

How Can I Learn More and Get Involved?

Books and other Publications

The Center for Public Integrity, "The Politics of Oil: How One of the World's Richest Industries Influences Government and Policy," reports updated continually. Available at: www.publicintegrity.org/oil

Energy Information Administration, "Federal Financial Interventions and Subsidies in Energy Markets 1999: Primary Energy," 2000. Available at: www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/subsidy

Goldberg, Marshall, "Federal Energy Subsidies: Not All Technologies are Created Equal," 2000. A Publication of the Renewable Energy Policy Project. Available at: http://solstice.crest.org/repp_pubs/pdf/subsidies.pdf

Heinberg, Richard, *The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Society*, 2003.

The Janus Programme, "Politics and Persuasion: Corporate Influence on Sustainable Development Policy," 2002. Available at: www.sustainability.com/programs/janus/janus-final.pdf

Useful Websites

Citizens Energy Cooperative of Wisconsin; www.cecofwi.com

Midwest Renewable Energy Association; www.themrea.org

RENEW Wisconsin; www.renewwisconsin.org

Focus on Energy; www.focusonenergy.com

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin; <http://psc.wi.gov>

Citizens Utility Board; www.wiscub.org

EnAct; www.enactwi.org

Save Our Unique Lands; www.wakeupwisconsin.com

Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program; www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep

Apollo Alliance; www.apolloalliance.org

Energy Information Administration; www.eia.doe.gov

Center for Public Integrity; www.publicintegrity.org

CorpWatch; www.corpwatch.org

Open Secrets; www.opensecrets.org

Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation; www.weccusa.org

WNPJ Office Resource - The Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror. 90 min. video; www.theoilfactor.com
Contact info@wnpj.org if you'd like to rent a copy of this video.

WNPJ Organizations Working on Issues Related to Energy

Anathoth Community Farm, Mike Miles or Barb Kass, 740 Round Lake Rd, Luck, WI 54853; phone: 715-472-8721; email: anathoth@lakeland.ws

Citizens Energy Cooperative of WI, Chamomile Nusz, PO Box 438, Waupaca, WI 54981; phone: 920-362-0251; email: chamomilen@cecofwi.com

Midwest Renewable Energy Association, Katy Matthai, 7558 Deer Rd, Custer, WI 54423; phone: 715-592-6595 x10; email: info@the-mrea.org

Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin, David Blouin, PO Box 55372, Madison, WI 53705; phone: 608-233-8455; email: burroak15@aol.com

Nukewatch, John LaForge, PO Box 649, Luck, WI 54853; phone: 715-472-4185; email: nukewatch@lakeland.ws

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Alfred Meyer, PO Box 1712, Madison, WI 53701; phone: 608-232-9945; email: mail@psrmadison.org

Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, Al Gedicks, 210 Avon St #4, La Crosse, WI 54603;

About the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice (WNPJ)

The purpose of WNPJ is to facilitate activities, cooperation, and communication among Wisconsin organizations and individuals working toward the creation of a world free from violence and injustice.

The Corporate Accountability Task Group (CATG) was created to better focus, educate, and organize our shared work for economic justice. The CATG also offers community workshops and produces other resource materials including a 100 page packet on Corporate Accountability available for \$13 from the WNPJ office.

For information about:

- Joining WNPJ
- working with the CATG
- purchasing an annual Directory of WNPJ Organizations
- attending the Annual Assembly in October
- attending the Steering Committee meeting of organizational representatives in April

Contact WNPJ at:

WNPJ
122 State Street, #402
Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-250-9240

Email: info@wnpj.org

Web: www.wnpj.org



Energy and Corporate Power



Quotations: *The United States uses a lot of energy—nearly a million dollars worth each minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. With less than five percent of the world's population, we consume about one fourth of the world's energy resources. US Dept. of Energy*



Brochure prepared by
WNPJ Corporate
Accountability Task
Group

Number 9 in a Series
Written 8/05

Energy Industry Influence

Introduction

Our reliance on fossil fuels is not sustainable. The production capacity for oil and natural gas is approaching its peak and with it a forever-decreasing supply to provide for an increasing demand for fuel. If no fundamental shift in energy source takes place soon all aspects of human life will be dramatically affected. This alarming reality along with the environmental degradation caused by the fossil fuel technologies makes it clear that a shift to cleaner, economically sound renewable energy sources is not only good for everybody, but critical. Current energy policy in the United States causes much concern.

