuclear-Free Network told lawmakers that "there is nothing 'green' about nuclear power."[285]

A local news report quoted an Earthjustice lawyer sympathetic to this cause:

> *House Bill 308's sponsors say the legislation is meant to signal that Ohio is open for business when it comes to nuclear power research and development, but critics warn the language could have broader implications in the future.*
>
> *"Legislators don't just put something into the code unless it has meaning and purpose and value," said Megan Hunter, an attorney with Earthjustice, one of several environmental groups challenging a similar 2022 state law that classified natural gas as a "green" energy source. "Why would you do this if it has no impact or meaning or effect?"*[286]

Save The Whales

When an NGO claiming to protect the environment opposes nuclear power, that is always a hint that they are committing other energy hypocrisies. Earthjustice is not an exception.

The noise, increased vessel traffic, and other disturbances required to anchor offshore wind turbines to the ocean floor off the East Coast has coincided with a spike in injuries and fatalities for endangered North Atlantic right whales. Documented cases since 2017 have led the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to declare an "unusual mortality event." And NOAA estimates the documented harms are only a third of the total injuries and fatalities.[287]

Correlation doesn't necessarily mean causation, and NOAA (i.e.: the federal government) has so far pushed back against claims that offshore wind projects have harmed right whales. But non-governmental researchers and some wildlife advocates have been arguing otherwise. A January 2024 research paper from the Save Right Whales Coalition and sponsored by Environmental Progress claimed a "direct correlation between increased OSW [offshore wind] vessel activity and whale mortality."[288]

If the rushed (and taxpayer subsidized) construction of offshore oil and gas platforms had been correlated with the deaths of endangered whales, then it's easy to imagine Earthjustice and its clients jumping in to conclude the risk of causation was too big to ignore and seeking to shut down energy production.

But it's not necessary to imagine. Here's two quotes from Earthjustice's 2021 annual report:[289]

> *In its search for petroleum, the oil industry acquires authorizations that allow companies to "incidentally" harm whales and other animals when blasting the ocean floor with seismic air guns. Earthjustice and a broad coalition of marine wildlife advocates spent two years in litigation fighting authorizations for air gun surveys in the Atlantic Ocean. Last year, Big Oil surrendered. The industry's authorizations expired before it could start even a single survey. This was welcome news for ocean-dependent communities and wildlife, notably the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale.*
>
> *[...]*
>
> *In December 2020, we won a five-year fight to vacate the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's approval of the giant Hilcorp Liberty oil and gas project in the*

> *Beaufort Sea. The proposed project was in the heart of polar bear habitat and would have been the first offshore oil drilling development in federal Arctic waters. This court win has not only stopped the Liberty project, but it has also set an important precedent that is helping us defeat other fossil fuels development, including the massive Willow drilling project proposed in the Western Arctic.*[290]

"Save the whales" is an iconic slogan from the early days of what was once the American conservation movement. Selling out the whales for wind turbines demonstrates just how far today's anti-energy movement has moved from its roots.

8 GREENPEACE

The most recent publicly available IRS filings from Greenpeace and the Greenpeace Fund show combined net assets of ***negative*** $496.4 million. As nonprofits go, that's *a lot of not profiting!* Just one year earlier the pair reported **positive** combined net assets of $44 million.[291,292]

Claiming a half-billion-dollar loss in one year is particularly striking for a couple of NGOs that reported 2024 revenue of just $38.6 million for Greenpeace and $26.3 million for the Greenpeace Fund. (Unlike net assets, annual revenue figures cannot be combined because—as is common in these arrangements—the 2024 filing for Greenpeace Fund, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit, lists $16.3 million in grants sent to Greenpeace, the 501(c)(4) advocacy nonprofit, and it is not clear how similar asset transfers from previous reporting periods continue to impact the 2024 reports).[293]

In an October 2025 report for the Capital Research Center, Robert Stilson summarized the reason for the financial challenges at Greenpeace:[294]

> *In 2019, Energy Transfer sued Greenpeace in state court for its role in the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, and earlier this year a North Dakota jury found the 501(c)(4) nonprofit Greenpeace, its affiliated 501(c)(3) Greenpeace Fund, and the Netherlands-based Greenpeace International liable for a combined $667 million.*
>
> *[. . .]*
>
> *Greenpeace was found liable for (among other things) trespass, defamation, conversion, and tortious interference with business. The facts as alleged, and evidently accepted by the jury, are remarkable. Energy Transfer's amended complaint detailed what it called "violent attacks against Plaintiffs' employees and property, soliciting money for and providing funding to support these illegal attacks, inciting protests to disrupt construction, and a vast, malicious publicity campaign against Energy Transfer and Dakota Access." A resource published by the state of North Dakota and quoted in the complaint described the "brutality…committed by violent protesters who use[d] improvised explosive devices to attack police, use[d] hacked information to threaten officers and their families, and use[d] weapons to kill livestock, harming farmers and ranchers."*[295]

A judge has since reduced the combined damage award to $345 million. Energy Transfer announced it would appeal to have the full damages reinstated, while Greenpeace is seeking a new trial, hoping to avoid the judgement entirely. But even if the smaller award stands, that's still roughly half a dozen years of the Greenpeace movement's combined annual revenue and by their own admission it's not clear they can survive if they have to pay up.[296]

Both Greenpeace and the Greenpeace Fund's 2024 IRS filings note the Energy Transfer lawsuit as the

reason for reporting the huge deficits. The filings also note that the Greenpeace nonprofits do "not have sufficient liquidity to satisfy the judgement or to continue normal operations if the judgement is enforced" and that their "management has concluded that there is substantial doubt" regarding whether the NGOs will "continue as a going concern" if payment is demanded.[297]

Greenpeace hasn't let this existential crisis impede its fight with Energy Transfer. In December 2025, still on the hook for $345 million in un-neighborly damages for violations against the energy firm, Greenpeace released a research report with this ironic title: "Bad Neighbor: Energy Transfer's Pattern of Pollution and Violations."[298]

Publicity stunts both controversial and destructive have been the Greenpeace brand since it was founded. In the 1970s and 80s the group built its reputation by disrupting nuclear weapons tests. Greenpeace demonstrators in Australia destroyed a crop of genetically modified wheat in July 2011, and in January 2023 Greenpeace activists trespassed onto a boat owned by Shell to protest the firm's oil drilling in the Atlantic. The Shell stunt put Greenpeace on the losing end of a $382,000 legal judgment.[299,300,301]

There is also a long list of conduct that was more disruptive than destructive. For example, nearly all anti-energy NGOs oppose nuclear energy, but few behave as stridently as Greenpeace. In December 2017, Greenpeace organized a protest involving hundreds of demonstrators in France to demand permanent closure of the nation's world-leading fleet of commercial nuclear reactors. It was a typically audacious choice of targets for Greenpeace, given that the French obtain a larger percentage of their primary energy from emissions-free nuclear power than any of the rich world (i.e.: G8 member)

> "Publicity stunts both controversial and destructive have been the Greenpeace brand since it was founded."

The Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior.
Photo Credit: EL_Images / Shutterstock.com

economies, and as a result France has lower CO_2 emissions per-capita than any of them.[302,303]

But it is both too easy and inaccurate to presume Greenpeace's mischief is on the fringe of the anti-energy movement. Greenpeace has many prominent and influential allies willing to endorse its troublemaking. The Stilson report explained:[304]

> *Many groups also publicly came out in support of Greenpeace and its actions, as evidenced by an open letter of support signed by more than 400 groups and "hundreds of thousands of individuals," including public figures such as Alec Baldwin, Billie Eilish, Jane Fonda, Susan Sarandon, James Cromwell, and Shailene Woodley. Curiously believing that "if enough of us speak out, we can stop this abusive lawsuit," the letter declared formal "solidarity with Greenpeace against Energy Transfer's meritless $300 million lawsuit," which it called "a blatant attempt to silence legitimate work to protect people and our planet."*
>
> *Accordingly, it can be concluded that the signatories considered the conduct detailed above, for which a jury ultimately found Greenpeace liable, to be "legitimate."*[305]

Some of the signatories identified included the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Amnesty International USA, Global Citizen, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Center for Biological Diversity, at least four projects of the Tides Center or the affiliated Tides Advocacy, and four projects of the Earth Island Institute.[306]

As measured by revenue and assets, Greenpeace isn't one of the largest anti-energy NGOs. But the Dakota Access Pipeline protest, the extraordinary damage award from same, and the 400-plus allies willing to endorse the bad behavior all demonstrate that Greenpeace is clearly one of the most influential.

9 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE (WRI)

"The number of people working in clean energy worldwide rose from 30 million in 2019 to about 35 million in 2023, surpassing employment in the fossil fuel sector," claims the World Resources Institute (WRI).[307]

This boast is probably true, but (unintentionally) an admission by the World Resources Institute that they're in business to waste a lot of resources.

Labor productivity is a simple concept: hours worked divided by output. The hydrocarbon (i.e.: "fossil") fuel industry provided 80.7 percent of total world energy production in 2023, according to the International Energy Agency, while so-called "clean" energy (wind and solar) contributed 3.3 percent. Generously tacking on hydroelectric dams as "clean" energy gets that total up to just 5.7 percent.[308]

What the WRI jobs claim means is that 30 million or so "fossil fuel" sector workers are providing almost 81 percent of world energy, while 35 million workers from the "clean energy" sector are adding less than 6 percent. The WRI is admitting that hydrocarbon energy jobs are at least 14 times more economically beneficial than clean energy jobs. For perspective, a 14x difference is roughly the GDP per capita disparity between an American ($84,534, according to the World Bank) and an Algerian ($5,752).[309]

And WRI predicts the disparity will get worse. "Under current policies, clean energy could create 10 million more jobs by 2030," claims WRI, "while the fossil fuel sector is expected to lose about 3 million."[310]

Perhaps "Wasted Resources Institute" is the more apt moniker?

One of the richest anti-energy NGOs, the WRI has a lot of resources to waste. For the year ending September 2024, the 501(c)(3) tax exempt, educational nonprofit reported $267.4 million in

Billionaire weather dependent energy developer Michael Polsky is a board member of and major contributor to the World Resources Institute. Photo Credit: Images captured from WRI's board of directors page.

revenue and net assets of $584.9 million. And even this princely sum was a steep decline from the $357.8 million in revenue the nonprofit reported raking in for 2023.[311]

The American taxpayers have been one big source of the resource extraction. According to USASpending.gov, since 2008 the WRI has received $121.5 million in grants, contracts, and other payments from the federal government. Most of this total ($105.4 million) was funded through the U.S. State Department or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). And more than half ($66.6 million) was received by WRI during the four years of the Biden administration (2021-2024).[312]

According to WRI's 2024 annual report, the following governments also gave at least $750,000 during the year: the European Union, the United Nations, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, France, Canada, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Luxembourg, Norway, and Denmark. In many cases, such as the United States and Germany, *multiple* federal agencies were credited with an annual donation of at least $750,000.[313]

Another source of resources has been billionaire Michael Polsky, a member of the WRI board of directors and the donor who funded the WRI Polsky Center for the Global Energy Transition. The Polsky Center predictably promotes wind and solar power while steering away from hydrocarbons. Polsky is the founder of Invenergy, a firm that produces wind energy systems and harvests the federal subsidies for same.[314,315,316]

Similarly, the chair of the WRI board is David Blood. Alongside Al Gore, Blood co-founded Generation Investment Management. The Blood & Gore firm was built to promote and profit from investments in weather-dependent energy.[317,318]

Reliable, emissions-free nuclear power is another matter entirely.

In April 2018, WRI hosted an event for a pair of South African activists who had just won an "environmental" award for their part in getting a South African court to block the construction of a nuclear power plant. The WRI news release claimed this was "a landmark legal victory that protected South Africa from an unprecedented expansion of the nuclear industry and production of radioactive waste."[319]

It was a landmark victory over the world's most impoverished people. According to Our World in Data, nearly 7.8 million South Africans did not have basic access to electricity in 2023. For all of Sub-Saharan Africa, Our World in Data reports that the number of people living without electricity in 2023 was 589 million.[320,321]

"WRI has been working in Africa for more than 30 years toward a more sustainable society that can meet people's essential needs, protect and restore

nature and stabilize the climate," claims the "WRI Africa" page on the NGO's website.[322]

Another WRI web page carries this headline: "Climate Action Has a Messaging Problem."[323]

True enough. But it does create a lot of jobs.

10 UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS (UCS)

One way to identify anti-energy NGOs pretending to be nature-saving nonprofits is to look at their website for pictures of wind turbines and solar panels polluting what could—and should—be pristine landscapes. Doing this with the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) required less than one second of research during February of 2026. Plastered atop the UCS home page was a huge photo of a snow-capped cliff, soaring gloriously above the ocean and covered with… giant turbine towers. (The image has since been replaced but is still available from the Wayback Machine). The UCS motto embedded this slogan on the image: "We use science to make change happen." Hopefully their idea of "change" will be kept from the similarly soaring peaks in places such as the Rocky Mountains and Yosemite Valley.[324]

"Modern technologies like wind and solar power are safe, abundant, cheap, reliable, and they don't heat up the Earth," claim scientists clearly not concerned when their turbines eat up the Earth.[325]

The scientists also aren't concerned about the limits of astronomy, meteorology, and math. To accept their "reliable" claim, it's necessary to believe the Earth has stopped spinning and hiding the sun every day; that cloud cover doesn't exist; and that the wind shows up exactly where it's needed, when it's needed, and goes away when it isn't needed. The "abundant" claim is impossible and the price irrelevant if the energy isn't reliable.

So, weather restricted power is definitely "cheap," but only in quality. That should be a concern for the scientists.

