**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***,” which is the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program described below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the computer screen. Also, see information about various issues at the category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

**This summary includes additional information and insights that we did not have time to include during that hour. Many resources are added to the end of this document.**

**🡪 I saved this document in Word format with live links.** If this document does not load or print properly for you, please e-mail me at **glenanderson@integra.net** and I’ll promptly send you the links you request.

**🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary at these parts of my blog,** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**: “TV Programs” and “Energy” and “Climate.”**

**“**Debunk the Fossil Fuel Industry’s Phony Climate Remedies**”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives

September 2021

**Introduction to this month’s topic and our guest, Jim Walsh:**

The September 2021 episode of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” provides fresh information and insights into some aspects of the climate crisis that most people do not adequately understand. Our expert guest, Jim Walsh, explained some problems and some scams that the fossil fuel companies want to fool us into accepting. Before we ended our interview, Jim proposed some real solutions.

Our nation already has experience with commercial business denying that they are hurting us. Decades ago tobacco companies denied that smoking hurt us. Then when the facts became too obvious to continue those lies, tobacco companies changed their outright denial into saying that we did not know for sure, so we should all wait for more research.

Oil and coal companies used exactly the same tactics – and some of the same public relations firms – to deny the climate crisis existed – and then to try to postpone remedies by saying that the science was not yet certain. Actually, the scientific consensus against fossil fuel companies is about as strong as the scientific consensus against the tobacco companies.

More recently, the fossil fuel companies shifted their public relations strategies again. Now the fossil fuel industry is pretending that they are working for “green” solutions. But actually those are scams intended to fool the public, the media and the government into policies – and subsidies – that will further enrich those fossil fuel companies.

The September 2021 TV interview explored these topics with a nationwide expert on energy issues. **Jim Walsh** is Senior Energy Policy Analyst for a very savvy non-profit organization, **Food and Water Watch**.

Jim provided fresh insights into the problems – and the fossil fuel companies’ schemes. Near the end of the interview he proposed some smart, workable solutions.

**The IPCC report issued on August 9, 2021 reinforced the same scientific facts, including the certainty that people caused the climate crisis.**

**Worldwide, people recognize this new IPCC report as truly alarming!**

Glen said that we taped the program on August 12, 2021, and three days before – on August 9 – the most prestigious worldwide group of scientists produced their newest report on the climate crisis. The United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – the IPCC – produced another report that has stimulated worldwide attention and alarm. The United Nations General Secretary, António Guterres, announced that this is “code red for humanity.” Glen said he has been reading a lot about the IPCC’s alarming report, and he was eager to hear Jim share his own information and insights. (See links to IPCC information on pages 10-12.)

Jim highlighted a few of the report’s main scientific findings and concerns. He said this week’s IPCC report was stark, but it was not really new. He said scientists have been warning us for years about the hard realities that humans have been disrupting the climate – and about the urgency to take strong actions. People have already been seeing the effects of climate disruption in the wildfires, floods, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events. He reinforced the point that humans have caused those problems by extracting and burning fossil fuels.

He repeated what U.N. General Secretary António Guterres said: “The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk.” Jim said nobody could summarize more clearly what the IPCC’s report says.

Glen said he has been reading a lot of information about these issues – and the alarm that a great many people are expressing about the IPCC’s report. We need to move on from feeling alarm to making real decisions about what to do about this crisis.

He said some climate “deniers” say that – even if the climate is changing – this is just a natural fluctuation, so it’s nothing to worry about. But the scientific evidence PROVES that this is NOT just a natural fluctuation. He said his March 2021 TV program featured two teenagers discussing young people’s concerns – and what young people are doing – about the climate. He said he devoted the first part of the TV program to showing and explaining some graphs that show extremely sharp upticks in the earth’s temperature and atmosphere since we started burning a lot of fossil fuels. These are much more sudden and more radical than could occur as natural fluctuations, so they clearly PROVE that the climate crisis was caused by humans burning fossil fuels. People can watch it and/or read a thorough summary (including the graphs and succinct explanations) at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/teenagers-for-climate-action-tv-interview-and-more-information**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/teenagers-for-climate-action-tv-interview-and-more-information).

**The IPCC report issued on August 9, 2021: Instead of just a future danger, we are ALREADY EXPERIENCING climate disruptions, including heat waves, forest fires, floods, etc.**

Glen said many people talk about the climate crisis as if that’s something that might happen in the future. Those of us working to protect the climate say we are **already experiencing** serious disruptions to the climate, so we cannot wait for the next generation to solve the problems. A moment ago Jim mentioned some disruptions that we have already been experiencing. Now he added more information and insights.

Jim said he is based in Washington DC, so – although he does not see first-hand the wildfires in the West, he does experience the poor air quality on the East Coast that resulted from the “massive plumes of smoke” that have been “blowing across the country.” The bad air quality affects his life there. He sees reports of massive flooding in China caused by extreme weather events there. He said heat waves have been pummeling the West and parts of the East Coast. This extreme heat has killed a number of people. All of these problems have been caused by climate disruptions. He said that these extreme problems would not have occurred in such numbers and with such intensity unless the climate had been disrupted.

He added, “We are living in the midst of climate change, and we have seen only a relatively small increase in global average temperatures of just over one degree Celsius.” He said the IPCC’s report emphasizes that “every single incremental change in a percentage of a degree of temperature is going to have devastating impacts – and real-world suffering of humans across the globe.” He said the climate crisis is affecting every part of our planet. Fires are occurring in the Amazon. A stronger hurricane season will occur this year on the Gulf Coast and in the eastern U.S. Wildfires of record-setting size and scope are decimating communities and entire regions.

**IPCC report from August 9, 2021: UN Sec-Gen Guterres called it “code red for humanity.” Every fraction of a degree and every molecule of emission matters.**

Glen reminded people that just a moment ago Jim had said that the one-degree Celsius increase we have experienced thus far is just the small beginning of what will certainly occur – and that much additional temperature increase and CO2 increase are already baked into our global systems – and that the feedback loops are escalating. We are very likely to hit 2 degrees Celsius, which is several degrees Fahrenheit, and suffer a number of built-in feedback loops that will escalate the problems, so we will experience very much more extreme climate disruption.

A few minutes ago both Jim and Glen had said that the General Secretary of the United Nations said the IPCC’s new report means “code red for humanity.” Glen thanked Jim for saying again now that every little bit of climate pollution matters – and every 1/10 of a degree of temperature increase matters.

The public – and the government – really need to understand this hard reality, and to act upon it.

**Explain the concept of “greenwashing”:**

Glen said that when he introduced this interview’s topic he said that the fossil fuel companies were trying to deceive us, just like the tobacco companies have been trying to deceive us. Oil, coal and natural gas companies have been “climate deniers,” but when their lies were exposed, they changed to a different strategy to promote remedies that are actually phony – and would not really solve the problems – and are cynically designed to increase their own profits.

