

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

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NEWSMAGAZINE



Fix It or Ditch It

Getting Global Warming
Right the First Time

Change is Around the Corner

FROM A STATISTICAL POINT OF VIEW, we aren't just looking at a potential economic recession, but also an environmental one. However, Friends of the Earth believes change is right around the corner. The more environmentally-sensitive Congress we heralded in a year and half ago holds the promise of much-needed national legislative gains. We are taking advantage of that – seeking to pass bills to control water pollution from cruise ships and to get rid of dirty bunker fuel used by the rapidly-expanding global fleet of cargo ships. These vessels are currently responsible for about 25 percent of the world's smog.

We are pushing for regulatory control and oversight of emerging technologies like synthetic biology and nanotechnology. At this time, ultra tiny particles are being put into our food without independent scientific testing. And just as frightening, some scientists are pushing for the patenting of animal and human genes.

Earlier this year Friends of the Earth and our non-tax deductible sister organization, Friends of the Earth Action, launched a campaign demanding better global warming legislation. The "Fix It or Ditch It" campaign asks that the pending Lieberman-Warner climate bill be strengthened if it is to be passed at all. Currently this bill would give away almost \$1 TRILLION to the very industries responsible for the problem of global warming.



photo credit: Norm Dean

Brent Blackwelder, President

Reflecting on 30-plus years of experience with pollution control laws like the Clean Water Act, it is a sad truth that these laws – although revolutionary in thought – do not get the job done; Friends of the Earth still has to go to court to stop illegal water pollution.

Forty percent of U.S. waters are too polluted for fishing and swimming, 100 million Americans are breathing unhealthy air, and one-sixth of all women of child-bearing age carry enough mercury in their bodies to negatively affect the brain of a fetus.

This historic perspective is important as we examine the complex regulatory process being set up under the Lieberman-Warner bill. The bill proposes reducing greenhouse gas emissions over time, but falls well short of the goal of phasing out emissions by mid-century as called for by leading

scientists. Lieberman-Warner gives away pollution permits to big polluters – giving them free permission to pollute – rather than supporting a 100 percent auction of these permits. The revenue from this auction could support sustainable, renewable energy options and global warming mitigation. Friends of the Earth believes that this Senate bill should not be passed unless it is greatly strengthened – for instance by not giving permits to polluters for free. Polluters should have to pay for the “right” to continue polluting, even as they reduce such pollution over time.

With all the alarming news about climate destabilization, people ask me if it is really possible to get off the fossil fuel treadmill and run our economy on a clean energy basis. The answer is yes, there are enough clean energy and efficiency improvements to run, and moreover improve, the global economy so that it supports a planet teeming with life instead of jeopardizing the very existence of more than 25 percent of the Earth's species. Two new books – *Plan B 3.0* by Lester Brown and *Carbon Free and Nuclear Free* by Arjun Makhijani – provide blueprints for how wind, solar, and geothermal energy, in combination with energy conservation, can do the job.

Brent Blackwelder

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Fix It or Ditch It: Getting Global Warming Right the First Time

By Nick Berning

LAST SPRING, AS AL GORE TESTIFIED before the Senate Environment and Public Works committee, the Senate's chief global warming denier, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), attempted to cut him off. But Inhofe's attempted interruption was quickly shut down by new committee chair Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), who turned toward Inhofe, lifted her gavel, and with a resounding whack declared, "Elections have consequences." It was abundantly clear: things had changed.

In the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) created a new global warming committee, with one of Congress' leading environmentalists, Representative Ed Markey (D-MA), in charge. Hearings about climate change were held nearly every week. And in May, Pelosi led a congressional delegation to Greenland to get a close-up view of melting glaciers.

