

September 2011

Environmental Utopia:

What Would Life be Like If the Environmentalists Were in Charge?

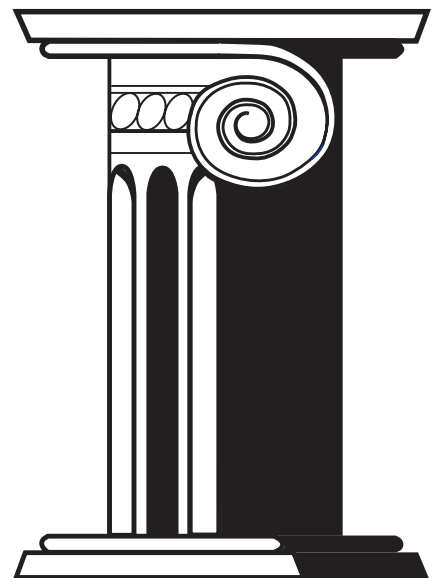
POLICY

STUDY

No. 11-6

An analysis conducted by
Citizens Alliance for Responsible Energy (CARE)
Marita Noon, Executive Director;
John McCulloch and Lawrence J. Clark,
Research Assistants.
www.responsibleenergy.org
505.239.8998

PUBLIC INTEREST



I N S T I T U T E

POLICY STUDY

September 2011

No. 11-6

Public Interest Institute

**Dr. Don Racheter,
President**

POLICY STUDIES are published as needed. They are longer, analytical articles on important public issues.

POLICY STUDIES are published by Public Interest Institute at Iowa Wesleyan College, a nonpartisan, nonprofit, research and educational institute whose activities are supported by contributions from private individuals, corporations, companies, and foundations. The Institute does **not** accept government grants.

Contributions are tax-deductible under sections 501(c)(3) and 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Permission to reprint or copy in whole or part is granted, provided a version of this credit line is used: "Reprinted by permission from POLICY STUDY, a publication of Public Interest Institute."

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Public Interest Institute.

If you have an article you believe is worth sharing, please send it to us. All or a portion of your article may be used. This publication is brought to you in the interest of a better-informed citizenry, because IDEAS DO MATTER.

We invite you to:
CALL us at 319-385-3462
FAX to 319-385-3799
E-MAIL to Public.Interest.Institute@LimitedGovernment.org
VISIT our Website at
www.LimitedGovernment.org
WRITE us at our address on the back cover

Copyright 2011

Environmental Utopia:

What Would Life be Like If the Environmentalists Were in Charge?

Contents

Transportation	4
Modern Conveniences	7
Health	9
Housing	11
Conclusion	14
Endnotes	16
Table - Stated Goals vs. Actual Projects	18
About CARE	25
Marita Noon, Executive Director	26

“We have a vision of rivers and streams running so clear and clean that you can bend a knee to the water, cup your hands, and drink without fear.” This idyllic scene is the goal posted on one environmental group’s website.¹ Another defines their goal as, “explore, enjoy and protect wild places of the earth.”² Yet another says they want to “protect all wildlife and plants in their natural communities.”³ Continuing the “protection” theme, two others state that they exist for the “protection of the forests, rivers, deserts and grasslands,”⁴ while the other is “to protect our water and air, our public lands, our rural character, and our unique quality of life.”⁵

I want to go there. Don’t you? Who doesn’t want to live in a place with clean water? Who wouldn’t want to live in a natural community with rural character and a unique quality of life? In this utopia there would be wildlife and plants, forests, rivers, deserts and grasslands. While the environmental groups do not state this, I am sure this environmental utopia would have cherubic children frolicking in fields of daisies while baby bunnies nibble on the fresh green grass moistened by summer showers. Gentle breezes would blow and the sun’s rays would glisten off the sparkling stream as it gurgles over granite stones. Puffy clouds in the shapes of flowers, hearts, and even Mickey Mouse would float by.

We all want a green earth, clean water, fresh air and a safe food supply. Wouldn’t it be great if we could quit fighting all the evils in the world, suddenly wave a magic wand, and grant all of these environmental groups their wishes?⁶ Wouldn’t the world be a prettier place, a perfect paradise? Does it sound too good to be true?

It is.

A deeper study of the aforementioned environmental groups—plus many others—reveals their true goals. If they could have all their dreams come true, we’d revert back to, at the least, Colonial days and very possibly we’d all be living in caves (though in reality, we’d all revolt before that happened). With approximately 6 billion people on the planet, assuming an average of four people per household, we’d need 1.5 billion caves—and those caves would all need to be near a fresh water source. (This does not take into account the expected population growth that could reach 8 billion by the time many energy mandates would be met.) With no plumbing or sewage processing, that water would not be fresh for very long. The hillsides surrounding these caves would be barren—stripped of wood for heating in the cold months. The critters you’d think lived nearby, providing a food source, would have fled for “greener pastures.” In just a short time, people would be dirty, hungry,

Environmental Utopia

“Does it sound too good to be true?”

It is.”

Environmental Utopia

“Unfortunately, most environmental groups present only one side of the picture while ignoring the very real impacts their policies would have. Therefore, most people do not know the truth about their real motives or understand the vital role energy plays in America.”

sick, and naked—not to mention broke.

How did we get from paradise to pandemonium with one wave of the wand? To find out, read this carefully-documented, educational, and hopefully even entertaining “Environmental Utopia” analysis. Yes, we have taken this idea to a bit of an extreme to make a point, but it does expose the true goals of a variety of environmental groups. Like the layers of an onion, we will peel away the elements of American life that these groups would have us eliminate. These are many of the same things that have made America great—a country people are risking their lives for and a country people are risking their lives to get into.

This analysis confirmed what we have long suspected: the energy that sustains, enriches and improves our lives is under attack. We believe people are smart, and that if they understand the complete energy picture, they will make wise choices. Unfortunately, most environmental groups present only one side of the picture while ignoring the very real impacts their policies would have. Therefore, most people do not know the truth about their real motives or understand the vital role energy plays in America.

We believe once that truth is known, people will make more informed decisions regarding the politicians for whom they

vote, the groups to which they donate, and the choices they make for their personal lives. The irresponsible choices of some are creating hardships for many good people.

We’ll look at the four main areas of modern life the environmental movement’s goals will impact most greatly:

- transportation
- modern conveniences
- health
- housing

For quick review, a chart is provided (at the end of the narrative) with the websites of the researched groups, the goals stated on the front page (or in general text) and the more specific targets visible only to those who care enough to look deeply—with the exact internet address of each noted item.

Transportation

With gas prices high and talk of global warming rampant, gasoline, cars, and transportation in general seem to be on the forefront of everyone’s mind—including the environmentalists. Numerous groups—including the National Resource Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and the Center for Biological Diversity—are actively working to prevent drilling for oil and gas and to expand moratoriums on drilling.⁷ Earth First is even opposed to ethanol.⁸

If these groups were to have their way on this point, cars as we know them would no longer be usable as gasoline supplies would run out quickly—like the impact we’ve felt when a natural disaster shuts down a refinery (only on a much larger scale). We would be restricted to public transportation which might have access to the limited fuel supplies. This would work for those who live in town and go to conventional places at normal times. But for those who live in rural areas, they’d be stuck, unable to get to work, shopping or recreation. This would also eliminate any vacation travel in which one might engage. A family could no longer hitch up the pop-up and travel a few hours away for a weekend in the woods. And, of course, airplanes would have to be sent to museums. Like the dinosaur, they’d be relics from another era as no airplane can fly on wind, solar or bio fuel.

