Blue Book Lite

The following was created for the 2009-2010 school year in the NCFCA. The researchers gathered in Monument, Colorado, for a week-long research camp of which this was the final product. Give due attention to checking all hyperlinks before attempting to run in competition as Monument Publishing does not update this archive information.

***Resolved: That the United States Federal Government should significantly reform its environmental policy.***

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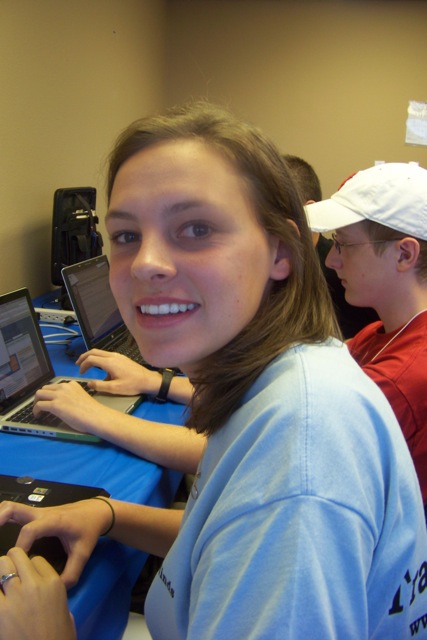
I couldn’t be more proud of this excellent team of budding young debaters. They spent six days in Monument, Colorado (August 10-15, 2009) working on this debut publication. Shane Baumgardner wrote this from the workroom at 4:17 a.m., wrapping up the last-minute details for the rest of the team, rushing *Blue Book Lite* to the press…

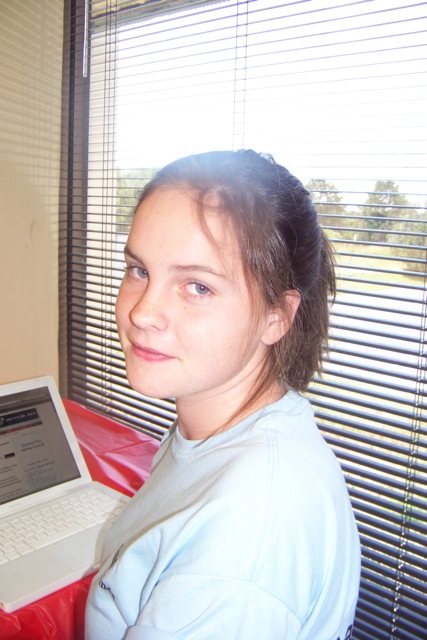
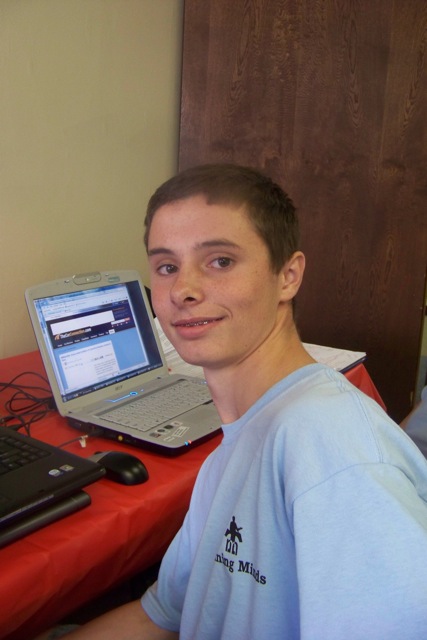
*A very special acknowledgment goes to our dedicated researchers who stayed and worked until after midnight the final night. They went above and beyond expectations; they formatted, organized, and edited all the cases and briefs. These incredibly dedicated debaters are: Shane Baumgardner, Hannah Groenevelt, Sarah Carr, Rachel Watson, Jesse Montoya, Chad Frantz, Lael Burge, and, of course, Coach Matthew Baker. Great job guys! (This message was written previous to a blue screen of death and a 2 hour recovery mission).*

Matthew Baker, two-time national finalist and current law student, led 22 students through completion of *Blue Book Lite.* He did so while weaving teaching material through the week. This taught the students the fundamental skills needed to become master researchers. The skills learned were impeccable to the ones needed for excellence. Coaches Larry Sparks, Vance Trefethen and myself also taught some sessions, and Coach Maggie Carabelos (“Miss Maggie”) kept everyone *very* well fed.

The first Blue Book Lite research team:

**Jesse Montoya** is a fourth year debater in Region IV. He has been to regionals every year in speech events since he started and qualifed for the first time last year in debate, ending the season with a 3-3 record at regionals. He looks forward to debating and researching this year's resolution as well as furthering his communication skills.

**Katherine Kaiser** is a High School Junior living in South Carolina. She is beginning her second year of NCFCA debate. Katherine qualified for Regionals in Team Policy with her sister.

**Margaret Kaiser** is a High School Sophomore living in South Carolina. She is beginning her third year of NCFCA debate. She is an editor of the Blue Book Report. Margaret qualified for Regionals in Team Policy with her sister.

**Cameron Walker** is in his third year of debate with the Omaha Knights Debate Club and is starting his freshman year of high school. He has been an amasser of facts since he was little, and loves to accumulate evidence. He spends his time when not debating by reading, re-watching Lord of the Rings, and playing video games.

**Shane Baumgardner** is a 15 year old Junior in high-school from Colorado Springs Colorado and has been homeschooled his whole life. He is the 2008-2009 NCFCA impromptu and extemporaneous national champion. Shane is an avid sports fan and during his free-time enjoys golf and a good game of Ultimate Frisbee.

**Chad Frantz** is a third year debater who has qualified for NCFCA region 4 regionals and went 3-3. He is known for producing large volumes of good evidence in a short amount of time. In 2008-2009 season Chad and his partner qualified for regionals at every tournament they attended. He looks forward to competing in NCFCA again this year.

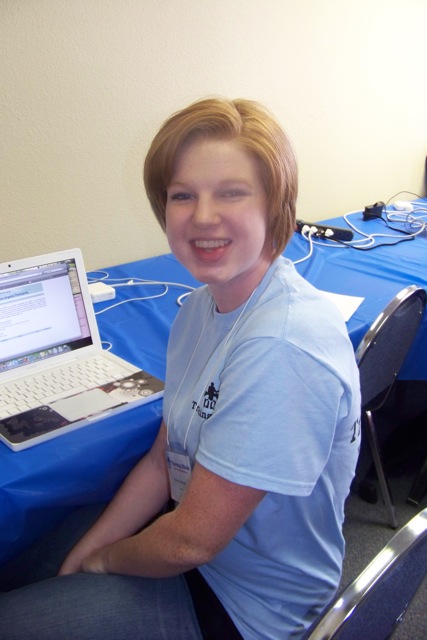
**Billy Klein** is a 15 year old, second year debater, who's top achievements include getting sixth in duo at regionals, and breaking to octa-finals in team policy debate. He enjoys hanging out with friends, playing soccer and frisbee. He looks forward to spending the next few years with the awesome Region III

**Sarah Klein** is 14 and has competed in NCFCA for 2 years, qualifying to the national championship both years, and earning the title of marathoner at the regional championship last year. She is excited and proud to be part of the first Blue Book Lite, and is looking forward to a great year of competition.

**Sarah Carr** is a 15 year old debater and she has been a part of NCFCA for 4 years, making to Regional’s 3. Her accomplishments are 3rd at the Utah SPEAK Tournament with her debate partner, Nathan Hardy, and 5th speaker place. She loves formatting and organizing evidence and she looks forward to the 2009-2010 debate season and how far everyone will go.

**Lauren Miller** is a third year NCFCA competitor, who placed second in persuasive at Nationals in 2009. Her favorite book of the Bible is Ephesians. She likes scotch tape, has a djembe named Robby, and loves speech and debate.

**Joseph Martin**, a sophomore residing in St. Louis, MO, looks forward to the ‘09-‘10 debate resolution due to its numerous possibilities for a TP 1AC. Joseph enjoys swimming and outdoor activities.

**Elaine Hammett** is a High School sophomore. This will be her 3rd year of NCFCA Speech and Debate. She has qualified for Regionals in Open Interp and made it to the semi-final round. She also qualified for Regionals with her partner in Team Policy. She enjoys debating with her partner in South Carolina, NCFCA Region 8.

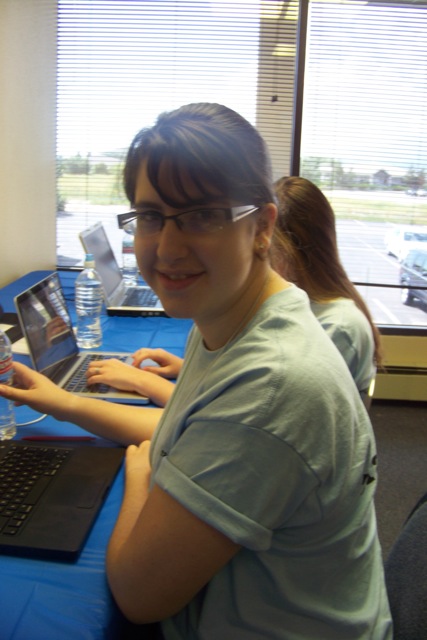
**Nathanael Hammett** is a High School sophomore. This will be his 3rd year of NCFCA Speech and Debate. In the 2008-2009 season, he and his partner broke to Regionals. He also qualified for Regionals in Humorous. He lives in South Carolina and debates in NCFCA’s Region 8.

**Justin Knopp** is third year competitor in the NCFCA and a sophomore in high school. He qualified for regionals in apologetics in 2008, and is heading into his first official year of debate. His favorite verse is Proverbs 17:17.

**Kaitlin Nelson** decided to switch to Team Policy debate after taking 7th place in Lincoln-Douglas at the 2009 National NCFCA Tournament. Although she has never research specifically for a policy case, she has completed several extensive research and thesis papers throughout high school. Additionally, her extemporaneous experience has helped introduce her to research and current government policies.

**Lael Burge** is a 16 year-old, fourth year, team policy debater. Her accomplishments include: achieving 3rd place at the Rocky Mountain Classic with her partner and being awarded 4th place speaker at that same tournament. She is passionate about debate, politics, and participating in her club’s leadership program.

**Guthrie Leath** has debated in NCFCA for two years. He has competed at the local, state, and national level in Team Policy. He has used blue book products all of his debate career and is excited about being a part of the first edition of the Blue Book Lite.

**Rachel Watson** is a Second year Team Policy debater. She went to Regionals in Duo speech, and went 3-3 in debate at two Region 3 qualifiers this past season. Rachel loves what she does, and looks forward to the rest of her debating years.

**Hannah Groenevelt** is a 16 year old speaker and debater who has been affiliated with the NCFCA for five years. Her accomplishments include 4th place at a Region 3 qualifier, winning her triple-octofinals round to advance to double-octofinals at the 2009 Houston National Open, and qualifying to Nationals with her Original Oratory. She derives delight from perfect formatting, traveling to out of state tournaments, and creating genuine friendships.

**Christy Reid** is a 3rd year NCFCA competitor and the 2009 National Expository speaking champion and 8th place National Duo champion. She competed at the NCFCA 2008 Nationals in Humorous Interpretation. Christy also excels in Lincoln Douglas debate, finishing 1st place in LD at the 2009 Arkansas qualifier.

Trash To Treasure: The Case for Methane Landfill Recovery

By Jesse Montoya, Cameron Walker and Katherine Kaiser

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure”…literally. Everyday tons of waste is disposed of in landfills all across America, but what most Americans don’t know is that this is an untapped resource of energy. The affirmative team seeks to utilize that as we affirm that the United States Federal Government should significantly reform its environmental policy.

First, let’s define some key terms in…

OBSERVATION 1. DEFINITIONS:

**Environmental Policy -** any actions deliberately taken - or not taken – that are aimed at managing human activities with a view to preventing harmful effects on nature and natural resources and ensuring that man-made changes to the environment do not have harmful effects on humans.

John McCormick, 2001 “Environmental Policy in the European Union. The European Series”. Palgrave. p. 21 [accessed trhough Amazon Look Inside]

**Significant –** “having or likely to have influence or effect” (Merriam-Webster Online Dict., 2009 <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/significant>

**Landfill Gas (LFG):** is created when organic waste decomposes. The gas consists of approximately equal parts methane (the primary component of natural gas), and carbon dioxide, as well as traces of non-methane organic compounds. <http://www.bficanada.com/English/Media/GlossaryofTerms/default.aspx>

Now we look at the current situation in…

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY:

Barriers to LFG collection

International Energy Agency (The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an autonomous body which was established in November 1974 within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to implement an international energy programme. It carries out a comprehensive programme of energy co-operation among twenty-eight of the OECD thirty member countries) 2009 “Energy Sector Methane Recovery and Use: The Importance of Policy” <http://www.iea.org/textbase/Papers/2009/methane_brochure.pdf>

LFG collection and use technologies are mature and there are many options for landfill gas use. However, barriers prevent the wider use of these technologies, including:

 Financial. Investors are unlikely to put forth the capital needed for an LFG capture and utilization scheme unless it will be sufficiently profitable. Furthermore, there is higher risk and uncertainty relating to predicting the LFG flow from waste disposal sites in developing countries, where the climatic or disposal site conditions are quite different from those at landfills with existing LFG recovery and use projects.

 Interconnection to the electricity grid. As with other methane recovery electricity generation projects, there are often economic and technical barriers in connecting LFG power projects to the grid to sell their power output.

 Solid waste management practices. Developing countries are more likely to dispose of municipal solid waste in open or minimally managed dumpsites. Before these countries can consider LFG use, they will first need to improve solid waste management practices, which requires additional capital and human resource investments.

 Awareness. There is the need to increase awareness of the existence of LFG emissions and the value of the lost fuel, especially in developing countries with rapidly growing waste sectors. Policy makers often fail to understand the full impact of LFG emissions on local air quality and climate change risk. Waste disposal sites also lack clear, unbiased information about costs and performance of various LFG use options.

Observation 3. We offer our PLAN, to be implemented by any necessary constitutional means

Agency: Congress will pass any necessary legislation, and the President and State Department will implement it.

Mandates:

1. Increase and Extend: Increase the Production Tax Credit for LFG projects from 30% to 50% and increase the payment period from 10 years to 15 years.

2. Infrastructure: Invest 351.1 million dollars in improving infrastructure for LFG projects.

3. Awareness: The Department of Energy will contact eligible LFG project owners and inform them about the benefits and opportunities of LFG projects.

Funding will come from redirecting all congressional earmarks relating to agriculture in fiscal year 2009 (as defined by Citizens Against Government Waste) totaling 351.1 million dollars.

Enforcement will be through IRS the EPA and any other necessary federal agency.

Timeline: This plan begins 30 days after an affirmative ballot.

All Affirmative speeches have legislative intent for the purpose of clarifying the plan.

Now we’ll look at how our plan achieves our goal in…

Observation 5. SOLVENCY and PLAN ADVOCACY

Plan Advocate: EPA

Environmental Protection Agency (a government agency that regulates and addresses numerous environmental issues), 2007 “Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)” <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/benefits.htm>

EPA is interested in developing LFG energy for many reasons:

• Projects help destroy methane, a potent heat-trapping gas, and offset the use of non-renewable resources such as coal, natural gas, and oil.

• There are many cost-effective options for reducing methane emissions while generating energy. (To learn more about the economic feasibility of a LFG energy project, see LFGcost-Web under Documents, Tools, and Resources.)

• Projects help reduce local air pollution.

• Projects create jobs, revenues, and cost savings.

Production tax credits makes alternative energy competitive and provides a predictable policy environment

International Energy Agency (The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an autonomous body which was established in November 1974 within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to implement an international energy programme. It carries out a comprehensive programme of energy co-operation among twenty-eight of the OECD thirty member countries) January, 2009 “Turning a Liability into an Asset: the Importance of Policy in Fostering Landfill Gas Use Worldwide,” <http://www.iea.org/textbase/papers/2009/landfill.pdf> [brackets added]

The PTC [production tax credit] has provided both financial and regulatory incentives for renewable energy in the United States. It makes alternative energy competitive with fossil sources, and provides a predictable policy environment for investors to make decisions about which technologies to support.

Observation 6. Our plan produces numerous ADVANTAGES

1. Economy

A. Solvency/Significance: LFG projects improve the US economy

Methane to Markets (The Methane to Markets Partnership was launched on 16 November 2004, at a Ministerial Meeting in Washington, D.C., when 14 national governments signed on as Partners. The Methane to Markets Partnership is a voluntary, non-binding framework for international cooperation to advance the recovery and use of methane as a valuable clean energy source.) June 2008, <http://www.methanetomarkets.org/resources/landfills/docs/usa_lf_profile.pdf>

LFG energy projects also have a positive impact on U.S. economic growth and cost savings. A typical 3-megawatt LFG electricity project is estimated to have the following national benefits (direct, indirect, and induced) during the construction year:

• Increase the output of the U.S. economy by more than $14 million

• Increase U.S. employee earnings by more than $3 million (e.g., wages, salaries)

• Employ nearly 70 people (expressed in fulltime equivalents per year).

B. Impact: Supportive Policies needed to prevent rising unemployment

Reuters (a respected news source), July 21, 2009 “Unemployment could undercut U.S. recovery: Bernanke” <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE56K0AI20090721>

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke Tuesday said the outlook for the long-suffering U.S. economy was improving, but supportive policies would be needed for some time to prevent rising unemployment from undercutting recovery.

C. Impact: Green jobs benefit the economy and the environment

Bracken Hendricks (Bracken Hedricks; Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, Bracken Hendricks works at the interface of global warming solutions and economic development) Andrew Light (Andrew Light, Ph.D., is a Senior Fellow at American Progress specializing in climate, energy, and science policy)Benjamin Goldstein (Benjamin Goldstein is a Policy Analyst with the Energy Opportunity team at American Progress) April 6, 2009 “A Green Jobs Primer Job Creation in a Clean Energy Economy” <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/04/green_jobs_primer.html>

Green jobs enhance environmental quality, build a vibrant clean energy economy, and help to expand the American middle class.

2. Landfill gas mitigates harmful environmental effects

A. Solvency/Significance: LFG can significantly reduce GHG emissions

BioCycle Magazine (Published since 1960, BioCycle is America’s foremost magazine on composting and organics recycling) September, 2007 “Landfill Gas Use Trends In The United States” <http://www.jgpress.com/archives/_free/001417.html> [brackets added]

Collection and control of LFG [Landfill Gas] results in significant reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With the greater focus on climate change, a burgeoning market for GHG emission offsets is emerging and landfills can bring these GHG offsets to market, resulting in additional incentives for collection and beneficial use.

B. Impact: GHGs cause widespread devastation and suffering

Global Humanitarian Forum (Global Humanitarian Forum is an international humanitarian arena to foster dialogue and broker partnerships that strengthen the international community’s ability to address more effectively current and emerging humanitarian challenges. The forum has been founded by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan) 2009 “The Anatomy of A Silent Crisis” <http://ghfgeneva.org/Portals/0/pdfs/human_impact_report.pdf>

Science is now unequivocal as to the reality of climate change. Human activities, in particular emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide are recognized as its principle cause. This report clearly shows that climate change is already causing widespread devastation and suffering around the planet today.

3. Reduced dependence on foreign oil

A. Solvency: LFG Offsets need for coal and oil

Martin L. Pomerant, (executive vice president of technology and engineering, Renewable Solutions Group), Apr 1, 2009, Tapping the Trash, <http://wasteage.com/Landfill_Management/landfill-methane-pipeline-quality-gas-200904>, Brackets added

Converting LFG [landfill gas] to energy offsets the need for non-renewable resources, such as coal and oil, and reduces emissions of air pollutants that contribute to local smog and acid rain. In addition, LFG projects help curtail global climate change, because they reduce emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

B. Impact: Oil has cost our economy dearly

FuelEconomy.gov (a informational government website dealing with fuel economy and oil dependence) 2008 “Reduce Oil Dependence Costs” <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/FEG/oildep.shtml>

Oil price shocks and price manipulation by OPEC have cost our economy dearly—about $1.9 trillion from 2004 to 2008—and each major shock was followed by a recession.

In summary, landfill gas projects benefit the economy and environment. And remember judge, with an affirmative ballot at the end of today’s debate you can turn landfill trash into energy treasure.

2A: Methane Landfill Recovery

By Jesse Montoya, Cameron Walker and Katherine Kaiser

Inherency

Initial cost barriers

International Energy Agency (The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an autonomous body which was established in November 1974 within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to implement an international energy programme. It carries out a comprehensive programme of energy co-operation among twenty-eight of the OECD thirty member countries) January, 2009 “Turning a Liability into an Asset: the Importance of Policy in Fostering Landfill Gas Use Worldwide,” <http://www.iea.org/textbase/papers/2009/landfill.pdf>

As noted in the background section, it is difficult for some solid waste management sites to make the investment needed for basic safety and environmental measures, let alone more advanced practices like LFG capture and use. However, as referenced in the India text box above, LFG sales offer the potential for a new revenue source that may offset the cost of capital. In developed countries, where it is more feasible to install LFGE systems, costs may still pose a barrier to installation. When the alternative of not installing any system or simply flaring the LFG exists, investors are unlikely to put forth the capital needed for a landfill gas capture and utilisation scheme unless it will be sufficiently profitable to justify the setup and maintenance costs. For this reason, some countries have enacted subsidies and other schemes to support LFGE.

Regulatory uncertainty a barrier to entry/investment

International Energy Agency (The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an autonomous body which was established in November 1974 within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to implement an international energy programme. It carries out a comprehensive programme of energy co-operation among twenty-eight of the OECD thirty member countries) January, 2009 “Turning a Liability into an Asset: the Importance of Policy in Fostering Landfill Gas Use Worldwide,” <http://www.iea.org/textbase/papers/2009/landfill.pdf>

Another potential barrier is inconsistent, complicated, or poorly devised standards for connecting LFG power projects to the grid. Because there is typically very low electricity consumption at solid waste sites, LFGE projects need to sell power to make a project viable. While it is important to establish interconnection conditions that smaller-scale generators must meet – such as safeguards, grid upgrades, operating restrictions, and application procedures – these standards can be an obstacle to smaller-scale systems if they are subjected to the same expensive, lengthy processes as large power generators. Greater regulatory oversight and attention is needed to provide safe, effective, yet reasonable interconnection standards for LFGE and other smaller-scale generators (EPA, 2006). This is one example of how policy inconsistencies can pose a problem for LFGE investment. Uncertainties in the regulatory environment can dissuade investors from supporting LFGE projects.

Start-up costs inhibits expansion of LFG projects

American Society of Civil Engineers (American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is a professional body founded in 1852 to represent members of the civil engineering profession worldwide. It is the oldest national engineering society in the United States. ASCE's vision is to have engineers positioned as global leaders who strive toward building a better quality of life.) 2008 <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/fact-sheet/solid-waste>

In 2006, 23% of human-related methane gas emissions came from MSW landfills, making landfills the second largest producer of methane. The methane gas emitted from landfills can be captured and transformed into usable energy. Despite this opportunity, at the end of 2007 only 457 landfill gas (LFG) energy projects were operational. These LFG programs produce approximately 11 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year and deliver 236 million cubic feet per day of gas to direct-use applications. The EPA estimates that more than 500 additional sites are good candidates for energy conversion projects, but high start-up costs inhibit expansion of this process.

Landfills account for 23% of US methane emissions

Environmental Protection Agency (The EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people), Last updated on May 29th, 2009 “Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)” <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/benefits.htm>

Municipal solid waste landfills are the second largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 23 percent of these emissions in 2007. At the same time, methane emissions from landfills represent a lost opportunity to capture and use a significant energy resource.

Significance

Link: Methane 20 times worse than Carbon Dioxide

Steve Connor, (Science Editor working for “The Independent” a news source based out of the United Kingdom ) September 2008. “Exclusive: the methane time bomb.” The Independent <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/exclusive-the-methane-time-bomb-938932.html>

Methane is about 20 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and many scientists fear that its release could accelerate global warming in a giant positive feedback where more atmospheric methane causes higher temperatures, leading to further permafrost melting and the release of yet more methane.

Link: EPA determines that GHGs threaten public health and welfare

Dr. Calvin B. Parnell, Jr. (Regents Professor in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and is the Cotton Chair. He has been conducting research on Air Pollution Engineering for over 40 years) May 29, 2009 “[Global Warming and Green House Gases (GHG) What is the problem?](http://blogs.tamu.edu/cparnell/2009/05/29/global-warming-and-green-house-gases-ghg/" \t "_self)” <http://blogs.tamu.edu/cparnell/2009/05/29/global-warming-and-green-house-gases-ghg/>

A Supreme Court decision in April, 2007 forced EPA to determine whether (or not) emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) cause or contribute to air pollution or whether the science is too uncertain to make a reasoned decision. On April 17, 2009, the EPA Administrator responded to the court mandate. The “Endangerment Findings” were that GHGs “in the atmosphere do threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations” and GHG emissions from new motor vehicles pose a threat of climate change.

LFG projects achieve a beneficial impact on climate change

Environmental Protection Agency (The EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people), Last updated on May 29th, 2009 “Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)” <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/benefits.htm>

Municipal solid waste landfills are the second largest human-generated source of methane emissions in the United States, releasing an estimated 32 MMTCE to the atmosphere in 2007 alone. Given that all landfills generate methane, it makes sense to use the gas for the beneficial purpose of energy generation rather than emitting it to the atmosphere. Methane is a very potent greenhouse gas that is a key contributor to global climate change (over 21 times stronger than CO2). Methane also has a short (10-year) atmospheric life. Because methane is both potent and short-lived, reducing methane emissions from MSW landfills is one of the best ways to achieve a near-term beneficial impact in mitigating global climate change.

The US produces massive amounts of methane

The EIA (The Energy Information Administration, a United States Governmental Agency, 2007 “Emissions of Greenhouse Gases Report” [brackets added] <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/ggrpt/>

Methane emissions totaled 699.9 MMT [million metric tons] CO2e in 2007 (Figure 1 at right), up by 13.0 MMTCO2e from 2006, with increases in emissions from energy sources, waste management, and agriculture.

LFG curbs the release of GHG’s

The Baltimore Sun (The Sun is Maryland’s largest general circulation daily newspaper and provides comprehensive coverage of local and regional news, events, issues, people, and industries. Important local industries include defense, electronics, service, commercial fishing, agriculture, and tourism. Major companies located in the region include Black & Decker, Crown Central Petroleum, Life Technologies, Martin Marietta, McCormick & Co., and Westinghouse Electric; reporter: Timothy Wheeler), October 7, 2006 “Landfills Stink Of Energy, Money” <http://www.pepcoenergy.com/NewsAndEvents/NewsArticleDetail.aspx?request=KpTHjPhqAk/stR8ErHSjfwPYOVpSVC2e>

Anyone who's been to or even by a landfill knows it can have a certain aroma. Lately, though, some of Maryland's landfills have begun to smell like money. Businesses and local governments are teaming up to generate electricity or steam from the methane gas produced by decomposing garbage buried in landfills. The move is prompted by rising natural gas prices, federal tax breaks and recently enacted state requirements, but it also helps combat a major environmental problem - global climate change - by curbing releases of harmful "greenhouse" gases that trap heat in Earth's atmosphere.

Harnessing landfill gas is one of the best ways for short-term mitigation of climate change

Dr. T. A. Kurniawan and Mika E.T. Sillanpää (Dr. T. A. Kurniawan, Ph.D. has written numerous articles on LFG technology and other subjects. Research interests: advanced oxidation process; Climate change; Heavy metal removal; Landfill leachate treatment; Low cost adsorbents; Solid Waste Management, Water Pollution Control. Sillanpää is the author of numerous articles about LFG technology and other subjects. Research interests: Nanotechnology, Landfill Management, Wastewater treatment, Soil remediation, Environmental analysis) 31 January 2009 “Harnessing Hazardous Landfill Gas (LFG) for Renewable Energy: A Strategic Approach to Reduce Global Warming and Greenhouse Gases Emission” <http://www.scitopics.com/Harnessing_Hazardous_Landfill_Gas_LFG_for_Renewable_Energy_A_Strategic_Approach_to_Reduce_Global_Warming_and_Greenhouse_Gases_Emission.html>

Since methane is a key contributor to global warming worldwide, its emissions to the atmosphere need to be reduced. After removing its impurity, harnessing LFG for energy, fuel, and/or electricity is one of the best ways to achieve a short-term beneficial impact in mitigating climate change.

Solvency:

Subsidies are necessary for LFG

David Brooks (staff writer for NH.com an online news source focusing on issues relevant to New Hampshire) February 1, 2009 “UNH takes lead in using methane from landfills for alternative energy” <http://www.nh.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/NS/20090201/NEWS01/302019883/-1/NEWSBIN> [brackets added]

EcoLine should begin producing landfill gas power within a month or two, and be in complete operation by the fall. It's a slow process because of technical issues – but perhaps the biggest issue for a project of this magnitude is financial. The Energy and Campus Development department operates as a "quasi-utility" within the UNH system, as Chamberlin describes it. The university says it's paying for the project through borrowing, without using state money or tuition fees, because the cost over 20 years – the minimum length of time that the Rochester landfill is permitted to operate – would be lower than sticking with the usual route. That projection, however, is based on savings compared to the expense of using traditional fuels. The price of natural gas, like the price of oil, soared and then collapsed as the recession hit, falling from a high $20 per million BTU in September to as low as $5 in December. Like many alternative energy projects, EcoLine is much harder to justify when traditional fuel is cheap. "When it was $15, I was a hero. At $5 – not so much," Chamberlin said wryly. The long-term expectation, however, is that natural gas prices will rise again. From UNH's point of view, the higher, the better. "The economics aren't quite as good today, but for the life of the project, it's still good," Chamberlin said. He won't discuss details of the contract with Waste Management, but says UNH will pay a "good price" that's tied to the natural gas index. Another factor is state and regional attempts to provide monetary incentives for cutting energy use and greenhouse-gas emissions. "Without the subsidies, you would never do it," Davis said. "We can't compete with the cost of coal."

LFG energy can be generated for 20 or more years

Susan Combs/Office of the Texas Comptroller (Susan Combs serves as the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Comptroller is the chief steward of the state’s finances, acting as tax collector, chief accountant, chief revenue estimator and chief treasurer for all of state government) April 2008 “Landfill Gas” Office of the Texas Comptroller <http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/energy/renewable/landfill.php>

Methane is generated as soon as solid waste is put in a landfill. Peak production starts about a year after deposit, but gas can be generated for 20 or more years, depending on the individual landfill characteristics. Moisture, the composition of materials in the landfill, soil types, air temperatures and other factors make each landfill unique in how much gas it produces, what the gas’s components are and when it begins producing the gas.

LFG methane capture is 60-90%

Environmental Protection Agency (The EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people), Last updated on May 29th, 2009 “Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)” <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/benefits.htm>

It is estimated that a LFG project will capture roughly 60-90% of the methane emitted from the landfill, depending on system design and effectiveness. The captured methane is destroyed (converted to water and the much less potent CO2) when the gas is burned to produce electricity.

GHG emission offsets provide additional LFG financial incentive

BioCycle Magazine (Published since 1960, BioCycle is America’s foremost magazine on composting and organics recycling) September, 2007 “Landfill Gas Use Trends In The United States” <http://www.jgpress.com/archives/_free/001417.html>

Economic benefits are certainly a powerful motivator but environmental stewardship and corporate social responsibility also are strong market drivers for landfill gas projects. Demand for GHG reductions has resulted in another motivation for the use of LFG - generation of GHG emission offsets through collection and control of LFG. According to the Chicago Climate Exchange, GHG offsets currently are trading for over $3/metric ton of CO2 equivalent (CO2E). Given that the capture of one ton of methane is equivalent to reducing approximately 20 tons of CO2E, LFG projects can provide significant GHG reductions for additional financial incentive.

Harnessing LFG is one of the most promising options to reduce methane emissions

Dr. T. A. Kurniawan and Mika E.T. Sillanpää (Dr. T. A. Kurniawan, Ph.D. has written numerous articles on LFG technology and other subjects. Research interests: advanced oxidation process; Climate change; Heavy metal removal; Landfill leachate treatment; Low cost adsorbents; Solid Waste Management, Water Pollution Control. Sillanpää is the author of numerous articles about LFG technology and other subjects. Research interests: Nanotechnology, Landfill Management, Wastewater treatment, Soil remediation, Environmental analysis) 31 January 2009 “Harnessing Hazardous Landfill Gas (LFG) for Renewable Energy: A Strategic Approach to Reduce Global Warming and Greenhouse Gases Emission” <http://www.scitopics.com/Harnessing_Hazardous_Landfill_Gas_LFG_for_Renewable_Energy_A_Strategic_Approach_to_Reduce_Global_Warming_and_Greenhouse_Gases_Emission.html>

In this regards, harnessing LFG for energy production and/or fuel power is one of the most promising options not only to reduce global methane emissions and the atmospheric pollution, but also to provide a non-conventional source of energy that can be utilized for several energy-producing purposes, thus generating additional revenues for landfill operators through the sale of green power and transfer of emissions reduction credits. This revenue may be able not only to defray the cost of landfill operation and maintenance (O&M), but also to provide an incentive and means to improve the design and operation of landfills, thus developing a better overall waste management system in Taiwan.

LFG collection ranges from 50% - 99%

SCS Engineers (SCS is an award-winning, employee-owned environmental engineering and construction firm. Since 1970, they have provided quality professional engineering and scientific services directed toward environmental protection and conservation of resources.) January 2009 <http://www.scsengineers.com/Papers/Sullivan_SWICS_White_Paper_Version_2.2_Final.pdf> (Date URL) <http://www.scsengineers.com/SCS_papers.html>

Based on a literature review, LFG collection efficiency values ranging from 50 percent to 99 percent are proposed.

Estimates for GHG reduction may be better than expected

SCS Engineers (SCS is an award-winning, employee-owned environmental engineering and construction firm. Since 1970, we have provided quality professional engineering and scientific services directed toward environmental protection and conservation of resources) January 2009 <http://www.scsengineers.com/Papers/Sullivan_SWICS_White_Paper_Version_2.2_Final.pdf> (Date URL) <http://www.scsengineers.com/SCS_papers.html>

In conclusion, if the proposed new values for collection system efficiencies, methane oxidation in cover soils, and carbon storage factors for carbon sequestration are used in GHG emissions inventories, GHG emissions from landfills will be significantly lower and the reduction potential will be higher than the current estimates. The differences in the previously used values and the proposed values need to be taken into account in order to more accurately define the state-of-the practice technology used in the engineered landfills of today and allow site-specific estimates of landfill methane emissions.

Advantages

LFG has multiple benefits

BioCycle Magazine (Published since 1960, BioCycle is America’s foremost magazine on composting and organics recycling) September, 2007 “Landfill Gas Use Trends In The United States” <http://www.jgpress.com/archives/_free/001417.html> [Brackets Added]

Using LFG [Landfill Gas] has multiple benefits, such as reducing odors and other hazards associated with LFG emissions and preventing methane from migrating into the atmosphere where it contributes to local smog and global climate change. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, about 21 times more so than carbon dioxide.

LFG creates indirect benefits

Environmental Protection Agency (The EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people), Last updated on May 29th, 2009 “Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)” <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/benefits.htm>

Producing energy from LFG avoids the need to use non-renewable resources such as coal, oil, or natural gas to produce the same amount of energy. This can avoid gas end-user and power plant emissions of CO2 and criteria pollutants such as sulfur dioxide (which is a major contributor to acid rain), particulate matter (a respiratory health concern), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and trace hazardous air pollutants.

It should be noted that LFG electricity generation devices, like all combustion devices, generate some emissions of NOx, which can contribute to local ozone and smog formation. Depending on the fuels and technologies used by the power plant and the landfill project, the NOx emission reductions from the power plant may not completely offset the NOx emitted from the LFG electricity project. However, the overall environmental improvement from landfill gas electricity generation projects is significant because of the large methane reductions, hazardous air pollutant reductions, and avoidance of the use of limited non-renewable resources such as coal and oil that are more polluting than LFG.

LFG projects benefit the local economy

Environmental Protection Agency (The EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people), Last updated on May 29th, 2009 “Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)” <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/benefits.htm>

Landfill gas projects generate revenue from the sale of the gas. Landfill gas use can also create jobs associated with the design, construction, and operation of energy recovery systems. Landfill gas projects involve engineers, construction firms, equipment vendors, and utilities or end-users of the power produced. Much of this cost is spent locally for drilling, piping, construction, and operational personnel, helping communities to realize economic benefits from increased employment and local sales. Businesses are also realizing the cost savings associated with using LFG as a replacement for more expensive fossil fuels, such as natural gas. Some companies will save millions of dollars over the life of their LFG energy projects.

LFG mitigates the global warming effect of methane

[Steve Last](http://www.a1articles.com/author_1_76426.html) (Steve Last is an environmental engineer who is also a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), and lives in the county of Shropshire, UK. CEnv is a new and growing academic discipline created in the last two years. All Chartered Environmentalists further the principles of sustainability.), “Landfill Problems and Global Warming Effects,” 8th December 2008, http://www.a1articles.com/article\_714626\_53.html

However, interest in the use of landfill gas to fuel electricity generation is growing. Landfill methane is collected at a growing number of landfill sites and burned for energy production which mitigates the global warming effect of the methane as well as producing electricity and/or heat.

Reducing methane emissions has many benefits

Environmental Protection Agency (The EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people), Last updated on May 29th, 2009 “Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)”http://www.epa.gov/lmop/benefits.htm

Reducing methane emissions has many important energy, safety, economic, and environmental benefits. First, because methane is both a potent GHG and has a short atmospheric lifetime, methane reductions can produce significant near-term results. In addition, methane is the primary constituent of natural gas. Thus, the collection and utilization of methane provides a valuable, clean-burning energy source that improves quality of life in local communities and can generate revenue and improve living standards. Producing energy from recovered methane can also avoid the use of higher-emitting energy resources such as wood, coal or oil. This can reduce end user and power plant emissions of CO2 and air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide (which is a major contributor to acid rain), particulate matter (a respiratory health concern), and trace hazardous air pollutants. Capturing methane from coal mines can also improve safety conditions reducing explosion hazards.

LFG plants have significant energy potential

LMOP (the EPA’s landfill methane outreach program), “An Overview of Landfill Gas Energy Opportunities in the U.S.,” File Last Updated: June 2008, http://www.naco.org/cffiles/ggi/webinars/pdfs/USEPALandfillMethaneOutreachProgram\_ThomasFrankiewicz.pdf

Currently 540 candidate landfills with a total gas generation potential of 240 billion cubic feet per year (14,000 MMBtu/hr) OR electric potential of 1,280 MW (10 million MWh/yr). If projects were developed at all these landfills, estimated Annual Environmental Benefit = Carbon sequestered annually by 12.4 million acres of pine or fir forests OR annual greenhouse gas emissions from 9.9 million passenger vehicles, AND

Annual Energy Benefit = Powering 808,000 homes OR heating 1.5 million homes per year.

Landfill gas can generate job opportunities and help build local economies

Dr. T. A. Kurniawan and Mika E.T. Sillanpää (Dr. T. A. Kurniawan, Ph.D. has written numerous articles on LFG technology and other subjects. Research interests: advanced oxidation process; Climate change; Heavy metal removal; Landfill leachate treatment; Low cost adsorbents; Solid Waste Management, Water Pollution Control. Sillanpää is the author of numerous articles about LFG technology and other subjects. Research interests: Nanotechnology, Landfill Management, Wastewater treatment, Soil remediation, Environmental analysis) 31 January 2009 “Harnessing Hazardous Landfill Gas (LFG) for Renewable Energy: A Strategic Approach to Reduce Global Warming and Greenhouse Gases Emission”http://www.scitopics.com/Harnessing\_Hazardous\_Landfill\_Gas\_LFG\_for\_Renewable\_Energy\_A\_Strategic\_Approach\_to\_Reduce\_Global\_Warming\_and\_Greenhouse\_Gases\_Emission.html

Simultaneously, it also makes sense to use the LFG for energy generation if this is economically viable. As LFG can generate electricity over 95% of the time (24 hours a day), it represents attractive emissions reduction initiatives, in which the energy in the recovered biogas can be sold for public consumption. This strategy is cost-effective to supply community power needs. Such energy generation can create job opportunities that help build local economy. Moreover, the value of the energy derived from the biogas can offset the cost of collecting and processing LFG to generate fuels and fertilizers without releasing greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

Green Jobs (article extension from 1A)

Bracken Hendricks (Bracken Hedricks; Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, Bracken Hendricks works at the interface of global warming solutions and economic development) Andrew Light (Andrew Light, Ph.D., is a Senior Fellow at American Progress specializing in climate, energy, and science policy) Benjamin Goldstein (Benjamin Goldstein is a Policy Analyst with the Energy Opportunity team at American Progress) April 6, 2009 “A Green Jobs Primer Job Creation in a Clean Energy Economy” <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/04/green_jobs_primer.html>

Green jobs are today’s jobs but repurposed and expanded to build a sustainable low-carbon economy. Most green jobs will be in occupations that people already work in today. Constructing wind farms creates jobs for sheet metal workers and industrial truck drivers. Energy efficiency retrofits for buildings employ roofers and insulators. And expanding mass transit systems employs electricians and dispatchers. Green jobs are not an entirely new job sector. Akin to more familiar blue collar jobs, this new class of employment refers to certain types of productive activities rather than a specific job classification. What’s more, green jobs are inherently local and difficult to outsource. Green jobs involve transforming today’s homes, offices and factories and investing in new, low-carbon infrastructure. This work is impossible to push offshore because it must be preformed on site. Making buildings more energy efficient, constructing mass transit lines, installing solar panels and wind turbines, expanding public green space, and growing and refining advanced biofuels all must take place right here in America.

Facts

Landfill costs

Susan Combs/Office of the Texas Comptroller (Susan Combs serves as the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Comptroller is the chief steward of the state’s finances, acting as tax collector, chief accountant, chief revenue estimator and chief treasurer for all of state government) 2008 “Landfill Gas” <http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/energy/renewable/landfill.php>

Preparing a 1 million-ton landfill for energy production can entail initial capital costs of $600,000 to $750,000 or more and operating costs of $40,000 to $50,000 a year. Other costs include legal fees, permitting, environmental impact studies and other costs associated with maintaining the landfill.

Most new Landfills are required to collect methane

Susan Combs/Office of the Texas Comptroller (Susan Combs serves as the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Comptroller is the chief steward of the state’s finances, acting as tax collector, chief accountant, chief revenue estimator and chief treasurer for all of state government) 2008 “Landfill Gas” <http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/energy/renewable/landfill.php>

Most new landfills, if they fall under federal regulations, are required to collect methane to prevent air pollution, but most existing Texas landfills simply burn it off, a process called “flaring,” without producing any useful energy.

Funding

$351.1 million in agriculture earmarks

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization representing more than one million members and supporters nationwide. CAGW's mission is to eliminate waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the federal government.) 2009 <http://www.cagw.org/site/PageServer?pagename=reports_pigbook2009>

Unable to completely resist those delicious earmarks, appropriators loaded up on less agriculture pork this year. The number of projects decreased by 23.9 percent, from 614 in fiscal year 2008 to 467 in fiscal year 2009, while the cost decreased by 9.6 percent, from $388 million in fiscal year 2008 to $351.1 million in fiscal year 2009.

Examples of wasteful agriculture spending

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization representing more than one million members and supporters nationwide. CAGW's mission is to eliminate waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the federal government.) 2009 <http://www.cagw.org/site/PageServer?pagename=reports_pigbook2009>

**$4,545,000** for wood utilization research in 10 states by 19 senators and 10 representatives. This research has cost taxpayers $95.3 million since 1985. One would think that after 24 years of research all the purposes for one of the world’s most basic construction materials would have been discovered.

**$2,192,000** by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee member Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), then-House appropriator JamesWalsh (R-N.Y.), and Rep. Michael Arcuri (D-N.Y.) for the Center for Grape Genetics in Geneva.  New York’s wine and grape industries generate $6 billion annually in sales. Taxpayers should not have been soaked for this money.  $1,791,000 by Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee member TomHarkin (D-Iowa) for swine odor and manure management research in Ames.  According to the Agriculture Research Service’s website, the purpose of the research is to “generate and integrate knowledge for evaluation and development of new management practices that minimize nutrient excretion, malodorous emissions, and the release of pathogens into the environment as well as have a positive impact on animal health.” In an effort to defend his earmark on the Senate floor, Sen. Harkin summed up its ridiculous nature succinctly: “I’m sure that David Letterman will probably be talking about it and Jay Leno will be talking about it, we’ve got $1.8 million to study why pigs smell.”

**$1,762,000** by Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee member Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), House appropriator Chet Edwards (D-Texas), and Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-Texas) for a honey bee lab in Weslaco.  $866,000 by Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee member Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) for stable fly control in Lincoln.  $469,000 by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), and Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) for a fruit fly facility in Hawaii.  $413,000 by Senate appropriator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), then-Rep. Terry Everett (R-Ala.), and Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) for tri-state joint peanut research.  Since 1997, CAGW has uncovered nine earmarks worth $4,460,975 for peanut research.

**$303,000** by then-Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), and Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) for wild rice in St. Paul. Five projects worth $815,725 have been earmarked for Minnesota’s state grain since 1999.

**$254,000** by Senate appropriator Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) for the Montana Sheep Institute.  According to the organization’s website, “The Montana Sheep Institute (MSI) is a cooperative project between Montana Wool Growers Association and Montana State University. The MSI is dedicated to developing and implementing nontraditional adjustment strategies that will increase the competitiveness of Montana’s lamb and wool in the world market. Our goal is to explore opportunities to increase the utilization of sheep in weed management programs and improve the profitability and competitiveness of the Montana Sheep Industry.”  Since 2002, CAGW has uncovered seven earmarks worth $3,033,950 for the Montana Sheep Institute. This is money b-a-a-a-a-a-a-dly spent.

**$245,000** by Senate appropriator Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), House appropriator Norm Dicks (D-Wash.), and Reps. Brian Baird (D-Wash.), Doc Hastings (R-Wash.), Jay Inslee (D-Wash.), and Adam Smith (D-Wash.) for Aegilops cylindrica, or jointed goat grass, in Idaho and Washington. According to the farming reference website Oneplan.org, jointed goat grass is native to southern Europe and western Asia and is similar to wheat.

**$243,000** by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), and Reps. Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii) andMazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) for floriculture.  According to an July 9, 2008 Pacific Business News article, “Hawaii’s floriculture and nursery products industry continued to grow in 2007, bringing in $105.9 million, nearly $5 million more than the record set in 2005.” With recent record-setting sales, surely the industry could do without federal earmarks. Since 1995, CAGW has exposed 22 earmarks worth $12,324,841 for floriculture.

**$206,000** for wool research in three states (Montana, Texas, and Wyoming) by Reps. Mike Conaway (R-Texas) and Ciro Rodriguez (D-Texas).  Since 1995, CAGW has uncovered 13 earmarks worth $3,417,453 for wool research, always in the same three states.  While 47 states have figured out that wool can be best used to make a warm sweater, Montana, Texas, and Wyoming apparently are still trying to work out its practical utilizations.  $173,000 by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), then-Rep. Thomas Allen (D-Maine), and Rep. Michael Michaud (D-Maine) for lowbush blueberry research.  According to an August 10, 2008 article on Newsday.com, Maine produces 99 percent of the nation’s lowbush blueberries; the research should be funded solely by the state.  Since 1995, 14 projects worth $3,174,705 have been earmarked for such research.

**$139,000** by Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Senate appropriator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC).   According to its website, the ISSC was formed in 1982 to “foster and promote shellfish sanitation through the cooperation of state and federal control agencies, the shellfish industry, and the academic community.”

CAGW standards for terming a project “earmark”

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization representing more than one million members and supporters nationwide. CAGW's mission is to eliminate waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the federal government.) 2009 <http://www.cagw.org/site/PageServer?pagename=reports_pigbook2009>

The 341 projects, totaling $4.2 billion, in this year’s Congressional Pig Book Summary symbolize the most egregious and blatant examples of pork.  As in previous years, all of the items in the Congressional Pig Book Summary meet at least one of CAGW’s seven criteria, but most satisfy at least two:

* Requested by only one chamber of Congress;
* Not specifically authorized;
* Not competitively awarded;
* Not requested by the President;
* Greatly exceeds the President’s budget request or the previous year’s funding;
* Not the subject of congressional hearings; or
* Serves only a local or special interest.

The Case for Nuclear Power Expansion

By Guthrie Leath, Lael Burge and Eric Knopp

The Nuclear Energy Institute stated in June 2009 “Nuclear energy plays a vital role in meeting our nation’s electricity needs, protecting the environment and preserving the fuel and technology diversity that is the strength of the U.S. electric supply system.” (Nuclear Energy Institute, 2009, “U.S. Needs New Nuclear Plants to Meet Energy Demand, Maintain Supply Diversity” <http://www.nei.org/keyissues/reliableandaffordableenergy/policybriefs/usneedsnewplants>). It is because of this reason that we the Affirmative team stand **Resolved: That the United States Federal Government should significantly reform its environmental policy.**

It is to clarify and limit the terms in this debate round that the Affirmative team presents observation one, the

Definitions:

Significantly- in a significant manner : to a significant degree (Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary) <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/significantly>

Reform- to put or change into an improved form or condition (Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary) <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Reform>

Environmental Policy- Public statement of an organization's philosophy, intentions, and objectives regarding the environment. (BusinessDictionary.com) <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/environmental-policy.html>

Observation two,

Weighing Mechanism:

In today’s round, the Affirmative team is presenting a Comparative Advantage case. That means if we provide a significant advantage over the status quo, an affirmative ballot is justified.

Observation three,

Inherency, or current barriers in the status quo:

1. High costs discourage building new plants.

A. High costs discourage companies.

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER provides activists, policy-makers, journalists, and the public with understandable and accurate scientific and technical information on energy and environmental issues.) January 2008 “Nuclear Power Costs: High and Higher” [www.ieer.org/sdafiles/15-2.pdf](http://www.ieer.org/sdafiles/15-2.pdf)

“The risks of nuclear power are such that Wall Street casts a skeptical eye on nuclear power plants and no company is ready to order one without federal loan guarantees. That is why despite all the talk of a “nuclear renaissance,” no company in the United States has as yet ordered a nuclear power plant, though some have applied for various kinds of licenses that will be necessary to build one. The nuclear industry is waiting with a large hat in hand for 100 percent loan guarantees from the federal government, which would lower interest costs.”

B. Unnecessary regulation has driven up construction by 4 fold.

The Heritage Foundation (The Heritage Foundation is a unique institution-a public policy research organization, or "think tank”) November 15, 2007 “Competitive Nuclear Energy Investment: Avoiding Past Policy Mistakes” <http://www.heritage.org/research/energyandenvironment/bg2086.cfm#_ftn10>

“Overall, regulation increased the cost of constructing a nuclear power plant fourfold. Such cost escalation would have been justified if it had been rooted in scientific and technical analysis. Regrettably, it was largely a function of anti-nuclear activism, agenda-driven politicians, activist regulators, and unsubstantiated public fear.”