The energy sector of the economy, especially industry dealing with fossil fuels, continues to receive huge federal and state subsidies despite the fact that they are fully mature industries that can manage without government assistance. Large monetary contributions to political candidates from the established energy sector ensure this continued support and a heavily weighted voice in energy policy matters. In contrast, subsidies to renewable energy industries, an emerging technology, have been greatly lacking in the early years of development.

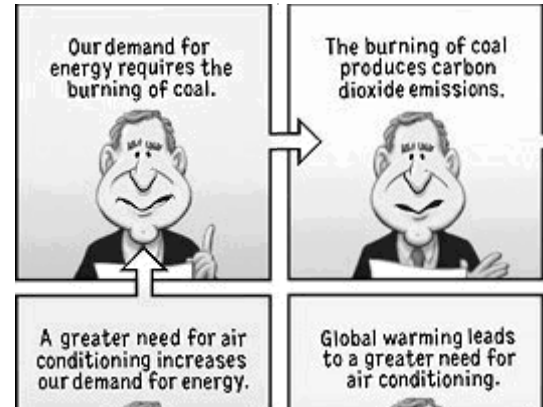
Buying Influence

A report published by the Center for Public Integrity in July of 2004 titled "The Politics of Oil: How One of the World's Richest Industries Influences Government and Policy" presents the following key findings about the oil and gas industry.

- The industry has spent more than \$381 million on lobbying activities since 1998, pushing hard on everything from a new national energy policy to obscure changes in the tax code.
- The industry has given more than \$67 million in campaign contributions in federal elections since the 1998 election cycle.
- Just over 73% of the industry's campaign contributions have gone to Republican candidates and organizations.
- The industry exerts its influence in other, less

obvious ways, including control of the National Petroleum Council, a committee formed to advise the Secretary of Energy.

- Koch Industries, the largest privately-held oil company in the United States, has financed a network of conservative nonprofit organizations designed to influence policy debate in this country.
- U.S based oil and gas companies have nearly 900 subsidiaries located in tax haven countries, such as the Cayman Islands and Bermuda.



The Energy Bill and Democracy

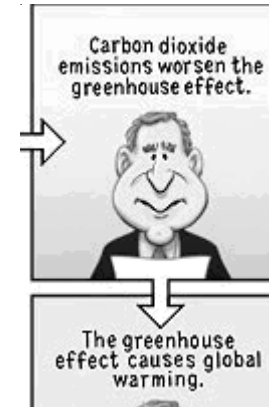
A glaring example of this influence is Vice President Cheney's Energy Bill (The Energy Policy Act). According to the Center for Responsive Politics:

"The plan will include billions of dollars in tax breaks for the oil, gas, nuclear power and coal industries; a mandate to double the production of the gasoline additive ethanol; and a repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act, a consumer-protection law that slows utility consolidation"

Energy task force meetings for the development of this national energy policy were closed to environmental and consumer advocacy groups accepting in-

put only from representatives of and individuals in the energy industries. This lack of diverse input leads to a narrow possibility of outcomes that only benefit a few.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that meetings of non-governmental advisors be public. The Administration has refused requests for full disclosure and the Supreme Court has supported the administration with Justice Antonin Scalia sitting on the case, despite his personal relationship with Vice President Cheney, an obvious conflict of interest.



Lack of transparency undermines accountability and does not allow the checks and balances written into the U.S. Constitution to function.

Renewable Energy

The renewable energy industry on the other hand creates skilled jobs in local communities, which is good for the economy and drastically reduces our destructive influence on the environment. It also means that the U.S. need not spend billions of dollars and destroy countless lives by going to war in order to control an energy source on the other side of the planet.

What Can Be Done Nationally?

- Eliminate unnecessary subsidies to fossil fuel industries
- Provide significant incentives for individuals and businesses to become small-scale renewable energy producers
- Contact your representatives to ask that home-grown green energy become a more important issue in their work



Locally?

- Stop Governor Doyle from appropriating rate payer funding from Focus on Energy
- Stop unnecessary transmission line extension in Northern Wisconsin
- Stop building new coal and gas fired plants
- Maintain the prohibition on new nuclear facilities in the state.
- Attend the annual Midwest Renewable Energy Association Fair each June and learn more. See: www.the-mrea.org
- Learn about energy issues in your local community such as coal fired plants, power lines, and available renewable energy technologies.