Reference Samples

Press Ctrl + f / Ctrl + F => search any character, (part of) word, or (part of) consecutive words sequence.

Where case-sensitive letter(s) is significant to your search: press Ctrl + F, then tick the "Case-Sensitive" box.

To browse between each of the Reference Sample texts (omit the " " enclosing the hi-lighted yellow item): press Ctrl + f, then enter "**Example:", "Fact:",** or "**Comment:**" => jump to the next/prev Reference Sample text.

Search themes & topics: (omit the " " enclosing the hi-lighted yellow theme/topic):

– themes*: "**solution**", "**ignoran**" (=> ~ce/t), "**idiocy**", "**disinform** (=> ~/~ation)", "**greed**", "**corrupt**", "**goes to**"

– topics: "**lobby**" (=> ~ing/ism), "**politi**" (=> ~cs/cal/cian/ska), "**money**", "**power**", "**info**", "**trust**", "**prison**", "**arbitrar**" (=> ~y/~ily/~iness), "**slave**" (=> ~/~ry), "**scien**" (=> ~ce/tist/tific), "**greenhouse**", "**gas**" (=> ~/~oline), "**CO2**", "**carbon**" (=>~/ ~dioxide/hydro~), "**captur**" (=> ~e/ing) , "**CCS**" , "**CCR**", "**methan**" (=> ~e/ol) , "**catalyst**", "**photosynthe**" (=> ~sis/tic), "**petrol**", "**alcohol**", "**ethanol**", "**diesel**", "**bio**", "**DME**", "**fuel**", "**recycl**" (=> ~e/ing), "**regenerat**" (=> ~e/ion), . . .

*) special **solution** theme feature:
Catalysts elaboration for recycling CO2 into regenerated energy: **CatELab-APS/e3** ("**Cat**alyst **ELab**orator – **A**pplying **A**rtificial **P**hotosynthesis **S**olutions **for e**nergy-**e**cology-**e**conomy") software on lease from **Arphosis.com**

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Example: **greed** and **corruption** – Evil companies do whatever necessary to make money geopardizing people's lives – on a global scale – and the foods and soils of our planet, aiming at winning enough corrupt politicians over on their side in order to change laws in their favor, in total disrespect and contempt of any dear human life, solely purposing their own enrichment.

Comment: Monsanto is a prime Murderer Company, permeated by Bilderberg Genocidal Ideology.

Evil and expedience ride high on public Ignorance. Ignorance kills mankind. Monsanto and politicians and authorities friendly to Monsanto-and-their-equals know this only too well. Individual ignorance entails suicide, public ignorance entails Genocide.

Question is: How far can they go before You get aware of that enemies are taking over the planet, aiming at killing You and Your dear ones off the face of the planet in the name of Mammon? Far enough for civil unrest, state of emergeny, curfew, even civil war for us to see? Well, once we've run out of options the Dirty Boys are the Victors and everyone else are Losers. And when we no longer have a choice, a lot of us will run with the Dirty Boys. When they have emptied Your pockets and grafted You with Death, You will be Wasted. Cause on a planet controlled by Evil, You are at any time expendable and exchangeable. And, once our legislators have let Evil over the bridge, the Losers are all doomed to oblivion. Unlike Evil, cause they will always have procured the economic means and Green Card access to the non-toxic and nutritious foods to which they will attain exclusive rights, their tillages guarded by armed force.

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/05/20/glyphosate-roundup-levels.aspx?e_cid=20140520Z2_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140520Z2&et_cid=DM45050&et_rid=526108286

“Extreme” Levels of Roundup Detected in Food—Are You Eating This Toxic Contaminant?

May 20, 2014 | 13,096 views

Story at-a-glance

- Recent research shows that genetically engineered (GE) soy contains high levels of glyphosate along with a poorer nutritional profile, leading the researchers to conclude that GE soy is NOT “substantially equivalent” to non-GE soy
- On average, GE soy contained 11.9 parts per million (ppm) of glyphosate. The highest residue level found was 20.1 ppm. No residues of either kind were found in the conventional non-GE and organic varieties
- Processed foods undoubtedly expose you to this toxic contamination, courtesy of the GE soy and vegetable oil, GE high fructose corn syrup, and/or GE sugar beets used
- Compared to conventionally-grown non-GE and GE soy, organic soybeans contained higher levels of protein and zinc, and lower levels of omega-6
- Argentina has become one of the largest producers of GE soy and corn, and along with it, the country has experienced an explosion of miscarriages, fertility problems, and abnormal fetal development

Large Pig Study Reveals Significant Inflammatory Response to Genetically Engineered Foods

By Dr. Mercola

In 2009, a French court found Monsanto guilty of lying; falsely advertising its Roundup herbicide as "biodegradable," "environmentally friendly" and claiming it "left the soil clean."

We're now starting to understand just how false such statements are. For example, last summer, a groundbreaking study revealed a previously unknown mechanism of harm from glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup.

The research showed that glyphosate residues, found in most processed foods in the Western diet courtesy of GE sugar beets, corn, and soy, "enhance the damaging effects of other food-borne chemical residues and toxins in the environment to disrupt normal body functions and induce disease."

More recently, a Norwegian study published in *Food Technology* found that genetically engineered (GE) soy contains high levels of glyphosate, along with a poorer nutritional profile, leading the researchers to question its quality and safety.

Evidence also suggests glyphosate may be a key player in Argentina's growing health problems, where birth defects and cancer rates have skyrocketed among GE corn and soya farming communities.

If You Eat Processed Food, You're Eating Glyphosate

While nearly one billion pounds of glyphosate is doused on both conventional and GE crops worldwide each year, GE crops receive the heaviest amounts. It's important to realize that processed foods undoubtedly expose you to this toxic contamination, courtesy of the soy and vegetable oil used.

Ditto for meats from animals raised in confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), as soy is a staple of conventional livestock feed. As noted in the featured article by Rodale News:

"That herbicide-laced soy winds up in thousands of nonorganic packaged foods and in animal feed for livestock like pigs, cows, chickens, and turkeys.
Why is this happening? Genetically engineered crops are manipulated in a way that could never occur in nature so plants like corn, soy, canola, cotton, and sugar beets can withstand high doses of glyphosate-containing herbicides that would normally kill them. The result? Roundup in food that people and farm animals eat."

Beware: Glyphosate Is a Systemic Contaminant

It's quite crucial to understand that glyphosate contamination is *systemic*, meaning it is present in every cell of the plant, from root to tip. It's not just an issue of topical contamination, as with many other agricultural chemicals sprayed on crops.
Normally, you need to thoroughly wash your produce to remove topical residues, but you simply cannot remove glyphosate from your produce. And neither can food and animal feed manufacturers who use GE ingredients in their products.

This is a major reason for avoiding processed foods, over and beyond the fact that processed foods are less healthy for you from a nutritional standpoint.

Making matters worse, while evidence is piling up showing the hazards of glyphosate on human health, farmers are ramping up their usage of the chemical due to the proliferation of resistant weeds, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently raised the allowable levels of glyphosate in food by significant amounts.
Allowable levels in oilseed crops such as soy were doubled, from 20 ppm to 40 ppm just lasts summer. It also raised the levels of permissible glyphosate contamination in other foods—many of which were raised to 15-25 times previous levels.

GE Soy Is NOT 'Substantially Equivalent' to Non-GE Soy, Researchers Say

The Norwegian study in question investigated contamination levels and nutritional contents of three varieties of Iowa-grown soybeans: Roundup Ready soybeans; non-GE, conventional soybeans grown using Roundup herbicide; and organic soybeans, grown without agricultural chemicals.
On average GE soy contained 11.9 parts per million (ppm) of glyphosate. The highest residue level found was 20.1 ppm. Meanwhile, no residues of either kind were found in the conventional non-GE and organic varieties. (Similar results were found in a 2012 nutritional analysis of GE corn, which was found to contain 13 ppm of glyphosate, compared to none in non-GMO corn.)
Such revelations have serious implications for Americans who eat an average of 193 pounds of genetically engineered foods each year. In an article for *The Ecologist*, two of the researchers point out that these levels are actually double, or more, of what *Monsanto itself* has referred to as "extreme levels:"
"All of the individual samples of GM-soy contained residues of both glyphosate and AMPA, on average 9.0 mg/kg. This amount is greater than is typical for many vitamins.
Monsanto (manufacturer of glyphosate) has claimed that residues of glyphosate in GM soy are lower than in conventional soybeans, where glyphosate residues have been measured up to 16-17 mg/kg (Monsanto 1999).
These residues, found in non-GM plants, likely must have been due to the practice of spraying before harvest (for desiccation).
***Another claim of Monsanto's has been that residue levels of up to 5.6 mg/kg in GM-soy represent '...extreme levels, and far higher than those typically found.'** (Monsanto 1999)."* [Emphasis mine]
The researchers also found nutritional differences between the three types of soy. Compared to conventionally grown non-GE and GE soy, organic soybeans contained higher levels of

protein and zinc, and lower levels of omega-6. According to the authors: *"This study rejects that GM soy is 'substantially equivalent' to non-GM soybeans."*

Toxicity of Roundup Has Been Vastly Underestimated

The Norwegian researchers also point out that the potential toxicity of Roundup has likely been vastly underestimated, as toxicity cannot be attributed solely to the active ingredient, glyphosate.