The UCS is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit that

> "Modern technologies like wind and solar power are safe, abundant, cheap, reliable, and they don't heat up the Earth," claim scientists clearly not concerned when their turbines *eat* up the Earth.[325]

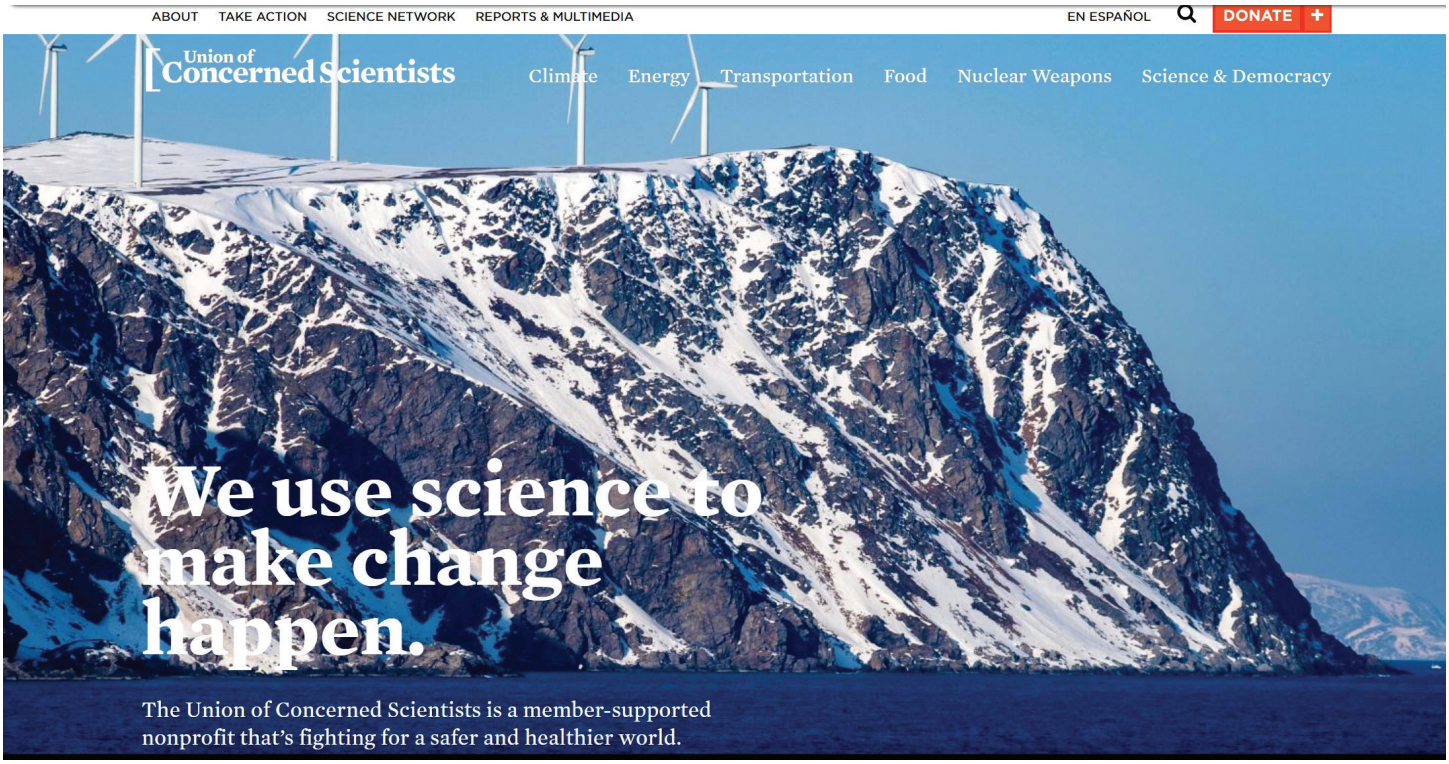
reported total revenue of $41.9 million for the year ending September 2024, with $50.3 in expenses, and net assets of $60.8 million. Their IRS filing for the year reported that a combined $28.2 million was spent on the "climate and clean energy program" and the "clean transportation program." That's more than half of total expenses, so most of what UCS reported it was doing during the year was in one of those two, closely-related areas. The NGO spends less on other objectives, such as food safety and nuclear weapons proliferation. They are primarily an anti-energy NGO.[326]

This is one of the objectives of the "climate and clean energy program," according to what the UCS told the IRS: "UCS works to make sure the major fossil fuel companies face legal, financial, reputational, and **political consequences** for misleading the public about climate science and solutions." [emphasis added][327]

Again, the UCS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt *charity* and isn't legally permitted to engage in a lot of political behavior. Threatening to inflict "political consequences" against a critical American industry doesn't come off as very charitable.

In addition to their war against hydrocarbons, the UCS has a cleverly nuanced animosity towards nuclear power, which emits no emissions other than water vapor (steam).

For most of its history there was no question that the UCS was opposed to nuclear power. For example, in February 1987 the *New York Times* reported the UCS was petitioning the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to close down eight nuclear reactors in five states.[328]



Homepage masthead image for the Union of Concerned Scientists website, as it appeared in February 2026.
Photo Credit: Union of Concerned Scientists

And in 1997 researchers from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst released a study examining the economic consequences of shutting down nuclear power stations by profiling the 1992 shutdown of the Yankee Rowe nuclear facility in Massachusetts. "Sophisticated protests by the Union of Concerned Scientists, a powerful advocacy group, against the continued use of the plant were frequent," wrote the authors. The report did not mention involvement from the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Natural Resources Defense Council, nor the League of Conservation Voters. The only one of today's biggest anti-energy NGOs credited with the successful euthanasia of Yankee Rowe was the UCS.[329]

France spent the 1970s and 1980s building a nuclear power industry that now provides 70 percent of their electricity and turned the French into Europe's largest electricity exporter. Americans could have done this as well, but growth of American nuclear power was stunted during this period, in no small measure because of the work of anti-nuclear NGOs. The Union of Concerned Scientists deserves a lot of the blame for today's lack of emissions-free nuclear power in America.[330]

That destructive advocacy against America's largest source of emissions-free energy is hard to find on the UCS website today. Their page explaining nuclear power now concedes that "the low-carbon electricity provided by existing nuclear power plants is increasingly valuable in the fight against climate change," but goes on to raise the predictable and dubious/hypocritical claims about safety, cost, and waste disposal. The headline of the page says it all: "Nuclear Power: Low-carbon electricity, with serious economic and safety issues."[331]

Now the UCS wants us to remember that they have always been just a "nuclear safety watchdog" rather than a major impediment to the technology. But their policy is to be pro-nuclear in principle (saying they support it if it can be made perfect) yet opposed in practice (because nothing is perfect). It's a distinction without a difference.[332]

A more reliable description of the UCS nuclear energy agenda was revealed in a 2020 comment the group sent to a state public utility commission, purportedly seeking to help Xcel Energy plan its investments in electricity generation:[333]

> *We can't avoid the dangerous and unjust impacts of the climate crisis if we swap coal for another polluting fossil fuel, and* ***every dollar Xcel spends on nuclear is one less spent on clean energy****. [emphasis added]*[334]

Photo Credit: Author's creation

Translation: reliable and carbon-free nuclear energy is bad because it takes money that should be spent on *unreliable* wind turbines and solar panels.

The evidence all points in the same direction, whether it's images of mountaintop wind turbines on the UCS home page, the decades of advocacy against reliable and clean nuclear power, or obscure comments made to public utility commissions. The Union of Concerned Scientists is very concerned with promoting the weather dependent power industry, but much less concerned with protecting the planet and empowering the people who live on it.

11 SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER (SELC)

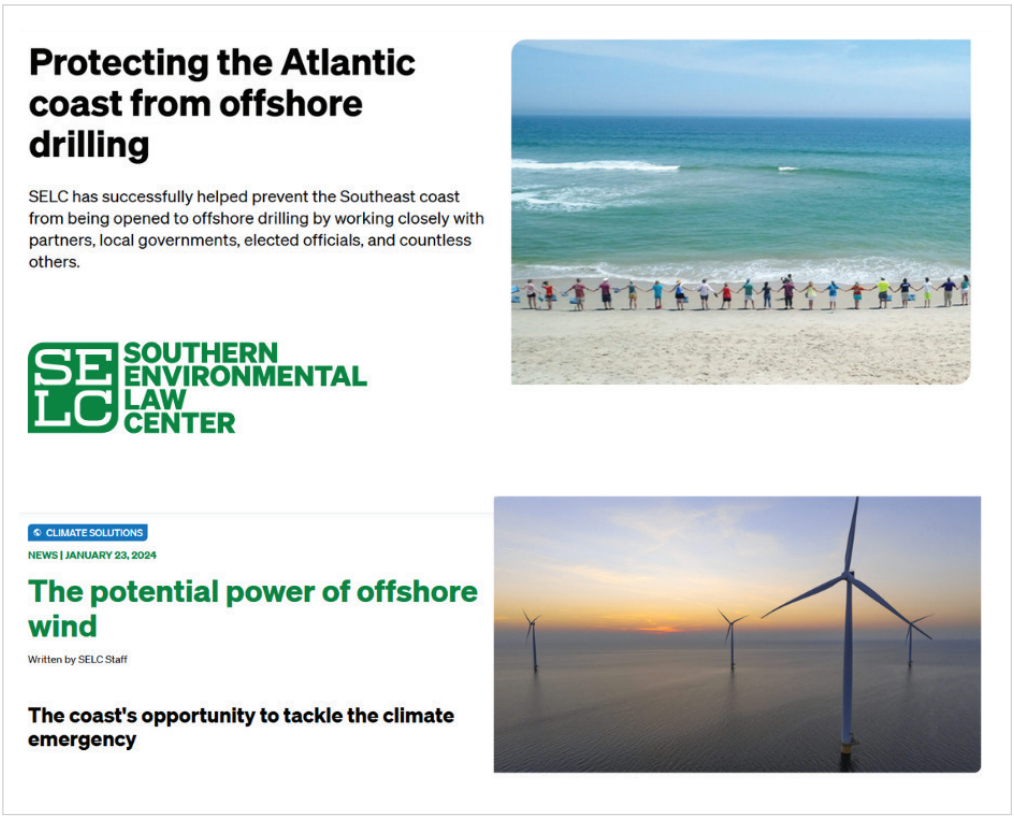
In any ranking of all the American presidents, Dwight Eisenhower reliably finishes between fifth and tenth. Holding onto a top ten spot is truly a monumental accomplishment: Mt. Rushmore and most of the marble memorials adorning the national capital were already standing before "Ike" took office. And eleven other guys have held the job since he left. The enduring appreciation of Eisenhower is due in no small measure to his big ideas, such as the creation of the interstate highway system.[335]

While the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) was not created to undo Eisenhower's legacy, that now seems to be the anti-energy NGO's mission.

"Stopping destructive highways," is one of the program titles on the SELC website, but a general opposition to roads and cars permeates many other pages. The SELC warns that "the region's reliance on cars and highways is not sustainable" and complains that "there continues to be a push for highway expansions and building large, destructive new highways as the region remains bound to passenger vehicles producing climate changing emissions . . ."[336]

Another SELC page promoting ideas for "transforming transportation" includes supposedly "abundant solutions available to overhaul the outdated, auto-centered transportation approach prevalent in much of the South." These include "halting destructive highway projects that can encourage and lock in decades of increased driving . . ."[337]

That "auto-centered transportation approach" was a major reason the American economy became history's greatest industrial dynamo. That economic objective was part of Eisenhower's thinking when he promoted the interstate highway system.



The SELC promotes parking giant wind turbines in the oceans but "Protecting the Atlantic coast from offshore drilling."
Photo Credit: Screen captures from SELC website

Relatedly, the SELC repeatedly charges that highways have harmed nonwhite, low-income communities. Using their own buzzwords, they claim that "destructive highways" have inflicted "environmental injustice" on "vulnerable communities" who face "asthma, respiratory illness, cancer, and even premature death."[338,339]

Like many claims from anti-energy NGOs, this one is literally true, yet incomplete to the point of being false. All things being equal, tailpipe emissions are obviously not ideal for anyone. But risk is relative, not absolute. Life is full of tradeoffs. It is difficult to locate the SELC's concern for the health of incomprehensibly wealthy people who expose themselves to "premature death." And yet many of the very richest Americans live in multi-million-dollar high-rise condos located on noisy, traffic-choked downtown streets in places such as Manhattan and Chicago.

Is the SELC using poor folk as public relations props for an anti-energy agenda?

Consider the SELC's two major solutions to the alleged highway threat: shipping more taxpayer loot to public transit and electric vehicles (EVs).[340]

Just 3 percent of Americans commute via public buses and trains. A relatively small number of them are in the wealthy and upper middle classes that can afford to live and work in the expensive real estate at the ends of commuter rail and subway stops. But a lot of public transit users are those who don't live on that highbrow real estate, can't afford cars, and use city buses because they must. Among the subsidies already propping up public transit is a 20 percent rake-off from the federal government's Highway Trust Fund, which collects fuel taxes and automotive user fees from the 97 percent of us who don't use public transit.[341]

How the Highway Trust Fund will fund more mass transit if fewer auto owners are paying into it and there are fewer highways is one of many ironic mysteries in the SELC's policy toolbox.

The EVs are another. The SELC's policy is to subsidize EVs to replace gasoline-powered cars while simultaneously advocating for fewer highways for the EVs to drive on. Perhaps they think the EVs will fly above the nonexistent highways?