But despite the lofty talk, obstacles remained. The Democrats' razor-thin Senate majority meant they'd need at least nine Republicans to overcome anti-environment filibusters. Armies of polluter lobbyists were planning to do all they could to block solutions, and any global warming bill that survived the legislative gauntlet would head to the White House, where President Bush's veto pen would await. Democrats had a decision to make. Push forward a strong bill to confront global warming and fight tooth and nail to

build support—even if that made passage unlikely this year—or use a watered down bill in hopes of getting something to move now, even though the upcoming 2008 elections held the promise of changing the paradigm in Washington.

Friends of the Earth was one of several groups urging senators to take the first approach and fight for a strong bill. But in October, some Democratic leaders decided to take the other tack and advance a deeply flawed bill sponsored by Senators Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and John Warner (R-VA). The bill, entitled America's Climate Security Act, has become widely known as the Lieberman-Warner bill.

Friends of the Earth and our political arm, Friends of the Earth Action, are leading the fight to substantially improve this weak bill or block it and replace it with something stronger. With nothing less than the future of our planet at stake, it's essential that the Senate enact a strong bill the first time around.

Politics vs. Science

The fight against global warming requires more than politics as usual. We're up against the laws of nature, and the laws of nature don't compromise. While incremental progress on many issues is still progress, when it comes to global warming, the only question is whether we'll do what's necessary. The planet's warming, and the clock is ticking.

Last year, the world's leading climate scientists collaborated on a series of reports documenting the extent of global warming, the problems likely to emerge if business continues as usual, and the changes humans need to make if we hope to avoid catastrophe. The work of this group, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), was so groundbreaking that it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December. One of the scientists' key findings (in addition to their confirmation of the fact that global warming is, indeed, caused by humans) was that the earth is hurtling toward a tipping point that, once passed, will lead to catastrophic changes.

Weeks after the IPCC was awarded the Nobel Prize, the U.S. government's top climate scientist, James Hansen, upped the ante, concluding that the maximum level of carbon dioxide that can safely be allowed in the atmosphere is 350 parts per million—far less than the previous estimate. While pre-industrial carbon dioxide levels were about 280 parts per million, two centuries of human-caused pollution have raised that number to the current level of 380 parts per million. We're already in the danger zone. The most recent scientific models, published late this winter in journals including *Geophysical Research Letters* and *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, show that humans must basically end fossil fuel use by mid-century to allow these con-

(continued on page 6)

centrations to subside and prevent a dangerous rise in global temperatures that would spell disaster.

As has been well reported, global warming poses extraordinary danger to many of the planet's species and ecosystems. The plight of polar bears—which could be eradicated from the wild in the next 50 years—has gained the most attention, but most living things will be affected. Coral reefs are dying because of warmer waters. Warmer and drier weather makes forests more susceptible to fires. Climate destabilization further compromises biodiversity that was already declining because of habitat destruction.

Human civilization is endangered too. As Pulitzer Prize winner Jared Diamond pointed out in his 2005 book *Collapse*, environmental disasters have led to the disappearance of many civilizations through human history. When deforestation led to the collapse of Easter Island's civilization a thousand years ago, Europeans weren't affected. But in today's era of globalization it's impossible for one society to collapse without others being affected. In addition to sea level rises, humans are likely to suffer from changing weather patterns that lead to food and water shortages. Social and political instability could follow, undermining global security. The worst possible outcome would be warming so severe that it destroys ecosystems necessary to sustain human life.

Fortunately, experts say we have the economic ability and technical know-how to stop global warming. Policy expert Lester Brown's new book, *Plan B 3.0*, shows how we could bring about an 80 percent reduction in global warming pollution by 2020—a more rapid reduction than is needed. Physicist Arjun Makhijani, who directs the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, has

Why 100% Auction?

In a cap and trade policy, there are two options for how the government distributes pollution permits created by the cap – it can either give them away to polluters for free or it can auction or sell them. Permits can be exchanged for dollars in a carbon market.