"When regulatory agencies assess pesticides for safety they invariably test only the claimed active ingredient. Nevertheless, these do not necessarily represent realistic conditions since in practice it is the full, formulated herbicide (there are many Roundup formulations) that is used in the field.Thus, it is relevant to consider, not only the active ingredient, in this case glyphosate and its breakdown product AMPA, but also the other compounds present in the herbicide formulation since these enhance toxicity," they write.

So, when you see "inert" or "inactive ingredients" listed on the label of a pesticide or herbicide, please understand that all this means is that those ingredients will *not harm pests or weeds*. This is how federal law classifies "inert" pesticide ingredients. It does NOT mean that those ingredients are not harmful to YOU, your children, or your pets.

Indeed, one 2012 study revealed that inert ingredients such as solvents, preservatives, surfactants and other added substances are anything but "inactive." They can, and oftentimes do, contribute to a product's toxicity in a synergistic manner—*even if non-toxic in isolation.* Certain adjuvants in glyphosate-based herbicides were also found to be "active principles of human cell toxicity," adding to the hazards inherent with glyphosate. It's well worth noting that, according to the researchers, this cell damage and/or cell death can occur at the residual levels found on Roundup-treated crops, as well as lawns and gardens where Roundup is applied for weed control.

They also suspect that Roundup might cause miscarriages and abnormal fetal development by interfering with hormone production -- problems that have skyrocketed in Argentina, following the introduction of GE soy. A toxic combination of Roundup and fertilizers has also been blamed for tens of thousands of deaths among farmers in Sri Lanka, India, and Central America's Pacific coastline (El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica).

Birth Malformation Skyrocketing in Agricultural Centers of Argentina

As noted in the featured BBC radio report above, Argentina has become one of the world's largest producers and exporters of GE soy and corn, and along with it, the country has experienced an explosion of miscarriages, fertility problems, and abnormal fetal development. In the province of Chaco, birth defects have quadrupled in the decade following the introduction of GE crops.

"[T]here is unease across the nation's vast GM belt, especially about health. In the northern province of Chaco, the minister of Public Health wants an independent commission to investigate cases of cancer and the incidence of children born with disabilities," BBC reports. *"Pressly interviews the University of Buenos Aires Dr. Andres Carrasco, who published a study in 2010 showing that glyphosate can cause birth defects in animal embryos. Pressly asks Carrasco — what should have happened after you published your paper? 'Very easy,' Carrasco says. 'The governments in Argentina — they should call for a moratorium.' 'But you then call the whole of the model into question — what does that mean for Argentina's economy?' Pressly asks. 'What about if we are poisoning our people?' Carrasco asks."*

More than 18 million hectares in Argentina are covered by GE soy, on which more than 300 million liters of pesticides are sprayed. In the village of Malvinas Argentinas, which is surrounded by soy plantations, the rate of miscarriage is 100 times the national average, courtesy of glyphosate. According to Dr. Medardo Vasquez, a neonatal specialist at the Children's Hospital in Cordoba, featured in the documentary film Argentina: The Bad Seed:

"I see new-born infants, many of whom are malformed. I have to tell parents that their children are dying because of these agricultural methods. In some areas in Argentina the primary cause of death for children less than one year old is malformations."

Monsanto denies links between GMOs and cancer, and birth defects in Argentina:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=sY16uNIjzKk

When Food Is Poison...

What the biotech industry, spearheaded by Monsanto, has managed to do is turn food into poison... quite literally, and in more ways than one. Glyphosate, which we now know systemically contaminates the plant and cannot be washed off, has a number of devastating biological effects, including the following:

Nutritional deficiencies, as glyphosate immobilizes certain nutrients and alters the nutritional composition of the treated crop	Disruption of the biosynthesis of aromatic amino acids (these are essential amino acids not produced in your body that must be supplied via your diet)
Increased toxin exposure (this includes high levels of glyphosate and formaldehyde in the food itself)	Impairment of sulfate transport and sulfur metabolism; sulfate deficiency
Systemic toxicity—a side effect of extreme disruption of microbial function throughout your body; beneficial microbes in particular, allowing for overgrowth of pathogens	Gut dysbiosis (imbalances in gut bacteria, inflammation, leaky gut, and food allergies such as gluten intolerance)
Enhancement of damaging effects of other food-borne chemical residues and environmental toxins as a result of glyphosate shutting down the function of detoxifying enzymes	Creation of ammonia (a byproduct created when certain microbes break down glyphosate), which can lead to brain inflammation associated with autism and Alzheimer's disease

Some researchers now believe glyphosate may very well be one of *the* most important factors in the development of a wide variety of modern diseases and conditions, including but not limited to:

Autism	Gastrointestinal diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease, chronic diarrhea, colitis, and Crohn's disease	Obesity

Allergies	Cardiovascular disease	Depression
Cancer	Infertility	Alzheimer's disease
Parkinson's disease	Multiple sclerosis	ALS and more

How to Protect Yourself and Your Family from This Systemic Poison

If this isn't reason enough to become an avid label reader to avoid corn, soy, or sugar beet ingredients, I don't know what is. Ideally, you'd be best off opting for products bearing the USDA 100% organic label when buying processed foods in order to avoid exposure to agricultural chemicals, which certainly are not limited to Roundup. Don't make the mistake of confusing the"natural" label with organic standards, however. The "natural" label is *not* based on any standards and is frequently misused by sellers of GE products.

Growers and manufacturers of organic products bearing the USDA seal, on the other hand, have to meet the strictest standards of any of the currently available organic labels. My personal recommendation is to forgo processed fare altogether. Pick up a good cookbook, and start cooking from scratch using whole organic ingredients instead. This really is the key to optimal health. Meats need to be grass-fed or pastured to make sure the animals were not fed GE corn or soy feed. You'd also be wise to stop using Roundup around your home, where children and pets can come into contact with it simply by walking across the area.

Biological Farming Is the Way Out of This Mess

Last year, I interviewed Dr. Elaine Ingham, an internationally recognized expert on the benefits of sustainable soil science. According to Dr. Ingham and other soil experts, a key component of successful agriculture lies in having the appropriate microbial life in the soil. This includes beneficial species of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and earthworms—all of which contribute to plant growth in a number of different ways. The *real* nutrition plants require is actually derived from these beneficial microorganisms in the soil, which take the mineral material in the soil and convert it into a plant-available form. Without these microbes plants are unable to achieve their maximum genetic potential, which is one of the reasons I am not a fan of hydroponics as it that is really growing with chemicals and no microbes.

Chemical agriculture is an invention that has now been proven unsustainable, and we must make the appropriate changes if we want our descendants to survive on this planet—the situation is becoming *that* dire. Chemical technology companies have infiltrated and taken over agriculture, and it's an extremely profitable business. But it's quite literally making our food toxic; not to mention the fact that agricultural chemicals are also rendering water supplies undrinkable and unsuitable for marine life.

Supporting your local organic farmer is therefore critical both for the environment and your family's health. Another alternative is to start growing some of your own. Sprouts are an excellent place to start if you're new to gardening. Adding them to your salad, for example, can significantly boost the nutritional content of your meal. I also encourage you to support any and all state GE labeling initiatives. The chemical biotechnology industry has profited through secrecy long enough; it's time for them to label their wares. Researchers are saying GE foods are NOT equivalent to non-GE foods; scientific testing bears that out, and we have a right to know what's what when shopping.

Vote with Your Pocketbook, Every Day

The food companies on the left of this graphic spent tens of millions of dollars in the last two labeling campaigns—in California and Washington State–to prevent you from knowing what's in your food. You can even the score by switching to the brands on the right; all of whom stood behind the I-522 Right to Know campaign. Voting with your pocketbook, at every meal, matters. It makes a huge difference. By boycotting GMA member Traitor Brands, you can help level the playing field, and help take back control of our food supply.

I encourage you to continue educating yourself about genetically engineered foods, and to share what you've learned with family and friends. Remember, unless a food is certified organic, you can assume it contains GMO ingredients if it contains sugar from sugar beets, soy, or corn, or any of their derivatives.

The Alarming Truths About GMOs:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=_FkY8tKS1uo

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Example: **greed** and **corruption** – Politicians' and company leaders' **greed** for power and money knows of no limits. Utility-sponsored slowdowns and moratoriums today do, and henceforth threaten to, hamper and eventually stifleany going-green initiatives.

Comment: Family loving, caring common people are lured on to self-destruction by the promises of independence from economical powers – state-owned companies – that arbitrarily blot out not only private households but foremost their initiatives to counteract fossil fuel dependence on a local scale, negatively impacting people's faith in the promises of (any future) green turning-points for us humans.