It is also possible that they don't expect every traditional car buyer to switch to an EV. The subsidies the SELC promotes have been welfare for well-off white people. "Some 57% of EV owners earn more than $100,000 annually, 75% are male, and 87% are

white," energy journalist Robert Bryce told the U.S. Senate during a January 2024 hearing.[342]

So, the SELC's future of transportation makes some logical sense after all. We won't need as many highways if even middle-income Americans are priced out of what's left of the market for private auto ownership and have to ride the bus.

The SELC is a 501(c)(3) public interest law firm that accomplishes its policy objectives through litigation. The anti-energy NGO reported $58.2 million total revenue to the IRS for the year ending March 2025, and nearly $261 million in net assets.[343]

One of the SELC's most generous and influential donors over the last two decades has been an enigmatic North Carolina billionaire named Fred Stanback. His background explains a lot about the SELC's agenda. A 2018 *Knoxville News* profile of Stanback reported he was a "known proponent of anti-humanist environmentalism … the belief that protecting the environment hinges on population control." Consistent with this, Stanback and his family have sent hundreds of millions of dollars to population control advocacy groups, anti-immigration groups, abortion advocacy NGOs and a wide variety of anti-energy NGOs.[344]

A September 2020 *Washington Free Beacon* report revealed a tight relationship between the humanity-hating Stanback and the SELC:[345]

> *That fight is funded in large part by Stanback's wealth, and the SELC has rarely tried to obscure the relationship. In 2008, it referred to Stanback and his wife as "two of SELC's most loyal friends" and mentioned both as members of SELC's President's Council, a position they were still in as of April 2019. That year, Stanback told the SELC newsletter that he had "counseled" retiring SELC founder Rick Middleton "many times over the years," adding "SELC is the best environmental organization that I know of."*[346]

Stanback has been a true believer in all of the alarmist myths and misconceptions described in the first part of this report, and the SELC eagerly parrots these as well. The SELC page that describes their "Climate Change" position begins with this statement:[347]

> *Climate change is the defining environmental challenge of our time—one we cannot solve in our country without solving it in the South. Our region plays an outsized role in contributing to climate change and our communities are already experiencing more intense flooding and storm events, sea level rise, extreme heat, and vanishing mountain forests and wildlife. While the stakes for our environmental future have never been higher, the opportunities have never been greater—and at SELC, we know the path forward to implement solutions to tackle this crisis.*[348]

What solutions? The next words on the page are "The clean energy revolution," and the revolution will mean a lot of the South covered in wind turbines and solar panels.[349]

Five of the six states where the SELC operates have frontage on either the Atlantic or Gulf coasts: Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. As such, the SELC is very supportive of anchoring weather restricted, unreliable offshore wind turbine towers in these waters, despite the extensive noise and disruptions of installing them and their heavy power cables. But like most anti-energy NGOs, the notion of putting a few oil and gas platforms in those same waters meets with strident opposition. "SELC has successfully helped prevent the Southeast coast from being opened to offshore drilling," they claim.[350]

On the other hand, a January 2024 SELC news release boasted that "approved and prospective offshore wind projects have the potential to deliver up to 7,400 megawatts of clean energy to the South, enough to power over 2 million homes."[351]

The fine print is important: all those potential offshore wind turbines will have only a "potential to deliver" the 7,400 megawatts (MW). For comparison, Georgia's Vogtle nuclear power station has a rated capacity of less than 4,700 MW, but this too is enough to power 2 million homes. The difference is the capacity factor, or the percentage of time an energy system can be expected to deliver at maximum power. According to the Department of Energy, the mere average capacity factor of an American nuclear station is 92 percent—they're almost always on and cranking at full power—while wind turbines obviously work only when the wind cooperates.[352]

And, as covered in the previous section of this report, a nuclear power station can do its job from just a tiny, single digit percentage fraction of what is needed for wind turbines.[353]

But in addition to blocking highway construction and filling the ocean with industrial wind turbines, the anti-energy SELC has also been a persistent enemy of America's largest source of emissions-free, clean electricity. Just since 2022 the SELC has filed legal actions against or otherwise opposed new nuclear power deployments in North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia.[354]

Unlike the immensely successful federal highway program, one of President Eisenhower's other big ideas was his "Atoms for Peace" proposal. Ideally, it would have led to far more American nuclear power deployments than we already have, and thus far more emissions-free electricity flowing, which is what groups such as the SELC claim they desire today. But opposition to nuclear power from the anti-energy groups is a major reason we don't have those reactors.[355]

Whatever their mission is in theory, in practice the energy-opposing SELC has also become America's anti-*Eisenhower* NGO.

12 GRID ALTERNATIVES

GRID Alternatives claims to be "the nation's largest nonprofit installer of clean energy technologies." What this means in practice can be understood from a pair of grants totaling $312.3 million approved for GRID in May of 2024 by the Biden administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The federal funding was meant to be used to provide solar panels for Americans living in LIDACs—bureaucratic babble speak that means "low-income and disadvantaged communities." In total, at least $2.3 billion was approved for LIDAC solar panel grants by the EPA in 2024, and—true to their boast—GRID Alternatives was approved for the biggest chunk of this funding.[356,357,358]

Alternative uses of the taxpayer's wealth are a good way to assess program worthiness. Rather than spend $2.3 billion giving solar panels to low-income communities, the LIDAC money could have been used to purchase a $230,000 home for 10,000 of America's most impoverished families.

But the LIDAC solar grants were funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, which was mostly repealed by the Trump administration and the Republican Congress. As of March 2026, USASpending.gov shows GRID Alternatives receiving just $4.5 million of the approved $312.3 million in LIDAC loot.[359]

Still, USASpending shows that even the $4.5 million is almost $2 million more than the combined total of all federal grants sent to GRID Alternatives from all federal departments between 2008 and 2023. One example of a prior grant was $25,000 approved in 2021 by the Denali Commission so GRID Alternatives could work on "solar projects" for two remote villages in . . . Alaska. Perhaps not surprisingly, as of this writing USASpending.gov shows that "obligated amount" was never turned into an "outlayed amount."[360,361]

Two years earlier in January 2019 GRID co-signed a group letter to the U.S. House of Representatives endorsing the Green New Deal, an eco-socialist plot

for the American economy so radical that then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) derided it as "the green dream, or whatever they call it, nobody knows what it is." In addition to the predictable denunciations of hydrocarbon fuels, the Green New Deal petition also denounced nuclear power as "dirty energy."[362]

A 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit, GRID Alternatives reported total revenue of $46.9 million for 2024, and net assets of $34.9 million.[363]

13 CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit that claims its public pressure campaigns and lawsuits have "secured protections for more than 740 species and more than half a billion acres of wildlife habitat." Their motto is "Saving life on Earth."[364]

Almost the only species CBD hasn't tried to protect is the one that they belong to. None of the large American anti-energy NGOs are as obsessed with population control as the Center for Biological Diversity.

One CBD web page posts this question: "Why do we need to talk about population and sustainability?" Their answer implies that people are a form of pollution:[365]

> *There are more than 8 billion people on the planet, and we're adding 227,000 more every day. We've already witnessed the devastating effects of runaway human population growth on biodiversity: Species abundant in North America just two centuries ago — from the woodland bison of West Virginia and Arizona's Merriam's elk to the Rocky Mountain grasshopper, passenger pigeon and Puerto Rico's Culebra parrot — have been wiped out by growing human numbers.*
>
> *Most biologists agree that we're in the midst of the Earth's sixth mass extinction event; species are disappearing at the fastest rate since dinosaurs roamed the planet. This time, though, it isn't because of geologic or cosmic forces — it's because of our unsustainable human population growth and overconsumption. It's clear that these issues need to be addressed before it's too late.*[366]

This statement is from the "About" page for CBD's "Endangered Species Condoms" project. The Center for Biological Diversity claims the project has distributed "more than 1 million" of the birth control devices to "all 50 U.S. states" and produced an "online resource library with more than 100 published papers on the connection between population pressure and threats to wildlife. . ."[367]

The condom project is either creepy or comical, depending upon a reader's sense of humor and decorum. Examples of the package messages include "Hump smarter. . . save the snail darter" and "Safe intercourse saves the dwarf seahorse."[368]

Weirder still was a March 2019 newsletter in which CBD's population and sustainability director encouraged male sports fans to gather with friends for group vasectomies during the March Madness college basketball tournament. She wrote:[369]

> *March Madness is upon us. And as all the number one seeds prepare for the tournament, it's time to think about whether you want your own seeds to advance. Put less punnily, it's time for all the male sports fans out there who don't want (more) children to think about scheduling a vasectomy.*[370]

Unsurprisingly, the condom project also includes pages promoting abortion access.[371]

CBD's family planning messaging doesn't explicitly denounce the decision to have children, but it's clear they are implicitly trying to push young Americans in that direction. Examples include:

Endangered species condoms: one of many population control projects from the Center for Biological Diversity.
Photo Credit: Center for Biological Diversity

- *Each additional child increases your carbon legacy by 20 times what you could save over a lifetime of recycling, switching to low-voltage light bulbs and driving a hybrid car — combined.*[372]
- *When people have the tools, education and ability to choose if and when to have children, they tend to choose smaller families, which is healthier for mothers and children as well as the planet.*[373]
- *Human population growth — along with our reckless overconsumption — is driving the sixth mass extinction crisis. But we can still save wildlife, by choosing to stop hogging the planet.*[374]

In addition to reducing the human population, CBD is also obsessed with cutting down on cows. CBD's "Grazing Facts" project is in practice promoting a public policy war against American cattle ranchers. CBD argues for a "substantial reduction in beef and dairy consumption and production," and a switchover to "plant-based alternatives."[375]

A public relations war against childbirth and cheeseburgers is wildly outside of the mainstream of American culture. But the Center for Biological Diversity has used this agenda to become one of the largest players within the mainstream of the American "environmental" (i.e.: anti-energy) movement. CBD reported $45.7 million in total revenue in 2024, the richest year on record, $12 million more than they reported in 2013, and more than double their total fundraising from just five year earlier.[376]

In most other ways, the Center for Biological Diversity isn't much different from the other anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report. They have opposed the continued use of all hydrocarbon fuels and nuclear power and to this end have also endorsed the neo-socialist Green New Deal.[377]

But as covered in the first section, hydrocarbon fuels and nuclear power both built and sustain our modern civilization, and opposing the use of them is implicitly opposition to human flourishing. To be anti-energy is to be anti-human.

Most of the largest American anti-energy NGOs are obviously not honest about this connection. They try instead to promote the false idea that unreliable, weather dependent power systems such as wind and solar can replace hydrocarbons and nuclear power,

and that this substitution will not meaningfully damage our way of life. Whatever else may be said of CBD's odd, anti-human and anti-energy agenda, they're at least more honest than their peers about the inseparable correlation between the two.

14 CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT (CRP)

According to what the NGO claimed in its most recent IRS filing, the "single purpose" of the Climate Reality Project (CRP) is to "ignite public action to solve the climate crisis." Reporting $23.8 million total revenue for 2024, CRP is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit and a training ground for the world's anti-energy activists.[378]

Appropriately, CRP was founded by America's most decorated anti-energy activist, former American Vice President Al Gore. Winner of both a Nobel Prize and an Academy Award for more than three decades of climate alarmism, Gore remains the chairman of—and an active presence in—CRP.[379]

For example, Gore will be one of the featured "world-class experts" to speak at the May 2026 edition of CRP's "flagship training" program in Nashville, Tennessee. This will be the 20th anniversary of the NGO's training sessions. Other headliners include notorious climate alarmists such as Naomi Oreskes and "hockey stick" graph creator Michael E. Mann. Attendance is free for aspiring anti-energy activists whose applications are approved.[380]

As with all the NGO's profiled in the anti-energy report, a major CRP objective is to replace the world's reliable and affordable energy with unreliable, weather dependent wind turbines and solar panels. For example, a September 2025 CRP report titled "Why Clean Energy is Cheap Energy" uses the widely debunked "levelized cost of electricity" (LCOE) metric (described in the previous section) to claim that wind and solar electricity are each less expensive than all other energy options.[381]

This misplaced affection for weather dependent power is a global obsession for the Climate Reality

Climate Reality Project founder and chairman (and former U.S. Vice President) Al Gore. Photo Credit: Climate Reality Project

Project. The nonprofit's website claims more than 50 employees, plus "branch managers" for Europe, Africa, Latin America, Canada, Japan, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil and "Australia and Pacific."[382]

InfluenceWatch provides this information on the behavior of the Africa branch:[383]

> *In a November 2016 position paper, the African branch of the Climate Reality Project opposed the construction of nuclear power plants in Africa. In November 2020 the International Energy Agency reported that 590 million people in Africa had no access to reliable electricity, making the continent home to three quarters of the world total of 800 million people still living in energy poverty.*
>
> *The African Climate Reality Project report began by stating that 17 African nations were "seriously considering, conducting pre-feasibility studies or rolling out national nuclear programmes." It concluded that nuclear power was*

"unsafe, bad for the environment and for people and is very costly." Instead of nuclear, the report recommended that African nations invest in "sun, water and wind" energy systems.

Among the African CRP's criticisms was an assertion that "Nuclear energy does not create more jobs." A chart produced in the report showed 0.5 "total jobs" for each megawatt of electricity produced at a nuclear power plant. This compared to 1.7 jobs needed per megawatt for electricity from coal, 4.8 jobs per megawatt from wind energy, and 35.4 jobs per megawatt from solar power.

Economic theory defines productivity as the amount of an input (such as labor) needed to produce an output (such as a megawatt of electricity). Productivity growth (i.e.: increased efficiency) occurs when less input (e.g.: fewer workers) are needed to produce the same output. Productivity growth is an important prerequisite for wage growth.[384]

African Climate Reality Project

Nuclear energy:
Are Africans being taken for a ride?