- Auctioning permits ensures that all polluters pay based on their amount of pollution.
- Both permit giveaways and auctions will result in a rise in the cost of energy.
- Auctions create government revenue that can be used to help energy consumers, invest in clean technology, and address the impacts of global warming.
- Permit giveaways can result in windfall profits for companies as they get income from both consumers and government.
- Auctions allow the market, rather than government, to determine the winners and losers among polluters.
- Permit giveaways are estimated to cost the economy twice as much as auctions.
- Auctions are fair. Air is a public resource that polluters should have to pay to use.

calculated that installing solar panels above the country's outdoor parking lots and rooftops would generate more electricity than the U.S. uses. Much of the solution can come from limiting energy consumption and gains in efficiency. For example, California has focused on reducing consumption since the 1970s, and as a result, the average Californian now produces only about 55 percent of the greenhouse gases that Americans in other states produce. The question isn't whether there's a way to start dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it's whether there's the will.

Fairness and Responsibility

The biggest obstacle to solving global warming has little to do with technology or economic capacity. Instead, it is getting governments, corporations and people to agree about who is responsible to solve the problem. It's a question of fairness. Wealthy, industrialized nations and corporations have produced the most global

warming pollution, and they have benefited financially from doing so. They now have the responsibility to step up to the plate and show the rest of the world that they are willing to do their part to reduce emissions.

In more than 70 countries, Friends of the Earth member groups have been working to advance the concept of "climate equity"—the principle that those who have done the most to create this problem must do the most to fix it, not only by reducing their own emissions, but also by providing resources to less affluent countries that can help them tackle the challenge. The concept of climate equity is factoring into the international debate, led by the United Nations, which will produce a framework to replace the Kyoto agreement in 2012. A strong agreement must place the lion's share of responsibility for reducing emissions on the countries that have generated the most emissions. Such an agreement must also provide for the transfer of

clean technologies to developing nations, and it must help these nations to adapt to climate changes that are already occurring.

Within the U.S., there are also basic moral questions attached to achieving a global warming solution—questions that the Lieberman-Warner bill has put front and center. The atmosphere belongs to all of us and is a public good. Citizens should have the right to make corporate polluters pay when they emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. This can be done through an auction of pollution permits, generating revenue that can be used to promote clean energy, create green jobs, and help low- and middle-income Americans confront increased energy costs. It can also be used to help the U.S. live up to its responsibility under the climate equity principle and provide funding to the less affluent nations that face some of the worst consequences from global warming.

Fix It or Ditch It

The Senate is expected to debate the Lieberman-Warner bill in June of this year. For months Friends of the Earth and other groups have been working with several environmental champions in the Senate to improve the bill. But it is a difficult road. The main problem is that the fundamental structure of the bill, based on the designs of John McCain's previous global warming bill, is flawed.

The Lieberman-Warner bill violates the polluter pays principle by giving up to a trillion dollars in handouts and subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. And although the bill starts to reduce global warming pollution in 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that it would only cut such pollution 25 percent by mid-century. That is the same date by

which scientists say we must have virtually eliminated greenhouse gas emissions. With the planet hurtling toward a global warming tipping point, the Lieberman-Warner bill is not the answer.

Not content to see a bad bill enacted into law with the planet at stake, Friends of the Earth and Friends of the Earth Action launched "Fix It or Ditch It," a campaign to substantially improve or abandon the Lieberman-Warner bill. High on the list of improvements is the need to increase the bill's pollution reduction target so that it matches the latest science. We must also implement an auction system of pollution permits which requires polluters to pay for their pollution.

Our policy team released an in-depth analysis of the bill's polluter giveaways—and this work became the basis of Senate debate on the issue. Friends of the Earth Action created a website—www.Lieberman-Warner.org—to share information about the bill and provide activists a place to get involved. We took out print ads calling for legislation to meet the demands of science and make polluters pay through a 100 percent pollution permit auction. We broadcast TV spots during the presidential primaries calling attention to Democratic candidates' strong stand on these issues and asking Senate Democrats to take the

same position. And we placed online ads on progressive and environmental blogs to alert activists who care about this issue to the problems in the bill.