Likewise, in Germany the government did something grossely similar: first they subsidized solar installations of caring common families for years, filling the entire nation with roof-top solar panels, then by the stroke of a pen they abolished the very same subsidiaries, leaving millions of caring common home owners indebted, encumbered, mistrusting politicians as well as not only their own but also the world's options for going green.

Question is: How can we humans ever found a solid belief in a catastrophy-less future when authorities and companies act like this out of sheer greed, naturally entailing corruption… ? How can we ever break loose from

the iron grip of Expedience? How could anyone save our world when left alone in the alligator marshes with nothing but a rubber raft to rely on?

Answer is: By minimizing and preferably excluding politicians' doings wherever we go.

http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2014-3-may-june/feature/throwing-shade

THROWING SHADE

Fearing lost profits, the nation's investor-owned utilities are moving to blot out the solar revolution.

BY EDWARD HUMES

Illustration by Thomas James

For Cynthia Cantero, putting solar panels atop her Oahu, Hawaii, home seemed like a no-brainer. In a state where most electricity is generated by burning pricey imported oil and where electricity rates are three times the U.S. average, she considered making her own power "a godsend."

The 54-year-old cancer patient and mother of five researched and shopped for months to put together her solar deal: She and her husband would secure a home equity loan to pay off mounting medical bills, buy a badly needed new family car, and install a solar array large enough for all of their electricity needs. Their loan payments would be less than the family's current $500-plus monthly electric bill, and once they paid off thenote, their home would be powered practically for free.

Math like that has made Hawaii one of the nation's solar leaders, with a higher proportion of solar-powered households than any other state--including 1 in 10 homes on its most populous island, Oahu.

But that same math is denting the revenues of the state's dominant utility, Hawaiian Electric Company. After Cantero's loan closed and her family had fully committed to going solar, Hawaiian Electric refused to approve their system. Homemade solar power, the utility notified her, had saturated the grid, threatening its reliability and safety. Circuits could malfunction and voltage could spike, it claimed, causing blackouts and brownouts. Cantero would have to wait while Hawaiian Electric studied the matter, then possibly pay thousands of dollars to help the utility upgrade its circuits. A thousand other Hawaii households were consigned to a similar solar limbo; Jeff Mikulina, executive director of the state's Blue Planet Foundation, called it a "de facto moratorium on solar."

Five months later, the utility's dire predictions haven't come to pass and the study remains uncompleted. But solar installations and jobs have slowed statewide, and Cantero and her husband, a Honolulu truck driver, have been paying their whopping electric bill plus the loan for the solar array that was supposed to replace it, while falling behind on everything else. They fear foreclosure is on the horizon.

"I thought I was doing the right thing for my family and the environment, and so I could know my children would be taken care of after I'm gone," Cantero says. "Here I am stuck in a nightmare, where a powerful utility can just change the rules while I lose everything."

Utility officials say they are doing the best they can with a grid built for one-way electricity flow, now strained by record amounts of home-brewed solar power flowing back upstream. Hawaiian Electric spokesman Peter Rosegg says that, despite restrictions, solar homeowners are still being connected--more than 40,000 homes to date--and that any delays are "to avoid safety and reliability risks for themselves and their neighbors with and without solar."

But Cantero sees herself as a casualty of a struggle that pits dirty energy against clean, old business models against new, and ratepayers against one another--a war over the future of rooftop solar.

She is not alone. Nor is Hawaii. In 21 other states across the country, the utility industry is challenging the laws, rules, and programs that have made solar a formidable clean energy contender. Investor-owned utilities see the recent rapid growth of rooftop solar--and all forms of homemade electricity, for that matter--as a revenue-killing, disruptive threat, particularly after a report last year from industry think tank Edison Electric Institute that both terrified and galvanized the industry. Utilities are fighting back with multimillion-dollar anti-solar ad campaigns that portray solar homeowners as mooching "free riders" who avoid paying their fair share for the grid and thereby raise electricity prices for everyone else. "I shouldn't have to pay for my neighbor's solar," a homeowner gripes in an anti-solar ad funded by Edison Electric.

Driving this battle is the simple economic reality that once-expensive solar energy is now competitive with utility power in many parts of the country--and sometimes dramatically cheaper. In Hawaii, the cost per kilowatt-hour for utility-scale solar power is less than half of what Hawaiian Electric charges its customers. And falling prices for solar panels, combined with government incentives and wildly popular no-money-down solar leases, make home-brewed solar energy not only viable for many homeowners but also downright profitable.

The market has responded. Last year, a new rooftop solar system was installed in the United States every four minutes, according to green market analyst GTM Research--20 times the growth rate in 2006. By 2016, GTM predicts, a new rooftop solar system will go up every 83 seconds. Solar still represents less than 1 percent of U.S. electrical generation, but its stratospheric growth could quickly change that.

"David is starting to beat Goliath," says John Farrell, head of the Minnesota-based Democratic Energy Program of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Goliath, he notes, has "a business model that has been protected as a government-sanctioned monopoly for nearly a century. It has had no need to innovate--ever. And it seems incapable of change."

That business model is based on big centralized power plants, whereas rooftop solar's model is "distributed" energy, generated by scattered homes and businesses. "We have been generating power for a hundred years in a way that is environmentally unsustainable and a tragedy from an equity standpoint," Farrell says. "We finally have a chance to fix that. The notion that this is somehow a cost is silly. The centralized model is broken. The distributed model is working. It empowers people and democratizes energy."

This anti-solar ad, produced by a group affiliated with the Koch brothers, features sinister "California billionaires.": http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZOi-_sPF6s

Last year these dueling notions of power generation clashed dramatically in Arizona. With an average of 300 days of sunshine a year, the Grand Canyon State is an ideal landscape for solar. Nearly 2 percent of the customers of Arizona Public Service, the state's dominant utility, have rooftop solar installations--some 18,000 households. This lets them cut their home electric bills by an average of 70 percent, according to the Arizona Corporation Commission, which regulates utilities in the state.

In July the utility launched a major campaign to slow further home solar growth, taking aim at a crucial incentive called net metering. (The tactic was recommended by the American Legislative Exchange Council, the right-wing anti-renewable energy nonprofit funded in part by the Koch brothers' oil fortune.) Net metering, adopted in 43 states, lets solar homeowners' electric meters run backward when they generate more power than they need and compels utilities to credit homeowners for their electricity at retail rates. In other words, utilities must pay homeowners for their solar power at the same rate that they charge their customers.

The utility industry loathes net metering; it wants to charge retail rates, not pay them. Just as predictably, the solar industry loves the program because it makes home solar pencil out, even for homeowners of modest means. More than any other factor, net metering has powered the recent growth in solar. It helped California, for example, double the amount of its rooftop solar last year to two gigawatts.

Arizona Public Service proposed two options to deal with future solar installations. It would either cut net metering payments in half or bill solar households $8 a month for every kilowatt of generating capacity on their rooftop. In Arizona, where the average rooftop capacity is just under 7 kilowatts, that would amount to a typical fee of $50 a month--and as much as $100 a month for homeowners with large systems. Staff analysts for the Arizona Corporation Commission countered with a proposal for a $3-per-kilowatt charge. Even that, solar advocates complain, would hurt the industry and kill jobs.

"Customers who chose to invest in solar should be rewarded, not taxed, for their investment," Lyndon Rive, CEO of solar-leasing giant SolarCity, wrote to Arizona officials in October. Penalizing fees, he warned, "would likely serve as the death knell for many participants in the solar industry."

The ensuing battle drew in national combatants, including Grover Norquist and his Americans for Tax Reform and the Edison Electric Institute. "California billionaires are getting rich off your tax dollars," one anti-solar television ad proclaimed, with images of suspicious business deals going on at the door of a corporate jet. The ad, produced by an organization called 60 Plus, which receives funding from the Koch brothers donor network, also tried to link California solar industry leaders Sunrun and SolarCity to the failed company Solyndra, which went bankrupt in 2012 after receiving federal subsidies from the Obama administration.

The campaign sought to tar solar rather than make a case against net metering. The "tax dollars" mentioned in the ads, for example, refer to federal solar subsidies and tax breaks that have nothing to do with net metering or utility rates. One of solar's benefits to utilities and ratepayers is that they don't have to pay a cent for the equipment; unlike utility power plants, which ratepayers really do subsidize, solar homeowners and businesses absorb those costs. This was a core justification for net metering in the first place--to reward homeowners for their infrastructure investment with a fair price. But it's a hard concept to explain in a 15-second TV spot.

Arizona Public Service initially denied involvement with the "California billionaires" ad and others like it, but eventually admitted that it had given money to 60 Plus as part of a $3.7 million campaign to unravel net metering in the state. The Edison Electric Institute kicked in another $500,000 to fund a 10-day TV campaign branding solar homeowners as free riders.

"The average rooftop solar system on an Arizona home adds $20,000 in costs for non-solar customers over its lifetime," claims Don Brandt, Arizona Public Service's chairman and CEO. "As more customers install solar . . . the burden on non-solar customers becomes greater and greater. Eventually, you run out of your neighbor's money."