Some would cheer this point, but let’s continue on. At first glance, you might think, “No worry. We’ll have to convert to electric cars. This move is long over due anyway.” This, too, is problematic as 19% of America’s electricity is generated through the use of natural gas and 3% comes from oil⁹ —which, with the wave of this magic wand, we would no longer have in abundance.

Another 50% of our electricity comes from coal.¹⁰ While coal is a cost-effective and abundant energy source, for

the environmentalists, it has big problems. First, it is one of the largest producers of CO₂. So any group embracing global warming concerns is automatically opposed to coal-fired power plants. Many are aiming to prevent any new coal-fired plants from being built while others rejoice in shutting existing plants down. We have yet to develop a cost effective way to sequester the CO₂ in the emissions, so all those plants would be shut down with the wave of this magic wand. Environmental groups also oppose coal liquefaction,¹¹ which means that even though America’s coal reserves rival Saudi Arabia’s oil reserves, we cannot count on coal for liquid fuels either.

While we will address this more completely in the next section, if we were able to continue, for example, the generation of electricity through wind or solar, the amount of electricity available from those limited resources would need to be reserved for vital services and, maybe, public transportation. Certainly the limited supply of electricity could not be used to fuel an electric car for going on rounds of errands, hauling kids from one sports or music practice to another, or taking a trip to the mall.

Okay, if we are to live without liquid fuels and electricity, what are we going to do for transportation? Remember, one of the groups wanted that “rural

Environmental Utopia

“If these groups were to have their way on this point, cars as we know them would no longer be usable as gasoline supplies would run out quickly.”

Environmental Utopia

“One of the basics of the American way of life is the freedom to come and go as we please and our cars are a central part of that right. Take away our cars and you take away our freedom.”

character?” You’d get it. Like days gone by, maybe we could all get around on horses! That would surely give us a “unique quality of life.”

From the beginning of cities (which we’d all need to live in to be close to everything), until the automobile became the primary mode of transportation in 1920’s, horses were the conventional mode of getting around. That sounds environmentally friendly and earthy, until you look further. At the turn of the century, the piles of horse manure were a huge pollutant in America’s cities. Not only was the stench foul, but the piles shoveled onto every street corner attracted flies and rodents, and ultimately, disease. San Francisco has a rule on the books that bans piling horse manure more than six feet high at street corners.¹² The resulting filth in the streets is where the custom of the gentleman walking on the “street-side” of the sidewalk when escorting a lady comes from.

Not only is the byproduct of the use of draft animals for transportation a problem, they created additional waste. A big city had to clear 10,000 to 15,000 horse carcasses from the streets every year¹³—and this is with only about 100 million¹⁴ people in America. Imagine how much worse this would be with the approximate current population of 300 million people!

Like today’s vehicles, the horses also need fuel. While they do not run on gasoline or electricity, they do need hay and oats. In 1920, when the horse was the way to travel, one quarter of American farm land was planted with fuel for the horse-based fleet. One horse requires nearly five acres of land a year for its personal fuel supply¹⁵—as much as is needed for eight people.¹⁶ With approximately 300 million¹⁷ people in America, even if we had only one horse per four-person household, we’d need 75 million horses and 357 million acres of farm land—more than twice the size of Texas.¹⁸ Most of our farm land would be consumed by fueling draft animals. Assuming they had not succumbed to the environmental lure, we’d need to import food from other countries—if we could get it from farm to table before it rotted. Exacerbating the problem in America, very few households have only one car and many households have only one or two people. Horse and buggy are hardly a suitable solution.

Clearly, waving a magic wand and giving environmental extremists all their wishes will greatly alter the way we get around in America. One of the basics of the American way of life is the freedom to come and go as we please and our cars are a central part of that right. Take away our cars and you take away our freedom. When

surveyed, 91% percent of Americans responded that they view their cars as a necessity, not a luxury.¹⁹ The car is a symbol of American personal freedom and one the vast majority of us would not want to live without.

Modern Conveniences

As we determined in the “Transportation” section, waving a magic wand to give the environmental groups everything they want would not create the perfect world one might imagine at first glance. The lack of oil and gas would eliminate transportation as we know it. Add to that, the opposition to coal and nuclear and we now have virtually no electricity.

Of course, with a greatly reduced capacity for electricity and transportation, our lifestyle as we know it ceases to exist, but let’s look at what else we count on today that would be eliminated with the aforementioned energy sources virtually removed from our everyday life.

A recent Pew Research Center study²⁰ determined that most Americans believe that the following items are a necessity, not a luxury:

- Car
- Clothes washer
- Clothes dryer
- Home air conditioning
- Microwave
- Television

- Car air conditioning
- Home computer
- Cell phone²¹

Each of these necessary items has one thing in common: energy is required to both manufacture and use them! They each require either a liquid fuel such as gasoline, or electricity, which is primarily generated from either oil, natural gas, or coal. Other sources for electricity do exist. Some of the most common—and environmentally acceptable—include hydropower, wind, and solar. Currently hydropower accounts for approximately 6.5%²² of America’s energy supply, wind 0.4%²³ and solar 0.1%.²⁴ Ideally these numbers will increase, but even the American Wind Energy Association only hopes that wind will increase up to 20%²⁵ of all electricity supply—an optimistic goal considering that recent figures show it only supplying less than 1%. They do not expect wind to ever be a “baseload” energy source—which means that it will never be the sole source for electricity and that it needs a primary supply to the energy grid to which wind can be a supplement. Wind will be used as a part of a bigger energy portfolio.

To continue life with any of the qualities that we currently enjoy, we would need electricity. What could we do to make up the gap between the need and the above renewables? Many might think nuclear. It is

Environmental Utopia

“To continue life with any of the qualities that we currently enjoy, we would need electricity.”

Environmental Utopia

“There are other, less obvious, problems once we have removed hydrocarbons from life. Every one of the above mentioned ‘necessities’ requires petroleum — and not for electricity as you might think. They all contain plastics.”

getting more and more positive nods as it is the cleanest, least CO₂ producing, way to generate the large amounts of electricity needed in America. However, in waving the magic wand, nuclear is out. None of the twenty-five environmental groups studied are “for” nuclear power and several are downright against it—with the Nuclear Information and Resource Service’s entire goal to create a nuclear free planet.²⁶

But let’s assume for a moment that hydro, wind, and solar can create enough electricity for America to continue to have electric power. (This is truly wishful thinking as some environmental groups are making it difficult to generate electricity by trying to block or shut down wind and hydro.²⁷) To meet Greenpeace’s goals for wind and solar generation of electricity, we’d have to be installing wind turbines at the rate of more than 20 per hour (and we are already dealing with an increase in the price of steel and a wind turbine shortage²⁸) and have photovoltaic cells covering an area as big as the state of Virginia.²⁹

There are other, less obvious, problems once we have removed hydrocarbons from life. Every one of the above mentioned “necessities” requires petroleum—and not for electricity as you might think. They all contain plastics. The casing on your computer and many of the inner workings

are made from plastics. So is your cell phone. While your washer and dryer may be metal on the outside, many other parts are made from plastics.

A currently running—and clever—advertisement for the chemical industry, shows many of these “necessities” disappearing from life if we did not have plastics. The ad concludes that we need “chemistry.” This is true. But it does not take the next step to tell you that these plastics come from a feedstock (source) of hydrocarbons—coal, oil or natural gas.³⁰ New research is being done to generate plastics from plant-based feedstock. *Design News Magazine* declares that “Corn is the new feedstock of choice for plastics aimed at engineering applications.”³¹ So, now not only are ethanol and food products competing for the ever-more-expensive corn, now the crop is going to have to stretch to provide feedstock for plastics?

