Who likes being lied to by people paid by the oil industry who pose as “experts” on climate change?

Did you know it’s been going on for 25 years?

In a couple of weeks, the UN’s official advisors on climate change science, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will update its global assessment on the issue. Yet in the background, more attacks on the climate science are underway.

For the last quarter century, the climate science denial machine, its cogs oiled by fossil fuel money, has been attacking climate science, climate scientists and every official US report on climate change, along with State and local efforts – with the aim of undermining action on climate change.

Our new report, Dealing in Doubt, sets out the history of these attacks going back to the early 90s. These are attacks...
based on anti-regulatory, so called “free market” ideology, not legitimate scientific debate, using a wide range of dirty tricks: from faked science, attacks on scientists, fake credentials, cherry-picking scientific conclusions: a campaign based on the old tobacco industry mantra: “doubt is our product”.

We give special attention to perhaps today’s poster child of the climate denial machine’s free market think tanks, the Heartland Institute, which is about to launch a new version of its “NIPCC” or “climate change reconsidered” report next week in Chicago.

Unlike the real IPCC, with thousands of scientists involved from around the world, the Heartland Institute’s handful of authors is paid. Several of them claim fake scientific credentials. They start with a premise of proving the overwhelming consensus on climate science wrong, whereas the real IPCC simply summarizes the best science to date on climate change.

This multi-million dollar campaign has been funded by anti-government ideologues like the Koch brothers, companies like ExxonMobil and trade associations like the American Petroleum Institute.

More recently, less visible channels of funding have been revealed such as the Donors Capital Fund and Donors Trust, organization that that has been called the “ATM of the conservative movement”, distributing funds from those who don’t want to be publicly associated with the anti-environmental work product of organizations like the Heartland Institute.

In the last week we’ve seen new peer-reviewed science published, linking at least half of 2012’s extreme weather events to a human carbon footprint in the atmosphere and on the weather and climate.

As the scientific consensus strengthens by the day that climate change is happening now, that carbon pollution is causing it and must be regulated, the denial machine is getting increasingly shrill. But today, while they are being increasingly ignored by a majority of the public, their mouthpieces in the US House of Representatives, for instance, have increased in number.

They’re still fighting the science – and they’re still being funded, to the tune of millions of dollars each year, to do it.

Dealing in Doubt sets out a history of these attacks. We show how the tactics of the tobacco industry’s campaign for “sound science” led to the formation of front groups who, as they lost the battle to deny smoking’s health hazards and keep warning labels off of cigarettes, turned their argumentative skills to the denial of climate change science in order to slow government action.
What we don’t cover is the fact that these organizations and deniers are also working on another front, attacking solutions to climate change. They go after any form of government incentive to promote renewable energy, while cheering for coal, fracking and the Keystone pipeline.

They attack any piece of legislation the US EPA puts forward to curb pollution. Decrying President Obama’s “war on coal” is a common drumbeat of these anti-regulation groups. One key member of the denial machine, astrophysicist Willie Soon from the Smithsonian Institute for Astrophysics, has portrayed himself as an “expert” on mercury and public health in order to attack legislation curbing mercury emissions from coal plants.

This recent history, as well as the prior history of denial by the tobacco companies and chemical, asbestos and other manufacturing industries, is important to remember because the fossil fuel industry has never admitted that it was misguided or wrong in its early efforts to delay the policy reaction to the climate crisis. To this day, it continues to obstruct solutions.

The individuals, organizations and corporate interests who comprise the ‘climate denial machine’ have caused harm and have slowed our response time. As a result, we will all ultimately pay a much higher cost as we deal with the impacts, both economic and ecological.

Eventually, these interests will be held accountable for their actions.

Freetagging: global warming  
climate change  
koch industries  
cato institute  
Koch brothers  
American Petroleum Institute  
API  
oil  
gas  
lobbying  
Greenpeace  
lobbyist  
coal  
public relations  
denial  
junk science  
Americans for Prosperity  
climategate  
patrick michaels  
george c marshall institute  
Willie Soon  
sallie baliunas  
PR  
Southern Company  
ExxonMobil  
fred singer  
richard lindzen  
competitive enterprise institute  
heartland institute  
Michael Mann  
edward wegman
anthony watts
media
Tech Central Station
ALEC
American Legislative Exchange Council
kyoto protocol
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UNFCCC
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tobacco
craig idso
NIPCC
lord christopher monckton
science
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Myron Ebell
Bob Carter
dci group
donors trust
donors capital fund
greenhouse gas
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carbon tax
dealing in doubt
intergovernmental panel climate change
senator james inhofe
tom borelli
brian flannery
phil cooney
climate change reconsidered
climate depot