There's a problem with this cost-shift argument, says Tom Beach of CrossBorder Energy in Berkeley, California: The data don't support it. In fact, he says, "it's just the opposite."

Beach has studied the costs and benefits of rooftop solar in eight battleground states, usually at the behest of solar energy companies and nonprofits. Brandt's $20,000 calculation, he says, is based on the cost to the utility of net metering but ignores or undervalues solar's benefits. When utilities assess the value of their own new power plants, they calculate the full range of lifetime costs and benefits. They don't do so for homegrown solar, however, so Beach did it for them, reckoning the dollar value of what distributed home solar brings to the table: It reduces the need for expensive new power plants and transmission lines; less energy is lost in transmission because much of the power is used right where it's generated; it requires no fuel and so provides a hedge against future fossil fuel price increases; and it could allow utilities to meet state renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission goals without paying for utility-scale solar and wind farms.

When Beach applied that analysis in California, he found that rooftop solar costs and benefits were about equal: Monthly electric bills were lower for solar homeowners, but the financial benefits their panels provided to the grid made up the difference.

When he ran the same study in Arizona, he found the benefits side was far higher: For every dollar of solar cost to the utility (primarily from net metering), the state's solar homeowners provided $1.54 in long-term benefits. According to Beach's analysis, Arizona's solar roofs subsidize other ratepayers and the utility to the tune of $34 million a year. So if anyone is free-riding, it's the utility and non-solar ratepayers.

This is why the cost-shifting argument has solar advocates in an uproar. "Their numbers are a joke," says Bernadette Del Chiaro, executive director of the California Solar Energy Industries Association. But explaining the complex web of benefits is much harder than pointing to the lower electric bills solar homeowners are paying and suggesting they're getting away with something. It's deceptive, Del Chiaro complains, but effective. "They've framed the debate," she says with grudging admiration. "Now the debate is not if there is a cost shift--it's about how much. That's what we're forced to talk about."

In the end, the Arizona Corporation Commission voted 3 to 2 last November for a compromise that preserved net metering but imposed a charge for solar customers that works out to about $5 a month for the average installation.

Solar industry representatives say they can live with the fee, although the margins on leased systems are so small that it's still likely to hurt growth. "It could have been much worse," says Annie Lappe, deputy director of the Vote Solar Initiative, which campaigned against any fee in Arizona. The state will likely launch a more comprehensive review of solar costs and benefits next year as part of an Arizona Public Service rate review. That could lead to higher fees for solar homeowners--or, as Lappe and her allies hope, a repeal of the $5 monthly charge.

- "I thought I was doing the right thing for my family and the environment. Here I am stuck in a nightmare, where a powerful utility can just change the rules while I lose everything."

For its part, Arizona Public Service was stung by the small size of the fee, an order of magnitude less than it had requested. But the victory may be the utility's in the end, because even a small fee sets a precedent. According to utility senior vice president Jeff Guldner, the decision ratified the

notion that there is a cost shift from solar homeowners to other ratepayers. He predicted that other states would reach similar conclusions.

Indeed, the debate over cost and fairness has spread. Utilities in California and Colorado, among others, are disputing the value of home solar power. In California, major utilities want either a grid-usage fee for solar homes or a rollback of net metering. They had hoped to kill net metering this year with an industry-friendly cost-benefit study of rooftop solar that found massive cost shifts. Since discredited, the study considered as a "cost" not just the solar power that homeowners sell to the grid but also what they consume at home. (By that logic, installing home insulation or even LED lightbulbs would be free-riding too.) The same state legislature that ordered the bogus study then made it largely irrelevant by preserving net metering through 2016 or 2017 and ordering California's Public Utilities Commission to reevaluate the whole program and devise a successor.

Also on the block in California is the nascent market for home solar systems that incorporate battery storage. SolarCity is partnering with electric car company Tesla on one such system (the CEOs of the two companies, Rive and Elon Musk, are cousins). The idea is to store solar energy in battery packs for use at night, with a connection to the grid solely for backup. The state's three largest utilities--Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric, and San Diego Gas and Electric--have all refused to connect any such systems to the grid, citing reliability concerns. Even more than net metering, battery storage threatens the utility business model; it could, for example, allow homeowners to form small, superefficient neighborhood microgrids that huge, costly utilities could never outcompete. (See "Innovate," July/August 2013.) More than 300 California households are awaiting the commission's decision so they can flip the switch on the solar-battery systems waiting in their garages.

In Colorado, utility giant Xcel released a study last summer purporting to show massive cost shifts for solar power that justify slashing net metering reimbursement rates in half. The study was supposed to have been vetted by environmental and industry experts, but that never happened. ("A cynic might conclude that they hoped it would just slip through," Lappe says.)

Xcel's gambit led to public outcry. The utility commission received almost 30,000 comments opposing the move, more than 200 protesters marched on the utility's Denver office, and a poll showed that 78 percent of Coloradans support net metering. Tom Beach analyzed the situation and found, once again, that the utility had undervalued solar and that, in fact, its benefits in Xcel's service area outweigh costs by $13.6 million a year. In late January, after months of waffling, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission agreed to preserve net metering for the time being, pending a series of hearings later this year.

A similar dispute in Minnesota ended with a clean call in favor of solar. In order to meet future demand, the state decided it needed more electric generating capacity, and for the first time, it required competitive bids. Xcel and two other companies submitted plans for gas-fired power plants. Minnesota-based Geronimo Energy proposed a distributed solar project--not on rooftops, but a network of 20 ground-based solar outposts totaling 100 megawatts of maximum output. Geronimo cannily designed them to sit close to existing substations to minimize energy loss through transmission and the need for new lines. The proposal also dovetailed with Minnesota's new requirement that investor-owned utilities obtain 1.5 percent of their power from solar. "Everything was designed to make it cost-competitive with fossil fuels," says Betsy Engelking, Geronimo's vice president. "We knew it was a long shot, but the value was there."

The issue eventually came before administrative law judge Eric Lipman, who ran the numbers and found that the solar option would save Minnesota $46 million over the life of the project. "The greatest value to Minnesota and Xcel's ratepayers is drawn from selecting Geronimo's solar energy proposal," he wrote.

Xcel and other fossil fuel bidders decried Lipman's decision and are demanding that the state Public Utilities Commission overturn it. Should Geronimo's Aurora Project eventually be built, it would increase Minnesota's solar-generating capacity sevenfold.

"Look at Hawaii," says Robert Harris, head of the Sierra Club's Hawaii Chapter. "This is the future of solar." He doesn't mean that in a good way; he worries that as other states begin to reach Hawaii's level of solar growth, utility-sponsored slowdowns and moratoriums will become more common.

Harris argues that Hawaiian Electric is using fears of solar oversaturation of the grid as a pretense for slowing down a competing energy source. There is no evidence, he says, of any brownouts, fires, failures, or other hazards from home solar installations. To the extent that there are technical issues with aged or inadequate circuits, he says, solar has been growing rapidly in the state for years, and Hawaiian Electric has had plenty of time to prepare for this moment.

"There are technical and economic issues that could be addressed if everyone comes to the table," he says. "Instead, our utility appears to publicly support solar but is working behind the scenes to stop greater adoption."

Cantero, who began a series of experimental cancer treatments in the midst of her solar disaster, says the stress was impeding her recovery. She turned to the state legislature for help and received a sympathetic reception while testifying in February. Republican state representative Cynthia Thielen advised Hawaiian Electric to embrace the rise of solar energy or risk obsolescence. "Remember what happened to Blockbuster Video," she said. "They used to be on every street corner too."

William Walker, who lives in the same Ewa Beach community of Oahu as Cantero, has also been forbidden to connect his solar installation, but he has gone on the offensive. The 33-year-old investigator for the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs wrote a blistering op-ed in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* accusing the utility of trying to "preserve its century-old business model that keeps working-class ratepayers like me on the hook, while paying its bloated executives millions of dollars." Then, after paying his $300 electric bill for three months while his solar panels sat uselessly in the bright Hawaiian sun, Walker decided to flip his switch to see what would happen. There were no explosions, fires, or brownouts. His system, he says, is "fully functional yet not approved."

Clean energy advocate John Farrell believes the $270-billion-a-year investor-owned utility industry is making a strategic error by fighting home solar. State-by-state battles may slow distributed solar power, he says, but it's too late to stop it, because solar will soon beat utility power on price. Hawaii got to parity first, but other places are catching up: San Diego now, New York City later this year, followed by Southern California next year, according to a study by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. This same study found that by 2021, rooftop solar power will be as cheap as or cheaper than electricity from local utilities for half the U.S. population.

"A lot of political power and money is behind the utilities," Farrell says. "They feel their role is to send electrons to you and your role is to send money to them, and any change to that dynamic--like distributed solar generation--overturns that paradigm. I'm an optimist. There is going to be change, because people want the independence of making their own energy. The growth of distributed solar would be very difficult to quash now."

This article was funded by the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign (beyondcoal.org).