As a country, America is already strapped for plastics. The iconic “pink flamingo” died just short of its fiftieth birthday as a result of higher prices for plastic resins.³² Other manufacturing is going overseas where the feedstock costs are lower.

So, without petroleum, many of the things we take for granted—even consider a necessity—will be gone. Here is just a partial list of the

modern conveniences most people (72%³³) do not realize are made from petrochemicals:

- baby strollers
- balloons
- cameras
- clothing
- crayons
- credit cards
- DVDs and CDs
- foul weather gear
- furniture
- luggage
- pantyhose
- toys
- umbrellas

We might, in jest, think we'd be happy without some of these items, but in reality, we count on them.

Remember earlier we decided to pretend that we could still have electricity—from hydro, wind and solar. Let's also pretend that we can have plastics from corn. We'd still have all of these items we really want, right? Wrong. There is more involved. We may have electricity available, but we have to get it to our homes and offices—which we are also still pretending we could actually get to.

To get the electricity from the power plant to our homes and businesses requires transmission towers and wires to transport it. Copper is the wire on which electricity travels most efficiently. Do we still have copper after the magic wand is waved? Nope. Groups such as the Gifford Pinchot

Task Force and Save the Scenic Santa Ritas are aiming to shut down current or prevent future mining of copper and other minerals necessary for energy production.³⁴ As a result, even though there could theoretically be electricity without petroleum and even though there could theoretically be plastics without petrochemicals, we'd not be able to access the electricity without metals.

This is getting bleak, isn't it? While there may still be some public transportation, most of us are probably using horses for personal transportation—which is using up huge amounts of land for their fuel—and their waste matter is polluting the cities. Without plastics or abundant electricity, we do not have most of the things we consider to be necessities. But, at least we have our health. They say without your health nothing else matters.

Health

If the Oglala Sioux Indian Chief Flying Hawk was correct when he said, "Nobody can be in good health if he does not have *all the time* fresh air, sunshine and good water,"³⁵ this environmental utopia would be a healthy place. If only "fresh air, sunshine and good water" was all that was required for good health. Not that these qualities of life are not essential, but in our complicated world, much more is involved in health. Of course in times of Chief

Environmental Utopia

"Copper is the wire on which electricity travels most efficiently. Do we still have copper after the magic wand is waved? Nope. Groups...are aiming to shut down current or prevent future mining of copper and other minerals necessary for energy production."

Environmental Utopia

Flying Hawk's birth, before the industrial revolution, the average life expectancy was about 35 years—and fresh air, sunshine and good water were about all one had for medicine.

Now, the average life expectancy is double what it was before the industrial revolution, and medicine means so much more than the bottle of alcohol-filled elixir the traveling salesman sold in the old west. Without abundant energy, medicine would revert back to the days of the independent physician. The only way to contact the doctor might be to notify him of a need by a rider on horseback, and the doctor then riding to the location as quickly as possible—which was often too late. His tools were manual and the medicines primitive.

Modern medicine is highly dependant on energy. X-rays, MRIs, and radiation treatments could not be possible without electricity. Even something as simple as a blood pressure or temperature check is typically done today with electronic equipment. Not to mention the lights in the hospital that allow emergency surgery to be done at anytime of the day or night and the heating and cooling systems that aid in keeping the patient comfortable. Without energy, none of this would be possible. But take this a step further and there are no ambulances to take the injured to the hospital, and certainly no life-flights. Helicopters are

not a part of this environmental utopia.

If a person had a heart attack, for example, and was able to get to the hospital via horse and buggy, he or she would not be able to have the life-giving capabilities of a pacemaker or an artificial heart. Each of these modern inventions would not be possible without plastic—and plastic is made primarily from hydrocarbons.³⁶

Without plastic, the changes that would take place in the fields of health and medicine are myriad as it plays a much greater role than we think—even if we *do* think about it. In the hospital, plastic's presence ranges from sterilization trays and advanced housing materials, to endoscopic surgical instruments and blood filters—and nearly everything in between. Most products synonymous with emergency medicine could not be produced without plastic: IV bags, syringes, and portable, lightweight equipment like cardiac monitors are just a handful of examples. Prosthetic devices have revolutionized the medical field; plastics have given everyday people in need of prosthetic devices increased mobility and artificial limbs with an astonishingly lifelike appearance.³⁷ Disposable plastic products have dramatically reduced infection rates and the spread of disease. Plastic packaging and containers help keep medicine and instruments sterile and

*“Modern medicine
is highly dependant
on energy.”*

secure at your doctor's office. At home, plastic child-proof caps prevent accidental deaths and our plastic eyeglasses help improve our vision. Every day, modern medicine depends on plastic to help keep us healthy.

Then there is the equipment that adds to our health and comfort—much of which uses both electricity and hydrocarbon-based plastics. Look at the treadmill or stair-stepper you might use at the gym or at home. They require electricity to work and they have plastics for comfort. The gym shoes and clothes you wear while using the equipment at the health club are probably all petroleum based. At the doctor's office, think about what is under that paper they pull over the exam table—a vinyl covered, foam cushion. Plastic is at work in our health and comfort in ways we'd overlook unless they were absent—as they'd be in our environmental utopia.

While medicine is important, plastics play a big role in our overall health. From the manufacturer to the grocer and to our dinner tables, airtight plastic packaging helps keep foods fresh and free from contamination.³⁸ Without plastics, our food supply and its safety would be jeopardized.

Without modern transportation, our food selection would change drastically, and this would impact our health. Some environmental groups suggest

that we not transport food at all and that people buy from local farmers markets only.³⁹ We would not have fresh fruits and vegetables at all times of the year—and certainly not the vast selection we find in the local grocery store in refrigerated cases.

Without electricity to run the refrigerator we have at home, we'd only be able to eat what we harvested from the garden—or shot or captured—today, or what we canned during the last harvest. Not to mention how much harder and less productive the growing and harvesting process would be without the modern, gas-powered machines.

Without energy, we would have that longed for “rural character,” but is that really how we want to live?

Housing

As we have systematically peeled away many of the elements of life today, what do we have left? Maybe we would not have electricity nor all the benefits it gives us every day (including over 40% of a building's electricity for heating or cooling, and a little over 10% each for heating and lighting), maybe we'd not travel far from home because long trips via horse and buggy are tiresome, maybe our life expectancy would be shorter without the benefits of modern medicine, but we'd at least have our house to keep us

Environmental Utopia

“Plastic is at work in our health and comfort in ways we'd overlook unless they were absent—as they'd be in our environmental utopia.”

Environmental Utopia

*“Many groups...
are opposed to
harvesting trees of
any size, therefore
making sustainable
forest management
difficult, if not
impossible to
accomplish.”*

protected from the elements and safe from wildlife attacks, right? Negative.

When we look at housing, you might think, “Well, I have a house now. This wouldn’t be a problem.” And you may still have a house in this environmental utopia. But in our greatly reduced energy world, you couldn’t mow your lawn with your powered mower—in fact; you wouldn’t even be able to water it. Your current home would quickly begin to look shabby and run down. Without electricity available for water processing and pumping, you would soon need to leave your home to be closer to a water source—which eliminates the idea of living in most cities to be close to everything.