Observation 4: Plan

A strong advantage can be created over the status quo by simply passing our, Plan

Mandates:

By the year 2030, 70% of all energy in the United States must be generated through Nuclear power plants.

The Nuclear Regulatory Committee, NRC, will develop one model blueprint that meets all current nuclear power plant regulations for building companies to use if they would like.

For companies that use this module;

The licensing process will be streamlined.

The NRC will conduct semi-annual inspections to make sure they continue to meet the regulations..

No third parties shall be allowed to intervene in the building process either by legal or other means.

NRC licensees will be eligible to participate in a Federal Loan guarantee program designed to reduce borrowing costs.

The NRC will implement a mandated cost recovery program to enable NRC licensees to recover costs through rates.

Agency and Enforcement: The Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory, the Department of Energy, and any other necessary federal agency

Funding: A .25% tax will be imposed on all coal sales for the next 15 years. This will supply the $1.75 trillion which will cover all costs associated with this plan. We estimate that it could cost $500 billion to pay for this plan. All funding not used will be put towards reducing utility rates for the next 15 years. Evidence can be provided if asked for.

Observation 5

Solvency:

1. Unified Standards cut costs and construction time.

U.S. News and World Report, March 10, 2009 “How France Sees Its Nuclear-Powered Future” <http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/energy/2009/03/10/how-france-sees-its-nuclear-powered-future.html?PageNr=2>

“By applying the same technology to all of its nuclear plants—as opposed to the United States, where some 80 different plant designs currently exist—France has significantly cut both construction costs and the time needed to obtain building permits.”

Observation six, by passing our plan, we will create significant,

Advantages:

1. Reduced threat of global warming

A. Solvency: Nuclear Power reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

James Hoare (a writer for the Heartland Institute) December 1st, 2007, “Idaho Governor Lobbying Hard for Nuclear Power” The Heartland Institute <http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/22365/Idaho_Governor_Lobbying_Hard_for_Nuclear_Power.html>

"Nuclear power is the only economically feasible means to reduce greenhouse gases, if we assume for the sake of argument that reducing greenhouse gases is a worthwhile public policy goal," said Jay Lehr, science director for The Heartland Institute. "Impressive new technology is also making nuclear power safer and less expensive all the time," Lehr added. "The future of energy production in this country is definitely nuclear."

B. Significance: Nuclear Energy reduced carbon emissions by 54%.

Nuclear Energy Institute (The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is the policy organization of the nuclear energy and technologies industry and participates in both the national and global policy-making process.) March 12, 2008 “Nuclear Power To Play Key Role in Meeting Energy, Environmental Goals, House Panel Told” <http://www.nei.org/newsandevents/newsreleases/alexflint>

“Nuclear power plants operating in 31 states provide more than 70 percent of all U.S. electricity that comes from sources that do not emit greenhouse gases or controlled pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act. Nuclear power plants also account for 54 percent of voluntary greenhouse gas reductions reported by project type in the electric power sector, under the sector’s Power Partners agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy.”

C. Impact: Reduced risks posed by climate change.

Paul A. T. Higgins, (Paul Higgins is a Senior Policy Fellow with AMS. From 2005-2006 he was a Congressional Science Fellow through the American Association for the Advancement of Science. During his fellowship, he worked on climate policy in the United States Senate. From 2003-2005 he was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the University of California. He received Ph.D. & M.S. degrees from Stanford University and a B.S. from The University of Michigan. He is a former fellow of the Department of Energy’s Global Change Education Program.), August 2007, "A YEAR TO SOLVE THE CLIMATE PROBLEM," American Meteorological Society, [www.wsu.edu/~forda/CE%20543/Higgins%201.pdf](http://www.wsu.edu/~forda/CE%20543/Higgins%201.pdf)

“Of course, reducing greenhouse gas emissions would also benefit the state by reducing the risks posed by climate change.”

D. Impact: Climate Change risks include storms, conflict, coastlines, and catastrophes.

President Barack Obama, January 26, 2009, "Obama Announces Plans to Achieve Energy Independence Delivers Remarks at the White House," CQ Transcripts Wire <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/26/AR2009012601147.html>

“These urgent dangers to our national and economic security are compounded by the long-term threat of climate change, which, if left unchecked, could result in violent conflict, terrible storms, shrinking coastlines, and irreversible catastrophe.”

2. Economy

A. Thousands of more jobs for Americans.

Nicolas Loris and Jack Spencer (Nicolas Loris is a Research Assistant at The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies. At Heritage, Loris studies energy, environment and regulation issues such as the economic impacts of climate change legislation, a free market approach to nuclear energy and the effects of environmental policy on energy prices and the economy. Jack Spencer is the Research Fellow in Nuclear Energy at The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies. In this position, Spencer works on domestic and international nuclear energy and related issues. His areas of study include nuclear waste management, nuclear energy technology, subsidy policy, and international approaches to nuclear energy. He also studies nuclear regulation, nuclear energy and proliferation, global market issues, and national security uses of nuclear power.) July 2, 2008 “Nuclear Energy: What We Can Learn From Other Nations” <http://www.heritage.org/research/energyandenvironment/wm1977.cfm>

“These countries and others searching to expand their nuclear capacity have an opportunity to fuel their respective economies through the thousands of jobs, both temporary and permanent, that nuclear energy creates. A global nuclear renaissance will attract construction jobs as well as high-skill engineering jobs to operate the plants.”

B. Nuclear energy costs less then coal or natural gas.

H. Sterling Burnett (senior fellow with the National Center for Policy Analysis) October 28, 2008. NCPA "Nuclear Renaissance: Nuclear Power Is Clear Choice For Reliable, Clean Electricity To Power Continued Economic Progress" <http://environment.ncpa.org/commentaries/nuclear-renaissance-nuclear-power-is-clear-choice-for-reliable-clean-electricity-to-power-continued-economic-progress>

Nuclear plants have dramatically improved efficiency, from an average of 58.5 percent of rated capacity in 1980 to an average more than 90 percent today. Indeed, the increased electricity produced by nuclear plants since 1990 could power 26 cities the size of Boston or Seattle. While efficiency has increased, the operating costs of nuclear power plants have decreased. Thus, the operating costs have fallen from 3.31 cents per kilowatt-hour in 1988 to 1.7 cents today - lower than either coal or natural gas-fired plants.

3. Increased National Security.

A. Reduced dependence on foreign oil.

The National Center for Policy Analysis (The National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization, established in 1983.) October 21, 2008 “Nuclear Renaissance: Atoms to Power the Future” <http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba635/>

“Nuclear power can reduce America's dependency on foreign fuels. High gas prices have already encouraged the development of hybrids and electric plug-in vehicles. If these vehicles are adopted in significant numbers, nuclear-generated electricity could displace some of the imported oil currently used to power American autos. This would improve national security, as the United States would depend less on oil rich countries that have interests opposed to our own. Furthermore, America has an abundant domestic supply of uranium fuel.”

B. Improved National Security, and strengthened economy.

Senator Jeff Merkley, (Jeff earned his undergraduate degree from Stanford University and pursued his Masters Degree in Public Policy on a full scholarship at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. He was selected as a Presidential Management Fellow in 1982. He tackled various assignments in the Office of the Secretary of Defense including coordinating a committee on technology transfer, developing a computer model to study the proposed “small ICBM”, generating a verification strategy for theater arms agreements, and assisting the US delegation to NATO. Jeff then served Congress as a budget and policy analyst in the Congressional Budget Office, generating studies on the nation’s options for strategic weapons.), July 29, 2009, "Strengthening National Security by Ending Our Dependence on Foreign Oil," <http://merkley.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=4B3216B3-BC92-431F-8677-7B3B3547050B>

“This afternoon, I would like to examine this problem in some detail and consider the implications for a national energy policy that will strengthen our national security and end our addiction to imported oil. I emphasize that there is a cure. If we as a nation focus on smarter, wiser use of energy and aggressive development of homegrown renewable energy sources, we can indeed greatly reduce or eliminate dependence on imported oil, improve our national security, and strengthen our economy, all at the same time. Well, let's talk about dependence on foreign oil. Our dependence on foreign oil comes from two intertwined factors: First, our economy depends upon oil for transportation. Cars, trucks, trains, planes, boats that we use to move ourselves and our goods around the country are entirely dependent on oil. Indeed, 95 percent of the energy used in our transportation sector comes from oil. Second, our oil addiction relies on foreign imports: 58 percent of the oil we consume is imported. Thus, access to foreign oil is essential to the vitality of our economy. The result is that maintaining access to this oil becomes a very high priority for our national security. Exactly whom do we depend on? The good news is, nearly 30 percent of our imported oil comes from our democratic neighbors to the north and south in North America. But that is where the good news ends. Take a look at this chart. Seventy percent of our imported oil comes from outside North America, and this chart shows the top four nations outside North America from which we import oil. All four of these countries represent security challenges for the United States. Saudi Arabia is No. 1 on the list. It is the source of one in nine barrels of imported oil. And before addressing the fact that it presents national security challenges, it should be noted Saudi Arabia has often been a significant ally to the United States in our interests, in a relationship going back decades. Nevertheless, the dependency on their oil creates two national security issues.  First, the oil infrastructure and delivery systems of Saudi Arabia are vulnerable to terrorist attack or to manipulation by governments in the region. Consider the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz is really a vulnerability for all Persian Gulf oil, 90 percent of which moves through the Strait. The Strait is 21 miles wide, with a narrow shipping channel. So, geographically, it is vulnerable to disruption, and Iran has explicitly threatened to put pressure on traffic going through the Strait or attempt to control it outright. Second, the wealth we send to Saudi Arabia in exchange for petroleum has not always served us well. Former CIA Director James Woolsey testified in the Senate a few years ago that over the last three decades the Saudis have spent between $70 and $100 billion to support conservative institutions that often promulgate viewpoints and actions hostile to the United States. The wealth dispensed in this manner has, in some cases, migrated into terrorist organizations, like al-Qaeda, to recruit and build institutional capacity. This has led former CIA Director Woolsey to say of our current military conflicts, “This is the first time since the Civil War that we have financed both sides of a conflict.” Venezuela is No. 2 on the list. It is, of course, led by President Hugo Chavez, a vocal critic of our country who has explicitly threatened to cut off U.S. oil supplies. He told an Argentine newspaper that Venezuela has, “A strong oil card to play on the geopolitical stage ..... a card that we are going to play with toughness against the toughest country in the world, the United States.” The third nation on this list is Nigeria. Nigeria has had a series of disruptions just this year due to civil unrest. In February, oil companies reported to Reuters that 17 percent of the country's oil capacity was cut off from export because of attacks and sabotage by militants. According to testimony given to our Senate Foreign Relations Committee by the National Defense Council Foundation in 2006, Nigeria loses 135,000 barrels per day to theft.  Iraq, No. 4 on our list, has gone through enormous upheavals. Saddam Hussein's forces destroyed much of the nation's oil infrastructure when President Bush launched the Iraq war in 2003. That infrastructure has been subject to ongoing sabotage over the last 6 years. A significant share of Iraqi oil, like its neighbors, moves through the Strait of Hormuz, an additional point of vulnerability. Moreover, Iraq has not succeeded yet in passing a national law to share oil wealth among the ethnic groups in the nation, and the friction that comes from this continues to allow the possibility of factional conflict and disruptions in supply. Now, Iran isn't on this list. We have an embargo against Iran. We don't import oil from there, but it is still worth mentioning. Many of our allies get oil from Iran and their oil supplies are large enough to affect the world markets and thereby the stability and cost of our own supply. Again, turning to former CIA Director Woolsey testifying in the Senate, he noted that Iran derives 40 percent of its government budget from oil exports. According to the RAND Corporation, higher oil revenues have not just emboldened the Iranian Government to defy the United Nations regarding their nuclear program but also helped Iran to finance the activities of Hezbollah and Hamas. Our dependence on foreign oil makes us vulnerable to a disrupted energy supply, and the risk is heightened because most of the world's proven reserves are controlled by just a few governments. State control means countries can and do manipulate energy supply. We had a case this last year when Russia manipulated gas markets to dominate new democracies in Eastern Europe.”  The Energy Modeling Forum at Stanford University brought together a group of leading experts to assess the chances of a major oil supply disruption. They identified major areas of the globe where oil disruptions are most likely due to geopolitical, military or terrorist threats. Those areas include Saudi Arabia, the rest of the Persian Gulf, Russia, the Caspian states, and a group of nations in Africa and South America--which account for 60 percent of world oil production. So the threat of disrupted supply is a serious one for our economy, as we found out during the oil shocks of the 1970s, which cost our economy about $2.5 trillion. If repeated today, such a crisis would cost our American economy about $8 trillion. We were reminded of the threat of supply disruption again when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita disrupted supplies and caused price spikes here in our Nation. These don't supply the United States, but they do supply our allies, and in a global oil market these supplies are interdependent. A disruption of European oil supplies would have effects on our economy. We also expend extraordinary resources to maintain our access to foreign oil because it is so important. It is important to the success of our economy. While estimates vary, according to a study produced by the National Defense Council Foundation, they estimated that the direct and indirect security and military costs relating to securing our access to oil amount to about $825 billion. That equates to more than $5 a gallon, on top of the price we pay at the pump. So we cannot allow our Nation's security and the health of the American economy to rely on the whims of unstable, unreliable, even hostile governments.  If we refuse to address our single greatest point of vulnerability, we fail in our most fundamental duty to protect this Nation. It is clear we need to end this addiction. We need to be energy self-sufficient. But how are we going to get there? One answer, which we heard chanted in rallies across America last year, was: Drill, baby, drill. It is true, that we could increase production from American reserves in the short term with an aggressive drilling strategy. In fact, I support changing leases on hundreds of thousands of acres already approved for petroleum drilling and converting those into ``use it or lose it'' leases because major oil companies have secured those leases, and they are sitting on them without doing a thing. Nevertheless, drilling is not, and cannot be, a long-term strategy for the security of our Nation for one simple reason: America uses a lot of oil but has, globally speaking, limited reserves. In fact, the United States has just 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, as this chart shows right here. Here we are, down here at the small end, with Mexico and Europe. Then, we see Eurasia, with 7 percent; Africa, with 9 percent; Central and South America, with a little bit more; then Canada; and then the whopper, the Middle East, which makes my point about security for our supplies. We have looked at the reserves side of this, but now let's look at the consumption side. As this chart shows, America, which has only 2 percent of the reserves, consumes 24 percent of the world's oil. So we only have one-fiftieth of the supply but we consume one-fourth of the output. Now that’s a formula for trouble. A nation would be in a strong position if it had very high reserves and very low consumption, but it is vulnerable if it has very low reserves and very high consumption. Unfortunately, that is right where America is. To make things worse, the price of petroleum is going to continue to rise as the thirst from China and India increases. Because of the position we are in, our addiction to imported oil will only grow if we don't significantly change our energy strategy.  So what about other fossil fuels? In my home state, energy speculators are looking to build terminals to import LNG, liquefied natural gas. Where does LNG come from? Well, there are vulnerabilities there as well. Top producers include Qatar, Indonesia, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, and Oman.   Other folks argue we can extract more oil from Canadian tar sands or turn our abundant domestic coal into transportation fuel. But it is worth observing that these strategies require extraordinary energy to produce fuel and emit extraordinary amounts of pollution in the process. So we have to look elsewhere to find a solution, and the place to look is energy efficiency and renewable energy. Energy efficiency is the fastest and cheapest way out of our dependence, and we know it works. In response to the 1970s oil crisis, the Nation doubled the required gas mileage performance of our cars and trucks and saw per capita oil consumption plummet, even as our economy grew. Our progress in this area has not been steady, however. It has stagnated over the last two decades.  Progress resumed this year, when President Obama made the announcement that we would increase gas mileage standards to more than 35 miles per gallon 5 years ahead of the date scheduled. But we can do better. China beat us to 35 miles per gallon, and 35 miles per gallon isn’t sufficient. We could aggressively develop and employ plug-in hybrid technology--cars with highly regenerative braking that can go at least 30 miles on a charge, enough to cover the daily commute, with no petroleum at all. We need to deploy efficient strategies for the trucks that carry out our commerce--similar strategies with efficient body design. We need to move goods by rail and barge. A barge can move a ton of cargo 576 miles on a gallon of fuel, and a train can move a ton of cargo 413 miles on a gallon of fuel. We should give our families and workers better transportation options, better access to rail and bus lines. We know from experience that with the right policy choices, we can use far less energy to power our economic activity. We use a fraction of the energy today for gross domestic product that we did 30 years ago. If we give American scientists, engineers, and businesses the right incentives, tomorrow's economy will be orders of magnitude more efficient. The other half of the equation is renewable energy, produced right here in America. It is the second major weapon in the war against oil addiction. Renewable electric energy can replace oil by providing power for plug-in electric vehicles. I have heard Senator Reid describe Nevada as the Saudi Arabia of solar power, renewable electric energy, and I have heard the good Senator from North Dakota describe North Dakota as the Saudi Arabia of wind power, renewable electric energy. We need to seize this Nation's potential for renewable electric in wind, solar, wave, and geothermal. We can also transition to homegrown renewable liquid fuels in the form of biofuels. In my State of Oregon, as one example, we have lots of fiber that can be converted, forced biomass that can be converted into fuel. We can produce biobutanol, biodiesel, and bioethanol. Producing biofuels from agricultural and forestry waste and waste from nonfood crops raised on marginal lands, we can produce significant quantities of energy and create jobs and wealth for America's farmers and timber workers.  If an American car can go 30 miles with renewable electricity and then, if needed, switch over to a 50-mile-per-gallon engine burning cellulosic biofuels derived from forest biomass, that car isn’t using a single drop of imported foreign oil. It is running on 100 percent red, white, and blue energy. Mr. President, in energy efficiency and renewable energy, we have twin elements that can break our addiction to foreign oil, but to achieve that self-sufficiency we need a comprehensive energy policy, a comprehensive strategy for saving energy and producing our energy here at home. That Mr. President, is what President Obama called for and what the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is developing--drafting a comprehensive system of incentives and investment that, in combination with energy policies crafted by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, will reduce our fossil fuel dependence and put us on the track to energy self-sufficiency Now some say that energy conservation and renewable energy are too expensive. They could not be more wrong. Every economist will tell you that the cheapest energy is the energy you never use. Even today, renewable solar, wind, and geothermal are cheaper than imported oil when you factor in the huge price we pay to maintain our access to that oil. And let me add, when we stop spending $2 billion a day on imported oil and spend that money on renewable fuels here in the United States, we are going to create a lot of good-paying jobs for America's families. Mr. President, Depending on a few foreign nations for imported oil is a colossal mistake. We need to change course, improve our national security, and spend our energy dollars here in America to create jobs. That is why I hope every member of the Senate will join me in supporting our 2009 Clean Energy and Jobs Bill when it comes to the Senate floor this fall.

The National Center for Policy Analysis stated on October 21, 2008, “With greenhouse gas regulation on the horizon, and Americans demanding energy independence, nuclear power can help keep the lights on. Nuclear energy has many benefits: It is reliable, recyclable, clean, sustainable and domestically produced. As such, it uniquely satisfies the otherwise conflicting demands burdening the American power industry.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

2A: The Case for Nuclear Energy Expansion

By Guthrie Leath, Lael Burge and Eric Knopp

Inherency:

1. 20% of energy produced is Nuclear

H. Sterling Burnett, (H. Sterling Burnett is a senior fellow, with the National Center for Policy Analysis), October 28, 2008, "Nuclear Renaissance: Nuclear Power Is Clear Choice For Reliable, Clean Electricity To Power Continued Economic Progress," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, <http://environment.ncpa.org/commentaries/nuclear-renaissance-nuclear-power-is-clear-choice-for-reliable-clean-electricity-to-power-continued-economic-progress>

For the power industry, nuclear power is attractive because it is reliable and has low operating costs. Despite the fact that no new nuclear power plants have been licensed since 1979, nuclear power has not been dormant as the country's 103 operating reactors generate approximately 20 percent of the nation's electricity.

Solvency:

1. Nuclear Power has no harmful byproducts.

The Heritage Foundation (The Heritage Foundation is a unique institution-a public policy research organization, or "think tank".), July 2nd, 2008, "Nuclear Energy: What We Can Learn From Other Nations," The Heritage Foundation http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2549.cfm,[http://www.heritage.org/research/energyandenvironment/wm1977.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/research/energyandenvironment/wm1977.cfm" \t "_blank)

“Nuclear energy is attractive to many countries because of its impeccable environmental record. Burning fossil fuels releases an abundance of elements into the atmosphere. Nuclear energy, to the contrary, fully contains all of its byproduct in the form of used nuclear fuel. Such waste is safely managed throughout the world in countries like France, Finland, and Japan.”

2. Nuclear Power can be baseload power.

The National Center for Policy Analysis ((The National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization, established in 1983.)), October 21st, 2008, "Nuclear Renaissance: Atoms to Power the Future," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis,[http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article\_ID=17157](http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=17157" \t "_blank)

“Today, coal- and natural gas-fired generators provide critical baseload power — the constant current required to keep electricity flowing day and night with little or no down-time. In a CO 2 -constrained world, coal and natural gas use will be reduced because they emit greenhouse gases. Unlike many other forms of alternative energy, nuclear power is reliable and can serve as baseload power.”

3. Nuclear power offers the only large-scale, feasible alternative to fossil fuels

James M. Taylor, (Senior Fellow, Heartland Institute, Managing Editor of Environment & Climate News, Heartland Institute publication, B.A. Dartmouth College J.D. Syracuse University), August 1, 2006, "Texas Will Host First New U.S. Nuclear Plants Since 1970," Environment and Climate News, Heartland Institute, http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=19473,This article was also posted on NCPA: <http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=10203>

"Quite simply, nuclear power offers the only large-scale, feasible alternative to fossil fuels," says H. Sterling Burnett, senior fellow with the National Center for Policy Analysis. "Wind and solar power are intermittent, and solar power in particular is prohibitively expensive. It is not surprising that to the extent people buy into global warming theory, nuclear power is becoming the power source of choice."

4. Nuclear Power reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

James Hoare (a writer for the Heartland Institute), December 1st, 2007, "Idaho Governor Lobbying Hard for Nuclear Power," The Heartland Institute,[http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/22365/Idaho\_Governor\_Lobbying\_Hard\_for\_Nuclear\_Power.html](http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/22365/Idaho_Governor_Lobbying_Hard_for_Nuclear_Power.html" \t "_blank)

"Nuclear power is the only economically feasible means to reduce greenhouse gases, if we assume for the sake of argument that reducing greenhouse gases is a worthwhile public policy goal," said Jay Lehr, science director for The Heartland Institute. "Impressive new technology is also making nuclear power safer and less expensive all the time," Lehr added. "The future of energy production in this country is definitely nuclear."

5. Cost of Nuclear Plants dropping

H. Sterling Burnett , (H. Sterling Burnett is a senior fellow, with the National Center for Policy Analysis), 05/01/2005 , "Nuclear Power Making Worldwide Comeback," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, <http://environment.ncpa.org/commentaries/nuclear-power-making-worldwide-comeback>

The cost of building these plants has fallen from the range of $2 to $6 billion to an estimated $1.4 to $1.6 billion, according to the January 31 edition of Forbes.

6. Nuclear power is a CO2 free energy option

H. Sterling Burnett, (H. Sterling Burnett is a senior fellow, with the National Center for Policy Analysis), October 28, 2008, "Nuclear Renaissance: Nuclear Power Is Clear Choice For Reliable, Clean Electricity To Power Continued Economic Progress," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, <http://environment.ncpa.org/commentaries/nuclear-renaissance-nuclear-power-is-clear-choice-for-reliable-clean-electricity-to-power-continued-economic-progress>

Furthermore, nuclear power is a CO2 free energy option whereas coal fired power plants produce 2,249 pounds of CO2, oil fired power plants produce 1,672 pounds, and gas fired power plants produce 1,135 pounds for every MWh of energy.

7. Prospect of Unlimited fuel source

NCPA E-Team , (The National Center for Policy Analysis’ E-Team, is one of the largest collections of energy and environmental policy experts and scientists who believe in sound science and that economic prosperity and protecting the environment can go hand and hand. The Team seeks to correct misinformation and promote sensible solutions to energy and environment problems.), (July 27, 2006), "Nuclear Power May Be the Answer to Global Warming," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, NCPA <http://environment.ncpa.org/news/nuclear-power-may-be-answer-to-global-warming>

Nuclear power has advantages over fossil fuels. A single, quarter-ounce pellet of uranium generates as much energy as 3.5 barrels of oil, 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas, or 1,780 pounds of coal, with none of the CO2 emissions. However, conventional reactors only utilize approximately 3 percent of the energy contained in nuclear fuel. If the United States joined France and Japan in recycling used fuel, and recycled the more than 15,000 plutonium pits removed from dismantled U.S. nuclear weapons, existing and recycled supplies would provide an almost unlimited amount of nuclear fuel.

8. Nuclear energy is the best way to meet our CO2 objectives

Jack Spencer (Jack Spencer is the Research Fellow in Nuclear Energy at The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies.), September 19th, 2007, "Bush Administration Advocates for Clean, Affordable Nuclear Energy," The Heritage Foundation, [http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1625.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1625.cfm" \t "_blank)

To avoid drastic consequences for the economy and for Americans' lifestyles, an affordable energy source must be leveraged that can meet their CO2 objectives. Because nuclear energy emits no atmospheric pollutants, it is the best way to meet these objectives. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland (D) recently acknowledged the role for nuclear power by proposing that it be included as part of its renewable energy portfolio.

Advantages:

1. Efficiency increased while cost decreased.

H. Sterling Burnett, (H. Sterling Burnett is a senior fellow, with the National Center for Policy Analysis), October 28, 2008, "Nuclear Renaissance: Nuclear Power Is Clear Choice For Reliable, Clean Electricity To Power Continued Economic Progress," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, <http://environment.ncpa.org/commentaries/nuclear-renaissance-nuclear-power-is-clear-choice-for-reliable-clean-electricity-to-power-continued-economic-progress>

Nuclear plants have dramatically improved efficiency, from an average of 58.5 percent of rated capacity in 1980 to an average more than 90 percent today. Indeed, the increased electricity produced by nuclear plants since 1990 could power 26 cities the size of Boston or Seattle. While efficiency has increased, the operating costs of nuclear power plants have decreased. Thus, the operating costs have fallen from 3.31 cents per kilowatt-hour in 1988 to 1.7 cents today - lower than either coal or natural gas-fired plants.

2. Increased ability to meet growing energy demands.

The Heritage Foundation (The Heritage Foundation is a unique institution-a public policy research organization, or "think tank".), July 2nd, 2008, "Nuclear Energy: What We Can Learn From Other Nations," The Heritage Foundation http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2549.cfm,[http://www.heritage.org/research/energyandenvironment/wm1977.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/research/energyandenvironment/wm1977.cfm" \t "_blank)

U.S. electricity demand is projected to increase up to 40 percent by 2030, and other countries are projecting similar increases.[4] The rapid industrial development of both China and India is already placing great pressure on global energy supplies. And because energy sources, especially fossil fuels, are global commodities, growing demand in one part of the world affects the global economy. As a result, higher prices and tightened supply have some nations, such as China, experiencing power shortages.[5] While the U.S. has, for the most part, been able to keep the lights on, with the price of gas breaking the $4 barrier and natural gas prices increasing, every American knows full well the pain of increasing global energy demand. Nuclear energy can help meet this growing demand. Most directly, nuclear energy can be used to generate electricity. If that demand were not met by nuclear power, then it would likely be met with natural gas. This would put additional pressure on natural gas reserves, driving up the price for electricity as well as all the other goods that use natural gas in their production.

3. Potential for even more power.

The National Center for Policy Analysis ((The National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization, established in 1983.)), October 21st, 2008, "Nuclear Renaissance: Atoms to Power the Future," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis,[http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article\_ID=17157](http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=17157" \t "_blank)

 “By design, every nuclear plant in the United States can be upgraded, according to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Upgrades range from improved instrumentation to major modifications of key pieces of non-nuclear equipment such as high-pressure turbines, pumps and motors. By increasing the efficiency of the plant, upgrades can increase a reactor's power output by 10 percent to 20 percent.”

4. Nuclear power fights global warming

NCPA E-Team , (The National Center for Policy Analysis’ E-Team, is one of the largest collections of energy and environmental policy experts and scientists who believe in sound science and that economic prosperity and protecting the environment can go hand and hand. The Team seeks to correct misinformation and promote sensible solutions to energy and environment problems.), (July 27, 2006), "Nuclear Power May Be the Answer to Global Warming," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, NCPA <http://environment.ncpa.org/news/nuclear-power-may-be-answer-to-global-warming>

"If we buy the theory that human use of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) is causing global warming, we must reassess how we are going to fuel economic growth in the future," said Pete Geddes, executive vice president of the Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment (FREE) and co-author of the report. "Nuclear power very well could be the best choice to reduce the threat arguably posed by fossil fuels."

5. Reduced CO2

NCPA E-Team , (The National Center for Policy Analysis’ E-Team, is one of the largest collections of energy and environmental policy experts and scientists who believe in sound science and that economic prosperity and protecting the environment can go hand and hand. The Team seeks to correct misinformation and promote sensible solutions to energy and environment problems.), (July 27, 2006), "Nuclear Power May Be the Answer to Global Warming," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, NCPA <http://environment.ncpa.org/news/nuclear-power-may-be-answer-to-global-warming>

 "Nuclear power could also help reduce CO2 emissions from transportation," noted NCPA Senior Fellow H. Sterling Burnett, co-author of the report. "For instance, running new light rail and subway systems on electricity generated by nuclear plants - rather than coal or gas-fired power plants - would prevent new emissions."

6. Nuclear power will enhace our energy security

Hugh Hewitt (Hugh Hewitt is an author, law professor and broadcast journalist. Hugh Hewitt is the host of the “Hugh Hewitt Show,” broadcast live from Southern California each afternoon. Hugh Hewitt conceived and hosted the 1996 national PBS series), January 14th, 2009, "And What Do We Have To Show For It?," Town Hall Magazine, The Nuclear Opportunity Before The New President, [http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/blog/g/c290933a-a639-429d-88da-a20b5e0adb66](http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/blog/g/c290933a-a639-429d-88da-a20b5e0adb66" \t "_blank)

The Senate GOP should use what leverage that it has to at least force votes on provisions of the stimulus bill that would revitalize the nuclear power industry and quickly build a new generation of nuclear power plants. If President Obama embraces the plan, he'll reap the political benefit, but the country's energy security will be greatly enhanced. Hope that he does.

7.Nuclear power can decrease our vulnerability to overdependence on unstable states

Jack Spencer (Jack Spencer is the Research Fellow in Nuclear Energy at The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies.), September 19th, 2007, "Bush Administration Advocates for Clean, Affordable Nuclear Energy," The Heritage Foundation, [http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1625.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1625.cfm" \t "_blank)

Decreasing American dependence on foreign energy has been at the heart of the energy debate in recent years. However, dependence on foreign sources of energy, per se, is not the problem. The problem is that the United States has created economic and strategic vulnerabilities by exposing itself to over-dependence on unstable foreign energy sources. Expanding nuclear power in the United States can help reduce this vulnerability.

Response to D/A's:

1. Nuclear Facility Safety Requirements

The Department of Energy,, July 23, 2004, "“Safety of Accelerator Facilities”," The Department of Energy,, <http://www.directives.doe.gov/pdfs/doe/doetext/neword/420/o4202b.html>

1. Nuclear facility design objectives must include multiple layers of protection to prevent or mitigate the unintended release of radioactive materials to the environment, otherwise known as defense in depth. These multiple layers must include multiple physical barriers unless the basis for not including multiple physical barriers is documented in the DSA and approved by DOE. (2) Defense in depth must include all of the following— (a) choosing an appropriate site; (b) minimizing the quantity of material at risk; (c) applying conservative design margins and quality assurance; (d) using successive physical barriers for protection against radioactive releases; (e) using multiple means to ensure critical safety functions needed to— 1 control processes, 2 maintain processes in safe status, and 3 confine and mitigate the potential for accidents with radiological releases; (f) using equipment and administrative controls that— 1 restrict deviation from normal operations, 2 monitor facility conditions during and after an event, and 3 provide for response to accidents to achieve a safe condition; (g) providing means to monitor accident releases as required for emergency response; and (h) establishing emergency plans for minimizing the effects of an accident. (3) Hazard category 1, 2, and 3 nuclear facilities must be sited, designed, and constructed in a manner that ensures adequate protection of the health and safety of the public, workers, and the environment from the effects of accidents involving radioactive materials release. (4) Hazard category 1, 2, and 3 nuclear facilities with uncontained radioactive material (as opposed to material determined by safety analysis to be adequately contained within drums, grout, or vitrified materials) must have the means to confine the uncontained radioactive materials to minimize their potential release in facility effluents during normal operations and during and following accidents. Confinement design considerations must include: (a)for a specific nuclear facility, the number, arrangement, and characteristics of confinement barriers as determined on a case-by-case basis; (b) consideration of the type, quantity, form, and conditions for dispersing the radioactive material in the confinement system design; (c) use of engineering evaluations, tradeoffs, and experience to develop practical designs that achieve confinement system objectives; and (d) the adequacy of confinement systems to perform required functions as documented and accepted through the preliminary DSA (PDSA) and DSA. (5) Hazard Category 1, 2, and 3 nuclear facilities must be designed to— (a) facilitate safe deactivation, decommissioning, and decontamination at the end of facility life, including incorporation of design considerations during the operational period that facilitate future decontamination and decommissioning; (b) facilitate inspections, testing, maintenance, repair, and replacement of safety SSCs as part of a reliability, availability, and maintainability program with the objective that the facility is maintained in a safe state; and (c) keep occupational radiation exposures within statutory limits and as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). (6) Facility process systems must be designed to minimize waste production and mixing of radioactive and non-radioactive wastes. (7) Safety SSCs and safety software must be designed, commensurate with the importance of the safety functions performed, to perform their safety functions when called upon and to meet the quality assurance program requirements of either 10 CFR 830, Subpart A, or DOE O 414.1C, Quality Assurance, as applicable. (8) Safety class electrical systems must be designed to preclude single point failure. (9) New DOE nuclear reactors must comply with the requirements of this Order, as well as the design requirements of DOE O 5480.30, Nuclear Reactor Safety Design Criteria.

2. Yucca Mountain could be adequate for storage

Jack Spencer and Nicolas D. Loris (Jack Spencer is Research Fellow in Nuclear Energy and Nicolas D. Loris is a Research Assistant in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.), July 20th, 2009, "Nuclear Waste: Do Not Rule Out Yucca Mountain Just Yet, Says House of Representatives," The Heritage Foundation http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2549.cfm,[http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2549.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2549.cfm" \t "_blank)

In every scenario, a geologic repository is critical to the long-term success of nuclear power in the United States. The reality is that some of the byproducts of nuclear fission will last a long time, necessitating a place where they can be safely stored. Yucca Mountain could be adequate for that purpose.[3] The current direct deposit scenario--in which spent fuel will be taken directly from the reactor and placed into storage--means that additional Yucca-like repositories will likely be needed to support a significant expansion of U.S. nuclear power. But other scenarios (including reprocessing and recycling spent fuel) could ensure that Yucca alone would be adequate to store America's nuclear waste indefinitely.

3. Nuclear power plants generate virtually no air pollution.

H. Sterling Burnett, (H. Sterling Burnett is a senior fellow, with the National Center for Policy Analysis), October 28, 2008, "Nuclear Renaissance: Nuclear Power Is Clear Choice For Reliable, Clean Electricity To Power Continued Economic Progress," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, http://environment.ncpa.org/commentaries/nuclear-renaissance-nuclear-power-is-clear-choice-for-reliable-clean-electricity-to-power-continued-economic-progress

From an environmental perspective, the expansion of nuclear power should also prove a winner. Compared to other significant sources of electricity, nuclear power has many environmental benefits. For instance, compared to fossil-fuel plants, nuclear plants produce virtually no air pollution. By contrast: \* Coal-fired power plants produce 13 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 6 pounds of nitrogen oxide per MWh of energy produced \* Oil-fired power plants produce 12 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 4 pounds of nitrogen oxide per MWh of energy produced.

4. Nuclear power can serve as baseload power in place of coal or natural gas

H. Sterling Burnett, (H. Sterling Burnett is a senior fellow, with the National Center for Policy Analysis), October 28, 2008, "Nuclear Renaissance: Nuclear Power Is Clear Choice For Reliable, Clean Electricity To Power Continued Economic Progress," NCPA-Nation Center for Policy Analysis, <http://environment.ncpa.org/commentaries/nuclear-renaissance-nuclear-power-is-clear-choice-for-reliable-clean-electricity-to-power-continued-economic-progress>

Why does the EIA specifically identify nuclear energy in its recommendation? In a CO2 constrained world, the use of coal and natural gas, known greenhouse gas emitters, for electric power generation will have to be reduced. Yet they serve as the as critical baseload power sources. Nuclear is reliable. Thus, unlike many alternative energies, nuclear power can serve as baseload power - that is nuclear power plants can be counted on to provide day to day electricity, with little or no down-time.

5. Nuclear power is only minimally sensitive to urainium price swings

Jack Spencer (Jack Spencer is the Research Fellow in Nuclear Energy at The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies.), September 19th, 2007, "Bush Administration Advocates for Clean, Affordable Nuclear Energy," The Heritage Foundation, [http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1625.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1625.cfm" \t "_blank)

Electricity produced by nuclear energy is minimally sensitive to uranium price swings, because uranium accounts for only 5 to 13 percent of operating costs for nuclear power plants. However, the increase in uranium price does drive industry to invest in developing additional natural uranium supplies.

7. Urainium costs significantly less then coal, natural gas, and oil

Jack Spencer (Jack Spencer is the Research Fellow in Nuclear Energy at The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies.), September 19th, 2007, "Bush Administration Advocates for Clean, Affordable Nuclear Energy," The Heritage Foundation, [http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1625.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1625.cfm" \t "_blank)

The price of electricity produced by nuclear power plants is both stable and affordable. Although the price of uranium has increased in recent years, the monthly cost of producing electricity from uranium-based fuel remains slightly less than coal and substantially less than natural gas or oil.

8. 720,000 years into the future, nuclear waste storage facilities will limit exposure to one millirem

Jay Lehr, May 1st, 2009, "Yucca Mountain, Though on Hold, Would Be Very Safe," The Heartland Institute, [http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/25070/Yucca\_Mountain\_Though\_on\_Hold\_Would\_Be\_Very\_Safe.html](http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/25070/Yucca_Mountain_Though_on_Hold_Would_Be_Very_Safe.html" \t "_blank)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires the U.S. Department of Energy to use a computer model—the Total System Performance Assessment—to project how the Yucca Mountain repository will perform over time under normal conditions and during special events such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Using huge amounts of data and computer power, scientists believe they can calculate how well and how long the repository can keep the nuclear materials isolated from the environment while the radiation levels of the waste naturally decline over hundreds of thousands of years. The scientists predict exposure will not exceed one millirem per year as far out as 720,000 years, which is certainly a comfort to us all.

9. Almost 100% of nuclear waste is recyclable

Jay Lehr, (Ph.D. in Groundwater Hydrology from the University of Arizona, senior fellow and science director of The Heartland Institute), September 1st, 2009, "A History of America’s Nuclear Power Experience: Part Two," The Heartland Institute, <http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/25796/A_History_of_Americas_Nuclear_Power_Experience_Part_Two.html>

The by-products of nuclear fission are so incredibly compact and potentially useful, none of them need to be thrown away. They are sitting there waiting to be processed. Almost 100 percent of the material in spent nuclear fuel rods can be recycled as useful material, and it is being done in other parts of the world today.

Expose and Depose: The Case for Abolishing the EPA

By Joseph Martin, Kaitlin Nelson and Nathanael Hammett

John Smith laid the foundation for the American work ethic by his famous rule for the Jamestown Colony in 1607: “He who does not work shall not eat.” This simple ultimatum can be applied to federal agencies that are fed billions of dollars in taxpayer money yet insidiously deceive and oppress the American people in the name of the environment. For this reason we urge you to join us in affirming: That the United States Federal Government should significantly reform its environmental policies.

Observation 1: DEFINITIONS

A) Significant:

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th Edition, 2009

“Having or likely to have a major effect; important.”

B) Environmental Policy:

Dr. William P. Cuningham (Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Texas), Dr. Mary Ann Cunningham (PhD in Geography at the University of Minnesota), and Dr. Barbara Woodworth (Ph.D. in Science Education from the University of Iowa), 2001, Environmental Science: A Global Concern, 7th Edition, McGraw Hill, <http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0070294267/student_view0/glossary_e-l.html>

**“**The official rules or regulations concerning the environment adopted, implemented, and enforced by some governmental agency.”

C) EPA:

Princeton Wordnet 3.0, “EPA,” 2009

“(an independent federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment).”

Observation 2: INHERENCY

A) Environment protection and enforcement through the EPA an Obama Priority

Anjali Chaturvedi (JD from Georgetown University and former Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center), Shannon M. Shutlz (J.D. from Suffolk University), Leah H. Ziemba (JD from Syracuse University), July 1, 2009, “Enforcement priorities in the Obama EPA- is your business a target?,” Nixon Peabody, <http://www.nixonpeabody.com/publications_detail3.asp?ID=2803>

“Ever since the Obama administration proposed its $10.5-billion budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the largest in the agency’s 39-year history, it has been clear that the Obama EPA will make environmental protection and enforcement a priority. In case there was any doubt, EPA’s 2010 budget includes approximately $600 million for the EPA’s Enforcement and Compliance Assurance program, representing the highest enforcement budget ever and a $32-million increase over EPA’s FY 2009 enacted level.”

B. EPA set to increase long-term regulations/EPA able to regulate all CO2 emmissions.

Ben Lieberman (JD from George Washington University and Senior Policy Analyst at The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies) and Nicolas Loris (Masters in Economics from Georgetown University and Research Assistant at The Heritage Foundation's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies), April 23, 2009, “Five Reasons the EPA Should Not Attempt to Deal with Global Warming,” The Heritage Foundation, <http://www.heritage.org/research/energyandenvironment/wm2407.cfm>

“On April 17, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an endangerment finding, saying that global warming poses a serious threat to public health and safety. Thus, almost anything that emits carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases could be regulated under the Clean Air Act. This is the first official action taken by the federal government to regulate carbon dioxide. The endangerment finding is the initial step in a long regulatory process that could lead to the EPA requiring regulations for almost anything that emits carbon dioxide. Automobiles would likely be the first target, but subsequent regulations could extend to a million or more buildings and small businesses, including hospitals, schools, restaurants, churches, farms, and apartments.”

Observation 3: HARMS

HARM 1: EPA inappropriately influenced by politicians

The Union of Concerned Scientists, April 23, 2008, “Hundreds of EPA Scientists Report Political Interference Over Last Five Years,” <http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/hundreds-of-epa-scientists-0112.html>

An investigation of the Environmental Protection Agency released today found that 889 of nearly 1,600 staff scientists reported that they experienced political interference in their work over the last five years. The study, by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), follows previous UCS investigations of the Food and Drug Administration, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and climate scientists at seven federal agencies, which also found significant administration manipulation of federal science. "Our investigation found an agency in crisis," said Francesca Grifo, director of UCS's Scientific Integrity Program. "Nearly 900 EPA scientists reported political interference in their scientific work. That's 900 too many. Distorting science to accommodate a narrow political agenda threatens our environment, our health, and our democracy itself."

HARM 2: EPA threatens the US economy

Nick Loris (Research Assistant) 17 April 2009, “EPA Threatens Our Economy by Officially Announcing Global Warming is a Threat” Heritage Foundation, <http://blog.heritage.org/2009/04/17/epa-threatens-our-economy-by-officially-announcing-global-warming-is-a-threat/>

We knew it was coming, but rather than being cliché and waiting until Earth Day next week, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued an endangerment finding, saying that global warming and climate change pose a serious threat to public health and safety and thus almost anything that emits carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases could be regulated under the Clean Air Act. This is the first official action taken by the federal government to regulate carbon dioxide. Arbitrary restrictions and regulations in the name of curbing global warming do nothing but promise extraordinary perils for the American economy – all for little, if any, environmental benefit. The Associated Press reports: “The Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases are a danger to public health and welfare, taking the first step to regulating pollution linked to climate change, The Associated Press has learned. Such regulation would have widespread economic and social impact, from requiring more fuel efficient automobiles to limiting carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and industrial sources, changing the way the nation produces energy. The EPA has concluded that the science pointing to man-made pollution as a cause of global warming is “compelling and overwhelming.” The blame goes mainly to carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels.” The endangerment finding is the first step in a long regulatory process that could lead to EPA requiring different regulations and units of emissions requirements for each gadget that emits carbon dioxide. The first target would be automobiles, but the EPA’s Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) suggested regulations of almost everything that moves, including new regulations for smaller items such lawnmowers and forklifts. We’ve often cited studies and conclusions from credible scientists arguing the global warming debate is anything but compelling and overwhelming. See, for instance:

• Addressing Drastic Sea Level Rises

• Natural Forces Slow Warming

• Tropical Cyclone Activity

• Warming and Cooling in the North Pacific

• Climate Change Modeling and the Sun’s Effect on Global Temperature

• Climate Engineering and the Fallacies in the EPA’s ANPR

• Anthropogenic Effects on Global Warming

• Global Warming is Irreversible

• Scientists Make Anti-Global Warming Case

Perhaps the most chilling information associated with global warming regulations are the staggering costs associated with them. The Heritage Foundation’s Center for Data Analysis found the economic costs of EPA regulations to be:

• Cumulative gross domestic product (GDP) losses are nearly $7 trillion by 2029 (in inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)

• Single-year GDP losses exceed $600 billion (in inflation-adjusted 2008 dollars).

• Annual job losses exceed 800,000 for several years.

• Some industries will see job losses that exceed 50 percent.

HARM 3. EPA harms the environment and public health.

Edmund Contoski (is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade), 2006, “Ethanol and MTBE- Should EPA Be Abolished?,” American Library Publishers, <http://www.amlibpub.com/essays/ethanol-and-mtbeshoud-epa-be-abolished.html>

“In 2001 the popular CBS program “60 Minutes” displayed official documents from EPA itself showing the EPA was aware of the problem as far back as 1980. Yet EPA quietly let legislation pass in 1990 that would increase the use of MTBE—and then for another 15 years did nothing about the problem it had precipitated. It claimed the additive was necessary to improve air quality from automobile exhausts and was required by the Clean Air Act of 1990, which it wanted passed.   That law required an “oxygenate” to be added to gasoline, and the only two available were ethanol and MTBE. Ethanol breaks downs in water, which is found in small amounts in pipelines and large storage facilities. Ethanol itself entrains (attracts) water, and the ethanol-water mixture alters the blend of the fuel as the ethanol breaks down. So gasoline with ethanol must be transported by truck, which means it is impractical to use ethanol instead of MTBE outside the corn-growing states of the Midwest, despite the clamor of the ethanol industry for a larger share of market.  EPA maintained it had to continue to allow MTBE to be used in order to protect the nation’s air quality and comply with the 1990 law. But the National Academy of Sciences said the fuel “oxygenates” had little impact on air quality. (Further, it said that ethanol was of even less benefit that MTBE. It said “using ethanol as a blending agent in gasoline would not achieve significant air-quality benefits, and in fact would likely be detrimental.”) So, for a dubious air quality benefit, the government produced a catastrophic pollution of the nation’s ground water. This government-caused water pollution is so great it far outweighs all the benefits EPA has ever achieved. The role of EPA in this unnecessary disaster—which polluted ground water in 49 states and placed 100 million people at risk—should be reason enough to abolish EPA and end the myth that government regulations on balance improve our environment.”

Observation 4: PLAN

As a result, we present the following plan to be ratified by Congress and the President by all necessary constitutional means and on which we reserve the right to further clarify as needed:

**Mandate 1:** The Environmental Protection Agency and all associated environmental regulations shall be abolished including but not limited to the Clean Air Act. President Barak Obama will hold a national, prime-time press conference to announce this policy one week after an Affirmative ballot.

**Mandate 2:** All employees of the EPA (numbering approximately 18,000) shall receive severance equivalent to their previous salary for up to 24 months after an Affirmative ballet or until they secure new employment.

**Timeline:** This plan shall take place 30 days after an affirmative ballot.

**Enforcement:** The Department of Justice and any other necessary federal agency.

Observation 5: ADVANTAGES

1. Nature Nourished

Dr. Samuel Aldrich (PhD from the Ohio State University and Professor Emeritus of Soil Fertility Extension at the University of Illinois) and Dr. Jay Lehr (PhD in Groundwater Hydrology from the University of Arizona and Science Director at the Heartland Institute), October 2006, “Free Enterprise Protects the Environment,” The Heartland Institute, <http://www.heartland.org/policybot/results/19737/Free_Enterprise_Protects_the_Environment.html>

*“*Nations with the freest economic systems are the ones whose citizens can afford the luxury of protecting their environments. Conversely, persons living in command-and-control economies barely surviving on life's necessities of food, clothing, and shelter use their natural resources to the absolute limit. They have no other choice in providing for themselves and their families. As family incomes rise, the improving quality of life allows people to devote more resources to solving environmental problems. Thus, with expanding societal wealth under free-market economies, environmental degradation is first arrested and then reversed. Society goes through a form of "environmental transition." After the transition, greater wealth and technology improve environmental quality instead of worsening it.”

2. Economic Expansion

Ernest S. Christian (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy in the Ford Administration) and Gary A. Robbins (Treasury Department Official in the Reagan Administration), July 21, 2009, “Let’s See What US Economy Can Really Do,” Investor’s Business Daily, <http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=333066265675168>

“An announcement from President Obama that he intends to release the economy — even if only temporarily — from environmental and regulatory bondage would have an immediate and powerful effect. The stock market would go up, the dollar would strengthen and consumer confidence would start to be restored. People would look forward to better jobs, more abundant and cheaper energy and new entrepreneurial opportunities.”

Judge, it is clear that the Environmental Protection Agency has ujustly exceeded all boundaries and abused its authority in the name of the environment as it threatens the foundation of our economy and our democracy through oppressive regulation and dishonesty. We urge a vote against this unconstitutional pattern of government behavior.

2A: Abolish the EPA

By Joseph Martin, Kaitlin Nelson and Nathanael Hammett

INHERENCY

1. EPA 2010 budget exceeds $10 billion.

The Environmental Protection Agency, May 2009. <http://www.epa.gov/budget/2010/2010bib.pdf>

The EPA’s FY 2010 Budget requests $10.5 billion in discretionary budget authority and 17,384.3. Full Time Equivalents (FTE) to accomplish EPA’s efforts to build a greener economy, move into a clean energy future, and protect human health and the environment in communities across the nation. The FY 2010 Budget provides a substantial increase from FY 2009, reflecting an enhanced focus in addressing public health and environmental challenges. Increased funding will be targeted at vital areas including investing in water infrastructure, protecting our freshwater resources, creating a foundation to address climate change and identifying research gaps as well as chemical management.