NET METERING BATTLEGROUNDS

Forty-three states plus the District of Columbia encourage rooftop solar through net metering--a policy that requires utilities to purchase energy from homeowners at retail rates. Investor-owned utilities hate that; they want to pay the wholesale rate, or less. Now they are seeking to modify or reverse this critical program in the following states--often by claiming that solar homeowners are unfairly shifting costs onto their non-solar neighbors.

ARIZONA
The state was the first to slap a net-metering fee onto customers after a multimillion-dollar media and lobbying campaign supported by Arizona Public Service, fossil fuel interests, and the right-wing American Legislative Exchange Council. Dominant state utility APS wanted a solar-killing $50-a-month average fee per net-metered customer, but got only $5.

California
Net metering was supposed to end this year, but got a legislative reprieve and is now set to expire in 2016 or 2017, when rooftop solar is expected to reach 5 percent of the state's generating capacity. Regulatory battles are also brewing over the utility industry's refusal to connect solar homes that have battery storage and over new rate proposals that could add 30 percent to the cost of rooftop solar.

Colorado
In 2013, utility giant Xcel slipped a request to gut net metering into a compliance hearing on state renewable energy standards. After a public outcry, state regulators turned down the request but opened a new proceeding to consider changes to net metering and the costs and benefits of rooftop solar; a decision is expected later this year.

Florida
Florida currently has one of the nation's most generous net metering programs: Any customer using any form of renewable energy up to a whopping two megawatts (enough power for 300 homes) is credited at the retail rate until their electric bill zeros out, and thereafter receives an annual check for excess power paid at what it would cost the utility to buy the power elsewhere. The issue is expected to come up in this year's governor's race.

Georgia
Georgia Power sought a $30 monthly charge for customers with rooftop solar. Unexpected opposition from a "Green Tea Coalition" of a Tea Party leader, the Sierra Club, the NAACP, and Occupy Atlanta got the utility to withdraw its request, but it vowed to try again at a later date.

Hawaii
Regulators are reviewing net metering and claims of cost shifting after the Hawaiian Electric Company stopped connecting new home solar installations late last year, claiming the grid was "saturated."

Idaho
Idaho Power sought permission to raise its $5 monthly grid-connect fee for net metering customers to $20.92 for homeowners and $22.49 for small businesses. Regulators said no, but invited the utility to raise net metering issues in a general rate hearing later this year.

Iowa
Regulators have opened a proceeding to craft new rules and rates for distributed generation of all types and to

decide whether it should be encouraged or discouraged in the future. Utilities have gone to court and to the Iowa Utilities Board in an attempt to create new hurdles for rooftop solar.

Illinois
Confusion in this state's deregulated electricity market has allowed some electric companies to refuse to offer net metering for the hundreds of thousands of state residents who buy power from alternative retail electric suppliers rather than one of the state's major utilities. New rules are expected later this year.

Kansas
Hearings began early this year on legislation to kill net metering in a state that has seen explosive solar growth. Pending bills supported by Kansas's two major utilities would replace retail rates for home solar with much lower rates based on the utility's avoided costs.

Louisiana
Repeated utility proposals to kill retail rates for net metering failed last year, but attempts by the solar industry to lift very restrictive caps on the number of net-metered homes have stalled as well. Current caps allow each power company in the state to stop offering new connections once net-metered homes reach .05 percent of peak sales--as some utilities have already done.

Massachusetts
The state is about four-fifths of the way to hitting its 666-megawatt net metering cap, and the solar and utility industries are battling over what happens next. Legislative hearings began earlier this year.

Minnesota
This snowy but solar-friendly state is one of the hottest solar battlegrounds in the country. Regulators are considering how to replace net metering with a "value of solar tariff," which, depending on the formula used, could be more or less generous than retail rates. The program would be voluntary. Other changes on the table include lifting the statewide cap on individual system size from 40 kilowatts to 1 megawatt, which the utility industry opposes. Finally, utilities are fighting a recent decision to build Aurora, a large distributed solar project, instead of gas-fueled power plants to meet the state's future electricity needs.

Nevada
The future of net metering in the Silver State will be determined in October following a yearlong study of the costs and benefits of the program. At stake is the retail rate currently paid to solar homeowners that has fueled explosive solar growth here.

New York
Regulators are considering a petition to expand net metering to include remote installations, such as micro-hydroelectric generators. They could decide to expand--or limit--remote solar projects' eligibility for net metering.

North Carolina
Duke Energy is asking regulators to slash the net metering retail rate of 11 cents per kilowatt to the wholesale rate of 5 to 7 cents to avoid alleged cost shifting. Duke wants to buy solar wholesale from homeowners, then sell it back to its customers at the retail rate. The media campaign has begun, and cost-benefit studies are in the works. The state's utilities commission is expected to take up the request later this year.

Ohio
Regulators are revising rules on smart meters, the smart grid, and net metering. So far the proposals on the table are supported by the solar industry, but conservative lawmakers are attacking all programs that favor renewables. That faction is led by state lawmaker and American Legislative Exchange Council board member Bill Seitz, who likens Ohio's current rules to "Stalinist government mandates."

Rhode Island
Rhode Island joined the list of states where a repeal of all renewable energy standards is being attempted.

South Carolina
Two related battles will determine the fate of solar in South Carolina, which currently lags behind the rest of the nation. First is a regulatory hearing on all forms of distributive generation, in which solar companies and environmental groups--including the Sierra Club--are pushing to reverse an initial determination that rooftop-solar leases should be banned as unfair competition to the utility industry. Once that case is decided, regulators will consider expanding the state's stingy net metering policies, which currently have very low caps on the amount of solar allowed on individual rooftops and system-wide (0.2 percent of total capacity).

Utah
Rocky Mountain Power was pursuing state legislation to allow the utility to add a $4.25 monthly net metering fee for solar customers. A March compromise reached with solar advocates gives the state Public Service Commission the power to impose a "reasonable fee" on solar customers--but it must also weigh the benefits those customers provide to the grid.

Vermont
Thousands of residents were deterred from going solar in 2013 because the state's cap limited net metering to 4

percent of each power company's peak demand. Some power companies have already reached the limit. Legislation was introduced this year to boost the cap to 15 percent.

This article has been corrected.

SEE MORE FEATURE STORIES

EDWARD HUMES *is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of 13 nonfiction books, including* Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash, *PEN Award-winning* No Matter How Loud I Shout: A Year in the Life of Juvenile Court, *and the true-crime bestseller* Mississippi Mud. *His latest book is a biography of winemaking legend Jess Jackson*, A Man and His Mountain. *In addition to* Sierra, *Humes has written for* Los Angeles, the Wall Street Journal, Forbes *and other publications. He lives in Southern California with his wife, two children. Follow him on Twitter* @edwardhumes *and at* www.edwardhumes.com.

BY EDWARD HUMES

Tags: activism, clean energy, dirty energy, solar power

PUBLISHED IN THE MAY/JUNE 2014 ISSUE OF *SIERRA* MAGAZINE

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Example: Proof of non-stoppable **Methane** (a very aggressive Greenhouse Gas, a k a Natural Gas) **leaking** from pipelines.

Also, **greedy** politicians and decision makers in authority seemingly always hunger limitlessly for money and power, profiting from any situation, no matter what's at stake…

Comment: Methane leaking from pipelines – all around the world (the article deals with the U.S. alone) – due to the fact that gas leaks from any pipeline are inevitable AND are severed by politicians and authorities biding their time (meanwhile more likely than not open to "suggested solutions" from generous corporate leaders) "considering " agreeing to the recommendations issued (end of July 2014, four months earlier) by the Obama administration.

The shale gas (fracking) programs presently surging in number around the U.S, now Great Britain, and other countries will leak and leak and leak until CO2 no longer is perceived as THE problem to global warming and climate change – Yes, devastating ocean and lake acicification is the child of atmospheric CO2 surplus, but allowing Methane to flow out into the atmosphere as the world's eyes are turned towards Carbondioxide undoubtedly will constitue our future main deathblow. All while the U.S. EPA takes month in and month out to "consider" whether and (if so) how and when to implement directives issued (drowsily and way overdue, but still) by the Obama administration…

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/26/3464570/epa-inspector-general-methane-report/

EPA Is Failing To Stop Methane Leaks From Pipelines, Inspector General Says

BY **KATIE VALENTINE** POSTED ON JULY 26, 2014 AT 12:01 PM

"EPA Is Failing To Stop Methane Leaks From Pipelines, Inspector General Says"

CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

The Environmental Protection Agency isn't doing enough to prevent methane from escaping from natural gas pipelines, according to a new report from the agency's internal watchdog.

The report, published Friday by the EPA's Inspector General, stated that in 2011, more than $192 million worth of natural gas was lost due to leaks in pipelines. The report said that the agency, which until now has "placed little focus and attention on reducing methane emissions from pipelines in the natural gas distribution center," needs to take steps to better prevent methane from escaping. It recommended that the EPA work with the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to try to fix the problem, a partnership President Barack Obama has also called for.