Our environmental utopia will create big changes in new housing. Let’s start with the obvious: wood. 94% of houses in the U.S. are built of structural lumber.⁴⁰ But in this new world, wood would not be available as numerous groups oppose logging and are currently working to stop it here or there.⁴¹ Many groups—including Wild Earth Guardians and Western Watersheds Projects—are opposed to harvesting trees of any size, therefore making sustainable forest management difficult, if not impossible to accomplish. This then creates insect and disease problems. Forests choked with too many trees lead to fires like the Cerro

Grande, Lake Tahoe fires, and Southern California’s late 2007 fires—which then create a different set of problems. Under a limited fuel supply scenario, catastrophic fires would be the norm and they would be larger and more intense, since mechanical equipment could not be used to suppress them.⁴² These major fires are a major producer of greenhouse gases with an estimated 4.8 metric tons of CO₂ for every acre of coniferous forest consumed.⁴³

In some parts of the country, homes are frequently made from cinder blocks. Besides the fact that energy is required to make cinder blocks, we would not have them either, as they are made from cement—and cement (made from limestone) and its components are under attack by groups such as Earth Justice.⁴⁴ This would even mean that a home built from rocks would not be held together with cement.

With our current housing left behind in suburbia, what is left to live in? To quote Chief Flying Hawk again, “The tepee is much better to live in: always clean, warm in winter, cool in summer, easy to move...”⁴⁵ While the tepee was an efficient mode of housing for the nomadic life of the plains Indians, I can’t imagine Al Gore fitting his 10 thousand square feet of stuff into a tepee, can you?⁴⁶ I don’t want to live in a tepee, and I am pretty sure neither you nor Al Gore wants to go tenting on

a permanent basis. They'd be leaky in the rain. And I think that they would not really be, "always clean, warm in winter, cool in summer." That is how we end up with caves. In America we'd need 75 million caves with four to a household. I doubt the caves would be "always clean." They'd have dirt floors. Carpet today, like much of our clothing, is made from petroleum.⁴⁷ Speaking of clothes, where would they come from? You can't run down to Walmart, Chico's, or J. Crew to pick up your favorites. Unlike the GEICO cavemen who live in our modern world, we would not have the convenience of ready-made fabric, let alone clothes.

Then, remember we mentioned that the caves would need to be near a fresh water source. Without electricity for pumping, processing and purifying and without plastics or copper for piping, we would not have the ease of clean water just from turning the faucet. But we need water for health and cleaning. So we'd have to be near a stream, pond or lake. However, lakes, rivers, springs, ponds, or streams can be contaminated with feces from animals resulting in giardiasis—a diarrheal illness caused by a one-celled, microscopic parasite.⁴⁸ The US Government recommends that backpackers, hikers, and campers not drink unfiltered or untreated water; water that has not been boiled, filtered, or disinfected with chemicals.

But let's be optimistic. Suppose you find a cave near a fresh water source that is not contaminated with giardia. Maybe this cave is in an Eden-like setting and the area is teeming with fresh food sources and abundant trees to provide for fire wood—over which you can cook your food and create a toasty fire to keep you warm in the winter. Whoa! You cannot cut down those trees, remember? OK, since we are talking "utopia," let's assume this cave is in a warm locale so you do not need fire for heat. (Since you'd not have access to fire trucks or borate bombers to fight fires, it is a good thing you'd not need fire.) You do have the true essentials: food—albeit raw—and water. Like the wildlife leaving feces in the water, you will need to do something with your personal waste matter. If you were simply camping in the mountains for the weekend, you could find a convenient log and dig a hole which you'd cover up before leaving the site. However, with the wave of our magic wand, we gave the environmental groups what they want—and this is now your life. With 300 million people in America looking for caves near a fresh water source, the chances of you being alone in those woods is slim at best. There will probably be more people in the area producing waste matter than the ground can absorb. Without plumbing and electricity, there is no sewage processing. Waste matter will not be converted

Environmental Utopia

"Speaking of clothes, where would they come from? You can't run down to Walmart, Chico's, or J. Crew to pick up your favorites."

Environmental Utopia

into “non-potable” water that can be used to water the plants along the freeway. (Of course, we will not have freeways.)

If you think about it, you’d realize that you’ll have no time for a job. You’ll be spending all your time trying just to survive. Life as we know it would disappear. A giant worldwide recession would occur.

Yuck! It’s rapidly looking like the environmental groups have fed us a grocery cart full of misinformation and propaganda.

Conclusion

The scenario presented here may seem extreme, but we have barely touched on the full impact of what would happen if the “magic wand” really could be waved. There are many other elements we could have developed and documented in this report, but the end product would be so long that we fear no one would want to read it.

Here’s a quick idea of some of the additional areas we could expand upon.

- Regarding wind power, this utopia would have a problem in that mining the ore to make the turbines (and the actual manufacture of them) requires energy.
- If corn is the “feedstock of choice” as is mentioned, we have not delved into how much agricultural and wildlife

habitat acreage will be needed to produce that corn. Nor how much water, fuel, insecticides and fertilizer will we need to grow and transport, not to mention the fuel needed to convert the sugars to fuel.

- Speaking of corn, we have barely mentioned ethanol. This topic is so large that it requires analysis of its own. (Much additional commentary on ethanol can be found on CARE’s Blog.)
- Since we know people would revolt before we really got to the cave stage—though some ecologists almost prefer that we do,⁴⁹ the initial changes would hurt the poor, the elderly, and minority families the most.

While we all want a green earth—clean air, fresh water and a safe food supply—stopping, opposing, denying, and blocking are not the ways to get it. Huge strides have been made since the dawn of the industrial revolution. Despite increases in the typical activities that produce pollution, America is much cleaner now than it was twenty years ago. Since 1970 our population has increased 42% and our energy consumption has gone up 48%. The number of miles we drive each year is up 178%. At the same time,

“While we all want a green earth—clean air, fresh water and a safe food supply—stopping, opposing, denying, and blocking are not the ways to get it.”

our American ingenuity has been at work generating a 195% increase in the GNP. With these figures, it would be only logical that pollution has increased. However, the truth is that, despite this growth, our aggregate emissions are approximately half of what they were!⁵⁰ Our air is clearer. Our streams are much cleaner—while they may have giardia, they are teeming with fish.⁵¹

Yes, there do need to be regulations, as every population has its “bad actors.” Yes, we do need to be aware of the damage certain activities create. We also need compromise to protect good people from irresponsible choices. Alternatives that sound better may not be the best option. Extreme environmentalism has just as many down sides as the progress-at-any-cost-extreme. No one wants drilling in their neighborhood, but we all want cheap gas. We all want to turn on the lights when we want to, use our computers and our iPods, be cool and comfortable in the summer and toasty warm in the winter, but no one wants a power plant in their state—and the Kennedy family certainly doesn’t want wind turbines messing up their high-priced ocean view or dropping their property values. Environmental groups are even fighting the installation of wind farms, charging that greedy companies are “seeking sites with the most wind...”⁵² Here in New Mexico, Santa Fe residents have organized to put

a moratorium on oil and gas exploration,⁵³ despite the fact that these resources provide approximately 50% of the state’s revenues—and we are one of the poorest states. It is like the old saying, there is no “free lunch.” We cannot have the energy we want without some elements we do not want.

When someone in front of the grocery store asks you to sign a petition to stop plans for a new power plant, or a new refinery, or to stop logging here or mining there, think of the bigger implications. While our world is not perfect, I think you’d rather live here than in “environmental utopia.”

Let’s get real! Let’s look at the energy reality.

Do you prefer the “necessities” of life? Do you like your car, your microwave, your health and your house? Now that you are aware of the changes that the seemingly innocent desires for a green earth could force upon your life, it is time to do something about it. If you like the American way of life, don’t let the environmental groups take away energy. Most of them have unattainable goals or goals that do not factor in the complete picture. They fight to stop a perceived evil, without looking at what else will be impacted. Which portions of your lifestyle—or you children’s or grandchildren’s lifestyle—do you want to give up in the name of saving the world from this or that

Environmental Utopia

“When someone in front of the grocery store asks you to sign a petition to stop plans for a new power plant, or a new refinery, or to stop logging here or mining there, think of the bigger implications.”