2. EPA implementing expensive barrage of new rules.

James L. Gattuso (Senior Research Fellow in Regulatory Policy in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. Jack Khayoyan, an intern at The Heritage Foundation, assisted in the research for this study). March 25, 2008 <http://www.heritage.org/research/regulation/bg2116.cfm>

The EPA looks to be particularly busy, with rules being adopted or nearing completion on every­thing from ozone to electric generator emissions. However, the most costly EPA agenda item could be regulation of carbon dioxide and other green­house gases from motor vehicles.

HARMS

1. EPA regulations now costing tens of billions dollars and hurting American families.

National Center for Policy Analysis (The National Center for Policy Analysisʼ E-Team, is one of the largest collections of energy and environmental policy experts and scientists), March 12 2008, “EPA Regulations Could Bankrupt U.S. Cities, Cost Millions”, <http://environment.ncpa.org/news/epa-regulations-could-bankrupt-us-cities-cost-millions> [Brackets Added]

In addition, meeting the [EPA ambient air quality] standard will be expensive for local governments and their taxpayers.

The U.S. Ofﬁce of Management and Budget (OMB) estimates that every $7.5 million to $12 million in regulatory costs results in one life lost.

The EPA estimates that attempts to meet the lower standard will cost $10 billion to $22 billion per year, making it among the most expensive federal regulations ever.

OMB estimates the lower standard will result in at least 833 to 2,933 premature deaths as Americans' incomes are diverted away from expenses that improve their health and welfare-housing, food, education, etc.-in order to comply with the lower standard.

2. EPA standards needlessly excessive

*H. Sterling Burnett, (Ph.D. is a Senior Fellow for the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) and member of the new Environment and Natural Resources Task Force), March 12 2008, “EPA Regulations Could Bankrupt U.S. Cities, Cost Millions”, National Center for Policy Analysis,* [*http://environment.ncpa.org/news/epa-regulations-could-bankrupt-us-cities-cost-millions*](http://environment.ncpa.org/news/epa-regulations-could-bankrupt-us-cities-cost-millions)

"The proposed new standard is needlessly excessive. Cities and counties could well bankrupt themselves trying to meet it with little or no improvement in human health." Recently, Burnett coauthored a paper (http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba/ba598/) showing that the health beneﬁts of a lower standard may be negligent.

* Levels of NOx (nitrogen oxide) decreased 37 percent between 1980 and 2005.
* Emissions of volatile organic compounds fell 47 percent.
* Peak 8-hour ozone levels declined 20 percent, and
* Days per year exceeding the 8-hour standard fell 79 percent.

3. Governmental environmental regulation fail to achieve progress on a number of goals

Jena Baker McNeill, Policy Analyst, Homeland Security, [Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies](http://www.heritage.org/About/Departments/AllisonFPI.cfm) bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Maryland . Heritage Foundation, September 23, 2008. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2184.cfm>

Environmental issues, much like homeland security, have been highly regulated and over-feder­alized from the beginning. While the system con­tinues to lack significant progress on a number of environmental goals, the notion that the federal government is the best means by which to tackle environmental issues persists. The Endangered Spe­cies Act (ESA) of 1973, which attempts to preserve endangered species through classifications and fed­eral protections, has led to the perverse effect of encouraging pre-emptive habitat destruction by landowners of their own land.[[15]](http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2184.cfm" \l "_ftn15#_ftn15" \o ")  If an endangered species is discovered on a landowner's property, the ESA can cause tremendous financial loss because the landowner will be required to preserve the hab­itat, regardless of his intended economic use of the land. The landowner then has the perverse incen­tive to destroy the animal habitat so that the endan­gered species will not enter his or her land, but will find a habitat elsewhere.

4. GAO: EPA fails in protecting against air pollution

James Pew, (Staff attorney in Earthjustice's Washington, D.C. office. He received a B.A. in history from Stanford University, a M.A. in law from Cambridge University, and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania), July 26 2006, "Government Report Finds EPA Fails In Protecting Against Toxic Air Pollution," Earth Justice, <http://www.earthjustice.org/news/press/006/government-report-finds-epa-fails-in-protecting-against-toxic-air-pollution.html>

The GAO report reflects the sad reality that this EPA is unwilling to control the health risks presented by toxic air emissions. It confirms EPA has left many categories of smaller industrial sources entirely uncontrolled, even though the agency has acknowledged these sources to be the worst contributors to America's toxic urban air. EPA's own studies show that the uncontrolled pollution from these sources create unacceptable risks of cancer and other disease.

5. GAO: EPA does not take action against Air Pollution

James Pew, (Staff attorney in Earthjustice's Washington, D.C. office. He received a B.A. in history from Stanford University, a M.A. in law from Cambridge University, and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania), July 26 2006, "Government Report Finds EPA Fails In Protecting Against Toxic Air Pollution," Earth Justice, <http://www.earthjustice.org/news/press/006/government-report-finds-epa-fails-in-protecting-against-toxic-air-pollution.html>

The Government Accountability Office released a report that sharply criticizes the Environmental Protection Agency's record on air toxics control. The report concludes, in particular, that EPA has failed to take action on scores of specific pollution control measures that the Clean Air Act required the agency to complete several years ago.

6. The EPA is causing MORE environmental harm and denying the evidence

Joel Schwartz (PhD, Author and Professor of Environmental Epidemiology at Harvard University), May 1 2006, “EPA Rule Is Making Ozone Smog Worse”, The Heartland Institute, <http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/18973/EPA_Rule_Is_Making_Ozone_Smog_Worse.html>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is forcing Americans to spend billions of dollars per year to address ozone air quality, is actually making the situation worse.

The evidence is an air pollution phenomenon known as the "weekend effect." This is a problem because EPA and state regulators assume that reducing both VOC and NOx is necessary for attaining the federal eight-hour ozone standard, and they have built that assumption into NOx- reduction regulations that are costing Americans billions of dollars each year. But weekend-effect research suggests reducing NOx is at best slowing the pace at which ozone declines, and is even making ozone worse in some cities. Scientists have observed the weekend effect for years, and numerous studies suggest NOx reductions are the culprit. Admitting that NOx reductions are actually harmful, however, would be a major embarrassment for federal and state regulators. Not surprisingly, they have vigorously resisted the implications of weekend-effect research.”

7. EPA's uses faulty and questionable methods in their data analysis

Bob Dinneen, (President and CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association, the trade association of the U.S. ethanol industry, Congressional Witness ), June 9 2009, "Biofuel Producers Give EPA an Earful on Renewable Fuel Standard," Environment News Service, <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jun2009/2009-06-09-094.asp>

There is simply no evidence that biofuel production in the U.S. has significant influence over land use decisions in other countries, and we have deep concerns regarding the EPA's methodology. The EPA is using nine separate models and data sets to conduct its full fuel cycle analysis, many of which were not initially designed to conduct this type of analysis or work together."

8. EPA Director Lisa Jackson was Obama’s political palm on climate change

Edmund Contoski (He is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade.), March 25th, 2009, "EPA's CO2 Policy: Zero Integrity, Anti-Science," <http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2009/03/epas-co2-policy-zero-integrity-anti.html>

At her confirmation hearing to be the new director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa Jackson said her first task would be to restore scientific and legal integrity to the office. Then she did the opposite. She quickly directed EPA staff to prepare the paperwork for a finding that carbon dioxide emissions endanger public health and safety and therefore must be regulated under the Clean Air Act. The paperwork she sent to President Obama on March 23, 2009 will enable him to fulfill a campaign promise, but it is an incredibly dishonest and anti-scientific excuse on which to base the process.

9. Global warming could be beneficial and the EPA has no legitimate authority to regulate it

Edmund Contoski (He is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade.), March 25th, 2009, "EPA's CO2 Policy: Zero Integrity, Anti-Science," <http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2009/03/epas-co2-policy-zero-integrity-anti.html>

The lies here are not just about carbon dioxide and climate. There is also the huge lie that a warmer climate is a health hazard. Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels cannot harm human health directly; the alleged danger is from global warming. But global warming would be a net benefit to human health—which means EPA has no legitimate authority to regulate it. An array of studies over more than twenty years demonstrates that warm climate is beneficial while cold climate is detrimental to human health. In 1998, Thomas Gale Moore's “Health and Amenity Effects of Global Warming” estimated a temperature increase of 2.5 degrees Celsius would cause a decrease of 40,000 deaths per year from respiratory and circulatory disease, based on U.S. Mortality Statistics.

10. EPA puts animals before human rights

Edmund Contoski (He is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade.), March 25th, 2009, "EPA's CO2 Policy: Zero Integrity, Anti-Science," <http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2009/03/epas-co2-policy-zero-integrity-anti.html>

EPA has put snail darters, desert sand flies, and kangaroo rats ahead of the rights of people with its endangered species policies.

11. EPA responsible for early collapse of the world trade center and challenger catastrophe.

Edmund Contoski (He is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade.), March 25th, 2009, "EPA's CO2 Policy: Zero Integrity, Anti-Science," <http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2009/03/epas-co2-policy-zero-integrity-anti.html> [brackets added]

“EPA[‘s] fraudulently manufactured fake “scientific” studies in order to support its views on sulfur dioxide (see my book MAKERS AND TAKERS for fuller explanation of this.) It instituted a “scientific McCarthyism” to blackball Dr. Edward Krug for exposing the falseness of EPA's position on acid rain. It massively deceived the public about DDT, asbestos, dioxin, MTBE and ethanol with policies detrimental to human health and safety and wasting vast sums of money. Its stand on asbestos led to substituting a less effective material in “O” rings in the Challenger space shuttle—leading to the fiery deaths of all the astronauts on board. And its policy resulted in the substitution of spray-on insulation with less durability and a far lower fire-rating than asbestos in building the World Trade Center; this resulted in the early collapse of the structure and killed far more people than would have been the case with asbestos in place.”

12. EPA employees say egregious misconduct exists at the EPA

Edmund Contoski (He is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade.), March 25th, 2009, "EPA's CO2 Policy: Zero Integrity, Anti-Science," <http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2009/03/epas-co2-policy-zero-integrity-anti.html>

A dozen career employees of EPA wrote a letter to the Washington Times “risking our careers rather than choosing to remain silent” about “egregious misconduct” at EPA. Internal documents available under the Freedom of Information Act show that EPA exaggerated claims and promulgated unwarranted policies. EPA has gone against the advice of its own Science Advisory Board (see, for example, its history of action on particulates.) EPA fraudulently manufactured fake “scientific” studies in order to support its views on sulfur dioxide.

13. EPA violated federal laws and misrepresented scientific find on second hand smoke

*Edmund Contoski (He is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade.), March 25th, 2009, "EPA's CO2 Policy: Zero Integrity, Anti-Science,"* [*http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty\_blog/2009/03/epas-co2-policy-zero-integrity-anti.html*](http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2009/03/epas-co2-policy-zero-integrity-anti.html)

EPA violated its own risk assessment guidelines and debased scientific standards regarding secondhand smoke. It was found guilty of violating six federal statutes for using harassment and intimidation to try to compel employee support for its policy on secondhand smoke. It has fraudulently misrepresented the findings of other scientists in order to make it appear they supported conclusions EPA favored.

14. GAO CRS and OIG have all criticized the EPA

Edmund Contoski (He is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade.), March 25th, 2009, "EPA's CO2 Policy: Zero Integrity, Anti-Science," <http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2009/03/epas-co2-policy-zero-integrity-anti.html>

The General Accounting Office, the Congressional Research Service, and the Office of the Inspector General have all been severely critical of EPA's policies and procedures on a variety of issues.

SOLVENCY

1. Private sector more responsive to environmental demands

Richard L. Stroup is president of the Political Economy Research Institute. Professor of economics at Montana State University. He is an expert on privatization, the environment, and Superfund. He is coauthor of Economics: Public and Private Choice. From 1982 to 1984, he was director of the Office of Policy Analysis, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Library of Economics and Liberty, 2008. <http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/FreeMarketEnvironmentalism.html>

While these problems can be quite real, growing evidence indicates that governments often fail to control pollution or to provide public goods at reasonable cost. Furthermore, the private sector is often more responsive than government to environmental demands. This evidence, which is supported by much economic theory, has led to a reconsideration of the traditional view.

2. Free Market has solved a multitude of regulatory dilemas

Jena Baker McNeill, Policy Analyst, Homeland Security, [Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies](http://www.heritage.org/About/Departments/AllisonFPI.cfm) bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Maryland . Heritage Foundation, September 23, 2009. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2184.cfm>

The free market is one of the best means of countering regulatory inadequacy. In the environmental arena, the free market has been used to solve a multitude of regulatory dilemmas. [14]

3. Wal- Mart proves that property rights can create economic and environmental benefits

*Jena Baker McNeill, Policy Analyst, Homeland Security,* [*Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies*](http://www.heritage.org/About/Departments/AllisonFPI.cfm) *bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Maryland . Heritage Foundation, September 23, 2009.* [*http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2184.cfm*](http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2184.cfm)

The free market approach recognizes that the private sector naturally responds to property rights. Property rights enable environmental or infrastruc­ture actors to achieve gains in the market.[[16]](http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2184.cfm" \l "_ftn16#_ftn16" \o ")  One of many examples of this property rights incentive can be found in a recent decision by Wal-Mart to move toward using solar power in all of its stores.[[17]](http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2184.cfm" \l "_ftn17#_ftn17" \o ")  Wal-Mart's property rights drive it to create economic gains, which can be achieved through increased effi­ciency. The store chain recognized—without gov­ernment intervention—that a shift toward solar power can be simultaneously economically advan­tageous (decreased electricity bills) and environ­mentally beneficial.

Endangered Species Act is an overwhelming failure

David Ridenour (David Ridenour is vice president of the National Center for Public Policy Research), August 2005, “TESRA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM PROPOSAL WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD” <http://www.nationalcenter.org/NPA531TESRA.html>

In the 32 years the ESA has been on the books, just 34 of the nearly 1,300 U.S. species given special protection have made their way off the "endangered" or "threatened" lists. Of this number, nine species are now extinct, 14 appear to have been improperly listed in the first place, and just nine (.6% of all the species listed) have recovered sufficiently to be de-listed. Two species - a plant with white to pale-blue flowers called the Hoover's Woolly-Star and the yellow perennial, Eggert's Sunflower - appear to have made their way off the threatened list in part through "recovery" and in part because they were not as threatened as originally believed. A less than 1% recovery rate isn't good.

DISADVANTAGE RESPONSES

1. Employment Turn: Reducing Greenhouse Emissions would be detrimental to employment and the economy

Joseph L. Bast (President of the Heartland Institute) “Putting an End to Global Warming Alarmism” JAN 2009 <http://www.heartland.org/policybot/results/24456/Putting_an_End_to_Global_Warming_Alarmism.html>

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions even modestly is estimated to cost the average household in the U.S. approximately $3,372 per year and would destroy 2.4 million jobs. Electricity prices would double, and manufacturers would move their factories to places such as China and India that have cheaper energy and fewer environmental regulations.

2. Employment Turn: reducing Government spending can benefit the economy

Jena Baker McNeill (Policy Analyst for Home­land Security in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, a division of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, at The Heritage Foundation.) 28 Sept 2008 “Building Infastructure Resiliency: Private Sector Investment in Homeland Security” THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION <http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2184.cfm>

The free market can improve and maintain infra­structure while stimulating economic growth. Wise investment by the private sector can lead to dollar gains to investors. This translates into more capital for these private-sector entities to reinvest in the market. The more the government spends, the less the private sector can engage in investment. A decrease in government spending can have an enormous effect on the economy. When Washington is too large, the "high spending undermines economic growth by transferring additional resources from the productive sector of the economy to government, which uses them less efficiently."[19] In other words, federal spending is associated with signifi­cant transaction costs not experienced by the pri­vate sector. For example, the government must take money from individuals, meaning the U.S. population, before it can spend it. [20] Instead of wasting time on the bureaucratic struggles and wasting American tax dollars on transaction costs, Washington should look past the Beltway and rely on the entrepreneurial energy of the private sector.

Decaf: The Case for Repealing the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards

by, Sarah Carr, Billy Klein and Lauren Miller

Henry Ford once said “Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, but this time more intelligently.” Ever since the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards were introduced, the United States has paid a devastating price. Requirements by the government for citizens to drive vehicles at 27.5 miles per gallon or over have caused deaths and job losses, and a threat to the auto industry.

According Steve Milloy, CNS News, May 19 2009   
<http://cnsnews.com/commentary/article/48340> (**Cybercast News Service)**

The Obama administration’s proposed mileage standards that will be announced today may kill more Americans at a faster rate than the Iraq War.

It’s for this reason that my partner and I stand resolved that, The United States Federal Government should significantly reform its environmental policy.

For the purpose of clarity, the affirmative team offers the following definitions:

Topicality:

**Environmental Policy**

Andrew Kricun, (P.E. Deputy Executive Director, Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, Cambridge University) ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, 1991  <http://www.ccmua.org/ems.html>

Environmental policy is defined as the "statement by the organization of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance, which provides a framework for action and for the setting of environmental objectives.

**Significance -** Miriam-Webster Online Dictionary: “Having or likely to have influence or effect”

Inherency 1. Current CAFE standards are at 25.7 and Rising

[Ronald Bailey](http://www.reason.com/staff/show/133.html" \t "_blank), (Writes for the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, he was the Warren T. Brookes Fellow in Environmental Journalism at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, He is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists and the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. ) January 27, 2009, Obama's Fuel Economy Follies: Politicians want you to pay more when you drive. They just won't admit it., REASON ONLINE <http://www.reason.com/news/show/131279.html>

In 2007, Congress passed and President George Bush signed legislation aimed at increasing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to at least 35 miles per gallon (mpg) by 2020, up from 27.5 today.

Inherency 2. Obama plans raise CAFE standards

H. Sterling Bernnett,( the lead analyst of the National Center for Policy Analysis' E-Team -- one of the largest collections of energy and environmental policy experts and scientists (PhD in Ecosystemic Goods)), May 19 2009, National Center for Policy Analysis, , “President Obama’s New CAFÉ Standards May Cause More Harm Than Good”, [http://environment.ncpa.org/news/president-obamas-new-cafe-standards-may-cause-more-harm-than](http://environment.ncpa.org/news/president-obamas-new-cafe-standards-may-cause-more-harm-than" \t "_blank)

President Obama's tightening of national program for higher Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards is part of his plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and ease U.S. dependence on oil. These new standards include an increase in fuel efficiency targets to 35.5 miles per gallon for new passenger vehicles and light trucks by 2016, four years earlier than required under the 2007 energy bill.

Harm 1. CAFE Standards = More Deaths

Amy Ridenour, (president of the National Center for Public Policy Research, a Washington, DC, a conservative think tank), and Peyton Knight,(director of environmental and regulatory affairs (NCPPR)), June 19 2007, “CAFE Kills, and Then Some: Six Reasons to Be Skeptical of Fuel Economy Standards”, <http://www.nationalcenter.org/TSR061907.html>

CAFE standards are dangerous. In 2002, the National Academy of Sciences released a report, "Effectiveness and Impact of CAFE Standards 2002," concluding that since CAFE standards were imposed in the U.S. in 1975, an additional 2,000 deaths per year can be attributed to the downsizing of cars required to meet CAFE standards.

Small Cars lead to More Deaths

Steve Milloy, May 19 2009 “CAFÉ Obama –Proposed Mileage Standards Would Kill More Americans than Iraq War”, CNS News <http://www.cnsnews.com/Public/Content/Article.aspx?rsrcid=48340> (Steve Milloy was published by CATO institute, and the project leader of the Regulatory Impact Analysis Project for the U.S. Department of Energy, 1994)

The National Academy of Sciences has linked mileage standards with about 2,000 deaths per year. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that every 100-pound reduction in the weight of small cars increases annual traffic fatalities by as much as 715. In contrast in the more than *six years* since the Iraq war began, there have been 4,296 deaths among American military personnel. And what will be gained by the new mileage standards? The Natural Resources Defense Council said that the 35 MPG standard would save about one million gallons of gas per day. So how does that savings balance against the 2,000 fatalities per year that the National Academy of Sciences says are caused by those same lighter cars?

Obama Administration Standards may kill Americans at a faster rate than the Iraq War

The Obama administration’s proposed mileage standards that will be announced today may kill more Americans at a faster rate than the Iraq War. His signature issue in the 2008 Presidential campaign.

Harm 2. Threat to Auto Industry and Consumer Choice

National Center for Policy Analysis(one of the largest collections of energy and environmental policy experts and scientists) quoting H. Sterling Burnett, the organization’s lead analyst, PhD in Ecosystemic Goods, May 19 2009, “President Obama’s New CAFÉ Standards May Cause More Harm Than Good”,[brackets added] <http://environment.ncpa.org/news/president-obamas-new-cafe-standards-may-cause-more-harm-than>

The Obama Administration's announcement today of new mileage and pollution standards is a disgraceful attempt to court environmental votes by reducing consumer choice, according to H. Sterling Burnett, Senior Fellow with the National Center for Policy Analysis. Because the government now has so much control over two of the major companies it can extort the industry into not objecting.

"People have the choice to purchase fuel efficient cars if they want them," Burnett said. "There are more than 60 car models sold today that get more than 30 miles per gallon, and more than 30 cars that get more than 40 miles per gallon. None of these vehicles are best sellers because most people choose vehicles based on factors other than fuel economy. President Obama's plan will limit consumers' freedom and raise the cost of vehicles by thousands of dollars, which could devastate the already faltering auto industry."

[the article goes on to say] Burnett says it is time to end, not expand CAFE.

Harm 3. 11,000 American Lost Jobs by 2015

Keith Hennessey, the former Assistant to the US President for Environmental Policy and the Director of the US National Economic Council, May 19 2009, “Understanding the President’s CAFÉ Announcement”, <http://keithhennessey.com/2009/05/19/understanding-the-presidents-cafe-announcement/#jobs>

The NHTSA analyses look at a range of benefits to society, including economic and national security benefits from using less oil, health and environmental benefits from less pollution, and environmental benefits from fewer greenhouse gas emissions (this is new).  They also consider the costs, primarily from requiring more fuel-saving technologies to be included by manufacturers.  NHTSA assumes these increased costs are passed on to consumers.  More expensive cars mean that fewer cars are sold, which means that fewer auto workers are needed.  NHTSA calculates economic costs to car buyers and to society as a whole, and job losses among U.S. auto workers.

National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, January 2008 report, an analysis of Average Fuel Economy Standards, <http://keithhennessey.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/NHTSA_analysis.pdf>

“The calculations assume that compliance costs are passed onto consumers in the form of higher prices. These higher vehicle prices (net of the benefits of added fuel savings and added resale value) lead to reduced demand for vehicles. Estimates of sales losses are made using the price changes and the elasticity of demand for new vehicles (-1.0).”

The first two alternatives (25% Below Optimized, Optimized) have roughly similar losses in employment ranging from a low of 714 jobs in 2011 to 11,127 jobs in 2015.

Plan

Agency**:** Congress

Mandate**:** Repeal the CAFE Standard

Enforcement: Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration,

Timeline:This plan will be enacted at the opening of the next legislative session.

LegislativeIntent**:** The affirmative team reserves all rights to make clarifications to the plan in future speeches.

Plan Advocate:

**P.A. 1** - Jerry Taylor and Van Doren CATO Institute, August 1 2007, “Don’t Raise CAFE Standards”, <http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=8623>

Congress has no business dictating automotive fuel efficiency. That's a job for consumers, not vote-hustling politicians. There are no problems for CAFE standards to solve. Hence, they shouldn't be tightened; they should be repealed.

Advantage 1: Saves Lives

Diana Furchtgott-Roth,a senior fellow and director of the Center for Employment Policy at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. From 2003 to 2005 she served as chief economist at the U.S. Department of Labor, RealClearMarkets, May 28 2009, “Obama should Ditch Deadly CAFÉ Standards”, <http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2009/05/obama_should_ditch_deadly_cafe.html>

Motorists should be allowed to choose between purchasing more safety with a larger car, or saving fuel by buying a smaller car. Other things being equal, heavier cars will be safer. Data show that fewer fatalities occur when large cars hit each other than when small cars do the same. In crashes between small and large cars, small cars’ occupants are at a disadvantage.

Advantage 2: Save the Auto Industry and $50 billion

Holman Jenkins, Wall Street Journal, op-ed, June 4, 2009, “If Obama Had Carter's Courage . . .”, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124398447730679113.html>

For a sum small compared to their revenues but large in relation to their market caps, the Detroit auto makers were all over the two conventions. Their lobbyists had something to sell -- a plea for $50 billion in federal loans. Congress practically owes us this money, Ford, GM and Chrysler argue -- because Congress slammed us with new fuel mileage mandates that will cost us $100 billion to meet.

John McCain caved. The White House is in the process of caving. Barack Obama didn't need to cave. But before rushing to pass the legislation, there's an easy way to save $50 billion or whatever part of these loans wouldn't be paid back: Just repeal the fuel economy rules.

It must infuriate the auto makers how readily their critics attribute their problems to their own incompetence. Then how to explain that GM is thriving in Europe, selling small cars that get lots of miles per gallon? Buick is among the biggest selling brands in China. GM is running away with Latin America.

The Big Three's problem, to be blunt, is North America. They should have pulled out long ago.

Not only did history saddle them with a UAW labor monopoly that their foreign competitors have managed to avoid. Even that might not have been fatal had Congress not enacted its "corporate average fuel economy" rules in the 1970s.

Look at gallons consumed, miles driven, barrels imported or emissions emitted: CAFE has had no significant impact on energy consumption. Its sole practical effect has been to inflict on Detroit the need to produce, with high-cost U.S. labor, millions of small cars designed to lose money.CAFE has to be the most perverse exercise in product regulation in industrial history. It confronted the Big Three with the choice only of whether to lose a lot of money, by matching Toyota and Honda on quality and features; or somewhat less money, by scrimping on quality and features and discounting, discounting, discounting. Rationally, they scrimped -- and still live under a reputational cloud in the eyes of sedan buyers. Yet notice that their profitable product lines, in which they invest to be truly competitive -- such as SUVs, pickups and minivans -- hold their own against the Japanese and command real loyalty among U.S. consumers.

Let us have a moment of nonflagellating realism. Toyota is as capable of poor market timing as GM or Ford -- witness its multibillion-dollar bet on the Tundra pickup. It flies in the face of human and business realities to imagine that, generation after generation, Detroit hired idiots while Toyota recruited geniuses -- though that's the usual explanation of Detroit's troubles.

Had CAFE not existed, there is no reason the Big Three today could not be competitive. As businesses do, they would have allocated capital to products capable of recovering their costs. Investments in fuel efficiency would still have taken place -- to the extent consumers valued those investments. That is, if they were profitable.

CAFE Standards Fail Under Economic Analysis

Hal J. Singer, and Robert Crandall, president and senior fellow in economic studies, Brookings Institute, August 14, 2009, “Don’t Drink the CAFÉ Kool-Aid”, http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2007/0906business\_crandall.aspx

When exposed to the piercing light of economic analysis, the alleged benefits of more stringent CAFE standards burn away. Too bad these proposals will not be subjected to economic scrutiny before they become law.

Charlie E. Coon said it best in his Heritage Foundation report,

“The CAFÉ program has failed to achieve its goals. Since its inception, both oil imports and vehicle miles driven have increased while the standards have led to reduced consumer choice and lives lost that could have survived car crashes in heavier vehicles. The CAFE standards should not be increased.”

In light of the failure of CAFE standards the affirmative team believes it is clear that it is time to begin again. The recent years have taught us that CAFÉ standards have failed and thus it is time to end them in order to stop their harms and generate our advantages.

2A: CAFÉ

By Billy Klein, Sarah Carr, and Lauren Miller

INHERENCY

Obama proposed CAFE Standards

James Kwak (PhD History from California University, Berkley and AB from Harvard) May 21, 2009, What happened to the global economy and what we can do about it, [The Economics of CAFE](http://baselinescenario.com/2009/05/21/the-economics-of-cafe/" \t "_blank), BASELINE SCENARIO, <http://baselinescenario.com/2009/05/21/the-economics-of-cafe/>

Yesterday, President Obama proposed new, [higher CAFE standards](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/18/AR2009051801848.html?hpid=topnews" \t "_blank) for models years up through 2016, by which point aggregate efficiency should reach 35.5 miles per gallon.

HARMS

Higher car prices = pollution

Mark J. Perry (Professor of Finance and Business Economics) May 22, 2009, Unintended Consequences: CAFE Standards Will Cause More Pollution and Increase Highway Deaths,[http://www.mrswing.com/articles/Unintended\_Consequences\_CAFE\_Standards\_Will\_Cause.html](http://www.mrswing.com/articles/Unintended_Consequences_CAFE_Standards_Will_Cause.html" \t "_blank)

In other words, if you raise the price of new cars, people will buy fewer of them or, at a minimum, put off the purchase for a year or so while they drive the old clunker for a few thousand more miles. And fewer new cars means more pollution, which can cause significant health problems.

 CAFÉ causes 2,000 Deaths and is still going up

Eric Florack (he has spent 25 years discussing politics in online forums. He’s also a veteran of some 20 years of Broadcast (radio) experience), July 5, 2009, The Hidden Death Toll of Higher CAFE Standards, <http://politics.randomplayground.net/2009/07/05/the-hidden-death-toll-of-higher-cafe-standards/>

 What would you say, though, if I told you that this “good thing” that the government is forcing on us in the name of “saving the environment” is responsible for no less than 2,000 deaths per year? The death toll going forward will be even higher.The CAFE program is still in force. The government is planning to [provide tax breaks](http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/2009-05-11-chrysler-gm-cash-clunkers_N.htm" \t "_blank) to herd us into buying more of the death traps and to give up our more crashworthy vehicles. They will raise the death toll higher still.

Failure to Meet Standards = Paying HUGE Fines for automakers

[Ronald Bailey](http://www.reason.com/staff/show/133.html" \t "_blank), (Writes for the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, he was the Warren T. Brookes Fellow in Environmental Journalism at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, He is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists and the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. ) January 27, 2009 Obama's Fuel Economy Follies:Politicians want you to pay more when you drive. They just won't admit it., REASON ONLINE <http://www.reason.com/news/show/131279.html>

 If an automaker's average mileage fails to meet the CAFE standards, it must pay a fine which currently stands at $5.50 per 0.1 mpg, multiplied by the manufacturer's total domestic production.

CAFE standards will put American automakers at an even greater disadvantage

Center for Individual Freedom (Founded in 1998, the Center for Individual Freedom is a non-partisan, non-profit organization with the mission to protect and defend individual freedoms and individual rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.), May 18, 2007, “**President Caves to Environmentalists in Expanding Failed Fuel Economy Scheme”,** [http://www.cfif.org/htdocs/legislative\_issues/federal\_issues/hot\_issues\_in\_congress/energy/CAFE-regulations.htm](http://www.cfif.org/htdocs/legislative_issues/federal_issues/hot_issues_in_congress/energy/CAFE-regulations.htm" \t "_blank)

 “These mandates will put American auto makers at even greater competitive disadvantage, because Japanese and other foreign competitors will be better able to adapt to the new standards.  As it is, the American Big Three are hemorrhaging losses, shuttering manufacturing plantsand laying off thousands of American employees.”

SOLVENCY

CAFE will not fix energy problems

Jerry Taylor (a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science). Peter Van Doren (is editor of the quarterly journal Regulation and an expert in the regulation of housing, land, energy, the environment, transportation, and labor. He has taught at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (Princeton University), the School of Organization and Management (Yale University), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.) August 1, 2007 **“**Don't Raise CAFE Standards”, CATO Institute, <http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=8623>

Finally, we're told that CAFE helps secure our energy independence. But the amount of oil we import is related to the difference between domestic and foreign crude oil prices. Reducing oil demand may reduce the total amount of oil we consume, but it will not reduce the degree to which we rely on foreign oil to meet our needs.

A/T: DISADVANTAGES

Increasing CAFE standards will not decrease pollution

Jerry Taylor (a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science). Peter Van Doren (is editor of the quarterly journal Regulation and an expert in the regulation of housing, land, energy, the environment, transportation, and labor. He has taught at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (Princeton University), the School of Organization and Management (Yale University), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.) August 1, 2007 **“**Don't Raise CAFE Standards”, CATO Institute, <http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=8623>

“Increasing CAFE standards will not decrease the amount of pollution coming from the U.S. auto fleet. That's because we regulate emissions per mile traveled, not per gallon of gasoline burned. Improvements in fuel efficiency reduce the cost of driving and thus increase vehicle miles traveled. Moreover, automakers have an incentive to offset the costs associated with improving fuel efficiency by spending less complying with federal pollution standards with which they currently over-comply.”

Bogus Bags: The Case for a Tax on Plastic Shopping Bags

By Chad Frantz, Shane Baumgardner and Margaret Kaiser

Katharine Mieszkowski said it best quote:

Katharine Mieszkowski (**Katharine Mieszkowski** is an American journalist and graduate of [Yale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale) University. In 2001 Mieszkowski was honored as one of the top 25 Women on the Web. Since 2000 she has been a Senior Writer for [Salon.com](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon.com), where she covers technology, business, and the environment. Mieszkowski was the sixth employee of Women's Wire (later Women.com) in 1994. From 1997 to 2000 she was a senior staff writer at [Fast Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_Company_(magazine)) magazine, where she covered the Silicon Valley. Her column "Culture Shocked" ran in the [San Francisco Bay Guardian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Bay_Guardian) between May 1997 and June 2003. Mieszkowski has also contributed to [Ms.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ms._magazine), [All Things Considered](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Things_Considered), [Slate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slate_(magazine)), [Readers Digest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Readers_Digest), the [San Francisco Chronicle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Chronicle) and the [Financial Times](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_Times).) “Plastic bags are killing us “ August 10, 2007 <http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/08/10/plastic_bags/index.html>

“The most ubiquitous consumer item on Earth, the lowly plastic bag is an environmental scourge like none other, sapping the life out of our oceans and thwarting our attempts to recycle it.” Unquote

For this reason my partner and I urgently affirm: That the United States Federal Government should significantly reform its environmental policy.

OBSERVATION 1. We offer the following DEFINITIONS:

**Environmental policy:** "Environmental policy is any (course of) action deliberately taken (or not taken) to manage human activities with a view to prevent, reduce or mitigate harmful effects on nature and natural resources, and ensuring that man-made changes to the environment do not have harmful effects on humans.[1]"Environmental Policy McCormick, John (2001). Environmental Policy in the European Union. The European Series. Palgrave. p. 21.

**Significant** - "having or likely to have influence or effect " (Merriam-Webster Online Dict. 2008, [www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/significant](http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/significant))

**Reform** - "make changes for improvement in order to remove abuse and injustices" *(Princeton University—WordNet,* [*http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=reform*](http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=reform)*)*

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY:

1. There has been no federal action in the U.S. to reduce plastic bag waste.

The Co-op Connect, (a newsletter of the Cleveland Food Co-op) March 2007 “Toxic Bags: What you didn’t know about your shopping sack” <http://www.annakiss.com/toxicbags.htm>

In the US, there has been no federal action to reduce plastic bag waste. In January, San Francisco’s attempt to introduce a bag tax fell through when grocery chains successfully lobbied to change state law to prohibit a bag tax and the counting of bags by local authorities.

2. Past taxes on plastic bags have failed.

ELISABETH ROSENTHAL (New York Times Reporter), February 2, 2008, “Motivated by a Tax, Irish Spurn Plastic Bags”, New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/02/world/europe/02bags.html>

Efforts to tax plastic bags have failed in many places because of heated opposition from manufacturers as well as from merchants, who have said a tax would be bad for business. In Britain, Los Angeles and San Francisco, proposed taxes failed to gain political approval, though San Francisco passed a ban last year. Some countries, like Italy, have settled for voluntary participation.

OBSERVATION 3. The status quo has the following HARMS:

1. Plastic bags have catastrophic affects on wildlife.

Senator Ray Basham.com 2009 “What’s New with Senator Basham?” <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/basham/enewsarchive.php?id=48> [Brackets Added]

The environmental impacts are significant. [Senator Ray] Basham *[Raymond Basham has taken numerous courses in the Humanities at Wayne State University, Western Michigan University, Schoolcraft College and Wayne County Community College. Memberships: Michigan Democratic Party, 15th District Democratic Organization, Democratic Club of Taylor, the Wolverine Masonic Lodge (Past Master) and Former Member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Committee Assignments: Local, Urban and State Affairs; Judiciary; Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (Minority Vice-Chair); Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs; and Transportation (Minority Vice-Chair).]*

explained that plastic bags break down over time into smaller, more toxic petro-polymers which contaminate soils and waterways. Eventually they enter the food chain and have catastrophic affects on wildlife. Birds often end up entangled in plastic bags and other wildlife such as whales, dolphins, seals and turtles die from mistaking them for food and ingesting them.

IMPACT A: Humans benefit from the diversity of organisms.

Sandra Díaz, (Sandra Díaz is principal researcher and associate professor of ecology and biogeography at Instituto Multidisciplinario de Biología Vegetal (CONICET-UNC) and FCEFyN, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina.) Joseph Fargione, (Joseph Fargione is research assistant faculty at the Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States of America.) F. Stuart Chapin, III, (F. Stuart Chapin III is professor of ecology at the Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska, United States of America.) and David Tilman (David Tilman is the McKnight Presidential Chair in Ecology at the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, United States of America.) August 15, 2006 “Biodiversity Loss Threatens Human Well-Being” <http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pbio.0040277>

We clearly benefit from the diversity of organisms that we have learned to use for medicines, food, fibers, and other renewable resources. In addition, biodiversity has always been an integral part of the human experience, and there are many moral reasons to preserve it for its own sake. What has been less recognized is that biodiversity also influences human well-being, including the access to water and basic materials for a satisfactory life, and security in the face of environmental change, through its effects on the ecosystem processes that lie at the core of the Earth's most vital life support systems ([Figure 1](http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pbio.0040277#pbio-0040277-g001)).

IMPACT B: Biodiversity helps humans mentally and physically.

World Science (World Science is the **world's** most exciting **science** news, long before it's in the papers.) May 16, 2007 ”Biodiversity good for mental health” <http://www.world-science.net/othernews/070515_park-biodiversity.htm>

Biodiversity, an area’s richness in different species, is good for more than just the environment, researchers have found: it benefits us psychologically, at least in city parks and green spaces. For the world’s burgeoning city populations, “public urban green spaces provide one of the few avenues for direct contact with the natural environment,” the researchers noted in a paper describing the study. “Such contact has measurable physical and psychological benefits.”

2. Plastic bags are littering the environment.

Ian P. Murphy May 11, 2009“House Bill Seeks Bag Tax to Combat Pollution” American drycleaner.com <http://www.americandrycleaner.com/article.cfm?articleID=17899> [Brackets Added]

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) [Jim Moran was elected to his tenth term in the [U.S. House of Representatives](http://www.house.gov/) in November 2008. He is a member of the [Appropriations Committee](http://www.house.gov/appropriations/), where he serves on the Defense, Interior and Labor Health and Human Services Subcommittees.] introduced a bill last month that seeks to cut pollution by placing a 5-cent **tax** on single-use **plastic** bags from drycleaners, grocery stores and other retailers. “Our environment is literally choking on **plastic** bags,” Moran said in a statement, noting that oceans and rivers are clogged with **plastic** wastes. “Equally disturbing, as these plastics break down, toxic chemicals are being released into the environment.”

IMPACT: Litter has devastating impacts on communities.

Georgia Department of Community Affairs, (State Government Department), 2006, “Littering- What's the Problem?”, <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/kgb/whats_the_problem.html>

We all know that litter is unsightly, but it has other more devastating impacts on our communities. Litter, and also graffiti, are known as "Quality of Life" crimes. While these types of crimes are often viewed as less serious than violent crimes, empirical evidence shows that they have a tremendous impact on the quality of life in our communities and can lead to serious criminal and economic problems. We are all victims of these crimes and we all have a part to play in stopping them.

3. 12 million barrels of oil used annually to produce plastic shopping bags.

Anne Thompson (Chief environmental correspondent NBC News), May 7, 2007, “Paper or plastic — what’s the greener choice?”, NBC News, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18538484/> Brackets added

To make all the bags we [the U.S.] use each year, it takes 14 million trees for paper and 12 million barrels of oil for plastic.

IMPACT: U.S. reliance on foreign oil poses a threat to our economic security.

The White House, 2009, “ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT”,  <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/energy_and_environment/>

Our reliance on oil poses a threat to our economic security.  Over the last few decades, we have watched our economy rise and fall along with the price of a barrel of oil.

OBSERVATION 4. We offer the following PLAN to be implemented by any necessary constitutional means:

**Agency:** Congress, the President, the IRS, the EPA and any other necessary federal agencies.

Mandate:

**1.** Based on Irelands tax The United States Federal Government shall instate a 34 cent tax per plastic shopping bag.

**2.** All revenues from the tax will be directed to plastic bag cleanup efforts.

**Funding:** No funding is required since this plan is purely legislative.

**Enforcement:** Enforcement shall be through the IRS, EPA, and any other necessary federal agencies.

**Timeline:** This plan takes effect immediately upon an Affirmative ballot.

**Clarification:** All Affirmative speeches may clarify the plan as necessary.

OBSERVATION 5. SOLVENCY:

1. Plastic bag tax in Ireland is effective.

By ELISABETH ROSENTHAL (New York Times Reporter), February 2, 2008, “Motivated by a Tax, Irish Spurn Plastic Bags”, New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/02/world/europe/02bags.html>

In 2002, Ireland passed a tax on plastic bags; customers who want them must now pay 33 cents per bag at the register. There was an advertising awareness campaign. And then something happened that was bigger than the sum of these parts. Within weeks, plastic bag use dropped 94 percent. Within a year, nearly everyone had bought reusable cloth bags, keeping them in offices and in the backs of cars. Plastic bags were not outlawed, but carrying them became socially unacceptable — on a par with wearing a fur coat or not cleaning up after one’s dog.

2. A tax similar to the Irish tax would have similar effects on the U.S. as it had on Ireland.

John Roach (Journalist) for National Geographic News September 2, 2003 “Are Plastic Grocery Bags Sacking the Environment?” [Brackets added]

[*http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/09/0902\_030902\_plasticbags.html*](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/09/0902_030902_plasticbags.html)

According to Lowes [*Tony Lowes, director of Friends of the Irish Environment in County Cork,*] just about everyone in Ireland carries around a reusable bag and the plastic bags that once blighted the verdant Irish countryside are now merely an occasional eyesore. [Vincent] Cobb *[founder of Reusablebags.com and an activist for the reduced use of plastic shopping bags.]* believes a similar tax in the U.S. would have a similar effect on reducing consumption.

OBSERVATION 6. ADVANTAGES:

1. Improved quality of life.

Tejvan R. Pettinger [Economics Help is a website written by Tejvan R. Pettinger. Tejvan studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. He now works as a part time Economics Teacher at Cherwell College, Oxford and spends time writing on economics. He is also a keen cyclist .The site aims to offer help to students of Economics and those interested in understanding the complexities of Economics. Even when studying at University, I never particularly cared for the complex mathematical models which forms the basis for much of University Economics. My interests lie in gaining a practical understanding of how economics affects society and quality of life.] February 18th, 2008, “Should We Ban or Tax the Plastic Bag?” (Brackets added) <http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/taxes/should-we-ban-or-tax-the-plastic-bag/>

[Plastic tax] Reduces Litter. Around Oxford I see a real problem with litter, 50% of which seems to be plastic bags. They get blown into hedgerows and get stuck for years, causing visual blight to the environment. If plastic bag use was discouraged the amount of litter would significantly be reduce.

IMPACT: Litter affects human safety. Reducing litter contributes to a better quality of life.

Santa Clara County, 2009, “Litter in Santa Clara County”, <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/scc/chlevel3?path=/v7/SCC%20Public%20Portal/Living%20and%20Working/Reporting%20Household%20and%20Neighborhood%20Problems/Reducing%20Litter>

Litter affects human safety, wildlife, tourism, and industrial development. Reducing litter in our communities will improve our environment and contribute to a better quality of life.

2. Plastic bag tax benefits the environment.

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Our [Statement of Strategy 2008-2010](http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/StatisticsandRegularPublications/StrategyStatements/#d.en.16544) sets out the key objectives and strategies that will be pursued by the Department in its core functional areas of environment, water and natural heritage, built heritage and planning, housing, local government, meteorological services and corporate services over the coming three years.) 2007 “The Plastic Bag Levy” <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Waste/PlasticBags/> (Brackets added)

Prior to the introduction of the levy [the Irish plastic tax] it is estimated that over 1.2 billion plastic bags were dispensed free of charge at retail outlets annually, equating to roughly 328 bags per inhabitant per year. The fall in the consumption of plastic bags has been considerable with the reduction being estimated at over 90%. Our environment has also benefited – with a decrease in excess of 95% in plastic bag litter.

3. Tax on plastic shopping bags reduces dependence on foreign oil.

Tejvan R. Pettinger [Economics Help is a website written by Tejvan R. Pettinger. Tejvan studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. He now works as a part time Economics Teacher at Cherwell College, Oxford and spends time writing on economics. He is also a keen cyclist. The site aims to offer help to students of Economics and those interested in understanding the complexities of Economics. Even when studying at University, I never particularly cared for the complex mathematical models which forms the basis for much of University Economics. My interests lie in gaining a practical understanding of how economics affects society and quality of life.] February 18th, 2008, “Should We Ban or Tax the Plastic Bag?” (Brackets added) <http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/taxes/should-we-ban-or-tax-the-plastic-bag/>

Advantages of Plastic Tax [Includes]

1. Reduces costs to shops. Usually shops are reluctant to charge for plastic bags. But, if they have to charge, people will be increasingly likely to use alternatives and reuse old bags.
2. Reduces Litter. Around Oxford I see a real problem with litter, 50% of which seems to be plastic bags. They get blown into hedgerows and get stuck for years, causing visual blight to the environment. If plastic bag use was discouraged the amount of litter would significantly be reduce.Plastic Bags not Biodegradeable. Plastic bags take 1000s of years to disintegrate, therefore our landfills are full of plastic bags which don’t breakdown. Bad for Wildlife. Because plastic bags can float around they can often cause problems for wildlife.
3. Reduce dependence on oil based products. Because plastic bags are made from oil they increase our dependence on oil imports. With rising prices of oil there is an increased desire to avoid oil products where necessary.
4. Aesthetically pleasing. For those who yearn for the good old days of high street shopping in paper bags, before the advent of the out of town supermarket, banning the plastic bag would encourage people to go back to the basics of shopping.
5. Tax Raises Revenue. An estimated 10 million Euros

Tax makes people may the social cost. Using plastic bags creates negative externalities, a tax will make people pay the social cost. At the moment, plastic bags are usually free and therefore, firms subsidise the use of goods with negative externalities.

5. [Plastic Tax] Reduce[s] dependence on oil based products. Because plastic bags are made from oil they increase our dependence on oil imports. With rising prices of oil there is an increased desire to avoid oil products where necessary.

IMPACT: Any reduction in our use of oil will increase our national security.

Martin Feldstein (Professor of Economics, Harvard University, and President of the National Bureau of Economic Research.) December 3, 2003 “Reducing America’s Dependence on Foreign Oil Supplies” <http://www.nber.org/feldstein/oildependenceaea2003.pdf>

“Although we can never expect to achieve full independence from the conditions in global oil markets, any reductions in our use of oil will increase our national security and enhance our freedom of action in military planning and foreign policy.”

Today we have seen that our disregard of the environment in favor of convenience must end. It is time to change, to reform, our environmental policy in order to protect the environment and our way of life. Stand with us today and affirm this resolution to end this environmental harm and build a better world for tomorrow.

2A: Plastic Bag Tax

By Chad Frantz, Shane Baumgardner and Margaret Kaiser

SIGNIFICANCE:

1. Myth: Bans or fees on plastic bags will just push people to use more paper bags.

Fact: With well-designed policies that address both plastic and paper bags, consumers will switch to reusable cloth bags.

Save the Bay [Save The Bay is the largest regional organization working to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, Save The Bay protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife.] “Myths vs. Facts Regarding Single Use Bag Bans and Fees”, Mar 10, 2009 <http://www.savesfbay.org/atf/cf/%7B2d306cc1-ef35-48cc-b523-32b03a970ae5%7D/MYTHVFACT_BAGS_FINAL.PDF>

The legislation supported by Save The Bay and other advocates covers all single-use bags, both paper and plastic. This is a proven way to decrease the use of both kinds of bags in favor of reusable bags - which are inexpensive and long-lasting - ultimately saving retailers and consumers money. Every year in the U.S, consumers and retailers spend billions of dollars on excessive quantities of single-use bags that have an average use time of 12 minutes.

INHERENCY:

1. Significant figures for the amount of plastic bags used

Pollution Issues [Pollution Issues was formed to offer a unique reference point on what causes pollution and how to deal with it.] 2007, “The Impact of Plastic Bags at Sea”, Pollution Issues <http://www.pollutionissues.co.uk/impact-plastic-bags-sea.html>

13 billion plastic bags are used each year and despite strenuous efforts to reduce this figure and pressure on large corporations to re-call and dispose of a certain proportion of them, the number is still rising. In 2007 the government’s 4Department of the Environment, Defra, collated the following facts about plastic bags:

\* 88% of shoppers put their shopping into free plastic bags which are given out by shops.

\* An average of 300 bags per adult are used each year.

\* We use an average of 3-4 bags each trip.

\* 45% of shoppers have bought a bag for life – but only 12% use them.

2. Plastic bag taxes in New York and Philadelphia have failed to pass.

Mara Judkis (Journalist) U.S. NEWS June 3, 2009 “D.C. Council Approves Plastic Bag Fee” <http://www.usnews.com/blogs/fresh-greens/2009/06/03/dc-council-approves-plastic-bag-tax.html>

San Francisco banned plastic bags outright in 2007, and Los Angeles' ban will go into effect in 2010. Several other cities have tried to assess bag taxes, but have not yet been successful: Seattle residents will vote on a 20-cent tax in August, and a measure in New York was blocked. Last month, the Philadelphia City Council [voted against](http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/05/plastic-bags-ban-and-tax.php) a 20-cent tax on bags, citing the recession.

3. U.S. consumes 380 billion plastic bags.

Center for American Progress [The Center for American Progress is a think tank dedicated to improving the lives of Americans through ideas and action. We combine bold policy ideas with a modern communications platform to help shape the national debate, expose the hollowness of conservative governing philosophy, and challenge the media to cover the issues that truly matter. ], June 4, 2008, “It’s Easy Being Green: Bye Bye to Plastic Bags?” <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/06/bye_bye.html>

Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide—one million per minute. Billions end up as litter, as much as 99 percent in the United States, according to an Environmental Protection Agency estimate. This is not good news, since the United States consumes over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps each year.

