

Climate Solutions

Helping Katrina Survivors:

Enterprise Corporation of the Delta wins Co-op America award

Green Business News:

How Co-op America business members are leading the way on global warming solutions

Tackling the Climate Crisis:

Co-op America gets real with an action plan that's big and fast enough to do the job



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As a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization, all contributions to Co-op America are tax-deductible. We welcome your membership and contributions.

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Climate Solutions

Sarah Tanver-Wahlquist



Georgetown University's Intercultural Center gets 40 percent of its electrical power from the solar array on its roof. The array has generated over 3.5 million kilowatt-hours since its installation in 1984 and saves the university \$45,000 in electrical bills each year.

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The Climate Crisis: Clarity, Speed, and Big Solutions

Did you ever face a looming, horrifying possibility—a serious illness perhaps? Did you at first feel paralyzing fear, but then found that once armed with the facts, however sobering, you gained the clarity and energy to confront it?

That’s been my journey with the climate crisis. Carrying the fear for decades, my heart wrenched with each discovery about how our planet was warming sooner, glaciers melting faster, more people already suffering than even scientists closest to it ever predicted or imagined.

Clearly, it was time to get the facts. Not about whether the crisis is real (we already know that) or how it is unfolding (we have those facts, too), but about what it would really take to curb climate change. How big, how much, how fast? So several years ago, our research team here at Co-op America began running the numbers and comparing notes with other teams around the world.

The facts are sobering indeed. Based on how fast greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, are accumulating in the atmosphere, the scientific consensus is that we have to move with lightening speed. Society’s window is the next ten years. We need to lay the groundwork immediately for keeping annual carbon emissions steady while the global economy grows. By mid-century, all energy use can put no more carbon into the air than it does today, and we need to decrease annual carbon emissions to zero by the end of the century.

We have to move at a scale that is astounding—across all sectors of the economy from buildings to transportation to agriculture. We need to rapidly scale up all forms of energy efficiency and safe, renewable, non-carbon energy. For example, in the area of solar energy alone, we need to scale from installing 1,000 megawatts a year (approximate installations worldwide in 2005) to 1,000 megawatts a day ... in less than ten years.

Sobering, yes. Yet, once our team began to contemplate the enormity of

what we learned—and worked through the denial and anger stages—we began to get that clarity and energy that comes when you’ve faced the facts and start taking them on.

With that clarity, action becomes easier, more strategic. Take the case of making solar a widespread, global, affordable technology. We quickly moved from “It’s impossible” to, “Okay, what would make it happen?” One of the keys, we determined, is getting the cost of solar power to be competitive with electricity generated from coal.

“Getting clarity is what this issue of the *Quarterly* is all about—on how to match the scale of the solutions to the size of the climate problem.”

So with the same resources we’ve always had in our Solar Catalyst Program, we shifted our strategy to focus on this key. The results? There are now at least five companies that can get solar to these prices within three to five years. Meanwhile, the solar industry is booming. It doesn’t take more time or resources—just knowing the facts about the scale and speed that would do the job and designing the strategies accordingly.

We can do this. When it comes to climate solutions across the board, with this kind of clarity, we can do it: Society already has the know-how and the technology—off the shelf and on the job—to tackle climate change. All we need to do is to get going—move from denial or crippling fear into action.

And getting that clarity is what this issue of the *Quarterly* is all about: how to match the scale of the solutions to the size of the climate problem. We present a plan and a timeline—and show how to apply it, sector by sector across the economy.

Indeed, people everywhere are stepping up to the plate in a big way:

- Cities and towns are stepping up—over 295 cities around the country have “ratified” the Kyoto Treaty, creating plans to reach the carbon reductions it calls for.

- Corporations are stepping up—the major auto, utility, and oil companies (except ExxonMobil) have committed to disclosing their climate impacts and making plans for reducing them.

- Green businesses are leading the way with policies to become zero-carbon companies.

- Conservative evangelical ministers are joining people of faith everywhere in the call to address the climate crisis as part of their justice ministry, recognizing that climate change already causes suffering to millions of the world’s poor—and that having access to energy for clean water, cooking fuel, and refrigeration for medicines is the first step out of poverty.

- People everywhere are adopting “zero carbon” strategies in their homes, workplaces, schools, and faith congregations, reducing energy use as much as they can and then buying carbon offsets for the rest.

As a Co-op America member, you are playing a key role in all of this. Together, we are mobilizing consumer and investor strategies to move corporations, inspire cities and faith congregations, and help people and businesses everywhere learn how to get to “zero carbon.”

The framework for solutions we present here can help us think big and fast enough to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. Anything less, and we’re kidding ourselves.

The best news? As Al Gore says, taking these actions opens the door to a brighter future—real energy security, more jobs, a cleaner environment, real progress on the war against poverty, a safer world.

For the future,

Alisa Gravitz, Executive Director

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Fair Trade and Forests

I'm in the middle of reading your latest *Quarterly* about our forests (*Forests: Situation Critical*, Summer 2006). I am excited to see an article about the Shipibo-Konibo communities of Peru having their forests certified under the Forest Stewardship Council. The Shipibo, along with 13 other indigenous groups, are also benefitting from Fair Trade agreements with the Amazon Herb Company.

Villages that once depended on selling land to loggers and cattle ranchers are being more and more empowered to earn an even greater (and sustainable) livelihood by harvesting botanicals. So far, because of these harvesting efforts, over 300,000 acres of the rainforest have been saved. I have just become an associate with this company and am thrilled to see that the Shipibo-Konibo know their rights and have a choice not only to practice sustainable forest management when logging, but whether or not to log at all.

I am supporting the campaigns throughout your *Quarterly* and feel hopeful that our efforts are making a difference.

Holly Troy

www.redholly.amazonherb.net

New York, NY

Managing Privately Owned Forests

Your article about the critical situation of our forests in the Summer 2006 CAQ was excellent, but it omitted mention of the Forest Stewardship Program. This nationwide program for private, non-commercial forest landowners was begun by the US Forest Service in 1991 to help woodlot owners manage their properties to both ensure the sustainability of the forest while increasing the value of the woodlot. The program is run by each state.

In Pennsylvania, Penn State University's School of Forest Resources provides educational workshops and materials to landowners. The state's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry works one-on-one with landowners, at no charge, giving them technical advice to achieve their goals. The basis of the program is a Forest Stewardship Plan in which the landowner focuses on his/her goals, whether s/he will harvest timber, cut firewood, create hiking trails, enhance wildlife habitat, prevent soil erosion, improve riparian areas, etc.

My husband and I have been in the program since 1995. We recommend it for any woodlot owner. Persons can contact their state university, cooperative

Let us know what you think!

We really love to hear from you. Call the editors at 202/872-5327, fax 202/331-8166, write Co-op America Quarterly, 1612 K St. NW, #600, Washington, DC 20006, or e-mail: editors@coopamerica.org.

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extension office, or local service forester for information.

Loretta Radeschi
 Bedford, PA

Editor's Note: Thank you, Loretta, for reminding us of this great resource. Approximately forty-five percent of all forestland in the US is under nonindustrial private ownership, says the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), which created the Forest Stewardship Program to, as you said, help private forest owners sustainably manage their lands. To find out more about the program and view a list of state contacts, visit the USDA Web site www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/fsp.shtml.

You Say "Tomato" ...

I noticed that Co-op America tends to often use the term "climate change." "Climate change" is the substitute phrase for "global warming" introduced by the right wing, developed to weaken our cause, because: 1) climate change includes daily weather changes, seasonal changes, and trends over centuries. The frame is so big that it makes our concept of global warming disappear; and 2) change is associated with progress.

I am asking that you consider replacing the words "climate change" with "global warming."

Dale S. Brown

E-mail

Editor's Note: It's true that Republican pollster Frank Luntz did recommend that the Bush administration use "climate change" in place of "global warming," as he felt the former sounded less catastrophic. We agree that it's important not to adopt misleading terminology (The "No Child Left Behind" Act, anyone?). However, many people working on climate issues now use the two terms interchangeably. We feel that anyone trying to cast global warming in a positive light by calling it "climate change" has failed miserably. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, for example, uses "climate change" with a presumption of human causation, and it uses "climate variability" for non-human caused variations in the weather.

In his film An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore increased both the accuracy and urgency by shifting to "climate crisis"—our favorite term, which we use throughout this issue.



“Big Box” Law Unravels in Chicago

An unprecedented effort by the City of Chicago to establish a law requiring “big box” stores to pay workers a living wage unraveled in September—in part due to intense lobbying by Wal-Mart.

The bill, which passed the Chicago City Council by a 35-14 margin last July, would have required retailers with over \$1 billion in annual sales and stores of at least 90,000 square feet to pay workers a living wage of at least \$10 an hour plus \$3 an hour in benefits by 2010. The current minimum wage in Illinois is \$6.50 an hour, and the hourly federal minimum is \$5.15.

Chicago’s mayor vetoed the bill in September, needing to win back two councilmember votes to prevent a veto override.

In the end, three councilmembers changed their votes, allowing the veto to stand, including one who told the *Chicago Tribune* that Wal-Mart had “expressed a strong interest” in building a store in her ward. Wal-Mart spokespeople deny promising any councilmembers a store in exchange for a vote.

Opponents of the living wage



Annette Parrish rallies outside the City Council chambers last July in support of the “living wage” ordinance.

ordinance called setting a living wage for big box stores “devastating” to low-income neighborhoods, which they say need retail development to prosper. But bill backers counter that those areas need good jobs, not poverty-wage jobs. They point to the success of San Francisco, CA, and Santa Fe, NM, which have enacted similar laws, as evidence that the bill won’t destroy Chicago’s poorest neighborhoods.

Santa Fe’s law, for example, applies to all but the city’s smallest employers and sets a minimum wage of \$9.50 an hour. The wage level will increase to \$10.50 an hour in 2008. Since the

new law took effect a year ago, Lowe’s erected a new store in Santa Fe, and Wal-Mart is trying to build a third Santa Fe store, Mayor David Coss told the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Construction of the first Wal-Mart in Chicago’s west side Austin neighborhood is already scheduled to begin later this year. The retailer promised the City Council to find minority subcontractors to help build its stores, and to “do its best” to fill 75-80 percent of the 500 jobs in those stores with local residents, according to MSNBC. The mayor also extracted a promise from Wal-Mart to build a green roof on the store, planting hardy, cactus-like plants on the roof to absorb heat and improve the efficiency of the building.

Those promises aside, supporters of the living wage ordinance say they’re not giving up yet. Alderman Joe Moore, who led efforts to pass the ordinance, promised a revised proposal for it as early as at the Council’s next meeting. “This issue will not go away,” he said.

CONTACT: Co-op America’s Responsible Shopper, www.responsibleshopper.org. (Enter “Wal-Mart” in the search field.)

Water Scarcity Increasingly Affects Developed Countries

Long considered a problem confined to the world’s poorest peoples, water shortages are increasingly becoming an issue in developed countries, according to a new study by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The main causes for this shift include global warming and poor resource management.

“Economic riches don’t translate to plentiful water,” says Jamie Pittock, Director of WWF’s Global Freshwater Programme. “Water must be used more efficiently throughout the world. Scarcity and pollution are becoming more common, and responsibility for finding solutions rests with both rich and poor nations.”

“Large areas” of the US are using water faster than it can be replenished, the report notes. Japan’s water

supply is threatened by contamination issues. And due to aging water mains, London, England’s leakage and loss is estimated at 300 Olympic-size swimming pools daily. The WWF notes that this increased water scarcity “will only be exacerbated as global warming brings lower rainfall, increased evaporation, and changed snowmelt patterns.”

A report by the International Water Management Institute, published the same day as the WWF study, said that a third of the world is facing water shortages. Water use has increased by six times in the last century, it says, and will double again by 2050, mostly from agricultural use.

To begin addressing the pressing water shortages around the world, the WWF says “governments must find solutions for both rich and poor, which include repairing aging infrastructure,

reducing contaminants, and changing irrigation practices in the way we grow crops.”

CONTACT: World Wildlife Fund Canada, 416/489-8800, www.panda.org.

First US Fair Trade Town

On June 15, Media, PA, became the first “Fair Trade town” in the US, the result of a unanimous Media Borough Council vote mandating that the town meet several goals in support of Fair Trade.

Councilperson Monica Simpson noted that while Europe has several Fair Trade towns, the US now has only one.

Since there is no national Fair Trade town initiative in the US yet, Media used the goals established by the Fairtrade Foundation of Britain. The goals include: a promise from the Council to serve Fair Trade products at its meetings and functions, the



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mandate that a certain percentage of Media retailers and institutions sell and use Fair Trade products, a pledge to encourage widespread support and media coverage for Fair Trade, and the establishment of an ongoing Council steering committee to keep the Fair Trade issue vital.