Environmental Utopia

“Contact your elected officials and let them know you want energy—responsible energy! Ask them to allow more exploration and innovation in America. Tell them you want to tap into energy sources currently or in the process of being made off limits in America by the Endangered Species Act.”

speculative environmental cataclysm?

Contact your elected officials and let them know you want energy—responsible energy! Ask them to allow more exploration and innovation in America. Tell them you want to tap into energy sources currently or in the process of being made off limits in America by the Endangered Species Act. Don’t let the squeaking wheels of the environmental groups continue to dictate policy. They’ll regulate us back to the stone-age! (For more information on “responsible energy,” please visit the CARE website at www.responsibleenergy.org.) We the people, we the consumers, have the power. Call your elected officials; jam the phone systems! We have power over our elected officials and we can vote with our dollars. Don’t buy things that waste energy, but look closely, as things are not always as they appear.

Additionally, as a consumer you can demand efficiency. The government doesn’t need to mandate it—though they do. Consumer demand is what has hurt the American auto industry and catapulted the imports to the top sellers. Now Detroit is desperately trying to catch up. It is like a current ad for Hyundai says, “It is not that complicated. If gas costs a lot of money, let’s build cars that use as little of it as possible.”

This is called market demand. It is *us* voting with our dollars.

Have your eyes been opened now that you see the complete energy picture? Then spread the word. Tell your friends and family. Look around. Energy is everywhere. Energy makes America great!

Endnotes

¹<http://www.amigosbravos.org/index.php>

²<http://www.sierraclub.org>

³<http://www.savearcticrefuge.org/>

⁴http://www.fguardians.org/sf/issue_clean-water-wild-forests.asp

⁵<http://www.sanjuancitizens.org>

⁶<http://www.responsibleenergy.org/obstruction.asp>

⁷<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/cap2.0/files/ebargain.pdf>

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlands/coasts/>

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2010/DrillingM-ordinatorium-05-31-2010.html

<http://www.savearcticrefuge.org/>

⁸http://www.earthfirstjournal.org/article.php?id=305https://secure2.convio.net/dow/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=713&s_einterest=C3C4

<http://www.savearcticrefuge.org/>

⁹http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epa/epa_sum.html

¹⁰http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epa/epa_sum.html

¹¹<http://www.earthfirstjournal.org/article.php?id=305>

<http://members.greenpeace.org/action/start/150/>

¹²<http://www.sacramentorealestatevoice.com/2007/02/01/crazy-laws-in-california/>

¹³J. R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun*, P. 310

¹⁴<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/cgi-local/censusbin/census/cen.pl>

¹⁵<http://www.das.psu.edu/news/fullstory.cfm?newsID=574>

¹⁶J. R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun*, P. 310

¹⁷http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFPopulation?_sse=on

¹⁸<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48000.html>

¹⁹<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/323/luxury-or-necessity>

²⁰<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/323/luxury-or-necessity>

²¹49% of respondents said a cell phone was a necessity. All other items are higher than 50%, most well above.

²²<http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epa/figes1.html>

²³<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/sources/renewable/wind.html>

²⁴<http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/solar/renewables/page/trends/table11.html>

²⁵http://www.awea.org/pubs/documents/Outlook_2007.pdf

²⁶<http://www.nirs.org/about/nirs.htm>

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/nuclear>

²⁷http://www.westernwatersheds.org/watmess/watmess_2004/spring_2004.pdf

²⁸http://www.awea.org/pubs/documents/Outlook_2007.pdf

²⁹These numbers based on a Greenpeace's goals published in "energy [r]evolution a sustainable world energy outlook" (<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/energyrevolutionreport.pdf>) which provides numbers on various sources where they envision our energy will come from by the year 2050 (pages 46 and 47). Based on a forty-hour work week with a windmill at 1.5 MW and solar cells that are 15% efficient.

³⁰http://www.plasticsresource.com/s_plasticsresource/sec.asp?TRACKID=&CID=126&DID=228

³¹*Design News Magazine*, April 30, 2007, page 49

³²<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/features/home/sfl-hg20flamingooct20,0,2739018.story?coll=sfla-features-homegarden>

³³http://www.scansystems.com/oil_facts.pdf

³⁴<http://www.gptaskforce.org/conservation/mount-st.-helens-again-threatened-by-out-of-state-mining-interests>

<http://www.scenicsantaritas.org/>

³⁵http://www.danley.kent.sch.uk/history/nai_homes.html

³⁶http://www.americanchemistry.com/plastics/sec_content.asp?CID=1078&DID=4232

³⁷http://www.americanplasticscouncil.org/benefits/in_your_life/pop/power_plastics9-99.html

³⁸http://www.americanchemistry.com/plastics/sec_content.asp?CID=1078&DID=4232

³⁹http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2007/07/22/the_localvores_dilemma/

⁴⁰<http://www.wildearthguardians.org/>

⁴¹<http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlegacy/sequoia>, http://fguardians/sfissue_carson-national-forest.asp, <http://earthfirst.org/treesits.htm>

http://www.westernwatersheds.org/watmess/watmess_2004/spring_2004.pdf

⁴²<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=politics&id=5421815>

⁴³<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/11/071101085029.htm>, <http://www.slate.com/id/2175938/>

⁴⁴<http://nrdc.org/media/pressreleases/060322.asp>

⁴⁵http://www.danley.kent.sch.uk/history/nai_homes.html

⁴⁶http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2006-08-09-gore-green_x.htm

⁴⁷http://www.plasticsresource.com/s_plasticsresource/sec.asp?TRACKID=&CID=126&DID=228

⁴⁸http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/giardiasis/factsht_giardia.htm#transmission

⁴⁹<http://seguingazette.com/story.lasso?ewcd=751d52c8fccc3017&page=all>, <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,21684156-5009760,00.html>

⁵⁰http://www.epa.gov/air/airtrends/2006/emissions_summary_2005.html

⁵¹*Fly Rod and Reel Magazine*, April 2007, p. 20

⁵²http://www.westernwatersheds.org/watmess/watmess_2004/spring_2004.pdf

⁵³The Santa Fe New Mexican, July 17, page 1

Environmental Utopia

The following table contains a random sampling of environmentalist organizations with goals and/or current campaigns designed to interfere with, reduce, or eliminate energy related activities in the United States and around the world.