Up until now, however, the EPA has only implemented a program that encourages natural gas companies to reduce their methane emissions voluntarily, but doesn't require them to do so. So far, that program hasn't done enough, the report states.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that traps 86 times more heat as CO2 does over a 20-year period. Scientists have warned that methane emissions from the natural gas industry are a significant contributor to climate change, and in 2013, President Obama's Climate Action Plan stated that "curbing emissions of methane is critical to our overall effort to address global climate change."

The EPA has agreed to take the Inspector General's recommendations to partner with PHMSA and create a plan to deal with the financial losses of methane leaks, but it has not yet agreed to other recommendations in the report, including setting performance goals for leak reduction and tracking methane emissions from natural gas pipelines.

The report states that methane leaks typically occur in older pipelines made of cast iron or unprotected steel, which are more prone to cracking and corrosion. Earlier this week, areport from the BlueGreen Alliance recommended that the U.S. replace pipelines every 10 years, rather than every 30, a sped-up timeline that would cut pollution and risk of spills as well as create jobs and increase U.S. GDP.

The Inspector General and BlueGreen Alliance's reports are the latest of many that warn of major methane emissions from the natural gas sector. Earlier this month, a study found that 40 percent of oil and gas wells in the Marcellus shale region are predicted to fail, causing them to leak methane into the atmosphere and water. Another

study from the University of Colorado Boulder in May found methane leaks from oil and gas development in Colorado were three times greater than they had been predicted to be by emissions inventory estimates.
This also isn't the first time the EPA has been targeted for doing too little to measure or reduce methane emissions. In May, two Cornell Researchers said the EPA is drastically underestimating the potency of methane, and that not enough is being done to reduce methane emissions in the U.S. The White House issued a strategy for methane on March 28, and is expected to decide by later this year whether or not new EPA regulations on methane emissions are necessary.

Example: Scientific proof of Siberian permafrost tundra melting, **releasing Methane** into the atmosphere.

Comment: Denier camps of politicians and other decision makers as well as among common people will nevertheless undoubtedly try to come up with dismissals (some amusing examples provided in the article).

Methane (a k a Natural Gas) is a very aggressive Greenhouse Gas that traps **86 times** more heat than CO2 comparatively does over a 20-year period.

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/08/01/3466466/siberian-craters-permafrost-climate-change/?icamp=recirc&iref=gravity&imed=rr1x4

The Really Scary Thing About Those Jaw-Dropping Siberian Craters

BY **ARI PHILLIPS** POSTED ON AUGUST 1, 2014 AT 10:39 AM

"The Really Scary Thing About Those Jaw-Dropping Siberian Craters"

Share:

CREDIT: FLICKR/ STEVE JURVETSON

Russian scientists have determined that a massive crater discovered in a remote part of Siberia was probably caused by thawing permafrost. The crater is in the Yamal Peninsula, which means "end of the world." It caught hold of the media spotlight in mid-July when it was spotted by oil and gas workers flying over the area. At roughly 200 feet wide and seemingly bottomless, speculation abounded about the cause with the Siberian Times reporting that, "theories range from meteorites, stray missiles, a man-made prank, and aliens, to an explosive cocktail of methane or shale gas suddenly exploding."

Since this first discovery, two other smaller craters have been spotted in the surrounding regions, fueling even more armchair conjecture. Russian scientists sent to the site are now providing first-hand data showing that unusually high concentrations of methane of up to 9.6 percent were present at the bottom of the first large crater shortly after it was discovered on July 16. Andrei Plekhanov, an archaeologist at the Scientific Centre of Arctic Studies in Salekhard, Russia, who led an expedition to the crater, told The Journal Nature that air normally contains just 0.000179 percent methane.

The last two summers in the Yamal have been exceptionally warm at about nine degrees Fahrenheit above average.

According to Plekhanov, the last two summers in the Yamal have been exceptionally warm at about nine degrees Fahrenheit above average. Rising temperatures could have allowed the permafrost to thaw and collapse, releasing the methane previously trapped by the subterranean ice. Methane is the primary component of natural gas. The original crater is about 20 miles from a large natural gas plant and the entire Yamal Peninsula is rich in natural gas that is being extensively tapped to help fuel Russia's natural gas boom.

Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten, a geochemist at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Potsdam, Germany, told Nature that climate change and the slow, steady thaw of the region could be to blame.

"Gas pressure increased until it was high enough to push away the overlying layers in a powerful injection, forming the crater," he said.

This frame grab made Wednesday, July 16 shows the 200-foot wide crater discovered in the Yamal Peninsula.

CREDIT: ASSOCIATED PRESS TELEVISION

While staring down into the abyss of these craters is a scary thought, the release of large quantities of greenhouse gases from melting permafrost is existentially daunting. A studyfrom earlier this year found that melting permafrost soil, which typically remains frozen all year, is thawing and decomposing at an accelerating rate. This is releasing more methane into the atmosphere, causing the greenhouse effect to increase global temperatures and creating a positive feedback loop in which more permafrost melts.

"The world is getting warmer, and the additional release of gas would only add to our problems," said Jeff Chanton, the John Widmer Winchester Professor of Oceanography at Florida State and researcher on the study. According to Chanton, if the permafrost completely melts, there would be five times the current amount of carbon equivalent in the atmosphere.

Kevin Schaefer, a permafrost scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center, told ThinkProgress that there are actually two sources of GHGs released by melting permafrost: methane hydrates that destabilize when permafrost temperatures rise, as has been the case in Siberia, and frozen organic matter.

"Note that the methane hydrate and the decaying organic matter emissions result from two completely different mechanisms," said Schaefer. "Methane hydrate emissions come from deep permafrost due to purely physical processes. The decaying organic matter emissions come from near-surface permafrost due to purely biological processes."

He said that as the permafrost thaws, the organic matter will also thaw and begin to decay, releasing CO2 and methane into the atmosphere. "Published estimates indicate 120 gigatons of carbon emissions from thawing permafrost by 2100, which would increase global temperatures by an additional 7.98 percent," he said.

As with other processes in the permafrost zone, abrupt changes appear to be as or perhaps more important than slow gradual change.

Schaefer said the phenomenon of the Siberian craters was a surprise to him because he thought the methane would leak out more slowly. Capturing these large bursts of methane before they enter the atmosphere could be possible, according to Schaefer, however extremely difficult.

"The key is drilling into the permafrost before the methane escapes," he said. "However, creating the infrastructure just to get to these remote locations is daunting."

He said that capturing the emissions from decaying organic matter would be impossible.

Ted Schuur, a professor of ecosystem ecology at the University of Florida and leader of the Permafrost Carbon Network, told ThinkProgress that the Siberian craters remind him of 'hot spots' of methane bubbling that occur both in lakes and undersea in the permafrost zone.

"This could be a terrestrial version that was previously capped by ground ice in permafrost," he said. "If indeed they are the result of warming permafrost they could be a significant pathway of greenhouse gas release to the atmosphere. As with other processes in the permafrost zone, abrupt changes appear to be as or perhaps more important than slow gradual change."

A survey of 41 permafrost scientists in 2011 estimated that if human fossil-fuel use remained on a high projection and the planet warmed significantly, gases from permafrost could eventually equal 35 percent of present day annual emissions. In the few years since then, emissions have continued to rise. If emissions are heavily curtailed, greenhouse gases from permafrost could make up as little as around the equivalent of 10 percent of today's human-caused emissions. This is far lower, but still highly disconcerting.

"Even if it's 5 or 10 percent of today's emissions, it's exceptionally worrying, and 30 percent is humongous," Josep G. Canadell, a scientist in Australia who runs a global program to monitor greenhouse gases, told the New York Times at the time of the study. "It will be a chronic source of emissions that will last hundreds of years."

Tags:

- Crater
- Methane
- Permafrost
- Siberia

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Example: Politicians' **greed** for power and money knows of no limits

Comment: The abolition of human rights such as freedom of speech and of opinion proceeds according to plan inside "the land of human freedom and rights", as well as in many other traditionally or allegedly democratic countries. Censorship and public intimidation brought about by the NSA fit into that picture, implying that "silence like a cancer grows", like Simon & Garfunkel once sang. So, don't expect effective or altruistic climate change counteraction of your politicians or authorities, neither on the local nor on the national or global levels, cause they may very well, where not likely to, be corrupt…

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/01/21/nutrition-dietetics-monopoly.aspx?e_cid=20140121Z2_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140121Z2&et_cid=DM38204&et_rid=404434903

Nutrition Advocacy Group Makes Headway in Protecting Your Freedom of Choice

January 21, 2014 | 108,705 views

By Dr. Mercola

When it comes to nutrition, it is very important that you have the right to freedom of choice and information. Unfortunately, organizations such as the American Dietetic Association (now calling itself the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics or AND) are threatening your freedom of choice about health and nutrition.

The A ND has pushed state laws to block almost anyone, except their registered dietitians (RDs), from legally giving nutritional advice.

Their mission is to censor the broader nutrition community, which includes many well trained and educated practitioners, such as clinical nutritionists, pharmacists, naturopathic doctors and traditional naturopaths, acupuncturists, herbalists, nurses, mental health professionals, homeopaths, personal trainers, and the like.