The Fair Trade town idea came from Media resident Hal Taussig, director of The Idyll Development Foundation and owner, with his wife, Norma, of Co-op America Business Network member Untourssm, an eco-travel business offering community-based vacations. A longtime supporter of Fair Trade, Hal read about the Fairtrade Foundation's Fair Trade town initiative and decided that his hometown needed to jump on the bandwagon and become "the Fair Trade capital of the world."

"Media, Pennsylvania, is proud to support Fair Trade's simple and effective economic model. We hope in a few years to be the first of hundreds of Fair Trade towns in the US," says Simpson. 

CONTACT: Fairtrade Foundation, +44 (0) 20 7405-5942, www.fairtradefoundation.org.uk.

BOYCOTT ACTION NEWS

United Farm Workers Target the Charles Krug Winery

On June 15, 2006, the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) called for a boycott of wine produced by the Charles Krug Winery in Napa Valley, CA. The Charles Krug Winery, which has been operated by three generations of the Mondavi family, produces wine for the Charles Krug Napa Valley, Charles Krug Family Reserve, and C.K. Mondavi labels, and has been in dispute with workers since beginning contract negotiations in November of 2005. After the previous labor contract expired, the winery announced a plan to fire winery workers and turn over operations to a land manager, who would work as a sub-contractor.

"The company simply wants to do away with our union that has represented us and fought for our benefits," said Aurelio Solorio, a 29-year veteran at Krug-Mondavi who lost his job this past July. "The company wants to implement a younger work force that will carry lower wages, no benefits, and will hold a lesser amount of knowledge of their labor rights."

The UFW is demanding that all fired employees, 36 in total, be reinstated in their jobs and that Krug-Mondavi return to the bargaining table.

Thomas Fossey, CFO at Krug-Mondavi, says that the winery informed the workers of its plan to switch to a land manager, and was open for discussion about it with the union. "In April I sent them a letter telling them, because they were not interested in bargaining, we were going ahead with the plan for a land manager," Fossey told the *Napa Valley Register*.

Union members and supporters are handing out leaflets about the boycott in front of stores, encouraging consumers to boycott Krug-Mondavi brands, paying special attention to Long's Drug stores, one of the largest distributors of Krug-Mondavi wines. Protests have also been staged at wine tastings at restaurants in California as well as events at the Krug Vineyard in Napa Valley. The UFW is also asking consumers to send e-mails to retailers, restaurants, and the Mondavi family.

CONTACT: Charles Krug Napa Valley Winery, www.charleskrug.com; The United Farm Workers of America, www.ufw.org.

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Climate Solutions

Scientists in Greenland say that global warming has an increasing effect on the Arctic region, with glaciers shrinking, temperatures of the arctic waters warming, and permafrost softening.

Mazeda begum's family lived on the banks of the tista river in northern bangladesh, and for three years in a row, they had to move their house farther away from its eroding banks. When the river finally swallowed the family's small plot of farmland entirely, they fled by boat and joined 200 other displaced families camping on a raised embankment. Without their farmland, they could earn no income, and Mazeda was forced to send her nine-year-old daughter to work hundreds of miles away in the city, where she would at least get enough to eat.

Mazeda's story is one of many sad tales told by the UK-based charity Christian Aid in their recent report "Climate and Poverty: Facts, Fears, and Hope." Around the world, rising temperatures are melting glaciers and shrinking lakes, causing massive flooding and erosion in some areas and drought in others.

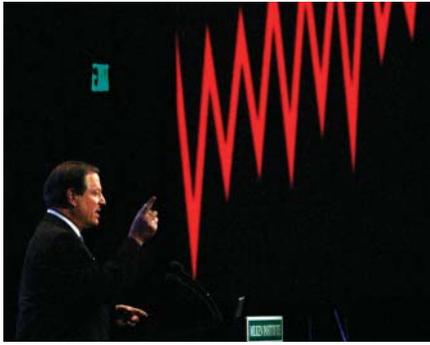
The devastating effects of the climate crisis are already affecting millions of people today—often those families

who are already suffering the ravages of poverty. While flooding in Bangladesh is displacing families and destroying their crops, dwindling water supplies in Kenya are killing off animal herds and sparking violent conflicts between the nomadic herders who must travel farther and farther in search of water. Christian Aid estimates that by the end of this century, climate-change-associated diseases, from diarrhea to malaria, will have killed 182 million people in sub-Saharan Africa.

"This report exposes clearly and starkly the devastating impact that human-induced climate change will have on many of the world's poorest people," said Sir John Houghton, former co-chair of the scientific assessment working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "That realization exposes an inescapable moral imperative for those of us in the developed world who have benefited so much from cheap energy from fossil fuels. We need to respond with urgent and determined action."

There is a nearly unanimous scientific consensus that our planet is warming beyond what natural cycles could produce. Congress asked the National Academies of Science to

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- Photos (left to right):
- 1) Al Gore demonstrates how world temperatures are increasing.
 - 2) GreenPeace activists draw attention to the plight of polar bears, which are drowning in record numbers due to melting ice floes in the Arctic.
 - 3) Depleting aquifers due to higher temperatures are causing severe droughts. Paraguay's Domingo Flores has to walk over a mile for water.
 - 4) Bernard Francou measures the Chacallaya glacier, which has been shrinking to the point where it may disappear by 2013.

report on climate-change research, and in June the scientists announced their conclusion: The Northern Hemisphere is hotter than it's been for at least 2,000 years, and human activities are responsible for much of the recent warming. According to NASA climatologists, 2005 was the warmest year on record; filling out the top five spots for average annual temperature were 1998, 2002, 2003, and 2004. In 45 years, temperatures on Earth will be hotter than at anytime during the past one million years if we continue on our current trajectory, says NASA.

The main culprit, scientists agree, is the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂), which we're releasing into the atmosphere at unprecedented rates. The main source of atmospheric CO₂ is the burning of fossil fuels. The United States, which is home to just five percent of the world's population, emits one-fourth of the world's CO₂—by far the largest share of any country.

TACKLING EMISSIONS

To tackle climate change, we need to slash our CO₂ emissions—now, and in a big way. We need to match the enormous scale of this problem with large-scale solutions implemented around the

The good news? Curbing global warming is doable, using technologies available today.

world, in every country, industry, community, and household.

CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels have more than tripled since the 1950s, and emissions are predicted to double from their current level by 2054 if we keep on our current path, according to scientists at Princeton University's Carbon Mitigation Initiative (CMI). "Business as usual would lead to significant global warming by the end of this century," says the CMI, resulting in extreme weather patterns, widespread drought and flooding, an increase in insect-borne diseases worldwide, disruption of entire ecosystems, and a host of other problems.

The only solution, the CMI says, is that every country on the planet needs to work together to keep our world emissions flat through 2054, rather than doubling them. Then,

we must work toward becoming emission-free by the end of the century. This necessary action reduces our expected CO₂ emissions by a full 350 billion tons over the next 50 years.

For us to achieve this staggering figure, we can't wait. Scientists are united in saying we have about a ten-year window in which to start putting current climate-saving technologies to work at a significant scale. In addition, we also must increase research and development into new technologies to get us emission-free by the end of the century.

The good news? All of this is doable, using technologies available today. CMI scientists have laid out a comprehensive approach to averting the worst effects of global warming. These strategies include:

- doubling the fuel economy of the world's cars, from 30 to 60 miles per gallon.
- decreasing car travel for 2 billion 30-mpg cars from 10,000 to 5,000 miles per year.
- cutting CO₂ emissions by one-fourth in buildings and appliances from now until 2054.
- increasing wind electricity capacity by 50 times.
- replacing 1,400 coal-fired electric plants with natural gas facilities.
- installing 700 times the current capacity for solar electricity.
- halting tropical deforestation and doubling the rate of new forest planting.

"None of the options is a pipe dream or an unproven idea," CMI scientists point out. "Every one of these options is already implemented at an industrial scale and could be scaled up further over 50 years." (For a thorough analysis of the CMI's plan, see pp. 13-15.)

The best news? as Al Gore says, tackling the climate crisis steers us toward "a bright future that is better for our country in every way—a future with better jobs, a cleaner environment, a more secure nation, and safer world."

IMPLEMENTING CURRENT SOLUTIONS

Many thinkers, policy makers, and activists have already turned their creativity and intelligence to this challenge and have proposed specific plans for

AP Images/DADO GALDIGRI



getting us where we need to be by 2054 and beyond. Co-op America's Solar Catalyst program has mapped out scenarios for bringing the cost of solar power down to that of fossil fuels in five years. Rapidly developing battery technology will make it possible for low-cost solar to not only serve major portions of electricity demand, but also transportation, with a new generation of solar-powered plug-in hybrids. Bloggers from *Daily Kos* recently put together "Energize America," a 20-part legislative plan that will reduce our country's greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2040. The Pew Center on Global Climate Change (PCGCC) has released a plan for US action that involves international engagement as well as domestic steps.

"There is no single technology fix, no single policy, and no single sector that can solve this problem on its own," Eileen Claussen, president of the PCGCC, told the 2006 graduating class of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Taken as a whole, the plans being put forward today provide a wealth of options that can have great impacts individually and create major shifts when taken together. The will to implement these kinds of solutions and curb climate change exists among individuals, businesses, and communities. Families are installing energy-efficient light bulbs, arranging carpools, buying hybrid cars, and putting solar panels on their roofs and water-heating systems. Businesses are making their offices and factories more efficient, promoting telecommuting and teleconferencing to cut down on travel, and investing in renewable energy technologies. Communities are launching local farmers' markets and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs to reduce the fuel

used to ship food, creating biodiesel filling stations for residents' cars, providing tax credits for green building improvements, and mandating that their cities or states increase the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources.

"A political system can seem like it moves at a snail's pace, but then it can cross a tipping point and move at lightning speed—it happened with World War II and many times," Al Gore told Keith Olberman on MSNBC's *Countdown*. "When enough people see the truth, they're going to demand that politicians in both parties act."

HOPE AND URGENCY

"Now it is up to us to ... make moral choices to change the policies and behaviors that would, if continued, leave a degraded, diminished, and hostile planet for our children and grandchildren—and humankind. We must choose instead to make the 21st century a time of renewal," former US vice president Al Gore writes in his book, *An Inconvenient Truth*. What's at stake, he says, is "our ability to live on planet Earth—to have a future as a civilization."

As Gore and others point out, the human race has been in dire situations before, and when we've put our creativity and ingenuity to it, we've solved pressing problems in the past—from curing diseases like polio and smallpox to ending slavery to even solving critical environmental crises. Remember when the ozone hole was the top environmental concern? Since the countries that produce the most chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting substances signed the Montreal Protocol in the late 1980s, global CFC production has dropped sharply. According to the United Nations Environmental Programme, the ozone layer should be fully restored by 2050 if implementation of the Protocol is completed.

This kind of dramatic action and success is possible with climate change, too, but we must act now.

"We can't wait until 2049 to start scaling up," says Alisa Gravitz, Co-op America's executive director. "It's like saving for retirement. If you put a small amount away starting in your 20s, you can sail into retirement. If you wait until your late 50s, it's nearly impossible."

- Photos (left to right):
- 1) Windmills in Crete.
 - 2) The Honda Insight is one of the cleanest cars on the market today.
 - 3) Solar power must be a huge part of the solution to our climate crisis.

Courtesy of Vestas Wind Systems A/S



AP Images/PAUL CONNORS



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istockphotos



Scientists at Princeton's CMI say we must replace coal-fired plants with solar and wind power to curb climate change. By the end of this century, our power sources need to be emission-free if we want to keep climate change at bay for good.

Only by moving quickly and decisively at this critical moment to reverse global warming can we avert the coming crisis and preserve this world for future generations.

AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY

To curb climate change before it's too late, we must unify our efforts and implement solutions that are big enough to tackle the problem. Governments at all levels—local, state, federal, and international—must work together to reduce CO₂ emissions. Corporations must adopt the efficient and renewable-energy technologies currently available and invest in new ones, rather than spending billions to block emissions-reducing legislation and fight public relations battles against environmentalists. As individuals, we must reduce our own emissions, support the lawmakers and companies that are leading the way, and demand action from those who lag behind.

Unfortunately, too many corporations are lagging behind when it comes to curbing climate change—or, in some cases, even admitting

that it exists. While doing our part to reduce our household emissions, we also need to put pressure on the sectors of our economy that are responsible for the largest proportions of our country's emissions. Convincing one company to change can often affect an entire industry, as its competitors will follow suit to avoid becoming the next target.

In the following pages, you'll read about the economic sectors where significant change is possible, and learn how you can help make that change happen.