Stated Goals	Actual Energy/Mining Related Projects
<p>Caribou Clean Water Partnership (Idaho & Wyoming)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> balance the private interests of the phosphate companies protect Caribou National Forest from selenium contamination due to irresponsible phosphate mining practices <p>http://www.cariboucleanwater.org/about.html</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convince BLM and Forest Service to deny Simplot's bid to obtain ownership of any BLM or Forest Service lands for their toxic tailings impoundment convince BLM and Forest Service to not approve any lease modifications for lands within the Huckleberry Basin roadless area <p>http://www.cariboucleanwater.org/streamline/</p>
<p>Center for Biological Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fight a growing number of national and worldwide threats to biodiversity, from the overarching global problems of overpopulation and climate change to intensifying domestic sources of species endangerment secure broad protections for species and habitat <p>http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/about/story/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make sure logging's carbon consequences are addressed stop dirty energy development preserve ancient desert tortoise keep off-road vehicles from tearing up delicate ecosystems and imperiling species throughout the United States <p>http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/index.html</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with their campaigns to protect goshawks and owls, they shut down major timber operations throughout Arizona and New Mexico brought an end to large-scale industrial logging in the heritage public lands of the arid Southwest. <p>http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/about/story/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aided in the removal of two power plants on Fossil Creek <p>http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/fish/razorback_sucker/index.html</p>
<p>Clark Fork Coalition (Montana)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dedicated to protecting and restoring the Clark Fork River basin <p>http://www.clarkfork.org/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opposes ExxonMobil's proposed 'high & wide' corridor in Montana <p>http://www.clarkfork.org/take-action/take-action-alerts-page.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stop or re-route mines, pipelines and other riverside growth helped outlaw cyanide heap mining aided in stopping Rock Creek Mine from opening <p>In May 2010, Federal Judge Molloy rejected the U.S. Forest Service's approval of a proposed silver and copper mine (known as the 'Rock Creek Mine') on the edge of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area within the Kootenai National Forest. Judge Donald Molloy ruled that the Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Forest Service Organic Act in approving the Rock Creek Mine planned by Revett Minerals Inc.</p> <p>http://www.clarkfork.org/water-watch/rock-creek-mine.html</p> <p>http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2010/2010-03-29-092.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> appealed permit for Thompson River Power Plant <p>http://www.clarkfork.org/recent-articles/in-the-news.html</p>
<p>Coalition for Otero Mesa (New Mexico)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect Otero Mesa from risk of ruin from exploration for oil and gas deposits prevent drilling in the Otero Mesa Wilderness <p>http://www.oteromesa.org/featured-articles/write-a-letter-to-secretary-of-the-interior-salazar/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mobilized a coalition of hunters, ranchers, conservationists, and state leaders to stop any new oil and gas drilling in the Otero Mesa Wilderness <p>http://www.oteromesa.org/the-campaign-to-protect-otero-mesa/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promotes idea that any oil and gas exploration is a threat to Otero Mesa <p>http://www.oteromesa.org/threats/oil-and-gas/</p>

<p>Coalition for the Valle Vidal (New Mexico)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevent CBM mining in the Valle Vidal http://www.vallevidal.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> successfully barred oil and gas companies from the valley http://www.vallevidal.org/overview.php
<p>Defenders of Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect species and the habitats upon which they depend champion laws and lawmakers that protect wildlife and wild places while working against those that do them harm http://www.defenders.org/about_us/faqs/general.php 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting a moratorium on further offshore drilling http://www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/offshore_drilling/gulf_oil_disaster/index.php against oil exploration and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge http://www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/habitat_conservation/federal_lands/national_wildlife_refuges/threats/arctic/index.php
<p>Earth First!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> believes in biocentrism (life of the Earth comes first) and a practice of putting those beliefs into action http://earthfirst.org/about.htm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> organized blockade in attempt to shut down Clinch River Power Plant http://www.earthfirstjournal.org/article.php?id=275 opposes new coal plants in Virginia http://www.mountainjusticesummer.org/events.php?id=70 opposes coal liquefaction http://www.mountainjusticesummer.org/events.php?id=71 organizing a “mass mobilization” (Appalachia Rising) in Washington, D.C. to end all “mountaintop removal mining” of coal http://appalachiarising.org/ organizes “tree sits” to oppose logging http://treesit.blogspot.com/ http://www.earthfirstjournal.org/article.php?id=227 opposes ethanol http://www.earthfirstjournal.org/article.php?id=305
<p>Earth Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect magnificent places, natural resources, and wildlife of this earth, and defend the right of all people to a healthy environment. http://earthjustice.org/about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impose tougher environmental restrictions on cement manufacturers http://www.earthjustice.org/features/air-toxics block permits of coal fired plants http://www.earthjustice.org/our_work/cases/2007/page.jsp?itemID=30390639 prevent logging of old growth trees in the Sierra Nevada http://www.earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/library/factsheets/SNF_Fact_Sheet.pdf supports designating millions of acres of national forest land to prevent logging, mining, and energy development projects http://www.earthjustice.org/features/timeline-of-the-roadless-rule
<p>Earthworks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> works with county and municipal governments in a variety of states to enact or improve oil and gas regulations http://www.earthworksaction.org/home.cfm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports laws that govern mining on public lands in the United States http://www.earthworksaction.org/TheWayForward.cfm reform national mining laws http://www.earthworksaction.org/1872.cfm Opposes creation of the following mines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berners Bay AK (gold mine) Apache Leap AZ (copper) Pinto Creek AZ (copper) Santa Ritas AZ (copper) Uncompahgre CO (gold) Boise River ID (gold) Cabinet Mtns MT (silver/copper) Mt Tenabo NV (gold) Siskiyou OR

	http://www.earthworksaction.org/SpecialPlaces.cfm
The Environmental Defense Center (California)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protects and enhances the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action http://www.edcnet.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> helped block a deep sea LNG terminal at Cabrillo port http://www.vcreporter.com/cms/story/detail/?id=4523&IssueNum=119 represented groups opposed to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant helped defeat the proposed liquefied natural gas facility at Point Conception successfully stopped the expansion of the Petrochem Oil Refinery in Ventura County defeated ARCO's attempt to install three new platforms off the coast of UCSB defeated the Mobil Clearview oil project at Elwood convinced the National Park Service to protect natural resources at Santa Rosa Island http://www.edcnet.org/learn/Case_History.html
Wild Earth Guardians (formerly Forest Guardians)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protects and restores wildlife, wild rivers, and wild places in the American West http://www.wildearthguardians.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports fossil fuel policy reform challenges power plants and fossil fuel use http://www.wildearthguardians.org/AboutUs/TheFirst20years19892009/tabid/173/Default.aspx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seeks halt of oil and gas permitting in Colorado http://www.wildearthguardians.org/library/paper.asp?nMode=1&nLibraryID=889 seeks to prevent logging and oil and gas "exploitation" in Carson National Forest http://www.wildearthguardians.org/library/paper.asp?nMode=1&nLibraryID=168 seeks to prevent logging, mining, and oil and gas development in 1.6 million acres of roadless areas in New Mexico via the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission http://www.wildearthguardians.org/library/paper.asp?nMode=2&nLibraryID=410
The Gifford Pinchot Task Force (Washington)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> works with other organizations and with coalitions to shape national legislation and Forest Service policies to protect and restore Northwest public lands http://www.gptaskforce.org/policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposes Mount St. Helens copper mine http://www.gptaskforce.org/conservation/mount-st.-helens-again-threatened-by-out-of-state-mining-interests
Greenpeace	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect forests and the life they support fight to restore health to oceans. demand U.S. climate leadership on the world stage, work with business to implement solutions, and expose the "dirty secrets" of corporate polluters like Exxon eliminate toxic chemicals in rivers and lakes, air, land, and oceans halt the expansion of all nuclear power and shut down existing plants campaign for agriculture that is good for the planet and people support healthy food grown with the environment and farming that helps farmers to cope with climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PVC-free initiative http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/toxics/go-pvc-free/ eliminate coal-fired power plants http://www.greenpeace.org.au/climate/GI-dirtydozen.html cut industrial nations emissions by 80% reduce carbon emissions to 1.3 tons per person per annum reduce electricity consumption through efficiency by 3% world wide by 2050 phase out coal power plants http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/how-to-save-the-climate-pers.pdf phase out oil http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/news/ruptured-oil-tanker-sinks-off