Increasing numbers of groups—including Greenpeace and the Sierra Club—are now calling attention to the flaws in this bill and demanding improvements. And thousands of activists have flooded senators' voice-mail and e-mail boxes, insisting that the Senate do better. By all accounts, many senators have heard our message and are looking for ways to strengthen the bill. But industry lobbyists continue their efforts to undermine this progress and win even more handouts from taxpayers.

The science on global warming has advanced to a point where most people and governments around the world agree that we are facing a potentially catastrophic problem that must be addressed. We see what needs to be done. We have the ability to do it. The only question that remains is whether we will take the action that's needed. In a democracy like ours, government is ultimately accountable to the people. Friends of the Earth will be helping to lead this fight until it's won. Will you join us?

Learn more and join the campaign to fix Lieberman-Warner or ditch it and pass a strong bill to fight global warming at www.foe.org. ○

Take Action!

If you haven't yet asked your senator to get to work fighting global warming with a cap that's consistent with science and a "100 percent auction" so all polluters pay, you can do so now by calling the Senate switchboard at 202- 224-3121 and by sending e-mail messages through the campaign headquarters at www.foe.org.



Annual Meeting of the Membership, Election of Board Members

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH WILL HOST the annual meeting of its membership, Monday, June 9th at 12:30 p.m., in the Washington, D.C. office. Harriett Crosby is running uncontested for an open slot on the Friends of the Earth Board of Directors. Members may cast votes at the annual meeting. If you would like to attend, contact Lisa Matthes at lmattes@foe.org or by phone at 202-222-0730. Members may also vote by proxy ballot. To do so, copy or clip the mailing label from this newsmagazine and mail your vote to Board Election, Friends of the Earth, 1717 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C., 20036 or fax to 202-783-0444.



Harriett Crosby

Harriett Crosby is cofounder and president of the Institute for Soviet American Relations (ISAR), which supports the work of environmental activists in the former Soviet Union.

Harriett has worked as an instructor for the Colorado Outward Bound School and taught at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School, Aspen Community School, and at the Putney School in Vermont. She worked at the White House Council on Environmental Quality for the first five years of the Clinton Administration. Harriett has a Master's degree in Psychology from Temple University and has been trained as a Jungian analyst at the C.G. Jung Institute in Zurich. She attended Pitzer College and recently received their distinguished alumni award. She manages Fox Haven, a farm and retreat center in Maryland, and currently serves as vice chair for the board of Friends of the Earth. ○

OPPORTUNITIES

Native American Congressional Internship

By Timothy Bracy

REPRESENTATIVE MORRIS K. UDALL of Arizona was a great champion of Native Americans. The Morris K. Udall Foundation and the Native American Congressional Internship program honor his legacy by helping to cultivate a new class of civic leaders.

Over the course of ten intensive weeks, gifted interns chosen by the leaders of their various tribes are given the opportunity to see how the federal government works at the congressional level. Interns meet

face to face with policy makers and gain firsthand knowledge of governmental processes. Many interns have moved on to become Hill staffers and they and other past interns act as liaisons between Washington and their tribes, giving voice to the concerns of the Native American community.

Every member of the intern class researches and presents a challenge facing tribal communities. The sheer magnitude of these concerns is daunting - ranging from complex questions of criminal law and sover-

eighty on reservations to nutrition, health care, education, poverty and the resolutions of old traditions with new ambitions.

Although the interns hail from tribes and communities across the country, their common experience through their internships strengthens their bonds and that of their communities.

If you are interested or know someone who would like to learn more about the internship opportunities, go to <http://www.udall.gov/udall.asp?link=300>. ○

We're Having a Ball!

ON FRIDAY, MAY 16TH, Friends of the Earth is hosting The Green Ball, a gala reception and fundraising event at a spectacular new location overlooking San Francisco Bay. Located at the intersection of the Golden Gate Bridge and the Pacific Ocean, Cavallo Point is an eco-conference center and resort resurrected from historic buildings that are environmentally friendly and LEED certified.