Together, we can turn this crisis into an unprecedented opportunity to create not just a healthy environment, but a healthy economy, as well. Increased energy-efficiency saves individuals and businesses money. Renewable-energy technologies create more jobs—many of them locally-based—per megawatt than their conventional counterparts. A global solar roll-out can also put an end to poverty, providing the world's two billion people currently without electricity with power for cooking fuel, purifying water, and refrigerating life-saving medicines. And a cleaner, healthier environment ensures we'll have a planet to leave to future generations.

Christian Aid's report summarizes the position in which we find ourselves: "If the relentless quest for polluting growth can be stemmed; if carbon emissions can be cut; if new approaches to development can be found for billions of the world's poor people—then the climate change crisis might actually be the genesis of something truly positive instead of being part of a terminal global decline." **CAQ**

—Liz Borkowski

Wanted: A Real US Climate Policy

While this issue of the *Quarterly* focuses on the economic strategies businesses, investors, and consumers need to take to curb climate change, we also need a national policy that addresses global warming on a grand scale. Because the world only has a ten-year window in which to decisively act on global warming, we can't afford for government officials to continue taking small steps and half measures.

By 2005, 141 countries had signed on to the Kyoto Protocol, agreeing to reduce their emissions to 1990 levels—which scientists agree isn't even close to enough to avoid the worst effects of global warming. Kyoto was, however, meant to be a start, until the US and Australia brought further negotiations to a halt by refusing to sign. While the 141 countries who did sign were enough to ratify Kyoto, those concerned about climate change see little hope for continuing efforts to reduce our world emissions unless the US steps up to the plate. Indeed, because we use 25 percent of the world's natural resources, our country needs to lead the international community on combatting this problem, not hold the world back.

In a hopeful sign that our politicians may have awakened to the reality of global warming and the need for a strong US policy, US Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Senators Jim Jeffords

(I-VT) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) have introduced two science-based bills that would require a gradual reduction of global warming emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) praised this figure as "the amount needed to have a good chance of staying below the threshold set by scientists," such as those at Princeton University's Carbon Mitigation Initiative.

In addition to calling on our government to lower US global warming emissions, the Waxman Safe Climate Act in the House and the Jeffords-Boxer Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act in the Senate call for increased reliance on clean, renewable energy, and improved energy efficiency.

To stay informed about US climate change policy, visit the UCS Web site at www.ucsusa.org/global_warming. Click on the "Take Action" button on their site to send an e-mail to your legislators asking them to support the Waxman and Jeffords-Boxer bills. To keep informed about Co-op America campaigns to push for increased green energy options, sign up for our e-mail newsletter at www.coopamerica.org.

—Tracy Fernandez Rysavy

Matching the scale of the problem:

EXAMINING THE PRINCETON CMI'S EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

How much is enough when it comes to climate change? The global warming problem is so huge, so immediate, that it may be difficult to imagine a set of solutions that can effectively combat it.

That's where Princeton University's Carbon Mitigation Initiative (CMI) comes in. This issue of *Co-op America Quarterly* (CAQ) relies heavily on the recommendations of the CMI scientists because they've been very effective in showing how to match the scale of the solutions to the size of the climate problem. Their large-scale recommendations include, for example, a 700-fold increase in solar power generation and doubling the average gas mileage of every vehicle on the planet to 60 mpg in the next 50 years.

What's important about the CMI approach is that it shows how to think big enough when it comes to the climate crisis. This approach names the scale of actions necessary across the global economy to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. It says that the solutions must match the size of the problem—baby steps and half measures won't do. To get a 700-fold increase in solar, communities can't put a few solar panels on a few schools and decide they're done. To double worldwide vehicle fuel efficiency from 30 mpg to 60 mpg, the US can't be content with fuel efficiency standards capping at 27.5 mpg. By showing, in detail, just how much we need to do to avoid an environmental catastrophe, the CMI sets the bar for evaluating corporate, government, community, and household plans to reduce carbon emissions.

The CMI also sets a timeline—these large-scale actions need to be accomplished over the next 50 years, with the next ten-year window the make-or-break period for getting started.

In the pages that follow, we apply the CMI approach sector-by-sector—from autos to utilities—to identify the scale of the climate solutions required across the US economy. But first, take a closer look with us at the CMI approach and Co-op America's recommendations within the CMI framework.

A LOOK AT THE CMI APPROACH

The CMI approach aims to build what Princeton scientists call "the stabilization triangle," or the area between business-as-usual and stabilization of our world global warming emissions (See figure 1, above). Building the stabilization triangle by 2054 is the goal every country has to adopt immediately.

To help us visualize how the stabilization triangle can be effected, CMI scientists divide it up into seven wedges. Each wedge represents a reduction of 1 billion tons of carbon emissions per year by 2054. (See figure 2, right.)

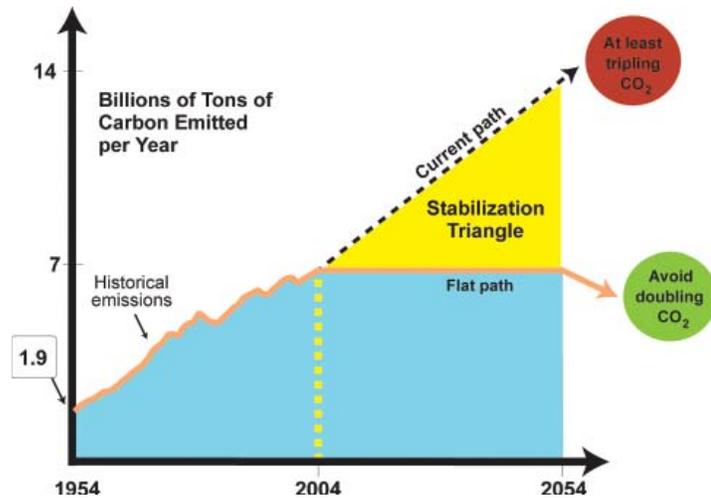


Figure 1 (courtesy of the Princeton CMI)

The CMI has proposed 15 strategies—all doable using current technologies—to get us there. Each strategy, if implemented as defined by the CMI, would take up one wedge. With 15 ways to get seven "wedges" worth of CO₂ reduction, the CMI allows some choice. That means some technologies that are too dangerous for other reasons, like nuclear power, can be ruled out. And this approach makes it clear where industry, investors, and consumers must work together to make technologies like solar cost-competitive with the coal-fired electricity that needs to be phased out.

It's important to note that included in the CMI's list are recommendations to increase problematic technologies such as nuclear power in the short-term. Because of the social and environmental problems associated with some of these technologies, we at Co-op America have our own take on the path we need to follow to curb climate change.

CO-OP AMERICA'S PLAN FOR ACTION

On the next two pages, we'll take a closer look at the 15 CMI strategies, along with Co-op America's recommendations. Items in **GREEN** are strategies we endorse. Items in **YELLOW** are strategies we endorse with reservations, as short-term solutions while we work toward developing long-term, cost-competitive, zero-emissions alternatives. Items in **RED** are strategies we do not recommend, due to significant social and environmental concerns.

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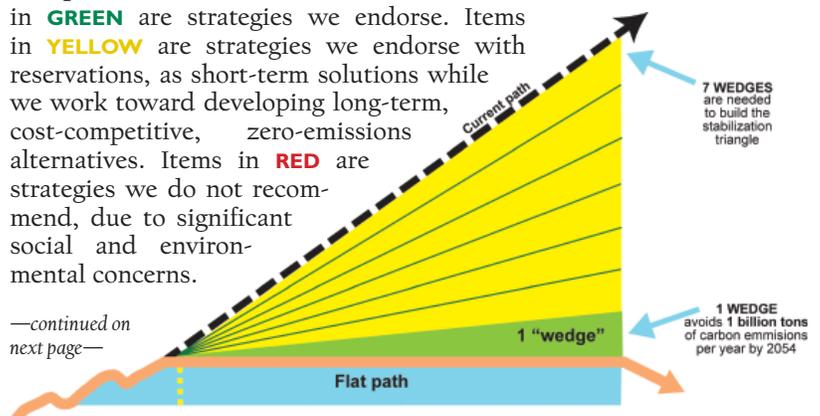


Figure 2 (courtesy of the Princeton CMI)

For more information about the Carbon Mitigation Initiative(CMI), visit www.princeton.edu/~cmi.

“It is time to recognize that the phrase ‘clean coal technology’ is devoid of meaning unless it means ‘zero carbon emissions.’”

—Al Gore

GREEN means we endorse these strategies.

YELLOW means we endorse, with reservations, these strategies as short-term technologies to get us to our needed emissions reduction goal, while we work toward developing long-term, cost-competitive, safe, zero-emissions technologies.

RED means we do not recommend employing these strategies at any level, due to concerns about their social and environmental sustainability.

RESULTS: At Co-op America, we like the CMI’s building block approach to addressing the climate crisis—and we have added our own filters. We screened out measures that are too dangerous, too costly, and too slow, such as expanded nuclear power, synfuels, and coal. We also beefed up safe and cost-effective measures, like increased solar and wind energy.

Wind is now cost-competitive at utility scale; solar will be in three to five years. New nuclear, synfuels, and “clean” coal are not cost-competitive. In addition to the proliferation, waste, and safety (terrorism and accident)

dangers, nuclear power will take too long to scale up; four strikes, nuclear power is out.

Scaling up wind, solar and energy efficiency is more prudent and practical. Not only can these clean, safe technologies do the job, they provide significantly more jobs.

With these filters, the result is a plan that uses current technologies and is safe, clean, cost-effective, and more than big enough to meet the climate challenge—13 “wedges-worth” when we only need 7. Let’s start today.



—Alisa Gravitz

Princeton’s CMI Recommendations	Co-op America’s Take
1. MORE EFFICIENT VEHICLES. Increase the fuel economy for 2 billion cars from 30 to 60 mpg by 2054.	<i>This is a necessary step as we work toward developing zero-emission vehicles. Today, we can all purchase cars that are close to this goal by choosing either a Honda Insight or Toyota Prius hybrid, or by driving high mileage vehicles powered by 100-percent biodiesel.</i>
2. REDUCE OUR USE OF VEHICLES. Decrease car travel for 2 billion 30-mpg cars from 10,000 to 5,000 miles per year through 2054, in part through better urban design, increased use of mass transit, and telecommuting.	<i>We endorse this step, including designing communities to facilitate increased walking and biking.</i>
3. MORE EFFICIENT BUILDINGS. Cut carbon emissions by one-fourth in buildings and appliances projected through 2054.	<i>We endorse this step as we work toward zero-emissions buildings and appliances.</i>
4. REDUCED DEFORESTATION, PLUS REFORESTATION, AFFORESTATION, AND NEW PLANTATIONS. Decrease tropical deforestation to zero instead of 0.5 giga-tons of carbon/year, and establish 300 mega-hectares of new tree plantations (twice the current rate).	<i>We endorse this step.</i>
5. CONSERVATION TILLAGE. “Conservation tillage” basically means taking steps to stop soil erosion. Apply to all cropland (ten times the current usage).	<i>We endorse this step, along with a focus on local, organic agriculture.</i>
6. WIND POWER FOR COAL POWER. Add 2 million 1-megawatt-peak windmills (50 times the current capacity) “occupying” 30 x 106 hectares, on land or offshore.	<i>We endorse this step. In addition, our Solar Catalyst program scientists believe that wind energy could be scaled up to take up at least 1.5 wedges.</i>
7. PV POWER FOR COAL POWER. Add 2,000 gigawatt-peak solar photovoltaic (PV) (700 times the current capacity) on 2 x 106 hectares.	<i>We endorse this step. In addition, our Solar Catalyst program scientists believe that solar energy could be scaled up to take up at least 1.5 wedges.</i>
8. MORE EFFICIENT BASELOAD COAL PLANTS. Produce twice today’s coal power output at 60 percent instead of 40 percent efficiency (compared with today’s average of 32 percent).	<i>In the short-term, all coal plants should operate at 60 percent efficiency, or be shut down. Starting immediately, no new coal plants should be built, due to the social and environmental problems associated with coal mining and pollution from dirty coal plants. Put more resources into developing cleaner energy alternatives to replace coal entirely in the future.</i>

Princeton's CMI Recommendations

Co-op America's Take

9. REPLACE COAL BASELOAD POWER WITH NATURAL GAS BASELOAD POWER. Replace 1,400 gigawatt, 50 percent efficient coal plants with natural gas plants (four times the current production of gas-based power).

Natural gas is a fossil fuel, so its extraction is resource-intensive and its supply is finite. We endorse this step as a short-term strategy while zero-emissions renewable technologies that can replace natural gas are put into place.

10. CAPTURE CO₂ AT BASELOAD POWER PLANTS. Introduce carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) at 800 gigawatt (GW) coal or 1,600 GW natural gas plants (compared with 1,060 GW coal in 1999).