Though it may seem incredible that laws have been crafted to create a de facto monopoly for one private group, this is exactly what's happened**.** Why should you be concerned?

Your most fundamental tool for staying healthy is your ability to pursue different avenues and philosophies of care, and based on that information, *decide which are best for you*.

If your goal is optimal health, you have to address your nutrition—it's the most fundamental factor. Just as you can choose from a number of different healthcare providers for your medical needs (MDs, DOs, NDs, ANPs, chiropractors, etc.), you should also be free to choose your nutrition practitioner.

The Nutrition Monopoly Is Beginning to Crumble

For decades, the broader nutrition community, which includes a diverse set of practitioners using tools of nutrition integrated into various kinds of practice, was not organized as a cohesive group. Legislators were hearing from only the well organized and heavily funded dietitians.

Dietetic licensure bills, designed to keep everybody else out, have met little resistance and have been signed into law in state after state. With little to no credible evidence, legislators have been sold on scare stories of potential harm to the public and misinformation about other trained and qualified professionals. But the tide is turning!

Over the last two years, no state has passed a law giving dietitians exclusive practice rights. This is largely due to the efforts of Center for Nutrition Advocacy,1 tirelessly spearheading this work, organizing and advocating for the broader nutrition community. The Center helps build coalitions in any state where a dietetics monopoly needs to be prevented or overturned. Why is such a coalition necessary?
Desperate to protect their monopoly, the well funded AND will stop at nothing to hunt down and push over anyone standing in their way. If you think this is an exaggeration, let's take a look at the evidence.

ANH-USA Uncovers Devious Activity by State Dietetic and Health Boards

The extreme measures the establishment is willing to take to protect their nutrition monopoly is quite shocking. In an exclusive report, the Alliance for Natural Health (ANH-USA) reveals finding government surveillance, undercover sting operations, and investigations of nutrition professionals into the alleged crime of "practicing nutrition without a license."2
According to ANH-USA:

"These actions, together with the levying of criminal penalties, have been undertaken by state health departments and state dietetics boards that are enforcing monopolistic laws sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. More often than not, they are supported by local law enforcement or the offices of state attorneys general.

The AND—formally the American Dietetic Association, or ADA—is not a medical organization, but a trade group that represents the interests of Registered Dietitians (RDs, who are certified by the AND's credentialing arm). The AND has about 74,000 members.

These non-RD nutrition professionals are being targeted by these states' RD monopoly laws, despite the fact that many of them have advanced degrees and a tremendous number of clinical hours to their credit. They are being prosecuted for 'practicing dietetics without a license' or for referring to themselves as 'a nutritionist' in media or marketing materials."

One of AND's key strategies is to create a dietetics board, comprised of RDs, to enforce the law in any state that passes an RD monopoly bill. This board can levy hefty fines against any nutritionist who is not an RD, put practitioners out of business, and even urge state Attorneys General to file criminal charges, allegedly to "protect the public health."

After combing through three years of records, ANH-USA failed to find even one case of an unlicensed nutrition practitioner causing harm to a patient, and not one consumer complaint had ever been filed. In fact, the only complaints were those filed by RD board members themselves.

In other words, no evidence whatsoever could be found that an open and competitive market for nutrition services endangers public health and safety. As of May 2013, only 24 states had passed restrictive nutrition counseling laws. The remaining states realize that this push has nothing to do with protecting the public, and everything to do with eliminating the competition.

The Steve Cooksey Witch Hunt

Organizations like AND are trying to use the legislative system to create an unfair monopoly in the same way physicians have (via the AMA). Their goal is simple: *eliminate the competition*. Paleo Blogger Steve Cooksey found himself in exactly that position—targeted by the AND because he was considered to be "the competition." The North Carolina Board of Dietetics/Nutrition launched an attack on Cooksey's blog featuring nutritional principles of the Paleo Diet, accusing the blogger of practicing nutritional counseling without a license. In

response, he filed a lawsuit against the board for violating his First Amendment rights. Unfortunately, his story is not unique.

Similar witch-hunts are being conducted across the country. In 2012, the Department of Health devoted 681 hours, at a cost of $19,857, to investigating those practicing nutrition without a license, which represented a 229 percent increase over the previous two years.Telling people to "eat their vegetables" may land you in jail, or hip deep in legal expenses—or worse. And all of this effort is to protect the public from a risk that doesn't even exist.

The AND has even stooped so low as to offer prizes to its members for spying and snitching on the competition. In internal documents leaked to *Forbes* by outraged AND members, the goal and strategies to limit marketing competition are openly discussed, including spying on private citizens and conspiring to use the monopoly laws against them.3
For example, RDs in MI participated in a "Documentation of Harm Contest."4 Those who completed and submitted the most "Documentation of Harm" forms were eligible to win free registration to Michigan's annual conference. Documentation of Harm forms, used in every state now, are essentially a complaint form filled out by an RD to target unlicensed nutritionists caught in the "dangerous" act of giving dietary advice. In 2012 AND unveiled a program to train RDs to "hunt for harm" and report it. In MA RDs are encouraged to question each client and even the RDs own relatives about non-RD practitioners they have seen, and to "help" the client fill out the complaint forms! These completely unvetted tattle tales are then offered to legislators as evidence.

Continuing Education Brought to You by... *Kellogg, Coca-Cola and ConAgra!*

The dietary advice provided by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and their minions is quite poor because it's based on information from the processed food industry. You may not be aware that the AND is partnered with and sponsored by junk-food giants, including Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Mars, and Kellogg. Consequently, dietary advice from many RDs is likely to be heavily biased by information from food-industry bigwigs.
Case in point: the AND's annual conference is often called "the world's largest meeting of food and nutrition experts." Interestingly, these conferences are *absent* of any true nutritional experts whose knowledge could make a positive impact on Americans' health. But they *do* showcase numerous representatives from processed food and junk-food giants. Here is a profile of AND's food industry sponsorship:5

- In 2001, AND listed 10 food industry sponsors; their 2011 annual report lists 38
- Since 2001, the most loyal AND sponsor is the National Cattleman's Beef Association
- ConAgra and General Mills have been AND sponsors for 10 of the last 12 years; Kellogg and the National Dairy Council for nine of the 12
- At the expo, based on square footage, only about 12 percent of the exhibitor floor space was occupied by fruit and vegetable vendors—the remainder was occupied by processed food representatives
- The credentialing arm of the ANA offers "continuing education" provided by Coca-Cola, Kraft Foods, Nestle, Mars, and PepsiCo—the very companies that make the foods you need to eat LESS of in order to stay healthy and fight obesity, heart disease, diabetes, cancer and countless other chronic diseases!

Nutrition Monopoly Bound to Result in Seriously Flawed Advice

Allowing industry representatives to provide continuing education is problematic on many levels. The food industry is not in the education business—it's in the sell-more-food business. And attaching the name "council" or "academy" does not automatically mean your information is evidence-based. The processed food industry cherry-picks research and spins it to get favorable outcomes—meaning, better sales. More often than not, this has nothing to do with real science.

It's no surprise that the AND claims sugar, artificial sweeteners, artificial colors, and fluoride are safe for children. The organization receives about $1 million a year from the pharmaceutical industry and takes no issue with pharmaceutical companies marketing their drugs at AND events.6
Essentially, most RDs are getting the same corporate sponsored education as physicians, much of it riddled with bias, and a good deal of it is just industry propaganda *cleverly cloaked as science*.7 A great example of this is the perverted scientific misinformation propagated by the media through agencies like the Science Media Center, which exist for the sole purpose of promoting the industry agenda.

That said, there are some RDs who have banded together to fight for reform. They have formed an organization called Dietitians for Professional Integrity, aimed at pushing for more transparency and independence from industry.8 When you examine the evidence, it's very clear: the *real* mission of the AND is to support the processed food and pharmaceutical industries, rather than improve public health. Unfortunately, many people will adopt their nutritional advice, and their health will suffer as a result.

The Tides Are Turning—Michigan Steps into the Lead

Michigan is poised to become the latest state to reverse the dietetics monopoly. On November 13, 2013, the Michigan House passed a bill to repeal Michigan's 2006 Dietetics Nutrition Licensing law, which had erected a de facto monopoly for registered dietitians. CNA coalition members in Michigan expressed a willingness to collaborate with dietitians to engineer a bill that wasn't "RD-centric" and would give much broader practice rights. However, as the dietitians have been unwilling to make any meaningful concession, repealing the current law is the only option at the moment to protect non-RD nutrition practitioners, retail businesses, and consumers in Michigan. "We will always remain willing to discuss alternatives" said Michigan Nutrition Association Executive Director Judy Stone, "but the current law simply cannot stand because it is clearly in the interests of no one except registered dietitians."

The Michigan Senate has the repeal bill HB 4688 on deck, but first the Chair and members of the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee must be convinced by constituents to hold a hearing on the bill, which hasn't happened yet. If you live in Michigan or know people in Michigan, you can help ensure the passage of this bill, which is one more step in protecting your freedom of choice about your nutrition and healthcare. For information about the Michigan repeal or any other state, check out CNA, where you can also sign up to be among the first to know if something is happening in your state.