The event will showcase food and drinks selected by Cavallo Point's renowned chef and wine steward. In addition, we will be raffling off a trip to the Jean Michel Cousteau eco-resort in Fiji. If you are not in northern California but would like to receive an invitation, please email Stephanie Lozano at slozano@foe.org or call (866) 217-8499, ext. 12. ○



Cavallo Point

MEMBER PROFILE

Don Heyneman

DON HEYNEMAN IS AMONG the many mountaineers and avid rock climbers who were part of the early conservation movement. Since his first trek with David Brower and the Sierra Club High Trip, Heyneman supported efforts to conserve mountain ecosystems.

As part of a small group of Sierra Club mountaineers under Brower's leadership, 16-year-old Heyneman helped test equipment for the Department of War prior to World War II – tents, parkas, cooking gear, skis, bindings, boots and so on. Bear Creek Spires provided the backdrop for the testing grounds and the men spent their free time skiing down the long, open slopes of powder. Some of the gear sent to equip the 10th Mountain Division, a ski division of the army that included Brower and Heyneman, was the very same equipment they tested.

When Brower started Friends of the Earth, Heyneman joined because he admired its pioneering spirit,



Don Heyneman

fierce conservation ethic, and ability to react quickly to rising problems. Brent Blackwelder joined Friends of the Earth in the 1970s and Heyneman saw that same spirit at work and continued to follow the organization and support it. He saw Friends of the Earth succeed in its efforts to block large dams, despite the tragedy of the dam at Glen Canyon, which Brower always considered his greatest failure.

Heyneman is an epidemiologist who has taught and worked at UCLA, UC Berkeley, and the University of California San Francisco Medical School for half a century, including years of field research in Africa and Malaysia. His profession gives him a deep understanding of the fragile balance of nature and the heavy human footprint on the environment. He is keenly aware of the impact climate change has on the world's poorest and the need to work with groups in affected areas to develop collaborative solutions – this is one of the reasons he respects Friends of the Earth's international work. But something still must be done to reverse climate change and environmental destruction before we reach the “tipping point” of accelerating, unstoppable destruction – and Heyneman believes that Friends of the Earth has an opportunity and an obligation to make that happen. ○

Green Blogs Come Into Their Own

By Nick Berning

A GROWING NUMBER of blogs (short for web logs) are publicizing the latest news and information about the environment. These websites are updated frequently, have a personal

feel (each writer has her or his own individual voice), and are interactive—you can leave comments that other readers can see. These green blog and their readers are gaining increasing political clout and are

some of Friends of the Earth's key allies in the fight against global warming. We've pulled together a list of some of our favorite green blogs, and encourage you to check them out:

Grist

(www.grist.org)

Grist is the single best website providing news about green issues and sustainable living, with coverage ranging from the latest climate science to political battles in Washington to consumer issues. Grist has its own advice column, "Ask Umbra," that offers ideas on sustainable living. The site also provides great election coverage, including overviews of candidates' stances on environmental issues. If something you read here grabs your attention, you can post your reaction on the "Gristmill blog." Grist is published by a nonprofit organization, so you know that its coverage isn't dictated by a corporate bottom line.

Energy Smart

(www.energysmart.wordpress.com)

If it's energy policy you're interested in, check out Energy Smart—a blog dedicated to identifying and promoting policies and actions that foster a prosperous and sustainable energy future. The blog's author, A Siegel, is a founding board member of Energize America, which uses numerous blogs to develop concepts for energy legislation. He is also a regular contributor to DailyKos.com, the most widely read political blog in the country, which focuses on campaigns and elections, as well as larger political and policy debates.

It's Getting Hot in Here
Dispatches from the Youth Climate Movement

Home About Newsroom Summer Opportunities

Obama: Green Coal?
by Alexander M. Tinker, March 21st, 2008 global warming 0 Comments
Co-authored by Alex Tinker and Jenny Bedel-Siles

West Virginia, Thursday, March 20th: "We could be investing in renewable sources of energy, and in clean coal technology, and creating up to 5 million new green jobs in the bargain, including new clean coal jobs."