http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/campaigns/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate nuclear power http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/nuclear/
Natural Resource Defense Council	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> curb global warming and create a “Clean Energy Future” revive the world's oceans defend endangered wildlife and wild places protect our health by preventing pollution ensure safe and sufficient water foster sustainable communities http://www.nrdc.org/about/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> end mountaintop removal coal mining regulate drilling in the Marcellus Shale http://www.nrdc.org/policy/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevent Tarsand mining in Canada’s Boreal Forest http://www.nrdc.org/media/docs/060607a.pdf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> blocked limestone mining in Florida http://www.nrdc.org/media/pressreleases/060322.asp
National Wildlife Federation	
<p>inspires Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future</p> http://www.nwf.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Climate Policy- seeks to put America on a path to energy independence and pass strong global warming legislation International Climate Treaty - works with a coalition of environmental organizations around the world to push for the adoption of a new international climate change agreement Renewable Fuels and Energy - supports the expansion of clean energy sources and at the same time guide renewable energy production and transmission lines away from critical environmental areas Dirty Fuels -supports stopping the production of crude oil extracted from tar sands and oil shale or produced by liquefying coal http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Policy-Solutions.aspx
Nuclear Information and Resource Service	
<p>information and networking center for people and organizations concerned about nuclear power, radioactive waste, radiation, and sustainable energy issues.</p> http://nirs.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> initiate large-scale organizing and public education campaigns on specific issues, such as preventing construction of new reactors, radioactive waste transportation, and deregulation of radioactive materials. http://www.nirs.org/about/nirs.htm
Oil and Gas Accountability Project	
<p>EARTHWORKS' Oil & Gas Accountability Project works with tribal, urban and rural communities to protect their homes and the environment from the devastating impacts of oil and gas development.</p> http://www.earthworksaction.org/oil_and_gas.cfm	<p>OGAP has prepared a set of model regulations to provide county governments in New Mexico with a framework for enacting new or more stringent oil and gas regulations.</p> <p>A sample of the regulations includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> county can deny permit based on any past performance anywhere in the world require lengthy plans including environmental and socio economic impacts. Including county or city expansion of services including roads, water, sewage, housing, landfills, schools, recreation and local business environmental plans must include location of all physical structures, pipelines, flowlines, and roads. Must show location of all farming and livestock activity in the vicinity. Must show location of ANY kind of water bodies (including arroyos and draws). Wildlife habitat and migration routes geologic features also must be included location of all subsurface water or aquifers the depths of the water tables and state to quality of groundwater. must post financial guarantees of a minimum \$20,000/well and \$10,000/exploration permit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area containing producing equipment can be no larger than 100 feet by 150 feet • site must conform to a 40 dB noise standard (this is quieter than the average home) • all pumping mechanisms must be electrically driven • locate all facilities at the base of slopes to provide a background of topography and natural color • equipment must be a uniform non-contrasting, non-glare, non-chalking, non-reflective color tone and in a color to match the landscape and not the sky • roads must be surfaced with a minimum of 3 inches of gravel <p>http://www.earthworksaction.org/pubs/Preserving%20our%20public%20lands.pdf</p>
<p>Sierra Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore, enjoy and protect wild place of the earth • practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources • educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment • use all lawful means to carry out these objectives <p>http://sierraclub.org/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports creation of more national monuments to restrict logging http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/07/01/96885/bill-would-limit-presidents-power.html • block action to sell National Forest Land http://southcarolina.sierraclub.org/lunz/conservation.html • appealed federal judge's decision to block Obama administration's 6-month moratorium on deepwater drilling (2010) http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/lawsuits/0442.aspx • supports expanding moratoriums of offshore drilling in Virginia and Florida http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/adv_oilspill • convert natural hazard zones (floodplains, shorelines, landslide zones, avalanche chutes etc.) into natural areas that are free of human habitations http://www.sierraclub.org/communities/ • eliminate oil exploration and drilling in the Arctic http://www.sierraclub.org/arctic/ • opposed building of Legacy Highway in Utah http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/report00/roads.asp
<p>Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coalition of hunting, fishing and conservation organizations, labor unions, and individual grassroots partners who represent the wide spectrum of America's outdoor community. • dedicated to the foresighted stewardship of America's landscape, helping to expand fish and wildlife habitat, and increasing public access to quality hunting and fishing. <p>http://www.trcp.org/about.html</p>	<p>Supports reforms to the General Mining Law of 1872, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending mining's priority status on public lands; • Recovering reasonable royalties on minerals taken from public lands and establish a fund for fish and wildlife habitat improvement to address impacts from past mining; • Ensuring that resource professionals have discretion in planning and permitting future mining to conserve public lands where high fish, water and wildlife values exist; • Allowing reclamation incentives for Good Samaritans; and • Prohibit patenting or sale of public lands — keep public lands in public hands. <p>http://www.trcp.org/issues/mining.html</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> actively involved in a federal process to prevent the sale of leases in Colorado and other western states. persuaded the BLM to cancel lease parcels in Montana, Utah and Wyoming because of sensitive fish and wildlife issues <p>http://www.trcp.org/newsroom/pressreleases/17-pressreleases/119-pr-2007-10-24.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> filed suit in U.S. District Court against the Interior Department for its mishandling of a process that cleared the way for rapidly accelerated energy development on public lands in south-central Wyoming <p>http://www.trcp.org/issues/energy.html</p> <p>Recommends the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any annual or short-term increase in federal funding for energy development should be matched by funding to deal with the consequences to fish and wildlife BLM and FS lands should be managed equally for multiple uses and resources supports a specific “Conservation Strategy” for each energy field or project, which would go beyond the NEPA-level evaluations and plans currently being completed, should be used to proactively address fish and wildlife management and needs. This Conservation Strategy should be finalized before development starts and must provide specific recommendations and actions to minimize impacts, while establishing plans for mitigation, detailed monitoring, and the use of adaptive management. recommends a change in the current leasing process that would provide for a prior assessment of impacts from lease development before leasing occurs and includes plans that balance the needs of fish and wildlife resources. Recommends that the energy development planning process should include science-based mitigation. This mitigation must be planned by using rigorous methods and an adaptive management process that systematically uses data from impact monitoring and evaluation to adjust development. Supports designation of “special and unique places in the West” that should be either entirely off-limits or extremely limited to oil and gas drilling <p>http://www.trcp.org/issues/energy/246.html</p>
<p>Trout Unlimited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds <p>http://www.tu.org/about-us</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opposes Pebble Mine (Alaska) and other large-scale mining projects <p>http://www.tu.org/about-us/special-projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports halt of hydraulic fracturing for gas extraction in New York <p>http://www.tu.org/press_releases/2010/trout-unlimited-and-theodore-gordon-flyfishers-praise-new-york-state-senate-for-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports keeping 3.2 million acres of Wyoming “Roadless” (designed to eliminate oil and gas development in those areas) <p>http://www.wildwyo.org/WWAnewsletters/WWA2008Newsletter.pdf</p>
<p>San Juan Citizens Alliance (New Mexico/Colorado)</p> <p>organizes San Juan Basin residents to protect water and air, public lands, rural character of the area, and a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports a ban on drilling in HD mountains (Colorado) <p>http://www.savehdmountains.org/</p>