7. Nuclear energy does not create more jobs

Data gathered by Earthlife Africa shows that nuclear energy creates the least jobs per megawatt when compared to all other forms of electricity generation. In Africa, where we have high unemployment statistics and a young population that will need jobs, our governments should take job creation and employment into consideration when making decisions regarding electricity generation.

Jobs directly created from generating electricity	
Energy technology	Total jobs per megawatt (MW)
Nuclear	0.5
Biomass	1.0
Gas	1.2
Coal	1.7
Wind	4.8
Landfills	6.0
Solar panels	35.4

In a report that has since been removed from the web page, the African branch of the Climate Reality Project accidentally demonstrated that nuclear power is more efficient than wind and solar energy. Photo Credit: Screenshots from Wayback Machine image of a report produced by the Africa Climate Reality Project.

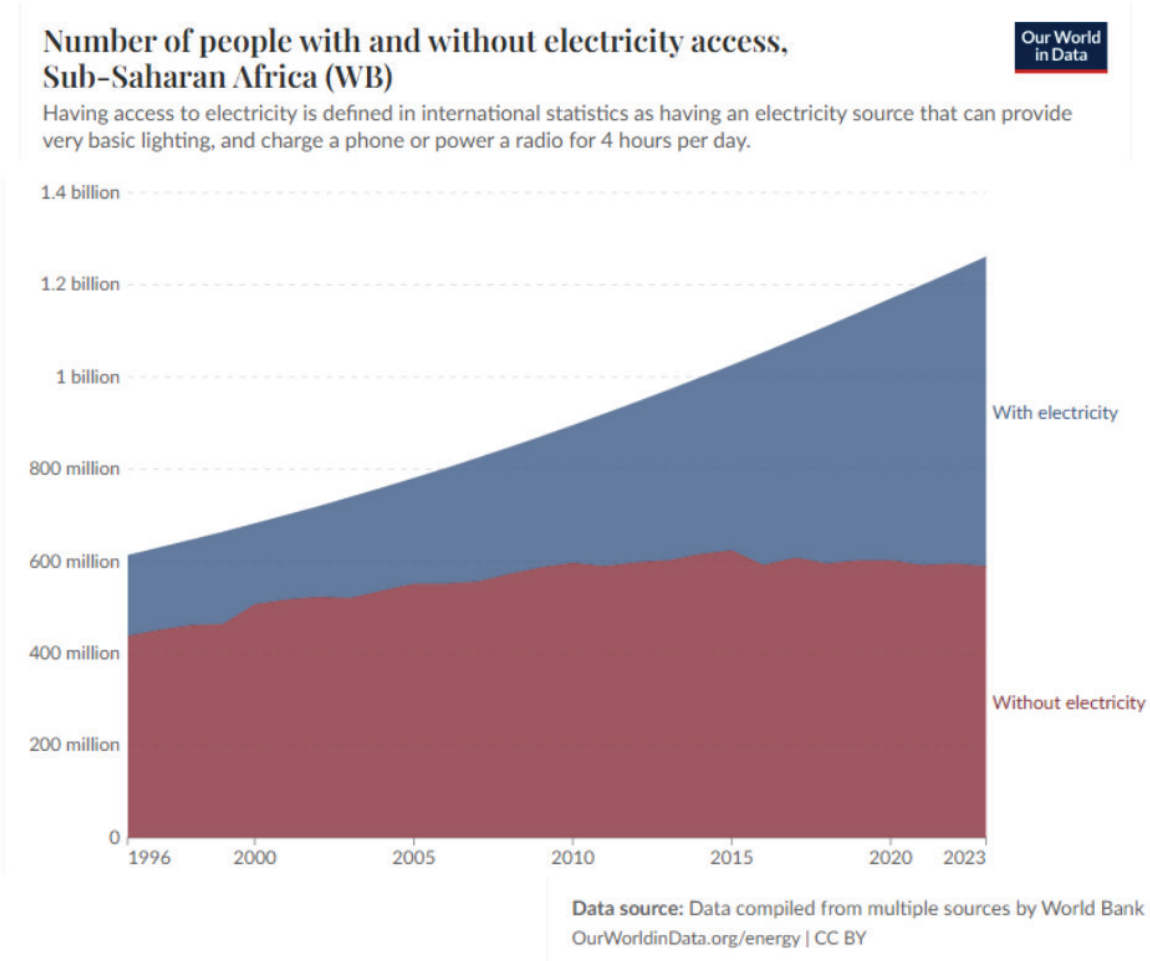
Output per worker (or hours worked) is the most commonly used metric for productivity. But capital and land can be used as well. As explained in the prior section, nuclear and hydrocarbon fuels also use far less land to produce energy than wind and solar.

So the math provided by the Climate Reality Project paper unintentionally demonstrated that nuclear power, which CRP Africa said needs just a half-time employee to produce a megawatt, is *nearly 69 times more efficient per worker than solar energy*, which requires 35.4 people to accomplish the same task. The report undercut CRP's claim that "clean energy is cheap energy." And, as noted above, the report also implicitly proved that even coal-fired power is many times more efficient per worker than both wind and solar electricity production.

In addition to inflicting economic illiteracy on Africa, imposing inefficient electricity on a continent where hundreds of millions live without basic energy is also a textbook example of climate colonialism. It's probably not surprising that the Africa nuclear report has since been removed from the African Climate Reality Project website. It can still be found on the Wayback Machine.[385]

15 350.org

350.org is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit that was founded in 2008 by anti-energy extremist Bill



"Afrika" doesn't need a "shift away from fossil fuels" because they have had too little access to modern hydrocarbons in the first place.

McKibben, then a professor at Middlebury College in Vermont. Today, the NGO claims to be "building a global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis." True to its word, 350.org's tax return for the year ending September 2023 reports nearly $7.9 million of $22.8 million in total expenses spent overseas, and another $517,000 distributed to 350.org affiliates in ten states. The 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit reported $19.5 million total revenue for that year, and net assets of $9.7 million.[386]

A November 2025 report in *Politico* credited 350.org with "spearheading" the fight against the Keystone XL pipeline and generating the "opposition that ultimately led then-President Barack Obama to deny the permits for the pipeline designed to bring heavy oil from Canada to Texas."[387]

An equal opportunity enemy of all hydrocarbons and nuclear power, 350.org was a cosigner on a joint letter to the U.S. Congress in May 2021 that demanded the enactment of a "federal renewable electricity standard." The signatories stipulated that only "technologies like solar and wind" should be included, and that the Congress should reject "false solutions," such as natural gas and nuclear, "which are significant sources of pollution and carry a host of health and safety risks."[388]

As of March 2025, the homepage of the 350.org website featured six campaigns "across the globe to end fossil fuels and power up just and accessible renewables." None of the six appear to be focused on the United States, though a "No Blood for Oil" addendum denounced the Trump administration's

foreign policy objectives in "Venezuela and the Middle East."[389]

"REPower Afrika" is the first of the six listed campaigns. The page for this project claims that "17 out of 20 countries most threatened by the climate crisis are in Africa" and that the REPower Afrika effort is "a campaign to speed up the shift away from fossil fuels to distributed, community-owned renewable energy."[390]

"Afrika" doesn't need a "shift away from fossil fuels" because they have had too little access to modern hydrocarbons in the first place.

This would be hilariously silly if it were not so tragically awful. According to Our World in Data, nearly half of sub-Saharan Africans—588 million souls as of 2023—live without enough electricity to power basic lighting, a radio, or charge a cell phone for more than four hours per day. "Afrika" doesn't need a "shift away from fossil fuels" because they have had too little access to modern hydrocarbons in the first place. The idea of setting them up with unreliable, weather restricted wind turbines and solar panels to replace their already unreliable electricity is the epitome of climate colonialism.[391]

While it's tempting to accuse 350.org of trying to keep Africans in energy poverty, they have recently landed in the real thing back here in America. At the end of 2025 the NGO announced a 25 percent drop in income over the previous year, a temporary suspension of programming, and a 30 percent reduction in global staffing that would include retaining only three of 350.org's domestic employees.[392]

The Anti-Energy Donors

The purpose of the *Enemies of Energy* report is to profile the largest and most influential nonprofits working against American energy abundance and their major *known* donors. All of the essays from this report should be used as snapshots of current top players on the anti-energy team, not as a comprehensive group photo of the whole roster.

The list of fifteen donors profiled in this section includes only the major known donors to the fifteen enemies of energy profiled in the prior section. As noted in that previous section, there are at least two hundred anti-energy nonprofits that have annual revenues exceeding $500,000. A comparable, full listing of anti-energy donors that have demonstrated at least that level of annual giving potential would run well into the thousands.

By practical necessity, this report cannot be comprehensive. The anti-energy movement is just too large.

For some of these profiles, such as the pair of foundations funded by Sergey Brin, public reports to the IRS have made tracking the grants and source of the money very straightforward. But in other cases, such as Stanback, Taylor, and Bezos, the funding arrangements they use make it more challenging to conclusively identify some pieces of the funding puzzles.

Another complication is the pass-through donors on this list: the Climate Imperative Foundation, the Climateworks Foundation, the U.S. Energy Foundation, and the Windward Fund. The pass-through donors accept funds from like-minded individual and foundation donors and then disburse the money received out as grants to the anti-energy activists. The pass-through donors are not required to disclose the ultimate funders of the grants they send out (though they and the donor sometimes do so anyway.)

While the funding flows described below are sometimes complex, and the purpose of the grants (impeding American energy abundance) is unpleasant, none of this opaque financial behavior is known to be unlawful—and it should not be. *The Federalist Papers*, political essays used by the American patriot founders to argue for ratification of our Constitution, were initially written anonymously. Similarly, in 1958, as the NAACP was fighting against often violent discrimination in the Jim Crow-era, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the NAACP was not required to disclose the names of its donors. Critics of donor privacy often use the pejorative "dark money," but anonymous speech has been and remains an important First Amendment protection for Americans of all ideological persuasions.

A related point is that there are certainly donors and corporations that have given lots of money to these anti-energy groups in total anonymity. They just write checks directly and don't fund through tax-exempt private foundations that must file reports to the IRS. Some of these donors may have given so much that they belong on the list below. They have been omitted only because there is no way to accurately tabulate their giving.

Finally, most of the grant information in these profiles is based on the world as it was more than a year ago and there is no way around this. The IRS requires tax-exempt donor foundations to file annual reports, but public disclosure of those reports does not occur until more than a year afterwards. So, by necessity, most of the grants reported below are from 2024.

Enigmatic billionaire Fred Taylor, described by Inside Philanthropy as the cofounder of a "secretive hedge fund," is the likely donor behind the Sequoia Climate Foundation.
Photo Credit: Sequoia Climate Foundation and Canva images

1 FRED TAYLOR SEQUOIA CLIMATE FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

A February 2023 headline in *Inside Philanthropy* proclaimed the arrival of a "New Giant in Climate Change Philanthropy." The first IRS filing from the Sequoia Climate Foundation (covering the year through November 2021) had just become publicly available, and in it Sequoia reported $126.3 million in grantmaking. The "new giant" grew swiftly, reporting larger and larger totals for each of the next three years: $173.7 million for 2022, $257.4 million for 2023, and $305.4 million for 2024.[393,394]

The cumulative total for those first four years is $862.8 million. And those big annual increases make it easy to assume that when Sequoia's fifth IRS filing becomes publicly available it will show that the "new giant" has eclipsed $1 billion in total "climate change" grantmaking.[395]

Where is the money coming from?

Inside Philanthropy explained:

> *While Sequoia doesn't share who its donor or donors are, multiple partners and grantees said the foundation is an offshoot of Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, a human rights and social justice backer launched by three secretive hedge fund founders. A Sequoia representative confirmed that it "spun out" from Wellspring, originally using its back office.*
>
> *That trio of donors (one of whom has since passed away) includes C. Frederick Taylor, who was listed as Sequoia's board chair in 2021. In 2014, Bloomberg revealed Taylor as one of the donors behind the hundreds of millions of dollars that flow through the entities now known as Wellspring. He is presumably Sequoia's benefactor, or one of them, but it's not certain; the foundation's funding to date has flown through an anonymous LLC, with an apparent pay-as-you-go approach.*[396]

The original name of the Wellspring Philanthropic Foundation was the Matan B' Seter Foundation. In the Jewish tradition, the latter phrase means to give anonymously, and Wellspring's presumed benefactors were initially exceptional at hiding their involvement. By the time a *Bloomberg Businessweek* reporter unraveled the mystery in May 2014, the foundation that became Wellspring had already topped $16.9 billion in net assets and its total cumulative grantmaking had already exceeded $13 billion.[397,398,399]

Since the division, the Sequoia Climate Foundation (presumably funded by Taylor) has focused a lot of its grantmaking on anti-energy groups outside of the United States. A September 2025 report from the Capital Research Center regarding Taylor explained:[400]

> *Sequoia granted at least $252 million to CO2-phobic causes just for the year ending December 2023. At least $143 million of this total, including the $9 million for Sunrise Australia, was shipped overseas.*[401]

This international focus was still prevalent in Sequoia's most recent publicly available IRS filing, covering the year through November 2024. As one of many examples, that *annual* filing shows six total grants totaling $29.3 million for the Netherlands-based European Climate Foundation. Perhaps not coincidentally, the president of the American-based Sequoia Climate Foundation is listed as one of fifteen

members of the *European* Climate Foundation's governing board.[402,403]