As noted in recommendation #8, no new coal plants should be built starting today. CCS is a technology that allows carbon from coal plants to be turned into a gas and stored underground. CCS may be a viable strategy for existing coal plants in the short term, but there are concerns surrounding the safety of storing carbon underground, as well as concerns that the CO₂ stored underground would eventually be released into the atmosphere. There are also doubts as to whether CCS technology can be ready at the CMI-recommended scale in ten years. CCS should be added to existing coal plants.

11. WIND-GENERATED HYDROGEN IN FUEL-CELL CARS FOR GASOLINE IN HYBRID CARS. Add 4 million 1-megawatt-peak wind-mills (100 times the current capacity).

Zero-emission transportation is a must, so we endorse the direction suggested here, but not the specifics. While this CMI wedge calls for fuel cells powered by wind-generated hydrogen (H₂), it would be better to not create an H₂ infrastructure. Developing plug-in hybrids now and working toward having all electric vehicles powered by renewables is more energy-efficient and cost-effective overall. (See #13 below.)*

12. BIOMASS FUEL FOR FOSSIL FUEL. Add 100 times the current Brazil or US ethanol production, with the use of 250 x 10⁶ hectares (one-sixth of world cropland).

We endorse using some biomass (i.e. biodiesel) as a short-term replacement for fossil fuels while new and better carbon-free technologies are developed. We endorse this step as long as biofuels are made from waste, not crops, and don't displace farmland or rainforests.

13. CAPTURE CO₂ AT HYDROGEN PLANTS. Introduce CCS at plants producing 250 mega-tons of hydrogen/year from coal or 500 mega-tons of hydrogen/year from natural gas (compared with 40 mega-tons of hydrogen/year today from all sources).

Creating a hydrogen (H₂) fuel cell infrastructure for transportation and other uses—and then making H₂ from coal is a non-starter. It increases the use of coal** for future energy needs, with no assurances that carbon capture will work—or that society will use it. The combined costs and energy-intensity of creating an H₂ infrastructure far outweighs the costs of going to scale with wind and solar.*

14. CAPTURE CO₂ AT COAL-TO-SYNFUELS PLANTS. Introduce CCS at synfuels plants producing 30 million barrels a day from coal, if half of feedstock carbon is available for capture.

*Developing synfuels is another non-starter. It increases the use of coal** for future energy needs, with no assurances that carbon capture will work or will be used. As is the case with creating a hydrogen infrastructure, the cost and energy-intensity of developing the large-scale plants and systems for synfuels far outweighs the costs of going to scale with wind and solar.*

15. NUCLEAR POWER FOR COAL POWER. Add 700 gigawatts (twice the current capacity).

Increasing the use of nuclear power is a total non-starter. Waste, proliferation, terrorism, and accidents rule nuclear out entirely. More nails in nuclear power's coffin include: lack of sites, increasing costs as more plants are built, the unwillingness of the private sector to insure nuclear, and the impossibility of building enough plants fast enough to meet the scale required in the next ten years.

GREEN means we endorse these strategies.

YELLOW means we endorse, with reservations, these strategies as short-term technologies to get us to our needed emissions reduction goal, while we work toward developing long-term, cost-competitive, safe, zero-emissions technologies.

RED means we do not recommend employing these strategies at any level, due to concerns about their social and environmental sustainability.

“During my 8 years in the White House, every nuclear weapons proliferation issue we dealt with was connected to a nuclear reactor program.”

—Al Gore

* Hydrogen (H₂) is not a source of energy; H₂ must be generated by a power source such as solar or coal. Creating an H₂ fuel cell system requiring H₂ from coal-fired energy would be a climate nightmare.

** In addition to carbon emissions, the other enormous environmental and community health hazards from mining and burning coal also rule out expanding coal-based technologies.

Curbing global warming means reducing the emissions that come from our way of doing business and adopting clean technologies across every sector of our economy.

Tackling the Climate Crisis

Sector by Sector

To stabilize global warming emissions by mid-century, it's vital that the business community, especially those corporations with the largest carbon emissions, acknowledge the threat and do their part to curb emissions at the scale necessary to address the problem—now. We are the customers, investors, and workforce for these corporations, and collectively, we hold the power to move them to change. By mindfully choosing what to buy and what not to buy, where to invest, and how to do business, we can change corporate behavior. On

the next few pages, we walk through the main US corporate sectors that are the most significant sources of our country's global warming emissions. Following each are actions you can take—individually and by joining collectively with others in your community to make your voices heard—to catalyze a shift in each of these sectors that will have the best kind of consequences for communities around the world—and the planet itself.



Utilities

By 2054:

- No new coal plants to be built, starting now. Meet new demand with energy-efficiency and renewable-energy strategies.
- In the short-term, replace 1,400 coal plants with natural gas.
- All existing coal plants to operate at 60 percent efficiency.
- Implement carbon capture and sequestration at all operating coal plants.
- Ramp up wind and solar power generation on a large scale.
- Phase out coal plants by the end of the century, replacing them with wind, solar, and other renewable technologies.

Most of us rely on utility companies to send electricity to our homes, and that's not going to change anytime soon. With the electric power industry accounting for more than one-third of US CO₂ emissions, we need to shift power generation away from dirty coal and dangerous nuclear and toward clean, green, carbon-free renewables.

COAL: STILL NOT CLEAN

Over half of the electricity used in the US is generated by coal-fired power plants. For every ton of coal they burn, they put over three tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere (The carbon emitted by burning coal bonds with oxygen in the air, creating the increase in mass.). Consequently, the Natural Resources Defense Council reports that coal-fired power plants are the largest source of CO₂ emitted in this country. They're also major emitters of mercury, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide, which cause health problems ranging from learning disabilities to lung disease.

You may have heard about certain technologies that are promising to make coal cleaner. Unfortunately, none are a magic bullet when it comes to curbing climate change in a meaningful way. The uncertainty and expense of these coal technologies makes implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies a more effective means of halting global warming.

"CLEAN" COAL: Today, coal companies and certain politicians are touting "clean coal" as a solution to energy-related pollution. While "clean" coal-burning technologies do remove nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury, and other particulates from the process, they do not significantly reduce CO₂ emissions—and therefore do not reduce coal's global warming impact enough.

CARBON CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION: Another widely advertised technology aimed at cleaning up coal is carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), in which CO₂ emissions from coal-burning are captured and turned into a gas that can be stored underground. This technology could reduce CO₂ emissions, but CO₂ sequestered underground may eventually leak into the atmosphere. Also, CCS is still being researched and is unlikely to be ready for widespread use for another ten years, if ever—and ten years is the window in which we have to act if

we're going to meaningfully reduce our emissions worldwide.

While the Princeton CMI researchers say that CCS will be necessary in the short term to stabilize emissions levels quickly through 2054, they consider it only part of the overall solution. To prevent egregious environmental damage, we must work toward getting our worldwide emissions to zero in the latter half of the 21st century, they say.

Other scientists consider CCS to be worth exploring; as the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) cautions, however, it should not be seen as the key to emissions reduction, nor should it pull resources away from research into other climate-change solutions.

Even if CCS proves effective, the mining and transportation of coal would still be energy-intensive and environmentally damaging. Mining is a water-intensive process that has been blamed for depleting aquifers, including some in Hopi and Navajo areas. Mining companies store their waste, a thick liquid containing toxic chemicals, in slurry impoundments that sometimes burst and contaminate entire towns. In Inez, Kentucky, for example, a slurry spill in 2000 dumped an estimated 306 million gallons of toxic sludge down 100 miles of waterways, killing wildlife and contaminating drinking water.

Some coal mining is done through a particularly damaging technique known as mountaintop removal, which leaves once-forested mountains barren and waterways choked with debris. The loss of forests, which sequester carbon, due to mining also hastens climate change.

Coal plants not only contribute to climate change, but are major emitters of mercury, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide, chemicals that cause health problems ranging from learning disabilities to lung disease.



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Replacing thousands of dirty coal plants with wind power will greatly reduce our world greenhouse gas emissions. Plus, wind power is abundant and it emits no pollutants or greenhouse gases.

US power companies are planning to build more than 130 new coal-fired power plants in the next several years. This would be an enormous mistake. If we hope to curb climate change, our reliance on coal as an energy source must end.

COAL ALTERNATIVES

Renewable energy sources like wind and solar power can meet our energy needs without adding to the effects of climate change, and are ready now as a means of reducing our emissions by billions of tons.

WIND can now be generated at 2–4 cents per kilowatt hour (kwh), making wind cost-competitive with coal-generated electricity and the fastest growing utility-scale source of energy worldwide.

The costs for the many forms of **SOLAR ENERGY** are also dropping rapidly. Solar thermal is now cost-competitive in many industrial and commercial settings. Utility-scale concentrating solar power is nearing the competitive range for peak power. And photovoltaic (PV) solar is the fastest growing single energy source worldwide. Installed at scale, all forms of solar energy will quickly drop to the price of coal.

In 2005, Co-op America’s Solar Catalyst Program published a report showing how the price of solar PV can become cost competitive as soon as 2010.

“From our work behind the scenes, bringing together businesses, investors, academics and technology experts, I’m seeing at least five companies that will be able to deliver solar PV at the price of coal in three to five years,” says Alisa Gravitz, Co-op America’s executive director. “When that

happens, all utilities and their customers will be racing to install solar.”

Until solar and wind power are available at scale, **NATURAL GAS** should be considered an alternative to coal, but only in the short term. While natural gas emits less CO₂ than coal, it is a greenhouse gas, meaning that it also traps heat in the atmosphere, and its combustion produces nitrogen oxide. It’s a fossil fuel, too, so its supply is finite. Natural gas extraction also poses hazards: fluids pumped into natural gas wells to bring gas to the surface sometimes contain hazardous chemicals that can remain in the ground or contaminate groundwater, the nonprofit group Earthworks explains.

As we turn away from coal for electricity generation, we should not turn towards **NUCLEAR POWER**, as some propose. Nuclear power has three fatal flaws: the creation of radioactive waste, risks of catastrophic accidents, and risks of terrorism and proliferation of materials for nuclear weapons. Despite the nuclear industry’s advertising that the new generation of nuclear power plants reduce these risks, that new technology is not yet proven. Worse, the scale of nuclear needed for curbing climate change—at minimum doubling or tripling the 400 nuclear plants worldwide to 800 or 1,200—increases these risks even with better technology.

“We should all demand that our power companies invest in energy efficiency, wind, solar and other renewables,” says Todd Larsen, Co-op America’s Climate Action program director. “Compared to the dangers and costs of nuclear and coal, these clean technologies will not only be the best for health and climate change, they will also be the most cost-effective over time.”

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY ENERGY USE

In 2005, households accounted for 31 percent of electricity consumed in the US. To stabilize our world greenhouse gas emissions, the CMI says we must reduce electricity use in buildings and appliances by 25 percent, a goal that is feasible today through the use of energy-efficient practices and products. Here are five ways to reduce the climate impact of your energy use:

1. IMPROVE YOUR HOME’S EFFICIENCY. The best place to start greening your energy use is to simply use less. Call your local utility and ask for an energy audit, which will help you pinpoint and plug energy leaks. Also, encourage your employer, school, and house of worship to adopt energy efficiency policies and to invest in renewable energy. Visit our Web site at www.climateaction.org for more on reducing your energy use.

2. GENERATE YOUR OWN GREEN POWER. There’s no doubt that solar needs to play a

Continued on page 29

Coal is Not the Answer! Campaign

Utilities are set to begin construction on more than 130 new coal-fired power plants all around the country, despite the fact that coal is one of the dirtiest power sources available.

Co-op America and our allies are mobilizing customers to tell their utility companies that coal is not the answer, and that they want cleaner alternatives.

We’re educating and mobilizing shareholders to use their consumer and investor power to make coal companies clean up. Shareholder advocates recently filed resolutions with several companies, and during the 2006 proxy season, they were able to withdraw five of them after the companies agreed to prepare reports that include analyses of their climate risk. (See p. 25 to learn more about shareholder advocacy and climate risk.)

“Companies are waking up to the facts that regulations on carbon emissions are a matter of when, not if,” says Kate Rosow, Co-op America’s Shareholder Action director. “With prodding from concerned investors, smart companies are taking this issue seriously.”

To send a letter to the worst coal companies, asking them to shift their efforts from building more dirty coal plants to investing in green energy sources, visit our Web site, www.climateaction.org.



Transportation

By 2054:

- Increase average fuel efficiency of all cars from 30 to 60 mpg.
- Decrease car travel for 30 mpg cars from 10,000 miles per year to 5,000.
- Expand emerging low-emissions technologies, such as plug-in hybrid cars powered by renewables or cars powered by B100 biodiesel.
- Have only emission-free vehicles on the road by the end of the century.