<p>unique quality of life while embracing the diversity of the region's people, economy and ecology http://www.sanjuancitizens.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> created a “<i>citizens enforcement program for gas wells</i>” to halt increase in wells in the San Juan Mountains http://www.sanjuancitizens.org/otherpages/Newsletters/SJCANews_Mar03.pdf
Save The Scenic Santa Ritas (Arizona)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protects the scenic, aesthetic, recreational, environmental and wildlife values of the Santa Rita Mountains, Patagonia Mountains, Canelo Hills and San Rafael Valley through education and outreach, specifically degradation due to mining activities <p>http://www.scenicsantaritas.org/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opposes the opening of potential copper mines, including the Rosemont Copper Project south of Tucson, Arizona, and the Mt. Emmons Mine outside of Crested Butte, Colorado http://www.scenicsantaritas.org/rosemont.asp
United Mountain Defense (Tennessee)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect Tennessee heritage and watersheds http://www.unitedmountaindefense.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports Appalachian Rising, a “mass mobilization” to end mountaintop removal mining. http://appalachiarising.org/
Waterkeepers Alliance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect every major watershed around the world collaborate with other environmental and public health organizations to serve the needs of their global network <p>http://www.waterkeeper.org/ht/d/sp/i/187/pid/187</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hosting a contest to find the best short video telling the world that clean coal is “nothing but a dirty lie.” http://www.waterkeeper.org/ht/d/Contents/contenttype_id/21/pid/13920 supports the reformation of regional, national and international energy policies by “exposing the truth behind the coal industry’s dirty lies.” working toward the protection of food systems and children from mercury released by coal-fired power plants in the United States. <p>http://waterkeeper.org/ht/display/ContentDetails/i/716/pid/196</p>
Western Watersheds Project	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect and restore western watersheds and wildlife through education, public policy initiatives and litigation. influence and improve public land management in 8 western states--primary focus on the negative impacts of livestock grazing on 250,000,000 acres of western public lands. <p>http://www.westernwatersheds.org/about</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports removing livestock from public lands https://www.westernwatersheds.org/watmess/watmess_2004/2004html_spring/article7.htm supports removing live stock from grazing on Sonoran Desert National Monument lands http://www.westernwatersheds.org/watmess/watmess_2008/WWPMessenger10-0.pdf currently has case pending requesting removal of livestock from 12 million acres across five western states http://www.westernwatersheds.org/legal/legal.html won decision to remove cattle from over 800,000 acres of public land http://www.westernwatersheds.org/news_media/newsmedia_2005/wwp99_new_smedia.html works with other environmental groups to pass federal legislation to buy out ranchers and permanently retire public lands from grazing all of this done with federal funds http://www.westernwatersheds.org/NPLGC/nplgc.html opposes the creation of wind farms in Browns Bench, Idaho https://www.westernwatersheds.org/watmess/watmess_2004/2004html_spring/article7.htm

About Citizens Alliance for Responsible Energy (CARE)



CARE is the nonprofit agency that is advocating for your right to use energy as you see fit and as you can afford. There are numerous groups whose sole purpose is to change your energy usage—groups who believe that all energy should come only from wind and solar power. These are great resources, but our modern society needs much more energy than these sources alone can—or most likely, ever will—provide.

Despite the fact that trains, planes and automobiles cannot run on wind or solar, environmental organizations who advertise that they are present to preserve clean air, fresh water, and a safe food supply—a green earth—are actively working to shut down today’s successful energy sources. They say coal is dirty—yet more than 50% of our electricity in this country comes from coal. Nuclear power is clean, but they say we must do something with the waste products, while at the same time resisting scientifically sound solutions. Many see natural gas as the best alternative for electricity generation, however we already use more natural gas in America than we have and import nearly 20%—making us dependant on foreign powers.

Then there is liquid fuel. One man said, “I am waiting for the day when I can hook my car up to a natural gas valve on my house and fill up my car.” This is a great idea, but even if that were possible today, we still have the natural gas shortage. Others want all of us to travel only via public transportation. This may work if you live in town and only want to go to the standard places at normal times. In California, the legislature tried to pass a law banning all cars older than a certain age. The law would have wiped out car collectors (like Jay Leno); required families to purchase more-costly, late model cars for their young drivers; and removed hope of ever owning a car from low-income workers. Fortunately, the law did not make it through. But they’ll try again.

Stopping all drilling and mining would virtually eliminate electricity, oil and gas. With them would go your freedom to come and go as you please, your ability to be comfortable no matter the climate, health care advances, and all plastics, from which your computer and cell phone are made—just to name a few. And we have not touched on how clean water comes out of your faucet, or what happens to the waste matter that simply disappears from your life when you flush the toilet.

Think about it, do you want to live in a world without energy? Yes, we all want a “green earth,” but can’t we have some compromise that allows us to keep our freedoms? That compromise is happening all around us, every day. Cars and appliances are getting more and more energy efficient. Alternative fuel sources are being developed and as soon as they are commercially viable, they will replace our current energy sources. Until then, we need your help to preserve the lifestyle that makes America great. What is the common denominator to American life? Yes, it is energy.

CARE is working on your behalf to educate the public and influence policy makers regarding energy, its role in freedom and the American way of life.

Marita Noon, Executive Director



Filled with fire and fight, an accomplished author of 19 books and a nationally-known Christian speaker, Marita K. Noon changed course and changed her life when she was brought in as Executive Director of the Citizen's Alliance for Responsible Energy (CARE) in 2007.

Marita has transformed the face of energy advocacy, building the now-national CARE into a group to be reckoned with. Her tireless enthusiasm and knowledge have brought American energy issues to the forefront. Once Marita sets her mind to something, it WILL become what she imagines is possible.

She began her career as a public speaker at age 19 and was an author at 24. That career (following in the footsteps of her mother, Florence Littauer, also a renowned author and speaker), took flight. With a vivacious personality, an easy-to-be-with educator for Christians, in particular Christian women, Marita spent more than 30 years helping Americans find their way through personal growth. She still occasionally travels the country on the lecture circuit, giving seminars and speeches, and if that weren't enough for Marita's strong sense of accomplishment, she founded CLASServices Inc. This organization continues to provide training and resources for other Christian writers and speakers. To this date, she has trained thousands of talented Christians in the mastery of communication.

Today, she uses her life and professional experience to educate Americans on the responsible use of energy; about the potential for energy from domestic production--oil, natural gas, and coal, supplemented by the renewable energy sources. Her expertise in communication, both personal and professional, now serves her well in her latest endeavor: American energy independence.

Marita's own energy is contagious and has led CARE into the national spotlight. Known for her ability to unite people and communicate the importance of being self-sufficient in our energy needs, Marita, with her unmatched skills as a communicator, makes a complicated topic easy to understand for anyone. She KNOWS energy and its importance in everyday American life. Here's a quote from Marita's "Environmental Utopia" which is somewhat a manifesto on American energy potential:

"Let's get real! Let's look at the energy reality. Do you prefer the necessities of life? Do you like your car, your microwave, your health and your house? Now that you are aware of the changes that the seemingly innocent desires for a green earth could force upon your life, don't let the environmental groups take away energy. Most of them have unattainable goals or goals that do not factor in the complete picture. They fight to stop a perceived evil without looking at what else will be impacted. Which portions of your lifestyle—or your children's or grandchildren's lifestyle--do you want to give up in the name of saving the world from this or that speculative environmental cataclysm?"

Her recent articles have appeared in *The Daily Caller*, *Boulder Daily Camera*, *Houston Chronicle*, *American Oil and Gas Reporter*, *Albuquerque Journal*, *Austin American Statesman*, the *Nashville Tennessean* and dozens of others. Her goal seeks to educate Americans to the potential for bountiful energy right here in the United States. Marita also makes dozens of energy-based speeches across the country and has appeared on countless radio talk shows and television news programs nation-wide.

For more information about Marita, the Citizen's Alliance for Responsible Energy (CARE) and Energy Makes America Great (EMAG), check CARE's website at www.responsibleenergy.org.

**Public Interest Institute
at Iowa Wesleyan College
600 North Jackson Street
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641-1328**

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 52761
PERMIT NO. 338

This policy study is brought to you in the interest of a better-informed citizenry, because IDEAS DO MATTER. You can write Public Interest Institute at:

Public Interest Institute
600 North Jackson Street
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641-1328

Public.Interest.Institute@LimitedGovernment.org
www.LimitedGovernment.org