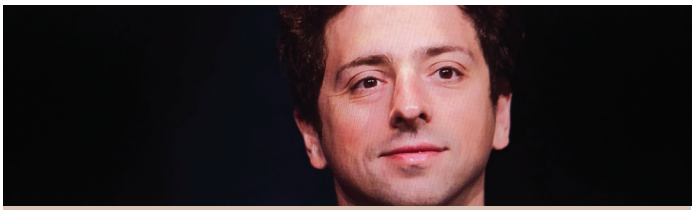
Through the year ending November 2024, according to the IRS filing, Sequoia sent almost $33 million in cumulative grants to six of the fifteen anti-energy NGO's profiled in this report:[404]

- World Resources Institute: $10.9 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $8.1 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $6.3 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $4.1 million
- League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $3 million
- Sierra Club Foundation: $500,000

That IRS filing also shows grants totaling $24.2 million from Sequoia to three of the pass-through donors profiled on this list: [405]

- U.S. Energy Foundation: $11.6 million
- Climateworks Foundation: $10.8 million
- Windward Fund (Arabella Advisors / Sunflower Services): $1.8 million

The combined total for the ten annual grants listed above was $57.2 million.[406]



Sergey Brin
Photo Credit: Shutterstock contributor FotoField

2 SERGEY BRIN

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

Google/Alphabet co-founder Sergey Brin ranked sixth on the most recent Forbes magazine ranking of richest Americans, with an estimated $166 billion net worth. But until recently, Brin wasn't counted among the world's biggest anti-energy donors.[407]

A February 2025 report in *Inside Philanthropy* announced a change in his priorities:[408]

> *As a donor, Sergey Brin is best known for writing multimillion-dollar checks for Parkinson's disease research. Yet in the past few years, the Google cofounder has quietly become one of the nation's top climate and environmental funders — and in 2024, his footprint got even bigger.*
>
> *The 51-year-old's Sergey Brin Family Foundation made nearly $243 million in climate-related awards in 2024, while his billion-dollar nonprofit advocacy group Catalyst4 Inc. granted almost $22 million on climate, according to data provided to IP by the two groups.*[409]

The most recent publicly available IRS filings from Catalyst4 and the Brin Family Foundation cover grantmaking in 2024. They show that nearly $110.4 million in combined grants were sent during the year to five of the fifteen anti-energy NGOs profiled in the previous section of this report, and to three of the four anti-energy pass-through donors profiled in this section of the report.[410]

More than $15.6 million combined from the Brin Foundation and Catalyst4 was sent to these anti-energy NGOs in 2024:[411]

- Earthjustice: $4 million
- League of Conservation Voters: $3.5 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $2.5 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $2.2 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $1.9 million
- League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $1.5 million

In addition, $94.7 million was sent by the Brin Foundation to these major anti-energy pass-through donors in 2024:[412]

- Climate Imperative Foundation: $49 million
- U.S. Energy Foundation: $31.5 million
- Climateworks Foundation: $14.2 million

According to that February 2025 *Inside Philanthropy* report, Brin's new giving agenda included $2.5 million for the Earthjustice "Right to Zero transportation program." The *IP* reporter claimed Brin was not "looking for attention" and the report didn't investigate why the then-51-year-old billionaire might suddenly become concerned about the energy use of average Americans.[413]

The reporter should have looked a little bit closer.

Nine months later in November 2025, *Luxury Launches*, a news site that tracks the toy purchases of the super-rich, ran this long but revealing headline:[414]

> *Docked in Spain, Google co-founder Sergey Brin's $450 million megayacht is so big that just to keep its air-conditioning, spa, and pools running, it quietly devours enough electricity every day to light up 580 average American homes, even when the billionaire is not on board.*[415]

A report in *SuperYacht Fan* pegged the length of the vessel, named Dragonfly, at 142 meters, or 466 feet. That is 100 feet longer than a football field, including end zones. The boat is prominent enough to have its own profile page on Wikipedia.[416]

Michael Bloomberg
Photo Credit: Shutterstock contributor Lev Radin

3 MICHAEL BLOOMBERG

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

A September 2023 *New York Times* report offered this summation of local billionaire Michael Bloomberg:[417]

> *Michael Bloomberg is many things: former New York City mayor, founder of a financial data company, failed presidential candidate and the 11th richest man in the world.*
>
> *Since leaving public office 10 years ago, Mr. Bloomberg, 81, has also emerged as perhaps the world's single largest funder of climate activism, making himself an expensive thorn in the side of the fossil fuel industry. The former mayor says that so far he has spent $500 million in an effort to shut down coal and gas plants. This month he said he planned to spend another $500 million on the effort.*[418]

As of March 2026, *Forbes* estimated Bloomberg's net worth at $109.4 billion—now good for 13th on the *Forbes* 400 list of richest Americans and 18th on the *Forbes* ranking of world billionaires.[419]

Bloomberg's major giving platform has been Bloomberg Philanthropies (previously the Bloomberg Family Foundation). The grants reported by his foundation demonstrate that Bloomberg has been living up to his pledge to send a billion bucks to the nonprofits seeking to shut down America's major sources of energy.

The most recent publicly available IRS filing from Bloomberg Philanthropies covers grants paid during 2024. The report shows at least $24.2 million in cumulative grants to five of the fifteen anti-energy NGOs profiled earlier in this report:[420]

- Earthjustice: $8.5 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $6 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $4.7 million

- World Resources Institute: $4.3 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $767,000

The IRS filing also shows cumulative grants of $9 million sent during 2024 from Bloomberg Philanthropies to three of the pass-through donors to anti-energy NGOs profiled in this section.[421]

- U.S. Energy Foundation: $8 million
- Windward Fund: $1 million.

The total grants for 2024 reported by Bloomberg to either the anti-energy NGOs profiled earlier in this report, or the other anti-energy donors profiled later on this list exceeded $33.2 million.[422]

Future filings may reveal even larger commitments to the anti-energy NGOs from Bloomberg. The 2024 IRS filing includes a section for grants that have been "approved for future payment," and one of the line items is a $20.4 million grant approved for the Environmental Defense Fund.[423]

Jeff Bezos founded Amazon and owns the Washington Post.
Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons, Author SECWAR

4 JEFF BEZOS

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

Forbes magazine claims its iconic "Forbes 400" list is the "definitive ranking of America's richest people." Amazon founder Jeff Bezos holds fourth place in the most recent ranking. He is definitely loaded, with an estimated $241 billion net worth that rivals the annual GDP of energy-rich Qatar.[424]

Back in 2020 Bezos threatened to become one of America's biggest anti-energy donors, pledging to spend $10 billion through 2030 funding what *Forbes* described as "climate causes." But it is a challenge to estimate where Bezos belongs on this list of donors to anti-energy NGOs—and indeed, whether he still belongs on it at all.[425]

A big part of the problem has been transparency. Unlike every other donor on this list, his Bezos Earth Fund was not initially structured as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, but instead a limited liability company. An LLC is not required to publicly disclose its grants in annual IRS reports. A January 2025 *Bloomberg* report explained the restrictions (and advantages) Bezos has avoided with the LLC structure:[426]

> *In exchange for the tax benefits, 501(c)(3) entities are annually required to report details about assets, grants, compensation and more. They're also required to use 5% of assets on average each year.*[427]

Importantly, that report also noted the Bezos fund had just launched a new 501(c)(3) that can disperse tax exempt donations. So, it is possible that future grants from the Bezos Earth Fund may become more transparent.[428]

But for now, what we know of the Bezos grants has been self-reported, often through news releases from the fund or by the recipients of the grants.

One of those was described in the previous section of this report:

> *Many of America's largest anti-energy NGOs work in nations across the globe. The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) deployed a spy satellite to hover above it all.*
>
> *EDF's MethaneSAT, an $88 million project funded by the Bezos Earth Fund and other partners was shot into orbit in March 2024. The ostensible objective was to track methane (i.e.: natural gas) leaks that escape during oil and gas production.*[429,430]

In November 2020 the Bezos Earth Fund announced the first $791 million round of grants, more than half

of which went to the anti-energy NGOs profiled in the previous section of this report or the pass-through donors to same profiled on this list.[431]

These are the big anti-energy NGOs that reportedly received Bezos funding in 2020:[432]

- Environmental Defense Fund: $100 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $100 million
- World Resources Institute: $100 million
- World Wildlife Fund: $100 million
- Union of Concerned Scientists: $15 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $10 million

These are the pass-through donors profiled on this list that are known to have received Bezos funding in 2020:[433]

- U.S. Energy Foundation: $30 million
- Climateworks Foundation: $50 million

Then a December 2021 news release from the Bezos Earth Fund announced "44 grants totaling $443 million to organizations focused on climate justice, nature conservation and restoration, and tracking critical climate goals." Recipients included four of the big anti-energy NGOs or pass-through donors that are profiled in this report:[434]

- Windward Fund: $10 million
- GRID Alternatives: $12 million
- Climateworks: $31.2 million
- World Wildlife Fund: $4 million

From there the trail goes cold. The Bezos Earth Fund has continued to reliably issue news releases to announce grants, but the headline recipients have not been the anti-energy NGOs and pass-through donors to same profiled in this report.

It is possible those big donations announced during the first two years were meant to hold those anti-energy recipients over for many years. And because the Bezos fund has not been required to report grants, it's also possible that some recipients have received subsequent support that hasn't been announced prominently (or at all).[435]

Another possibility is that Bezos has shifted his priorities away from helping the most strident and wealthy anti-energy groups. "Hypocrisy," as the old saying goes, "is the tribute vice pays to virtue." Perhaps the Amazon founder has a new agenda that reveals where "the real Bezos" has been all along?

When the Bezos Earth Fund was born, the *New York Times* strongly implied it was because Bezos was caving in to pressure from his employees:[436]

> *At the time, Mr. Bezos said Earth's climate was changing faster than predicted by the scientific community five years ago. "Those predictions were bad but what is actually happening is dire," he said.*
>
> *Mr. Bezos made that pledge after Amazon's employees agitated on climate change. For a year, workers pressed Amazon to be more aggressive in its climate goals, staging walkouts and talking publicly about how the company could do better.*
>
> *With vast data centers that power cloud computing, and a global network for shipping and delivering packages, Amazon's own impact on the environment is substantial. In September, the company revealed its own carbon footprint for the first time, disclosing it emitted about 44.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2018 — the equivalent of burning almost 600,000 tanker trucks' worth of gasoline.*
>
> *"That would put them in the top 150 or 200 emitters in the world," alongside oil and gas producers and industrial manufacturers, Bruno Sarda, president*

> *of CDP North America, a nonprofit organization that encourages carbon disclosures, said in an interview at the time.*
>
> *Amazon employees cheered the company's Climate Pledge, but continued to push executives to stop providing cloud computing services to the oil and gas industry. They argued that making fossil fuel exploration and extraction less expensive would make it harder for the global economy to transition toward using more renewable energy.*[437]

Bezos and his rank and file employees have had a complicated history.

More recently, the oceans of red ink escaping the bottom line of his *Washington Post* led the media firm to cut staffing by 30 percent. Before that, both staffers and readers were enraged that the paper declined to endorse a candidate in the 2024 presidential election—an endorsement that would have gone to Democrat Kamala Harris. Resignations and steep subscription cancellations ensued.[438]

And whether or not he truly believed the use of hydrocarbons was putting the world in a "dire" situation, as he said back in 2020, Bezos's personal spending has sent a different message. And it's not one likely to please the anti-energy staffers at Amazon or the *Washington Post*.

In early 2026, energy journalist Robert Bryce released *Yacht-Zee$*, a short and damningly hilarious video profiling the hydrocarbon-hogging superyachts owned by America's CO_2-phobic billionaires. Even by that rare standard, Bryce concluded Jeff Bezos was in a class alone:[439]

> *Jeff Bezos owns a yacht that's so big, it has its own yacht. That's right: Incredible as it sounds, Bezos' megayacht has a yacht.*
>
> *[. . .]*
>
> *Bezos's yacht is called the Koru. It's 417-feet long and cost $700 million. And because it's so comically oversized, Bezos had to buy another yacht to tend to the mother ship. The Abeona is 246-foot-long and cost $100 million. It carries jet skis, a helicopter (of course) and whatever other crap won't fit on the big boat.*[440]

The video includes a chart showing that the Bezos fleet consumes as much carbon dioxide as "2,800 average people."[441]

But it may be too simple to accuse Bezos of hypocrisy. There is recent evidence that he understands the critical link between energy abundance and prosperity.

In February 2025 Bezos announced a change in focus for the *Washington Post* opinion page. Bezos publicly explained the change (and the resignation of the opinion page editor) in a post on X/Twitter:[442]

> *I'm writing to let you know about a change coming to our opinion pages.*
>
> *We are going to be writing every day in support and defense of two pillars: personal liberties and free markets. We'll cover other topics too of course, but viewpoints opposing those pillars will be left to be published by others.*
>
> *[. . .]*
>
> *I am of America and for America, and proud to be so. Our country did not get here by being typical. And a big part of America's success has been freedom in the economic realm and everywhere else. Freedom is ethical — it minimizes coercion — and practical — it drives creativity, invention, and prosperity.*[443]

Then in January 2026 the Bezos Earth Fund announced a $3.5 million grant to promote the

aggressive buildout of big, emissions-free nuclear power stations in the United States.[444]

"The United States has a rare opportunity to turn rising energy demand into an advantage," said the Bezos Earth Fund CEO in a news release. "Expanding nuclear power can deliver energy abundance — clean, reliable, around-the-clock electricity that supports prosperity and good jobs — while also helping meet climate goals in a small land footprint."[445]

That "small land footprint" statement was a telling flourish. Conspicuously, the release contained no references to "renewables," "wind," "solar" and all of the land-devouring, weather-dependent power systems aggressively promoted by the anti-nuclear nonprofits Bezos had funded to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars just five years earlier.