Jim explained this public relations scheme, which is known as “greenwashing.” He said there is a network of “climate deniers” that includes oil and gas companies. They used to outright deny that the climate crisis was real. They knew that the climate crisis existed, but they hid this information from the public and denied that their products were causing the problems. But the public has learned more, so the fossil fuel companies cannot get away with their outright denial. Every day people are seeing the real impacts of the climate crisis, so they are asking serious questions.

He said the fossil fuel companies have developed “talking points” for public relations purposes. They are claiming that they are the solutions to the climate crisis. So they are talking about “net-zero” and “carbon offsets” and “carbon capture” as if these could solve the climate crisis. They say they can create “low-carbon” fuels. All of these are parts of their “greenwashing” strategy.

He said the fossil fuel companies are trying to fool us into thinking that they are “the clean green response.” Actually they are “covering up the real dirty disaster of this industry.”

Glen said many people do not pay close attention to the science or to the public policy aspects, so if they hear a proposal such as “cap and trade” they are likely to think that the oil company’s experts must know how to do this, so we should trust their proposals such as “cap and trade.” Also, many members of Congress depend upon campaign funding by oil companies, so they are willing to go along with what their corporate funders tell them to do.

If the public fails to seriously inform itself – and merely trusts Big Oil and Congress to solve the problems – we would be abdicating our responsibility, and we would suffer.

The public needs to really understand what these schemes are, so we can protect ourselves and our climate.

**We devoted the next few minutes to exploring what some of those industry-promoted “remedies” really mean – and why they are NOT valid remedies for the climate crisis.**

**“Cap and trade” – What does this mean? Why is this not a valid remedy?**

Glen said we must limit the pollution of greenhouse gases – methane, carbon dioxide, and other emissions from burning fossil fuels. These emissions float into the atmosphere and act like a greenhouse to trap the sun’s heat and warm Planet Earth.

The public has heard about “cap and trade” proposals. What do these purport to do? How would they work?

Jim said the overall idea is to put a system-wide “cap” on emissions at whatever level our society chooses to limit them. Perhaps the “cap” could be ratcheted down over time. Then all of the industries that emit could be permitted to emit certain amounts – and trade the various emission permits among themselves, but without exceeding the overall system-wide “cap.” He said that at a very basic theoretical level it sounds like a simple way to address the climate crisis.

However, he said that in reality “cap and trade” programs actually cause more problems and make the overall climate crisis worse – and also make public health worse. They also hurt agricultural sustainability in a number of ways.

He expanded the scope of his answer by saying that the “cap” concept actually violates the principle underlying the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. Both of these very important federal laws establish the principle that says, “you do not have a right to pollute my air and water.” In order to pollute air or water, the industry must apply for a permit that would be rigorously evaluated before being issued, and the pollution limits would be strictly enforced.

**However, “cap and trade” policies reverse that protective principle and create a right for a business to pollute** as long as the business pays for it. He said this is a very serious rollback in our regulatory system. That is a serious problem for the standard of protecting clean air and clean water.

He said that “cap and trade” programs can also increase pollution. They are premised on the assumption that you can “offset” pollution from one source by reducing it somewhere else. So the industrial and energy sectors are where the “caps” exist, so they buy pollution credits from forestry and agricultural sectors. If some activities in a forest or on a farm are seen as reducing pollution, the polluter would buy those pollution credits, so they could go ahead and continue polluting, and this would be perceived as “a wash” as if no pollution had occurred.

However, in practice, much of the pollution that occurs has been happening in low-income and minority locations (the “environmental injustice” problem), so pollution in those locations has actually been increasing there.

Glen mentioned that the public needs to understand the “environmental justice/injustice” concept. What keeps happening is that pollution sources and toxic waste dumps keep going into locations where poor people and people of color live, rather than in nice, white, middle-and-upper-class areas. The people in the “environmental injustice” areas suffer much more disease as a result. When the “cap and trade” programs that Jim described go into effect, those hurt those targeted neighborhoods even worse.

Glen said that an especially vulnerable area (largely poor and Black) in southern Louisiana is known as “Cancer Alley” because of the extremely high rates of cancer caused by oil refineries, plastic factories, toxic waste dumps, and so forth.

Jim agreed with what Glen said. “It tends to overburden communities that are already overburdened with pollution – and historically over-burdened.”

Jim said two “cap and trade” programs currently exist in the U.S. One is in California and the other is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ([**www.rggi.org**](http://www.rggi.org)) program on the East Coast. What actually happened with both of those programs is that pollution has increased in the “environmental justice” communities of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income people.

He said this is a very serious problem from the standpoints of justice, equity and public health.

Also, do “cap and trade” programs and “offset” schemes even help the climate crisis? He mentioned two very important dynamics:

1. They use biological sources to offset the fossil fuel pollution caused by industrial and energy sources. He said, “This is where the climate denial comes in, because in order to believe that this works, you actually have to deny basic scientific principles of how carbon works in the environment.”

2. He said there is a “short carbon cycle” and a “long carbon cycle.” Glen said we’ll discuss this in a different question in just a few minutes.

Glen expressed a concern about “cap and trade” schemes using “markets” created by giant business corporations. He said public policy and public health are very important in their own right. He said it is wrong for public policy and public health to become subservient to giant business corporations’ short-term profit mania. He said we should not let capitalism screw us by letting big business play their “market” games for their own benefits, while we become “collateral damage.” Big businesses engineer their own profits and hurt ordinary people, especially people who are poorer and darker-skinned than we are. Capitalism gets to play its games for its own benefit while ordinary people are left powerless.

Jim agreed. He exposed the dynamic where “profit determines whether pollution reductions happen.” He said that in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative sometimes the prices for pollution allowances that the utilities were buying dropped so low that utilities bought some pollution allowances that they did not yet need and simply saved them for future years when they would need them. Then they could take credits in future years for pollution allowances they had bought earlier when prices were cheaper. This gimmick is allowing them to increase climate emissions later. He said this is a wrong way to deal with the climate crisis.

**“Offsets” – What does this mean? Why is this not a valid remedy?**

A few minutes ago Jim had mentioned “offsets.” Glen said the public hears proposals for “carbon offsets,” but probably most people do not understand them, because many people do not understand the relevant science or economics or public policy. But the public needs to understand what “carbon offset” schemes are, so we don’t let big businesses and politicians make decisions that might hurt us or hurt our climate. So he asked Jim to explain what “carbon offsets” are and what they purport to achieve.

Jim said “carbon offsets” are very closely related to “cap and trade” programs because they are intimately engaged with each other. He said some “offsets” programs do exist outside of “cap and trade” programs.

He said some people say that if a company pays to plant trees, they can go ahead and continue emitting carbon dioxide because the trees will capture carbon dioxide. Those people say they cancel each other out so we end up with “net zero.”