4. Attempts by legislators to ban or restrict the use of plastic bags have failed.

CBCNews, (Canadian News Agency), March 28, 2007, “Blowing in the wind: Global moves against shopping bags”, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/environment/shoppingbags.html>

Attempts by legislators in the United States to ban or restrict the use of plastic bags have been derailed several times in recent years by lobbying by plastics manufacturers who point out that their industry pumps nearly half a billion dollars into the national economy every year.

5. Public education on plastic bags fails to solve litter problem

Save the Bay [Save The Bay is the largest regional organization working to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, Save The Bay protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife.] “Myths vs. Facts Regarding Single Use Bag Bans and Fees”, Mar 10, 2009 <http://www.savesfbay.org/atf/cf/%7B2d306cc1-ef35-48cc-b523-32b03a970ae5%7D/MYTHVFACT_BAGS_FINAL.PDF>

Huge amounts of money have been spent on public education about litter. One example is CalTrans' "Don't Trash California" campaign. Yet, we still see our highways coated in bags, cups, and cigarette butts. A fee on single use bags provides an incentive to consumers to change their behavior and switch to reusable bags.

6. The Plastic Bag reduction Act of 2009 is not in act and it does not tax to such an extent, it is therefore less effective.

Plastic Bag Reduction Act of 2009, April 23 2009, H.R. 2091,111th congress, 1st session [this is a direct quote from the legislation]

SEC. 4056. IMPOSITION OF TAX.

‘(a) General Rule- There is hereby imposed on any retail sale a tax on any single-use carryout bag.

‘(b) Amount of Tax- The amount of tax imposed by subsection (a) on any single-use carryout bag shall be--

‘(1) $0.05 on and after January 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2015, and

‘(2) $0.25 on and after January 1, 2015.

HARMS:

1. Plastic shopping bags have greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (The Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and, where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state. It is the one agency charged with full responsibility for coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors.) “Frequently Asked Questions About Plastic Shopping Bags” 22 April 2009 <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/issues/plasticbagsfaq.htm>

Plastic bags have a number of environmental impacts throughout their lifecycle. These include greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from the process of extracting and refining petroleum or natural gas, manufacturing the plastic bags, and transporting them to market.

2. Plastic shopping bags end up as litter.

John Roach (Journalist) for National Geographic News September 2, 2003 “Are Plastic Grocery Bags Sacking the Environment?” <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/09/0902_030902_plasticbags.html> [Brackets Added]

According to [Vincent] Cobb's *[founder of Reusablebags.com and an activist for the reduced use of plastic shopping bags.]* calculations extrapolated from data released by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 2001 on U.S. plastic bag, sack, and wrap consumption, somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. Of those, millions end up in the litter stream outside of landfills—estimates range from less than one to three percent of the bags. (Too old)

3. 177 species of marine creatures are adversely impacted by plastic bag pollution.

Pollution Issues [Pollution Issues was formed to offer a unique reference point on what causes pollution and how to deal with it.] 2007, “The Impact of Plastic Bags at Sea”, <http://www.pollutionissues.co.uk/impact-plastic-bags-sea.html>

Research so far has shown 177 species of marine creature to have been adversely affected by swallowing plastic bags at sea. The list makes for alarming reading and includes whales, dolphins, harbour porpoises, puffins, seals, sharks, turtles, and sea birds such as the black footed albatross. Amongst the worst affected are creatures who are already endangered and who, if they are not protected, could soon become extinct. Records of dead animals from the Marine Conservation Society include an endangered Leatherback turtle which was found with 57kg of plastic bags blocking its insides and a rare Curviers Beaked Whale, whose gut was totally obstructed by compacted bags. A further incident reported a Minke Whale found washed up in France with 800kg of plastic bags inside it, including some from British supermarkets. These are just a few examples of a growing list.

4. Chemicals From Plastic are harmful

Pollution Issues [Pollution Issues was formed to offer a unique reference point on what causes pollution and how to deal with it.] 2007, “The Impact of Plastic Bags at Sea”, <http://www.pollutionissues.co.uk/impact-plastic-bags-sea.html>

And there’s more bad news. It is not only the plastic itself which causes infection and death amongst these animals, but the chemicals in the plastic. The high and low density polyethylene from which plastic bags are made, are full of chemicals which have been found to be able to migrate from plastic and thus contaminate other things. Such chemicals can affect the immune system of animals.

5. Even Bio-degradation Of Plastic Bags is harmful

Pollution Issues [Pollution Issues was formed to offer a unique reference point on what causes pollution and how to deal with it.] 2007, “The Impact of Plastic Bags at Sea”, Pollution Issues <http://www.pollutionissues.co.uk/impact-plastic-bags-sea.html>

Plastic might be convenient for us, but it is wrecking our planet. Scientists have estimated that it may take a plastic bag at sea to take anything from 450 to a thousand years to break down. However, even then, it may never actually disappear. Tiny microscopic particles or ‘plastic dust’ could persist, going on to affect a whole new host of marine life such as filter feeders by which the plastic – and its inherent toxins - could be transferred up the food chain.

6. Plastic bags are adversely impacting beaches.

Pollution Issues [Pollution Issues was formed to offer a unique reference point on what causes pollution and how to deal with it.] 2007, “The Impact of Plastic Bags at Sea”, Pollution Issues <http://www.pollutionissues.co.uk/impact-plastic-bags-sea.html>

By their very nature, plastic bags are lightweight and the right shape to easily blow away. Besides people dropping them, plastic bags catch the wind like sails and are whisked out of bins, landfill sites and council tips. Plastic bags can travel many miles in this way but once they land on water, due to its surface tension, they remain there. This means that our seas and rivers are full of old plastic bags. During the Marine Conservation Society’s Beachwatch survey for 2007, seven and a half thousand bags were recorded on UK beaches. This is an increase of two thousand within three years and the number is unfortunately still climbing, despite growing awareness of their environmental damage. It means that for every kilometre of beach surveyed, approximately 45 bags were found.

7. The amount of petroleum used to make a plastic bag could drive a car 11 meters.

Tanya Ha [Tanya Ha is a writer, television presenter, environmentalist and sustainable living advocate. She is best known as the Eco Coach in the award-winning SBS reality TV series Eco House Challenge, the author of the acclaimed eco-guide book Greeniology and a media commentator on environmental issues.] 2007, Greeniology <http://books.google.com/books?id=TzuoQlZ0usgC&pg=PA232&dq=%22plastic+shopping+bag%22+harms+wildlife&ei=zK6BSq2iHoO0zATAyd3MCg#v=onepage&q=&f=false> [Brackets Added]

“Plastic bags are produced from polymers derived from petroleum. According to Clean Up Australia, the amount of petroleum used to make a plastic bag would drive a car about 11 m [meters].”

8. Plastic bags make up 9% of rubbish collected by ICC.

Brian Merchant, June 2009, “Study Reveals Two Biggest, Deadliest Kinds of Marine Trash”, Tree Hugger online (TreeHugger is the leading media outlet dedicated to driving sustainability mainstream. Partial to a modern aesthetic, we strive to be a one-stop shop for green news, solutions, and product information.) <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/06/biggest-kind-marine-trash.php>

Plastic bags made up more than 9 percent of the 103 million items of rubbish collected by volunteers for the International Coastal Cleanup from 1989 to 2007, the study said. Only cigarettes and their filters constituted a bigger proportion of waste. “Thin film, single-use plastic bags which choke marine life should be banned or phased-out rapidly everywhere,” [program director Achim] Steiner said. “There is simply zero justification for manufacturing them anymore, anywhere.”

9. Plastic shopping bags kill birds and marine life

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (The Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and, where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state. It is the one agency charged with full responsibility for coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors.) 22 April 2009 “Frequently Asked Questions About Plastic Shopping Bags” <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/issues/plasticbagsfaq.htm> Brackets added

[Plastic shopping] Bags kill animals--particularly birds and marine life--when the animals become entangled in the plastic or when they mistake pieces of plastic for food.

10. Plastic bags take 1000s of years to disintegrate.

Tejvan R. Pettinger [Economics Help is a website written by Tejvan R. Pettinger. Tejvan studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. He now works as a part time Economics Teacher at Cherwell College, Oxford and spends time writing on economics. He is also a keen cyclist. The site aims to offer help to students of Economics and those interested in understanding the complexities of Economics. Even when studying at University, I never particularly cared for the complex mathematical models which forms the basis for much of University Economics. My interests lie in gaining a practical understanding of how economics affects society and quality of life.]

*February 18th, 2008, “Should We Ban or Tax the Plastic Bag?”* [*http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/taxes/should-we-ban-or-tax-the-plastic-bag/*](http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/taxes/should-we-ban-or-tax-the-plastic-bag/)

Plastic Bags not Biodegradeable. Plastic bags take 1000s of years to disintegrate, therefore our landfills are full of plastic bags which don’t breakdown.

11. Plastic bags are bad for wildlife.

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Bad for Wildlife. Because plastic bags can float around they can often cause problems for wildlife.

12. Plastic bags cause floods.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (The Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and, where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state. It is the one agency charged with full responsibility for coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors.) “Frequently Asked Questions About Plastic Shopping Bags” 22 April 2009 <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/issues/plasticbagsfaq.htm> [Brackets added]

[Plastic] Bags clog gutters and sewer grates, causing flooding.

13. Plastic bags are an eyesore.

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[Plastic] Bags get caught in trees, fences and other objects, where they become an eyesore.

14. Plastic adversely affects landfill operations

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Plastic can take hundreds of years to degrade, and can pose risks even when it has degraded into smaller pieces, since these are especially attractive to animals as food. They are also believed to adversely affect landfill operations by interfering with moisture distribution and leachate flow within landfilled waste.

15. Recycled plastic shopping bags end up in landfills causing harm to the environment.

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According to several sources, including [reusablebags.com [exit DNR]](http://www.reusablebags.com/), U.S. shoppers use an estimated 100 billion plastic bags every year and recycle only a small percentage of them, though market demand for the recycled bags is growing. Many of the bags are reused by consumers as trash liners or pet waste bags, but a large number also end up in landfills or causing harm in the environment without first being reused.

16. Floating plastic mass the size of Texas harms marine life

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Much of the plastic eventually makes its way downstream to the oceans. The California Coastal Commission estimates that 60 to 80 percent of all marine debris is plastic, with plastic bags making up a portion of that total. In the Pacific Ocean, currents push debris into one area. Since plastic-based materials do not readily break down, one researcher has estimated there is a floating mass of plastic and polystyrene foam in the north Pacific Ocean that is roughly the size of Texas. The plastic does eventually break down into small pieces and particles--but these also present a problem because they closely resemble plankton, a major food source for many marine animals.

17. Plastic bags have the same environmental impacts that come with harvesting fossil fuels.

Katharine Mieszkowski (**Katharine Mieszkowski** is an American journalist and graduate of [Yale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale) University. In 2001 Mieszkowski was honored as one of the top 25 Women on the Web. Since 2000 she has been a Senior Writer for [Salon.com](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon.com), where she covers technology, business, and the environment. Mieszkowski was the sixth employee of Women's Wire (later Women.com) in 1994. From 1997 to 2000 she was a senior staff writer at [Fast Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_Company_(magazine)) magazine, where she covered the Silicon Valley. Her column "Culture Shocked" ran in the [San Francisco Bay Guardian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Bay_Guardian) between May 1997 and June 2003. Mieszkowski has also contributed to [Ms.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ms._magazine), [All Things Considered](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Things_Considered), [Slate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slate_(magazine)), [Readers Digest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Readers_Digest), the [San Francisco Chronicle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Chronicle) and the [Financial Times](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_Times).) “Plastic bags are killing us “ August 10, 2007 <http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/08/10/plastic_bags/index.html>

The plastic bag is an icon of convenience culture, by some estimates the single most ubiquitous consumer item on Earth, numbering in the trillions. They're made from petroleum or natural gas with all the attendant [environmental impacts](http://dir.salon.com/topics/environment/index.html) of harvesting fossil fuels.

18. Study Plastic bags contain lead, a toxin.

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One recent [study](http://www.toxicsinpackaging.org/) found that the inks and colorants used on some [plastic] bags contain lead, a toxin.

19. Plastic bags push some species close to extinction

Pollution Issues [Pollution Issues was formed to offer a unique reference point on what causes pollution and how to deal with it.] 2007, “The Impact of Plastic Bags at Sea”, Pollution Issues <http://www.pollutionissues.co.uk/impact-plastic-bags-sea.html>

The issue of bags landing in the sea, is not so much about the fact that they look nasty – which of course they do – but because they also pose a serious health hazard to many marine creatures, so much so that they are pushing some species closer to extinction.

What happens is that many types of sea life mistake the bags for food. This is most particularly the case with creatures for which squid or jelly fish are part of their natural diet. For a Leatherback turtle, for instance, a floating plastic bag looks almost indistinguishable to a jelly fish, and they attempt to eat the bag.

However ingestion and digestion is almost impossible and the bag either gets tangled in their stomach or completely blocks their gut, causing them to die a slow and painful death of starvation.

20. Plastic bags can spend an eternity in landfills since only 1-2% of them are recycled

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Only 1 percent of plastic bags are recycled worldwide -- about 2 percent in the U.S. -- and the rest, when discarded, can persist for centuries. They can spend eternity in landfills, but that's not always the case. "They're so aerodynamic that even when they're properly disposed of in a trash can they can still blow away and become litter," says Mark Murray, executive director of [Californians Against Waste.](http://www.cawrecycles.org/) It's as litter that plastic bags have the most baleful effect. And we're not talking about your everyday eyesore.

21. More than a million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die every year from plastic.

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According to the [Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation,](http://www.blueoceansociety.org/) more than a million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die every year from eating or getting entangled in plastic. The conservation group estimates that 50 percent of all marine litter is some form of plastic. There are 46,000 pieces of plastic litter floating in every square mile of ocean, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

22. Plastic bags cannot be recycled in San Francisco

Katharine Mieszkowski (Katharine Mieszkowski is an American journalist and graduate of [Yale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale) University. In 2001 Mieszkowski was honored as one of the top 25 Women on the Web. Since 2000 she has been a Senior Writer for [Salon.com](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon.com), where she covers technology, business, and the environment. Mieszkowski was the sixth employee of Women's Wire (later Women.com) in 1994. From 1997 to 2000 she was a senior staff writer at [Fast Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_Company_(magazine)) magazine, where she covered the Silicon Valley. Her column "Culture Shocked" ran in the [San Francisco Bay Guardian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Bay_Guardian) between May 1997 and June 2003. Mieszkowski has also contributed to [Ms.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ms._magazine), [All Things Considered](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Things_Considered), [Slate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slate_(magazine)), [Readers Digest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Readers_Digest), the [San Francisco Chronicle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Chronicle) and the [Financial Times](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_Times).) “Plastic bags are killing us “ August 10, 2007 <http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/08/10/plastic_bags/index.html>

Plastic bags, of which San Franciscans use some 180 million per year, cannot be recycled here. Yet the hopeful arrow symbol emblazoned on the bags no doubt inspires lots of residents to toss their used ones into the blue recycling bin, feeling good that they've done the right thing. But that symbol on all kinds of plastic items by no means guarantees they can be recycled curbside. (The plastic bags collected at the recycling plant are trucked to the regular dump.) As the great mass of recyclables moves past the initial sort deck on a series of spinning disks, stray plastic bags clog the machinery. It's such a problem that one machine is shut down while a worker wearing kneepads and armed with a knife spends an hour climbing precariously on the disks to cut the bags out, yielding a Medusa's hair-mass of wrenched and twisted plastic. In the middle of the night, when the vast sorting operation grinds to a halt to prepare for the next 700-ton day, two workers will spend hours at this dirty job.

23. The number of plastic bags that Americans throw away is equal to dumping 12 million barrels of oil.

Katharine Mieszkowski (Katharine Mieszkowski is an American journalist and graduate of [Yale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale) University. In 2001 Mieszkowski was honored as one of the top 25 Women on the Web. Since 2000 she has been a Senior Writer for [Salon.com](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon.com), where she covers technology, business, and the environment. Mieszkowski was the sixth employee of Women's Wire (later Women.com) in 1994. From 1997 to 2000 she was a senior staff writer at [Fast Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_Company_(magazine)) magazine, where she covered the Silicon Valley. Her column "Culture Shocked" ran in the [San Francisco Bay Guardian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Bay_Guardian) between May 1997 and June 2003. Mieszkowski has also contributed to [Ms.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ms._magazine), [All Things Considered](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Things_Considered), [Slate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slate_(magazine)), [Readers Digest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Readers_Digest), the [San Francisco Chronicle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Chronicle) and the [Financial Times](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_Times).) “Plastic bags are killing us “ August 10, 2007 <http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/08/10/plastic_bags/index.html>

Every year, Americans throw away some 100 billion plastic bags after they've been used to transport a prescription home from the drugstore or a quart of milk from the grocery store. It's equivalent to dumping nearly 12 million barrels of oil.

24. 1.6 billion gallons of oil are used to produce plastic bags and only 1% of the plastic bags are recycled

Food Democracy [We strive to inform, educate, and provide a call to action on the issues of food, nutrition, and food safety as it relates to ourselves and our world] “Plastic bags and oil consumption” July 16, 2008 <http://fooddemocracy.wordpress.com/2008/07/16/plastic-bags-and-oil-consumption/>

Plastic bags are made from oil: it takes about 430,000 gallons of oil to produce 100 million plastic bags, and the U.S. goes through 380 billion of them a year. A statistics class at Indiana U did the math: more than 1.6 billion gallons of oil are used each year for plastic bags alone. The more we use plastic bags, the more we waste oil. Compounding the problem is the fact that, not only do we make tons of plastic bags (and use lots of oil in the process) we only recycle 1 percent.

25. U.S. dependence on imported oil represents the largest threat to the U.S. economy and national security

Bartholomew Sullivan [Mid-South regional reporter for 11 years before becoming the newspaper's Washington correspondent in March 2004. Graduate of Santa Clara University.] “Fred Smith: Dependence on foreign oil threatens economy, security” February 2009, Commercial Appeal. <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2009/feb/23/fred-smith-dependence-foreign-oil-threatens-econom/> [Brackets Added]

After terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the U.S. dependence on imported oil "represents the biggest single threat to our nation's economy and national security," FedEx CEO Frederick W. Smith told a National Press Club audience Monday. "We cannot prevent oil price shocks. Events across the world, from terrorist attacks and cartel collusion to accidents and natural disasters, will continue to affect global petroleum prices, sometimes dramatically," he said. "In the past, that has been a recipe for disaster. We have seen five economic recessions since the early 1970s -- and each one of them was preceded by or was concurrent with a significant spike in oil prices."

26. Plastic bag recycling is costly and just doesn’t work.

Save the Bay [Save The Bay is the largest regional organization working to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, Save The Bay protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife.] “Myths vs. Facts Regarding Single Use Bag Bans and Fees”, Mar 10, 2009 <http://www.savesfbay.org/atf/cf/%7B2d306cc1-ef35-48cc-b523-32b03a970ae5%7D/MYTHVFACT_BAGS_FINAL.PDF>

Despite a 15-year statewide effort in California, recycling plastic bags has failed. The California Integrated Waste Management Board estimates that less than 5 percent of all single use plastic bags in the state are actually recycled. Plastic bags cost municipal recycling programs millions each year, when bags jam sorting equipment at recycling facilities. In San Jose, less than four percent of plastic bags are recycled and work stoppages from jammed bags cost the City approximately $1 million per year. Failed recycling efforts means billions of plastic bags are thrown away, blow onto our streets and float into our waterways. Plastic bags are the quintessential litter item: there are billions of them, they are used for a few short minutes, and they are light and easily transportable.

27. The market for recycled plastic bags is small and unstable.

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At the moment, a single manufacturer, purchases 70 percent of the plastic bags recovered nationwide, to make outdoor decking. In 2008, Newsweek reported that the company lost $75 million in the previous year, raising questions about the long-term viability of the end market. Some curbside programs will take plastic bags if they are bundled, but the commodity is low grade and brings a low price, partly because it gets dirty during handling and transportation. Even the plastic bag industry doesn't use its own post-consumer material. Recyclers are sometimes forced to stockpile bales of bags or even pay to get rid of them.

28. 1.37 million plastic bags were removed from coastal areas worldwide in one day last year.

Save the Bay [Save The Bay is the largest regional organization working to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, Save The Bay protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife.] “Myths vs. Facts Regarding Single Use Bag Bans and Fees”, Mar 10, 2009 <http://www.savesfbay.org/atf/cf/%7B2d306cc1-ef35-48cc-b523-32b03a970ae5%7D/MYTHVFACT_BAGS_FINAL.PDF>

Plastic trash entangles, suffocates, and poisons at least 267 animal species worldwide. According to the California Coastal Commission, up to 80 percent of all marine debris is plastic, which never biodegrades. Plastic bags were the second largest item of litter picked up by volunteers during the Ocean Conservancy's 2008 International Coastal Cleanup Day. It is estimated that one million plastic bags pollute the Bay every year.

Scientists recently measured 334,271 pieces of plastic per square mile in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

29. Millions of plastic shopping bags end up as litter.

John Roach (Journalist) for National Geographic News September 2, 2003 “Are Plastic Grocery Bags Sacking the Environment?” <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/09/0902_030902_plasticbags.html> [Brackets Added]

But like candy wrappers, chewing gum, cigarette butts, and thousands of other pieces of junk, millions of the plastic bags end up as litter. Once in the environment, it takes months to hundreds of years for plastic bags to breakdown. As they decompose, tiny toxic bits seep into soils, lakes, rivers, and the oceans, said [Vincent] Cobb. *[founder of Reusablebags.com and an activist for the reduced use of plastic shopping bags.]*

SOLVENCY:

1. Irish plastic bag tax is successful.

Geoff Riley (Head of Economics at Eton College) February 14, 2008 “Success of the Irish Plastic bag tax” <http://tutor2u.net/blog/index.php/economics/comments/irish-plastic-bag-tax/>

Green taxes are frequently criticised for being ineffective in changing behaviour, expensive to operate, inequitable across communities and sometimes a combination of all three. But the tax levied on plastic bags in Ireland five years ago appears to be one of the more enlightened public policy initiatives of recent times. This New York Times feature visits the emerald isle and finds strong public support for the measure and a change in attitudes to piling up the plastic bags when we get to the end of the check-out queue.

*‘In 2002, Ireland passed a tax on plastic bags; customers who want them must now pay 33 cents per bag at the register. There was an advertising awareness campaign. And then something happened that was bigger than the sum of these parts. Within weeks, plastic bag use dropped 94 percent. Within a year, nearly everyone had bought reusable cloth bags, keeping them in offices and in the backs of cars. Plastic bags were not outlawed, but carrying them became socially unacceptable — on a par with wearing a fur coat or not cleaning up after one’s dog.’*

2. Irelands tax on plastic shopping bags has been effective.

BBC News (British News Agency), August 20, 2002, “Irish bag tax hailed success”, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/2205419.stm>

A tax on plastic shopping bags in the Republic of Ireland has cut their use by more than 90% and raised millions of euros in revenue, the government says. The tax of 15 cents per bag was introduced five months ago in an attempt to curb litter, and the improvement had been immediate and "plain to see", said Environment Minister Martin Cullen. He said that the 3.5 million euros in extra revenue raised so far would be spent on environmental projects. In the three months after the tax was introduced, shops handed out just over 23 million plastic bags - about 277 million fewer than normal, the government said.

3. By Creating the tax incentive in Ireland, the use of plastic bags used was reduced by 90%

Tanya Ha [Tanya Ha is a writer, television presenter, environmentalist and sustainable living advocate. She is best known as the Eco Coach in the award-winning SBS reality TV series Eco House Challenge, the author of the acclaimed eco-guide book Greeniology and a media commentator on environmental issues.] 2007, Greeniology <http://books.google.com/books?id=TzuoQlZ0usgC&pg=PA232&dq=%22plastic+shopping+bag%22+harms+wildlife&ei=zK6BSq2iHoO0zATAyd3MCg#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

In 2002, the Irish Government imposed a 15 euro-cent levy…on every plastic bag taken from stores. Five months after the scheme was introduced , plastic bag use dropped by around 90%. This was not because everyone in Emerald Isle suddenly became a greenie. It was more due to the fact that people didn’t like being hi in the hip pocket. It took a financial disincentive to effectively reduce plastic bags in Ireland.

4. Tax on plastic shopping bags raises revenue $14,147,000.

Tejvan R. Pettinger [Economics Help is a website written by Tejvan R. Pettinger. Tejvan studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. He now works as a part time Economics Teacher at Cherwell College, Oxford and spends time writing on economics. He is also a keen cyclist. The site aims to offer help to students of Economics and those interested in understanding the complexities of Economics. Even when studying at University, I never particularly cared for the complex mathematical models which forms the basis for much of University Economics. My interests lie in gaining a practical understanding of how economics affects society and quality of life.]

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[Plastic] Tax Raises Revenue. An estimated 10 million Euros [$14,147,000].

5. Tax on plastic shopping bags makes people pay the social cost.

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[Plastic] Tax makes people [p] may the social cost. Using plastic bags creates negative externalities, a tax will make people pay the social cost. At the moment, plastic bags are usually free and therefore, firms subsidise the use of goods with negative externalities.

6. After a tax on plastic shopping bags was imposed in Hong Kong the use of plastic shopping bags dropped by 80%.

China View, (Chinese News agency), August 8 2009, “Plastic bag use drops sharply following levy in Hong Kong”, <http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/08/content_11847916.htm>

The use of plastic shopping bags at supermarkets and retail chains in Hong Kong dropped by as much as 80 percent since an environmental levy was imposed a month ago, a local retailer association has said. The number of those who visited stores with shopping bags of their own also increased by 67 percent, local newspapers reported Saturday.

7. 18,000,000 liters of oil was saved due to the plastic bag tax in Ireland

Food Democracy [We strive to inform, educate, and provide a call to action on the issues of food, nutrition, and food safety as it relates to ourselves and our world] “Plastic bags and oil consumption” July 16, 2008 http://fooddemocracy.wordpress.com/2008/07/16/plastic-bags-and-oil-consumption/

Plastic bag litter has become such an environmental dilemma that Ireland, Taiwan, South Africa, Australia, and Bangladesh have heavily taxed plastic bags or banned their use outright. How’s it working for them? In 2001, Ireland consumed 1.2 billion plastic bags, or 316 per person. A plastic bag consumption tax, 37 cents per bag, introduced in 2002 reduced consumption by 90%! Approximately 18,000,000 liters of oil have been saved due to this reduced production.

8. Oil dependency: a commonly debated issue, can be lessened by reducing the use of plastic bags

Malama Kauala [The site is provided to allow the community to share information, collaborate on community issues and solutions by utilizing the suite of tools that are provided or requested. A do-it-yourself website for building community.], “Wind Energy and Plastic Bags” 2008 <http://savekauai.org/bloghome/wind-energy-and-plastic-bags>

On July 11, 2008, the price of a barrel of oil hit a record $147.27 in daily trading. That same month, world crude oil production achieved a record 74.8 million barrels per day. On May 4 of this year, Raymond James Associates, a prominent brokerage specializing in energy investments, issued a report stating, “With OPEC oil production apparently having peaked in 1Q08, and non-OPEC even earlier in 2007, peak oil on a worldwide basis seems to have taken place in early 2008.” This conclusion is being echoed by a cadre of other analysts… Plastic shopping bags are made from polyethylene: a thermoplastic made from OIL. Reducing plastic bags will decrease foreign oil dependency.

9. Ireland's bag fee dramatically reduced plastic bag usage and plastic bag litter.

Save the Bay [Save The Bay is the largest regional organization working to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, Save The Bay protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife.] “Myths vs. Facts Regarding Single Use Bag Bans and Fees”, Mar 10, 2009 <http://www.savesfbay.org/atf/cf/%7B2d306cc1-ef35-48cc-b523-32b03a970ae5%7D/MYTHVFACT_BAGS_FINAL.PDF>

Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency submitted a letter to the San Jose City Council rebutting the American Chemistry Council’s (ACC) false claims about Ireland's bag fee. In this letter, Ronan Mulhall of the Waste Policy division confirms that plastic bag litter dropped by 93 percent and plastic bag use decreased by approximately 90 percent in the year following the Plastic Bag Levy. Ireland later increased their fee to approximately 33 cents (US). The Irish EPA reports that these dramatically lower levels of plastic bag use and litter are being maintained.

10. Plastic bag taxes do not uniquely impact low-income people.

Save the Bay [Save The Bay is the largest regional organization working to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, Save The Bay protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife.] “Myths vs. Facts Regarding Single Use Bag Bans and Fees”, Mar 10, 2009 <http://www.savesfbay.org/atf/cf/%7B2d306cc1-ef35-48cc-b523-32b03a970ae5%7D/MYTHVFACT_BAGS_FINAL.PDF>

A single-use bag fee is only charged if you do not bring your own bag. Lower income communities (some of the most blighted by plastic bag litter) are already paying for plastic bags through city taxes and increased food and retail prices. Every bag fee policy currently under consideration at the local and state level would either subsidize reusable bags for low-income residents or exempt low-income residents from paying the fees.

11. Reducing the use of single-use plastic and paper bags will save us all money.

Save the Bay [Save The Bay is the largest regional organization working to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, Save The Bay protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife.] “Myths vs. Facts Regarding Single Use Bag Bans and Fees”, Mar 10, 2009 <http://www.savesfbay.org/atf/cf/%7B2d306cc1-ef35-48cc-b523-32b03a970ae5%7D/MYTHVFACT_BAGS_FINAL.PDF>

Retailers currently embed 2 to 5 cents per plastic bag and 5 to 23 cents per paper bag in the price of goods— adding $30 or more per person annually in hidden costs. In contrast, when consumers use reusable bags, retailers save money and can lower prices. Many grocers offer a 5-cent rebate for bringing your own bag, which can add up to about $60 in savings per year for an average family. Bags clog storm drains and recycling equipment, costing cities millions, and bag litter lowers property values and degrades recreational areas. In addition to the out-of-pocket cost passed on from the retailer to consumers, California taxpayers spend approximately $25 million every year to collect and landfill plastic bags. San Jose City staff estimates that it costs at least $3 million annually to clean plastic bags from creeks and clogged storm drains. Single-use bag production depletes resources and contributes to carbon emissions and global warming. We consume approximately 14 million trees and 12 million barrels of oil to produce the billions of plastic and paper bags we throw away in the United States every year.

12. PLAN ADVOCATE: Federal plastic bag tax is needed.

Ken Lee THE MORNING SIDE POST AT COLUMBIA UNIVESITY (The Morningside Post is for Columbia University’s [School of International and Public Affairs](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/). Established in 2004, TMP has become a leading blog among graduate schools of international affairs and public policy in the United States, read in more than 120 countries around the world. We aim to foster the debate you didn’t have in class and to feature the most passionate and inquisitive voices in the SIPA community and beyond.) February 19, 2009 “Putting An End To The Plastic Bag Problem” <http://themorningsidepost.com/2009/02/putting-an-end-to-the-plastic-bag-problem/>

The plastic bag is one of the most ubiquitous forms of garbage and must be properly addressed. But the issue is national in scope — Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags every year — and what America needs is a national solution. A federal plastic bag tax combined with a national push to promote reduction, reuse and recycling would be a great start.

13. PLAN ADVOCATE: Tejvan R. Pettinger.

Tejvan R. Pettinger [Economics Help is a website written by Tejvan R. Pettinger. Tejvan studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. He now works as a part time Economics Teacher at Cherwell College, Oxford and spends time writing on economics. He is also a keen cyclist. The site aims to offer help to students of Economics and those interested in understanding the complexities of Economics. Even when studying at University, I never particularly cared for the complex mathematical models which forms the basis for much of University Economics. My interests lie in gaining a practical understanding of how economics affects society and quality of life.]

*February 18th, 2008, “Should We Ban or Tax the Plastic Bag?” [Brackets added]* [*http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/taxes/should-we-ban-or-tax-the-plastic-bag/*](http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/taxes/should-we-ban-or-tax-the-plastic-bag/)

Ireland have [has] introduced an interesting law, which has placed a 15 cent tax on the plastic bag. Combined with an advertising campaign to make the plastic bag unacceptable, use has fallen between 90-94%. Within a few weeks, there was a visual improvement in the number of plastic bags littering the environment. Other countries such as Bangladesh and China have gone further and banned the plastic bag. In my view a plastic tax is a good idea.

14. Plastic tax results in reusable bags being used as an alternative to plastic bags.

Douglas B. MacDonald (Douglas B. MacDonald served as secretary of transportation for Washington from 2001-2007 and during that time was an ex-officio member of several public and nonprofit boards of directors, including Sound Transit and the Mountain to Sound Greenway. From 1992-2001, he was executive director of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority in Boston. Since moving to the Greenwood neighborhood of Seattle in 2007, MacDonald has participated in an commented on a variety of projects and issues involving transportation and transit, land use, and environmental policy.) August 4, 2009 “How I learned to love the bag fee” <http://crosscut.com/2009/08/04/2009-election/19148/?pagejump=2>

Referendum 1 [plastic tax], we must remind ourselves, is even-handed. It’s not a push just to besmirch plastic and switch all the shoppers to kraft brown paper bags, which people around these parts [used to call a sack.](http://books.google.com/books?id=i33BWgxbvXgC&pg=PA240&lpg=PA240&dq=American+Usage+sacks+and+bags&source=bl&ots=QvrV1XKtE1&sig=k6T3HCky6VjrDkf6wIrRqXXEbuU&hl=en&ei=5dF1SsGeNIeQsgPU_5HfCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5#v=onepage&q=sacks&f=false) Paper grocery bags or sacks have their own problems. So no need here to argue about whether taking home the shopping in paper or plastic has the bigger carbon footprint or consumes the greater space in landfills.

Instead, Referendum 1 [plastic tax] might be called the “disposable bags are no free lunch” program. The idea is that it would be cheaper all around, and usually better, if you carried your groceries home in an old-fashioned shopping bag that you would use and reuse. Like for example, re-using gloves, a hat, or a razor. A reusable shopping bag is much better than a plastic or paper high-tech throwaway product that has to be sorted out by Allied Waste when dumped by the recycle truck at the waste station at Third and Lander in SODO. Or blown around the city landscape as litter. Or, if it’s plastic, ingested by fish, turtles, whales, dolphins, shrimp, and marine micro-organisms after its found its way to break slowly, slowly into smaller pieces in Puget Sound and ultimately the oceans. These polyethylene plastic bags break up, but they don’t biodegrade. Ever.

ADVANTAGES:

1. Tax on plastic shopping bags reduces costs to shops.

Tejvan R. Pettinger [Economics Help is a website written by Tejvan R. Pettinger. Tejvan studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. He now works as a part time Economics Teacher at Cherwell College, Oxford and spends time writing on economics. He is also a keen cyclist. The site aims to offer help to students of Economics and those interested in understanding the complexities of Economics. Even when studying at University, I never particularly cared for the complex mathematical models which forms the basis for much of University Economics. My interests lie in gaining a practical understanding of how economics affects society and quality of life.]

*February 18th, 2008, “Should We Ban or Tax the Plastic Bag?” [Brackets added]* [*http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/taxes/should-we-ban-or-tax-the-plastic-bag/*](http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/taxes/should-we-ban-or-tax-the-plastic-bag/)

Advantages of plastic tax [Plastic Tax] Reduces costs to shops. Usually shops are reluctant to charge for plastic bags. But, if they have to charge, people will be increasingly likely to use alternatives and reuse old bags.

2. Plastic tax will result in tens of millions of fewer bags being used.

Douglas B. MacDonald (Douglas B. MacDonald served as secretary of transportation for Washington from 2001-2007 and during that time was an ex-officio member of several public and nonprofit boards of directors, including Sound Transit and the Mountain to Sound Greenway. From 1992-2001, he was executive director of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority in Boston. Since moving to the Greenwood neighborhood of Seattle in 2007, MacDonald has participated in an commented on a variety of projects and issues involving transportation and transit, land use, and environmental policy.) August 4, 2009 “How I learned to love the bag fee” <http://crosscut.com/2009/08/04/2009-election/19148/?pagejump=2> [Brackets Added]

Passing Referendum 1 [plastic tax] means that together we’ll use tens of millions fewer bags. And, with similar sentiment quite literally sweeping the world, it is likely that life on Earth as we know it will stand a bit better chance of surviving the human onslaught. All in all, Referendum 1 [plastic tax] is in step toward a saner future.

The Grim Reeper: The Case for Passing REEP

By Hannah Groenevelt, Elain Hammett and Justin Knopp

William Pollard profoundly said that “Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable.” In a policy world, this also stands true.

The federal government must initiate the change when it comes to energy efficiency. It is for this reason that my partner and I stand resolved: That the United States Federal Government should significantly reform its environmental policy.

DEFINITIONS:

**Significant** is defined by the Oxford American Dictionary as “having a meaning; indicative, noteworthy, important.”

**Environmental Policy** is defined by the Global Development Research Center as “the statement by the organization of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance, which provides a framework for action and for the setting of environmental objectives and targets" (*Andreas Sturm, “Glossary of Environmental Terms”* [*http://www.gdrc.org/uem/ait-terms.html*](http://www.gdrc.org/uem/ait-terms.html)*)*

**Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program Act** here after known as **REEP** has been explained in the text of the act: “The purpose of the REEP program is to facilitate the retrofitting of existing buildings across the United States to achieve maximum cost-effective energy efficiency improvements and significant improvements in water use and other environmental attributes.” (*Library of Congress, "Text of Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program Act," Date Accessed: August 12, 2009,* [*http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.1778*](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.1778)*:*

INHERENCY:

1. REEP bill integrated into the climate change bill

National Trust for Historic Preservation (The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities.), March 26th, 2009, "Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program Act," <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/legislative-briefs/reep.html>

At a Capitol Hill press conference on Thursday, March 26, 2009, Representative Peter Welch (D-VT) outlined the components of a new energy efficiency bill (H.R. 1778) that would help retrofit millions of homes and commercial buildings, thereby increasing efficiency by 20% or more nationally. The Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program Act, as it is called, would fund state and municipal investments up to half the cost associated with retrofitting existing homes and buildings. The bill also includes provisions that encourage owners of historic structures to make appropriate energy efficiency improvements. The proposal provides $2.5 billion to states annually from FY10-FY13 through the existing state energy program formula. Both homeowners and business owners could qualify for financial incentives for achieving increases in efficiency, with the amount dependent on the overall percentage of improved efficiency. Incentives for both homes and commercial buildings would be capped at 50% of the cost of retrofits. Historic buildings listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would qualify for 120% of these same awards for funding energy efficiency. The bill has the endorsement of a number of national interest groups, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the U.S. Green Building Council, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy. At the press event, National Trust Vice President for Public Policy Emily Wadhams acknowledged support for the legislation, adding that it would create jobs while promoting building reuse, reinvestment in older communities, and the greening of existing buildings to combat climate change. The goals of the bill are very much in line with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Sustainability Initiative, which focuses on the importance of reusing existing buildings and reinvesting in older and historic communities as critical elements in combating climate change. Importantly, the bill was incorporated in its entirety into the energy efficiency section of a comprehensive piece of climate change legislation that is currently in the House. The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, authored by House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Henry Waxman and Subcommittee on Energy and Environment Chairman Edward Markey

2. Climate change bill delayed

Richard Cowan (Journalist), July 9th, 2009, "Obama's drive for climate change bill hits delay," Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE56857620090709>

The leading Senate committee responsible for developing the climate change legislation has delayed by at least a month its crafting of a bill, leaving less time for Congress to fulfill Obama's desire to enact a law this year. "We'll do it as soon as we get back" in September from a month-long break, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer announced. Earlier this week, [Barbra] Boxer, a Democrat, said her committee had planned to complete work on a bill by early August. A White House spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said, "The administration is continuing to work with the Senate to pass comprehensive energy legislation and believes it's on track." He would not discuss timetables, though. On June 26, the House of Representatives narrowly passed its version of a bill to cut carbon dioxide emissions from 2005 levels by 17 percent by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. The Senate delay came as Congress was preoccupied with healthcare reform, Obama's top legislative priority, and as senators continued to bicker over how to reduce industrial emissions of carbon dioxide without putting U.S. businesses and consumers at a disadvantage.

3. Apprehensive leaders hinder bill.

Kate Sheppard (Kate Sheppard is Grist's political reporter), July 9th, 2009, "In the clearing stands a Boxer Boxer and Reid delay Senate action on climate bill until September," Grist, <http://www.grist.org/article/2009-07-09-boxer-reid-climate-delay-sept/>

The delay bodes ill for passing a climate bill this year. It shows leaders are not confident they would have enough votes to pass the bill and want as much time as possible to rally support. Barbra Boxer also noted that many key senators with a role in crafting climate policy are also leading the debate over health care, another major congressional priority for this year.

PLAN:

**Plank 1: Agency.** The Congress and the President

**Plank 2: Mandates:**

Congress shall pass, the president shall sign, and the Department of Energy along with Environmental Protection Agency shall implement the REEP (Retrofit for energy and environmental performance) program act.

**Plank 3: Funding.** Funding shall come from a 3 billion dollar cut from farm subsidies annually.

**Plank 4: Timeline.** This plan takes effect 30 days after an affirmative ballot

**Plank 5: Enforcement.** Our plan shall be enforced the Department of Energy, the EPA, and any other necessarily branches of the federal government.

**Plank 6: Legislative intent.** The affirmative team reserves the right to clarify the plan as necessary in future speeches.

ADVANTAGES:

1. Sustainable energy future

Solvency Point. REEP will increase efficiency by 20% or more

National Trust for Historic Preservation (The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities.), March 26th, 2009, "Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program Act," <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/legislative-briefs/reep.html>

At a Capitol Hill press conference on Thursday, March 26, 2009, Representative Peter Welch (D-VT) outlined the components of a new energy efficiency bill (H.R. 1778) that would help retrofit millions of homes and commercial buildings, thereby increasing efficiency by 20% or more nationally.

Significance Point. With 43% of carbon emissions coming from building operation, energy efficiency is more important than ever before

National Trust For Historic Preservation Press (The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to save America’s diverse historic places and revitalize communities.), March 31st, 2009, "National Trust for Historic Preservation Supports Inclusion Of Rep. Peter Welch's Retrofit For Energy And Environmental Performance Program Act In The American Clean Energy And Security Act Of 2009," <http://press.nationaltrust.org/content/view/386/162/>, [brackets added]

"This is an important next step for much needed legislation that would create jobs while promoting building reuse, reinvestment in older communities, and the greening of existing buildings to combat climate change. The National Trust for Historic Preservation will work vigorously with Representatives Welch, Waxman, Markey and others to enact this legislation," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. [said] "With more than 43 percent of the nation's carbon emissions coming from the operation of buildings, reusing and improving the energy efficiency of older and historic buildings is an essential part of a sustainable future." REEP would spur efficiency investments by giving homeowners and businesses direct incentives, interest rate subsidies and credit support based on the percentage increase in energy efficiency they achieve.

Impact Point One. Energy efficiency helps cut fuel costs and increases competitiveness

International Energy Agency, August 2nd, 2004, ""Energy Efficiency"," International Energy Agency Official Website, <http://www.iea.org/Textbase/subjectqueries/keyresult.asp?KEYWORD_ID=4122>

Energy efficiency offers a powerful and cost-effective tool for achieving a sustainable energy future. Improvements in energy efficiency can reduce the need for investment in energy infrastructure, cut fuel costs, increase competitiveness and improve consumer welfare. Environmental benefits can also be achieved by the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions and local air pollution.

Impact Point Two. Improving the efficiency saves money

From the Office of Congressman Peter Welch (State Senator and serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Sponsor of REEP bill), March 16th, 2009, "Welch proposes national energy efficiency program to retrofit millions of homes and buildings," [http://www.welch.house.gov/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=445 [brackets](http://www.welch.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=445%20%5bbrackets) added]

"Improving the efficiency of our homes and buildings is the cheapest, fastest, and easiest way to save energy and money," said Presswood, Federal Energy Policy Director for the NRDC. said Presswood [Jim Presswood is NRDC’s Energy Advocate and based in Washington, D.C. He is NRDC’s lead lobbyist on federal energy policy issues. He received his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama], Federal Energy Policy Director for the NRDC "Congressman Welch has quickly become a leader in Washington on combating global warming. His efforts to improve our nation's efficiency will reduce our dependence on dirty fuels, create local jobs, and save people money on energy bills from Vermont to California."

2. Economic expansion

Solvency Point. REEP will create jobs while promoting building reuse

National Trust For Historic Preservation Press Website (The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to save America’s diverse historic places and revitalize communities.), March 31st, 2009, "National Trust for Historic Preservation Supports Inclusion Of Rep. Peter Welch's Retrofit For Energy And Environmental Performance Program Act In The American Clean Energy And Security Act Of 2009," <http://press.nationaltrust.org/content/view/386/162/>

The National Trust for Historic Preservation today offered its enthusiastic support for the inclusion of Rep. Peter Welch's Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) Program Act (H.R. 1778) in the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman and Rep. Edward Markey. REEP would fund state and municipal investments up to half the cost of retrofitting the nation's existing homes and buildings. "This is an important next step for much needed legislation that would create jobs while promoting building reuse, reinvestment in older communities, and the greening of existing buildings to combat climate change. The National Trust for Historic Preservation will work vigorously with Representatives Welch, Waxman, Markey and others to enact this legislation," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Impact Point One. Expanding efficiency will create jobs, reduce energy costs, and address carbon emissions

Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC is Vermont's leader in protecting and restoring natural resources), April 1st, 2009, "The Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) Program Act," <http://www.vnrc.org/article/view/24709/1/625/>

Buildings are responsible for 40 percent of all energy consumption, 70 percent of all electricity consumption, and 50 percent of all carbon emissions in the United States. Buildings in the United States account for 10 percent of global carbon emissions. Energy efficiency in buildings can be maximized with existing technologies to reduce building energy consumption by 25 percent or more. Expanding the residential and commercial efficiency will create jobs directly in performing retrofits, reduce energy bills for consumers, and address global carbon emissions.

Impact Point Two. REEP money creates 9-13 more jobs per million dollars than new construction

National Trust For Historic Preservation Press Website (The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to save America’s diverse historic places and revitalize communities.), March 31st, 2009, "National Trust for Historic Preservation Supports Inclusion Of Rep. Peter Welch's Retrofit For Energy And Environmental Performance Program Act In The American Clean Energy And Security Act Of 2009," <http://press.nationaltrust.org/content/view/386/162/>

REEP includes a premium for historic structures that encourages their owners to make appropriate energy efficiency improvements. Rehabilitation offers numerous environmental and energy saving benefits, and also creates jobs. One study found that $1 million invested in the rehabilitation of an existing building creates 9-13 more jobs than the same $1 million invested in new construction, because rehabilitation is more labor-intensive than new construction.

2A: Pass REEP

By Hannah Groenevelt, Elain Hammett and Justin Knopp

BILL EXPLATION

Bill synopsis: Bill includes 1,000 – 3,000 in incentives and business incentives

From the Office of Congressman Peter Welch (State Senator and serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Sponsor of REEP bill), March 16th, 2009, "Welch proposes national energy efficiency program to retrofit millions of homes and buildings," <http://www.welch.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=445>

Welch's bill would direct the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop guidelines and manage financing for the national energy efficiency program. Homeowners and businesses could qualify for direct cash incentives, interest rate subsidies and credit support based on the percentage increase in energy efficiency they achieve:

o Homeowners could qualify for $1,000-$3,000 in financial incentives for achieving a 10-20 percent increase in efficiency, with another $150 for every additional percentage point of energy savings achieved

o Businesses could qualify for $0.15 per square foot for the first 20 to 30 percent increase in efficiency with an increasing incentive of up to $2.50 per square foot for energy reductions over 50 percent

o Incentives for both homes and commercial buildings would be capped at 50 percent of the cost of the retrofit

INHERENCY

1. The senate chamber may be preoccupied at least through October

Richard Cowan (Journalist), July 9th, 2009, "Obama's drive for climate change bill hits delay," Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE56857620090710?sp=true> (brackets added)

Since the chamber could be preoccupied at least through October with legislation expanding healthcare to some 46 million uninsured people, the environmental [climate change] bill may get crowded out.

2. C02 bill experiencing delays because the senate is preoccupied with healthcare

Richard Cowan (Journalist), July 9th, 2009, "Obama's drive for climate change bill hits delay," Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE56857620090710?sp=true>

On June 26, the House of Representatives narrowly passed its version of a bill to cut carbon dioxide emissions from 2005 levels by 17 percent by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. The Senate delay came as Congress was preoccupied with healthcare reform, Obama's top legislative priority, and as senators continued to bicker over how to reduce industrial emissions of carbon dioxide without putting U.S. businesses and consumers at a disadvantage.

PLAN ADVOCACY

Plan advocate – Peter Welsh

From the Office of Congressman Peter Welch (State Senator and serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Sponsor of REEP bill), March 16th, 2009, "Welch proposes national energy efficiency program to retrofit millions of homes and buildings," <http://www.welch.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=445>

"Investing in energy efficiency is a practical, commonsense strategy to create jobs, save on energy costs and do our part to fight climate change," Welch said. "Families and business owners want to save energy and money. This program will give them the resources they need to invest in their homes, businesses and future."

1. US Green Building council, NRDC, and the American Council for an Energy Efficient economy endorse the bill

National Trust for Historic Preservation (The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities.), March 26th, 2009, "Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program Act," <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/legislative-briefs/reep.html>

The bill has the endorsement of a number of national interest groups, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the U.S. Green Building Council, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy. At the press event, National Trust Vice President for Public Policy Emily Wadhams acknowledged support for the legislation, adding that it would create jobs while promoting building reuse, reinvestment in older communities, and the greening of existing buildings to combat climate change. The goals of the bill are very much in line with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Sustainability Initiative, which focuses on the importance of reusing existing buildings and reinvesting in older and historic communities as critical elements in combating climate change.

2. Welch: 20% increase in efficiency is doable

From the Office of Congressman Peter Welch (State Senator and serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Sponsor of REEP bill), March 16th, 2009, "Welch proposes national energy efficiency program to retrofit millions of homes and buildings," <http://www.welch.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=445>

"A 20 percent increase in energy efficiency is doable and it's a goal that should be adopted throughout this country," added [Congressman] Welch [sponsor of the REEP bill].