Most of those anti-energy NGOs will continue with their old agendas, using the money they have already received from Bezos to do it. But if future news reveals the Bezos Earth Fund has continued to spend whatever remains of its $10 billion commitment on projects that do not conflict with energy abundance and free market prosperity, then the anti-energy movement may have already lost a major ally.

A local media report described Fred Stanback as "known proponent of anti-humanist environmentalism. . . the belief that protecting the environment hinges on population control."

5 FRED STANBACK / FFTC

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

In 2014, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, a North Carolina billionaire named Fred Stanback gave $397 million to the Foundation for the Carolinas (FFTC). This was a hint that he was becoming one of America's biggest donors to anti-energy advocates.[446]

FFTC is a donor advised fund that redirects donor gifts to charitable priorities identified by the donors. Stanback's priorities were explained in a 2018 *Knoxville News* report that described him as an "88-year old North Carolina heir to Stanback's headache-powder fortune and known proponent of anti-humanist environmentalism. . . the belief that protecting the environment hinges on population control."[447]

Donor advised funds are not required to explain where money comes from, only where it is sent. At a minimum, this makes it difficult to identify with precision where Stanback's FFTC loot ended up. And tracking it to final sources would be almost impossible if Stanback were deliberately trying to use his FFTC account to remain anonymous.

But he is not. Stanback and his family members have been publicly identified as major donors to at least five of the fifteen anti-energy nonprofits profiled in this report.

The 2018 *Knoxville News* account covered three of them:[448]

> *Stanback donates regularly to the Sierra Club and the National Resources Defense Council. He also donated more than $50 million to another regional environmental group, the Southern Environmental Law Center...*[449]

Additionally, in annual reports covering 2013 through 2025 the Rocky Mountain Institute has thanked Fred and Alice Stanback for giving $1 million or more each year (the highest donation category). Most of these reports also credit Stanback's children and their spouses for gifts of at least $100,000.[450]

And in the 2014 annual report from the Center for Biological Diversity, Fred and Alice were thanked for giving $100,000 or more—also the highest giving category.[451]

While it is difficult to prove an exact total that the Stanbacks have sent through FFTC, circumstantial evidence indicates the total may be north of $700 million.

How do we know?

The Foundation for the Carolinas is a community foundation, which means it manages donations for more than 3,000 individual donors, most of whom are affiliated with the North Carolina region.[452]

The total giving from other community foundations broadly reflects the diverse charitable interests of the donors in that community. Representing the immense wealth *and* left-wing ideology of California's Bay Area, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) is a good example. A Foundation Search report for the top recipients of SVCF donations since 2016 reveals that none of the fifteen major anti-energy nonprofits were among the top 100 to receive donations. The first to appear, way down in 120th place, was the Environmental Defense Fund with $23.4 million in cumulative donations from SVCF accounts.[453]

Alternatively, the Foundation for the Carolinas has a set of priorities that looks a lot more like a major anti-energy donor has been sending in a lot of loot.

A comparable Foundation Search report for FFTC donations since 2016 reveals that eleven of the fifteen major anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report were ranked within the top 100 recipients. Six were in the top ten. Also among the top twenty was a local affiliate of the League of Conservation Voters. The number one recipient on the whole FFTF list was the Southern Environmental Law Center—already identified as a big Stanback favorite.[454]

Consistent with this, the most recent IRS report filed by FFTC, covering grants from 2024, shows nine of the fifteen anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report receiving at least $1 million each. Under the likely assumption that most (or nearly all) of this is from the Stanback fortune, then the cumulative total just for 2024 was $71.8 million:[455]

- Southern Environmental Law Center: $26.5 million
- League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $20 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $12.2 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $6 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $2 million
- Center for Biological Diversity: $2 million
- Greenpeace Fund: $1 million
- Sierra Club Foundation: $1 million
- Union of Concerned Scientists: $1 million

The exact amount that can be credited to the Stanback fortune can obviously be debated. What is impossible to dispute is that Fred Stanback's peculiar priorities have totally and conspicuously dominated the FFTC's charitable contributions. The anti-people advocate quietly became one of America's most generous anti-energy donors and might be the biggest of them all.

6 HEWLETT FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

In November 2025 the Capital Research Center's Mike Watson profiled the grantmaking of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and provided this description of the late founders and funders:[456]

> *The Hewlett Foundation owes its existence to Hewlett-Packard, a major electronics (and later computer- and computer-peripherals) firm founded by William R. Hewlett and David Packard in 1939. Its founders, who by the late 1960s had proven quite successful in the electronics industry and had become wealthy, both founded major philanthropic institutions: William Hewlett's William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and David*

> *Packard's David and Lucile Packard Foundation.*[457]

According to the Hewlett Foundation's most recent publicly available IRS report, covering 2024, the fortune had grown to more than $13.8 billion in net assets and raked in more than $784 million in investment revenue just for that year. All that loot, and the loot that will continue to grow in the future, is now under the control of left-wing philanthropy bureaucrats. In 2024 alone they disgorged grants totaling more than $620 million.[458]

Watson made this observation after reviewing Hewlett's so-called "climate" donations:[459]

> ***Climate:*** *By the foundation's own accounting, it made $240.9 million in grants for environmentalist causes and advocacy in 2024, with focuses on climate change mitigation and western-lands conservation in the United States.*
>
> *Hewlett's "U.S. Climate Strategy" sites it comfortably within the "watermelon" environmentalist coalition. It focuses on the power of government to enforce decarbonization through central planning (under the euphemism "industrial policy"), government purchasing, and regulatory programs. And it presses for extremely aggressive policies such as the war on cars, endorsing "binding commitments for 100% clean energy or clean car and truck standards that are more ambitious than those promulgated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency." (This would be the Biden administration's EPA, which was in power at the time of the strategy's publication.)*[460]

Hewlett is also one of three big donor foundations that created the Climateworks Foundation, one of the major pass-through donors to anti-energy NGOs that is profiled on this list.[461]

According to Hewlett's most recent publicly available IRS report, covering 2024, the foundation provided grants totaling nearly $48.6 million to seven of the anti-energy NGOs profiled in the previous section of this report and three of the major anti-energy pass-through donors profiled in this section.[462]

The anti-energy NGOs received a combined total of more than $6.6 million from Hewlett in 2024:[463]

- World Resources Institute: $2.8 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $1.2 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $1 million
- Earthjustice: $825,000
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $666,667
- Sierra Club Foundation: $125,000
- League of Conservataion Voters Education Fund: $60,000

The pass-through donors to anti-energy NGOs profiled in this section received a combined $41.8 million from Hewlett in 2024:[464]

- Climateworks Foundation: $24.6 million
- Windward Fund: $8.9 million
- U.S. Energy Foundation: $8.2 million

And there's more where that came from. A section in the 2024 IRS report listing Hewlett grants *"approved for future payment"* already lists an *additional $50.6 million* in combined grants pre-scheduled for many of these same recipients: Rocky Mountain Institute ($24.3 million), Climateworks Foundation ($12.2 million), Natural Resources Defense Council ($6.3 million), Windward Fund ($5.4 million) and the World Resources Institute ($1.4 million).[465]

Billionaire investor Jeremy Grantham (not pictured) participated in the February 2013 protest in Washington DC against the Keystone XL pipeline. Photo Credit: Shutterstock user Rena Schild

7 JEREMY GRANTHAM

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

In February 2013 a cabal of anti-energy activists (40,000-strong on a "bitterly cold day," according to a Sierra Club report) arrived in Washington DC to protest against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. According to report in *The Guardian*, one of the demonstrators was a British investment manager named Jeremy Grantham, who was reportedly 74 years old at the time. (Thirteen years later he is presumably aged 87 today).[466]

If it's ever built, the Keystone extension would bring much more of Alberta's bountiful heavy crude south to thirsty American oil refineries that are designed to process it. Canada has the world's fourth largest proven oil reserves (behind Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and Iran) and most of it is located in Alberta. But much like Iran and Venezuela, too much of Alberta's petroleum has been trapped by geography and bad policies that prevent it from getting efficiently to market. Despite having more proven reserves than the United States, Canada trails far behind America's annual oil production. A burgeoning secessionist movement in Alberta is in part fueled by the Canadian government's inability to build energy pipelines.[467]

An April 2026 profile in *Fortune* described the "legendary" investment career of pipeline protester Jeremy Grantham:[468]

> *Grantham is well known on Wall Street for his consistently pessimistic economic views, but the British investor has become famous for some prescient predictions as well.*
>
> *In September 2007, Grantham wrote an article for Fortune titled "Danger: Steep Drop Ahead" in which he detailed how an international credit crisis would cause the U.S. housing market to break, corporate profit margins to sink, and stocks to collapse.*
>
> *He turned out to be right. The U.S. housing market did break, and just six months after his Fortune article was published, the Great Financial Crisis began taking its first victims as the investment banking powerhouse Bear Stearns collapsed.*
>
> *Some Wall Street analysts argue that even a broken clock is right twice, and that Grantham is nothing but a "permabear"—investor lingo for someone who is always pessimistic about the economy.*
>
> *But the legendary British investor has been right more than often enough to lend weight to his predictions. He also foresaw Japan's 1989 asset bubble and the dot-com bubble in 2000. And this time, he says the stock market's "superbubble" is even worse than what was seen in tech stocks in 2000.*[469]

According to *The Guardian* report from 2013, Grantham had by that point engaged in "15 years of low-key environmental philanthropy," but decided to ramp it up and "walk the walk" against Keystone XL. Then at the last minute, he decided to tone it down:[470]

> *"I was committed to getting arrested," says Grantham [. . .] "But the day before [the protest] my wife checked with the lawyer, who said, 'Don't do that!'" It turned out that being arrested would give him serious problems when it came to travelling. "I've had a green card since completing my MBA at Harvard in 1964."*[471]

Grantham's daughter was arrested at the protest, along with what *The Guardian* claimed was "the US's highest-profile environmentalist Bill McKibben." McKibben is the founder of 350.org, the primary organizer NGO of the Keystone protest and an anti-energy group profiled in the previous section of this report.[472]

The Guardian report also covered an ironic admission about Grantham's path to wealth accumulation:[473]

> *More awkwardly, he insists his substantial investments in oil and gas don't contradict his green views. "We need oil. If we took oil away tomorrow, civilisation ends. We can burn all the cheap, high-quality oil and gas, but if we mean to burn all the coal and any appreciable percentage of the tar sands, or even third-derivative, energy-intensive oil and gas, with 'fracking' for shale gas on the boundary, then we're cooked, we're done for."*[474]

Putting it less charitably, it is possible to cast this as an act of selfish hypocrisy.

One need not be a billionaire investor to recognize the economic logic. At issue was an internationally traded commodity. Ramping up oil supply in one place reduces the price everywhere. Under the reasonable assumption that Grantham was not invested directly in *Alberta's* oil, then the movement against Keystone XL was benefitting his bottom line by indirectly propping up the value of his oil investments in other regions.

Enhancing such a financial opportunity might inspire a lot of people to endure the temporary annoyance of a few hours in a DC jail (though admittedly not at the risk of getting deported afterwards).

Whatever his motives, Grantham was then and continues to be a very generous benefactor for the anti-energy movement. His two major giving platforms are the Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham Environmental Trust and the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment. The most recent publicly available IRS filings from both donor nonprofits cover grantmaking during 2024. For simplicity of understanding, what follows combines the 2024 grantmaking from both.[475]

The pair of Grantham platforms gave a combined total of $23 million in 2024 to seven of the fifteen anti-energy NGOs profiled in the previous section of this report:[476]

- Rocky Mountain Institute: $4.6 million
- World Wildlife Fund: $3.5 million
- League of Conservataion Voters Education Fund: $2 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $1.2 million
- Earthjustice: $900,000
- 350.org: $500,000
- Union of Concerned Scientists: $300,000

Additionally, the pair of Grantham donor nonprofits granted a combined total of $7 million in 2024 to two of the pass-through donors to anti-energy NGOs profiled in this section:[477]

- Windward Fund: $5.7 million
- Climateworks Foundation: $1.3 million

Added all together, the seven anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report and two major pass-through funders to same received grants totaling more than $20 million from the two Grantham sources in 2024.[478]

Deepak Bhargava, president of the Freedom Together Foundation
Photo Credit: Freedom Together Foundation

8 FREEDOM TOGETHER FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

The most recent IRS filing from the Freedom Together Foundation, which covers 2024 grant activity, reports a salary and benefits compensation package exceeding $900,000 for the person holding the title of "SVP/ Environment." There were three other senior vice presidents listed, with their individual remits covering "investments," "poverty," and "democracy/gender," but each of them with total compensation packages of less than $600,000. Even the chief financial officer was paid less than the environment SVP.[479]

Formerly known as the "JPB Foundation," Freedom Together has been a major donor to anti-energy NGOs and the big pass-through donors to same.[480]

The "JPB" stood for "Jeffry Picower Barbara"—a nod to the benefactors, the late billionaire Jeffry Picower and his wife, Barbara. Jeffry passed away in 2009, and afterwards Barbara exercised relatively tight supervision of a fortune that now exceeds $3.3 billion in net assets.[481,482]

An October 2025 Capital Research Center report from Robert Stilson described her role:[483]

> *Despite its heft, as recently as 2019 Inside Philanthropy was writing that the then-JPB Foundation was "largely unknown in nonprofit circles." Barbara Picower, as president and board chair, was said to exercise complete control over its operations, to such a degree that grantees simply used the name "Barbara" as a metonym for the foundation itself. That level of hands-on involvement, combined with the foundation's sheer size, would have rightly secured for Barbara Picower a place among the most powerful figures in American philanthropy. Darren Walker, the outgoing president of the Ford Foundation, was effusive in his praise of Picower's impact on the American left-progressive funding ecosystem.*[484]