But, he said, trees shed their leaves in the fall, so although trees absorb CO2 during part of the year, they emit CO2 into the atmosphere during another part of the year. Therefore, this is a short carbon cycle, whereas fossil fuels need millions of years to be created, but they release their CO2 immediately upon burning. Therefore, it does not make sense to extract fossil fuels from the ground and burn them while thinking that trees could realistically offset them.

He said the “offsets” programs assume that the earth is an endless sponge, and that we can plant enough trees to soak up all of the CO2. But if the earth were an endless sponge we would not have the climate crisis to begin with. He said the assumption that the earth is an endless sponge allows people to make the climate crisis even worse.

He said “cap and trade” programs include some aspects that border on corruption, but it’s not the kind of corruption that can be weeded out by investigations and penalties, because this corruption is inherent in “cap and trade” models.

For example, he said, the concept of “additionality” is about whether what a business is doing now is actually contributing to the climate a benefit that had not already been there. He said a number of studies have shown that most of the rewards that California’s “cap and trade” program was giving to businesses were for activities that those businesses would have been doing anyway. A business might sequester some carbon and sell the “offsets” to another polluting business, but that first business would likely have sequestered that carbon anyway, so now they are getting a “credit” that allows them to pay to pollute more, but we have achieved no net gain in protecting the climate.

Also, he mentioned the concept of “permanence.” He said some businesses have paid for forests to be planted, but currently in the West many forests are burning, so they are emitting huge amounts of CO2. Some of the forests that are burning now had been bought to serve as “carbon offsets,” but those forests – instead of sequestering carbon – are actually emitting huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere and hurting the climate. But the polluters who had bought those forests as “carbon offsets” still have their credits that allow them to continue polluting as if the forest fires had not destroyed the trees. Wildfires have eliminated the short-term benefits that might have occurred.

Jim said that “offsets” do not work and can never work because in the real world greenhouse gases do not actually function in the ways that free-market economics assume they do.

He also said the “offset” programs are being applied to agriculture, but instead of working there, they cause additional problems for small farmers and for sustainability. Congress is being urged to create more “offset” program ostensibly to help farmers and sustainability, but those programs would not achieve what they purport to do. He said this is a major “greenwashing” scam that claims it would help farmers, but actually many small farmers – and sustainable farmers – are speaking out AGAINST these programs because they know the programs would not help them. Many small and sustainable farmers are already using on their farms the scientifically good practices that actually do sequester carbon in their soil. The big “offset” programs that Congress is considering are things to help giant agribusiness farms do things differently.

For example, Jim said that “no-till” agriculture is being promoted vigorously for sustainability and the climate. But actually when giant agribusiness farms practice “no-till,” they do it by planting gigantic areas all with the same crop (*e.g*., corn or soy). In order to do that without tilling, it is necessary to use enormous amounts of chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) and run the farms in industrial ways. Those dangerous chemicals are not only NOT sustainable for farming, but they also heavily increase the pollution burden on rural communities. These pesticides get into the air and the water, so they hurt public health.

Glen expressed appreciation for how Jim has been linking a number of interrelated issues. He said that at the end of this TV program when we mention the non-profit organization for which Jim works – Food and Water Watch – we will mention how that organization links these issues well: food systems, water quality, health, the climate, and so forth. While Jim’s own work focuses on energy and climate, his co-workers focus on other issues, and they all work together comprehensively – with systemic insights – to make good progress. Jim said he feels it is a privilege to work for Food and Water Watch, so he thanked glen for donating financial support.

**Oregon passed a remedy that is better than “offsets”:**

Glen said that when we were preparing for this TV interview, Jim mentioned that the State of Oregon had recently passed some climate legislation that is better than “carbon offsets” and would better deal with energy sources. He asked Jim to explain what Oregon’s new law achieved.

Jim said Oregon had been considering passing “cap and trade” legislation for several years, but political support was lacking. He said this year, 2021, Oregon passed the strongest clean energy legislation in the country. It will phase out fossil fuels in a little more than one decade. Also it will stop new gas and combustion infrastructure. He said this is important because we need to stop building infrastructure that relies upon fossil fuels if we are going to deal seriously with the climate crisis.

He said stopping combustion infrastructure also is a good way to tamp down the pressure to convert to biofuels and bio-gas from factory farms. There is a big push to use manure and methane from manure to power our energy systems. There are many problems with this. One is that methane is a horrible greenhouse gas. Also, in order to achieve economies of scale, manure-based methane energy can be used efficiently only on the large scale of factory farms that generate large amounts of manure. We need to push back against factory farms and their bio-gas. We need to stop the “greenwashing” of fossil gas and factory farms alike.

He said Oregon’s legislation is very good. We need this kind of bold, effective public policy, which is much better than the “offset” schemes that are actually worse than doing nothing.

**Ethanol:**

Glen thanked Jim for exposing the problems with some of the schemes that have been put forth as remedies, when really they are not.

Glen said another phony remedy is ethanol, which is also called ethyl alcohol. It is made from biomass., such as corn or other food grains with high starch content. He said corn should be a food crop instead of being converted into a chemical to blend with gasoline (perhaps up to 15%) to fuel motor vehicles.

He said people are fooled into thinking that this is sustainable way to get off from fossil fuels, but it is a serious problem because the corn is grown on gigantic factory corn farms with the problems that Jim had mentioned a moment ago. Also, the science does not work well because ethanol pollutes the atmosphere badly at a time when we need to reduce greenhouse gas pollution for the sake of the climate.

He said politicians in both big political parties support this because it wins votes for them in corn-growing areas and it allows them to “greenwash” what they are actually doing. Jim agreed that – similar to “greenwashing” – we also have “farmwashing.” He said, “politicians and industries pretend that they are sitting in the middle of a Norman Rockwell painting.”

Jim identified two problems. First, we are propping up unsustainable agricultural systems with big commodity crops such as corn. Second, it also interferes with our ability to provide sustainable food. A hungry world needs food – and we need sustainable food systems – so we should not be diverting farmland to grow crops for vehicles.

He said on top of that, there is also a lot of talk now about growing crops just to burn them for fuel – and then pretending that we can capture the CO2 that comes out of them in order to reduce damage to the climate. He urged our society to examine how we use land and to change land-use policies to be as sustainable as possible.

All of these gimmicks avoid confronting directly the urgent need to reduce fossil fuel pollution. Let’s not settle for short-term gimmicks that generate profits for some kinds of businesses but do not really solve long-term problem of fossil fuel emissions.

Glen agreed that these gimmicks are complex and interconnected and seem like Rube Goldberg’s cartoons from decades ago where a complex machine triggers a certain step that triggers a subsequent step that triggers a subsequent step, and so on and so on until finally the machine does something simple like turn on a light switch or pour you a cup of coffee. Likewise, the gimmicks are very complex and are designed to enrich people and corporations – rather than designed to actually solve problems and protect the climate.

Jim said he liked this analogy, except that “the system is so you never get to see the end, which just sets everything on fire.” He said the solution is really simple: “stop burning fossil fuels – and transition off of them rapidly.”