Presidential candidate Barack Obama's words yesterday were as hard to swallow as the sulfur dioxide rich output of dirty coal-fired power plants. The clean coal mythology must be stopped. Coal isn't clean, it isn't green and it has no place in the renewable-energy future we must rapidly make into a renewable-energy present if we are to avoid the worst-case scenarios of global warming.

Today, Friday March 21st, he made no mention of this fuel to thousands in Portland, Oregon. He talked about the clean energy revolution. He gave an anti-nuke shout out (to our aging hippies). He touched on cap and trade. He even talked about green jobs revitalizing our economy.

There was no mention of deriving green jobs from clean coal. Sure, it's common (and savvy) for our political leaders to alter their message by location. But we, the climate positive movement, are a united and connected force and we're listening to the

About
It's Getting Hot in Here is the voice of a growing movement. A community media project. It features the student and youth leaders from the movement to stop global warming and to build a more just and sustainable future. Read more.

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It's Getting Hot in Here

(www.itsgettinghotinhere.org)

Young climate activists connect online at It's Getting Hot in Here—a collection of voices from the student and youth global movement to stop global warming. It's Getting Hot in Here is a global community with more than 100 writers from around the world. The blog focuses on day-to-day developments in the growing youth climate movement as well as on climate-related policy issues.

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Solve Climate Chronicles

Google's New Search Function: The Best Eco-Engine
by Stacy Feldman - Mar 23rd, 2008

This is worth a look. Google has put a slew of hybrids and plug-ins to the test with real drivers on real roads. And it's uploading the results right now, straight from each car's laptop and wireless data card to [this website](#), using a home-grown methodology. The winner so far?

Recent Blog Posts

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2. Governor of Kansas Standing Tall at Ground Zero of Dirty Coal
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6. West Street Journal Editor: Deep Is Lushpaddock - Of Its Own Conference
7. Chickens in North Carolina: Can the Liar Afford to Eat Corn
8. Nuclear Revival Hinges on Japanese Seismic Readiness

Solve Climate

(http://solveclimate.com/blog)

The guiding principle at Solve Climate is that America knows what needs to be done to solve the problem of global warming and can easily afford the solutions. Solve Climate aims to prove those facts and to shine a spotlight on the leaders who can make it a reality. The blog's talented writers, David Sassoon and Stacy Feldman, explain complex issues in simple and entertaining ways.

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We Are Way Past 4,000 In Iraq
by Chris Bowers
Mon Mar 24, 2008 at 11:25

Whenever one a terrible milestone is reached in Iraq for the number of American soldiers killed, such as 4,000 today, it is necessary to point out that the milestone being focused on was actually reached a long time ago. In addition to the 4,000 dead American soldiers, the following fatalities have also occurred in Iraq over the past five years:

- Journalists: 135 fatalities
- Non-American military coalition forces: 308 fatalities
- Non-military contractors: At least 1,001 fatalities as of June 30th, 2007
- Iraq Security Forces: At least 8,027
- Iraq military forces: During the invasion, between 15,000 and 45,000 Iraq military personnel died.
- Civilians: Between 400,000 and 650,000 as of June 2006, and over 1,000,000 now.

We are way, way past 4,000 deaths in Iraq. The non-civilian death toll, including journalists, all coalition military forces, contractors and Iraq security forces, currently stands at a minimum of 13,541, or about 15 every two days since the start of the war. The civilian death toll is actually the greatest humanitarian crisis since the Rwanda genocide, and possibly since even before then but I don't want to start ranking genocides. Somewhere between 4% and 5% of the Iraq population has died what is termed an "excess death" since the start of the Iraq war. Keep in mind that Pennsylvania represents just under 4% of the population of the United States.