JPB changed its name to Freedom Together in 2024. That's also when Babara stepped down as president and appointed a replacement. Stilson explained:[485]

> *Picower's hand-picked successor was Deepak Bhargava, a professional activist with the perfect resume for left-wing philanthropy. His first job after college was with ACORN, and he later went on to become the longtime head of the activist group Community Change. At various points he has served as board chair of the climate activist group 350.org; board secretary of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center; and has been a board member of the Leadership Conference Education Fund, the Democracy Fund, and the Bauman Family Foundation. He was a U.S. advisory board member at the Open Society Foundations (to which he co-authored a leaked memo on "voter engagement" funding for the 2012 election cycle), an editorial board member at The Nation, and a senior fellow at the Roosevelt Institute.*
>
> *After leaving Community Change in 2018, Bhargava became a lecturer at the City University of New York's School of Labor and Urban Studies. His book Practical Radicals: Seven Strategies to Change the World, co-authored with Stephanie Luce, was published in 2023. Born out of Bhargava's frustration with "the state of strategy on the Left," Practical Radicals was intended as a guide for activists who "hold big visions for transforming society and are willing to do what it takes to win in the real world." Longtime socialist activist-academic Frances Fox Piven praised the book, while former Congressional Progressive Caucus chair Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) called it "a vital resource for progressives who want to win" and noted*

> *that "our movements must seek and win governing power to achieve our visions for a more just society."*[486]

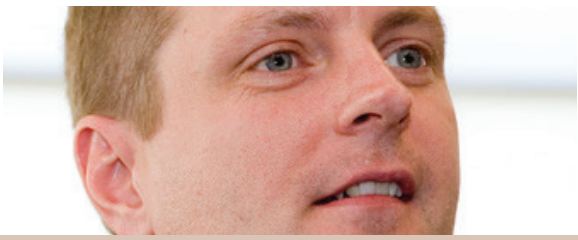
Freedom Together's 2024 IRS filing shows $20.4 million in cumulative funding for the anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report and the anti-energy pass through donors profiled on this list.[487]

Four of the fifteen major anti-energy NGOs (plus a local affiliate of one of them) were provided grants totaling more than $9.2 million in 2024:[488]

- GRID Alternatives: $3 million
- 350.org: $2.5 million
- Earthjustice: $2.5 million
- Sierra Club Foundation: $1 million
- 350 Seattle: $250,000

Also in 2024, the Freedom Together Foundation gave more than $11.1 million to the Windward Fund, one of the major anti-energy pass-through donors profiled on this list.[489]

Characterizing the grantmaking of Freedom Together, Stilson wrote that it "illustrates how a fortune that was committed to charity can be deployed by professional activists to fund distinctly political causes—even radical ones aimed at completely upending society."[490]



David Filo and his wife Angela founded the Skyline Foundation. Photo Credit: Mitchell Aidelbaum at Wikimedia Commons

9 SKYLINE FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

With an estimated net worth of $4.6 billion, as of April 2026, Yahoo co-founder David Filo notched spot number 334 on the 2025 Forbes 400 ranking of richest Americans. In 2000, Filo and his wife Angela founded the Yellow Chair Foundation, a grant maker they have since renamed the Skyline Foundation. In its most recent IRS filing, covering activities in 2024, Skyline reported net assets of nearly $1.2 billion.[491,492]

Skyline has become one of the largest known donors to both the large anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report and the pass-through foundations that fund them. Skyline's 2024 IRS filing shows combined grants of $14.5 million for these recipients.[493]

Nearly $10.8 million was granted in 2024 to six of the fifteen anti-energy NGOs:[494]

- Environmental Defense Fund: $4 million
- Sierra Club Foundation: $2.5 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $2 million
- Earthjustice: $1 million
- World Resources Institute: $750,000
- 350.org: $500,000

An additional $3.7 million was sent to these three major pass-through donors to the major anti-energy NGOs:[495]

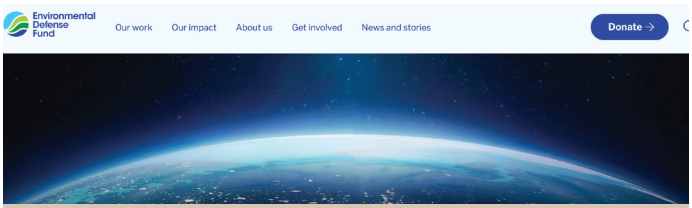
- Windward Fund: $1.5 million
- Climateworks Foundation: $1.2 million
- U.S. Energy Foundation: $1 million

Skyline also provides an online grants database that permits a look at more recent grants that will appear in future IRS reports. These entries also note the commitment Skyline has made for future donations. The 2025 grants listed in that database include:[496]

- U.S. Energy Foundation: "$7 million over 4 years"
- Climateworks Foundation: "$4,000,000 over 4 years"
- Earthjustice: "$6 million over 6 years"
- Rocky Mountain Institute: "$3 million over 3 years"

While hardly a household name, Skyline has been a big donor to the large anti-energy NGOs for more than a decade. In July 2015, while still known as the Yellow Chair Foundation, the Filo couple's giving vehicle was profiled by *Inside Philanthropy*. The report claimed that while the "Yellow Chair Foundation prefers to fly beneath the radar" it had "quietly" become a major contributor to the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign.[497]

"The Filos gave out around $9 million in 2013, and they have been giving to environmental causes for a while," reported *Inside Philanthropy*. "In that year, the Yellow Chair Foundation made big grants to the Energy Foundation, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Sierra Club. In other recent years, EDF was the main environmental grantee."[498]



Mark Heising is a major donor to the EDF and has been the EDF board chair since February 2020.
Photo Credit: Images screen captured from Environmental Defense Fund website.

10 HEISING-SIMONS FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

According to its IRS filings the Heising-Simons Foundation made $171.7 million in charitable disbursements during 2024 and has made at least $100 million in charitable disbursements every year since 2018. The foundation was created in 2007 as a giving vehicle for private equity billionaire Mark Heising and his wife, Liz Simons.[499]

A lot of the money disbursed has been spent on grants for what Heising-Simons claims are "clean energy" projects. "The goal of the Foundation's Climate and Clean Energy program," according to the website, "is to protect people and the planet from the worst impacts of climate change by helping make energy clean, affordable, safe, and reliable for all." The foundation claims to be accomplishing this goal by staying "focused on four strategic areas," one of which is "Cutting the most potent pollutants, such as methane."[500]

Translation: they've been wasting money and some of it was literally lost in space.

As described in the first section of this report, natural gas (i.e. methane) is—by a wide margin—the cleanest of all the hydrocarbons we burn for energy:

> *A 2010 report in Scientific American stated that when natural gas is used to fuel a power plant it "emits about half of the carbon dioxide emissions as conventional coal plants." This assertion is confirmed by multiple reports from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Agency (EIA). In June 2021 the EIA posted an analysis with this headline: "Electric power sector CO2 emissions drop as generation mix shifts from coal to natural gas."*[501,502,503]

Blessed with an abundance of natural gas and the technical know-how to produce it cheaply, the United States electricity sector has spent most of the last two decades frantically substituting coal power plants for modern gas turbine generators.

In addition to the economic benefits, this has also produced almost miraculous results for those inclined to worry over American carbon dioxide emissions, such as the benefactors of the Heising-Simons Foundation. The first section of this report explains:

> *The net annual reduction from the coal-to-gas switch (867 million tonnes) accounted for more than 77 percent of the drop in CO_2 emissions in 2024 as compared to 2000.*[504]
>
> *To put that number in perspective, in 2024 Germany's total CO_2 emissions amounted to only 572.32 million tonnes. Similarly, France's total 2024 CO_2 emissions equaled 264.16 million tonnes. And that's not just gas and coal emissions (as in the*

> *American example) but gasoline, jet fuel, and everything else that drove the German and French economies in 2024.*[505]
>
> *Germany and France are the world's third and seventh largest economies. So, just the American transition from coal to natural gas in electricity production since 2000 has cancelled out the combined annual CO_2 emissions from two of the planet's biggest economic engines.*

But fighting against this progress has become a main mission of the Heising-Simons Foundation's benefactors.

In February 2020, Mark Heising was elected chair of the board of the Environmental Defense Fund, a position he still held as of April 2026. As covered in the previous section of this report, during Heising's tenure at the top EDF launched (and then lost contact with) an $88 million satellite to track natural gas emissions. EDF claims natural gas is "dangerously powerful" and that their "research and advocacy" has "driven global action on methane for over a decade."[506,507,508]

EDF isn't the only major anti-energy NGO or donor to same that Heising-Simons has been close to.

According to the annual filing submitted to the IRS, Heising-Simons provided grants totaling $10.4 million in 2024 to five of the fifteen most influential anti-energy NGO's profiled earlier in this report:[509]

- Environmental Defense Fund: $5 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $3.7 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $1 million
- Union of Concerned Scientists: $505,000
- World Resources Institute: $150,000

Additionally, and also in 2024, Heising-Simons provided grants totaling more than $3 million to three of the pass-through donors to anti-energy NGOs profiled later on this list:[510]

- U.S. Energy Foundation: $1.2 million
- Climateworks Foundation: $950,000
- Windward Fund: $900,000

Cumulative 2024 grants from the Heising-Simons Foundation to both the major anti-energy NGOs and pass-through donors to the movement totaled nearly $13.5 million.[511]

11 SALL FAMILY FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Direct Grant Maker

Compared to the other names on this list, the Sall Family Foundation is a relatively modest grant maker, disbursing a combined $35.8 million to all recipients in 2024, the last year IRS filings have been made publicly available. But what they lack in magnitude, they make up in focus. Thirty percent of those grants, $10.7 million in all for 2024, were sent to four of the anti-energy NGOs profiled in the previous section of this report:[512]

- World Wildlife Fund: $4.8 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $2.9 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $2.5 million
- World Resources Institute: $500,000

The Sall Family Foundation was founded and funded by John and Virginia "Ginger" Sall. According to a *Forbes* profile, John Sall is the co-founder of SAS, a statistical software firm, and his net worth is estimated to be $6.5 billion—placing him in spot number 192 on the list of richest Americans.[513,514]

In addition to holding a spot as co-founder on the board at the Sall Family Foundation, Virginia Sall is also listed as a board member at the Environmental Defense Fund. EDF makes the following boast about its board members: "Fortune magazine called our board one of the most influential nonprofit boards in the country."[515]

"Venture capitalist John Doerr has been listed as chair of the Climate Imperative Foundation board of directors since 2020, the first year that Climate Imperative filed an IRS report."
Photo Credit: GES 2016 at Wikimedia Commons

12 CLIMATE IMPERATIVE FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Pass-through Grant Maker

The Climate Imperative Foundation is a major pass-through grant maker to the anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report. It also donates to promoters of intermittent, weather-dependent, wind and solar energy systems. The group's mission statement explains:[516]

> *Clean energy now costs less than fossil fuels, making it cheaper to save the Earth than to destroy it. Accelerating this transition at the pace the world's scientists tell us is necessary to ensure a safe climate is the imperative we all face, and the mission Climate Imperative has undertaken.*
>
> *This goal is now within reach thanks to several major policy decisions: the United States' Inflation Reduction Act, China's 1+N climate policies, and the European Union's Green Deal, to name a few.*[517]

Since 2021, Climate Imperative has annually received more than $200 million in total revenue, the majority of it in grants from other donors, several of which are profiled on this list. Climate Imperative re-directs those funds as grants to policy and activist groups. In its most recent IRS filing, covering activities in 2024, Climate Imperative reported collecting annual revenue of $271.7 million and disbursing grants totaling $242.9 million, or 89 percent of total revenue.[518]

Nine of the anti-energy NGOs and two of the other pass-through donors to same profiled in this report received a cumulative total of $65.4 million from Climate Imperative in 2024. This was 26 percent of all grants paid during the year by Climate Imperative:[519]

- Sierra Club Foundation: $23 million
- U.S. Energy Foundation: $15.2 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $7.9 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $7.6 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $3.2 million
- Earthjustice: $2.7 million
- League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $1.7 million
- Windward Fund: $1.4 million
- Southern Environmental Law Center: $1.2 million
- World Resources Institute: $950,000
- World Wildlife Fund: $450,000

Venture capitalist John Doerr has been listed as chair of the Climate Imperative Foundation board of directors since 2020, the first year that Climate Imperative filed an IRS report.[520]

As of April 2026, according to the most recent Forbes ranking of American billionaires, Doerr's net worth was $21.9 billion. Along with his wife, Ann Doerr, he founded and funded the Beneficus Foundation. Since 2021, Beneficus has given cumulative grants of at least $133.8 million to Climate Imperative, with $45.8 million of this coming in 2024, the last year for which an IRS report is publicly available.[521]

An October 2023 Capital Research Center report profiled the likely winners from the Inflation Reduction Act's corporate welfare for the weather dependent, intermittent energy sector. The report made this observation of Doerr:[522]

> *Some of the red ink from the Fisker fiasco spilled on billionaire venture capitalist John Doerr of the Kleiner Perkins investment firm. After a career of early and very*

lucrative Silicon Valley investments in names such as Google and Amazon, Doerr announced in 2008 that he'd be focusing a $500 million fund on "clean tech" investments. One of them was Fisker. To say the least, it didn't become the next Google.

By January 2012, Wired magazine discussed Doerr in a feature titled "Why the Clean Tech Boom Went Bust." A January 2013 Reuters report was titled "How Cleantech Tarnished Kleiner and VC Star John Doerr." And Doerr's misadventures were again featured in an April 2019 Fortune magazine profile: "How the Kleiner Perkins Empire Fell."