**Carbon cycle and sequestering carbon: SHORT term and LONG term:**

Glen said that a few minutes before, Jim had mentioned the carbon cycle – including a short-term cycle and a long-term cycle. Glen said that when people understand the carbon cycle they’ll be better able to make good decisions about protecting the climate.

Glen’s August 2016 TV program discusses the carbon cycle. People can still watch it through his blog. He brought together a scientist and an artist to explain and illustrate the carbon cycle. The program’s title is: “How Science and Art Explain the Carbon Cycle and Climate.” People can watch it through his blog. Here is the link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-how-science-and-art-explain-the-carbon-cycle-and-climate**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-how-science-and-art-explain-the-carbon-cycle-and-climate)

He asked Jim to share more information about the carbon cycle’s SHORT-TERM and LONG-TERM aspects. Jim said the federal government’s observatory at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, has been measuring CO2 emissions for decades. The data are graphed onto a long line that fluctuates up and down every year: during the summer plants grow and absorb CO2, but in the fall and winter they wilt and die, so they release CO2 back into the atmosphere. But over time that wiggly line has been going steadily upward – and still retaining the annual up-and-down pattern. The long upward slope shows that the LONG carbon cycle is pulling more CO2 from the atmosphere every year because we keep pulling more fossil fuels out of the ground and burning them and polluting the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide and methane keep warming our planet more and more every year.

He said planting more trees is a good thing to do, but it is not enough to deal with the LONG upward trend of climate emissions. He emphasized the importance of protecting the “carbon sinks” of temperate forests and rain forests.

He emphasized that a LONG carbon cycle lasting millions of years has sequestered carbon in fossil fuels, so we must stop pulling fossil fuels out of the ground and burning them, which has caused the climate crisis.

Glen said some of us were informing the public about the LONG-term view years ago when we were working on the Peak Oil crisis. Mother Nature had spent millions of years creating coal, oil and gas underground. But we are burning all of that up in just a few hundred years. This is not sustainable. He said Mother Nature operates on very LONG cycles, but now we are destroying something that Mother Nature had spent millions of years creating.

**Hydrogen:**

Glen said he keeps reading articles about hydrogen as part of the solution, but many of the things he has been reading debunk hydrogen as terribly misleading. He asked Jim to help us understand this.

Jim said a very important paper came out just recently that will probably change many people’s minds about hydrogen. He provided a link from the New York ***Times***: [**https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/climate/hydrogen-fuel-natural-gas-pollution.html?smid=tw-share**](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/climate/hydrogen-fuel-natural-gas-pollution.html?smid=tw-share)

Glen found a different link to an article (“Study Warns 'Blue Hydrogen' Funded in Bipartisan Plan More Polluting Than Coal”) that allows people to read the information without the paywall that the ***Times*** requires: [**https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/12/study-warns-blue-hydrogen-funded-bipartisan-plan-more-polluting-coal?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/12/study-warns-blue-hydrogen-funded-bipartisan-plan-more-polluting-coal?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

Jim said we must begin by recognizing that 95% of the hydrogen produced in the U.S. comes from fossil fuels. The process involves splitting apart the atoms of methane (natural gas). He said the climate impact is worse than coal!

He said professors from Cornell and Stanford conducted the research behind this new paper. The research shows that converting to a hydrogen energy system is worse than building a network of new coal plants.

Jim said he wants the science to prevail. Right now Congress is considering spending billions of dollars a year to subsidize hydrogen based on fossil fuels. He said that would have devastating impacts on our climate. Also this massive hydrogen scheme would be horrible for the front-line communities that already suffer the worst from fracked natural gas. Developing hydrogen as a fuel would mean a huge increase in fracking for natural gas, because that is the only source of this hydrogen.

Do NOT believe the lie that hydrogen is a “zero-emission” technology! The people who say that are talking only about the point of combustion. We must recognize the entire lifecycle of hydrogen and where it comes from. Beyond NOT being “zero-emission,” it is actually worse than coal!

Glen said he wishes we had more scientists in Congress and fewer people who are funded by other sources. We need people who know things and think rationally.

**“Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage” (CCUS):**

Glen said that when we were preparing for this TV interview, Jim had mentioned an unfamiliar term – Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS), so Glen asked Jim what it means and why is Jim concerned about it.

Jim said “Carbon capture utilization and storage” is “the concept that we can mechanically capture CO2 at smokestacks or directly from the air in the environment, and then utilize that CO2 in consumer products or store it underground aquifers and seal those aquifers underground.”

He said the oil and gas industry is pushing this very aggressively. He said billions of dollars have been invested in demonstration projects, but those projects have been shut down because they do not work.

The oil and gas industry is aggressively lobbying Congress to spend additional billions of our tax dollars for more of those “carbon capture” projects, which really only pretend to reduce CO2 emissions, when really they are extending a lifeline to the fossil fuel industry.

Glen said we need to pay attention to who is funding our representatives and senators.

**Instead of those phony remedies (actually, scams), what should we do?**

Glen expressed appreciation for Jim’s knowledge of – and ability to clearly explain – these gimmicks that really are scams.

He invited Jim to propose some good solutions instead of the baloney that the fossil fuel industry has been feeding us. What valid, workable remedies and solutions should we promote instead of those wrong things?

Jim said our first goal must be to stop new fossil fuel infrastructure and stop new extraction, production and export. He said this is really the root of the problem.

Glen added that the problem is really bi-partisan. We should not assume that this is a Republican problem and that Democrats will save us from that. He said that for decades the U.S. had a law prohibiting the export of raw petroleum, but Obama got Congress to change that law in order to allow the U.S. to export it in order to improve our nation’s balance of payments. He said we need to watch both political parties to prevent further abuses.

Jim agreed that this really is a bi-partisan problem. He said the only “solutions” moving through Congress now are the “greenwashing” solutions we have been discussing. He said bi-partisan pressure is what’s pushing hydrogen, carbon capture, offset schemes, and so forth.

He said that – instead – what we need SHOULD be bi-partisan efforts to save the planet and protect the health of our communities.

Also, besides stopping new fossil fuel infrastructure, we must phase out what exists now and replace it with clean, renewable energy, retrofit buildings, electrify buildings, replace current transportation systems with sustainable ones. He pointed out that electric vehicles are only part of the solution. We need to re-think our transportation infrastructure and make our communities more walkable and bike-able.

We need to re-think all of our infrastructure systems so they will be sustainable and meet human needs instead of serving the interests of fossil fuel companies and other big businesses.

Likewise, we need to re-think our agricultural system to make it more climate-friendly. Instead of offset schemes and no-till agriculture, we need to stop and replace the emission-intensive agricultural practices such as factory farming.

He added that one of the most absurd things about factory farming is that the Environmental Protection Agency is prohibited from asking factory farms to report their emissions. Congress passed a law to prevent the EPA from asking. So not only can’t the EPA regulate emissions from factory farms, but Congress actually prevents the EPA from even asking about them.