ADVANTAGES

1. For every dollar invested in efficiency, consumers save an average of four dollars

Efficiency First (Efficiency First is a nonprofit trade association that unites Home Performance contractors, residential energy consultants, building product manufacturers and other key members of America's growing green-collar workforce in the escalating fight against global warming.), July 31st, 2009, "Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP)," <http://www.efficiencyfirst.org/static/files/REEP_Summary.pdf>

For every dollar invested in efficiency, consumers and business save on average $4. Meanwhile, buildings are responsible for 39 percent of all energy consumption, 72 percent of all electricity consumption, and 39 percent of all carbon emissions in the United States. Buildings in the United States account for about 10 percent of global carbon emissions. For decades to come, the vast majority of building energy use will come from buildings that are in existence today. EIA estimates that in 2030, 82% of the single-family homes and 62% of the commercial buildings will be built before 2009. Energy efficiency in buildings can be maximized with existing technologies to reduce building energy consumption by 25 percent or more. Expanding the residential and commercial efficiency will create jobs directly in performing retrofits, reduce energy bills for consumers, and address global carbon emissions.

2. Saving energy makes environmental sense

EnergyRating.gov (Australia's leading guide to choosing an energy efficient appliance), February 1st, 2009, "Why is energy efficiency important?," <http://www.energyrating.gov.au/efficiency.html>

However, burning fossil fuels for energy is not just a problem because of the Greenhouse Effect. If we use them efficiently it means we're making better use of these finite, non-renewable natural resources. So saving energy makes environmental sense - for us and for future generations.

Vermont would be benefited by REEP

From the Office of Congressman Peter Welch (State Senator and serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Sponsor of REEP bill), March 16th, 2009, "Welch proposes national energy efficiency program to retrofit millions of homes and buildings," <http://www.welch.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=445> (brackets added)

"This bill will create jobs right here in Vermont. We retrofit houses every day, and we know that for every dozen homes we improve, we create a job at our company," [Michael] Rogers [Senior Vice President of GreenHomes America] said. "The bill that Congressman Welch is introducing can help us and companies like us fix thousands of homes a year in Vermont and create hundreds of jobs right here in this state."

FUNDING

1. REEP requires 2.5 billion annually, and 500 million for administration

Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC is Vermont's leader in protecting and restoring natural resources), April 1st, 2009, "The Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) Program Act," <http://www.vnrc.org/article/view/24709/1/625/>

During the initial year of the REEP program, financial support will be provided to each state in accordance with the State Energy Program formula. In the second year and thereafter, half of available or appropriated funds will be allocated in accordance with the State Energy Program, and half in accordance with the relative performance of the states during the prior year, with higher allocations going to states showing greater success in improving energy and environmental performance of the buildings retrofitted in that state during that prior year. The program calls for $2.5 billion each year for distribution to State Energy Offices and $500 million for administration of the program for Fiscal Years 2010-2014.

2. REEP needs 2.5 billion

National Trust for Historic Preservation (The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities.), March 26th, 2009, "Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance Program Act," <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/legislative-briefs/reep.html>

The proposal provides $2.5 billion to states annually from FY10-FY13 through the existing state energy program formula. Both homeowners and business owners could qualify for financial incentives for achieving increases in efficiency, with the amount dependent on the overall percentage of improved efficiency. Incentives for both homes and commercial buildings would be capped at 50% of the cost of retrofits. Historic buildings listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would qualify for 120% of these same awards for funding energy efficiency.

3. $25 billion spent annually on farm subsidies

Brian M. Riedl (The Heritage Foundation's lead budget analyst), June 20th, 2007, "How Farm Subsidies Harm Taxpayers, Consumers, and Farmers, Too," The Heritage Foundation, <http://www.heritage.org/research/agriculture/bg2043.cfm>

This year's expiration of federal agriculture policies gives Congress an important opportunity to take a fresh look at the $25 billion spent annually on farm subsidies. Current farm policies are so poorly designed that they actually worsen the conditions they claim to solve.

Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP)

Library of Congress. March 30, 2009. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.1778.IH>:

(Introduced in House)

HR 1778 IH

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 1778

To provide for the establishment of national energy and environmental building retrofit policies for both residential and ommercial buildings, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 30, 2009

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HONDA, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MASSA, and Mr. POLIS of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of national energy and environmental building retrofit policies for both residential and commercial buildings, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the `Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) Program Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that--

(1) buildings are responsible for 39 percent of all energy consumption, 72 percent of all electricity consumption, and 55 percent of natural gas use in the United States;

(2) buildings are responsible for 38 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions in the United States;

(3) energy efficiency in buildings can readily be improved in most cases using existing technologies to reduce building energy consumption by 25 percent or more;

(4) buildings represent 14 percent of potable water use in the United States, also amenable to significant efficiency improvement;

(5) Home Performance with Energy Star in Vermont and many other States, as well as individual retrofits of commercial buildings, show that such savings are possible and economical; and

(6) expanding the residential and commercial efficiency industries will create jobs directly in performing retrofits and indirectly through reduced energy bills to consumers.

SEC. 3. BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAM.

(a) Definitions- For purposes of this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR- The term `Administrator' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) PERFORMANCE-BASED BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAM- The term `performance-based building retrofit program' means a program that determines success in energy efficiency based on actual measured savings after a retrofit is complete.

(3) PRESCRIPTIVE BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAM- The term `prescriptive building retrofit program' means a program that projects success in energy efficiency based on the known effectiveness of measures prescribed to be included in a retrofit.

(4) STATE- The term `State' means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(5) STATE ENERGY PROGRAM- The term `State Energy Program' means the program under part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.)

(b) Establishment- The Administrator shall develop and implement, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, standards for a national energy and environmental building retrofit policy for single-family and multifamily residences. The Secretary of Energy shall develop and implement, in consultation with the Administrator, standards for a national energy and environmental building retrofit policy for commercial buildings. The programs to implement the residential and commercial policies based on the standards developed under this section shall together be known as the Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) program.

(c) Program Design-

(1) PURPOSE- The purpose of the REEP program is to facilitate the retrofitting of existing buildings across the United States to achieve maximum cost-effective energy efficiency improvements and significant improvements in water use and other environmental attributes.

(2) FEDERAL RESOURCES- The REEP program shall utilize Federal personnel and resources as needed for development, design, program materials, administration, seed capital, and other activities and support.

(3) ASSISTANCE TO STATES- The REEP program shall provide Federal financial assistance to States, to be administered through the State Energy Program, for management and the accomplishment of the program's objectives at the individual building level, through local agencies as appropriate, in accordance with standards and requirements established under this section.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE- State and local agencies may offer free or low-cost building audits, incentives, technical assistance, training, incentive financing, and other forms of assistance to individual building owners under the standards and guidelines developed for the REEP program in accordance with this section, as well as promotion and management of the REEP program.

(5) STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS- State and local agencies shall have broad flexibility in the structure of REEP program operations and in the choice of retrofit agencies or contractors.

(d) Federal Administration-

(1) EXISTING PROGRAMS- In creating and operating the residential REEP program--

(A) the Administrator shall make appropriate use of existing programs, including the Energy Star program and in particular the Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star for Buildings program; and

(B) the Secretary of Energy shall make appropriate use of existing programs, including delegating authority to the Director of Commercial High-Performance Green Buildings appointed under section 421 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081), who shall designate and provide funding to support a High-Performance Green Building Partnership Consortium pursuant to such section to support efforts under this Act.

(2) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION- The Administrator and the Secretary of Energy shall consult with and coordinate with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in carrying out the REEP program.

(3) ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDING- The Secretary of Energy shall administer the financing for the REEP program, providing funds to and administration through State Energy Offices under the State Energy Program, or through such existing State offices or entities regulated by the State that the Governor of the State designates to carry out the purposes of this Act. The Secretary shall ensure accountability for funds dispensed, including measurement and verification of energy, water, and environmental savings achieved.

(4) ASSISTANCE- The Administrator and the Secretary of Energy shall provide consultation and assistance to State and local agencies for the establishment of revolving loan funds or other forms of financial assistance under this section.

(e) State and Local Administration-

(1) DELEGATION- The State Energy Office or designated State agency described in subsection (d)(3) may delegate performance of appropriate elements of the REEP program, upon their request and subject to State law, to counties, municipalities, appropriate public agencies, and other divisions of local government, as well as to entities regulated by the State. The State shall ensure accountability for expended funds provided under this section, and shall maintain responsibility for meeting the standards and requirements of the REEP program.

(2) EMPLOYMENT- States and local government entities may employ public or regulated investor-owned utilities, building auditors and inspectors, contractors, nonprofit organizations, and other entities to perform audits and retrofit services under this section.

(f) Elements of REEP Program- The elements of the REEP program shall include the following:

(1) The Administrator and the Secretary of Energy shall establish goals and standards for accomplishing the purpose stated in subsection (c)(1), and shall annually review and, as appropriate, revise such goals and standards.

(2) Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) certification of building energy and environment auditors, inspectors, and raters, or an equivalent certification system as determined by the Administrator.

(3) Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification or licensing by States of building energy and environmental retrofit contractors, or an equivalent certification or licensing system as determined by the Administrator.

(4) Building Performance Institute, Residential Energy Services Network, or other appropriate information on equipment and procedures, as determined by the Administrator, that contractors can use to test the energy and environmental efficiency of buildings effectively (such as infrared photography and pressurized testing, and tests for water use and indoor air quality).

(5) Provision of clear and effective materials to describe the testing and retrofit processes for typical buildings.

(6) Suggested guidelines for offering and managing prescriptive building retrofit programs and performance-based building retrofit programs for residential and commercial buildings.

(7) Suggested guidelines for applying retrocommissioning principles to improve a building's operations and maintenance procedures.

(8) Determination of energy savings in a performance-based building retrofit program through--

(A) for residential buildings, comparison of before and after retrofit scores on the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index, where the final score is produced by an objective third party;

(B) for commercial buildings, Environmental Protection Agency Portfolio Manager benchmarks; or

(C) for either residential or commercial buildings, use of an Administrator-approved simulation program, subject to appropriate software standards and verification of at least 15 percent of all work done.

(9) Suggested guidelines for utilizing the Energy Star Portfolio Manager, the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rating system, Home Performance with Energy Star program approvals, and any other tools associated with the retrofit program.

(10) Requirements and guidelines for post-retrofit inspection and confirmation of work and energy savings.

(11) Detailed descriptions of funding options for the benefit of State and local governments, along with model forms, accounting aids, agreements, and guides to best practices.

(12) Guidelines for obtaining certification of buildings after retrofit as Energy Star buildings, assigning Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rating, and completing applicable building performance labels.

(13) Sample materials for publicizing the program to building owners, including public service announcements and advertisements.

(14) Processes for tracking the numbers and locations of buildings retrofitted under the REEP program, with information on projected and actual savings of energy and its value over time.

(15) A requirement that building retrofits conducted pursuant to a REEP program, as appropriate, especially in all air-conditioned buildings, shall use roofing materials that demonstrate--

(A) on residential single family homes and other buildings with slanted roofs--

(i) for fiberglass asphalt-shingle roofing, an initial solar reflectance of 0.3 or higher; or

(ii) for all other roofing materials, an initial solar reflectance of 0.4 or higher; and

(B) on commercial buildings and all buildings with flat roofs, roofing materials with--

(i) an initial solar reflectance of 0.7 or higher;

(ii) a solar reflectance value 3 years after installation (`h' solar reflectance) of 0.55 or higher; and

(iii) a thermal emittance of 0.8 or higher.

(g) Requirements- As a condition of receiving funding for the REEP program appropriated pursuant to this section, a State shall--

(1) adopt the standards for training, certification of contractors, certification of buildings, and post-retrofit inspection as developed by the Administrator and the Secretary of Energy for residential and commercial buildings, respectively, except as necessary to match local conditions, needs, efficiency opportunities, or other local factors, or to accord with State laws or regulations, and then only after 60 days have expired after the State provides notice to the Administrator or the Secretary of Energy, as appropriate, of the need for such variance; and

(2) establish fiscal controls and accounting procedures (which conform to generally accepted government accounting principles) sufficient to ensure proper accounting during appropriate accounting periods for payments received and disbursements, and for fund balances.

The Secretary of Energy shall conduct or require each State to have such independent financial audits of REEP-related funding as the Secretary of Energy considers necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.

(h) Financial Options To Support REEP Program- The Secretary of Energy and the Administrator shall support the implementation through State REEP programs of alternate means of creating incentives for, or reducing financial barriers to, improved energy and environmental performance in buildings, consistent with this section, including--

(1) implementing prescriptive building retrofit programs and performance-based building retrofit programs;

(2) providing credit enhancement, interest rate subsidies, or other credit support;

(3) providing initial capital for public revolving fund financing of retrofits, with repayments by beneficiary building owners over time through their tax payments, calibrated to create net positive cash flow to the building owner;

(4) providing funds to support utility-operated retrofit programs with repayments over time through utility rates, calibrated to create net positive cash flow to the building owner, and transferable from one building owner to the next with the building's utility services; and

(5) other means proposed by State and local agencies, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Energy.

(i) Federal Financial Support-

(1) IN GENERAL- Financial support shall be provided to a State Energy Program, for the specific purpose of supporting the REEP program.

(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING-

(A) INITIAL YEAR- The Secretary of Energy shall allocate amounts appropriated during the initial year of the REEP program among the States in accordance with the State Energy Program formula under section 363 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6323).

(B) SUBSEQUENT YEARS- In the second year of the REEP program and thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall allocate amounts among the States as follows:

(i) 1/2 of available or appropriated funds shall be allocated among the States in accordance with the State Energy Program formula described in subparagraph (A).

(ii) 1/2 of available or appropriated funds shall be allocated among the States in accordance with the relative building energy efficiency and environmental performance of the various States in retrofitting buildings in accordance with this section during the preceding year, with higher allocations going to States showing greater success in improving energy and environmental performance of the buildings retrofitted in that State during that preceding year.

(3) FORMS OF SUPPORT- State and local REEP programs may make per-building direct expenditures for retrofit improvements, or their equivalent in indirect financial support, from Federal funds as follows:

(A) RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM-

(i) AWARDS- For residential buildings, a program may provide--

(I) $500 to support a free or low-cost detailed building energy audit that prescribes energy-reducing measures, with such amount fully recoverable from the recipient if the prescribed measures are not performed, within 1 year after completion of the audit, sufficiently to enable the building to achieve at least a 20 percent reduction in energy use;

(II) a total of $1,000 for measures, prescribed in an audit conducted under subclause (I), designed to reduce energy consumption by more than 10 percent, and $2,000 for measures prescribed in such an audit, designed to reduce energy consumption by more than 20 percent;

(III) $3,000 for demonstrated savings of 20 percent, pursuant to a performance-based building retrofit program; and

(IV) $150 for each additional percentage point of energy savings achieved beyond savings for which funding is provided under subclause (II) or (III).

Funding shall not be provided under clauses (II) and (III) for the same energy savings.

(ii) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE- Awards under clause (i) shall not to exceed 50 percent of retrofit costs for each building.

(iii) ADDITIONAL AWARDS- Additional awards may be provided, for buildings achieving at least 20 percent energy savings using funding provided under clause (i), as follows:

(I) WATER- Grants of $600 may be made for measures projected or measured (using an appropriate method approved by the Administrator) to achieve at least 35 percent potable water savings through equipment or systems with an estimated service life of not less than seven years, and an additional $20 may be provided for each additional one percent of such savings, up to a maximum total grant of $1,200.

(II) RENEWABLE ENERGY USE- For cost-effective use of renewable energy, an award of up to $2,000 may be provided for uses with respect to which Federal tax credits are not available, and the Administrator shall develop relevant standards for documenting compliance.

(B) COMMERCIAL PROGRAM-

(i) AWARDS- For commercial buildings, a program may provide--

(I) $1,000 to support a free or low-cost building audit of energy-reduction potential that prescribes energy efficiency improvements and improvements of other building attributes, with such amount fully recoverable from the recipient if the prescribed improvements are not performed, within 1 year after completion of the audit, sufficiently to enable the building to achieve at least a 20 percent reduction in energy use;

(II) $0.15 per square foot of retrofit area for demonstrated energy use reductions from 20 percent to 30 percent;

(III) $0.75 per square foot for demonstrated energy use reductions from 30 percent to 40 percent;

(IV) $1.60 per square foot for demonstrated energy use reductions from 40 percent to 50 percent; and

(V) $2.50 per square foot for demonstrated energy use reductions exceeding 50 percent.

(ii) LIMITATION- Amounts provided under subclauses (II) through (V) of clause (i) combined shall not exceed 50 percent of the total retrofit cost of a building.

(iii) ADDITIONAL AWARDS- Additional awards may be provided, for buildings achieving at least 20 percent energy savings using funding provided under clause (i), as follows:

(I) WATER- Grants may be made for whole building potable water use reduction (using an appropriate method approved by the Secretary of Energy) for up to 50 percent of the total retrofit cost, including amounts up to--

(aa) $24.00 per thousand gallons per year of potable water savings of 40 percent or more;

(bb) $27.00 per thousand gallons per year of potable water savings of 50 percent or more; and

(cc) $30.00 per thousand gallons per year of potable water savings of 60 percent or more.

(II) RENEWABLE ENERGY USE- For cost-effective use of renewable energy, an award of up to $10,000 may be provided for uses with respect to which Federal tax credits are not available, and the Secretary of Energy shall develop relevant standards for documenting compliance.

(III) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS- For other environmental improvements relating to--

(aa) indoor air quality;

(bb) natural lighting;

(cc) use of renewable materials; and

(dd) any other such improvements, as determined by the Secretary of Energy, that do not result in a decrease in energy efficiency,

an award of up to $1,000 for improvements in each such category.

(C) HISTORIC BUILDINGS- Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), a building in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places shall be eligible for awards under this paragraph in amounts up to 120 percent of the amounts set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(D) SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT- State and local governments may supplement the per-building expenditures under this paragraph with funding from other sources.

(j) Sources of Federal Funds-

(1) ADDITIONAL STATE ENERGY PROGRAM FUNDS- Any appropriated funding provided to a State Energy Program that is not specifically required to be expended for a different federally designated purpose may be used to support a REEP program.

(2) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION- State Energy Offices or designated State agencies may expend up to 10 percent of funding provided under this section for program administration.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS- There are authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this section, for each of fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013--

(A) $2,500,000,000 and such additional sums as may be necessary to the Secretary of Energy for distribution to State Energy Offices and other designated State agencies in accordance with this section;

(B) $200,000,000 to the Administrator for program administration costs;

(C) $200,000,000 to the Secretary of Energy for program administration costs; and

(D) $50,000,000 to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for program administration costs.

Up in Smoke: The Case for Banning Public Smoking

By Rachel Watson, Sarah Klein and Christy Reid

Smoking has been recognized as the number one cause of preventable death by many experts. Not only that, but non smoker’s health is regularly damaged when in contact with second hand smoke. This is why my partner and I decidedly agree with the resolution that the United states Government should Significantly Reform its Environmental Policy. We will accomplish this goal by abolishing all public smoking.

DEFINITIONS

Significant

Dictionary.com, August 12th, 2009, [http://dictionary.reference.com/](http://dictionary.reference.com/" \t "_blank)

“Important; of consequence.”

Environment:

MSN Encarta Dictionary, 2009, [http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/dictionary/DictionaryResults.aspx?refid=1861608714](http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/dictionary/DictionaryResults.aspx?refid=1861608714" \t "_blank)

“of your surroundings: relating to, or caused by, a person's or animal's surroundings”

ETS

EPA, August 12th, 2009 [http://www.healthline.com/galecontent/environmental-tobacco-smoke?utm\_medium=ask&utm\_source=smart&utm\_campaign=article&utm\_term=Tobacco+smoke&ask\_return=Environmental+Tobacco+Smoke](http://www.healthline.com/galecontent/environmental-tobacco-smoke?utm_medium=ask&utm_source=smart&utm_campaign=article&utm_term=Tobacco+smoke&ask_return=Environmental+Tobacco+Smoke" \t "_blank)

“Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), which is also referred to as secondhand smoke, is a mixture of the smoke emanating from the burning end of a cigarette, pipe, or cigar, and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers.”

INHERENCY

1. Smoking among Teens is a huge problem

American Lung Association, March 2009, “Smoking and Teens Fact Sheet,” American Lung Association March 2009 [http://www.lungusa.org/site/c.dvLUK9O0E/b.39871/](http://www.lungusa.org/site/c.dvLUK9O0E/b.39871/" \t "_blank)

Every day approximately 3,600 children between 12 and 17 years of age smoke their first cigarette, and an estimated 1,100 of them will become regular smokers. Half of them will ultimately die from their habit. If current tobacco use patterns persist, an estimated 6.4 million current children smokers will eventually die prematurely from a smoking-related disease. In 2007, 20 percent of high school students reported smoking in the last 30 days  

2. Less Than Half the US Unprotected

American Nonsmoker’s Rights Foundation, July 1, 2009, Overview List – How many Smokefree Laws? American Nonsmoker’s Rights Foundation, [http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/mediaordlist.pdf](http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/mediaordlist.pdf" \t "_blank)

A total of 17 states, along with Puerto Rico and Washington D.C, have a state law *in effect* that requires workplaces, restaurants, and bars to be 100% smokefree. These state laws, along with local laws, protect 40.3% of the U.S. population. Now that we have looked at what is preventing our case from happening let’s look at our

HARMS

1. ETS Harms Children

A) Children of smoking mothers more likely to have poorly function lungs

Mia Bolaris-Forget (Staff Writer Long Island Families), August 11th, 2009, “The Effects of Smoking,” LONG ISLAND FAMILIES <http://www.lifamilies.com/article/the-effects-of-smoking-on-children-1501.html>

We all know that smoking is bad for us, and we know that it’s bad for our unborn children. But, how bad is second hand smoke for children already part of our household and lives? Well, according to research, VERY. So bad, that smokers may be damaging the health of or “killing” their children. In fact, studies show that when children are exposed to smoke I (during and after pregnancy) it tends to impair the functionality of their lungs. Yet, it remains a serious public health issue. According to experts, the effects of smoking while pregnant can last up to the age of 12. Exposure to smoke after childbirth simply contributes to worsening lung function. And, it increased the child’s propensity to smoke, with most children (of smoking parents or families) picking up this deadly habit by their tween and teen years. Furthermore, statistics show that children of smoking mothers (primarily those who smoked during pregnancy) were about 31 to 40 percent likelier to have poorly functioning lungs than offspring of non-smokers. And, early life exposure increased the risk of poor lung function by “only” 24 to 27 percent.”

B) Secondhand smoke causes hundreds of thousands of deaths among children

Surgeon General, 2007, Report “Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke in Children,”  U.S department of health and human services, SURGE ON GENERAL <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/smokeexposure/report/fullreport.pdf>

The agency also estimated that between 24,300 and 71,900 low birth weight or preterm deliveries, about 202,300 episodes of childhood asthma (new cases and exacerbations), between 150,000 and 300,000 cases of lower respiratory illness in children, and about 789,700 cases of middle ear infections in children occur each year in the United States as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke.

2. ETS Harms the Environment

A) Cigarette butts cause huge Litter problems

Liz Lewis, May 27th, 2009, “The Butts Remain,” ECO SALON [http://www.ecosalon.com/cigarette-litter/](http://www.ecosalon.com/cigarette-litter/" \t "_blank)

“Cigarettes might go up in smoke but the butts remain and account for 1.7 billion pounds of non-biodegradable trash. In fact, in most Western countries cigarette butt litter accounts for around 50% of all litter. According to ButtsOut, cigarette butt litter is the world’s greatest environment litter problem with approx 4.3 trillion cigarette butts tossed onto roads, pavements, beaches, parks, forests and in waterways every year. Further breakdown indicates that smokers in the U.S. account for over 250 billion cigarette butts, those in the UK account for  200 tons of butts,  and Australian smokers litter over 7 billion cigarette butts annually**.** In fact,  in most Western countries cigarette butt litter accounts for around 50% of all litter.”

B) Cigarettes are destroying trees

Warren McLaren (an inventor in creating ways to quit smoking in Sydney, Australia) February 27, 2007 Smoking environmental impact, TREE HUGGER <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/02/smoking_environ.php>  
(Footnotes are to websites, not the order in which they appear in the article.)

“Each year nearly 600 million trees are destroyed to provide fuel to dry tobacco. Put in another way one tree is destroyed for every 300 cigarettes. [6](http://www.smokefreekids.info/01env_main.htm) Globally, tobacco curing requires 11.4 million tons of solid wood annually. [7](http://www.ehponline.org/docs/1999/107-12/forum.html) Tobacco is a sensitive plant prone to many diseases. It therefore requires huge chemical inputs: up to 16 applications of pesticide are recommended during one three-month growing period. Aldrin and Dieldrin, and DDT are among the chemicals used. Methyl bromide, widely used as a fumigant in developing countries, contributes significantly to ozone depletion. [5](http://www.ash.org.uk/html/international/html/environment.html) Tobacco is particularly potassium-hungry, absorbing up to six times as much as other crops, leaving soil in poor condition for essential food and cash crops. [5](http://www.ash.org.uk/html/international/html/environment.html)At least 4.5 trillion [non-biodegradable] filter-tipped cigarettes are deposited annually somewhere in the world. [3](http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/8/1/75)”

PLAN

**1. Mandates**

**Mandate 1.** Taxes on cigarettes will be raised ten cents.

**Mandate 2.** All smoking will be prohibited in public areas.

**Mandate 3.** All smokers must have a free permit for the building they wish to smoke in. Permit application will be denied if there are children or a pregnant woman in residence. The permit must be renewed every year.

**Mandate 4.** All violations to these laws will have a first time fine of 200 dollars a second time fine of 350 dollars, and a third time fine of 500 dollars. If the smoker continues to smoke after these warning fines, He/She will be Prosecuted By the government.

**Agency:** Congress and the US Government

**Enforcement:** The Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency

**Timeline:** This Case will take Place thirty days upon an affirmative ballot

SOLVENCY

1. Higher cost of cigarettes reduces smoking rates

Rachel Kaprielian (Rachel Kaprielian is a former Massachusetts state representative and a member of the Democratic Party. She finished her law studies at Suffolk University in 2000 and received a Masters of Public Service from Harvard University in 2003.[1] She represented portions of Cambridge and Watertown in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1995 to 2008..), Herman Hamilton (Pastor of a Church), April 9th, 2008, “The benefits of a higher cigarette tax,” The Boston Globe, <http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorialopinion/oped/articles/2008/04/09/the_benefits_of_a_higher_cigarette_tax/>

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Massachusetts. Twenty-five people die each day in the state from tobacco-related illnesses, and thousands of others suffer from related ailments - emphysema, heart disease, cancer - many unable to work or enjoy quality of life. Its wrath results in great personal, physical, societal, and fiscal cost. To combat this reality requires a multi-faceted and fiscally responsible approach: one that brings in needed revenue while adding immeasurable benefits toward prevention and cessation of smoking. Currently, there is a legislative proposal that would add $1 to the levy on cigarettes. Its passage would add about $150 million to state coffers, which would enable the Legislature to continue healthcare reform, as well as reduce the incidence of smoking rates overall. Data shows that for every 10 percent increase in the cost of a pack of cigarettes, the overall smoking rates decrease 4 percent.

2. Public smoking bans effective when it comes to health benefits

THE MEDICAL NEWS from News-Medical.Net - Latest Medical News and Research from Around the World, September 11, 2007, MEDICAL NEWS <http://www.news-medical.net/news/2007/09/11/29678.aspx>

“At a major international conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, experts from around the world were given concrete proof that public smoking bans are effective when it comes to health benefits. At the international event, Scottish health officials said that the smoke-free legislation implemented there in March 2006 was already having results in the form of significant health improvements, particularly in those who do not smoke.”

ADVANTAGES

1. Not smoking around a baby can reduce SIDS

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006

“The conclusion that secondhand smoke exposure causes SIDS is supported both by biological studies in animals and epidemiological studies in humans.1

* Chemicals in secondhand smoke appear to affect the brain in ways that interfere with its regulation of infants' breathing.1
* Infants who die from SIDS have higher concentrations of nicotine in their lungs and higher levels of cotinine (a biological marker for secondhand smoke exposure) than infants who die from other causes.1

Parents can help protect their babies from SIDS by taking the following three actions:

* Not smoking when pregnant1
* Not smoking in the home or around the baby after the baby is born1”

2. Smoking Ban reduces heart disease.

Ecancer Medical Science July 31, 2008 “Smoking ban reduces heart disease” <http://www.ecancermedicalscience.com/news-insider-news.asp?itemId=253> [Brackets added]

The smoking ban in Scotland has led to a decrease in the number of hospital admissions for acute coronary syndrome (ACS) [Acure Coronary Syndrome], and the benefit of the smoking ban has extended to smokers, former smokers, and those who never smoked, a new study published in the New England Journal of Medicine has shown.

3. Restaurant smoking bans persuade teens not to smoke

Steve LeBlanc, (Associated Press Writer), May 5, 2008, Study: “Restaurant tobacco bans influence teen smoking,”  Boston Globe Local News, [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/05/05/study\_restaurant\_tobacco\_bans\_influence\_teen\_smoking/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/05/05/study_restaurant_tobacco_bans_influence_teen_smoking/" \t "_blank)

A Massachusetts study suggests that restaurant smoking bans may play a big role in persuading teens not to become smokers. Youths who lived in towns with strict bans were 40 percent less likely to become regular smokers than those in communities with no bans or weak ones, the researchers reported in the May issue of the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine. The findings back up the idea that smoking bans discourage tobacco use in teens by sending the message that smoking is frowned upon in the community, as well as simply by reducing their exposure to smokers in public places, said Dr. Michael Siegel, of Boston University School of Public Health, and the study's lead author. "When kids grow up in an environment where they don't see smoking, they are going to think it's not socially acceptable," he said. "If they perceive a lot of other people are smoking, they think it's the norm." 

2A: Banning Public Smoking

By Rachel Watson, Sarah Klein and Christy Reid

INHERENCY

1. Tabacco is the leading preventable global cause of death

World Health Organization, August 11th, 2009, "10 facts about tobacco and second-hand smoke," [http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/tobacco/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/tobacco/en/index.html" \t "_blank)

*Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the world.* *It causes 1 in 10 deaths among adults worldwide. In 2005, tobacco caused 5.4 million deaths, or an average of one death every 6 seconds.* At the current rate, the death toll is projected to reach more than 8 million annually by 2030 and a total of up to one billion deaths in the 21st century. Second-hand tobacco smoke is dangerous to health. It causes cancer, heart disease and many other serious diseases in adults. Almost half of the world's children breathe air polluted by tobacco smoke, which worsens their asthma conditions and causes dangerous diseases. *At least 200,000 workers die every year due to exposure to second-hand smoke at work.* This fact file explains why ensuring a smoke-free environment is the only way to protect ourselves from the lethal ill effects of tobacco smoke.

2. Both children and adults are still exposed to secondhand smoke

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/factsheets/factsheet6.html>

Many millions of Americans, both children and adults, are still exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes and workplaces despite substantial progress in tobacco control.

Supporting Evidence

Levels of a chemical called cotinine, a biomarker of secondhand smoke exposure, fell by 70 percent from 1988-91 to 2001-02. In national surveys, however, 43 percent of U.S. nonsmokers still have detectable levels of cotinine.

Almost 60 percent of U.S. children aged 3-11 years or almost 22 million children are exposed to secondhand smoke.

Approximately 30 percent of indoor workers in the United States are not covered by smoke-free workplace policies.

HARMS

1. Secondhand smoke is a an environmental hazard

Claudia M. Smith, R. N., C., M. P. H. Assistant Professor, University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore. Frances A. Maurer, R. N., C., M. S. Community Health Nursing Educator and Consultant. Community Health and Nursing: Theory and Practice. 2nd edition. 2004. Access through Google books: Page 604

One of the most common sources of *indoor air pollution* is the environmental tobacco smoke (Goldman 2000). Since the 1960’s, tobacco smoking has been recognized as a cause of lung cancer and other respiratory diseases in smokers (EPA, 1993). More recently, research has shown that environmental tobacco smoke is hazardous to nonsmokers who live or work in environments occupied by smokers.

2. Second hand smoking causes heart disease

Richard N. Fogoros, (Dr Rich received his bachelor's degree from Duke University (1971), and his doctorate in medicine from Ohio State University (1975). He did postgraduate medical training at the University of Pittsburgh and Stanford University, and has received board certification in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, and Electrophysiology. Richard N. Fogoros, M.D. (DrRich) is a former professor of medicine, and a longtime practitioner, researcher and author in the fields of cardiology and cardiac electrophysiology. He currently makes his living as a consultant in research and development with biomedical companies, and as a writer.), July 3rd, 2006, "Secondhand Smoke - Worse Than We Thought," <http://heartdisease.about.com/od/smokingandheartdisease/a/2ndhandsmoke.htm>

While secondhand smokers only inhale about 1/100th the dose of smoke inhaled by the smokers themselves, the effect of that secondhand smoke is large. *Secondhand smokers have a risk of coronary heart disease that is 30% higher than for nonsmokers who are not exposed to secondhand smoke.* In contrast, the risk for actual smokers is increased by 80%. So, while the dose of smoke inhaled by passive smoking is 100 times smaller than for smokers, the increase in risk to the nonsmokers is much, much greater than that. *Indeed, their excess risk is almost 40% as high as the excess risk to the smokers themselves*.

3. Secondhand smoke causes disease and premature death

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/factsheets/factsheet6.html>

Secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke.

Supporting Evidence

Secondhand smoke contains hundreds of chemicals known to be toxic or carcinogenic (cancer-causing), including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia, and hydrogen cyanide.

Secondhand smoke has been designated as a *known human carcinogen* (cancer-causing agent) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Toxicology Program and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has concluded that secondhand smoke is an occupational carcinogen.

4. Babies with mothers who smoke are at risk to die from SIDS

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/factsheets/factsheet6.html>

Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma. Smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children.

Supporting Evidence

Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers. Because their bodies are developing, infants and young children are especially vulnerable to the poisons in secondhand smoke.

Both babies whose mothers smoke while pregnant and babies who are exposed to secondhand smoke after birth are more likely to die from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) than babies who are not exposed to cigarette smoke.

Babies whose mothers smoke while pregnant or who are exposed to secondhand smoke after birth have weaker lungs than unexposed babies, which increases the risk for many health problems.

Among infants and children, secondhand smoke cause bronchitis and pneumonia, and increases the risk of ear infections.

Secondhand smoke exposure can cause children who already have asthma to experience more frequent and severe attacks.

5. Secondhand smoke causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/factsheets/factsheet6.html>

Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer.

Supporting Evidence

Concentrations of many cancer-causing and toxic chemicals are higher in secondhand smoke than in the smoke inhaled by smokers.

Breathing secondhand smoke for even a short time can have immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and interferes with the normal functioning of the heart, blood, and vascular systems in ways that increase the risk of a heart attack.

Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or at work increase their risk of developing heart disease by 25 - 30 percent.

Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or at work increase their risk of developing lung cancer by 20 - 30 percent.

6. There is no risk free level of exposure to second hand smoke

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/factsheets/factsheet6.html>

The scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Supporting Evidence

Short exposures to secondhand smoke can cause blood platelets to become stickier, damage the lining of blood vessels, decrease coronary flow velocity reserves, and reduce heart rate variability, potentially increasing the risk of a heart attack.

Secondhand smoke contains many chemicals that can quickly irritate and damage the lining of the airways. Even brief exposure can result in upper airway changes in healthy persons and can lead to more frequent and more asthma attacks in children who already have asthma.

Solvency

1. Smoking ban has been implemented in Europe

Europa, (Europa provides up-to-date coverage of European Union affairs and essential information on European integration.) *January 30th, 2007, "Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level," [http://europa.eu/legislation\_summaries/public\_health/health\_determinants\_lifestyle/c11571a\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/public_health/health_determinants_lifestyle/c11571a_en.htm" \t "_blank)*

All the Member States have developed regulations to reduce ETS exposure. Some of them (Ireland and Scotland) impose comprehensive bans on smoking in all enclosed public places and all workplaces, including bars and restaurants. Others (Italy, Malta and Sweden) have general bans with exemptions which allow employers to create special sealed-off smoking rooms with separate ventilation systems. There are, finally, some countries (Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain) which have opted for a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places and all workplaces, with the exception of the hospitality sector (hotels, restaurants and cafes) where partial restrictions apply.

Negative Brief: Methane Landfill Recovery

By Jesse Montoya, Cameron Walker and Katherine Kaiser

Inherency

1. Landfill gas capture projects are already being subsidized

BioCycle Magazine (Published since 1960, BioCycle is America’s foremost magazine on composting and organics recycling) August 2008 “Stop Trashing The Climate” <http://www.jgpress.com/archives/_free/001710.html>

Incinerators, landfill gas capture systems and landfill “bioreactors” currently are being subsidized under state and federal renewable energy and green power incentive programs or carbon trading schemes. Far from benefiting the climate, subsidies to these systems reinforce a one-way flow of resources on a finite planet and make the task of conserving resources more difficult, not easier.

2. List of existing incentives for landfill gas

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (FULL SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS FROM SENATE FINANCE, HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEES) February 12, 2009 <http://finance.senate.gov/press/Bpress/2009press/prb021209.pdf>

* Long-term Extension and Modification of Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit. The bill would extend the placed-in-service date for wind facilities for three years (through December 31, 2012). The bill would also extend the placed-in-service date for three years (through December 31, 2013) for certain other qualifying facilities: closed-loop biomass; open-loop biomass; geothermal; small irrigation; hydropower; landfill gas; waste-to-energy; and marine renewable facilities. *This proposal is estimated to cost $13.143 billion over 10 years.*
* Temporary Election to Claim the Investment Tax Credit in Lieu of the Production Tax Credit. Under current law, facilities that produce electricity from solar facilities are eligible to take a thirty percent (30%) investment tax credit in the year that the facility is placed in service. Facilities that produce electricity from wind, closed-loop biomass, open-loop biomass, geothermal, small irrigation, hydropower, landfill gas, waste-to-energy, and marine renewable facilities are eligible for a production tax credit. The production tax credit is payable over a ten-year period. Because of current market conditions, it is difficult for many renewable projects to find financing due to the uncertain future tax positions of potential investors in these projects. The bill would allow facilities to elect to claim the investment tax credit in lieu of the production tax credit. *This proposal is estimated to cost $285 million over 10 years.*
* Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (“CREBs”). The bill authorizes an additional $1.6 billion of new clean renewable energy bonds to finance facilities that generate electricity from the following resources: wind; closed-loop biomass; open-loop biomass; geothermal; small irrigation; hydropower; landfill gas; marine renewable; and trash combustion facilities. This $1.6 billion authorization will be subdivided into thirds: 1/3 will be available for qualifying projects of State/local/tribal governments; 1/3 for qualifying projects of public power providers; and 1/3 for qualifying projects of electric cooperatives. *This proposal is estimated to cost $578 million over 10 years.*

3. Organic Waste to be used as compost instead of landfills by 2020

MSNBC (A twenty-four hour news reporting cable agency) June 15, 2009 “Not So Free Love in San Francisco” <http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2009/06/15/not-so-free-love-in-san-francisco/>

Food scraps sent to a landfill decompose fast and turn into methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas. Under the new system, collected scraps will be turned into compost that helps area farms and vineyards flourish. The city eventually wants to eliminate waste at landfills by 2020. Cities such a San Francisco, and Pittsburgh are already partners in the program.

4. Current EPA regulations require many larger landfills to collect LFG

Environmental Protection Agency (a government agency that regulates and addresses numerous environmental issues), 2007 “Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)” <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/benefits.htm>

Current EPA regulations under the Clean Air Act require many larger landfills to collect and combust LFG. There are several compliance options, including flaring the gas, or installing an LFG use system. Only LFG energy recovery offers communities and landfill owners the opportunity to reduce the costs associated with regulatory compliance by turning pollution into a valuable community resource.

Significance

1. Turn: LFG projects can increase the amount of methane being released

American Chemical Society (ACS is a congressionally chartered independent membership organization which represents professionals at all degree levels and in all fields of chemistry and sciences that involve chemistry) December 10, 2008 “Is converting landfill gas to energy the best option?” <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es803266t>

But when it comes to new discards, critics say that the hype over [landfill-gas-to-energy](http://www.epa.gov/lmop/)(LFGTE) projects may have perverse outcomes, such as discouraging the diversion of organic waste from landfills and actually increasing the amount of methane being released.

Solvency

1. All 560 LFG projects would only produce 0.57% of America’s energy needs

Michael J. Csapo (Board of Directors [Michigan Recycling Coalition](http://www.portfolio.com/resources/company-profiles/Michigan-Recycling-Coalition-840795)) AICP and J.D. Lindeberg (He has directed, designed and managed the construction of major environmental engineering projects including recycling, composting and waste transfer facilities. He has worked in commercialization of innovative environmental technology and green technology, including project startup, financing) P.E., “The Argument Against Senate Bill 864,” 2007, [http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.compostingcouncil.org%2Fdownload.php%3Fr%3D40%26f%3Dc9ce9ba9c7266a92f01c025e89371ec4.pdf&ei=v7SFSoDiEYa0sgPko42UBw&rct=j&q=According+to+the+EPA%2C+there+are+currently+425+lfg+projects+nationwide%2C+generating+about+10+million+megawatt+hours+per+year.2+The+EPA+also+projects+that+another+560+landfills+are+candidates+for+similar+projects.3+If+all+of+those+candidate+landfills+were+also+to+generate+electricity+from+landfill+gas%2C+a+total+of+less+than+23.2+million+megawatt+hours+could+be+generated+annually.+According+to+the+U.S.+Department+of+Energy%2C+electricity+production+in+the+U.S.+in+2006+was+nearly+4.1+billion+megawatt+hours.4+As+a+consequence%2C+lfg-generated+electricity+could+only+fulfill+0.57%25+of+America%E2%80%99s+electricity+needs.&usg=AFQjCNHNKfDY9OZKqcqyyaG5LNYgsTBchQ](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.compostingcouncil.org%2Fdownload.php%3Fr%3D40%26f%3Dc9ce9ba9c7266a92f01c025e89371ec4.pdf&ei=v7SFSoDiEYa0sgPko42UBw&rct=j&q=According+to+the+EPA%2C+there+are+currently+425+lfg+projec)

According to Michigan’s 21st Century Electric Energy Plan, Appendix – Volume II, electricity generated from lfg has the potential to be only a very minor component of Michigan’s energy portfolio. The Plan projects that lfg can only generate slightly more than 1,000 GWh/year by 2015, which is only 8.1% of the renewable portfolio standard and only 0.81% of the entire amount of projected energy production.1 Yard clippings can only represent a fraction of that potential. However, data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy suggest that the potential is far less. According to the EPA, there are currently 425 lfg projects nationwide, generating about 10 million megawatt hours per year.2 The EPA also projects that another 560 landfills are candidates for similar projects.3 If all of those candidate landfills were also to generate electricity from landfill gas, a total of less than 23.2 million megawatt hours could be generated annually. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, electricity production in the U.S. in 2006 was nearly 4.1 billion megawatt hours.4 As a consequence, lfg-generated electricity could only fulfill 0.57% of America’s electricity needs.

2. LFG has its merits but is an ill-advised policy

Michael J. Csapo (Board of Directors [Michigan Recycling Coalition](http://www.portfolio.com/resources/company-profiles/Michigan-Recycling-Coalition-840795)) AICP and J.D. Lindeberg (He has directed, designed and managed the construction of major environmental engineering projects including recycling, composting and waste transfer facilities. He has worked in commercialization of innovative environmental technology and green technology, including project startup, financing) P.E., “The Argument Against Senate Bill 864,” 2007, [http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.compostingcouncil.org%2Fdownload.php%3Fr%3D40%26f%3Dc9ce9ba9c7266a92f01c025e89371ec4.pdf&ei=v7SFSoDiEYa0sgPko42UBw&rct=j&q=According+to+the+EPA%2C+there+are+currently+425+lfg+projects+nationwide%2C+generating+about+10+million+megawatt+hours+per+year.2+The+EPA+also+projects+that+another+560+landfills+are+candidates+for+similar+projects.3+If+all+of+those+candidate+landfills+were+also+to+generate+electricity+from+landfill+gas%2C+a+total+of+less+than+23.2+million+megawatt+hours+could+be+generated+annually.+According+to+the+U.S.+Department+of+Energy%2C+electricity+production+in+the+U.S.+in+2006+was+nearly+4.1+billion+megawatt+hours.4+As+a+consequence%2C+lfg-generated+electricity+could+only+fulfill+0.57%25+of+America%E2%80%99s+electricity+needs.&usg=AFQjCNHNKfDY9OZKqcqyyaG5LNYgsTBchQ](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.compostingcouncil.org%2Fdownload.php%3Fr%3D40%26f%3Dc9ce9ba9c7266a92f01c025e89371ec4.pdf&ei=v7SFSoDiEYa0sgPko42UBw&rct=j&q=According+to+the+EPA%2C+there+are+currently+425+lfg+projec)

While landfill gas (lfg) capture and its conversion to usable energy has its merits, the effort to introduce additional organic material, such as yard clippings, into Michigan’s landfills is an ill-advised policy. Such efforts, like SB 864, are clearly bad for Michigan’s economy and Michigan’s environment. Reasons to oppose SB 864 include the following:

• Landfill gas is an insignificant source of energy and introducing yard clippings into Michigan’s landfills will not have an appreciable impact on energy production.

• Landfills designed to capture methane still emit considerable amounts of methane into the atmosphere. As such, the proposal would have a net negative impact on the environment.

• Landfill gas is a poor performing and dirty source of energy.

• It will have a detrimental impact on Michigan’s fledgling composting industry, resulting in a net loss of jobs in Michigan.

• It runs counter to sophisticated waste management trends throughout the country and the world, placing Michigan at a competitive disadvantage with regard to the development and implementation of state-of-the-art and emerging technologies.

• It will accelerate the depletion of existing landfill space in Michigan, causing an increase in disposal costs for Michigan’s businesses, cities, and residents.

3. Landfill-gas-to-energy burns significantly dirtier than natural gas

Michael J. Csapo (Board of Directors [Michigan Recycling Coalition](http://www.portfolio.com/resources/company-profiles/Michigan-Recycling-Coalition-840795)) AICP and J.D. Lindeberg (He has directed, designed and managed the construction of major environmental engineering projects including recycling, composting and waste transfer facilities. He has worked in commercialization of innovative environmental technology and green technology, including project startup, financing) P.E., “The Argument Against Senate Bill 864,” 2007, [http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.compostingcouncil.org%2Fdownload.php%3Fr%3D40%26f%3Dc9ce9ba9c7266a92f01c025e89371ec4.pdf&ei=v7SFSoDiEYa0sgPko42UBw&rct=j&q=According+to+the+EPA%2C+there+are+currently+425+lfg+projects+nationwide%2C+generating+about+10+million+megawatt+hours+per+year.2+The+EPA+also+projects+that+another+560+landfills+are+candidates+for+similar+projects.3+If+all+of+those+candidate+landfills+were+also+to+generate+electricity+from+landfill+gas%2C+a+total+of+less+than+23.2+million+megawatt+hours+could+be+generated+annually.+According+to+the+U.S.+Department+of+Energy%2C+electricity+production+in+the+U.S.+in+2006+was+nearly+4.1+billion+megawatt+hours.4+As+a+consequence%2C+lfg-generated+electricity+could+only+fulfill+0.57%25+of+America%E2%80%99s+electricity+needs.&usg=AFQjCNHNKfDY9OZKqcqyyaG5LNYgsTBchQ](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.compostingcouncil.org%2Fdownload.php%3Fr%3D40%26f%3Dc9ce9ba9c7266a92f01c025e89371ec4.pdf&ei=v7SFSoDiEYa0sgPko42UBw&rct=j&q=According+to+the+EPA%2C+there+are+currently+425+lfg+projec)

In addition, according to the Center for a Competitive Waste Industry, most installed landfill-gas-to energy capacity uses polluting internal combustion engines, burning landfill gas, which is significantly dirtier than pipeline natural gas. Moreover, that new capacity also tends to displace newer, advanced combined-cycle natural gas units, not older, polluting coal systems. Many of the old coal plants have been largely depreciated so that they can be bid on their operating costs alone, while the newer, cleaner facilities need to be priced based upon both their capital and operating costs.

4. Methane Harvesting Is not effective

BioCycle Magazine (Published since 1960, BioCycle is America’s foremost magazine on composting and organics recycling) August, 2008 “Stop Trashing The Climate” <http://www.jgpress.com/archives/_free/001710.html>

Stop Trashing the Climate also dispels myths about the climate benefits of landfill gas recovery and waste incineration, outlines policies needed to effect change, and offers a roadmap for how to significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within a short period. Current landfill methane mitigation strategies focus on methane capture rather than methane avoidance. However, landfill gas capture systems are not an effective strategy for preventing methane emissions to the atmosphere. The portion of methane captured over a landfill's lifetime may be as low as 20 percent of total methane emitted, according to a 2007 Working Group's report to the International Panel on Climate Change (see full report for complete references). Despite best available control technologies, most methane will escape uncontrolled, as the bulk of it is generated before gas capture systems are installed on those landfill cells. The only effective method to prevent methane emissions from landfills is to stop biodegradable materials from entering landfills. The good news is that landfill alternatives such as composting and anaerobic digestion are readily available and cost-effective. Compost has the added benefit of adding organic matter to soil, sequestering carbon, improving plant growth and reducing water use - all important to stabilizing the climate. Composting is thus vital to restoring the climate and our soils and should be front and center in a national strategy to protect the climate in the short term.

5. 45% of Landfill methane escapes into the atmosphere

US-Indian Landfill Research Project (NEERI — a multidiscipline, environmental research laboratory — is an Indian partner in this investigation) April 2009 [www.almitrapatel.com/docs/044.doc](http://www.almitrapatel.com/docs/044.doc)

Landfill-gas harvesting was once considered environmentally benign. But at best only 55% of the landfill methane generated can ever be trapped, and the rest goes into the atmosphere. Today methane is considered a ‘Greenhouse Gas’, more potent than carbon dioxide for causing global warming, melting of polar ice and submergence of coastal areas.

6. LFG isn’t always the best and most cost-effective alternative

CNN (a respected national news network), July 17, 2006“Converting trash gas into energy gold” <http://www.cnn.com/2006/TECH/05/25/landfill.gas/index.html> [brackets added]

But it's not a panacea for the nation's energy challenges. Both [ David Gustashaw and [LMOP Team Leader Brian] Guzzone said that landfill gas projects are site-specific. Depending on the size and energy needs of the project, landfill gas may or may not be the best and most cost-effective alternative energy. Nor is landfill gas expected to replace foreign oil.

7. LFG has half the heating capacity of natural gas

CNN (a respected national news network), July 17, 2006 “Converting trash gas into energy gold” <http://www.cnn.com/2006/TECH/05/25/landfill.gas/index.html>

One disadvantage to landfill gas is that though it's cheaper than natural gas, it has less than about half the heating capacity.