Doerr is a seven-figure donor to the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Benificus Foundation, Doerr's family foundation, is listed as a "$1 million and above" donor in the RMI's 2021 annual report. During 2020 Doerr was chairman of the board at the Climate Imperative Foundation when that nonprofit gave $942,000 to RMI. Benificus (i.e., Doerr) subsequently reported a $16.1 million donation to Climate Imperative for 2021, and in Rocky Mountain Institute's 2022 annual report it showed a "$1 million and above" donation from Climate Imperative.

In May 2022, before passage of the IRA, Doerr advised Silicon Valley to "triple down" on "clean tech" investments.

"Thank you @POTUS for signing the historic #InflationReductionAct into law and making clean energy more affordable for all Americans," he wrote on Twitter in August 2022. Media reports that month also listed him as one of the top contributors to political committees making media buys to promote the IRA in advance of the November mid-term election.

A clearly patient man, Doerr was undeterred by those earlier setbacks in his climate alarmism investing strategy. Today his so-called clean tech is back in style, and Uncle Sam is even more willing to play sugar daddy.[523]

In an April 2026 public statement Doerr renewed his call for an American commitment to weather-dependent energy. The letter praised China for becoming "the world's first electrostate" and "upending the old carbon-based world order."[524]

As explained in the first section of this report, China is by a large measure the world's leader in CO_2 emissions, with 32 percent of the annual total, and is expected to open 100 new coal fired-power stations during 2026. As of April 2026, four of the first six "News" items on the Climate Imperative website criticized coal use by the United States.[525,526,527]

climateworks FOUNDATION

Climateworks was created in 2008 as a joint project of three huge left-wing grantmaking foundations.
Photo Credit: https://www.climateworks.org

13 CLIMATEWORKS FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Pass-through Grant Maker

The mission statement of the Climateworks Foundation, according to the grant maker's IRS filings, is "to end the climate crisis by amplifying the power of philanthropy."[528]

As explained in the first section of this report, rising global temperatures are real, but the "climate crisis" is not. Skepticism on this point has been growing. A January 2026 report in *Politico* claimed there is "a schism within the Democratic Party about whether

talking about climate change is the right message to win back control of Washington."[529]

"Now Democrats are increasingly showing they have decided it's a losing message to tout the ways in which they'd curb fossil fuel production to thwart the most dire effects of climate change," reported *Politico*. "Instead, they're choosing to focus on policies that would lower energy costs and lean hard into affordability talking points embraced by Trump and congressional Republicans."[530]

But that "losing message" remains central to Climateworks. "The climate crisis is here," the foundation's home page proclaims.[531]

In its most recent publicly available IRS report, covering 2024, Climateworks reported $334.8 million in total revenue and $229.8 million in grants paid out, or 68 percent of total revenue taken in for the year. Grants for the anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report and to other donors to anti-energy NGOs that are profiled in this section accounted for $20.9 million of the 2024 total.[532]

Eight of the fifteen anti-energy NGOs (plus an advocacy affiliate of one of them) received a combined total of $11.5 million from Climateworks in 2024:[533]

- Environmental Defense Fund: $4.2 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $2.8 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $2 million
- World Resources Institute: $1.5 million
- Sierra Club Foundation: $750,000
- Earthjustice: $100,000
- Union of Concerned Scientists: $75,000
- Earthjustice Action: $70,000
- World Wildlife Fund: $25,000

Two of the other pass-through donors on this list received a combined total of nearly $9.3 million in grants from Climateworks in 2024:[534]

- U.S. Energy Foundation: $9 million
- Windward Fund: $259,000

Climateworks was created in 2008 as a joint project of three huge left-wing grantmaking foundations: the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation. As of their last publicly available IRS filings, these three founders had combined net assets of $24.6 billion.[535]

As of April 2026, Climateworks claims to have granted more than $2 billion since 2008 and worked alongside 80 different funders.[536]

In its most recent IRS filing the U.S. Energy Foundation reported funding 10 of the 15 anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report.
Photo Credit: https://www.ef.org

14 U.S. ENERGY FOUNDATION

Donor Type: Pass-through Grant Maker

Until 2020, what is now known as "Energy Foundation China" and the United States Energy Foundation were the same grantmaking foundation, known as simply the "Energy Foundation." When they split in 2020, the Energy Foundation (EIN: 94-3126848) began doing business as Energy Foundation China and thus retained the original EIN. The 2020 IRS filings from both foundations show a transfer of $57.7 million from Energy Foundation China to the newly formed U.S. Energy Foundation (EIN: 83-1740146).[537]

The IRS filing from the U.S. Energy Foundation covering 2024 shows $261.4 million in total revenue collected and $166.3 million paid out in grants—or 64 percent of total revenue. The grants included a cumulative $8.7 million sent to ten of the fifteen anti-energy nonprofits profiled in this report. In addition, the report shows grants totaling more than $2.7 million in 2024 for nine

state affiliates of the League of Conservation voters.[538]

- League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $1.2 million
- LCV state groups: $2.7 million total
  - North Carolina League of Conservation Voters Foundation: $650,000
  - Georgia Conservation Voters (GCV) Education Fund: $630,000
  - Virginia League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $460,000
  - Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund: $377,500
  - Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $183,000
  - Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $171,500
  - New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $150,000
  - Conservation Voters New Mexico Education Fund: $65,000
  - Oregon League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $40,000
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $2.1 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $1.6 million
- Sierra Club Foundation: $1.6 million
- Environmental Defense Fund: $983,958
- Union of Concerned Scientists: $550,000
- Center for Biological Diversity: $245,005
- World Wildlife Fund: $125,000
- World Resources Institute: $125,000
- GRID Alternatives: $70,000

The U.S. Energy Foundation's combined total 2024 grants to the anti-energy NGOs and donors to same profiled in this report was $11.4 million.[539]

15 WINDWARD FUND

Donor Type: Pass-through Grant Maker

The Windward Fund is one of seven grantmaking foundations within what was (until the end of last year) colloquially known as the Arabella Advisors network of left-wing grant makers. According to the Windward website, it is "a nonprofit that helps leaders pursue bold solutions to the climate crisis and other pressing environmental challenges."[540]

An April 2021 *New York Times* report explained how the old Arabella network's model worked:[541]

> *The Hub Project is part of an opaque network managed by a Washington consulting firm, Arabella Advisors, that has funneled hundreds of millions of dollars through a daisy chain of groups supporting Democrats and progressive causes. The system of political financing, which often obscures the identities of donors, is known as dark money, and Arabella's network is a leading vehicle for it on the left.*
>
> *[. . .]*
>
> *Arabella's money flows through four nonprofits that serve as parent structures for a range of groups, including The Hub Project. The nonprofits then pass some of the funds along to other nonprofit groups or super PACs.*[542]

Windward reported receiving $308.2 million in total revenue for 2024, the last year that Windward's IRS filings were publicly available. That report showed $176.4 million in cumulative grants paid out, representing 57 percent of total revenue. (In addition to being a pass-through donor, Windward also operates and funds in-house fiscally sponsored projects, which often behave

like separate policy and advocacy NGOs, but legally are subordinate projects within Windward.)[543]

At least $16.6 million in cumulative grants paid from Windward in 2024 were sent to seven of the anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report and three subsidiaries of same:[544]

- Environmental Defense Fund: $7.8 million
- Natural Resources Defense Council: $2.3 million
- World Resources Institute: $2.3 million
- Rocky Mountain Institute: $2 million
- World Wildlife Fund: $1.2 million
- League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: $800,000
- Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund: $150,000
- Union of Concerned Scientists: $66,000
- MN 350 (Minnesota 350.org subsidiary): $50,000
- 350 New Hampshire: $50,000

In November 2025, Arabella Advisors announced that Windward and two of its siblings had formed a public benefit corporation known as Sunflower Services that in turn had purchased Arabella Advisors. This made Windward a part owner of Arabella. A news release announcing the new arrangement did not indicate any significant change to Windward's future grantmaking.[545]

Afterward: The Heretic

In an October 2025 essay, billionaire Bill Gates dissented from the 'doomsday view of climate change.'"
Photo Credit: https://www.gatesnotes.com/meet-bill

> *There's a doomsday view of climate change that goes like this:*
>
> *In a few decades, cataclysmic climate change will decimate civilization. The evidence is all around us—just look at all the heat waves and storms caused by rising global temperatures. Nothing matters more than limiting the rise in temperature.*
>
> ***Fortunately for all of us, this view is wrong.*** *[boldface added]*[546]

These were the first words of an open letter published in October 2025 and addressed to the attendees of COP30—the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference. The author was Bill Gates, the billionaire founder of Microsoft. Though those words formed the beginning of Gates's controversial essay, they work just as well as the conclusion for this report on the enemies of energy.[547]

At one point in his 5500-word missive Gates wrote: "From the standpoint of improving lives, using more energy is a good thing, because it's so closely correlated with economic growth. [. . .] More energy use is a key part of prosperity."[548]

Reminding readers that he had "invested billions in innovations" to reduce global temperatures, Gates's essay still flashed many of the empty virtue signals of the doomsday extremists he was addressing. He continued to promote weather dependent energy systems and electric vehicles as solutions. And at one point he made sure to note that he purchases carbon credits that "fully offset" his own use of hydrocarbons.[549]

But still, the majority of what Gates wrote is hard to criticize.

He warned that the climate doomsday perspective was "causing much of the climate community to focus too much on near-term emissions goals, and it's diverting resources from the most effective things we should be doing to improve life in a warming world."[550]

He asked: "Is the money designated for climate being spent on the right things?" and then concluded: "I believe the answer is no."[551]

Predicting (accurately) that he would be criticized for saying it, Gates confessed that fighting global warming was not the most critical challenge confronting humanity, particularly the humans most exposed to the weather:[552]

> *Although climate change will hurt poor people more than anyone else, for the vast majority of them it will not be the only or even the biggest threat to their lives and welfare. The biggest problems are poverty and disease, just as they always have been. Understanding this will let us focus our limited resources on interventions that will have the greatest impact for the most vulnerable people.*[553]

Limited resources is a phrase that never gets used enough in policy debates.

In place of the climate doomsday view, Gates proposed the following new truths to guide the environmental movement: [554]

- **Climate change is a serious problem, but it will not be the end of civilization.** This is the section wherein he explained the important connection between energy use and prosperity. It included a thoughtful explanation of the value of emissions-free nuclear power, which Gates has been promoting for many years.[555]
- **Temperature is not the best way to measure our progress on climate.** He suggested prioritizing human welfare rather than temperature and noted that "sometimes human welfare takes a backseat to lowering emissions, with bad consequences." He provided a specific example of a "low-income country" that banned synthetic fertilizers, made from hydrocarbons, to "cut emissions" and managed instead to cut crop yields and increase food prices.[556]
- **Health and prosperity are the best defense against climate change.** This was a simple and obvious message: richer people can afford the things they need to adapt to weather extremes, rising seas and whatever else a rough world can throw at them.[557]

So, the secret to protecting humanity from the weather is to promote prosperity rather than impede it. And the path to that prosperity runs through abundant and affordable energy. These things have been true since there were humans and prosperity.

Parents who cannot turn lights on nor clothe their children will not worry over the plastic pollution they pour into the ocean, the slaughtering of endangered species for profit, nor the air pollutants if someone builds them a coal-fired power plant to belatedly electrify their world.

But that prosperity, even if it comes initially from burning coal, will give them the luxury to worry about cleaning up their world and then conserving what they can afford to protect.

The introduction of this report told the story of the defacement of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park more than a century ago. Then as now, the path to human flourishing was tied to abundant water and electricity. Options for both were harder to come by at the time, so damning the river and flooding Hetch Hetchy was portrayed as sensible.

But today's America has vastly more options for obtaining energy and water, not least of which is using abundant energy to create fresh water. And a wealthier population can now afford to pay for these options. Today's Americans would never have flooded Hetch Hetchy. We can afford not to.

The saving of the bald eagle, the proper disposal of our plastic waste, a national park system that is the envy of the world and hundreds of other examples demonstrate the same point. No nation has benefitted more from burning hydrocarbons than the United States. No nation's land and creatures have benefited more from the wealth those hydrocarbons created.

That is an environment worth protecting. Doing so should once again become the goal of the environmental movement.

> **No nation has benefitted more from burning hydrocarbons than the United States. No nation's land and creatures have benefited more from the wealth those hydrocarbons created.**

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[22]"Hydrocarbons" is a more precise term for what is commonly known as "fossil fuels." The latter is a pejorative that implies the modern chemical and engineering miracles needed to create electricity, gasoline, jet fuel, plastics, and much else are somehow as obsolete as dinosaurs, and that options such as wind energy are really the future. There is irony here, as wind energy, used since the first sailing vessel was launched thousands of years before Jesus was born, is far closer in age and technology to the dinosaurs than the hydrocarbon fuels. As this is a report about facts and not myths, misleading terms such as "fossil fuels" will not be used. Relatedly, some of the anti-energy NGOs profiled in this report have begun to make the same point about "natural gas," implying that it is a marketing term deployed to make methane (the major form of the natural gases we burn) seem more "natural" than it really is. The easiest refutation of this point is that petroleum-based fuels (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, etc…) must be chemically refined

to be used in engines and electric turbines while the natural gas can be burned pretty much in the form that nature or God made it, with little modification. So, it is arguably more "natural" than creating solar panels and wind turbines to refine sunlight and breezes into electricity. Additionally, one of the earliest hydrocarbon fuels refined by humans was "coal gas," which is what it sounds like—a gas refined from coal. Complicating the terminology further, the British accurately abbreviated gasoline as "petrol," while Americans created the confusing "gas" to refer to their petroleum-based automotive fuel. (The old joke is evergreen: Brits and Americans are one people but separated by a common language.)

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