He called factory farms “monstrosities” that are terrible for the climate because they emit huge amounts of methane and causing huge amounts of water pollution and air pollution – especially for nearby (“frontline”) communities. “Living next to one of these is absolutely atrocious.”

Instead of schemes to capture and monetize the methane, we need to shut down those factory farms and replace them with clean solutions.

Glen expressed appreciation for Jim’s recurring focus on the systemic issues related to our topic. The fossil fuel companies and other big businesses keep trying to distract the public from thinking about the problems’ systemic sources. They keep saying, “Just change your light bulbs and you’ll be OK. Just buy an electric car and you’ll be OK.” Instead of blaming individuals, we really must change the systems.

Jim agreed with this point. He said it pertains also to the discussion of plastics. The solution is not recycling. There is a massive escalation of petrochemical production. Instead of urging individuals to recycle, we must stop the production of single-use plastics. This would prevent the pollution burden at its source – and reduce the climate damage that these petrochemicals are causing.

Glen added that almost none of the plastic that is allegedly recyclable actually gets recycled. The vast majority ends up as garbage – including much of the plastic that people have tried to recycle. There is no “market” for many kinds of plastic that people want to recycle, so it just ends up in landfills.

**Glen summarized the good work that Food and Water Watch does:**

Glen said he is delighted to interview Jim for this TV program and said he greatly respects Food and Water Watch ([**www.foodandwaterwatch.org**](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)), the non-profit organization for which Jim works. Glen said that for many years he has enjoyed reading their materials on paper and online – and also enjoyed donating financial support for Food and Water Watch.

Glen said Food and Water Watch fights for safe food, clean water, and a livable climate for all of us. They protect people from the corporations and other destructive economic interests that put profit ahead of everything else. Food and Water Watch has more than one million supporters.

He said he appreciates the values expressed on Food and Water Watch’s website:

* We all deserve a healthy and livable environment.
* We all deserve human dignity and to have our basic needs met.
* We all deserve justice; people of all races, religions, genders, and sexual orientations deserve fair treatment and equitable opportunities and outcomes.
* We all deserve economic fairness; let’s support the many, not the few.
* We all deserve real democracy; our votes and voices can’t be defeated by corporate money.

From banning fracking, to shutting down factory farms, to making sure communities across the country have access to clean water, Food and Water Watch has fought against greedy corporations and reckless government agencies and we’ve won time after time. They are very savvy, so they fight – and win – in the courts, in the halls of Congress, and on the ground in every state. Corporations may have the money, but this organization believes people have the power to make real change.

Food and Water Watch works on issues in three interrelated clusters: Food System – Clean Water – Climate and Energy:

* **Climate & Energy:** We’re being fracked to death as climate chaos looms. All because fossil fuel corporations want to drill every last cent of profit they can from their failed industry. We must stop them.
* **Food System:** Factory farms poison our land, air and water; they crush family farms and destroy rural communities. We must fight the handful of powerful corporations with a stranglehold on our food supply and government.
* **Clean Water:** Water is a human right. But the infrastructure we rely on for safe, clean water is crumbling. Giant corporations are fighting to control our public water utilities, systems and government, putting profit over people — it’s up to us to stop them.

**Jim provide more good information about Food and Water Watch – and the work he and other people perform there:**

Jim is Food and Water Watch’s Senior Energy Policy Analyst. He said he has worked there for almost twelve years. His career there started by helping the organization develop its programs, create its regional offices and hire organizing staff.

He said that – besides having a very strong and principled policy stance – Food and Water Watch also understands that politics has very little to do with morals or right/wrong. Therefore, this organization works deliberately to mobilize and organize organizations around the important issues so they can “build political power to stand up to the corporate interests that are polluting our air, polluting our water, and threatening our climate.” They organize to win victories on these issues not just from an ideological standpoint, but from the recognition that the public really does support Food and Water Watch’s core values (see the bullet items in the left-hand column above), so the strategy is to inform and mobilize people in order to mobilize and build political power and win on the issues.

He said his role includes working with members of Congress and congressional staffers. He said the only reason congressional staffers are willing to listen to him and interact with him is because Food and Water Watch is grounded in a large number of members, financial donors, persons who respond to e-mail action alerts, persons who make phone calls to Congress and other levels of government, persons who attend local rallies, and so forth. He said Food and Water Watch is effective because it works strategically to combine strong policy knowledge and strong public mobilization in the ways he has just described.

Glen said he himself invests a lot of time and effort to strengthen people’s abilities to organize effectively at the grassroots on whatever issues they care about. He expressed appreciation for Food and Water Watch’s emphasis on mobilizing people locally.

**Sources of information:**

Glen said a great many sources of information exist on the issues we have been discussing here.

At the very least, he invites people to visit this organization’s website, [**www.foodandwaterwatch.org**](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org).

He also invites people to invite their friends to visit his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), and then click either the “TV Programs” link or the “Energy” link to watch this TV program. This TV program’s title is, “Debunk the Fossil Fuel Industry’s Phony Climate Remedies.” That blog link also includes the thorough summary that you are reading now.

**Many, many climate organizations exist. You can find those elsewhere or contact me if you want a list. Here are some links to some additional websites, articles, and other sources of information:**

**The climate advocacy organization World War Zero provides information about Big Oil and the climate crisis at this link: https://worldwarzero.com/magazine/category/big-oil**

**Summary and link for IPPC’s report dated August 9, 2021:** A climate advocacy organization sent a summary and link the day after the report came out from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The organization said the IPCC’s report “is brutally clear and unequivocal about the reality of climate change. Over 200 scientists meticulously researched and wrote the report, and it was approved by representatives from every country on Earth, making the report the gold standard for global climate science. And what it tells us this week is essentially this: (1) Climate change is here. It’s already causing worse and more frequent floods, wildfires, hurricanes, storms, and droughts. (2) It’s getting worse and it’s doing so rapidly. (3) It’s going to get much, much worse (imagine deadly heat waves occurring 14 times more often), unless we take urgent and decisive action. (4) Action means creating “immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions” in greenhouse gas emissions. Despite this bad news, climate advocates are telling us that if we act boldly and strategically and immediately we can still protect Planet Earth and our future.

Click this link to see the IPCC’s press release, [**https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/**](https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/)

**The Associated Press summarized 5 main points about the new IPCC report:** [**https://apnews.com/article/climate-change-global-warming-un-report-ipcc-3939c763c2e9f69f08b0bcae3074752f?emci=d1687881-c1fa-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=c04fece7-64fb-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=1299769**](https://apnews.com/article/climate-change-global-warming-un-report-ipcc-3939c763c2e9f69f08b0bcae3074752f?emci=d1687881-c1fa-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=c04fece7-64fb-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=1299769)

**The climate crisis is EXTREMELY SERIOUS -- “CODE RED.” A prestigious worldwide group of 200 scientists express alarm. See these facts.** A report at this link – [**https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/09/code-red-humanity-ipcc-report-warns-window-climate-action-closing-fast**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/09/code-red-humanity-ipcc-report-warns-window-climate-action-closing-fast) -- begins with these two paragraphs:

**A panel of leading** scientists convened by the United Nations issued a comprehensive report Monday that contains a stark warning for humanity: The climate crisis is here, some of its most destructive consequences are now inevitable, and only massive and speedy reductions in greenhouse gas emissions can limit the coming disaster.