And keep in mind that these are just deaths, and damage has been done in many other ways. Nearly four million living Iraqis are now refugees, roughly 16% of the population, 40% of the middle class, and larger percentages of religious and ethnic minorities. Between 60% and 70% of Iraq children suffer from psychological trauma. Tens of thousands of American soldiers, and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians, have been injured. And oh yeah, the war will cost more than two trillion dollars.

All of this needs to be pointed out because, whenever one of these milestones are reached, it implies that the only suffering taking place as a result of the Iraq war is to be found within the American military. Such a narrow focus ignores the wide swath of destruction that the Iraq war has wrought. As long as there is a narrow focus on the efforts of the United States military, the war appears to be an honorable, gracious effort on the part of America with costs that, while grave, are ultimately discrete and containable. However, when one considers that the war has either killed or displaced more than 20% of Iraq's pre-war population, that it has resulted in the European Union surpassing the United States as the world's leading economic power, and that it has both caused and revealed significant weakness in our military capacity, the true nature of the Iraq war becomes apparent. In effect, we instigated a genocide in Iraq, and lost our status

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Open Left

(www.openleft.com)

Many blogs that aren't focused solely on the environment still provide great information about green issues. For example, progressive blog Open Left covers topics ranging from the state of the progressive movement to upcoming elections to a variety of policy issues. One of the site's lead bloggers, Matt Stoller, often weighs in on pressing environmental debates, advocating the same sort of aggressive action for which Friends of the Earth is known.

WALHI to the World: “Stop Biofueling Deforestation”

By Kate McMahon

DURING LAST DECEMBER'S hot and humid monsoon season Bali, Indonesia hosted the 13th round of international negotiations on global warming and the Kyoto Protocol. The location could not be more appropriate: as a result of deforestation from logging and the destruction of peatlands for biofuels exports, Indonesia is now the world's third largest emitter of global warming pollution, according to Wetlands International. At the same time, the impacts of rising sea levels and erratic weather patterns are mounting in this equatorial island nation.

Leaders from around the world gathered to work on a roadmap to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and challenged the United States to join other nations in taking action. Outside, thousands of activists led protests and held meetings of their own. Thirty members from Friends of the Earth International, including Friends of the Earth-U.S. and Friends of the Earth-Indonesia (known as WALHI), were among these activists. WALHI is the largest alliance of non-governmental and community based organizations in Indonesia, consisting of 438 member organizations across 25 different provinces. WALHI's mission is to support social transformation, people's sovereignty, and sustainability of life through an environmental justice lens.

At the climate negotiations, Friends of the Earth's international consortium raised concerns that “agrofuels,” as industrial biofuels are referred to outside of the United States, are promoted as a panacea for global warming. However, if



Global warming impacts from agrofuels were a point of contention in the international negotiation.

emissions from deforestation and other forms of land conversion are calculated into the total global warming pollution created from biofuels, biofuels contribute more to global warming than fossil fuels, according to an article recently published in *Science*.

Deforestation and the burning of peatlands in the wake of the biofuels push have caused severe global warming impacts in Indonesia.

...if emissions from deforestation and other forms of land conversion are calculated into the total global warming pollution created from biofuels, biofuels contribute more to global warming than fossil fuels...

Peatlands absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The destruction of these lands releases massive amounts of carbon dioxide and methane, another major greenhouse gas. According to Wetlands International, as a result of peatland destruction Indonesia releases some 2 billion tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere annually.

In Indonesia, the threat is from palm oil, which is used to produce biodiesel. Forty-three percent of the global palm oil supply comes from Indonesia, much of which is exported to satiate the demand for transportation fuels abroad. Fourteen percent of peatlands in Indonesia are either currently or intended to be used for palm oil production and more than 50 percent of new plantations are on peatlands, according to Wetlands International. Recently, former Indonesian president, Suharto, signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to dismantle non tariff trade barriers, loosen export taxes and relax regu-

lations for expanding the palm oil industry and investment.