8. LFG tax credits do little to achieve their intended purpose in several states

Grassroots Recycling Network (GRRN is a national network of waste reduction activists and recycling professionals. We set ambitious standards for Zero Waste goals and policies. We provide opportunities for on-going meaningful participation in campaigns and build coalitions to achieve zero waste policies, businesses and communities) Last Modified, October, 2008 “What’s wrong with tax credits for landfill gas recovery?” <http://www.grrn.org/landfill/tax_fact_sheet.html>

Energy recovery systems for landfill gas are already financially viable in several states with higher electricity costs because the price paid to independent power producers is sufficient to recover the costs of the systems, including a fair return on the investment. This creates a tax structure in which there is a tendency for most of the lost revenues to go to taxpayers who would have taken the desired action anyway even if the credit did not exist. We estimate that just the landfill gas provision of the biomass section could cost $250 million. This is an exceedingly large amount of revenue to lose in such a tight budget when the credit will do little to achieve its intended purpose, and much to preclude the real solution.

9. Reverse Plan Advocate: The Sierra Club generally opposes LFG projects

The Sierra Club/Board of Directors (Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been working to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself. We are the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States) May 16, 2009 “Landfill Gas to Energy Facilities” <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/landfill-gas.pdf>

The Sierra Club

* opposes establishment of new Landfill Gas to Energy (LFGTE) facilities, and conversion of existing facilities to LFGTE technology, except at facilities which have completed the process of separating all organic materials from the waste stream going to the landfill, permanently covered the cells being used to generate energy, and adopted best management practices to minimize methane generation.
* opposes subsidies for LFGTE facilities, including but not limited to eligibility for production tax credits, carbon trading credit, and credit toward meeting renewable portfolio standards.
* supports the adoption of regulations to minimize methane emissions from landfills.
* supports the adoption of regulations to require diversion of organic materials from the waste stream for landfills.

Disadvantages

1. Tax subsidies bad

Tax subsidies stifle innovation

Grassroots Recycling Network (GRRN is a national network of waste reduction activists and recycling professionals. We set ambitious standards for Zero Waste goals and policies. We provide opportunities for on-going meaningful participation in campaigns and build coalitions to achieve zero waste policies, businesses and communities) Last Modified, October, 2008 “What’s wrong with tax credits for landfill gas recovery?” <http://www.grrn.org/landfill/tax_fact_sheet.html>

Tax subsidies for landfill gas recovery will stifle innovation and investment in developing new bioconversion technologies based on clean organic feedstocks - by using subsidies for polluting alternatives to make environmentally preferable options appear less competitive in the marketplace.

Tax credits and subsidies create a financial reward for destroying natural resources

Grassroots Recycling Network (GRRN is a national network of waste reduction activists and recycling professionals. We set ambitious standards for Zero Waste goals and policies. We provide opportunities for on-going meaningful participation in campaigns and build coalitions to achieve zero waste policies, businesses and communities) 2007 “Garbage is NOT Renewable Energy” <http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste/downloads/garbage.pdf>

In fact, “garbage-to-energy” is now being legally classified in numerous states as a “renewable” energy source. This is in direct opposition to the Zero Waste Movement – our goal is to eliminate waste, not enshrine it as a renewable resource! Giving tax credits and subsidies to the garbage industry competes against wind, solar and recycling projects, and creates a financial reward for producing garbage and destroying natural resources.

2. Cost Disadvantage

Harvesting LFG costs twice as much as harvesting gas and four times as much as recycling and composting

IPCC study (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific intergovernmental body tasked to [evaluate the risk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Risk_management) of [climate change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change) caused by human activity. The panel was established in 1988 by the [World Meteorological Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Meteorological_Organization) (WMO) and the [United Nations Environment Programme](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Environment_Programme) (UNEP), two organizations of the [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations).) January 2008 <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/technical-papers/climate-change-water-en.pdf>

Currently, the cost to harvest landfill gas is more than double that which it takes to harvest gas, and more than four-times that of recycling and composting. After the methane has been harvested, there is yet another cost, that to refine the methane to make it viable fuel source. If the methane is to be burned for energy at a natural gas burning power plant then there is yet another cost to transport the refined methane and to store it.

3. Economic Disadvantage

According to a recent study subsidies produce a net loss of jobs

Joel Kotkin (Joel Kotkin is a presidential fellow in urban futures at [Chapman University](http://topics.forbes.com/Chapman%20University). He is executive editor of [newgeography.com](http://www.newgeography.com/" \t "_blank) and writes the weekly [New Geographer column](http://search.forbes.com/search/colArchiveSearch?aname=Joel+Kotkin&author=joel+and+kotkin" \t "_blank) for Forbes) August 4, 2009 “Green Jobs Can't Save The Economy” Forbes.com <http://www.forbes.com/2009/08/03/green-jobs-economic-growth-opinions-columnists-joel-kotkin.html>

And then there is the impact of green policies on the overall economy. Green power is expensive and depends on massive subsidization, with government support levels at roughly 20 times or more per megawatt hour than relatively clean and abundant natural gas. Lavishing breaks for Wall Street investors and favored green companies also may be harmful to the rest of the economy. A [recent study](http://www.juandemariana.org/pdf/090327-employment-public-aid-renewable.pdf" \t "_blank) on renewable energy subsidies on the Spanish economy found that for every "green" job created more than two were lost in the non-subsidized economy.

4. Increased pollution

Link: LFG can create a disincentive to divert new discards and end up generating more GHGs than composting

American Chemical Society (ACS is a congressionally chartered independent membership organization which represents professionals at all degree levels and in all fields of chemistry and sciences that involve chemistry) December 10, 2008 “Is converting landfill gas to energy the best option?” <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es803266t>

However, LFGTE projects can create a disincentive to diverting new discards and end up generating more uncontrolled greenhouse gases than composting does, says Peter Anderson, executive director of the [Center for a Competitive Waste Industry](http://www.competitivewaste.org/), a nonprofit research organization. When organics are removed from the waste stream and composted, they do not release methane; rather, small amounts of methane are oxidized to CO2 before they are released into the atmosphere. The airless landfill environment generates large amounts of methane from organic waste. Even with a system to collect the methane, capture rates over a landfill’s lifetime can be as low as 40−50%, notes [Sally Brown](http://faculty.washington.edu/slb/), a soil scientist at the University of Washington.

Impact: Lots of methane escapes capture

Grassroots Recycling Network (GRRN is a national network of waste reduction activists and recycling professionals. We set ambitious standards for Zero Waste goals and policies. We provide opportunities for on-going meaningful participation in campaigns and build coalitions to achieve zero waste policies, businesses and communities) Last Modified, October, 2008 “What’s wrong with tax credits for landfill gas recovery?” <http://www.grrn.org/landfill/tax_fact_sheet.html>

Most of the gas produced in landfills escapes to the atmosphere even at sites that install gas collection systems. Almost half of the first wave of gas generation occurs before collection systems are installed. And more than half of the total gas generated by landfills will occur in a second wave of gas generation decades in the future, long after the gas collection systems have been removed from service. Moreover, EPA rules mandating the installation of gas collection systems only cover 54% of the waste in the ground. Add up the numbers (50% x 54% x <50%) and a claim that much more than 10% of all the landfill gas actually gets captured is difficult to sustain. Even more gas escapes at sites that optimize collection for electricity generation. If a landfill operator is offered a financial incentive to manage his site for power, he will shift the way he manages the site to pull more gas from the dense core at the expense of the periphery, or to use 'wet' (bioreactor) instead of 'dry' cells, either of which will significantly increase the proportion of gases emitted to the atmosphere.

Impact: Landfill gasses include lethal nerve gasses

Grassroots Recycling Network (GRRN is a national network of waste reduction activists and recycling professionals. We set ambitious standards for Zero Waste goals and policies. We provide opportunities for on-going meaningful participation in campaigns and build coalitions to achieve zero waste policies, businesses and communities) Last Modified, October, 2008 “What’s wrong with tax credits for landfill gas recovery?” <http://www.grrn.org/landfill/tax_fact_sheet.html>

Landfill gases are not limited to methane. They also include known carcinogenic and lethal nerve gases that may lie behind health impacts that have been observed among people living in proximity to landfills.

Negative Brief: Nuclear Power Expansion

By Guthrie Leath, Lael Burge and Eric Knopp

INHERENCY

1. Nuclear Energy in the U.S. is already increasing in the status quo – licenses are being extended and new reactors are being planned

Der Speigel(is a German weekly magazine and Europe's largest weekly magazine with a circulation of more than one million per week). “THE US GOES NUCULAR: Prefab Reactors and Longer Life-Spans," July 11, 2008 By Frank Hornig in New York, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,565397,00.html>

Indeed, for a long time, the 104 nuclear power plants still remaining in the United States seemed to be on their way out. Many of them will soon hit their 40th birthday when, according to US law, operating licenses automatically expire. But more than half of the plants have already received new licenses for two more decades of operation. A nuclear power plant like the Calvert Cliffs plant in Maryland, which went online in 1974, can now remain in operation until 2034 instead of 2014. The United States derives only about one-fifth of its electricity from nuclear power plants, but if the energy companies have their way, this share will soon increase dramatically. About 30 new reactors are planned, with four of them already in the approval process. For some, this is not enough. Samuel Bodman, secretary of energy in the administration of President George W. Bush, wants to see the country build "130 or 230 additional units," he says. And Republican presidential candidate John McCain recently said that he supported building 100 new reactors. His Democratic rival, Barack Obama, is likewise not fundamentally opposed to an expansion of nuclear power. International Partnerships The US nuclear boom really got going in 2005, when Bush signed a new energy bill granting generous loan guarantees and tax allowances to companies applying for approval of new reactors. The list of companies rushing to embrace the deal is long: General Electric (GE) has entered into a nuclear partnership with Japanese power plant maker Hitachi; America's second-largest producer of electricity from nuclear energy, NRG, has joined forces with Toshiba to build two new reactors in Texas; and French nuclear power giant Electricité de France has entered into a joint venture with Constellation Energy, America's third-largest nuclear power producer. There are a number of other projects still in the planning stage. But the nuclear boom is also leading to many problems. For instance, the federal agency that regulates the industry, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), lacks the necessary personnel to quickly and efficiently handle the complex approval process. In the 1960s and 1970s, energy companies were routinely required to tear down steel and concrete structures before they were completed, because safety regulations were changing so quickly. To avoid the same problem today, regulators and energy companies plan to agree on two or three standard reactor models, which would mean that new nuclear power plants would essentially be constructed as prefabricated units.

2. Already working on other solutions

Steven Cohen (Steven Cohen is the director of the Master of Public Administration Program in Environmental Science and Policy at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and the Earth Institute, and executive director of Columbia University’s Earth Institute), August 8th, 2006, “Nuclear power is complicated, dangerous, and definitely not the answer,” Grist Beta, <http://www.grist.org/article/cohen1/>

“I agree that the answer to reducing carbon-dioxide emissions and reducing energy costs is to develop new technology. I agree that the need for a technological fix is urgent. The problem of energy prices and global climate change is real, and reaching crisis proportions. The American government should start a major research and development effort to create new power sources that are small-scale, decentralized, environmentally safe, and feasible in the political climate of the U.S. in the first decade of the 21st century.”

3. Nuclear Energy hasn’t worked in the past

Mariah Blake (a writer for Washington Monthly, a Political journal providing an inside look at how the government works in Washington), January/Feburary 2009, “Bad Reactors RETHINKING YOUR OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR POWER? RETHINK AGAIN.,” Washington Monthly, Vol. 41 Issue 1, p31-38, accessed through Ebsco Host

“By the mid-1970s, more than 100 nuclear power stations were being planned or built. But the manic enthusiasm was fading as reactor projects ran aground amid soaring inflation, shrinking energy demand, bungled construction, and regulatory delays. Perhaps the most infamous boondoggle was the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant on the Long Island Sound. The Long Island Lighting Company spent twenty-five years and $6 billion—eighty times the original estimate—trying to get it up and running. But it was never licensed to operate, the debacle saddled Long Island residents with some of the nation’s highest electricity rates and pushed the regional economy to the brink of ruin.”

4. Other countries are phasing out nuclear power

Mariah Blake (a writer for Washington Monthly, a Political journal providing an inside look at how the government works in Washington), January/Feburary 2009, “Bad Reactors RETHINKING YOUR OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR POWER? RETHINK AGAIN.,” Washington Monthly, Vol. 41 Issue 1, p31-38, accessed through Ebsco Host

“Elsewhere in the world, there are also signs that nuclear power and renewables aren’t as compatible as policymakers tend to believe. In 2000, Germany became the first major industrialized nation to commit to phasing out atomic power.”

SOLVENCY

1. Not enough skilled workers in the nuclear field

U.S. House of Representatives, April 23rd, 2008, ”“Opportunities and Challenges for Nuclear Power,” COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,,” <http://democrats.science.house.gov/Media/File/Commdocs/hearings/2008/Full/23apr/Hearing_Charter.pdf>

“There is a general concern that a revival in the nuclear power industry could be hampered by the availability of the necessary skilled, technical workforce.”

2. U.S. May not be able to maintain a domestic source of nuclear fuel

U.S. House of Representatives, April 23rd, 2008, ”“Opportunities and Challenges for Nuclear Power,” COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,,” <http://democrats.science.house.gov/Media/File/Commdocs/hearings/2008/Full/23apr/Hearing_Charter.pdf>

“There is an ongoing debate about the ability of the United States to ensure we maintain a reliable, domestic source of nuclear fuel. A major element of that debate is whether or not an agreement between Russia and the U.S., which limits Russian fuel imports, will be enforceable. If not, there is concern that Russian fuel would be imported without limit, potentially jeopardizing the domestic enrichment industry.”

3. Radioactive waste disposal is a significant issue

U.S. House of Representatives, April 23rd, 2008, ”“Opportunities and Challenges for Nuclear Power,” COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,,” <http://democrats.science.house.gov/Media/File/Commdocs/hearings/2008/Full/23apr/Hearing_Charter.pdf>

“There are, however, several drawbacks to the expanded use of nuclear power. Disposal of radioactive waste produced in nuclear power plants has been a significant issue for decades. While on-site storage has become a default interim solution, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA) called for disposal of spent nuclear fuel in a deep, underground geologic repository. In 1987, amendments to the NWPA restricted DOE’s repository site studies to Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Technical and legal challenges have since delayed its use until at least 2017. All operating nuclear power reactors are storing spent fuel in Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-licensed onsite spent fuel pools. Most reactors were not designed to store the full amount of the spent fuel generated during their operational life. Currently, there is over 50,000 metric tons of spent fuel stored in the United States. Earlier this year, the Administration proposed draft nuclear waste legislation repealing the 70,000 metric ton limit on the amount of waste that can be stored at the repository at Yucca Mountain. It is expected that the 70,000 metric ton limit would be exceeded by the waste generated from the nuclear plants currently operating in the U.S.”

4. Nuclear Waste is an incurable problem

Steven Cohen (Steven Cohen is the director of the Master of Public Administration Program in Environmental Science and Policy at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and the Earth Institute, and executive director of Columbia University’s Earth Institute), August 8th, 2006, “Nuclear power is complicated, dangerous, and definitely not the answer,” Grist Beta, <http://www.grist.org/article/cohen1/>

“Let’s move on to complicated. The primary waste product of nuclear power, spent fuel rods, remains toxic for thousands of years. We do not yet know how to detoxify these waste products and, despite 20-some years of trying, we have not yet been able to establish a long-term repository anywhere in the United States.”

5. Standardized plant design still not here

Mariah Blake (a writer for Washington Monthly, a Political journal providing an inside look at how the government works in Washington), January/Feburary 2009, “Bad Reactors RETHINKING YOUR OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR POWER? RETHINK AGAIN.,” Washington Monthly, Vol. 41 Issue 1, p31-38, accessed through Ebsco Host

“Part of the answer is that the industry still hasn’t solved the problems that led to its initial collapse. A decade on, the standardized plant designs, on which nuclear advocates pinned their hopes of lower costs and greater reliability, have yet to materialize.”

6. Nuclear energy is cost prohibitive

Mariah Blake (a writer for Washington Monthly, a Political journal providing an inside look at how the government works in Washington), January/Feburary 2009, “Bad Reactors RETHINKING YOUR OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR POWER? RETHINK AGAIN.,” Washington Monthly, Vol. 41 Issue 1, p31-38, accessed through Ebsco Host

“In October 2007, Moody’s Investor Services piled on with a report projecting that new reactors would cost $5,000 to $6,000 per kilowatt to build, or up to $12 billion per unit. This figure, which was based on actual bids for new reactors in the United States, caused considerable sticker shock. The trade magazine Nuclear Engineering International ran an article questioning whether utilities would shelve their plans for new reactors amid revelations about “prohibitively high” costs. In January 2008, Warren Buffett’s MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co. scrapped plans to build a new reactor because it found the “economics of building the next generation of nuclear power plants” were “not in our customers’ best interests.” But as staggering as their estimates were at the time, those who did the calculations for Keystone and Moody’s have concluded, based on newer data, that they were not high enough. “The numbers have simply gone flying past our highest 2007 estimates,” says Jim Hempstead, a senior vice president at Moody’s, which now predicts new nuclear power plants will cost $7,500 per kilowatt to build.”

7. The costs are too high

The Sierra Club (Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been working to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself. We are the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States.), April 1st, 2008, ”“The Basics of Nuclear Power,”,” Sierra Club, <http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/factsheets/basics-nuclearpower.pdf>

“Nuclear power is expensive: The Nuclear Energy Institute has recently stated that 17 energy companies will apply for licenses to construct more than 30 nuclear reactors across the country at a cost of between $4-6 billion per reactor. Not only is the construction of nuclear reactors far more expensive than cleaner energy alternatives such as renewables and efficiency measures, but costs per kilowatt hour are underestimated because they do not include offline time between electricity production cycles.”

8. Construction takes too long

Mariah Blake (a writer for Washington Monthly, a Political journal providing an inside look at how the government works in Washington), January/Feburary 2009, “Bad Reactors RETHINKING YOUR OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR POWER? RETHINK AGAIN.,” Washington Monthly, Vol. 41 Issue 1, p31-38, accessed through Ebsco Host

“This all-of-the-above approach is smart in theory, but in practice it has two glaring flaws. One is the long, uncertain construction schedule for building new reactors. To avoid the worst effects of global warming—rapidly rising sea levels, rampant famine, severe storms, and widespread drought—we will need to reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions by 2015, according to the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The designs for most of the reactors on the drawing board in the United States won’t be certified until 2011 or 2012. Only then can the NRC approve individual licenses—after which the plants still need to be built. Last time around, construction took an average of twelve years.”

9. Nuclear power will not solve global warming

The Sierra Club (Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been working to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself. We are the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States), April 1st, 2008, ”“The Basics of Nuclear Power,” Sierra Club, <http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/factsheets/basics-nuclearpower.pdf>

“For nuclear energy to play a significant role in reducing global warming pollution, a new nuclear reactor would have to come online an average of every 15 days between 2010and 2050, and storage capacity the size of Yucca Mountain would have to come online every three to four years. Such a massive increase in nuclear reactors would exacerbate the waste problem, increase the chances for a reactor malfunction, intensify the risk for terrorist attacks, and would cost billions.”

10. Large government incentives fail to stimulate a nuclear energy boom

Charles D. Ferguso,( a fellow for science and technology at the Council on Foreign Relations), "Fight Fire With Fire?" Washington Post, Special to washingtonpost.com's Think Tank Town, April 30, 2007, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp- dyn/content/article/2007/04/27/AR2007042701463.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-%20dyn/content/article/2007/04/27/AR2007042701463.html)

Can nuclear energy, which emits very few greenhouse gases, at least further clean up the atmosphere and reduce global warming by displacing coal-fired power plants? Coal-fired plants produce half of the U.S.'s electricity. It is no surprise that the United States relies so heavily on coal. America is the Saudi Arabia of coal reserves with an estimated supply of 250 years based on current demand. Still, nuclear power plants' operating costs compete favorably with coal and other power sources. But nuclear power's construction costs are much higher than coal's capital costs. With the financial deck stacked against construction of new nuclear reactors, industry representatives have lobbied for and received billions of dollars of additional subsidies to try to stimulate growth. These subsidies have yet to trigger the long-awaited nuclear renaissance.

11. It would take a decade to complete a new nuclear reactor

Michael Mariotte, "NEI overly optimistic," February 22, 2008, "Nuclear Industry Eyes a Smaller Renaissance," Beyond the Barrel by Marianne Lavelle, <http://www.usnews.com/blogs/beyond-the-barrel/2008/2/21/nuclear-industry-eyes-a-smaller-renaissance/comments/#10676>

As usual, the Nuclear Energy Institute is spreading overly optimistic projections. Moody's Investor Service already projects construction costs for new reactors of $5,000-$6,000/kw. The recent filing to the Florida Public Service Commission by FP&L ($12-$24 Billion for 2 reactors depending on which design is chosen) and Areva's real-world experience in Finland bears out Moody's projections. Moreover, there is no chance any reactors will be on-line by 2016. Nuclear construction historically has taken far longer than projected, and again, the current Finnish experience confirms nothing has changed. The reactors applying now have a slim chance of completion by 2018--but I wouldn't bet any money on that.

12. No reduction in dependence on overseas oil.

Lionel Beehner, (writer for Council on Foreign Relations), April 25, 2006, “Chernobyl, Nuclear Power, and Foreign Policy,” Backgrounder, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/10534/chernobyl_nuclear_power_and_foreign_policy.html#6>

“Some experts say the revival of nuclear power may improve America’s energy security and reduce its dependency on countries like Saudi Arabia for its energy needs. But Ferguson says that any new nuclear plants built, while reducing the United States’ use of coal, would constitute “a drop in the bucket” in terms of affecting its overall supply, and would have little effect on reducing its addiction to overseas oil. “Nuclear power is not going to lessen our need for oil unless we do something to improve the efficiency of trucks and other automobiles,” he says.”

13. Nuclear energy is not the answer

The Sierra Club (Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been working to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself. We are the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States.) , April 1st, 2008, ”The Basics of Nuclear Power,” Sierra Club, <http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/factsheets/basics-nuclearpower.pdf>

Scientists say that we need to address global warming now, but nuclear reactors can take more than a decade to come online. Rather than sinking government funding into this dead-end plan, we must turn toward efficient and renewable forms of energy that are available today, including a national renewable electricity standard of 15% by 2020. The truth is that nuclear energy is a bad deal for Americans, even without asking them to foot the bill for $50 billion in loan guarantees. Congress must act now and remove language in the energy bills that would greatly expand the scope of the loan guarantee program and would give nuclear energy a blank check. We need the cheapest, cleanest, most readily available sources of energy now, and nuclear energy fails on all accounts.

14. Nuclear Energy cannot solve foreign oil dependency

Charles D. Ferguson,( a fellow for science and technology at the Council on Foreign Relations, He is also an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and an adjunct lecturer at the Johns Hopkins University, He holds a PhD in physics from Boston University). "Fight Fire With Fire?" Washington Post, Special to washingtonpost.com's Think Tank Town, April 30, 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/27/AR2007042701463.html>

First, what can nuclear energy really do to free the United States from the clutches of corrupt oil-producing countries? The United States generates about twenty percent of its electricity from nuclear energy and only three percent from oil. Oil mainly fuels cars and trucks. Presently, the United States imports about two-thirds of its oil. While nuclear energy is now used for electric power generation and not for transportation, perhaps over many decades, it could power vehicles through production of hydrogen for fuel cells or electricity for plug-in hybrid cars and trucks. But until transportation is overhauled away from gasoline powered internal combustion engines, nuclear energy cannot wean the United States off oil from unstable parts of the world.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Detriment to other technologies

Union of Concerned Scientists (The Union of Concerned Scientists is the leading science-based nonprofit working for a healthy environment and a safer world. UCS combines independent scientific research and citizen action to develop innovative, practical solutions and to secure responsible changes in government policy, corporate practices, and consumer choices.), April 22nd, 2009, “Nuclear Power Legislative Priorities for 2009,” <http://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear_power/solutions/nuclear-power.html>

“Existing and proposed federal and state subsidies for new nuclear power plants threaten to divert tens of billions of dollars from cleaner low-carbon technologies that could be implemented faster, cheaper, and with lower risks. Providing additional and massive taxpayer subsidies to the nuclear industry in combination with the high costs and risks of that technology could make achieving needed global warming pollution reductions politically unaffordable.”

2. Nuclear Waste

A. No country has yet to solve the problem of Nuclear waste.

Lionel Beehner, (writer for Council on Foreign Relations), April 25, 2006, “Chernobyl, Nuclear Power, and Foreign Policy,” Backgrounder, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/10534/chernobyl_nuclear_power_and_foreign_policy.html#6>

“No country has yet to solve this problem,” says Charles Ferguson, a CFR fellow for science and technology. “Who wants a long-term nuclear waste depository in their backyard or home state?” Spent fuel, if not disposed of properly, could contaminate water supplies or, worse, be used by terrorists to create a dirty bomb. Efforts in Britain to reprocess nuclear waste proved too expensive.”

B. Increased Strain on Waste Disposal

Yu Yang (China Institute of Nuclear Information and Economics), August 12th, 2009, “CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD NUCLEAR POWER,” [www.iasmirt.org/iasmirt-2/SMiRT18/W301\_10.pdf](http://www.iasmirt.org/iasmirt-2/SMiRT18/W301_10.pdf)

“Some unsolved problems enhanced the worry of safety, such as low storage capacity of spent fuel, long-term uncertainty of policies concerning radiation waste especially the high-level radiation waste in some countries, and the unsolved deep underground disposal technology problem. All these disadvantages will affect the construction of new nuclear plants passively. Only after storage location for high-level radiation waste and spent fuel are built up, could the public believe that the waste problem has been solved.”

C. Waste Storage Problem

The Sierra Club (Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been working to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself. We are the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States), April 1st, 2008, ”“The Basics of Nuclear Power,”,” Sierra Club, <http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/factsheets/basics-nuclearpower.pdf>

“Permanent high-level waste storage for radioactive waste is a global problem. The U.S. government has already spent $11 billion on the controversial high-level storage site at Yucca Mountain, and total expected costs exceed $57.5 billion. In addition to the exorbitant costs, many safety concerns plague Yucca Mountain, including earthquakes and other potentially disastrous disturbances. Transporting radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain will also require 22,000 rail trips leaving the waste vulnerable to terrorist attacks and spills, and will require more than $3 billion for rail construction. In the first year of Yucca Mountain operations, the total amount of radioactive waste that would require shipping would exceed the total amount transported in the past 30 years in the U.S. Adding to the expense of storing nuclear waste is the more than $50 billion in expected liability claims to the DOE from utility companies seeking compensation for storing high-level radioactive waste on site despite federal law mandating permanent radioactive waste storage by 1998.”

3. Increased government spending

Lionel Beehner, (writer for Council on Foreign Relations), April 25, 2006, “Chernobyl, Nuclear Power, and Foreign Policy,” Backgrounder, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/10534/chernobyl_nuclear_power_and_foreign_policy.html#6>

“Nuclear power has enormously high capital and start-up costs, in addition to the added costs of decommissioning plants and disposing of nuclear waste, say economists. They often point to the British government’s repeated bailout of British Energy. Also, nuclear power’s cost competitiveness depends on the global price of oil and gas, which fluctuates unpredictably. And for countries with ample supplies of coal, including the United States and China, it is far cheaper.”

4. Increased Emissions

The Sierra Club (Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been working to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself. We are the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States), April 1st, 2008, ”“The Basics of Nuclear Power,” Sierra Club, <http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/factsheets/basics-nuclearpower.pdf>

“Currently, the life cycle of nuclear energy emits between 10-150 grams of carbon per kilowatt hour, part. These rates could reach 400 grams by 2070 due to increased energy demand from mining uranium and storing waste. This means that nuclear power plants could match the current carbon emissions of a natural gas plant.”

5. Nuclear Accidents

A. Safety Issues in the System.

Yu Yang (China Institute of Nuclear Information and Economics), August 12th, 2009, “CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD NUCLEAR POWER,” [www.iasmirt.org/iasmirt-2/SMiRT18/W301\_10.pdf](http://www.iasmirt.org/iasmirt-2/SMiRT18/W301_10.pdf)

“In addition, there are many shortages in the international safety system. Although IAEA has done a lot on the international safety system, for example, some safety standards are established.  The 9.11 Accident has shown that international safety system still has shortages, which must be solved through international cooperation.”

B. Increased risk of accident

The Sierra Club (Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been working to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself. We are the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States), April 1st, 2008, ”“The Basics of Nuclear Power,” Sierra Club, <http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/factsheets/basics-nuclearpower.pdf>

“The risks and hazards of nuclear energy are not a thing of the past – malfunctions, leaks, and severe lapses in basic safety and oversight continue to occur on a regular basis at nuclear power plants across the country. At any number of nuclear stations in the U.S. an accident could cause tens of thousands of direct or indirect deaths, and also lead to hundreds of billions of dollars in damages. Just last year in Erwin, Tennessee, a Nuclear Fuel Services Inc. reactor fuel production facility leaked more than nine gallons of highly-enriched liquid uranium. If the uranium had pooled together, it could have instigated a spontaneous chain of nuclear fission that would have released dangerous amounts of radiation. The risks involved with nuclear reactors have not disappeared since the accident at Three Mile Island—including a near-miss at the Davis Besse nuclear station in Ohio in 2002. Questionable safety procedures by operators coupled with lax oversight by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission leave nuclear safety an issue of serious ongoing concern.”

Negative Brief: Abolish the EPA

By Joseph Martin, Kaitlin Nelson and Nathanael Hammett

INHERENCY

States already have some environmental authority:

1. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, states conduct oversight

Government Accountability Office (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the [audit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audit), [evaluation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaluation), and investigative arm of the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress). It is located in the legislative branch of the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States)), “SUPERFUND, Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting Are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites.” March 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09278.pdf> [brackets added]

While EPA evaluates DOD’s [Department of Defense] preliminary assessments of all DOD sites on the Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket, according to EPA officials, the agency has little to no enforceable oversight authority under Section 120 of the cleanup of the majority of these sites because most are not on the NPL [National Priorities List]. Of the 985 current hazardous release DOD sites, EPA has oversight authority of the 140 DOD sites on the NPL; 11 of these NPL sites do not have IAGs [interagency agreement] in place that CERCLA [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation,

and Liability Act] Section 120 requires to guide cleanup activity, DOD choosing instead to conduct cleanup with minimal, if any, EPA oversight. The remaining 845 DOD sites are overseen by other cleanup authorities—primarily the states—or required no further action under CERCLA following assessment.

2. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, states have power over the clean up of hazardous substance releases

Government Accountability Office (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the [audit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audit), [evaluation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaluation), and investigative arm of the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress). It is located in the legislative branch of the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States)), “SUPERFUND, Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting Are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites.” March 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09278.pdf> [brackets added]

Therefore, state agencies or another regulatory authority, rather than EPA, oversee the cleanup of hazardous substance releases at most contaminated DOD sites. Most states have their own cleanup programs to address hazardous waste sites and RCRA [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act] corrective action authority to clean up RCRA sites. While EPA regions have some oversight of states’ RCRA programs by reviewing site files and providing technical advice to states, EPA defers oversight authority to states for the cleanup of individual RCRA sites.

3. Little regulation and oversight in DOD sights

Government Accountability Office (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the [audit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audit), [evaluation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaluation), and investigative arm of the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress). It is located in the legislative branch of the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States)), “SUPERFUND, Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting Are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites.” March 2009 <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09278.pdf>

While EPA oversees and evaluates DOD’s preliminary assessments of all DOD sites suspected of having a hazardous release, the agency has little to no oversight of the cleanup of most of these sites because most are not on the NPL. EPA reviews DOD sites to determine whether to propose placement on the NPL. However, only 140 of the 985 current DOD sites with hazardous waste appear on the NPL. EPA and DOD have not finalized IAGs for the remaining 11 sites, which impedes EPA’s ability to enforce cleanup, such as approving detailed cleanup schedules and applying administrative penalties. EPA only recently began using enforcement action at DOD NPL sites where an IAG is not in place. State agencies, rather than EPA, oversee the cleanup of hazardous waste at most DOD sites.

4. EPA plays a limited role in some cases

Government Accountability Office (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the [audit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audit), [evaluation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaluation), and investigative arm of the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress). It is located in the legislative branch of the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States)), “SUPERFUND, Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting Are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites.” March 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09278.pdf>

In contrast, at NPL sites without an IAG, although DOD may send copies of draft plans and reports to EPA, it is often without regard to schedule or a process for vetting issues back and forth as defined in IAG provisions. Therefore, EPA’s role is limited to reviewing many plans after they are finalized without the opportunity to provide input to the cleanup process. According to EPA headquarters officials, EPA is not seeking excessive enforcement authority at DOD NPL sites but intends to hold DOD to the same enforceable oversight it has at private sites. In fact, federal agencies are more often subject to much less stringent enforcement provisions.

5. Most DOD sites cleaned by state agencies

Government Accountability Office (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the [audit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audit), [evaluation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaluation), and investigative arm of the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress). It is located in the legislative branch of the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States)), “SUPERFUND, Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting Are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites.” March 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09278.pdf>

Because the majority of contaminated DOD sites are not on the NPL, most DOD site cleanups are overseen by state agencies rather than EPA, as allowed by CERCLA. CERCLA provides that state cleanup and enforcement laws apply to federal facilities not included on the NPL. Under CERCLA, EPA may choose to defer a federal facility site to another cleanup authority, such as RCRA, even though the site is eligible for placement on the NPL. Of the 845 DOD sites not on the NPL, EPA generally determined that no further action was needed at the sites either because (1) the sites did not have hazards that would score high enough for NPL listing or (2) EPA deferred oversight of DOD’s response at the sites to the states or other regulatory authorities. Most states have their own cleanup programs to address hazardous waste sites and RCRA corrective action authority to clean up RCRA sites. While EPA regions have some oversight of states’ RCRA programs by reviewing site files and providing technical advice to the state, EPA defers oversight authority to states for the cleanup of non-NPL RCRA sites. EPA does not exercise dayto-day oversight of state cleanup programs but has entered into memorandums of understanding or agreement with some states.

SIGNIFICANCE

EPA works with the Department of Homeland Security:

1. EPA produced quick 9/11 responses

The Environmental Protection Agency Office of Homeland Security (The EPA’s Office of Homeland Security (OHS) is located in the Office of the Administrator and serves as the Agency’s central liaison for homeland security matters. OHS works closely with the White House Homeland Security Council, Department of Homeland Security, and other federal agencies as it coordinates overall EPA homeland security strategy), Last updated December 2, 2008. [credential url] <http://www.epa.gov/homelandsecurity/responsibilities.htm> [article url] [www.epa.gov/homelandsecurity/history.htm](http://www.epa.gov/homelandsecurity/history.htm)

EPA quickly responded to its new post 9/11 responsibilities in emergency response cleanup, infrastructure and building protection, and advancing science to better prevent and respond to terrorist events by aligning agency personnel and resources to support new responsibilities. This realignment of resources and priorities was reflected in the 2002 EPA Homeland Security Strategy. It detailed the results of strategic planning for homeland security efforts within the Agency and outlined EPA's activities and initiatives involving homeland security. This compendium of taskings realized the Agency's standing responsibilities to homeland security, and further emphasized the need for coordination and collaboration across the Agency.

2. EPA involved in planning and response programs

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people), Last updated August 11, 2009. <http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/emercounter-terrorism.html>

The EPA is actively involved in counter-terrorism planning and response preparation. The Agency supports the federal counter-terrorism program by helping State and local responders plan for emergencies, coordinating with key federal partners, training first responders, and providing resources in the event of a terrorist incident. Several offices within the Agency are involved in these efforts, including The Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office, the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, and the National Enforcement Investigations Center.

3. EPA involved in numerous Homeland Security facets

The Environmental Protection Agency Office of Homeland Security ((The EPA’s Office of Homeland Security (OHS) is located in the Office of the Administrator and serves as the Agency’s central liaison for homeland security matters. OHS works closely with the White House Homeland Security Council, Department of Homeland Security, and other federal agencies as it coordinates overall EPA homeland security strategy), Last Updated December 2, 2008. <http://www.epa.gov/homelandsecurity/responsibilities.htm> (parenthesis in original)

OHS is charged by the Administrator with several major areas of responsibility, including:

* Providing leadership and coordinating homeland security policy across the Agency (Headquarters, Regions, and Laboratories), including EPA's planning, prevention, preparedness, and response for incidents of national significance. (In the event of an incident of national significance, the Associate Administrator of Homeland Security serves as the Agency Director of Emergency Operations in coordination with the relevant program offices.)
* Directing implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directives and the Agency's Homeland Security Strategic Plan.
* Advising the Administrator and other senior leadership on matters related to national security and intelligence; serving as the principal Agency liaison to the U.S. intelligence community; and coordinating the EPA programs and Regions on matters related to classified and other sensitive information.
* Coordinating with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer in developing the overall Agency Homeland Security budget.
* Serving as primary liaison with senior officials in the White House's Homeland Security Council, Department of Homeland Security, other federal agencies, and our non-governmental partners.
* Coordinating with the Office of Public Affairs on homeland security communications and media inquiries.
* Coordinating with the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations on legislation, testimony, and Congressional inquiries related to homeland security.

SOLVENCY

EPA committed and reforming currently:

1. EPA committed to scientific integrity and cleaning the environment

Senator Tom Carper (D-Del) “Senator Carper Lauds EPA Decision To Use Science To Set Clean Air Standards” 25 May 2009, AmericanPatriots.com <http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/48752281-senator-carper-lauds-epa-decision-to-use-science-to-set-clean-air-standards>

“The Air Quality Division of the EPA has some of the best and brightest employees who share my commitment to scientific integrity and cleaning up our nation’s air. It is just common sense to let these scientists again play key role in shaping our nation’s air quality standards. “As we learn more about the links between dirty air and bad health, it is crucial our nation’s air quality standards are based on the very best science available so that we know our government is doing everything it can to better protect public health. “This EPA announcement also signals that air quality standards will be reviewed in a timely and transparent manner, allowing all stakeholders and the public to have input before we move forward on major clean air policy changes."

2. New EPA administration achieved a victory for public health and the environment

State of Connecticut Attorney General’s Office “Attorney General praises EPA decision to drop legal fight in power plant mercury emissions case” 6 Feb 2009 Press Release <http://www.ct.gov/AG/cwp/view.asp?A=2341&Q=433580> (parenthesis in original)

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal today praised the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator for ending the agency's legal battle against a court ruling killing a dangerous cap-and-trade mercury emissions program for power plants. Blumenthal and other state attorneys general sued the EPA in 2006 for instituting a cap-and-trade system for power plant mercury emissions instead of imposing strict emission limits as federal law required. Blumenthal and other states argued that cap-and-trade was inappropriate for a dangerous neurotoxin like mercury -- which causes birth defects, learning disabilities and neurological problems -- because it would lead to dangerous "hot spots."

A federal appeals court last year argeed with the states and ordered the EPA to drop the cap-and-trade system. The Bush EPA appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which had yet to decide whether to accept the case.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, newly appointed by President Obama, indicated today that her agency will withdraw its appeal to the high court and will drop its fight against the ruling.

"This decision is a huge victory for public health and the environment, ending a program that would have poisoned people and the environment," Blumenthal said. "I am pleased and proud that my office in cooperation with other states was able to defeat this dangerously wrong-headed plan.

3. New EPA administration achieved a victory for law and science

John Kroger (Oregon Attorney General) “Attorney General John Kroger praises EPA for agreeing with Oregon and other states to reverse bush administration decision on the danger of carbon emmissions” 17 April 2009 PRESS RELEASE: Oregon Department of Justice <http://www.doj.state.or.us/releases/2009/rel041709b.shtml>

Attorney General John Kroger praised the Environmental Protection Agency's decision today to declare that carbon emissions posed a threat to public health.

"This is a great victory for the rule of law and for science," said Attorney General Kroger.

4. GAO approves of EPA reform

US Government Accountability Office (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the [audit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audit), [evaluation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaluation), and investigative arm of the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress). It is located in the legislative branch of the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States)), June 9 2009, "Scientific Integrity: EPA's Efforts to Enhance the Credibility and Transparency of Its Scientific Processes", <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-773T> [Brackets Added; quote taken from same report]

Taking positive action, EPA issued a new IRIS [Integrated Risk Information System- a "program is critical in developing the agency's scientific positions on the potential health effects of exposure to toxic chemicals"] assessment process on May 21, 2009. In announcing these reforms, EPA echoed GAO's findings that the April 2008 assessment changes reduced the transparency, timeliness, and scientific integrity of the IRIS process. The IRIS reforms, if implemented effectively, will represent significant improvements. Among other things, they restore EPA's control of the process and increase its transparency.

5. EPA clean air standards save lives

Environmental Defense Fund (Environmental Defense Fund or EDF is a [US](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_of_America)-based nonprofit [environmental advocacy group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_organization). The group is known for its work on issues including [global warming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming), ecosystem restoration, oceans, and human health. It is nonpartisan, and its work often advocates [market](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Market)-based solutions to environmental problems) Posted July 2009, "EPA Proposal to Cut Air Pollution from Big Ships Will Save Lives, Protect Public Health," [http://www.edf.org/pressrelease.cfm?contentID=10081](http://www.edf.org/pressrelease.cfm?contentID=10081" \o "blocked::http://www.edf.org/pressrelease.cfm?contentID=10081)

EPA analysis indicates that protective clean air standards that apply to all ships operating within the exclusive economic zone of the U.S. would annually save as many as 14,000 lives, prevent 4,800 hospital admissions, and prevent 4.9 million acute respiratory symptoms.

6. EPA excellent clean-up example

Riverkeeper, (NY's leading clean water advocate), August 11 2009, "Leading Environmental Organizations Applaud Resumption of Hudson River PCB Dredging ," <http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news/stop-polluters/contaminated-sites/leading-environmental-organizations-applaud-resumption-of-hudson-river-pcb-dredging/>

“The EPA is doing an excellent job of monitoring the clean-up to ensure that the dredging is conducted in a manner that protects the environment, water supplies and workers,” said Ned Sullivan, president of Scenic Hudson.

7. EPA adopts technology that will save lives

Auburn Report- Auburn University (Auburn University is a [public university](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_university) located in [Auburn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auburn,_Alabama), [Alabama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabama), [U.S.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) With more than 24,100 students and 1,200 faculty members, it is one of the largest [universities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University) in the state) June 12 2009, "EPA registers water purification technology developed at Auburn," <http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=6&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ocm.auburn.edu%2Fau_report%2F061209aur.pdf&ei=bkaEStH9Fcqntge8sOSuCg&usg=AFQjCNEhGnISVL7aZ_UirdA_h2njw4vbKw&sig2=I0MkZPKneiteHn8EWis2tw> [brackets added]

“The EPA registration [of a new water purification system] not only will benefit U.S. citizens, but also will help provide safe, clean drinking water to consumers in many other countries,” said [David] Worley, a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. “Once the U.S. EPA grants registration to a new technology, many other countries will adopt the view that it is safe and proven.”

8. EPA giving over $70 million in grants; creating jobs

The Bismarck Tribune (The Bismarck Tribune is a daily [newspaper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper) printed in [Bismarck, North Dakota](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bismarck,_North_Dakota)) May 25th, 2009, "EPA grant to cleanse S.D. sites," [http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/05/25/news/state/185939.txt](http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/05/25/news/state/185939.txt" \o "blocked::http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/05/25/news/state/185939.txt" \t "_blank)

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe received $200,000 from the EPA on May 8 to clean up the Tekakwitha Old Orphanage and Boarding School Complex. The money, called a Brownfields grant, is part of more than $70 million in EPA money that will help cleanse toxic sites in South Dakota - all while creating jobs.

9. EPA funding cleanup that will create jobs; aid community

The Bismarck Tribune (The Bismarck Tribune is a daily [newspaper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper) printed in [Bismarck, North Dakota](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bismarck,_North_Dakota)) May 25th, 2009, "EPA grant to cleanse S.D. sites," [http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/05/25/news/state/185939.txt](http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/05/25/news/state/185939.txt" \o "blocked::http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/05/25/news/state/185939.txt" \t "_blank) (Parentheses in original)

"The (Tekakwitha) cleanup will pave the way for the reuse of a property that has been affected by a long history of contamination," said Carol Rushin, acting regional administrator for the EPA's Mountains and Plains Region 8 based in Denver. "This cleanup will generate jobs and help create a community asset for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate tribe."

10. EPA authoritative enforcement

Government Accountability Office, “SUPERFUND, Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting Are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites.” March 2009.  [Government Accountability Office (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the [audit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audit), [evaluation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaluation), and investigative arm of the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress). It is located in the legislative branch of the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States)), “SUPERFUND, Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting Are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites.” March 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09278.pdf>](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09278.pdf)

We continue to assert that an expansion in EPA’s enforcement authority is warranted. According to recent discussions with EPA officials, the agency cannot confirm whether all areas of contamination have been identified or whether they are being addressed properly at NPL sites without IAGs, particularly where DOD signed unilateral records of decision without EPA concurrence, such as at Langley Air Force Base in Maryland. Further, we believe our report demonstrates that EPA has experienced considerable difficulty employing its existing enforcement authorities, and that DOD has resisted EPA’s decision to use its existing authority to require that DOD enter into IAGs at NPL sites.

11. Example: GAO asserts EPA enforcement needed for some cleanup projects

Government Accountability Office (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is the [audit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audit), [evaluation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaluation), and investigative arm of the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress). It is located in the legislative branch of the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States)), “SUPERFUND, Greater EPA Enforcement and Reporting Are Needed to Enhance Cleanup at DOD Sites.” March 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09278.pdf>

As mentioned in our report, Maryland’s December 2008 suit against the Army seeking to compel compliance with EPA’s administrative order at Fort Meade is evidence that at least one state disagrees with DOD’s assertion that the progress of cleanup is unaffected by the lack of an IAG. Therefore, we continue to believe that additional EPA enforcement authority is needed to ensure that cleanup is being pursued properly at federal facility NPL sites.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Jobs lost

Links:

Link 1: The EPA employs 18,000 workers

Lisa Jackson, EPA administrator (As EPA’s Administrator, Lisa P. Jackson leads a staff dedicated to protecting the public health and environment of all Americans; she Jackson is a summa cum laude graduate of Tulane University’s School of Chemical Engineering and earned a master’s degree in chemical engineering from Princeton University), “Memo to Employees.” April 23, 2009. <http://www.epa.gov/administrator/operationsmemo.html>

Because EPA is a public regulatory agency and employer to about 18,000 employees, EPA staff may come into possession of certain information that may need to be protected from disclosure under FOIA, including certain contract or business data, trade secrets, or personal privacy information.

Brink 1: Economy projected to weaken

Reuters News (Reliable National News Source). July 21, 2009. **“**Unemployment could undercut U.S. recovery: Bernanke.” <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE56K0AI20090721>

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke Tuesday said the outlook for the long-suffering U.S. economy was improving, but supportive policies would be needed for some time to prevent rising unemployment from undercutting recovery. Delivering the Fed's semiannual report on the economy to Congress, Bernanke also sought to dispel concerns the U.S. central bank's aggressive monetary easing could end up fueling inflation, saying he was confident the Fed could pull back its extraordinary stimulus when the time was right. "Better conditions in financial markets have been accompanied by some improvement in economic prospects," Bernanke told the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee. "Despite these positive signs, the rate of job loss remains high."

Brink 2: US can’t afford additional job loss

[James Sherk](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/jamessherk.cfm" \t "_blank) (Bradley fellow in labor policy at The Heritage Foundation. Masters in Economics University of Rochester) July 29, 2009 <http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed072709d.cfm>

Policy-makers can argue whether trading higher wages for some against lost jobs for others makes sense in normal times. But even minimum-wage supporters should recognize that the American economy cannot afford to lose more jobs right now.

Impact:

Impact 1: Economic damage

[James Sherk](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/jamessherk.cfm" \t "_blank) (Bradley fellow in labor policy at The Heritage Foundation. Masters in Economics University of Rochester) July 29, 2009 <http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed072709d.cfm>

Unemployment hurts even in a good economy. In the middle of a deep recession, it causes particular harm. Almost one in 10 Americans lack work, and unemployment has risen even more for unskilled workers. Nearly one in four teenagers looking for work cannot find it, and more than one in seven adults without a high-school diploma lack jobs. Less skilled workers usually have higher unemployment rates than their more skilled peers, but not this much higher.

Impact 2: Unemployment leads to higher rates of drug usage

Richard Florida (PhD. from Columbia University visiting professor at MIT & Harvard. Director of the Martin Prosperity Institute and professor of business and creativity at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto) The Atlantic. August 12, 2009. <http://correspondents.theatlantic.com/richard_florida/2009/08/drug_use_and_class.php>

Yesterday, we looked at the relationship between drug use and economic patterns. We saw that drug use was associated with both higher levels of state economic output as well as higher levels of unemployment. Today, I turn to the relationships between drug use and economic class. My colleague Charlotta Mellander charted the relationships between drug use and the percentage of a state's economy that is made up of two classes: the creative class--that is, people who work in knowledge-based, artistic, and professional occupations; and the working class--those who work in production, transportation, and construction jobs. While the associations between drug use overall are weak, the patterns for marijuana and cocaine are significant. Take the creative class: both marijuana and cocaine use are positively and significantly related to states with higher concentrations of the creative class.

Impact 3: Unemployment leads to higher rates of theft

Dianne Walker (Dianne Walker has over 15 years of Human Resources experience and is currently an HR Manager. She is also an editor for Bella Online for the Career Training and Unemployment website) June 23, 2009. <http://www.examiner.com/x-8211-DC-Unemployment-Examiner~y2009m6d23-Will-high-unemployment-lead-to-increased-theft-as-millions-go-hungry>

As the number of unemployed continues to grow, people are becoming more and more desperate to make ends meet. The inability to put food on the table or pay the mortgage have lead to acts of desperation and despair. Unfortunately for some, their attempts at making ends meet sometimes lead to shoplifting or other illegal activities.

Impact 4: Reduced consumer spending

Rossa White (Chief economist at Davy Research, a division of Davy, the Dublin-based stockbroking, wealth management and financial advisory firm) Davy Research. October 13, 2008. <http://www.davy.ie/content/pubarticles/dotiecr20081013.pdf>

Employment in service sectors linked to the property and building sectors is shrinking. Lower employment leads to a decline in consumer spending with a multiplier effect on the rest of the economy. As a result, tax revenue from all other sources is faltering.

NEGATIVE BRIEF: CAFÉ

By Billy Klein, Sarah Carr, and Lauren Miller

INHERENCY

Congress already agreed in 2007 to raise CAFÉ standards

[Sebastian Blanco](http://green.autoblog.com/bloggers/sebastian-blanco/), March 27th 2009, SAFE standard for 2011 model year will be 27.3 mpg, GREEN AUTOBLOG <http://green.autoblog.com/2009/03/27/cafe-standard-for-2011-model-year-will-be-27-3-mpg/>

While Congress passed [the first increase](http://www.autobloggreen.com/2007/12/18/its-official-congress-passes-35-mpg-cafe-standard/) in corporate average fleet fuel economy (CAFE) in 32 years way back in 2007, there was a lot left undeclared in that bill. Two years ago, the agreement was made that CAFE would rise to 35 mpg by 2020, but just how and when that would happen was not set in stone.