Known Associates:
Anthony Kavanagh
Art Pope
Aubrey McClendon
Baxter F. Phillips
Bill Johnson
Bill Koch
Bill Tyndall
Bobby Ray Inman
Charles Koch
Chris Stewart
David Koch
David Ratcliffe
Don Blankenship
Ed Muller
Fred Palmer
J Larry Nichols
Jack Gerard
James Mulva
Jeffrey Holmstead
Jim Rogers
John Pemberton
John Watson
REPORT HIGHLIGHTS FAILURE OF MEDIA TO DISCLOSE FOSSIL FUEL INTERESTS

Posted on: 12 December 2012    By: Connor Gibson
Freshly released today: a report by the Checks & Balances Project examining how often top U.S. newspapers fail to attribute fossil fuel ties to organizations or people that appear in news articles to promote fossil fuels, demonize clean energy or promote delay of climate change solutions. Tracking ten of the top fossil fuel front groups in 58 leading U.S. newspapers, the new report finds over 1,000 instances where ties to or funding from coal, oil and gas interests was not disclosed when including a shill group or quoting one of its "experts."

Only 6% of the time were fossil fuel ties disclosed when these top 58 newspapers reported on the ten fossil fuel front groups examined in the study. These groups wind up in the paper, on average, at least once every other day. In the five-year window the report uses, the ten front groups got at least $16 million from coal, oil and gas interests.

According to Checks & Balances:

These groups, and their proponents, have been quoted on average every other day for the past five years in 60 of the largest mainstream newspapers and publications. Despite having received millions of dollars from fossil fuel interests, such as ExxonMobil and Koch Industries, these groups’ financial ties to the fossil fuel industry are rarely mentioned.

Deniers are already taking notice—see Steven Milloy's complaints here. Steve Milloy has been a central climate denier, who was paid to shill for tobacco company Phillip Morris and oil giant Exxon before work for the Cato Institute (see below) and starting the climate denial website "JunkScience."

The ten groups that Checks & Balances examined are well-established fossil fuel apologists. Here is a roundup of watchdog sites with more information on each of these organizations’ historic funding from and work for fossil fuel interests like ExxonMobil and Koch Industries (2006-2010 funding figures compiled in the Checks & Balances Project.

http://polluterwatch.com/category/freetagging/steve-milloy

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: AEI on SourceWatch and DeSmogBlog

Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI): $88,279 from fossil fuel interests (2006-2010)

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: CEI on SourceWatch and DeSmogBlog

Cato Institute: $1.385 million from Koch/Exxon (2006-2010)

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace (see also recent conflict between Cato and Charles Koch, one of Cato's co-founders)
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: Cato Institute on SourceWatch and DeSmogBlog

George C. Marshall Institute: $675,000 from fossil fuel interests (2006-2010)

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: Marshall Institute on SourceWatch and DeSmogBlog

Heartland Institute: $115,000 from Exxon (2006-2010, see also $25,000 grant from Charles Koch in 2011)

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: Heartland Institute on SourceWatch, DeSmogBlog and PolluterWatch

Heritage Foundation: $2.523 million from fossil fuel interests (2006-2010)

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: Heritage Foundation on SourceWatch, and DeSmogBlog

Hudson Institute: $75,000 from fossil fuel interests (2006-2010)

- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: Hudson Institute on SourceWatch and DeSmogBlog
Institute for Energy Research (IER): $310,000 from fossil fuel interests (2006-2010)

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: IER on SourceWatch and DeSmogBlog

Manhattan Institute: $1.38 million from fossil fuel interests (2006-2010)

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: Manhattan Institute on SourceWatch, DeSmogBlog and Media Matters

Mercatus Center: $8.06 million from fossil fuel interest (2006-2010)

- Funding from the Koch brothers - Greenpeace
- Funding from ExxonMobil - ExxonSecrets (Greenpeace)
- More information: Mercatus Center on SourceWatch and DeSmogBlog

Freetagging: koch industries
cato institute
Charles Koch
David Koch
oil
gas
Greenpeace
coal
Mercatus Center
Heritage Foundation
george c marshall institute
brothers
funding
ExxonMobil
competitive enterprise institute
american enterprise institute
heartland institute
Manhattan Institute
report
CEI
media
united states
institute for energy research
media matters
tobacco
money
exxonsecrets
disclosure
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ABOUT POLLUTER WATCH

PolluterWatch is a project of Greenpeace that holds polluters accountable for the work they’re doing to block the transition from the dirty fossil fuels of the past to the clean energy sources of the future.

CONTACT

1810 16th St. NW Washington, DC 20009, USA
The science is clear: We must take immediate action to avert the worst effects of global warming. But polluters, their lobbyists, and the politicians who work with them are holding the climate debate hostage and poisoning the debate about policies that would lower our greenhouse gas emissions and kickstart a clean energy revolution. Help us hold the polluters accountable. Get in touch today and find out how you can help. Learn More