Assembled by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—a team of more than 200 scientists—the new [**report**](https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/) represents a sweeping analysis of thousands of studies published over the past eight years as people the world over have suffered record-shattering temperatures and deadly extreme weather, from [**catastrophic wildfires**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/02/near-record-temps-and-deadly-fires-engulf-southern-europe) to [**monsoon rains**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/07/23/landslides-india-kill-100-monsoon-rains-pummel-nation) to [**extreme drought**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/06/climate-linked-drought-leads-first-ever-shutdown-california-hydropower-plant).

See the report from the IPCS at this link -- [**https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#FullReport**](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#FullReport)

**Below I have included the headline summary, whose point B.5 says:**

“Many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level.”

The August 9, 2021, “Democracy Now” broadcast (which you can watch and/or hear and/or read about) focuses on the IPCC report.  Today’s headline says:  **"A Code Red for Humanity": Major U.N. Report Warns of Climate Catastrophe If Urgent Action Not Taken | Daily Digest 08/09/2021**.  Here is the link:  [**“A Code Red for Humanity”: Major U.N. Report Warns of Climate Catastrophe If Urgent Action Not Taken | Democracy Now!**](https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/9/ipcc_report) Here is Greta Thunberg’s comment:  [**Greta Thunberg: New IPCC Report Is a Wake-Up Call for All About the Escalating Climate Emergency | Democracy Now!**](https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/9/greta_thunberg_ipcc_report)  This article summarizes the extreme weather, forest fires, etc., that provide hard evidence of human’s climate disruption of earth:  [**https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/9/climate\_change\_ipcc\_report**](https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/9/climate_change_ipcc_report)

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| **Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers** 9 August 2021 (subject to final copy-editing) **A. The Current State of the Climate** 1. **A.1**It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.
2. **A.2**The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years.
3. **A.3**Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).
4. **A.4**Improved knowledge of climate processes, paleoclimate evidence and the response of the climate system to increasing radiative forcing gives a best estimate of equilibrium climate sensitivity of 3°C, with a narrower range compared to AR5.

**B. Possible Climate Futures** 1. **B.1**Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.
2. **B.2**Many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing global warming. They include increases in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions, and proportion of intense tropical cyclones, as well as reductions in Arctic sea ice, snow cover and permafrost.
3. **B.3**Continued global warming is projected to further intensify the global water cycle, including its variability, global monsoon precipitation and the severity of wet and dry events.
4. **B.4**Under scenarios with increasing CO2 emissions, the ocean and land carbon sinks are projected to be less effective at slowing the accumulation of CO2 in the atmosphere.
5. **B.5**Many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level.
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| **C. Climate Information for Risk Assessment and Regional Adaptation** 1. **C.1**Natural drivers and internal variability will modulate human-caused changes, especially at regional scales and in the near term, with little effect on centennial global warming. These modulations are important to consider in planning for the full range of possible changes.
2. **C.2**With further global warming, every region is projected to increasingly experience concurrent and multiple changes in climatic impact-drivers. Changes in several climatic impact-drivers would be more widespread at 2°C compared to 1.5°C global warming and even more widespread and/or pronounced for higher warming levels.
3. **C.3**Low-likelihood outcomes, such as ice sheet collapse, abrupt ocean circulation changes, some compound extreme events and warming substantially larger than the assessed *very likely* range of future warming cannot be ruled out and are part of risk assessment.

**D. Limiting Future Climate Change** 1. **D.1**From a physical science perspective, limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO2 emissions, reaching at least net zero CO2 emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions. Strong, rapid and sustained reductions in CH4 emissions would also limit the warming effect resulting from declining aerosol pollution and would improve air quality.
2. **D.2**Scenarios with low or very low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (SSP1-1.9 and SSP1- 2.6) lead within years to discernible effects on greenhouse gas and aerosol concentrations, and air quality, relative to high and very high GHG emissions scenarios (SSP3-7.0 or SSP5-8.5). Under these contrasting scenarios, discernible differences in trends of global surface temperature would begin to emerge from natural variability within around 20 years, and over longer time periods for many other climatic impact-drivers (*high confidence*).
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**The disastrous new IPCC climate report should provoke worldwide fury:** This article was posted on August 9, 2021: [**https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2021/8/9/2044742/-The-disastrous-new-IPCC-climate-report-should-provoke-worldwide-fury?detail=emaildkre**](https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2021/8/9/2044742/-The-disastrous-new-IPCC-climate-report-should-provoke-worldwide-fury?detail=emaildkre)

**The other greenhouse gas: The UN IPCC’s report sets the record straight on methane:** [**https://grist.org/article/un-report-ipcc-methane-cows-oil/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=newsletter&utm\_campaign=daily**](https://grist.org/article/un-report-ipcc-methane-cows-oil/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily)

**The IPCC’s August 9, 2021, report emphasized the problems of “tipping points.”** See this: [**https://grist.org/science/un-ipcc-climate-report-tipping-points-melting-permafrost/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=newsletter&utm\_campaign=daily**](https://grist.org/science/un-ipcc-climate-report-tipping-points-melting-permafrost/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily)

**Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is absolutely necessary, but it is going to be extremely hard:** This is 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit. We are nearly there already. Many problems are baked into our systems, and we are ALREADY experiencing very serious climate disruptions. See this**:** [**https://grist.org/extreme-weather/a-1-5-degree-world-is-going-to-be-catastrophic/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=newsletter&utm\_campaign=daily**](https://grist.org/extreme-weather/a-1-5-degree-world-is-going-to-be-catastrophic/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily)

**A planet at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming is still infinitely better than the alternative.**

**“This was avoidable,” climate activists say about grim new science:** The United Nations’ latest climate report says capping global temperature rise at 1.5° C is imperative – and still within reach through immediate, aggressive action. [**https://www.thenation.com/article/environment/ipcc-climate-change-report/**](https://www.thenation.com/article/environment/ipcc-climate-change-report/)

**After IPCC's alarming report demanding sharp reductions, Biden urged OPEC to INCREASE DRILLING FOR OIL!** The article with the headline and the link below said this part-way through the article, because Biden’s Trumpian stupidity was not the article’s main point. The article said Biden urged OPEC to DRILL MORE OIL because he was worried that a reduced supply of oil would increase oil prices and hurt the economic “recovery.” The article’s main point is a theme that is in several articles I’ve sent very recently to other climate supporters. Instead of taking honest, effective actions to sharply reduce climate chaos, fossil fuel companies are promoting high-tech gimmicks that are not really effective but will fool the public and governments – and keep enriching their own profits – while delaying real climate action.