The world's top five biggest global warming polluters are: the US, China, Russia, Japan, ... and US cars and light trucks, says the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). In other words, our automobiles in this country cause more global warming emissions than the majority of the countries in the world.

Our love affair with the automobile isn't just an equity issue—we need to double the gas mileage of the average automobile and decrease car travel for 2 billion 30-mpg cars from 10,000 to 5,000 miles per year if we hope to stabilize global warming emissions by 2054.

It's critical that we take action now. Every country in the world needs to cut its transportation emissions by: 1) encouraging citizens to drive less—or not at all, 2) making its fleet of automobiles much more fuel-efficient, and 3) by switching to renewable fuels to power their vehicles.

INCREASING FUEL STANDARDS

Motor vehicles are a major source of carbon dioxide emissions, accounting for nearly a quarter of our global warming emissions in the US. When a gallon of gasoline is burned, the carbon in it combines with oxygen from the air to produce nearly 20 pounds of CO₂. US cars and light trucks together consume 8.2 million barrels of oil each day. This translates to over 300 million metric tons of carbon that comes from our cars and trucks every year.

In addition to the sheer volume of cars on the road, it doesn't help that in the US, cars are getting larger, and fuel economy actually decreased in the overall fleet over the past 30 years. CO₂ emissions and gas mileage are closely linked. Cars that burn less gas emit less CO₂. If US auto companies improved the fuel economy of our US fleet of automobiles by just five mpg, we would save 1.5 million barrels of oil per day. This would result in an annual reduction of approximately 55 million metric tons of carbon emissions.

Unfortunately, automobile manufacturers, both domestic and foreign, have fought increasing fuel efficiency standards nationally and in California.

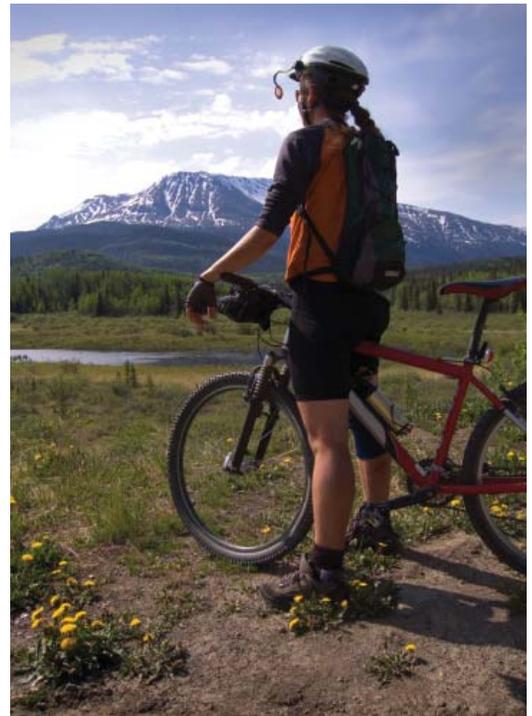
Following the oil crisis of the 1970s, Congress enacted the Energy Policy Conservation Act that created Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for passenger cars and light trucks, including SUVs, minivans, and pickups. The goal was to double fuel economy and decrease dependence on foreign oil. Under these standards, the US saves approximately three million barrels of oil per day, making it the government's most successful energy-saving policy.

Unfortunately, this savings is no longer enough. The current CAFE standards, relatively unchanged since 1979, remain 27.5 mpg for passenger cars. In March of 2006, the Bush administration increased light truck standards to 22.2 mpg (up a mere 1.5 mpg).

Light trucks exceeding 8,500 pounds do not have to comply with stricter car standards, so automakers often add weight to their vehicles, especially SUVs and pickup trucks, to make them qualify as light trucks under CAFE. Also, auto companies are currently attempting to create a system of trading fuel economy credits between companies, which would support continued production of gas-guzzling machines.

We need to demand that our legislators increase CAFE standards—to 40 mpg by 2012 and to 60 mpg by 2054. In addition, we need to close damaging loopholes so all vehicles adhere to the standards we need to curb climate change:

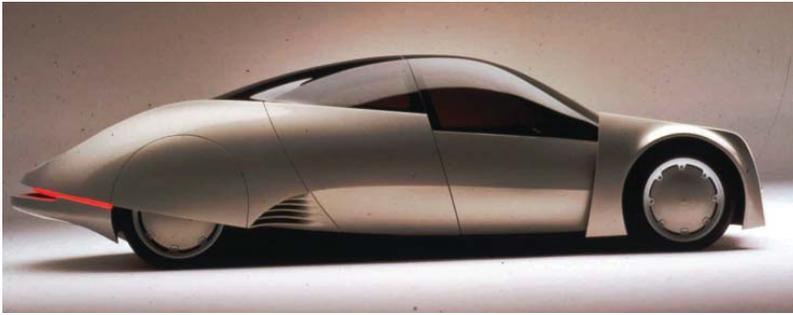
MAKE CAFE TESTS ACCURATE: When the EPA determines the fuel economy of a



istockphoto

To decrease emissions by 2054 and avoid the worst effects of global warming, we must decrease travel for 2 billion 30 mpg automobiles by half. Walking and biking more is a great place to start.

AP Images



The Ford Synergy 2010, a concept car unveiled in 1996, was created as part of the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV). PNGV brings together the US government, Ford, GM, Daimler-Chrysler, and other agencies to lead the way in creating a six-passenger car that maintains affordability and safety but gets 80 miles per gallon. PNGV researchers have identified a number of ways to reach 80 mpg, but so far, no auto manufacturer has brought such a vehicle to the mass market.

given type of vehicle, it winds up exaggerating that fuel economy by 17 to 20 percent, notes the Sierra Club, because “it assumes that people spend less time driving in congested cities than they actually do.” Revising CAFE tests to make them a more accurate measure of fuel economy would help us get a realistic picture of the true fuel economy of our cars.

CLOSE THE LIGHT TRUCK LOOPHOLE: Again, CAFE standards hold light trucks to weaker standards than cars. “By closing this loophole, the US would save one million barrels of oil a day and reduce our oil dependence,” says the Sierra Club.

CLOSE THE FLEXIBLE FUEL VEHICLE LOOPHOLE: To encourage the use of alternative fuels like ethanol, automakers receive credit toward meeting CAFE standards when they build vehicles that can run on them. Unfortunately, according to the Department of Transportation, less than one percent of the 1.2 million flexible fuel cars actually ran on alternative fuels in

Tell Ford and GM to Invest in Hybrids

Ford and General Motors (GM) cars on the road account for over half of all US automotive global warming emissions, according to a recent report by Environmental Defense. But while both companies could be leading the way by developing hybrid models now and for the future, they have instead both chosen to stonewall on improving the fuel efficiency of their respective fleets.

Ford has introduced hybrid versions of its Escape and Mariner SUVs, but these models still only get 33 mpg, compared to the Toyota Prius’s 55 mpg. Studies show that Americans are turning away from gas-guzzling SUVs, including hybrid SUVs, and Ford has used this lack of interest in SUVs as an excuse to back out of its pledge to build 250,000 hybrids per year by 2010. GM has only released hybrid versions of its Tahoe and Yukon SUVs in 2007.

Meanwhile, both companies continue to fight increases in overall fuel efficiency, which would make an enormous difference in reducing CO₂ emissions.

Ford and GM need to move into the 21st century by offering hybrid vehicles competitive with those from Honda and Toyota—the only two auto companies currently selling hybrid compact and sedan cars.

Join thousands of concerned consumers in asking Ford and GM to take meaningful action on global warming today. Sign and send the postcards between pp. 18–19 to William Ford and GM’s G. Richard Wagoner Jr., telling them you want to see Ford and GM reduce the impact of their cars and trucks on global warming through improved gas mileage and the increased production of hybrids.

2000, so this loophole also needs to go.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, if every American bought a car with a fuel economy of at least 40 mpg in the next ten years, within 15 years we would save more oil than the Arctic Wildlife Refuge will provide over its entire lifespan. To stabilize global warming emissions and the decline of our auto industry, we need to develop advanced fuel-efficient technologies to get our world fleet to 60 mpg by 2054.

DRIVING LESS, DRIVING BETTER

Reduce the climate impact of your transportation by doing the following:

1. DRIVE LESS. Bike, walk, and take public transportation whenever possible. If you can, move closer to your workplace to reduce your daily commute. Avoiding ten miles of driving every week will save 500 pounds of CO₂ emissions per person each year. You can find local transit options at www.apta.com/links/state_local/index.cfm. For a more thorough discussion on ways to drive less, see our Fall 2004 *Sustainable Transportation* CAQ, free online at www.coopamerica.org/PDF/CAQ64.pdf.

Also, carpool when you can. Sharing a ride with someone just two days a week will save you 1,590 pounds of CO₂ and hundreds of dollars each year. ERideShare.com connects commuters who want to share rides.

2. SHARE A CAR. With membership in a community car sharing organization like Zipcar[™] or Flexcar[™], you will have access to hundreds of cars in different colors, shapes, sizes, and locations. You reserve a car online, pick up your car at a nearby lot, and return it when you’re done. Zipcar or Flexcar programs are available in the following cities: Atlanta, Los Angeles, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, DC, Minneapolis, Toronto, Boston, New York, Chapel Hill, and Chicago. Visit www.zipcar.com or www.flexcar.com.

3. SWITCH TO BIODIESEL OR DRIVE A HYBRID. If you already drive a diesel vehicle or are in the market for a new car, using biodiesel fuel in a fuel-efficient diesel car is without question the best way to lower your driving emissions right now. Note that biodiesel is a short-term alternative to driving a high-emission vehicle that will reduce your emissions now. Our ultimate goal is zero-emission vehicles, powered by renewables.

If you don’t have easy access to biodiesel, drive a fuel-efficient hybrid vehicle. The Honda Insight and Toyota Prius are already close to the 60 mpg average we need to stabilize our global warming emissions by 2054.

To learn more about biodiesel, see our

July/August 2006 article, “The Benefits of Biodiesel,” free online at www.coopamerica.org/realmoney.

4. ENCOURAGE YOUR WORKPLACE TO HELP EMPLOYEES GREEN THEIR COMMUTE.

Ask your company managers to consider having days where people can telecommute, installing a shower for bicyclists, and paying for public transportation costs.

5. PUSH POLITICIANS TO SUPPORT HIGHER FUEL STANDARDS.

Because the federal government has done very little to improve fuel standards, 11 states, starting with California, have adopted the California Clean Car standards

to set stricter car emission rules. States that have implemented these programs have seen a 20- to 30-percent reduction in smog-forming pollutants. However, the auto industry has retaliated by lobbying against the state standards. The industry is currently challenging California’s right to regulate carbon dioxide in court.

Press your representatives to adopt cleaner car emission rules, and tell them you don’t want to see them bowing to the auto industry. To stay up-to-date on the latest news about clean cars, visit the Union of Concerned Scientists Web site, www.ucsusa.org/clean_vehicles/. **CAO**

—Aditi Fruitwala & Tracy Fernandez Rysavy



Retail

By 2054:

- Cut emissions by one-fourth in all existing retail factories, warehouses, and stores, and work toward zero-emissions in all new buildings.
- Locate stores in areas that don’t contribute to sprawl.
- Reduce transportation use and energy use, and invest in energy efficient and renewable technologies across entire retail sector.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is the biggest private user of electricity in the world, according to the Associated Press. In addition to the 23 million tons of CO₂ that Wal-Mart emits each year, there are an estimated 220 million tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions in the company’s supply chain. Add in the emissions of Target, K-Mart, Home Depot, and other retail giants with a national and worldwide presence, and you’ll find a sector that has enormous potential to cut back on greenhouse gases in stores and along the supply chain.

SPRAWLING ALL OVER

Big-box stores like Wal-Mart contribute to increased traffic and sprawl, which, in turn, contribute greatly to global warming. According to the group Redefining Progress, big-box retailers can exacerbate traffic congestion and air pollution in surrounding areas because they generate more car and truck trips per hour and per day than traditional retailers. The average Wal-Mart Supercenter can generate 10,000 car trips each day, each one emitting CO₂ into the air. Big-box stores tend to be located on the fringes of developed areas—in the suburbs or exurbs rather than in cities—so public transit is often limited, and car trips to the store can be lengthy. New roads built to accommodate big-box stores can encourage additional development designed for cars rather than cyclists or pedestrians. While big-box stores are not the sole cause of sprawl, they do contribute to it. These patterns means more people will spend more hours in their cars, and that means more CO₂ emissions.



AP Images/ALAN SOLOMON

In addition to contributing to sprawl and traffic, big-box retailers use an incredible amount of energy to run their stores and transport their goods. According to Energy Star, nearly one-third of electricity used to run a retail store goes to waste because businesses have not invested in the most energy-efficient technologies.