Congress poised to increase fuel economy standards

Daniel J. Weiss, Senior Fellow and Director of Climate Strategy, Center for American Progress, December 4, 2007, “A New Day for CAFE in Congress: New Standards Mean Consumer Savings”, <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/12/cafe_increase.html>

Now Congress is poised to increase fuel economy standards to an average of 35 miles per gallon in 2020. After years of higher oil consumption, imports, and prices, why the sudden change? There are many essential ingredients. Nothing focuses politicians’ attention like near record oil and gasoline prices, and their effect on American families.

SIGNIFIGANCE

CAFÉ Makes Us Less Oil Dependence and Energy Independent

Steven Mufson (Washington Post Staff Writer)  May 19, 2009 Vehicle Emission Rules to Tighten: U.S. Would Also Raise Fuel Mileage Standards by 2016, Washington Post, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/18/AR2009051801848.html> [brackets added]

“In addition to dramatically reducing the global warming emissions from our vehicles, this move [increasing fuel efficiency standards] will slash our dependence on oil and make us more energy independent,” Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope [Executive Director of the Sierra Club] said in a statement."Congress put us on the road toward more fuel efficient vehicles two years ago when it passed the first increase in fuel economy standards in more than 30 years. Now President Obama is dramatically accelerating our progress.”

If Emissions Are Cut by 70%, We Reduce Global Warming

Warren Washington ( masters degree in meteorology, he is the head of the Climate Change Research Section) (with Reto Knutti, Gerald Meehl, Haiyan Teng, Claudia Tebaldi, David Lawrence, Lawrence Buja, Gary Strand) April 14, 2009, Global Warming: Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions Would Save Arctic Ice, Reduce Sea Level Rise, UCAR UNIVERSITY CORPORATION FOR ATOSPHERE RESEARCH, <http://www.ucar.edu/news/releases/2009/greenhousecuts.jsp>

The threat of global warming can still be greatly diminished if nations cut emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases by 70 percent this century, according to a new analysis. While global temperatures would rise, the most dangerous potential aspects of climate change, including massive losses of Arctic sea ice and permafrost and significant sea level rise, could be partially avoided.

Higher CAFÉ standards Rewards Consumers

Andy Stevenson (Finance Advisor, New York) November 17, 2008,We Can Invest in a CAFE Driven Auto Bailout, NRDC, <http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/astevenson/we_can_invest_in_a_cafe_driven.html>

How higher CAFE or greenhouse gas performance standards can work to reward consumers is quite straightforward. In broad terms, every mile per gallon of higher average fuel economy translates into roughly $5bln of lower fuel costs for the American consumer on an annual basis. This is a significant dividend to the American consumer and if a decision is ultimately made to rescue the domestic auto industry, higher CAFE standards should play an important part to ensure a reasonable return on our taxpayer equity.

35 mpg CAFÉ standards create Jobs

Union of Concerned Scientists, 2007, , “Fuel Economy Basics”, <http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_vehicles/solutions/cleaner_cars_pickups_and_suvs/fuel-economy-basics.html>

A fleet of cars and light trucks that reaches 35 mpg will cost about $1,000 to $2,000 extra per vehicle. This additional cost will be more than offset by the fuel savings consumers will enjoy over the life of the vehicle. Consumer fuel savings along with automaker investment to produce a 35 mpg fleet by 2020 will help spur the creation of more than 170,800 new jobs in the year 2020.

DISADVANTAGES

A) Oil Dependence

Link) Lowering CAFE Standards Will Increase Oil Dependence

DEAN BAKER (is an American macroeconomist and co-founder and co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research.), and MATTHEW SHERMAN (an Intern at the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC.), September 2008, “Oil Drilling and Automobile Fuel Economy: The Relative Impact on Oil Prices, CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH”, <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/fuel_economy_2008_09.pdf>

CAFE standards were first implemented in 1975 at 20 mpg and increased to 27.5 mpg in 1985. The CAFE program had the direct effect of reducing national oil consumption by compelling automakers to produce more fuel-efficient cars. The Board on Energy and Environmental Systems estimates that without CAFE standards, gasoline consumption (and crude oil imports) would be about 2.8 million barrels a day greater.3 Currently, our consumption of oil is estimated at 20.8 million barrels a day.

Link) Implementing tougher CAFE standards will decrease oil dependence

Office of US Senator Susan Collins, May 19, 2009, Senators office, <http://senatorcollins.blogspot.com/2009/05/senator-collins-supports-efforts-to.html>

“I have long supported efforts to tighten fuel efficiency standards in the United States,” said Senator Collins. “Implementing tougher CAFE standards will help enable us to limit our dependence on foreign oil and reduce auto emissions that are a major contributor to climate change. This proposal is the right thing to do for the environment, for the economy, for consumers, and for America.”

Brink: Reducing GHG And Oil Dependence is Critical

Office of US Senator Mike Castle, (United States Senator), March 2009, CASTLE RESPONDS TO OBAMA'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON CAFE STANDARDS, Senators Office, <http://castle.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=127725>

Delaware Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE) today applauded President Barack Obama's announcement that fuel economy standards will be raised to 35.5 miles per gallon (mpg) by 2016. Rep. Castle has supported this standard of 35 mpg, adopted by Congress in 2007, and has urged the U.S. Transportation Secretary (June 2008 letter) and President Obama (March 2009 letter) to adopt the maximum feasible fuel economy standard. "Today's announcement is overdue. I applaud the President's announcement that the EPA and Transportation Department will be working together to boost federal fuel economy requirements and meet strict emission limits. A single national standard will also provide predictability and certainty for American auto companies at a time when they most need it. Reducing greenhouse gas emission and our dependence on oil are critical for the environment, public health, and national security."

Impact) Dependence on oil threatens National Security

Daniel J. Weiss, Senior Fellow and Director of Climate Strategy, Center for American Progress, December 4, 2007, “A New Day for CAFE in Congress: New Standards Mean Consumer Savings”, <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/12/cafe_increase.html>

Our dependence on oil from unstable or unfriendly regimes such as Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela—the three nations combine for 29 percent of U.S. oil imports—threatens our national security.

Impact) US Oil Dependence Funds Terrorism

Daveed Gartenstein-Ross (PhD in world politics) May 19, 2008, The High Cost of Oil Dependence, Foundation for defense of democracies, <http://www.defenddemocracy.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=11781606&Itemid=102> (Brackets Added)

[R. James] Woolsey [former CIA director] and [Anne] Korin [Co-director of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security] are correct that the U.S.’s oil dependence causes it to fund both sides of the terror war. This can be seen in the purchasing power that petroleum gives to oil-rich Middle Eastern states like Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iran’s oil sector accounts for 85% of its government revenues. One thing Iran has done with this money is provide weapons, training, funding, and safe haven to a variety of terrorist groups.

B) Environment

Link) Increasing CAFE standards reduces greenhouse gases

United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Press release,  
July 4, 2007, “Stevens Introduces Legislation to Increase CAFE Standards”, <http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=6ab3c1ae-85bf-40c0-b17b-63b8246b6ea9&Month=1&Year=2007> [Brackets added]

[Senator Ted] Stevens [Vice Chairman of the committee] also noted that increasing CAFE standards will help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The transportation sector contributes roughly one third of all greenhouse gas emissions.  “By increasing fuel efficiency, we will reduce greenhouse gases.” Stevens said.

Impact) GHG Cause Global Warming

[Bryan Walsh](javascript:void(0)), April. 18, 2009, EPA's CO2 Finding: Putting a Gun to Congress's Head, TIME MAGAZINE, <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1892368,00.html>

In truth, by any reasonable definition, the EPA has the right to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. The scientific case is clear: global warming is dangerous, and man-made greenhouse gases cause global warming; ergo, those gases are pollutants that must be dealt with.

NEGATIVE BRIEF: PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG TAX

By Chad Frantz, Shane Baumgardner and Margaret Kaiser

SIGNIFICANCE:

1. Plastic bags make up only a small fraction of total plastic produced.

Peter Nickerson and Randy Rucker August 4, 2009 (Peter Nickerson is an economist and consultant and a former professor at Seattle University. Randy Rucker is an economics professor at Montana State University-Bozeman. Both are principals with the Northwest Economic Policy Seminar. Their interns manage [www.seattlebagtax.org](http://www.seattlebagtax.org/).) “Seattle's bag tax is a bad idea without substantive environmental impact” <http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/opinion/2009598747_guest05nickerson.html> [Brackets Added]

Even if they [plastic bags] were produced with more oil, only 3 percent of oil is used in all plastic production and plastic grocery bags comprise only a small fraction of total plastic produced.

2. Plastic bags did not kill over 100 thousand marine animals.

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

**MYTH**: Over 100 thousand marine animals die from becoming tangled in discarded plastic bags each year.

**TRUTH**: The report that this myth was based on (a Canadian study from 1987) didn't mention plastic bags at all. In 2002 the Australian Government commissioned a study on plastic bags, and the authors misquoted the 1987 study. What the original study found was that between 1981 and 1984 over 100 thousand marine mammals and birds were killed by being caught in discarded fishing nets and lines.

3. Plastic bags are not a major source of litter.

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

**MYTH**: Plastic bags are a major source of litter, and banning or taxing bags will reduce litter.

**TRUTH**: Plastic bags make up less than one percent of all litter. Cigarette butts, fast food packaging, and food wrappers are much larger contributors. Banning one item that becomes litter does nothing to change the mindset of those that discard trash improperly. Many of the bags that end up as litter blow off of garbage trucks or out of landfills. Landfill operators and garbage haulers should be held accountable for items that escape containment.

Since plastic bags are responsible for less than 1% of all litter, banning or taxing them will have no impact. The solution to litter is public education, recycling programs, and proper disposal.

4. Plastic bags are not made from domestic natural gas or oil.

American Chemistry Council (The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is in charge of improving the public image of the [chemical industry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_industry). The trade group represents US Chemical Companies as well as the plastics and chlorine industries, formerly known as the [American Plastics Council](http://www.plastics.org/s_plastics/index.asp), the [Center for the Polyurethanes Industry](http://www.polyurethane.org/s_api/index.asp) and the [Chlorine Chemistry Council](http://www.c3.org/).) 2006 “Nobody Likes Litter: Plastic Bags & Recycling” <http://www.plasticsmythbuster.org/s_mythbuster/sec.asp?CID=1958&DID=8343>

Second, plastic bags are made primarily from domestic natural gas, NOT oil.  While the slide show correctly notes that plastic bags are made from polyethylene, in the United States this type of plastic is made primarily (80 percent) from North American natural gas, not from oil. In addition, most of the energy that is used to make plastic bags is contained in the end product, so as long as we recycle plastic bags, that energy is available for new products. Recycled plastic bags can be made into durable plastic lumber for outdoor decks, building and construction products, and of course, new bags. We all share the goal of energy efficiency, and the fact is that plastic bags are an energy efficient choice.

INHERENCY:

1. The four largest plastic bag manufacturers have promised to increase the recycle ability of the bags by 40% by 2015

Mike Verespej [a journalism veteran, joined Plastics News in 2006 as its Washington-based staff reporter. He began his career in 1970 as a reporter for The News-Herald daily newspaper in Lake County, Ohio, and spent more than two years with the Associated Press. He then joined IndustryWeek magazine in Cleveland as an assistant editor in 1973 and spent the next 28 years there, serving as news editor, special projects editor and finally senior editor. He also was editor-in-chief for Advanstar's Frontline Solutions, a magazine covering supply-chain management, and editor-in-chief of Reed's Purchasing magazine. Most recently, he was deputy news editor of Transport Topics, a national weekly business publication in Alexandria, Va. Verespej, a Cleveland native, earned a journalism degree from the University of Detroit.], April 2009, PRW.com [A Plastics News Global Group site] <http://www.prw.com/subscriber/headlines2.html?cat=1&id=1240563356> “US Congress to consider bag tax and bottle deposit”

Earlier this week, the four largest US plastic bag manufacturers, all members of the Progressive Bag Affiliates group of the American Chemistry Council, pledged to use 40% recycled content in their plastic carryout bags by 2015.

2. A Tax on Plastic has already been introduced into the federal government

Mike Verespej [a journalism veteran, joined Plastics News in 2006 as its Washington-based staff reporter. He began his career in 1970 as a reporter for The News-Herald daily newspaper in Lake County, Ohio, and spent more than two years with the Associated Press. He then joined IndustryWeek magazine in Cleveland as an assistant editor in 1973 and spent the next 28 years there, serving as news editor, special projects editor and finally senior editor. He also was editor-in-chief for Advanstar's Frontline Solutions, a magazine covering supply-chain management, and editor-in-chief of Reed's Purchasing magazine. Most recently, he was deputy news editor of Transport Topics, a national weekly business publication in Alexandria, Va. Verespej, a Cleveland native, earned a journalism degree from the University of Detroit.], April 2009, PRW.com [A Plastics News Global Group site] <http://www.prw.com/subscriber/headlines2.html?cat=1&id=1240563356> “US Congress to consider bag tax and bottle deposit”

Two US federal legislators have introduced separate pieces of legislation that would tax single-use plastic bags beginning in 2010.

3. Plastic bags are very easy to recycle and they are reused.

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

**MYTH**: Most proposed bag bans and taxes use statistics based on an assumption that disposable bags are only used once.

**TRUTH**: Studies have shown that 80-90% of the population reuse plastic grocery bags for many other things. As trash bin liners, for picking up after pets, as lunch sacks, holding wet garbage, etc. Plastic bags are also very easy to recycle, although not every community has access to recycling facilities.

4. Plastic bag recycling is continuing to increase.

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

**MYTH**: Recycling plastic bags is extremely costly and difficult.

**TRUTH**: Recycling programs are growing all the time, and plastic recycling is actually a very simple, cost effective and energy efficient process. The main product currently made from recycled grocery bags is composite lumber. Clean plastic bags and film recovered from industrial sources is generally cleaner and can be easily recycled into raw material for new bags.

5. Landfills are not overflowing with plastic bags.

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

**MYTH**: Landfills are overflowing with plastic bags.

**TRUTH**: Plastic bags are easily recycled, but even if they do end up in a landfill, they take up a small fraction of one percent of landfill space. The average person uses about 500 plastic grocery bags per year, which by weight is about the same of a phone book or two. For perspective, the average person generates nearly one ton (2000 pounds) of garbage each year.   The major contributor to landfills is paper, wood and construction debris. Banning or taxing plastic bags would mean that more paper bags would get used, resulting in more waste going to the landfill.

HARMS:

1. Plastic bags are better than paper bags which leave larger CO2 footprints and uses more resources.

Food Market Institute, (Food Marketing Institute (FMI) conducts programs in public affairs, food safety, research, education and industry relations on behalf of its 1,500 member companies — food retailers and wholesalers — in the United States and around the world. FMI’s U.S. members operate approximately 26,000 retail food stores and 14,000 pharmacies. Their combined annual sales volume of $680 billion represents three-quarters of all retail food store sales in the United States.) September 2008, ” Plastic Grocery Bags — Challenges and Opportunities”, <http://www.fmi.org/docs/media/bg/Plastic_Bag_Backgrounder.pdf>

Compared with plastic bags, paper shopping bags make a much larger carbon footprint from production through recycling. For example:3 A paper bag requires four times more energy to produce than a plastic bag — 2,511 BTUs vs. 594 BTUs. In the manufacturing process, paper bags generate 70 percent more air and 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags. Nearly twice as much energy (91 percent) is required to recycle a pound of paper than a pound of plastic. Paper bags take up more landfill space and weigh much more. In fact, 2,000 paper bags weigh 280 pounds, compared with 30 pounds for 2,000 plastic bags, increasing the fuel consumed and the air pollution generated to transport them.

2. Plastic bags can be recycled, they are tree-friendly, and they are much better than paper bags.

Jon Fleischman April 18, 2008( Jon is the elected Vice Chairman, South of the California Republican Party.) FLASHREPORT NEWS “AB 2829, The Plastic Bag Tax -- Bad Politics and Bad Policy” <http://www.flashreport.org/commentary0b.php?postID=2008041801513934&authID=2005081622025042&post_offsetP=0> [Brackets Added]

FR correspondent and longtime former State Legislator Ray Haynes [Ray Haynes served in the California legislature from 1992-2006 as a Senator and Assemblyman, and was the National Chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council in 2000.] has done to research on this matter, and presents a few points that are worthy of note

In the search for marketing bang, these companies ignore the basic fact that plastic bags can be recycled. Indeed, it costs an incredible 91 percent less to recycle equivalent weights of plastic and paper, and the plastic recycling market is growing as consumers become aware of the option. Plastic bags, made from natural gas, also are tree-friendly. In contrast, the production of even "recycled" paper bags requires constant infusions of virgin timber. Countless more trees will die so Whole Foods can provide its customers with paper bags. It takes about 40 percent less energy to make plastic bags, which generate about 80 percent less waste than paper sacks. Producing plastic bags also gives off just 40 percent of the greenhouse gases as producing paper ones.

3. The 100,000 marine animal deaths from plastic bags was revised to say they were killed by plastic debris

Australian Government, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage, and the Arts, “Plastic Shopping Bags – Analysis of Levies and Environmental Impacts”, September 2006, <http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/publications/waste/plastic-bags/analysis.html#download>

Note: In September 2006, the report was revised to correct an error on page 30. The sentence: 'A figure of 100,000 marine animals killed annually has been widely quoted by environmental groups; this figure was from a study in Newfoundland which estimated the number of animals entrapped by plastic bags in that area from a four-year period from 1981-84' Has been replaced with: 'A figure of 100,000 marine animals killed annually has been widely quoted by environmental groups; this figure was from a study in Newfoundland which estimated the number of animals entrapped by plastic debris in that area from a four-year period from 1981-84'

SOLVENCY:

1. 100,000 marine mammals dying has nothing to do with plastic bags

Peter Nickerson and Randy Rucker August 4, 2009 (Peter Nickerson is an economist and consultant and a former professor at Seattle University. Randy Rucker is an economics professor at Montana State University-Bozeman. Both are principals with the Northwest Economic Policy Seminar. Their interns manage [www.seattlebagtax.org](http://www.seattlebagtax.org/).) “Seattle's bag tax is a bad idea without substantive environmental impact” <http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/opinion/2009598747_guest05nickerson.html> [Brackets Added]

The [Seattle 20 cent plastic] tax will have no impact on the number of marine mammal deaths in the Pacific Ocean. Proponents of the tax incorrectly cite a 1987 study that shows that 100,000 marine mammals were killed every year by plastic nets. Many of these nets have already been rightly banned. The study has nothing to do with plastic grocery bags.

2. Plastic tax will have miniscule impacts on oil consumption.

Peter Nickerson and Randy Rucker August 4, 2009 (Peter Nickerson is an economist and consultant and a former professor at Seattle University. Randy Rucker is an economics professor at Montana State University-Bozeman. Both are principals with the Northwest Economic Policy Seminar. Their interns manage [www.seattlebagtax.org](http://www.seattlebagtax.org/).) “Seattle's bag tax is a bad idea without substantive environmental impact” <http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/opinion/2009598747_guest05nickerson.html> Brackets Added

The [Seattle 20 cent plastic] tax will have minuscule impacts on our oil consumption. These bags are produced mostly with domestic natural gas. Even if they were produced with more oil, only 3 percent of oil is used in all plastic production and plastic grocery bags comprise only a small fraction of total plastic produced. The plastic in our iPhones, our running shoes, hiking gear, skis and other toys contain much more oil-based plastic.

3. Plastic tax will solve no environmental problems.

Peter Nickerson and Randy Rucker August 4, 2009 (Peter Nickerson is an economist and consultant and a former professor at Seattle University. Randy Rucker is an economics professor at Montana State University-Bozeman. Both are principals with the Northwest Economic Policy Seminar. Their interns manage [www.seattlebagtax.org](http://www.seattlebagtax.org/).) “Seattle's bag tax is a bad idea without substantive environmental impact” <http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/opinion/2009598747_guest05nickerson.html> Brackets Added

This [Seattle 20 cent plastic] tax is ill-conceived. Neither our city officials nor anyone else knows what its effects will be. The tax will solve no environmental problem. It is probably more regressive than our sales-tax system. It will make some people feel good but will create a significant new taxing bureaucracy. Moreover, it will interrupt and complicate a million grocery transactions in the city daily.

4. Now is not the time to introduce a new tax

Grant Welker [reporter of Herald News] Apr. 19, 2008, "Plastic tax aired in campaign for reusable bags” Herald News [Brackets Added] <http://www.heraldnews.com/homepage/x1699206167>

The plastic bag tax bill does have its detractors, however. The Massachusetts Food Association, which represents the grocery and supermarket industry, has testified that the tax is the wrong approach.

“It’s not the right time with the looming recession and price increases in food,” said association [Massachusetts Food Association] president Chris Flynn. “Consumers don’t need to be taxed and burdened any further.”

5. The Bags are not the problem: consumer education needs to be increased

Grant Welker [reporter of Herald News], "Plastic tax aired in campaign for reusable bags.” Apr. 19, 2008, Herald News [Brackets Added]<http://www.heraldnews.com/homepage/x1699206167>

The problem isn’t the bags themselves, [Massachusetts Food Association] president Chris Flynn said, but a lack of consumer education. Both paper and plastic bags can be reused around the house for storing things, can be used as trash bags or to hold recyclables, he said, and most grocery stores collect used plastic bags for recycling. Some plastic bag bans have only led to sharp increases in sales of plastic trash bags, he added.

6. A large percentage of crude oil is not used to make plastic bags also taxing plastic bags will do nothing to curb oil consumption.

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

**MYTH**: According to many websites and environmental groups, plastic bag manufacturing uses a large percentage of the crude oil that is consumed in the US. Some go so far as to say that we are fighting wars for the oil to make plastic bags.

**TRUTH**: Plastic bags, and all plastics for that matter, are made from byproducts created by refining petroleum. The raw material for most plastic bags is actually natural gas. Less than 3% of all oil ends up being converted into plastic - ALL plastic - from car bumpers, to computer parts, to bags and packaging. The VAST majority of oil is refined into fuel.

The equivalent of approximately 12 million barrels of oil goes into the annual US supply of plastic bags. This sounds like a huge number until you compare it to the 10 million barrels used every day as gasoline for cars. Bags use a fraction of 1% of the amount going into cars. The average person uses about 500 bags each year – the oil equivalent of about half a gallon of gas.

Banning or taxing plastic bags will do nothing to curb oil consumption.

7. Sales of packaged plastic bags in Ireland went up 400% after their plastic bag tax.

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

**MYTH**: Ireland's 2002 tax on plastic grocery bags reduce plastic bag use by 90%.

**TRUTH**: This is partially true, but doesn't tell the whole story. Use of plastic *grocery checkout bags*declined, but sales of packaged plastic bags went up by about 400%, resulting in a net gain in plastic bags going to landfills. This shows that most people were reusing their plastic grocery bags for tasks where plastic bags are the best solution - trash can liners, picking up after the dog, wet garbage, etc.

8. Paper bags- not better: use more energy and can be contaminated

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

Paper bags, even recycled ones, require many times more energy to produce than plastic. Paper production and recycling also produces far more air and water pollution than plastic. And because paper bags weigh nearly 10 times the amount of plastic bags, they require 10 times the fuel to transport.

Paper bags can also be easily contaminated with oils, grease, and food waste that can contaminate entire batches of recycling. Plastic bags can be cleaned prior to recycling to eliminate contaminants.

9. Reusable bags environmental impact not studied.

*American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths”* [*http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths*](http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths) *Accessed August 13, 2009*

**MYTH**: The prevailing environmental opinion is that heavyweight canvas, cotton, and polypropylene reusable bags are the best choice to replace plastic bags.

**TRUTH**: While these reusable bags are great for some uses, their environmental impact hasn't been properly studied. Most are made in China, where health and pollution standards are practically non-existent, and then shipped halfway across the globe to get to you. Reusable bags also can't be used for the myriad of things that disposable bags are used for. If disposable bags aren't available at the checkout stand, people will purchase packaged bags for secondary uses such as trash can liners.

10. Plastic bag tax will not do anything for the environment.

American Plastic Manufacturing website Copyright 2008 “Plastic Bag Myths” <http://www.apmbags.com/bagmyths> Accessed August 13, 2009

**MYTH**: Taxing grocery bags or banning plastic bags will save the planet.

**TRUTH**: Since bags are a minimal contributor to all the problems associated with them (oil use, litter, landfill volume, etc.), bans and taxes simply won't do anything for the environment.

11. Plastic bags use less energy than alternatives.

American Chemistry Council (The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is in charge of improving the public image of the chemical industry. The trade group represents US Chemical Companies as well as the plastics and chlorine industries, formerly known as the American Plastics Council, the Center for the Polyurethanes Industry and the Chlorine Chemistry Council.) 2006 “Nobody Likes Litter: Plastic Bags & Recycling” <http://www.plasticsmythbuster.org/s_mythbuster/sec.asp?CID=1958&DID=8343>

**First, plastic grocery bags are an extremely resource-efficient choice at the grocery-store checkout.**  Compared to paper alternatives, plastic bags require 70 percent less energy to manufacture and transport, generate 50 percent less greenhouse gas emissions, and create 80 percent less waste. And plastic bags are fully recyclable, so when we reuse and recycle them, their environmental profile gets even better. Of course, reusable bags are also a smart choice when it comes to the environment. In fact, many reusable bags are made from recycled plastics or are recyclable themselves.

13. Third, plastic bags are fully recyclable, and recycling is on the increase.

American Chemistry Council (The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is in charge of improving the public image of the chemical industry. The trade group represents US Chemical Companies as well as the plastics and chlorine industries, formerly known as the American Plastics Council, the Center for the Polyurethanes Industry and the Chlorine Chemistry Council.) 2006 “Nobody Likes Litter: Plastic Bags & Recycling” <http://www.plasticsmythbuster.org/s_mythbuster/sec.asp?CID=1958&DID=8343>

Contrary to the slide show, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, about 10 percent of plastic bags and film are recycled annually in this country. More importantly, plastic bag recycling is relatively new, and the rates are growing rapidly. Between 2005 and 2006, the recycling of plastic bags and film shot up 24 percent to reach 812 million pounds in a single year. Of course, we can do better. With more and more grocery and retail chains implementing plastic bag recycling programs, and with some state and local governments taking action to promote plastic bag recycling, these numbers will continue to increase. In addition, over 90 percent of U.S. consumers reuse their bags for things like household waste basket liners and pet pick-up, but even so, plastic bags make up a small fraction (less than 0.5%) of the waste stream.

14. The plastic tax in Ireland stopped the use of plastic shopping bags but it resulted in more plastic bags being used than there were before the tax.

American Chemistry Council, (The American Chemistry Council represents the companies that make the products that make modern life possible, while working to protect the environment, public health, and the security of our nation.), 2006, “THE TRUTHS BEHIND IRELAND’S PLASTIC BAG TAX”, <http://www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/blank.asp?CID=1106&DID=8387>

The plastic bag tax resulted in more plastic bags being used in Ireland after the tax than before it. The tax eliminated plastic shopping bags in Ireland, but didn’t stop consumers from using plastic bags.  In fact, the total amount of plastic bags used in Ireland increased by 10 percent.  While sales of plastic shopping bags declined almost 90 percent; sales of other plastic bags, such as garbage bags, increased by 400 percent.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. BIODIVERSITY:

A. Link: By implementing the tax on plastic bags, paper bag use will skyrocket

Jerrie Dean [Jerrie is a freelance. Shortly after she began teaching workshops on how to sell their crafts in different markets and selling her own eBook on the subject. Jerrie has done interviews for the BBC and LA Time] “Paper, Plastic or Tax?”June 11, 2009, HANDMADE NEWS <http://www.handmadenews.org/article/index.php?id=1570>

And how is Ireland's PlasTax doing? Their 20 cent per bag tax was raised to 33 cents to make up for the loss in tax revenues when bag use dropped by 94% the first year. Plastic bag purchases increased 400 percent along with a skyrocketing increase in the use of paper bags.

B. Internal Link: The creation process off brown paper bags destroy a excessive amount of animal habitat

Collin Dunn,“Paper Bags or Plastic Bags? Everything You Need to Know” July 2008, Tree hugger online [TreeHugger is the leading media outlet dedicated to driving sustainability mainstream. Partial to a modern aesthetic, we strive to be a one-stop shop for green news, solutions, and product information.] <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/07/paper-bags-or-plastic-bags-everything-you-need-to-know.php>

Paper comes from trees -- lots and lots of trees. The logging industry, influenced by companies like Weyerhaeuser and Kimberly-Clark, is huge, and the process to get that paper bag to the grocery store is long, sordid and exacts a heavy toll on the planet. First, the trees are found, marked and felled in a process that all too often involves clear-cutting, resulting in massive habitat destruction and long-term ecological damage.

C. Brink: Forest Biodiversity is threatened

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity [The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on 29 December 1993. It has 3 main objectives: 1. To conserve biological diversity, 2. The use biological diversity in a sustainable fashion, 3. To share the benefits of biological diversity fairly and equitably] “Forest Biodiversity” Updated August 18, 2008 <http://www.cbd.int/forest/>

Forests are biologically diverse systems, representing some of the richest biological areas on Earth. They offer a variety of habitats for plants, animals and micro-organisms. However, forest biodiversity is increasingly threatened as a result of deforestation, fragmentation, climate change and other stressors.

D. Impact: Biological Diversity plays a significant role in human lives

Hamdallah Zedan [Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity. He delivered these remarks at Monday's opening session of the International Conference on Biodiversity Science and Governance now underway at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.] “INSIGHTS: Biodiversity Essential for Existence of Life” January 27, 2005, Environment News Service<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2005/2005-01-27-inszed.asp>

Biological diversity forms the basis for our food supply, it is the source of medicines on which health care depends, it provides raw materials for industry, and it provides a vital range of services, from air purification to water filtration, from climate stabilization to flood control.

2. PAPER BAGS:

A. LINK TO PAPER DISADS: Paper bags are the alternative to plastic bags.

 Australian Department of Environment and Heritage, (Australian Government Agency), December 2002, “Plastic Shopping Bags – Analysis of Levies and Environmental Impacts Final Report”, <http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/publications/waste/plastic-bags/pubs/analysis.pdf>

A primary focus on the United States has been in providing paper bags as an alternative to plastic bags at retail outlets.

B. A massive amount of energy and machinery is used in the creation of paper bags

Collin Dunn,“Paper Bags or Plastic Bags? Everything You Need to Know” July 2008, Tree hugger online [TreeHugger is the leading media outlet dedicated to driving sustainability mainstream. Partial to a modern aesthetic, we strive to be a one-stop shop for green news, solutions, and product information.] <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/07/paper-bags-or-plastic-bags-everything-you-need-to-know.php>

Mega-machinery comes in to remove the logs from what used to be forest, either by logging trucks or even helicopters in more remote areas. This machinery requires fossil fuel to operate and roads to drive on, and, when done unsustainably, logging even a small area has a large impact on the entire ecological chain in surrounding areas.Once the trees are collected, they must dry at least three years before they can be used. More machinery is used to strip the bark, which is then chipped into one-inch squares and cooked under tremendous heat and pressure. This wood stew is then "digested," with a chemical mixture of limestone and acid, and after several hours of cooking, what was once wood becomes pulp. It takes approximately three tons of wood chips to make one ton of pulp.

C. A mass amount of water and chemicals are used to make paper bags

Collin Dunn,“Paper Bags or Plastic Bags? Everything You Need to Know” July 2008, Tree hugger online [TreeHugger is the leading media outlet dedicated to driving sustainability mainstream. Partial to a modern aesthetic, we strive to be a one-stop shop for green news, solutions, and product information.] <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/07/paper-bags-or-plastic-bags-everything-you-need-to-know.php>

The pulp is then washed and bleached; both stages require thousands of gallons of clean water. Coloring is added to more water, and is then combined in a ratio of 1 part pulp to 400 parts water, to make paper. The pulp/water mixture is dumped into a web of bronze wires, and the water showers through, leaving the pulp, which, in turn, is rolled into paper.Whew! And that's just to make the paper; don't forget about the energy inputs -- chemical, electrical, and fossil fuel-based -- used to transport the raw material, turn the paper into a bag and then transport the finished paper bag all over the world.

D. Paper Bags are an environmentally unfriendly alternative

Anne Thompson[Anne Thompson was named NBC News’ chief environmental affairs correspondent in April 2007. She will report on such issues as alternative fuels, global warming, land usage and new technologies for all NBC News broadcasts], “Paper or plastic — what’s the greener choice?”, May 7, 2007 NBC News <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18538484/>

Paper bags

— Paper bags generate 70 percent more air pollutants and 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags.

— 2,000 plastic bags weigh 30 pounds, 2,000 paper bags weigh 280 pounds. The latter takes up a lot more landfill space.

— It takes 91 percent less energy to recycle a pound of plastic than it takes to recycle a pound of paper. It takes more than four times as much energy to manufacture a paper bag as it does to manufacture a plastic bag.

3. A 25 cent tax per plastic bag would punish low income people.

K. Lloyd Billingsley (Editorial Director Lloyd Billingsley has been widely published on topics including popular culture, defense policy, education reform, and many other current policy issues. Mr. Billiingsley is the author of two recent studies, Net Gains or Net Losses? The Net Neutrality Debate and the Future of the Internet and  Playing Tag: An RFID Primer**.** He has written a number of PRI education studies, including California’s Charter Schools: Empowering Parents, Students, and Teachers and Expanding the Charter Idea, and was editor of the Institute’s Voices on Choice: The Education Reform Debate. Mr. Billingsley is also the author of six books, including Hollywood Party: How Communism Seduced the American Film Industry in the 1930s and 1940s.  His articles have appeared in the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and many other publications. Before joining PRI, Mr. Billingsley was a journalism fellow at the Center for the Study of Popular Culture in Los Angeles, and he was also formerly a correspondent for Spectator magazine and the Washington Times.) May 27, 2008 “Cleaner Environment Not Necessarily in the Bag” <http://liberty.pacificresearch.org/press/cleaner-environment-not-necessarily-in-the-bag>

A fee of $.25 per bag does not sound like much but would punish low-income people more than others.

4. Plastic tax wastes political capital for other projects.

Peter Nickerson and Randy Rucker August 4, 2009 (Peter Nickerson is an economist and consultant and a former professor at Seattle University. Randy Rucker is an economics professor at Montana State University-Bozeman. Both are principals with the Northwest Economic Policy Seminar. Their interns manage [www.seattlebagtax.org](http://www.seattlebagtax.org/).) “Seattle's bag tax is a bad idea without substantive environmental impact” <http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/opinion/2009598747_guest05nickerson.html>

More important than any of the preceding issues is that the bag tax expends political capital. There are lots of policies that could be implemented to help the environment. Asking consumers to pay a tax that has no real impact will make it harder to enact such programs. Seattleites who really want to help the environment could be riding buses more. They could also be demanding that their legislators implement a national carbon tax and significantly increase gasoline taxes. These actions, though controversial, would at least have real impacts.

Negative Brief: Ban Public Smoking

By Rachel Watson, Sarah Klein and Christy Reid

SIGNIFICANCE

1. ETS doesn’t contribute to lung cancer

Edmund Contoski is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade. He’s the author of three books, including the award-winning MAKERS AND TAKERS: How Wealth and Progress are Made and How They are Taken Away or Prevented. A frequent guest on radio talk shows, his views have been heard on well over one hundred radio stations across the United States and Canada. He has also spoken at various colleges and universities and at conventions.  American Liberty Publishers.  April 20, 2008. <http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2008/04/death-by-smoking-ban.html> (brackets in original)

 The constant repetition of phony claims about health hazards of secondhand smoke, carried out by a well-financed campaign, has obscured the many studies debunking these claims. For example, the Congressional Research Service concluded: “It is possible that very few or even no deaths can be attributed to ETS [environmental tobacco smoke].” Further, it stated that nonsmokers exposed to pack-a-day ETS every day for 40 years have “little or no risk of developing lung cancer”—much less dying from it. The CRS is part of the Library of Congress and has all the resources of that esteemed institution at its disposal. It is highly respected, nonpartisan, accepted by both Republicans and Democrats as fair and impartial, has no ties to tobacco companies, no regulatory or other agenda, and accepts no outside funding.

 2. Better chance of getting lung cancer from pasteurized milk than from ETS

Edmund Contoski is a former director of planning for an internationally renowned environmental consulting firm doing business in more than forty countries. He has been an urban planner and also held responsible positions with major real estate development companies. In addition, he has lectured widely on international monetary issues and done economic research on a variety of subjects, including world trade. He’s the author of three books, including the award-winning MAKERS AND TAKERS: How Wealth and Progress are Made and How They are Taken Away or Prevented. A frequent guest on radio talk shows, his views have been heard on well over one hundred radio stations across the United States and Canada. He has also spoken at various colleges and universities and at conventions.  American Liberty Publishers.  April 20, 2008. [**http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty\_blog/2008/04/death-by-smoking-ban.html**](http://www.amlibpub.com/liberty_blog/2008/04/death-by-smoking-ban.html)

 Statistically, the risk of secondhand smoke is far smaller than the risk of getting lung cancer from drinking pasteurized milk. Epidemiologists use “relative risk” (RR or Risk Ratio) as a means for gauging the severity of risk. The U.S. Surgeon General has stated the RR for secondhand smoke is between 1.20 to 1.30. The risk for lung cancer from drinking pasteurized milk is 2.14. And the relative risk for getting cancer from drinking the municipal tap water that tens of millions of Americans drink every day in thousands of cities across the U.S. is 2.0 to 4.0.

HARMS

1. Ban Causes 50% Loss

Dr. Mark Clayson, (Medical Degree from Kings College), February 28, 2007, “Effects of a Smoking Ban,” EzineArticles.com, <http://ezinearticles.com/?Effects-of-a-Smoking-Ban&id=470834> [brackets added]

“Empire State Restaurant and Tavern Association has reported that the [smoking] ban has caused irreparable harm to bar and restaurant owners. Some lost up to 50% of their businesses.”

2. Secondhand Smoke Doesn't Necessarily Pose Health Risks

Thomas A. Lambert (Associate Professor at the University of Missouri, Columbia School of Law. Professor Lambert's scholarship focuses on regulatory theory, including antitrust policy, and business law.) Published by The Cato Institute at <http://www.cato.org/pubs/regulation/regv29n4/v29n4-4.pdf> .  "The Case Against Smoking Bans" 2006-2007

 “According to a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1975, when many more individuals smoked and there were much higher ETS concentrations in public places, exposure to an hour’s worth of prevailing levels of ETS was equivalent to smoking 0.004 cigarettes. Put differently, one would have to breathe smoke-filled air for 4,000 hours in order to inhale as much tobacco smoke as a smoker inhales in a single cigarette. Given those concentration levels, it seems implausible that short-term exposure to ETS poses serious health risks.”

 Solvency

1. Smoking Ban Causes 23% Revenue Drop at Harrah’s Casino

John Nothdurft, (legislative specialist The Heartland Institute), June 07, 2008, “Smoking ban especially bad for state economy,” MLive.com, <http://blog.mlive.com/citpat_opinion/2008/06/smoking_ban_especially_bad_for.html>

“The Associated Press in February reported that after the Illinois smoking ban took effect, "The Harrah's Metropolis Casino reported an approximately 23 percent drop in revenue since December and that it was laying off 30 people." The Illinois Gaming Board reported that casinos in the state experienced a 17 percent revenue decrease in January compared with January last year.”

2. Banning Smoking won’t prevent teenagers from smoking

Chris Paulus, 8/28/08, Smoking ban won't solve problems, The NorthWind online Newspaper, (Student newspaper of Northern Michigan University) <http://media.www.thenorthwindonline.com/media/storage/paper1202/news/2008/08/28/Opinion/Smoking.Ban.Wont.Solve.Problems-3407773.shtml>

I love to say it, but banning smoking won't solve any problems. The truth is, regardless of whether or not this smoking ban is passed, teenagers are still going to smoke, people are still going to die of lung cancer, and the earth will still revolve around the sun.”

3. Las Vegas Smoking Ban Enforcement Fails

Miles Trask (Writer for the "Las Vegas Sun", a newspaper based in Las Vegas, Nevada) June 21, 2008 "Smoking ban not doing all the banning its sponsors hoped - Many taverns thumb their noses at the law, which has little teeth" Las Vegas Sun, <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/jun/21/smoking-ban-not-doing-all-banning-its-sponsors-hop/> .

 “Dozens of establishments across the Las Vegas Valley continue to ignore the ban, known as the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act. Among other places, the ban prohibits smoking in bars and taverns that serve food. Over the past 18 months, 4,022 complaints have been made to the Southern Nevada Health District. And how many resulted in citations? Nil. None. Zero.”

 DISADVANTAGES:

1. Smoking Ban in Indiana would have harmed ho

Jonathan T. Tomlin, PhD (Jonathan Tomlin has extensive experience in performing economic and statistical analysis involving questions in the areas of antitrust, complex damages, corporate finance, and intellectual property. He has evaluated economic damages in a wide range of matters including breach of contract, antitrust, fraud, false advertising, and intellectual property. He has published numerous articles on the application of economic principles to legal issues and has previously testified as an expert witness in federal court and in mediation. PhD in Economics.) Published by Forbes.com at <http://www.forbes.com/2009/06/04/economic-impact-bars-restaurants-opinions-contributors-smoking-ban.html> .  "The Economic Impact Of Smoking Bans - Most studies think it's negligible--but they're wrong." June 4, 2009

 “In a peer-reviewed research article I published a few months ago, I performed an empirical study of the proposed smoking ban in India that examined its economic impact by looking at stock market prices. (This is a method that has been used in hundreds of peer-reviewed economic research articles.) I found a statistically significant result that the proposed smoking ban lowered the market value of hospitality industry firms.”

 2. Smoking Bans will lower patron’s use of restaurants base and gaming establishments & bars

 Jonathan T. Tomlin, PhD (Jonathan Tomlin has extensive experience in performing economic and statistical analysis involving questions in the areas of antitrust, complex damages, corporate finance, and intellectual property. He has evaluated economic damages in a wide range of matters including breach of contract, antitrust, fraud, false advertising, and intellectual property. He has published numerous articles on the application of economic principles to legal issues and has previously testified as an expert witness in federal court and in mediation. PhD in Economics.) Published by Forbes.com at <http://www.forbes.com/2009/06/04/economic-impact-bars-restaurants-opinions-contributors-smoking-ban.html>. "The Economic Impact Of Smoking Bans - Most studies think it's negligible--but they're wrong."  June 4, 2009

 “To be sure, it is also a possibility that any ban will lower smoking patrons' demand for the services of bars, restaurants and gaming establishments where smoking is not permitted. Basic economic theory maintains that such lower demand could lower the profits of any bar or restaurant subject to such a ban.”

4. Public Smoking Bans Promote Recession And Limited Freedom

P.S. Oliver (P.S. Oliver is a Financial Professional living in New York. A U.S. Navy Veteran, P.S. Oliver received his education at the University of Scranton, B.A. Philosophy and Colorado Technical University; B.S. Business Administration) [www.assocoiatedcontent.com/article/242619/ban\_the\_ban\_public\_smoking\_bans\_hurt.html?singlepage+true](http://www.assocoiatedcontent.com/article/242619/ban_the_ban_public_smoking_bans_hurt.html?singlepage+true) Published by Associated Content "Ban the Ban: Public Smoking Bans Hurt Society More Than Smoke" May 16, 2007

 “Sometimes people don't stop to think about how legislation affects us beyond its noble intent. It is a basic principle of Economics, however, that actions have unintended consequences. Public Smoking Bans don't preserve health, that can only be done by the individual. Public Smoking Bans do promote recession, limited freedom and loss of the ability to choose for oneself.”

Pro Brief: Oceans

By Cameron Walker and Margaret Kaiser

INHERENCY

The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004 has been passed in order to prevent HAB outbreaks

NCCOS [The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) conducts and supports research, monitoring, assessments, and technical assistance to meet NOAA’s coastal stewardship and management responsibilities. NCCOS was formed within the National Ocean Service (NOS) in March 1999 as the focal point for coastal ocean science.], July 2009,“HABHRCA”

<http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/extremeevents/hab/habhrca/>

Both Congress and the Administration have recognized harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxic events (severe oxygen depletion) as some of the most complex phenomena currently challenging management of aquatic and marine ecosystems. Scientific understanding of HABs and hypoxia has progressed significantly since the early 1990's, but major impediments still remain for prediction, control, and mitigation of these complex phenomena. Practical and innovative approaches to address eutrophication, hypoxia, and HABs in US waters are essential for management of aquatic and marine ecosystems and to fulfill a stronger investment in the health of the coasts and oceans called for by the U. S. Ocean Action Plan and recent reports on ocean policy. Recognizing this need, in 2004 Congress reauthorized and expanded the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (HABHRCA, Public Law 108-456,) by passing the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004

Protecting oceans is a major Obama administration priority

Dianne Saenz ( Director of Communications for Oceana—the largest international organization focused 100 percent on ocean conservation—in the fight for healthy oceans.)June 2009 Oceana (To achieve real benefits for the oceans, Oceana conducts focused, strategic campaigns. Each campaign has a specific timeframe and objective that will make a significant difference to the oceans. Each campaign combines scientific, legal, policy and advocacy approaches to reach its goal. Saving the oceans may take decades, but in each of our campaigns we aim to accomplish an important milestone in that effort within two to five years. )

“President Obama signaled today that protecting and conserving our oceans is a major goal for his Administration. The President issued a Memorandum to federal agencies, paving a path for achieving comprehensive ocean conservation and management. Our oceans are currently managed by 140 laws, implemented by 20 federal agencies, without a unifying vision. President Obama's actions today will guide the process to improve coordination between federal, state and tribal governments to protect our oceans.”

Ocean spills in ocean are not cause exclusively by humans

*Edwin Feulner, [is the President of The Heritage Foundation. He graduated Regis with a bachelor's degree in English, and received an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. He attended Georgetown University and the London School of Economics, and then earned a doctorate degree at the University of Edinburgh. Feulner is the former President of the Philadelphia Society, and past Director of the Sequoia Bank, the Council for National Policy, the Acton Institute, the International Republican Institute, the American Council in Germany, the Lehrman Institute and George Mason University.] October 14, 2008, “California drilling” The Heritage Foundation,* [*http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed101408e.cfm*](http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed101408e.cfm)

This past summer Dr. Bruce Luyendyk, a professor of marine geophysics at the University of California at Santa Barbara, told a town hall meeting that most of that oil is caused by seepage, not by humans. It's oil that leaks out of the ocean floor through tiny cracks. He's done extensive studies off Coal Oil Point near UCSB, and found that such seepage pours about 4,200 gallons of oil into the ocean each day. Luyendyk notes that over a decade, twice as much oil seeps out of the ocean floor naturally as was spilled in 1989 when the Exxon Valdez ran aground.

SIGNIFICANCE

Oil spill are able to disappear naturally

NOAA [NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them.], March 25, 2008, “How Much Oil Remains?”] <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/stories/oilymess/oily03_remains.html>

What was the ultimate fate of the 10.8 million gallons of oil released from the Exxon Valdez? The ultimate fate of the 10.8 billion gallons of oil that leaked from the Exxon Valdez. NOAA scientists estimate that 2% of the oil remains on the beaches. Nobody knows for sure, but based on the areas that were studied in the aftermath of the spill, scientists made estimates of the ultimate fate of the oil. A 1992 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) study provided some insight, estimating that the great majority of the oil photolysed in the atmosphere, dispersed into the water column or degraded naturally (biodegraded by microorganisms or photolysed in the water). Cleanup crews recovered about 14 percent of the oil, and approximately 13 percent sank to the sea floor. About 2 percent (some 216,000 gallons) remained on the beaches. Considering that nearly 11 million gallons escaped from the tanker, and that large quantities eventually fouled shorelines in the sound and elsewhere, very little remains. The graph below shows actual measurements made by NOAA scientists at their study sites in Prince William Sound from 1989 to 1997.

Many intertidal organisms can tolerate low levels of oil

NOAA [NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them.], March 25, 2008, “How Much Oil Remains?”] <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/stories/oilymess/oily03_remains.html>

However, oily traces of the spill can still be found on some beaches. The remaining oil generally lies below the surface of the beaches in places that are very sheltered from the actions of wind and waves (which help to break down and remove stranded oil), and on beaches where oil initially penetrated very deeply and was not removed. At these beaches, there are signs of weathered oil on the surface and deposits of fresher oil buried beneath. Sometimes this oil makes its way to the surface and can be seen as a sheen on the water as the tide comes in. Interestingly, despite the fresh appearance of oil at these sites, chemical analysis and biological observations indicate that the oil is actually of such low toxicity that many intertidal organisms can tolerate its presence, even though it can accumulate in their tissues.

SOLVENCY

The Red Tides are NOT caused by humans and cannot be controlled

Texas Parks And Wildlife [TPAW’s mission is to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.], August 2008 <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/faq.phtml#q2>

Red tide is a natural phenomenon not caused by human beings. When temperature, salinity, and nutrients reach certain levels, a massive increase in Karenia brevis algae occurs. No one knows the exact combination of factors that causes red tide, but some experts believe high temperatures combined with a lack of wind and rainfall are usually at the root of red tide blooms. There are no known ways that humans can control it, but many scientists around the world are studying red tide at present. It's important to remember that red tide has happened before and the Texas marine environment has always recovered.

Con Brief: Oceans

By Cameron Walker and Margaret Kaiser

INHERENCY

The United States earns a C when graded on their efforts for Ocean Restoration

Ocean Conserve [Ocean Conserve is an Ocean Conservation Portal and Internet Search Tool that provides access to reviewed ocean conservation news and information. Ocean Conserve is for non- commercial, educational purposes only], February 2008 “Report Card: Lack of Federal Funding Hinders Ocean Health” Environment News Service, The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative created the report card [The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative works with all sectors of the ocean community to encourage action and monitor progress toward meaningful ocean policy reform. Our shared commitment to achieving a coherent and coordinated national ocean policy is grounded in our firm belief that healthy and vibrant ocean and coastal ecosystems are crucial to our sustained economic and environmental well-being, public health, and standard of living, both now and in the future.] <http://www.oceanconserve.org/shared/reader/welcome.aspx?linkid=93717>

“The United States earned an overall grade of C for ocean restoration efforts in 2007, slightly up from a C- the previous year, according to the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative in its annual report card issued today. The report card assesses the nation's progress in 2007 toward implementing the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, as well as the actions described in the Bush administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan. The 2007 report card concludes that while state and regional initiatives continue to move forward on ocean governance reform, the lack of progress at the federal level to commit adequate funding and affect meaningful ocean policy reform hinders national improvement.”