One short paragraph in this article says what Biden, Congress, and nearly all governments and businesses are doing: “Yet, in spite of all the dire climate warnings by IPCC and scores of other scientific studies, the world’s political and corporate leaders continue with their “business-as-usual” approach when it comes to tackling the climate crisis.” The next paragraph says: “Almost immediately after the release of the new IPCC report, the Biden administration urged the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to increase oil production because higher prices threaten global economic recovery. In fact, Biden’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, actually [**criticized**](https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/u-s-calls-on-opec-and-its-allies-to-increase-oil-production-to-combat-gasoline-prices/85241653) the world’s major oil producers for not producing enough oil.”

The article ends by strongly urging a GLOBAL Green New Deal.  But governments and businesses keep refusing to consider that. Here are the article’s title and link: **Tech “Solutions” Are Pushed by Fossil Fuel Industry to Delay Real Climate Action** [**https://truthout.org/articles/tech-solutions-are-pushed-by-fossil-fuel-industry-to-delay-real-climate-action/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=c171cba8-34e6-486c-a074-c8e55e58d521**](https://truthout.org/articles/tech-solutions-are-pushed-by-fossil-fuel-industry-to-delay-real-climate-action/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=c171cba8-34e6-486c-a074-c8e55e58d521)

**Biden-backed “blue” hydrogen may pollute more than coal, study finds:** Beware of the Establishment’s climate “remedies” that cause problems. Biden and the bi-partisan infrastructure bill promote and fund yet another climate problem while pretending to solve the crisis. Fossil fuel companies are promoting “blue” hydrogen for their own economic interests, while only pretending to help the climate. ***The Guardian*** published this first. Then an online source of climate information posted it on August 13, 2021. Read this interesting article – and beware: [**https://grist.org/climate/clean-hydrogen-infrastructure-bill-biden/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=newsletter&utm\_campaign=daily**](https://grist.org/climate/clean-hydrogen-infrastructure-bill-biden/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily)

**“Study Warns ‘Blue Hydrogen’ Funded in Bipartisan Plan More Polluting Than Coal”:** This report says,“Blue hydrogen has large climatic consequences. We see no way that blue hydrogen can be considered ‘green.’” Read this article: [**https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/12/study-warns-blue-hydrogen-funded-bipartisan-plan-more-polluting-coal?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/12/study-warns-blue-hydrogen-funded-bipartisan-plan-more-polluting-coal?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)Here is a similar article from the New York Times, but the one linked above avoids the NYT’s paywall: [**https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/climate/hydrogen-fuel-natural-gas-pollution.html?smid=tw-share**](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/climate/hydrogen-fuel-natural-gas-pollution.html?smid=tw-share)

**Fossil fuel companies are scoring big money for their “remedy” of “Carbon Capture and Storage.”** The industry has been convincing Congress to give them billions of our tax dollars for a phony high-tech remedy that Congress is actively considering now. Fossil fuel companies and other industrial climate abusers want TAXPAYERS to SUBSIDIZE them by fooling Congress into thinking that their “carbon capture and storage” scams are good for the climate, when actually they prevent the solutions we really need. The article I link below explains this. The article’s end includes a quotation from my TV guest, Jim Walsh: “The last thing that U.S. taxpayers should be doing is subsidizing fossil fuels, especially subsidizing drilling for oil.” This article by Nicholas Kusnetz was posted on August 17, 2021. When you read this article at the link below, keep scrolling down after the first few paragraphs and the promotional images to continue reading the article to the end. [**https://insideclimatenews.org/news/17082021/carbon-capture-storage-fossil-fuel-companies-climate/?utm\_source=InsideClimate+News&utm\_campaign=7e9c48590e-&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_29c928ffb5-7e9c48590e-327502737**](https://insideclimatenews.org/news/17082021/carbon-capture-storage-fossil-fuel-companies-climate/?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=7e9c48590e-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-7e9c48590e-327502737)

**More than 500 organizations urged policymakers to reject “Carbon Capture and Storage” as a false solution:** The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL, [**www.ciel.org**](http://www.ciel.org)) reported this on August 26, 2021: “In July, over [**500 organizations joined CIEL**](http://act.ciel.org/site/R?i=RZyM9ifPWlprkJm6KmmrZldMZsz6yISLsojcMhaEyqpy-Q0CkcpAhw) in calling on US and Canadian policymakers to reject the false promises of [**Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)**](http://act.ciel.org/site/R?i=pQcYdr2U5a4cniJAJysCN61De_Wq-Ve0d37bL9QmeVDZxXYUvhAHSg). CCS proponents — including major players in the fossil fuel industry — claim that this technology will repurpose the carbon dioxide that their high-emission industries pump into the atmosphere. In reality, CCS is an untested, inefficient, and dangerous technology that perpetuates our dependence on the fossil fuel economy. While stories often trumpet CCS as a climate solution, they often ignore the profound environmental justice impacts that a massive buildout will have on frontline communities. The only solution is to ditch fossil fuels altogether and pivot toward what we know works. That’s why we joined hundreds of organizations in speaking out against the fossil fuel agenda and the false promises of CCS.”

**“Carbon Capture” technology will NOT solve our emissions problems:** Wenona Hauter from Food and Water Watch wrote this article: [**https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/08/18/dangerous-thinking-carbon-capture-technology-wont-solve-our-emissions-problems?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email**](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/08/18/dangerous-thinking-carbon-capture-technology-wont-solve-our-emissions-problems?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

She explains that althoughPennsylvania and other places want to push forward on carbon removal plans, the evidence does not show the benefits that are promised.

The problems are in our local area in the western part of Washington State, including Anacortes WA, where many oil refineries exist. This photo in this article was taken in Anacortes WA:



**Another investigative report explains why “Carbon Capture” will NOT solve our emissions problems:** A recent ProPublica investigation exposes the corrupt scam of selling carbon credits for destroyed forests – and also selling credits for forests where the forests were never planned to be logged, but they pretended they would log them to sell more credits. The “Carbon Capture” scam allows more carbon dioxide to be pumped into the atmosphere than would have occurred without this “carbon credits” swindle. After California’s State Senate majority leader read ProPublica’s report, this made the news. See this: [**https://www.propublica.org/article/lawmakers-question-california-cap-and-trade-policies-citing-propublica-report#1105992**](https://www.propublica.org/article/lawmakers-question-california-cap-and-trade-policies-citing-propublica-report#1105992)

**Climate Activists Target Banks' Greenwashing in Nationwide #DefundLine3 Protests:** “Banks are continuing to fund massive new oil pipelines like Line 3 that would lock in vast amounts of climate pollution for decades. Even worse, they are disguising their loans as ‘sustainability’ measures.” [**https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/13/climate-activists-target-banks-greenwashing-nationwide-defundline3-protests?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/13/climate-activists-target-banks-greenwashing-nationwide-defundline3-protests?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