To get cheap goods, the retailers often buy from suppliers that do their manufacturing

Big box stores contribute to traffic, sprawl, and air pollution, as well as heightened greenhouse gas emissions.

overseas; these factories are often even more energy inefficient than US facilities, are rife with labor problems, and pollute local environments. These goods are then shipped long distances to US distribution centers. From the distribution centers, massive fleets of trucks fan out to the big-box stores. Moving these products such a long way means burning lots of fossil fuel.

MAKING CHANGE

Local governments should work on reigning in sprawl and creating centralized, pedestrian-friendly retail; still, big-box stores aren't going to vanish anytime soon. The companies that run them should also take bold steps to curb their energy use, purchasing renewable energy, installing solar power on their buildings, and investing in energy-efficient technologies.

Redefining Progress estimates that energy used for transportation (truck traffic, employee commuting, and customer travel) accounts for nearly 50 percent of big-box stores' collective environmental footprint, so the stores should improve options for bus service and employee carpooling, use biodiesel in delivery trucks, and locate future stores near public transit.

In addition to addressing the issue of transportation, employing smart energy efficiency in retail stores could both reduce CO₂ emissions and save companies money. The Carbon Mitigation Initiative (CMI) predicts that it will be easier for commercial buildings to save energy than for residential buildings, and they

are calling on commercial buildings to adopt more efficient space heating and cooling, lighting, water heating, and appliances, and to install solar power, to cut their CO₂ emissions by 65 percent.

Wal-Mart has already planned to take some green steps. Wal-Mart president Lee Scott has announced that the company's fleet of trucks will double its fuel efficiency over the next decade (a move that *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Mark Morford notes will save \$300 million in fuel costs annually) and invest \$500 million in technologies that will reduce greenhouse gases from stores and distribution centers by 20 percent over seven years. Wal-Mart, and this sector as a whole, still has a long way to go. As one of the largest energy consumers in the world, Wal-Mart needs to go even further to curb climate change, working at the large scale that has led to its dominance in the retail sector. Retail stores like Wal-Mart need to examine their carbon footprint all along the supply chain—from the materials used to make the products they sell, to the stores that sell them. Smaller retail stores need to pledge to cut electricity use by at least 25 percent, reduce the amount of transportation required for business, and seek out fuel-efficient transportation for their goods and customers.

Do your part to encourage retailers to reduce their climate impact:

1) BUY LESS. By avoiding impulse purchases and buying less, you help reduce the emissions associated with the manufacture and transportation of the items you would have purchased.

2) BUY USED. Here you also save emissions related to the manufacture and transportation of new goods. By frequenting local garage sales, thrift stores, and charity shops, or by holding swap parties in your neighborhood, you'll reduce travel emissions related to your shopping and keep money in your local economy.

3) BUY LOCAL. By purchasing products made and sold locally, you help cut down on transportation, and you support your vibrant and independent local economy.

4) BUY GREEN. When you can't find what you need locally, turn to green businesses, found in our *National Green Pages™* directory, to support companies that are going the extra mile to preserve the environment.

5) TAKE ACTION: Check out the box (left) for more on Co-op America's campaign to pressure Wal-Mart into improving its social and environmental practices. **CAQ**

—Liz Borkowski & Sarah Tarver-Wahlquist

Co-op America's Wal-Mart Campaign



Sprawl. Traffic congestion. Wasteful energy use. Pitifully low wages. Sweatshops. These are just some of the negatives associated with Wal-Mart's destructive business model.

Wal-Mart is the largest corporation in the world. Because of its poor social and environmental track record, Co-op America has been mobilizing individuals and shareholders to pressure the company to clean up its act. Once a retail giant like Wal-Mart takes steps to become more sustainable, it's likely to have a domino effect on other big-box chains and major retailers.

For more on just what's wrong with Wal-Mart and how you can help pressure it to improve, read our Spring 2006 *Quarterly*, *Beyond the Wal-Mart Economy*, free online at www.coopamerica.org/PDF/WalMartCAQ68.pdf.

In addition to mobilizing consumers, we're also encouraging shareholders to use their investor power to push Wal-Mart to change. Shareholder advocates filed resolutions this year asking the company to take steps to improve conditions and wages for workers, improve its diversity record, and report on its environmental impact.

For up-to-date informations on Wal-Mart, including our consumer actions against it, sign up for our e-mail newsletter at www.coopamerica.org.



Oil and Gas

By 2054:

- All oil and gas companies must reduce the emissions coming from their operations and invest heavily in renewable energy sources, working to replace fossil fuels with wind, solar, and other renewable technologies by the end of the century.

The entity responsible for five percent of all human-caused CO₂ emissions is not a continent or a country or even a populous state in the US. It's oil-and-gas giant ExxonMobil.

“ExxonMobil still firmly believes that oil is the future and that there is no reason to invest meaningfully in clean energy and alternative fuels,” says Andrew Logan, oil program director at the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (Ceres). Overall, Ceres has found ExxonMobil to be the industry laggard, muddling scientific consensus on climate change, down playing the possibilities for renewable energy, and devoting far fewer resources than its competitors to renewable energy development.

But when it comes to forward-thinking investments in a cleaner energy future, the other major players in the oil-and-gas industry aren't doing much better. While skyrocketing gas prices are leading to windfall profits for oil-and-gas corporations, these companies are still investing very little into cleaner energy technologies, according to a 2006 study by the nonprofit consumer organization Public Citizen. BP, widely considered the leader in renewable energy investments among the oil giants, posted \$38.4 billion in stock buybacks, dividend payouts, and cash profits in 2005. In that time, it only invested two percent of that surplus into renewables, reports Public Citizen.

The US Department of Energy reports that 42 percent of our country's CO₂ emissions in 2001 came from the use of petroleum products. ExxonMobil and all oil and gas companies can do much better—and must, if we are to curb climate change. But what can they do, other than close up shop altogether?

If we're going to keep a global warming catastrophe from happening, it's not a question of “can”; it's a question of “must.” The oil and gas industry must:

- Reduce the emissions coming from its own operations—from the archaic flaring of natural gas to the inefficiencies of the industry's own processes.
- Invest in, and collaborate with, the auto industry, utilities, and others, on programs to develop zero-emission transportation. In the short term, that involves developing highly fuel-efficient vehicles and biofuels made from waste, not crops. Over time, it means creating electric vehicles powered by renewable energy.
- Invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies that will enable the residen-



AP Images/ANA MARIA OTERO

tial, commercial, and industrial sectors to operate emissions-free.

- Refrain from developing forms of fossil fuels like Canadian tar sands. (Tar sand is a crude, semi-solid, degraded form of oil that will not flow toward a well and is extracted, instead, through mining.)

The oil industry has the profits to do all of the above. Since George W. Bush took office in 2001, oil prices have gone up 260 percent. In the past six months alone, the five largest oil-and-gas companies—BP, ExxonMobil, Shell, ChevronTexaco, and ConocoPhillips—posted \$59.4 billion in profits,

Oil and gas companies need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and put significant money and resources into transitioning to renewable energy sources.

Co-op America's Climate Action Program

You do everything in your personal life to reduce your energy use and minimize your impact on the environment. Corporate America needs to hear from concerned citizens like yourself, because they are the biggest emitters of global warming gases—and the most resistant to change.

Co-op America's Climate Action program empowers you to join your voice with thousands of other concerned citizens and with institutional shareholders to pressure companies in every sector to address climate change. By signing on to letters, you and thousands of other consumers allow Co-op America and our allies to show corporations that Americans are concerned about climate change and that they need to take action now if they want us to continue to purchase from and invest in them.

Together, our campaigns have encouraged all the major players in the oil, gas, auto, and utility industries to commit to disclosing their climate impact and reporting on the steps they are taking to address it. Next step: getting these industries to take action at the scale necessary to curb climate change as discussed in this issue of the *Quarterly*. Sign up for our e-mail newsletter at www.coopamerica.org so that you get the alerts on all of our Climate Action campaigns—and make these campaigns even more powerful by adding your voice.

reports Public Citizen. In July, oil-and-gas giant Exxon-Mobil posted the second-largest quarterly profit ever by a US corporation, taking in more than \$10 billion over April, May, and June of 2006.

This profitability will continue as oil depletes—whether rapidly as peak oil analysts warn or on a slower track. Even as society moves increasingly to renewable energy, oil will continue to have high value for specialty needs, such as jet fuel and certain industrial applications.

The good news is that shareholders and consumers are putting enormous pressure on the oil industry to move in the right direction. In 2005, shareholders withdrew resolutions at six oil-and-gas companies after receiving commitments for steps like voluntary reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, and company targets for reducing their greenhouse gas footprints.

The oil and gas companies need to keep hearing

from their shareholders and their customers that this type of investment is what we want for the future—not more investment in business as usual.

TAKE ACTION: All big oil and gas companies can do more to combat climate change and invest in renewable energy. Check out Co-op America's Responsible Shopper online tool to check out the social and environmental records of six big oil-and-gas companies, including BP and Sunoco. The site, www.responsibleshopper.org, provides contact information for these companies and links you to campaigns across the country that are asking oil and gas companies to reduce their emissions, invest in zero-emission transportation, and invest in renewables, including Co-op America's Climate Action campaign (see box on p. 23). Use your consumer power to demand that big oil step up its efforts to push the green energy future forward. **CAQ**

—Andrew Korfhage



Food

By 2054:

- We need to be well on our way to having a food system in place that reduces deforestation and soil erosion, is locally based to minimize transportation, and relies on energy-efficient and renewable, zero-emission technologies.

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Support local food systems, such as farmers' markets, community supported agriculture, and community gardens.

“In the United States, food typically travels between 1,500 and 2,500 miles from farm to plate, as much as 25 percent farther than in 1980,” states the WorldWatch Institute. In 2004, the US exported \$20 million worth of lettuce to Mexico and imported \$20 million worth of lettuce back from Mexico. In 2003, New York ports exported \$431,000 worth of California almonds to Italy and imported \$397,000 million worth of Italian almonds for sale in the US. Annually, California sells \$18 million worth of asparagus abroad, while importing \$39 million worth of asparagus from other countries.

Again and again, studies by groups like the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC), the Agricultural Marketing Research Center, and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) find redundancy built into the globalized food system.

“These examples are not anomalies,” states ISEC’s 2004 report, “Ripe for Change: Rethinking California’s Food Economy.” “These examples are part of a growing trend: food, treated as a speculative commodity in an era of liberalized trade, is being transported back and forth across the world—not to meet people’s food needs, but to increase the profits of corporate agribusinesses.”

The report notes that in the ten years since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the transport of food between the US and Mexico has doubled in both directions. A 2001 report from the UK-based Sustain and Elm Farm Research Centre found that between 1968 and 1998, with world population increasing by 91 percent, food production increased accordingly, by 84 percent, but food trade increased at more than double that rate, by 184 percent.

Ultimately, all this shuttling of food from here to there imposes a climate change burden on our environment, with fossil-fuel-powered planes, trains, and semi-trucks spewing carbon dioxide and other pollutants in order

to exchange lettuce or almonds or asparagus across the globe.

In a 2005 report, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) flagged the agriculture industry as the most energy-intensive sector of the economy beyond heavy manufacturing, and outlined steps the industry could take that would save energy equal to ten percent of current total energy expenses nationwide. The report recommends both technology improvements (like widespread use of compact fluorescent lighting and solar water heating) and process improvements (like developing more efficient irrigation techniques that require less energy for pumping).

To mitigate the climate change impacts of your food consumption, consider monitoring your “food miles,” reducing the distance food must travel from its origin to your plate, while at the same time supporting local farmers, whose methods are often less energy-intensive than larger corporate agribusinesses.

REDUCE YOUR FOOD MILES

Here are five high-impact ways to reduce the climate impact of your diet:

1. GROW YOUR OWN. You’ll enjoy fresh vegetables and fruits, with next to zero climate impact.

2. BUY LOCAL FOOD. Visit farmers’ markets or join a local community supported agriculture (CSA) project. Find local sources of food by checking the Local Harvest Web site, www.localharvest.org.

3. EAT LESS MEAT. Raising meat is much more resource-intensive than raising grains, legumes, or vegetables. Eating one less beef meal each week saves 300 lbs. of carbon dioxide in a year. According to *The Nation*, going vegan will reduce your emissions more than switching your car to a Toyota Prius.

4. TALK TO YOUR SUPERMARKET. Ask your grocer to carry more local products. Fill out a comment card when you shop, or speak to the manager—and get your friends and family to do the same.

5. BRING LOCAL FOOD TO SCHOOLS. Twelve states already have established “farm to school” programs reducing the “food miles” embedded in school lunches. Get active in your state’s program, or help establish a new program; visit www.farmtoschool.org. 