Humans are failing to take care of the ocean. Marine disasters are increasing

Sam Farr [He is co-chair of four House caucuses:Congressional Organic Caucus, Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus, House Oceans Caucus, Unexploded Ordnance Caucus. Prior to serving in Congress, Farr served 12 years in the California State Assembly and six years as a Monterey County supervisor. He graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Ore., and attended the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the University of Santa Clara. He began his career in public service in 1964 serving in the Peace Corps in Colombia.Congressman Sam Farr, a fifth-generation Californian, represents the state's beautiful Central Coast. Throughout his 16-year tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Farr has been a leading advocate for California agriculture, an outspoken activist for affordable housing and a champion of the oceans.], April 28, 2008, "We must care for oceans"  Good Times, Santa Cruz, Calif. <http://www.farr.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=377>

To see the effects that humans have on the environment, we need look no further than the recent decision by the Pacific Fishery Management Council to impose a ban on commercial and recreational salmon fishing. But what some see as an isolated set of circumstances is just another symptom of a larger disease: we are failing to take care of our oceans. Harmful algal blooms and dead zones are occurring more frequently and are larger and more harmful. Last year's oil spill in the San Francisco Bay showed how vulnerable we are to a larger spill. And salmon aren't the only species facing danger: from sea otters in the Pacific to manatees in the Atlantic, wildlife is bearing the brunt of our neglect.

HABs are emerging in new locations. The cause: humans

NCCOS [The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) conducts and supports research, monitoring, assessments, and technical assistance to meet NOAA’s coastal stewardship and management responsibilities. NCCOS was formed within the National Ocean Service (NOS) in March 1999 as the focal point for coastal ocean science..] “Why is this issue important?. August 2009 <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/extremeevents/hab/welcome.html>

All U.S. coastal states have experienced HABs over the last decade, and new species have emerged in some locations that were not previously known to have problems. HABs occur naturally, but human activities that disturb ecosystems in the form of increased nutrient loadings and pollution, food web alterations, introduced species, and water flow modifications have been linked to the increased occurrence of some HABs.

HABs are spreading and occurring more frequently over lager areas of water

Sea Web [SeaWeb is a communications-based nonprofit organization that uses social marketing techniques to advance ocean conservation. By raising public awareness, advancing science-based solutions and mobilizing decision-makers around ocean conservation, we are leading voices for a healthy ocean. SeaWeb’s programs combine science, communications and policy expertise to recruit and amplify leading voices for ocean conservation. Our work is grounded in first-rate scientific research and data collection, and we use our strategic communications skills to translate this information into understandable and relevant initiatives. This approach to conditioning the climate for ocean conservation results in both changed behaviors and strong ocean policy.] 2007, “Harmful Algal Blooms and Toxins” <http://www.seaweb.org/resources/briefings/algae.php>

“In recent years, there has been growing alarm over what appears to he an "epidemic" of HABs worldwide. In many regions, HABs are occurring more frequently' occurring over larger areas and lasting longer: HABs are also being recorded in areas where previously they were not known. In other cases, algal species previously benign, or even unknown, have suddenly emerged to become problematic.”

SIGNIFICANCE

Carbon Dioxide Emissions hurt the oceans, by EPA standards

Bio-Medicine [Bio-Medicine is one of the Internet's leading online organizations and Web portals devoted to biology and medicine. The free, advertising-supported service brings you breaking news about the latest discoveries and hottest research projects in everything about biology and medicine. And the information provided herein is for educational and informational purposes only.] September 2007 “CO2 emissions could violate EPA ocean-quality standards within decades” [Brackets Added] <http://www.bio-medicine.org/biology-news-1/CO2-emissions-could-violate-EPA-ocean-quality-standards-within-decades-463-1/>

In a commentary in the September 25, 2007, issue of the Geophysical Research Letters (GRL), a large team of scientists state that human-induced carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions will alter ocean chemistry to the point where it will violate U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Quality Criteria [1976] by mid-century if emissions are not dramatically curtailed now. This is the first recognition that atmospheric CO2 emissions will cause ocean waters to violate EPA water quality criteria.

HABs have an Impact of $82 million dollars on the United States

NCCOS [The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) conducts and supports research, monitoring, assessments, and technical assistance to meet NOAA’s coastal stewardship and management responsibilities. NCCOS was formed within the National Ocean Service (NOS) in March 1999 as the focal point for coastal ocean science..] “Why is this issue important?. August 2009, <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/extremeevents/hab/welcome.html>

HABs can have major negative impacts on local economies, and a recent conservative assessment estimates that HABs occurring in marine waters alone have an average annual impact of $82 million dollars in the U.S.

Problems associated with HABs [harmful algae blooms] have recently increased

The Environmental Protection Agency [EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people.]“Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)” June 2009 <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/habpage.html>

A harmful algal bloom (HAB), also known as a red tide, is the proliferation of toxic nuisance algae that cause a negative impact to natural resources or humans. Currently 85 toxic microalgal species have been documented; of these, 37 live in Gulf of Mexico waters. Because they have chlorophyll and are capable of photosynthesis, most of the algal bloom species can be classified as plant-like. They require light, nutrients and carbon dioxide to produce their own food using chlorophyll. There are a few species that do not have their own chlorophyll and thus cannot photosynthesize. These obligate or facultative heterotrophs are called protists, not microalgae. Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in problems associated with HAB's. Impacts of these natural phenomena include human illness (or death) from contaminated seafood, marine mammal and seabird deaths and extensive fish kills.

Algal bloom toxic to humans and animals

NCCOS [The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) conducts and supports research, monitoring, assessments, and technical assistance to meet NOAA’s coastal stewardship and management responsibilities. NCCOS was formed within the National Ocean Service (NOS) in March 1999 as the focal point for coastal ocean science..] “Why is this issue important?. August 2009 <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/extremeevents/hab/welcome.html>

Some harmful algae produce potent toxins which cause illness or death in humans and marine organisms—fish, seabirds, manatees, sea lions, turtles, and dolphins are some commonly affected animals. Other types of harmful algae are nontoxic to humans but cause harm to fish and invertebrates by damaging or clogging their gills or by forming such large blooms that the death and subsequent decay of the algae lead to hypoxia (oxygen depletion) in the bottom waters of marine environments. Dense blooms can also block sunlight for beneficial algae and seagrasses.

HABs are deadly for humans and marine life

Sea Web [SeaWeb is a communications-based nonprofit organization that uses social marketing techniques to advance ocean conservation. By raising public awareness, advancing science-based solutions and mobilizing decision-makers around ocean conservation, we are leading voices for a healthy ocean. SeaWeb’s programs combine science, communications and policy expertise to recruit and amplify leading voices for ocean conservation. Our work is grounded in first-rate scientific research and data collection, and we use our strategic communications skills to translate this information intunderstandable and relevant initiatives. This approach to conditioning the climate for ocean conservation results in both changed behaviors and strong ocean policy.] 2007, “Harmful Algal Blooms and Toxins” <http://www.seaweb.org/resources/briefings/algae.php>

HABs can kill marine life and cause losses to aquaculture operations. A number of species release powerful toxins that can make their way through the food web to affect seabirds, marine mammals and humans, sometimes fatally. Some toxic species can cause a variety of human ailments, contracted either through inhaling airborne toxins, skin contact or, more commonly, eating contaminated shellfish. These toxins may cause amnesia, stomach cramps, nausea, memory loss, paralysis and even death.

Even though some HABs are not inherently harmful, they have serious impacts on the environment

Sea Web [SeaWeb is a communications-based nonprofit organization that uses social marketing techniques to advance ocean conservation. By raising public awareness, advancing science-based solutions and mobilizing decision-makers around ocean conservation, we are leading voices for a healthy ocean. SeaWeb’s programs combine science, communications and policy expertise to recruit and amplify leading voices for ocean conservation. Our work is grounded in first-rate scientific research and data collection, and we use our strategic communications skills to translate this information into understandable and relevant initiatives. This approach to conditioning the climate for ocean conservation results in both changed behaviors and strong ocean policy.] 2007, “Harmful Algal Blooms and Toxins” <http://www.seaweb.org/resources/briefings/algae.php>

“Some blooms of algae are not inherently harmful but may result in severe environmental impacts. For instance, low oxygen conditions may result from the decay of excessive amounts of algal growth caused by nutrient pollution.”

HABs have caused death for humans and Endangered Animals

Sea Web [SeaWeb is a communications-based nonprofit organization that uses social marketing techniques to advance ocean conservation. By raising public awareness, advancing science-based solutions and mobilizing decision-makers around ocean conservation, we are leading voices for a healthy ocean. SeaWeb’s programs combine science, communications and policy expertise to recruit and amplify leading voices for ocean conservation. Our work is grounded in first-rate scientific research and data collection, and we use our strategic communications skills to translate this information into understandable and relevant initiatives. This approach to conditioning the climate for ocean conservation results in both changed behaviors and strong ocean policy.] 2007, “Harmful Algal Blooms and Toxins” <http://www.seaweb.org/resources/briefings/algae.php>

“Examples of the range of impacts and their potential seriousness include:

o The initiation of recent cholera epidemics in South America; cholera bacteria thrive in zooplankton blooms, which are stimulated by algal blooms, where they are then widely available to be vectored into seafood and drinking water.

o The recent emergence of Pfiesteria, the tiny "ambush predator"; this species has caused massive fish kills and human illness in North Carolina, and has recently become a problem in Maryland.

o The death of 4 people and the hospitalization of over a hundred more in 1987 in eastern Canada when they consumed mussels contaminated with a previously undescribed toxin.

o The death of over 150 endangered manatees in Florida in 1996; a "red tide" of the species Karenia brevis, which produces brevetoxin was considered the cause.

o Of great importance may be the effects associated with climate change; changes in upwelling patterns and other hydrological features, and increases in water temperature, may stimulate bloom formation or expand the range of noxious and harmful species.

HABs cause finacial damage by killing farmed marine life

Sea Web [SeaWeb is a communications-based nonprofit organization that uses social marketing techniques to advance ocean conservation. By raising public awareness, advancing science-based solutions and mobilizing decision-makers around ocean conservation, we are leading voices for a healthy ocean. SeaWeb’s programs combine science, communications and policy expertise to recruit and amplify leading voices for ocean conservation. Our work is grounded in first-rate scientific research and data collection, and we use our strategic communications skills to translate this information into understandable and relevant initiatives. This approach to conditioning the climate for ocean conservation results in both changed behaviors and strong ocean policy.] 2007, “Harmful Algal Blooms and Toxins” <http://www.seaweb.org/resources/briefings/algae.php>

Not all HABs are toxic. Only forty or so species are believed to produce such potent toxins. Some species are merely unpalatable to other marine life because of gelatinous envelopes or other characteristics and they exact their harmful effects by essentially "starving" the food chain. Other species can cause physical damage, as the blooms of species which contain barbs that lodge among gill tissues of fish, causing death. Such blooms can cause a great deal of financial damage by killing farmed fish, which are grown in crowded aquaculture pens.

Pro Brief: Desertification

By Justin Knopp and Billy Klein

INHERENCY

1. Desertification progress being made

Our Planet, The magazine of the United Nations Environment Programme, 2006 issue, “Deserts and Drylands,” [www.unep.org/PDF/OurPlanet/op\_english\_17v1.pdf](http://www.unep.org/PDF/OurPlanet/op_english_17v1.pdf)

It is easier to prevent desertification than to reverse it. Better management of crops, more careful irrigation and providing jobs outside farming for dryland people can help to address the problem. There are success stories on sustainably managing and rehabilitating degraded lands. Progress is also being made through introducing such practices as conservation tillage, judicious soil fertility enhancement, better-adapted crops and crop varieties, and better water management.

3. Sahara is retreating

BBC News service, July 16th, 2009, “Are the deserts getting greener?,” <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8150415.stm>

The evidence is limited and definitive conclusions are impossible to reach but recent satellite pictures of North Africa seem to show areas of the Sahara in retreat. It could be that an increase in rainfall has caused this effect.

4. Deserts greening due to rain-fall

James Owen, Reindert Haarsma, (Official writer National Geographic; Research leader of Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute), July 31st, 2009, “Sahara Desert Greening Due to Climate Change?,” National Geographic, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090731-green-sahara.html>

Desertification, drought, and despair—that’s what global warming has in store for much of Africa. Or so we hear. Emerging evidence is painting a very different scenario, one in which rising temperatures could benefit millions of Africans in the driest parts of the continent. Scientists are now seeing signals that the Sahara desert and surrounding regions are greening due to increasing rainfall. If sustained, these rains could revitalize drought-ravaged regions, reclaiming them for farming communities.

5. Desert studies reveal extensive regreening

James Owen, Reindert Haarsma, (Official writer National Geographic; Research leader of Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute), July 31st, 2009, “Sahara Desert Greening Due to Climate Change?,” National Geographic, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090731-green-sahara.html>

The green shoots of recovery are showing up on satellite images of regions including the Sahel, a semi-desert zone bordering the Sahara to the south that stretches some 2,400 miles (3,860 kilometers). Images taken between 1982 and 2002 revealed extensive regreening throughout the Sahel, according to a new study in the journal Biogeosciences. The study suggests huge increases in vegetation in areas including central Chad and western Sudan.

6. Sahel desert is greening

James Owen, Reindert Haarsma, (Official writer National Geographic; Research leader of Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute), July 31st, 2009, “Sahara Desert Greening Due to Climate Change?,” National Geographic, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090731-green-sahara.html>

The study in Geophysical Research Letters predicted that rainfall in the July to September wet season would rise by up to two millimeters a day by 2080. Satellite data shows “that indeed during the last decade, the Sahel is becoming more green,” Haarsma said.

7. Desert vegetation change is firmly rooted

James Owen, Reindert Haarsma, (Official writer National Geographic; Research leader of Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute), July 31st, 2009, “Sahara Desert Greening Due to Climate Change?,” National Geographic, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090731-green-sahara.html>

While satellite images can’t distinguish temporary plants like grasses that come and go with the rains, ground surveys suggest recent vegetation change is firmly rooted.

8. Desert nomads claim more rain in pasts and more grazing land

James Owen, Reindert Haarsma (Official writer National Geographic; Research leader of Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute), July 31st, 2009, “Sahara Desert Greening Due to Climate Change?,” National Geographic, [Brackets added], <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090731-green-sahara.html>

In 2008 [Stefan] Kröpelin—not involved in the new satellite research—visited Western Sahara, a disputed territory controlled by Morocco. “The nomads there told me there was never as much rainfall as in the past few years,” Kröpelin said. “They have never seen so much grazing land.”

SIGNIFICANCE

1. Deserts could be a componant to cut EU CO2 emissions

Eva Tallaksen, (Masters degree in international politics), October 26th, 2006, “Energy from deserts could supply Europe,” SciDev.net, <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/energy-from-deserts-could-supply-europe.html>

The most recent of the two studies, published on 3 May, estimates that Europe’s carbon dioxide emissions could be cut by 70 per cent by 2050 if it combined imports of clean electricity from the deserts with renewable local energy.

2. Deserts recieve solar energy equivalance of 1.5 million barrels of oil

Franz Trieb, (project manager for the two reports at the German Aerospace Center.), October 26th, 2006, “Energy from deserts could supply Europe,” SciDev.net, <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/energy-from-deserts-could-supply-europe.html>

“Every year, each square kilometre of desert receives solar energy equivalent to 1.5 million barrels of oil. Multiplying by the area of deserts worldwide, this is nearly a thousand times the entire current energy consumption of the world,”

3. Deserts provide renewable energy resources

Geotimes, April 1st, 2008, “Desert Power: A Solar Renaissance,” <http://www.geotimes.org/apr08/article.html?id=feature_solar.html>

Sandy wastes, brutal sun, forbidding emptiness — those are the stark images of a desert. But these vast, sunburnt areas are also home to a powerful renewable energy resource: the sun. And solar energy is likely to become increasingly important as the world looks ever more urgently for alternatives to fossil fuels.

Con Brief: Desertification

By Justin Knopp and Billy Klein

INHERENCY:

1. Land degradation (desertification) increasing

Alison Small, (Media Relations FAO Newsroom), July, 2 2008, “Land degradation on the rise,” FAO Newsroom, <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000874/index.html>

Defined as a long-term decline in ecosystem function and productivity, land degradation is increasing in severity and extent in many parts of the world, with more than 20 percent of all cultivated areas, 30 percent of forests and 10 percent of grasslands undergoing degradation.

2. 10-20 percent of drylands are already degraded

Kofi Annan, (Secretary General of United Nations), June 5th, 2006, “MESSAGE ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY,” United Nation, <http://www.unep.org/wed/2006/downloads/PDF/SGWEDmessage06_eng.pdf>

Across the planet, poverty, unsustainable land management and climate change are turning drylands into deserts, and desertification in turn exacerbates and leads to poverty. It is estimated that between 10 and 20 per cent of drylands are already degraded.

SIGNIFICANCE

1. Desertification caused death of over 100,000 people

Dr. Frank B. Lee, (Master’s degree in General Surgery, Florence, South Carolina), October 5th, 2008, “Global Desertification,” EzineArticles.com, <http://ezinearticles.com/?Global-Desertification&id=1556651>

In the Sahelian kingdoms in Africa, desertification and drought caused a death of over 100,000 people. Everyday, people die because of poverty and hunger, but have you thought about what causes all this? It’s the bad quality of the land and the lack of water that causes these deaths. If desertification was stopped, there would be no poverty.

2. Desertification worse than hurricane, earthquake, or fire

Dr. Frank B. Lee, (Master’s degree in General Surgery, Florence, South Carolina), October 5th, 2008, “Global Desertification,” EzineArticles.com, <http://ezinearticles.com/?Global-Desertification&id=1556651>

Desertification is like a monster, eating up the land that it passes through. It’s worse than a hurricane, an earthquake, or a fire. Once it’s somewhere, it’s really hard to get that place back, because it makes plants hard to grow there by destroying the soil and things can’t live there because there is no water. Desertification is like the disease of the lands.

3. 1.5 billion effected by desertification, caused reduced production, and damage to ecosystem

Alison Small, (Media Relations FAO Newsroom), July, 2 2008, “Land degradation on the rise,” FAO Newsroom, <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000874/index.html>

An estimated 1.5 billion people, or a quarter of the world’s population, depend directly on land that is being degraded. The consequences of land degradation include reduced productivity, migration, food insecurity, damage to basic resources and ecosystems, and loss of biodiversity through changes to habitats at both species and genetic levels.

4. Desertification greatest environmental challenge of our times

BBC News service, June 28th, 2007, “UN issues desertification warning,” <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6247802.stm>

The study by the United Nations University suggests climate change is making desertification ‘the greatest environmental challenge of our times’. If action is not taken, the report warns that some 50 million people could be displaced within the next 10 years.

5. Desertification causes catastrophes: hunger, refugees and ecological damage

Prof. Alon Tal, (Master’s degree in desert ecology), December 8th, 2008, “Israeli desertification conference offers new ideas,” Israeli News Service, <http://www.israel21c.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3203&catid=44:opinion&Itemid=141>

Desertification is technically “land degradation” in the drylands. Erosion, soil loss and contamination are problems everywhere. But in the areas where there is little rainfall to help with rejuvenation, the long-term impact tends to be more severe and irreversible. Some 200 million people, especially in Africa, suffer from the steady loss of their land’s productivity. The results can be catastrophic: hunger, refugees, disintegration of communities, ecological damage.

CON BRIEF: OIL SHALE

By Joseph Martin and Christian Wiese

SIGNIFICANCE

Oil Shale is 4 times more toxic than most greenhouse gases

The Sierra Club, 29 June 2009 “Sierra Club Highlights Global Warming Impacts of Destructive Oil Shale and Tar Sands Development in the Arid West” <http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/lawsuits/0381.asp>

Oil shale and tar sands development is extremely energy intensive. The vast energy inputs required for extraction and refining of oil from oil shale and tar sands may produce up to four times more greenhouse gas pollution than conventional oil production. Development is likely to rely heavily on coal-fired power and will require electricity from an estimated ten new coal-fired power plants, emitting millions of tons of greenhouse gas pollution each year. Oil shale and tar sands development also requires a lot of water, and large amounts of energy will be needed to deliver the scarce resource to the arid West, resulting in more global warming pollution. Transporting and burning the liquid fuels will also emit more greenhouse gas pollution and worsen global warming.

Oil Shale will exacerbate Global Warming and worsen drought in the Western US

The Sierra Club, 29 June 2009 “Sierra Club Highlights Global Warming Impacts of Destructive Oil Shale and Tar Sands Development in the Arid West” <http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/lawsuits/0381.asp>

Oil shale and tar sands development is a dirty and destructive practice that will exacerbate global warming. Increased greenhouse gas emissions will worsen drought in the arid West and indirectly harm communities and threatened wildlife in the region.

Oil Shale contains one-tenth the energy of crude oil

Randy Udall (directs the Community Office for Resource Efficiency, a nonprofit energy office in Carbondale) and Steve Andrews (Denver-based energy expert), Dec 18 2005, “Oil shale may be fool's gold,” Energy Bulletin, <http://www.energybulletin.net/node/11779>

In truth, oil shale presents a paradox. If these rocks are, as some claim, the richest fossil fuel resource on Earth, why has it been so difficult to unlock them? The primary explanation is that oil shale is a lousy fuel. Compared to the coal that launched the Industrial Revolution or the oil that sustains the world today, oil shale is the dregs. Coal seams a few feet thick are worth mining because coal contains lots of energy. If coal is good, oil is even better. And oil shale? Per pound, it contains one-tenth the energy of crude oil, one-sixth that of coal.

Oil Shale refining is utterly impractical

American Institute of Biological Sciences, June 2008“Shale Oil: Alternative Energy or Environmental Degradation?” Author: Noreen Parks for AIBS, <http://www.aibs.org/washington-watch/washington_watch_2008_06.html>

“Using conventional methods, creating 25 gallons of oil would require digging a ton of rock from massive open-pit mines and cooking it in surface retorts to release the low-grade oil, which would be shipped out for refining. Shell Oil is in the early stages of researching another technology that would involve heating the shale underground for two to three years, until it reaches temperatures high enough to release the oil.”

DISADVANTAGES

Oil Shale production would over-extend Colorado water supply

American Institute of Biological Sciences,June2008“Shale Oil: Alternative Energy or Environmental Degradation?” Author: Noreen Parks for AIBS, <http://www.aibs.org/washington-watch/washington_watch_2008_06.html>

Argonne National Laboratory estimates that manufacturing a million barrels of shale oil daily could consume up to 370,000,000 cubic meters of water per year—from the already over-extended Colorado River system—necessitating considerable expansion of regional water-storage facilities. Likewise, electricity needs would be formidable. Production of a million barrels per day would require ten 1.2-gigawatt power plants and five new coal mines to feed them. Regional sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions would soar.

Oil Shale would damage many aspects of the environment and threaten human lives

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

Oil shale drilling in parts of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming would drain scarce western water resources, threaten wildlife habitat, and increase air pollution that can contribute to asthma and emphysema, cause mercury poisoning, and even lead to premature death.

Oil Shale is risky for the environment and the economy

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

Producing fuel from tar sands, oil shale, and liquid coal is not only environmentally risky, but also a risky business Proposition. In the near future, the United States is likely to join Europe and Japan in adopting mandatory limits on global warming pollution. Businesses developing these highly polluting fuels will likely find they are poor investments in a global market that increasingly values clean, low-carbon energy technologies. Moreover, taxpayers are being asked to share the bill for these risky deals through government subsidies and entitlements. Taxpayers and investors alike should be wary of putting their dollars into risky ventures involving carbon-intensive fuels.

Oil Shale will exhaust an already stretched water supply

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

Water resources of the western United States are already stressed as never before, likely in part due to increased demand from widespread population growth in western cities and reduced availability due to global warming. The scarcity of water in the American West makes it a valuable resource, and oil shale development threatens to cut into water availability even more. Each barrel of shale oil produced using the mine-and-retort process will likely use from 2.1 to 5.2 barrels of water.111 In 1996, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) found that oil shale development would result in up to an 8.2 percent reduction in the annual flow of Colorado’s White River where it meets the Green River in northeastern Utah.

Quality of water supply is likely to be harmed by oil shale development

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

Oil shale development is likely to harm not just the quantity of water in the West but also the quality. Mine drainage and discharge from the extraction process could seep into the water supply. Salinity is undoubtedly a looming issue, both because water withdrawals increase salinity concentrations and because the salt content of freshly processed shale is significantly higher than that of raw shale. Whether backfilled into a mine or stored in surface pits, runoff from spent shale waste will make its way into both underground and surface water flows.

Oil Shale threatens numerous wildlife species

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

Oil shale leasing and development activities could have significant negative impacts on fish and wildlife. The wells, pipelines, roads, housing facilities, pump stations, refining facilities, and waste-disposal areas needed for extraction will displace an impressive array of wildlife, including long-eared owls, short-horned lizards, elk, and bald eagles. Other species recognized by the BLM as under threat from oil shale development include mule deer, blue grouse, and sage grouse.

Oil Shale comes with a hefty price tag

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

The tar sands, oil shale, and liquid coal industries all require significant long-term capital investments. In recent years, capital expenditures in tar sands projects have increased substantially, and expenditures to construct all announced projects between 2006 and 2015 are estimated at a total of about C$125 billion.148

Oil Shale plants are extremely costly

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

While reliable numbers for the cost of a contemporary oil shale plant have yet to be determined, past experience shows that such plants do not come cheap. For example, When Exxon shuttered its Colony Oil Shale project in 1982, the projected cost was about $6 billion, or about $12.8 billion in today’s dollars.149

Oil Shale costs taxpayers billions and gives entitlements to corporations

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

Common to tar sands, oil shale, and liquid coal is the need for subsidies and incentives to jump-start the capital-intensive industry. In many cases, these initial subsidies turn into entitlements for mature industries that cost taxpayers billions.

Oil Shale has more global warming pollution

Natural Resources Defense Council, the Western Resource Advocates, and the Pembina Institute (Authors: Ann Bordetsky NRDC Susan Casey-Lefkowitz: NRDC ,Deron Lovaas NRDC Elizabeth Martin-Perera Natural Resources Defense Council Melanie Nakagawa Natural Resources Defense Council Bob Randall Western Resources Advocates Dan Woynillowicz Pembina Institute), June 2007, “Driving it Home: Choosing the Right Path for Fueling North America’s Transportation Future”, <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/drivingithome/contents.asp>

Tar sands, oil shale, and liquid coal all result in higher global warming pollution than our conventional crude oil system does today. Reduce global warming pollution emissions by 10 percent by 2011.

Oil Shale destroys habitats, dries up rivers, and hastens global warming

Sierra Club, January 16, 2009, “Groups Join Forces to Save Water, Communities and Wildlife from Bush-era Oil Shale Proposals”, <http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/lawsuits/docs/Oil%20Shale%20Suit%20Release%201-14-09.pdf>

Availability of water to produce oil shale is also an issue. The BLM [Bureau of Land Management] estimates that in Colorado alone, oil shale could even consume more water than the Denver Metro area, home to over 2 million people. "Oil shale threatens to destroy wildlife and fish habitat, poison our air and water, and dry up rivers in the West," said Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope. "This is one of the dirtiest and most wasteful forms of energy in the world. We need energy policy that's based on sound science. Such policy would not fast-track development of untested and dangerous fuels like oil shale." Through its own research, the consortium has concluded that oil shale will bring neither energy independence nor lower gas prices, but will hasten global warming pollution.

Pro Brief: Clean Air Act

By Sarah Klein and Kaitlin Nelson

Clean Air Act vital

NASA, April 1st, 2009, ""Aerosols May Drive a Significant Portion of Arctic Warming,"," NASA.gov, [http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/warming\_aerosols.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/warming_aerosols.html" \t "_blank)

Air quality impacts all of us. A clean, safe air supply is a vital societal need and is mandated by the Clean Air Act and its amendments.

Clean Air Act has provided clean air to millions and prevented thousands of illnesses and premature deaths

Environmental defense fund, December (founded in 1967 as the Environmental Defense Fund, we tackle the most serious environmental problems with:[Sound science](http://www.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=1429), [Economic incentives](http://www.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=1475),  [Corporate partnerships](http://www.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=1746), [Getting the law right](http://www.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=1740)) December 19th, 2005, "The Clean Air Act at 35," edf.org, [http://www.edf.org/article.cfm?contentid=4935](http://www.edf.org/article.cfm?contentid=4935" \t "_blank)

Thanks to the Clean Air Act, enacted in December 1970, millions of Americans breathe cleaner, healthier air, and tens of thousands of illnesses and premature deaths have been prevented. Over the years, the costs of complying with the rules have amounted to a fraction of the trillions of dollars saved in health costs – making the Clean Air Act one of the most cost-effective regulatory programs in American history.

Clear air act Reduces Acid Rain

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), August 29th, 2008, "Reducing Acid Rain," EPA, [http://www.epa.gov/air/peg/acidrain.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/peg/acidrain.html" \t "_blank)

The 1990 changes to the Clean Air Act introduced a nationwide approach to reducing acid pollution. The law is designed to reduce acid rain and improve public health by dramatically reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO2) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx). Using a market-based cap and trade approach, the program sets a permanent cap on the total amount of SO2 that may be emitted by electric power plants nationwide. As of 2005, emission reductions were more than 7 million tons from power plants, or 41 percent below 1980 levels.

  Clean Air Act Reduces Regional Haze

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), August 29th, 2008, "Interstate and International Air Pollution," EPA, [http://www.epa.gov/air/peg/interstate.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/peg/interstate.html" \t "_blank)

The Clean Air Act also requires EPA to work with states to reduce the regional haze that affects visibility in 156 national parks and wilderness areas, including the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, the Great Smokies, and Shenandoah National Parks. During much of the year in these areas, a veil of white or brown haze hangs in the air blurring the view. Most of this haze is not natural. It is air pollution, carried by the wind often many hundreds of miles from where it originated. Under the regional haze provisions of the Clean Air Act, the states and tribes, in coordination with the EPA, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and others, develop and implement air quality protection plans to reduce the pollution that causes visibility impairment. EPA has worked with states and tribes across the country to form Regional Planning Organizations to develop plans to reduce pollutants that cause haze.

Clean Air Act led to lower crime in 1970s

Jessica Wolpaw Reyes (Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University and an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Amherst College. She focuses her studies in the areas of labor economics, public finance, and health economics. She subsequently completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Aging and Health Economics at the National Bureau of Economic Research.), May 1st, 2007, ""Environmental Policy as Social Policy? The Impact of Childhood Lead Exposure on Crime,"," National Bureau of Economic Research, Abstract, [http://www.nber.org/papers/w13097](http://www.nber.org/papers/w13097" \t "_blank)

Childhood lead exposure can lead to psychological deficits that are strongly associated with aggressive and criminal behavior. In the late 1970s in the United States, lead was removed from gasoline under the Clean Air Act. Using the sharp state-specific reductions in lead exposure resulting from this removal, this article finds that the reduction in childhood lead exposure in the late 1970s and early 1980s is responsible for significant declines in violent crime in the 1990s, and may cause further declines into the future.

Clean Air Act Most Cost Efficient Environmental Law and can be used to regulate greenhouse gas emissions

Michael Northrop, David Sassoon (Program Director for Sustainable Development at the Rockfeller Brother's Fund, runs SolveClimate.com, a website dedicated to debating and advancing solutions to global warming), October 27th, 2008, "\* Environment \* Guardian Environment Network The Clean Air Act: Jump-starting climate action," guardian.co.uk, [http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/oct/27/network](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/oct/27/network" \t "_blank)

There is, however, a promising alternative strategy increasingly under discussion by a growing number of legal authorities, politicians, and policy experts: Activate the Clean Air Act — arguably the most cost-effective environmental law in the US — and use it to control greenhouse gas emissions. Such a move would not require controversial new legislation and would be on solid legal footing, thanks to the US Supreme Court's landmark 2007 decision, Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which affirmed that carbon dioxide emissions are a pollutant as defined by the Clean Air Act and can therefore be regulated by the EPA.

Pro Brief: Clean Water Act

By Lael Burge and Katherine Kaiser

Advantages:

Link: CWA success at clean up lakes

Testimony of Peter Lehner (Executive Director, Natural Resources Defense Council), Oct. 18, 2007 "The 35th Anniversary Of The Clean Water Act: Successes and Future Challenges" U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee <http://docs.nrdc.org/water/files/wat_07101801a.pdf>

The wisdom of many of the CWA innovations remains apparent today. The construction grants program for sewage treatment plants and the treatment improvements that it helped to fund have made dramatic reductions in the amount of sewage pollution in lakes and streams.

Impact: Clean water helps economy

Testimony of Peter Lehner (Executive Director, Natural Resources Defense Council), Oct. 18, 2007 "The 35th Anniversary Of The Clean Water Act: Successes and Future Challenges" U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee <http://docs.nrdc.org/water/files/wat_07101801a.pdf>

Clean water also supports the U.S. economy-it increases property values, generates tourism, supports commercial and recreational fish and shellfish industries, is used by high tech industries, and serves as a shipping channel for goods and services.

Con Brief: Clean Water Act

By Lael Burge and Katherine Kaiser

Significance

CWRA has never been primary factor in wetland protection

M. Reed Hopper (Principal Attorney for the Pacific Legal Foundation; Established March 5, 1973, Pacific Legal Foundation is the oldest and most successful public interest legal organization that fights for limited government, property rights, individual rights and a balanced approach to environmental protection.) Published by Pacific Legal Foundation News Release at <http://community.pacificlegal.org/Page.aspx?pid=911>. "PLF Expert Calls Clean Water Restoration Act ‘Patently Unconstitutional’” Published June 1, 2009; accessed August 6, 2009

“The Clean Water Act has never been the primary factor in wetlands protection. In its report Conserving America’s Wetlands 2008, the federal Council on Environmental Quality documented that between Earth Day 2004 and Earth Day 2008 approximately “3,600,000 acres of wetlands have been restored or created, improved, or protected” without relying on old command and control policies under the Clean Water Act. This was achieved primarily through cooperative agreements among federal, state, and private stakeholders. During this same period, according to CEQ, the Clean Water Act was credited for creating or protecting no more than 25,000 wetland acres per year.

Solvency:

1. CWRA Puts An Ineffective Agency In Charge of Its Permitting Process

Bonner R. Cohen (Bonner R. Cohen serves as senior fellow at The National Center for Public Policy Research and as senior policy analyst for the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow. He has written widely on environmental issues for over fifteen years. He is the author of The Green Wave: Environmentalism and Its Consequences (Capital Research Center, 2006).) Published by The Heartland Institute at <http://www.heartland.org/policybot/results/24912/Montana_Senate_to_Feds_Leave_Our_Water_Alone.html>. "Montana Senate to Feds: ‘Leave Our Water Alone’ - by Bonner R. Cohen - Environment & Climate News" Published April 1, 2009; accessed August 6, 2009

One of the biggest problems with Oberstar’s Clean Water Restoration Act is that by changing the definition of navigable waters it would put the Army Corps of Engineers in the position of being in charge of a massive nationwide land permitting process,” said Jonathan Tolman, a senior fellow in risk and environmental studies at the Competitive Enterprise Institute. “As part of the Army, the Corps of Engineers is one of the least-suitable agencies for implementing a permitting program. If Congress is serious about protecting wetlands, a better approach would be to put the permitting authority in the hands of states, as Congress has done with virtually all other permitting programs,” Tolman explained.

2. Empirically CWA regulations violated

Sunny Lewis (editor-in-chief of Environment News Service), March 24, 2006, “Factories, Cities Across USA Exceed Water Pollution Limits,” Environment News Service, [http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2006/2006-03-24-05.asp](http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2006/2006-03-24-05.asp" \t "_blank)

More than 62 percent of industrial and municipal facilities across the country discharged more pollution into U.S. waterways than their Clean Water Act permits allowed between July 2003 and December 2004, finds a report on compliance with the law released Thursday. "Troubled Waters: An analysis of Clean Water Act compliance," released by by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG), shows that the 10 states with the most exceedances of Clean Water Act permit limits during this time period are Ohio, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Tennessee, Indiana, West Virginia, Massachusetts, and Illinois. The states that allowed at least 100 exceedances of at least 500 percent are Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Tennessee, Texas, and Massachusetts.

Disadvantages

1. Restrictive permits

It is difficult and expensive for landowners to obtain a permit

Jonathan H. Adler (B.A. 1991 (Yale University), J.D. 2000 (George Mason); Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Business Law & Regulation at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. A prolific writer, he is one of the most widely cited academics in environmental law.), February 21, 2006, “Supreme Clean Water Day,” National Review Online, <http://www.aei.org/docLib/20080528_AdlerSupremeClean.pdf>

According to the text of the Act, landowners must obtain a permit before they can deposit “dredged or fill material” into the “navigable waters of the United States.” Obtaining permits is no easy task. According to one recent study, the process can take over two years and $250,000. Wetlands are covered by the regulations because the CWA defines “navigable waters” as “waters of the United States,” and, under federal regulations promulgated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency, “waters” are defined to include any wetlands that could affect interstate commerce including those wetlands adjacent to navigable waters and their tributaries.

2. Confusion and Uncertainty

The CWRA Would Create More Confusion and Uncertainty About the Application of The CWA

The National Center For Public Policy Research (The National Center for Public Policy Research is a communications and research foundation supportive of a strong national defense and dedicated to providing free market solutions to today's public policy problems.)Quoted is U.S. Representative John Mica (R-FL) Published by National Center for Public Policy Research at <http://www.nationalcenter.org/TSR062408.html>. "Clean Water Restoration Act Could Trigger Largest-Ever Expansion of Federal Powers Over Private Property" Published June 24, 2008; accessed August 6, 2009 [brackets in original]

U.S. Representative John Mica (R-FL): I am concerned that [the Clean Water Restoration Act] will vastly expand Federal powers over private property, upset the long-standing cooperative relationship that the Federal government and the states have had with regard to water management and water quality, and create even more confusion and uncertainty over application and interpretation of the [Clean Water] Act.

3. Unconstitutional Disadvantage

CWRA Is Unconstitutional

M. Reed Hopper (Principal Attorney for the Pacific Legal Foundation; Established March 5, 1973, Pacific Legal Foundation is the oldest and most successful public interest legal organization that fights for limited government, property rights, individual rights and a balanced approach to environmental protection.) Published by Pacific Legal Foundation News Release at <http://community.pacificlegal.org/Page.aspx?pid=911>. "PLF Expert Calls Clean Water Restoration Act ‘Patently Unconstitutional’” Published June 1, 2009; accessed August 6, 2009

The proposed Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA), now under consideration in Congress, is “patently unconstitutional” and would “push the limits of federal power to an extreme not matched by any other law, probably in the history of this country.” So argues Pacific Legal Foundation Principal Attorney Reed Hopper. Hopper was the successful lead attorney at the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark 2006 Clean Water Act case, [*Rapanos v. United States*](http://community.pacificlegal.org/Page.aspx?pid=910), which reined in overbroad federal regulation under the Clean Water Act.

4. Courts flooded with litigation

CWRA would invite litigation

Peyton Knight (Former Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs at The National Center for Public Policy Research, a communications and research foundation supportive of a strong national defense and dedicated to providing free market solutions to today's public policy problems.) Published by National Policy Analysis at <http://www.nationalcenter.org/NPA567.html>. "Sportsmen: Beware the Clean Water Restoration Act" Published April 2008; Accessed August 6, 2009 [first brackets added, second in original] [ellipses in original]

The CWRA would also invite environmental litigators to flood the courts with lawsuits that challenge all activities affecting any "waters of the United States." According to [Pacific Legal Foundation attorney and Clean Water Act expert M. Reed] Hopper: [The Clean Water Restoration Act] authorizes Congress to defer to the courts to determine "the fullest extent that these waters, or activities affecting these waters, are subject to the legislative power of Congress under the Constitution."...the proposed Clean Water Restoration Act will just provide another round of intense litigation.

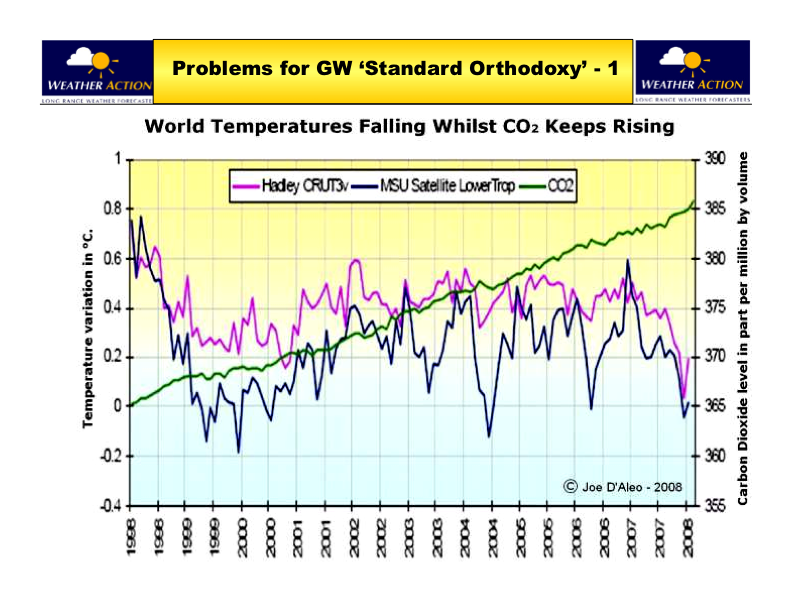
CON BRIEF: GLOBAL WARMING EXISTENCE

By Cameron Walker

As Shown by the Entire Surface temperature of the earth, taken by satellite, even while Carbon Dioxide levels rose, the temperature fell.

Piers Corbyn(originator of the Solar Weather Technique of Long Range Forecasting and founder of WeatherActionPiers Richard Corbyn was born in [Chippenham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chippenham) [Wiltshire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiltshire), [10 March](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_10) [1947](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1947) is, in the meteorological community, a maverick [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) [weather forecaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weather_forecasting) and consultant, and owner of the business Weather Action which makes weather forecasts up to a year in advance, and which he also [bets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betting) on. He also was a left wing [squatters rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squatters_rights) activist.), Judith Humprey, Kirill Kuzanyan (IZMIRAN Russ Acad Sci Kirill Kuzanyan was a postgraduate physics student at Moscow State University. Kirill was one of the first Muscovites to use electronic mail, and he was using it to advertise the possibility of joining a group of Russians for a trip to Central Asia. I was intrigued by the idea, and after a great deal of discussions I arranged to join Kirill and his friends for their trip.), Ulric Lyons March 10th 2009International Conference on Climate Change, NEW YORKWhat Does & Does Not cause Climate Change + advances in the Solar Weather

Technique & Forecast of World temperatures to 2030 & beyond [www.heartland.org/bin/media/newyork09/PowerPoint/Piers\_Corbyn.ppt](http://www.heartland.org/bin/media/newyork09/PowerPoint/Piers_Corbyn.ppt)



Carbon Dioxide levels rise, while global temperature falls

Piers Corbyn(originator of the Solar Weather Technique of Long Range Forecasting and founder of WeatherActionPiers Richard Corbyn was born in [Chippenham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chippenham) [Wiltshire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiltshire), [10 March](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_10) [1947](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1947) is, in the meteorological community, a maverick [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) [weather forecaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weather_forecasting) and consultant, and owner of the business Weather Action which makes weather forecasts up to a year in advance, and which he also [bets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betting) on. He also was a [left wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left_wing) [squatters rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squatters_rights) [activist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Activism).), Judith Humprey, Kirill Kuzanyan (IZMIRAN Russ Acad Sci Kirill Kuzanyan was a postgraduate physics student at Moscow State University. Kirill was one of the first Muscovites to use electronic mail, and he was using it to advertise the possibility of joining a group of Russians for a trip to Central Asia. I was intrigued by the idea, and after a great deal of discussions I arranged to join Kirill and his friends for their trip.), Ulric Lyons March 10th 2009International Conference on Climate Change, NEW YORKWhat Does & Does Not cause Climate Change + advances in the Solar Weather [www.heartland.org/bin/media/newyork09/PowerPoint/Piers\_Corbyn.ppt](http://www.heartland.org/bin/media/newyork09/PowerPoint/Piers_Corbyn.ppt)

The theory of ‘Global warming’ holds that Man’s CO2 causes Global Warming and *this* causes other Climate Change and extremes. We have heard a lot about weather extremes & ‘Climate Change’. Since 1998 CO2 has gone up *but World Temperatures have gone down*.

Weather extremes of recent years part of natural essentially predictable process.

Piers Corbyn(originator of the Solar Weather Technique of Long Range Forecasting and founder of WeatherActionPiers Richard Corbyn was born in [Chippenham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chippenham) [Wiltshire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiltshire), [10 March](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_10) [1947](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1947) is, in the meteorological community, a maverick [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) [weather forecaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weather_forecasting) and consultant, and owner of the business Weather Action which makes weather forecasts up to a year in advance, and which he also [bets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betting) on. He also was a [left wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left_wing) [squatters rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squatters_rights) [activist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Activism).), Judith Humprey, Kirill Kuzanyan (IZMIRAN Russ Acad Sci Kirill Kuzanyan was a postgraduate physics student at Moscow State University. Kirill was one of the first Muscovites to use electronic mail, and he was using it to advertise the possibility of joining a group of Russians for a trip to Central Asia. I was intrigued by the idea, and after a great deal of discussions I arranged to join Kirill and his friends for their trip.), Ulric Lyons March 10th 2009International Conference on Climate Change, NEW YORKWhat Does & Does Not cause Climate Change + advances in the Solar Weather [www.heartland.org/bin/media/newyork09/PowerPoint/Piers\_Corbyn.ppt](http://www.heartland.org/bin/media/newyork09/PowerPoint/Piers_Corbyn.ppt) {braces added}

The weather extremes of recent years are part of natural essentially predictable processes. The slow sea level (volume) rise - 6 inches per century - will continue even as world surface cools [notwithstanding changes in ocean floor shape such as the appearance of trenches and sumps in the Pacific as the Indian sub-continent pushes up the Himalayas].

Negative Brief: No REEP

SIGNIFICANCE

Economy more energy efficient than ever before

Mark J. Perry (Dr. Mark J. Perry, professor of economics and finance from School of Management University of Michigan, M.A. and Ph.D from George Mason University and MBA degree in finance from the Curtis L. Carlson School of Management), July 19th, 2009, "U.S. Hits Record Energy Efficiency," Seeking Alpha, <http://seekingalpha.com/article/149633-u-s-hits-record-energy-efficiency>

The U.S. economy has never been more energy efficient than it is today, and it just keeps getting more and more efficient every year as we find ways to produce more and more output with less and less energy. Amid all of the gloom and doom, this seems like something to celebrate. Over time, we're not becoming energy gluttons, we're actually becoming energy misers.

US annual energy consumption per capita declined even as per capita GDP grew

Allan Chen (spokesperson for the environmental energy technology division of the Berkeley lab), March 27th, 2009, "Sustainability and the U.S. Energy System," Berkeley lab News Center, <http://newscenter.lbl.gov/feature-stories/2009/03/27/sustainability-and-energy/>

The U.S. annual energy consumption per capita declined even as the per capita GDP grew from $34,883 in 2000 to $36,122 in 2006 (in year 2000 dollars). Per capita electricity consumption remained constant during these years, another positive sign. Without energy efficiency, electricity use tends to increase in industrialized nations, where it is the preferred form of energy use. These indicators suggest to the authors that the economy has become more energy-efficient as its output increased.

IECC increase energy efficiency

Information Handling Services, February 13, 2009 “2009 IECC to Increase Energy Efficiency through Better Windows, Increased Insulation Values, Radiant Heating Requirements”, <http://aec.ihs.com/news/energy-efficiency/2009/icc-iecc-energy-efficiency-21309.htm>

The 2009 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) will produce approximately 15% in energy-efficiency gains compared with the 2006 edition, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

As a result, the DOE said homes and commercial buildings, including schools and hospitals built in jurisdictions that adopt the 2009 IECC, will consume less energy and reduce emissions associated with building operation.

SOLVENCY

Energy efficiency unlikely to improve well-being

Ronald J. Sutherland (Ronald Sutherland is a consulting economist and adjunct professor of law at George Mason University and a senior scholar at the Center for the Advancement of Energy Markets.), **December 23rd, 2003**, "The High Costs of Federal Energy Efficiency: Standards for Residential Appliances," CATO Institute, [www.cato.org/pub\_display.php%3Fpub\_id%3D1362+"energy+efficiency"+site:cato.org&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=firefox-a](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php%3Fpub_id%3D1362+%22energy+efficiency%22+site:cato.org&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=firefox-a)

Because the appliance standards do not correct a market failure, increases in energy efficiency via government mandates--even if the standards were recalibrated--are unlikely to enhance the efficient use of energy resources or improve consumer well-being.

The real barriers to energy efficiency are subsides, information gaps, and agency issues

Daniel J. Weiss (Daniel J. Weiss is a Senior Fellow and the Director of Climate Strategy at American Progress, where he leads the Center's clean energy and climate advocacy campaign), March 10th, 2009, "Harvesting Low-Hanging Energy Savings," Center For American Progress, <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/03/eers_efficiency.html>

So far, basic market obstacles can explain our failure to seize the opportunity offered by energy efficiency despite having the means to do so. A McKinsey Global Institute study found that, “There are sufficient economically viable opportunities for energy-productivity improvements that could keep global energy-demand growth at less than 1 percent” per year. “However, market-distorting subsidies, information gaps, agency issues, and other market inefficiencies all work against energy productivity.”

DISADVANTAGES

**Focusing on green investment neglects other growth areas in the economy**

Samuel Sherraden (Policy Analyst, Economic Growth Program, New America Foundation), July 28th, 2009, "Green Jobs: Hope or Hype?," New America Foundation, <http://www.newamerica.net/publications/articles/2009/green_jobs_hope_or_hype_16264>

Furthermore, a focus on green investment may even neglect or underfund other areas of the economy that have greater potential to grow the economy. Money spent on infrastructure, more aid to state governments and boosting exports by cutting corporate taxes would do more to help our economy recover than pouring money into a relatively small number of green jobs.

Jobs created by green technology may be outside the US

Samuel Sherraden (Policy Analyst, Economic Growth Program, New America Foundation), July 28th, 2009, "Green Jobs: Hope or Hype?," New America Foundation, <http://www.newamerica.net/publications/articles/2009/green_jobs_hope_or_hype_16264>

Moreover, data on production of green technologies globally show that the United States is becoming less competitive. Looking at the "green trade balance," or the balance of trade in goods for reducing pollution, increasing energy efficiency and producing renewable energy, the United States moved from a trade surplus of $14.4 billion in 1997 to a trade deficit of $8.9 billion in 2008. Thus, job creation for production of green technologies may occur far more outside than inside the United States. Investing in green energy will create jobs, but many of these jobs may be created elsewhere.

1. The National Center for Policy Analysis (The National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization, established in 1983.) October 21, 2008 “Nuclear Renaissance: Atoms to Power the Future” http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba635/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)