**LNG Projects Make Claims of “Net-Zero” to Ease Way for Expansion:** Several proposed LNG projects in Canada promise carbon neutrality for their gas exports. But the claims lack detail and appear mostly designed to defang opposition to the gas rush. [**https://www.desmog.com/2021/08/13/lng-projects-canada-net-zero-expansion/?utm\_source=DeSmog+Weekly+Newsletter**](https://www.desmog.com/2021/08/13/lng-projects-canada-net-zero-expansion/?utm_source=DeSmog+Weekly+Newsletter)

**Here is another scam: This article explains how fossil fuel companies turn to “green” pipelines to qualify for new subsidies:** [**https://truthout.org/articles/fossil-fuel-companies-turn-to-green-pipelines-to-qualify-for-new-subsidies/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=5163e16c-159c-4a0f-b0ed-2744201083f3**](https://truthout.org/articles/fossil-fuel-companies-turn-to-green-pipelines-to-qualify-for-new-subsidies/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=5163e16c-159c-4a0f-b0ed-2744201083f3)

**In the summer of 2021 Congress planned a $25 billion giveaway to the fossil fuel industry.** Congress has been working on a bipartisan compromise infrastructure bill and the budget reconciliation follow-up bill. Congress is planning a $25 billion giveaway to the fossil fuel industry. Senate leaders claimed that the money would support renewable energy development, but actually, the money would subsidize corporate “greenwashing.” The bill’s sloppy wording would let our tax dollars pay for fossil fuel industry “solutions” that would improve the industry’s public image but – instead of reducing greenhouse gas emissions – could actually increase emissions. This information came from a reliable organization that advocates for progressive public policies.

**This article from August 10, 2021, reports that the bipartisan infrastructure bill funds false climate solutions:** [**https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/10/bipartisan-infrastructure-bill-rebuked-funding-false-climate-solutions**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/10/bipartisan-infrastructure-bill-rebuked-funding-false-climate-solutions)

**Better solutions to the climate crisis instead of the trillions wasted in recent years:** This article identifies much wasted money, but the “trillions” are not as well documented as I would like. The author does raise interesting ideas: [**https://www.nextbigfuture.com/2021/08/trillions-already-wasted-in-the-name-of-fixing-climate-change-but-what-would-fix-the-climate.html?noamp=available#comments-anchor**](https://www.nextbigfuture.com/2021/08/trillions-already-wasted-in-the-name-of-fixing-climate-change-but-what-would-fix-the-climate.html?noamp=available#comments-anchor)

**Pope Francis has written intelligently and boldly about the climate crisis. You can read his highly respected 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si” at this link:** [**http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\_20150524\_enciclica-laudato-si.html**](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html) (I might post additional information to my blog’s “Religion” and “Energy” categories.) These two quotations are especially relevant to our current topic:

165. We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels – especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas – needs to be progressively replaced without delay. Until greater progress is made in developing widely accessible sources of renewable energy, it is legitimate to choose the lesser of two evils or to find short-term solutions. But the international community has still not reached adequate agreements about the responsibility for paying the costs of this energy transition. In recent decades, environmental issues have given rise to considerable public debate and have elicited a variety of committed and generous civic responses. Politics and business have been slow to react in a way commensurate with the urgency of the challenges facing our world. Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities.

171. The strategy of buying and selling “carbon credits” can lead to a new form of speculation which would not help reduce the emission of polluting gases worldwide. This system seems to provide a quick and easy solution under the guise of a certain commitment to the environment, but in no way does it allow for the radical change which present circumstances require. Rather, it may simply become a ploy which permits maintaining the excessive consumption of some countries and sectors.

**Fossil fuel companies are propagandizing young school children:** [**https://worldwarzero.com/magazine/2021/08/students-must-learn-how-to-find-truth/**](https://worldwarzero.com/magazine/2021/08/students-must-learn-how-to-find-truth/)

**We can take positive actions for the climate. Robert Reich’s brief article (Aug. 10, 2021) urges FOUR STEPS to avoid climate catastrophe:** Although the article’s headline says “no one is talking about” these four steps, actually people are talking about them. We need strong actions for all four of these steps he discusses briefly in the article linked below: #1: Create green jobs. #2: Stop dirty energy. #3: Kick fossil fuel companies out of our politics. #4: Require the fossil fuel companies that have profited from environmental injustice to compensate the communities they’ve harmed. Here is his brief article: [**https://www.nationofchange.org/2021/08/10/the-solutions-to-the-climate-crisis-no-one-is-talking-about-2/**](https://www.nationofchange.org/2021/08/10/the-solutions-to-the-climate-crisis-no-one-is-talking-about-2/)

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2021: Food and Water Watch invites everyone to participate in their virtual conference & benefit for safe, healthy food and a sustainable climate:** It runs from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. EASTERN time or 12:30 to 5:00 pm PACIFIC time. Choose from 12 sessions across two tracks. **Track 1 (Food, Water & Climate 101)** will offer the latest research and policy updates on pressing food, water and climate issues. **Track 2 (Mobilizing for our Future)** features a series of training sessions to build up your skills as an activist as we take on big fights to protect our environment! See information about the sessions, speakers and schedule here: [**Visit the event website to access the full schedule.**](http://click.messages.fwaction.org/?qs=45d4061ca745aa31bd428fe53763ebe57ef8d9778e317c13623bbc3928697e384852df3f6954dcb4f9e584bb4460fc7c797f1445773247f8) Get more information and your ticket here: [**https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/specialevent/?j=1202731&sfmc\_sub=10391702&l=35&mid=100001791**](https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/specialevent/?j=1202731&sfmc_sub=10391702&l=35&mid=100001791)

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked Jim Walsh for sharing his information and insights during this hour. He also thanked the people who have been watching this interview.

He said that since 1987 his TV interview programs have provided solid – and fresh – information about a very wide variety of issues. Most people do not have access to these kinds of information, so he designed his TV series to meet people’s needs for information and insights so we can make the world a better place.

To solve the problems that are hurting our world, our nation, and our local community, we need both information and encouragement. This is especially important because powerful political and economic forces created serious problems and are throwing their propaganda at us. We must debunk their propaganda and understand what’s really going on.

During this hour we have shown that the fossil fuel industry is promoting self-serving scams as if they were valid remedies for the climate crisis. We need to know what is really happening, reject their propaganda, and push for real solutions. Glen thanked Jim, his organization, and other people who are doing that.

We need to build strong grassroots movements for good solutions. Then – with the people-power of strong grassroots movements – we can move the news media and the government to understand the problems, understand the solutions, and take positive actions.

This is true for energy issues and for all of the other issues we care about.

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at **glenanderson@integra.net**

Glen ends each TV program with this invitation to help make progress:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**