—Andrew Korfhage



Financial

If you had the chance to cast a vote to stop global warming, would you?

A solid 74-percent majority of mutual fund investors would, according to a survey released in February by the Opinion Research Corporation (ORC). Yet not one of the 100 largest mutual funds managing money for those investors cast a single vote in support of any global-warming-related proposals at the 2005 corporate shareholder meetings.

“These findings told us that while individual investors understand the risk of investing in companies that are implicated in changing the climate, their fund managers had some catching up to do,” says Todd Larsen, director of Co-op America’s Climate Action Campaign. “We brought these findings to the attention of the media, and along with our allies shared them with our members, who immediately responded by telling their mutual funds that they expect better financial management.”

Together with the Union of Concerned Scientists and Ceres’ Investor Network on Climate Risk (INCR), Co-op America mobilized almost 40,000 investors to sign petitions demanding that Fidelity, Vanguard, and American Funds—the three largest mutual fund companies in the country—protect their investments, and begin casting votes against global warming.



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Use your money to support businesses that are part of the global warming solution by being mindful of the companies from which you purchase or in which you invest.

“Mutual funds have a fiduciary duty to represent the interests of their investors and address their concerns,” says Larsen. “Shareholders know that failure to address climate risk in a portfolio will be financially disastrous to them, so together with INCR, Co-op America has helped companies understand that their shareholders’ bottom line is directly tied to the company’s greenhouse gas emissions and exposure over time to the severe financial losses, lawsuits, and insurance problems associated with ignoring climate change.”

Furthermore, many mutual fund portfolios include corporations with a global business reach, compounding the urgent need for mutual funds to

address climate change. While the US federal government largely ignores the issue, US-based businesses with global interests must nonetheless respond to other countries' regulatory efforts to mitigate global warming—not just by reporting their complicity in the problem, but by actually outlining action steps for how to help solve the problem within a reasonable timeframe.

For example, a shareholder resolution filed with oil-and-gas giant ExxonMobil called on the company to report to shareholders how it plans to comply with greenhouse gas reduction targets in markets that ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which took effect in February 2005. Failure to comply with these targets, shareholders say, will damage their investments, so they want to know what steps the company is taking to deal with Kyoto's requirements.

It's not just global oil-and-gas companies that are feeling the heat from shareholders, however. According to in the "2005 Trends in Socially Responsible Investing" report released in January by Co-op America and the Social Investment Forum^m, the number of shareholder resolutions tackling the impact of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions jumped

40 percent last year, to a total of 35 resolutions targeting six business sectors: automotive, construction, financial and insurance, manufacturing, electric power, and oil and gas.

If the US government will not address climate change, then it's imperative that these industries—the ones most responsible for the damage—begin to address it on their own. If the companies will not address it on their own, then their shareholders—as part-owners of the company—will demand responsible action.

Here's how you can take action with your investments to stop global warming:

1. IF YOU OWN MUTUAL FUNDS, ask your fund manager to vote your proxies in favor of any resolution the combats climate change.

2. IF YOU OWN STOCK in any of the industry sectors mentioned above, remember to vote your proxies yourself in favor of resolutions that combat climate change.

3. DIVEST from problem companies, and tell them why.

4. LOOK for socially responsible investment opportunities that support renewable energy and cleaner technology. 

—Andrew Korfhage

The Regeneration Project: Faith Communities Engaging on Climate Change

Last Hanukkah, Jewish families across the country were adding a new tradition to their celebrations—each night, they replaced one incandescent light bulb with an energy-efficient compact-fluorescent bulb. They accompanied the action with a different prayer each night, including this one: "Blessed are You, Creator of All Worlds, who with wisdom created our world in a delicate balance. Let us respect how every being and every act connects us as one life."

The "One for Each Night" campaign was organized by the Georgia chapter of Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), a national campaign by the nonprofit Regeneration Project that works to bridge the gap between faith and ecology, particularly when it comes to global warming.

"We are part of, not apart from, Creation," says Father Charles Morris, a Catholic priest and director of the Michigan IPL chapter. "As God's people, we are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers, and our brothers and sisters are four-legged and two-legged, are the poor of the world, and are the future generations."

The Regeneration Project started in the Episcopal church in 1998 when the Reverend Sally Bingham of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco brought together Episcopal congregations in California to purchase green power. For the Rev. Bingham and her partners, the connection between green power, which would reduce the congregations' contribution to global warming, and their religious mandate to "care for Creation," was natural.

Through the Regeneration Project's efforts, 60 California churches switched to green power in 1998. However, during the state's 2000 "energy crisis," Green Mountain (the green power provider) moved out of California, and all participating churches were forced to switch back to conventional utilities. Bingham responded

by bringing the Project's work to a larger, interfaith audience, creating Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation.

The response was immediate and heartfelt, with congregations coming on board from across the nation and from many different faiths. IPL has grown from 60 Episcopal churches in 1998 to several hundred congregations, including those from Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim communities. It now has chapters in 20 states, with several more in the beginning stages.

State programs work with congregations by helping facilitate energy audits, the purchase of green tags, and assistance in building renewable energy installation programs, like rooftop solar panels. To date, Morris's Michigan IPL has helped keep 5,548 tons of CO₂ out of the atmosphere and has saved Michigan congregations up to 40 percent (about \$20,000 a year) on their utility bills. ("In a case like this," says Father Morris, "doing the righteous thing is also doing the smart thing.") Illinois IPL has helped 12 congregations purchase wind power from a local utility, eliminating 4,000 tons of CO₂ each year, while Connecticut IPL has helped organize green building projects or upgrades for over 20 congregations and organizations.

Bingham hopes the conversation about global warming will help people of different faiths realize their common ground: "If we can start by agreeing on this one thing, we'll see that we have more in common, and that all of our beliefs are grounded in a desire for peace and justice in all areas of life."

To join or create an IPL program in your state, contact The Regeneration Project, 415/561-4891, www.theregenerationproject.org.

—Sarah Tarver-Wahlquist

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Utilities Sector, continued from page 18

significant role in our future if we're going to curb climate change. By installing solar panels to power your home, you'll greatly reduce your global warming emissions and support the transition to an emissions-free future. Our guide to going solar, *The Promise of the Solar Future*, is available online at www.coopamerica.org/PDF/CAQ66.pdf and contains everything you need to know to go solar. Our *Real Money* article, "Try a Solar Water Heater," is online at www.coopamerica.org/pubs/realmoney.

3. BUY GREEN POWER. Some utility companies offer the option of getting electricity from renewable sources. To find out if green power is available in your state, visit www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml.

4. OFFSET YOUR EMISSIONS. If green power sources aren't available to you and you're not able to go solar just yet, offset the greenhouse gas emissions from your home, air travel, and ground transportation. *NativeEnergy*™ (800/924-6826, www.nativeenergy.com/coop) provides green tags, or renewable energy credits, that allow you to offset your emissions by supporting construction of new wind power facilities that provide economic benefits to family farmers and Native American tribes. And *TerraPass*™ (877/879-8026, www.terrapass.com) offers green tags purchased from existing clean energy projects, including wind farms.

5. SAY NO TO COAL. Tell power companies to stop

building coal-fired plants immediately. Visit our Web site, www.climateaction.org, to find out how you can get involved in fighting new coal plants and mines in your state. You can also see our *Real Money* article, "Climate Change and Your Power Company" for more on talking to your utility about avoiding coal and shifting to renewables, online at www.coopamerica.org/pubs/realmoney/articles/coalplants.cfm.

6. USE YOUR VOTES AND YOUR VOICE TO PUSH FOR GREEN POWER. Utility companies tend to oppose legislation that would tighten regulation on power-plant emissions or mandate renewable-energy generation, and they have money to spend on defending the status quo. The Center for Responsive Politics reports that during the 2004 election cycle alone, electric utilities contributed \$15 million in individual and PAC donations and spent \$87 million on lobbying.

Vote for politicians that support local, state, and national efforts to curb global warming, and call your representatives when legislation to clean up utilities and promote green power is on the table. Also tell them to support any future US policies to curb global warming (see box on p. 12).

In addition, sign up for our e-mail newsletter at www.coopamerica.org for up-to-date information on how you can take action to clean up utilities. 

—Liz Borkowski and Sarah Tarver-Wahlquist

Resources

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR AN ENERGY EFFICIENT ECONOMY, 202/429-8873, www.aceee.org. Dedicated to promoting energy efficiency as a means to economic prosperity and environmental protection, the ACEEE provides consumers with resources for making their homes more energy efficient.

CERES™, 617/247-0700, www.ceres.org. A network of investment funds, environmental organizations, and public interest groups working directly with business to support sustainability.

CHRISTIAN AID, 44/020/7620-4444, www.christian-aid.org.uk. An agency of churches in the UK and Ireland, working to end poverty and protect the rights of the world's poor.

KYOTOUSA, 510/704-8628, www.kyotousa.org. Encouraging cities and citizens to address climate change by endorsing the Kyoto Protocol.

LOCAL HARVEST, 831/475-8150, www.localharvest.org. Online directory of local farms and farm markets, helping people support local agriculture and reduce their food miles.

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, 212/727-2700, www.nrdc.org. An environmental action network that works to protect the planet.

THE PEW CENTER ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, 703/516-4146, www.pewclimate.org. Brings together scientists, business leaders and policy makers to develop strategies for curbing climate change while sustaining economic growth.

PRINCETON'S CARBON MITIGATION INITIATIVE, www.princeton.edu~cmi. Researching safe, effective and affordable strategies to reduce carbon emissions.

PUBLIC CITIZEN, 202/588-1000, www.citizen.org. Representing the interests of consumer in Congress, the courts, and the executive branch.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.ORG, 202/496-4800, www.publictransportation.org. Resource provided by the American Public Transportation Association. Search for public transportation options by state.

REDEFINING PROGRESS, 510/444-3041, www.rprogress.org. Shifting public policy toward sustainability by designing policies, frameworks, and measuring indicators.

THE REGENERATION PROJECT, 415/561-4891, www.theregenerationproject.org. Working with faith communities to create a religious response to global warming through the Interfaith Power and Light Campaign.

SIERRA CLUB, 415/977-5500, www.sierraclub.org. Working to protect communities and the environment through a variety of programs and conservation initiatives.

SOLAR NATION™, www.solar-nation.org. Harnesses consumer voices to bring about changes in state and federal energy policies, in order to make solar a significant part of America's future.

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS, 617/547-5552, www.ucsusa.org. An alliance of scientists and citizens committed to building a cleaner environment and a safer world.

US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, www.eere.energy.gov. Information for consumers about home energy audits, energy efficient appliances, tax credits for energy efficiency, and how to find green power in your state.

Co-op America Resources

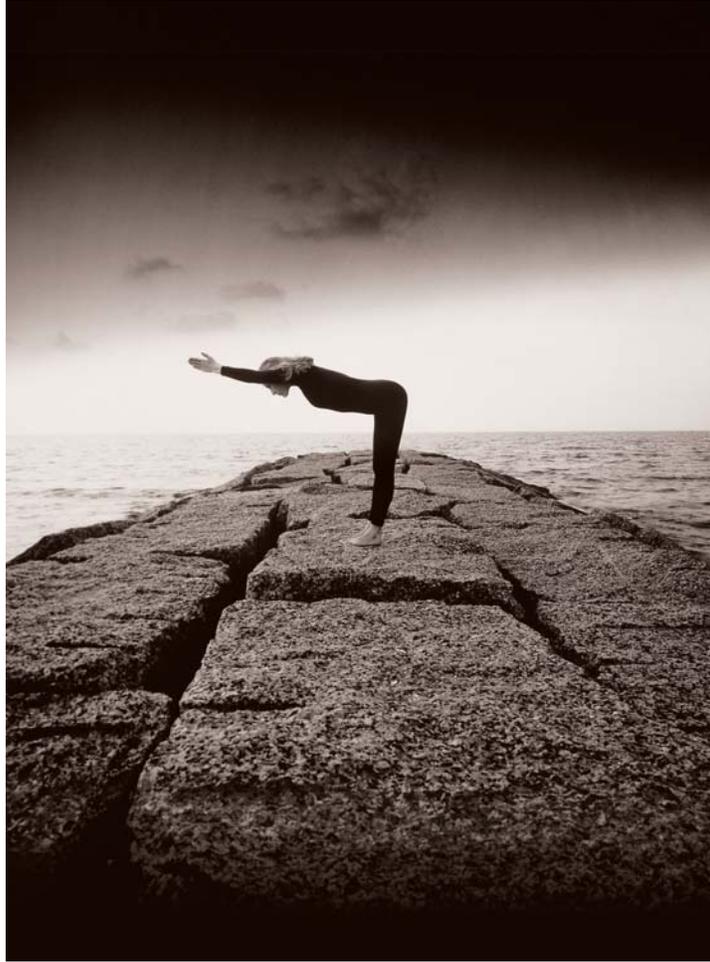
CO-OP AMERICA'S CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN, 202/872-5307, www.climateaction.org. Works to encourage individuals and corporations to take action to reduce their climate change emissions. Action campaigns, resources, and information for combatting climate change and creating a green energy future.