In addition to detrimental trade agreements, corporate influence of the government is making a mockery of environmental safeguards. Both the Minister of Forestry and the Minister of Agriculture are from the same province where the largest pulp, paper and palm plantations operate – industries that supported their appointments. According to WALHI, the owners of most palm plantations never conducted Environmental Impact Assessments and operate without valid permits or licenses.

In 2001, WALHI called for a moratorium on logging in order to get at the root of the problem of palm oil plantation expansion. In 2005, WALHI started a class-action lawsuit against 10 companies with major plantations in Indonesia. By investigating and exposing the impact of palm oil plantations to the media, pushing for hearings in parliament



WALHI took to the streets in protest at the Bali negotiations.

and using the courts to end deforestation, WALHI is fighting against the growth of palm oil for export.

But we must do our part too. If the United States is truly serious about confronting global warming,

we must reduce our dependence on all transportation fuels.

Many thanks to WALHI, Friends of the Earth-Indonesia. For more information on WALHI, please visit <http://www.eng.walhi.or.id/>. ○

Join the Earth Keeper Society

LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE on a dime? Join Friends of the Earth's monthly giving club – the *Earth Keeper Society*. *Earth Keepers* – and their solid, reliable support – give us the flexibility to respond when critical issues arise. Plus, as an *Earth Keeper*, you save trees and your time by eliminating membership renewal reminders.

To join, please fill out the enclosed envelope, indicating the amount you would like to give monthly or sign up at www.foe.org. ○

▶ Only 50 cents a day

\$15 per month – helps us clean up cruise ships by cutting air pollution at ports and banning sewage from being dumped into our oceans.



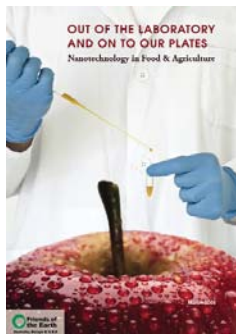
▶ Only \$1 per day

\$30 a month – helps Friends of the Earth push politicians for meaningful laws, not just false solutions, to stop global warming!



New Report!

In the absence of mandatory product labeling, public debate or laws to ensure their safety, manufactured nanoparticles are now in some pesticides and fertilizers, processed foods, food packaging and storage containers, cutlery and chopping boards. Friends of the Earth's report *"Out of the laboratory and into the food chain: Nanotechnology in food and agriculture"* has identified more than 100 of these potentially health-threatening products now on sale. To read the report, go to <http://www.nonanofood.org>.



Victory!

Friends of the Earth and its coalition partners recently celebrated a historic legal win in the fight against global warming pollution. In December, a federal judge tossed out an automaker lawsuit seeking to overturn California's groundbreaking greenhouse gas tailpipe law. Now the fight moves to EPA and the Bush administration, which denied California's requested waiver, the last step needed to implement this Clean Car law.



Planktos Tanks!

The "ecorestoration" company Planktos suspended operations in December and its stock nose-dived – six months after Friends of the Earth rallied opposition to the company's scheme to dump iron particles into the ocean in a poorly planned attempt to offset global warming. The plan was considered threatening to the ocean's delicate ecosystems.



Rising Tides

Recently the world witnessed what increasing global temperatures mean for rising sea levels when a chunk of the Antarctic ice shelf dropped into the ocean. While the world is melting Friends of the Earth is on the front lines of the bat-



tle to save our planet from climate catastrophe:

- In 2007 the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Friends of the Earth when it agreed that the EPA must regulate carbon dioxide emissions from passenger vehicles as a pollutant, setting a precedent for global warming litigation.
- In December a federal district court judge in California dismissed automakers' legal challenge to a California law limiting global warming pollution from cars. The ruling established that California has the right under the Clean Air Act to protect the health and welfare of its citizens from the dire effects of global warming. However in a disappointing turn of events, in February the EPA rejected California's waiver request for its landmark global warming tailpipe pollution law — pointing to yet another backward effort by the Bush administration to thwart crucial efforts to curb global warming. ○

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Lisa Matthes 9/6/07

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