CO-OP AMERICA'S CLIMATE RESOURCES, www.climateaction.org/go/climateresources. A one-stop online shop of past *Real Money* articles, issues of the CAQ, and other resources from Co-op America on energy-efficiency, green energy, and going carbon-free.

CO-OP AMERICA'S SOLAR CATALYST PROGRAM, 202/872-5307, www.solarcatalyst.com. Nonprofit consortium of private- and public-sector organizations working to develop the market for solar photovoltaics.

CO-OP AMERICA'S RESPONSIBLE SHOPPER, 202/872-5307, www.responsibleshopper.org. An online research and activism tool providing information on the social and environmental performance of today's most prominent consumer product companies. Users can compare company profiles and e-mail companies about sustainability issues.

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ECD/Hope Wins Co-op America BEA Award

ECD/Hope



After Hurricane Katrina wiped out Louisiana resident Jerry Moore's business, ECD/Hope stepped in with an emergency business loan that allowed him to rebuild and even expand his hauling company. ECD/Hope is the winner of Co-op America's 2007 BEA Award for its remarkable work in community investing—particularly the \$500,000-plus it put into fund Katrina recovery efforts for the region's low- and middle-income residents.

Co-op America is pleased to name the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta and Hope Community Credit Union (ECD/Hope) as the 2006 recipient of our annual Building Economic Alternatives (BEA) award. For the last 17 years, Co-op America has given the BEA award to an organization, individual or business whose outstanding work deals with issues covered by the previous year's *Co-op America Quarterly*. In 2006, CAQ themes included *Coming Together for a Green Future*, *The Promise of a Solar Future*, and *Investing for the World*. ECD/Hope is being given the award in recognition of its remarkable work in community investing.

ECD, one of the nation's leading community development financial institutions (CDFIs), provides financial products and services in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as well as the Greater Memphis area of Tennessee. ECD sponsors Hope Community Credit Union, which provides a range of financial products and services to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income residents in its service area. Since 1994, ECD/HOPE has generated over \$150 million in financing for small businesses, homebuyers, and community development projects, and assisted more than 10,000 individuals in low-income communities throughout the mid-South.

When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita rocked the Gulf Coast in August of 2005, many of the regions served by ECD/Hope were devastated. ECD/Hope jumped to action, using its 12 years of experience to assist in the rebuilding of Federal Emergency Management Agency-designated assistance areas. ECD/Hope set up the Hurricane Relief Fund, which channeled over \$500,000 to faith and community based organizations for rebuilding and community services. In addition, ECD provided business recovery loans to help small-business owners recover losses and, when possible, start up their businesses again. Hope Federal Credit Union worked with individuals by offering recovery loans and no-fee accounts, helping those hardest hit by the storm get back on their feet.

"The work of ECD/Hope represents the kind of commitment and financial model needed to help build and rebuild communities in the South and Gulf region that need it most," said Fran Teplitz, Co-op America's director of social investing. "Their work represents the opportunity for a new start for thousands of people and businesses that otherwise would not have access to the financing and assistance needed to be economically viable."

"Hurricanes Katrina and Rita significantly changed the landscape, both literally and figuratively, and altered the amount of need in the region," says Scott Slay, marketing and communications director at Hope. Despite these challenges, Hope Federal Credit Union was the fastest growing credit union in the country in 2005. "Our growth is a testament to the work we do," says Slay, "Our growth is fueled by deposits by socially responsible investors that recognize that what we're doing is the right solution."

Bill Bynum, CEO of ECD/Hope, saw 2005 as "a year that underscored the need for ECD/HOPE, and a year that inspired us to continue our work with renewed vigor." Co-op America will present the award to ECD/Hope at the SRI in the Rockies Conference this fall. CAQ

CONTACT: ECD/HOPE, 601/944-1100, www.ecd.org, www.hopecu.org.

Alisa Gravitz Wins Sustainability Award

Alisa Gravitz, Co-op America's executive director, was honored in September as a recipient of The Alliance for Sustainability's Second Annual Sustainability Award.

The Sustainability Awards recognize individuals, organizations, and communities that have been exemplary leaders and have made significant contributions to sustainability. Previous recipients include inspiring author Frances Moore Lappé, artist Peter Max, Aveda Corporation founder Horst Rechelbacher, Native-American activist Winona LaDuke, and the Seventh Generation Corporation.

The Alliance for Sustainability is a Minnesota-based organization dedicated bringing about personal, organizational, and planetary sustainability through support of projects that are ecologically sound, economically viable, socially just, and humane. It bring together businesses, nonprofits, religious groups, academic institutions, government agencies, and individuals to work for sustainability. Their projects include the Neighborhood Sustainability Conference, the Living Green Expo, Natural Step trainings, and the Junk Mail Tree project.

Alisa was recognized for her work at Co-op America "with consumers, investors, businesses, and entire industries to pioneer effective techniques for addressing issues of sustainable consumption and production, ranging from the magazine industry's increased use of recycled content paper to solar energy economies of scale and price reductions."

The Alliance for Sustainability also recognized Alisa's work as a national leader on climate change and solar power. Also receiving awards are Ray Anderson, founder and chair of sustainable carpet company InterfaceFLOR, Eureka Recycling, a MN-based recycler with innovative zero-waste programs; Dr. Michel Gelobter, head of the nonprofit Redefining Progress; and David Morris, vice-president of the nonprofit Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Alisa and the other recipients received the awards at a gala celebration in St. Paul, MN, on Sept. 25, at the Fitzgerald Theatre, home of "Prairie Home Companion."



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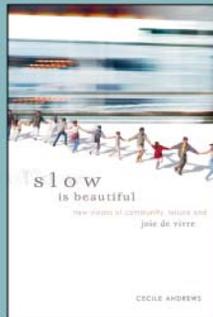
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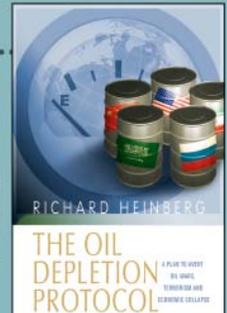
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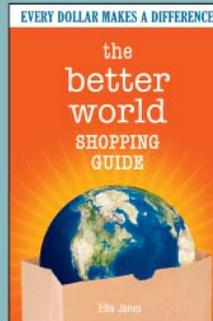
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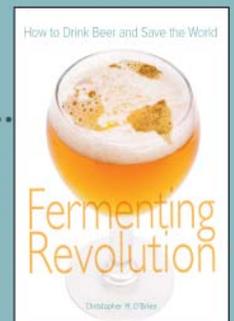
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With your support, the Co-op America Business Network (CABN), the largest association of socially and environmentally responsible businesses, is changing the way America does business. The 2,500+ CABN members are introducing innovative and effective ways to care for workers, communities, the environment, and consumers. Find more in Co-op America's *National Green Pages*™.

Our Business Members Lead on Climate Solutions

While much of Corporate America has been dragging its feet when it comes to global warming, US green businesses are setting the bar high when it comes to being climate friendly. Large and small, local, national, and international, Co-op America Business Network (CABN) Members show every day that they can still turn a profit while bringing down the environmental costs of doing business.

Many CABN members refuse to get their energy from the fossil-fuel-powered grid, instead generating their own power from clean, green, renewable sources. Here's just a sampling:

CABN member Tom's of Maine[™], maker of natural toothpaste and other personal care products, powers its manufacturing facility with 100 percent renewable wind energy generated by the Ainsworth Wind Energy facility. "Our move to renewable wind energy is another exciting example of how doing what is good for nature and good for communities, turns out to be good for the bottom line as well," says company founder Tom Chappel, referring to the financial savings earned from alternative energy sources.

In 2005, Stonyfield Farm[™] installed a 50-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system on their organic yogurt manufacturing facility, which is now the largest solar installation in New Hampshire. Stonyfield Farm also offsets 100 percent of its CO₂ emissions through *NativeEnergy*[™] and works with the University of Michigan's Center for Sustainable Systems to research ways to reduce the environmental impacts of packaging.

At ThinkHost[™], a Web hosting company powered by 100 percent wind and solar power, many employees work from home to save commuting trips. The staff has taken many steps to green their office and reduce their emissions, including cutting paper use, using only efficient notebook computers, and installing low-wattage lighting.

My Organic Market[™], a local organic market based in the greater DC area, began purchasing 100 percent wind energy in 2005. Through a partnership with American Forests[™], My Organic Market became one of the



Stonyfield Farm

Stonyfield Farm's 50-kilowatt solar PV system, which powers their organic yogurt manufacturing facility, is the largest solar installation in New Hampshire.

first carbon-neutral companies in the US by planting trees equivalent to the amount of greenhouse gases expended by their fleet of vehicles.

New Belgium Brewing Company's[™] employees voted in 1998 to become the nation's first 100 percent wind-powered brewery, and they used their own bonus pool to help finance the conversion. In 2002, New Belgium participated in the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) pilot program. Through LEED-EB, New Belgium installed sun tubes and daylighting to reuse heat in the brewhouse.

In addition to creating new energy, CABN members are also doing their part to prevent climate change by purchasing carbon offsets. Offsets are so named because they counteract, or offset, greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2005, New Society Publishing[™] became the first North American publishing company to be carbon neutral by contributing to Tree Canada, an organization that plants trees to absorb the impact of emissions. New Society also prints its books on 100 percent post-consumer waste recycled paper

and has online catalogues and books to limit use of virgin paper.

Organic Bouquet[™] is working with The Climate Trust, a leading provider of carbon offset programs, to mitigate the greenhouse gases generated from shipping the company's flowers. Organic Bouquet is also involved in The Climate Trust's Truck Stop Electrification Program to retrofit 275 truck docking stations at major truck stops nationwide with electrical outlets, encouraging truckers to use electrical power rather than idling on diesel fuel while the drivers are resting.

"Transportation is one of the fastest growing contributors to global warming," said Bjorn Fischer, business development manager at The Climate Trust. "The Truck Stop Electrification Program is particularly compelling because it directly offsets transportation-related CO₂ emissions."

Through a partnership with *NativeEnergy*, organic energy bar company Clif Bar Inc.[™] purchased renewable energy credits to help finance construction of the first large-scale, Native American-owned wind turbine. *NativeEnergy's* *WindBuilders* program constructs non-polluting wind farms



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Customers who offset their emissions by purchasing green tags from *NativeEnergy* helped finance construction of this wind turbine, owned and operated by members of the Rosebud Sioux tribe in South Dakota.

that will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. In 2003, Clif Bar Inc. received the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Leadership Award for superior environmental stewardship for purchasing enough energy credits to offset all of its greenhouse gas emissions for the year. Clif Bar Inc. also combats global warming by using only recycled packing and organic ingredients.

Other CABN members who offset their global warming emissions through *NativeEnergy's* *WindBuilders* program include: *GreenerPrinter.com*^{mm}, *Green Mountain Coffee Roasters*^{mm}, *Seventh Generation*^{mm}, *Rivanna Natural Designs*^{mm}, the *Rosebud Agency*^{mm}, *InterfaceFLOR*^{mm}, and *Stonyfield Farm*^{mm}.

Co-op America and our Green Festivals also offset 100 percent of our emissions. We offset our office and travel emissions through *WindBuilders* (800/924-6826, www.nativeenergy.com/coop). We offset the emissions for our Green Festivals with *TerraPass*^{mm} (877/879-8026, www.terrapass.com)—including the travel for the 50,000 people who attend.

Aveda^{mm}, the manufacturer of plant-derived hair care, skin care, makeup, and

life style products, also partners with *NativeEnergy* to offset 150 percent of its global warming impact by planting wind turbines. In addition, the company launched its *Air Control™* Hair Spray, which has a net-zero impact on the global climate.

The above is just a sampling of what our 2,500 CABN members are doing to bring down global warming emissions. These companies make going the extra mile for people and the planet a priority in everything they do. Claudio Miranda, vice president of

Organic Bouquet, sums up the green business attitude toward global warming: "It's absolutely critical for businesses to take responsibility for reducing their environmental impact if the current trends in global climate change are to be reversed." **CAO**

CONTACT: To find the above-mentioned green businesses and others, consult Co-op America's *National Green Pages™*, available with membership, for \$10.95 by calling 800/58-GREEN, or free online at www.greenpages.org.

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