Final Thoughts

The Center for Nutrition Advocacy9 is *the clearinghouse* for up-to-date information on legislation that affects practice rights and access rights to meaningful nutrition information not sponsored by the junk food giants. It's outrageous to think that only one group—especially one that promotes nutrition practices that are frequently BAD for your health—should control whom you consult for nutrition advice.
CNA will be holding a free webinar tomorrow, Jan 22 at 5pm PT/7pm CT/8pm ET to discuss licensing nationwide and its impact on anyone who uses nutrition in their work.

There is still much work to be done to educate legislators about the differences between dietitians and nutritionists, so that they don't blindly vote for regulations that interfere with practice rights or your right to choose a practitioner. Remember, choose your practitioner carefully—just as you can receive bad advice from a registered dietitian, you can receive equally bad advice from a poorly educated non-RD nutritionist. You need to thoroughly vet ALL of your healthcare providers, and diet/nutrition is no exception.

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Example: **ignorance, greed** and **corruption** – Politicians and some company leaders perform their Arts of . . . (drumroll) . . Imbecility and Disdain. (in Swedish – in English: google “Ethanol fuel”).

http://www.outside24.pressdisplay.com/epaper/viewer.aspx

Kolumn

JOHAN NORBERG

IDÉHISTORIKER & FÖRFATTARE

ETANOLHETSEN LEDDE TILL MACKDÖD

Det var framtidens bränsle. Etanolet subventionerades hårt och alla större bensinmackar tvingades i praktiken bygga etanolpumpar. Påhejad av Miljöpartiet tänkte den socialdemokratiska statsministern Göran Persson att detta biobränsle skulle bygga ”det gröna folkhemmet” och den borgerliga regeringen var lika entusiastisk. Centerns Maud Olofsson såg framför sig en helt ny industri med etanolfabriker längs den svenska kusten.

Nu är framtiden här, och den ser lite annorlunda ut. ”Vill du slippa problem så kör på bensin”, säger en Volvomekaniker till Svenska Dagbladet efter en rad motorhaverier. Andra är än mer kritiska till etanolen. Försäljningen har kollapsat och vi fick aldrig de nya, stora etanolexportörerna. Det blev inte så miljövänligt som vi hoppades och kritiken mot att stoppa potentiella livsmedel i våra bränsletankar växte när de globala matpriserna ökade.

Kvar står bensinstationer som har tvingats investera runt en miljard kronor i pumpar som nästan ingen använder. En vanlig bensinmack med små marginaler tvingades av våra politiker att satsa hundratusentals kronor i nya cisterner och tankar för ett bränsle som de aldrig trodde på. Ett resultat är utbredd mackdöd på landsbygden. Sedan 2005 har mer än tusen bensinstationer lagt ned – ungefär en fjärdedel av alla vi hade. I stora delar av Sverige måste folk nu ta omvägar på många mil bara för att tanka, vilket knappast är särskilt miljövänligt. Politikerna har ändrat sig och etanol får inte längre samma subventioner.

Om jag just hade tagit folks pengar och förstört hundratals företag på ett projekt jag inte längre tror på skulle jag vara lite ödmjuk. Jag skulle dra slutsatsen att vi behöver grönare bränslen, men att jag inte nödvändigtvis vet vilket av dem som kommer att vara bäst i framtiden. Därför skulle jag beskatta smutsiga bränslen och sedan låta forskare, bensinmackar och konsumenter själva välja vilka lösningar som fungerar bäst. Och om jag verkligen var säker på att jag hade hittat framtidens bränsle skulle jag i alla fall ha hedern att satsa alla mina egna sparmedel på det innan jag tvingade andra att betala för det.

Men så fungerar inte svenska politiker. De byter ständigt favoritlösning, men föreställningen att de vet bäst och att vi ska betala för det rubbas inte. Just nu är det fordonsgas som får skattesubventioner. Frågan är bara hur bensinmackarna ska övertygas att göra ännu dyrare investeringar i fordonsgas när politikerna hela tiden ändrar spelreglerna.

Vitsippor
Så mycket livsglädje i en så liten blomma.

Den egyptiska militärregimen
Den arabiska våren har resulterat i nytt förtryck och hundratals dödsdomar. Tystnaden i väst är skrikande.

Metro.se

Läs och kommentera fler kolumnister

Example: **greed** and **corruption** – Evil companies do whatever necessary to make money geopardizing people’s lives and the soils of our planet, aiming at winning enough corrupt politicians over on their side in order to change laws in their favor, solely purposing their own enrichment.

Comment: GMA and Monsanto are Murderer Companies, permeated by Bilderberg Genocidal Ideology.

Evil and Expedience ride high on public Ignorance. “Curiosity killed the cat” it is said, but for humans it’s the other way around: “Ignorance killed mankind”. Curiosity on what You don’t already know is the only trick to kill Ignorance. Else Evil will kill You by use of Ignorance.

GMA, Monsanto being a member thereof along with the usual suspects like Pepsi, Coke, General Mills, and Nestlé – all purveyors of chronic disease – are pushing hard for industry-friendly GMO labeling

Question is: How far can they go before You get aware of that enemies are taking over the planet, aiming at killing You and Your dear ones off the face of the planet in the name of Mammon? Far enough for civil unrest, state of emergeny, curfew, even civil war for us to see? Well, once we’ve run out of options the Dirty Boys are the Victors and everyone else are Losers. And when we no longer have a choice, a lot of us will run with the Dirty Boys (as David Bowie also put it on his “The Next Day” album). When they have emptied Your pockets and grafted You with Death, You will be Wasted. Cause on a planet controlled by Evil, You are at any time expendable and exchangeable. And, once our legislators have let Evil over the bridge, the Losers are all doomed to oblivion. Unlike Evil, cause they will always have procured the economic means and Green Card access to the non-toxic and nutritious foods to which they will attain exclusive rights, their tillages guarded by armed force.

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/01/28/gma-evil-corporation.aspx?e_cid=20140128Z2_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140128Z2&et_cid=66915174&et_rid=410902472

Is This Corporation Actually More Evil Than Monsanto?

These bullies are using legal tricks and loopholes to try and get you to think the toxic food they serve up is natural. And the worst part is, the criminals they represent have been protected for over 6 decades at the expense of public health.

Grocery Manufacturer's Association Overtakes Monsanto as "Most Evil Corporation on the Planet"

January 28, 2014

Story at-a-glance

- Before there was Monsanto, junk food companies were already hard at work influencing American politics to further their own agenda. In fact, the junk food industry has had full control over federal policy for more than six decades
- The Grocery Manufacturer's Association of America (GMA), which represents the biggest junk food manufacturers in the world, has a detailed plan for combating GMO labeling efforts across the US
- This includes the pursuit of statutory federal preemption—an industry-friendly, soft law that does not include a labeling requirement. This federal solution would trump state rules
- The GMA has sued Washington State for the right to hide corporate campaign funds—a move that threatens the transparency of the state's elections on every issue
- GMA is also trying to get the FDA to permit GMOs to be labeled "natural"

By Dr. Mercola

The addictive and health-harming nature of sugar and processed food has been repeatedly confirmed through the years, and genetically engineered foods rank equally high on the list when it comes to foods that do more harm than good.

Monsanto, as most of you may already know, has long been referred to by those in the know as "the most evil company on the planet." But it has stiff competition. Before there was Monsanto, junk food companies were already hard at work influencing American politics to further their own agenda.

The processed food industry has a lot to answer for when it comes to the general health of Americans, who spend upwards of 90 percent of all their food dollars on processed convenience foods.

The latest developments in the fight for GMO labeling actually makes a strong case for giving the title of "Most Evil Organization on the Planet" to the Grocery Manufacturer's Association of America (GMA), which represents the processed food leaders, including Pepsi, Coke, Kraft, Kellogg's, and General Mills.

The Grocery Manufacturer's Association also lists Monsanto as a member, so it would make sense that the sum would be greater than the parts.

This organization is no stranger to stooping *way down low* to protect their members' interests—your health and human rights be damned. And *that* is, in my opinion, evil.

GMA Caught in Money Laundering Scheme

But before I get into the latest developments, let me backtrack for a moment. During last year's I-522 ballot campaign to label GMOs in Washington State, the GMA came up with an

ingenious, and illegal, money laundering scheme to protect the identity of members who donated funds to the opposing campaign.
Several major food companies experienced massive backlash and consumer boycotts once their contributions to the anti-labeling campaign in California (Prop. 37) in 2012 became widely known. This was a fate they all wanted to avoid, no doubt, and to prevent you from knowing which companies funded the anti-labeling campaign in Washington State, the GMA create a "brand defense" account, which paid for the campaign's propaganda without disclosing where the money came from.

This illegal move helped them defeat I-522 by a mere *one percent* margin. The scheme fell apart however, and the GMA was sued by Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who accused them of intentional money laundering and violating state campaign disclosure laws.
As a result, the identities of the companies paying to defeat I-522 were released. Not surprisingly it contained the usual suspects: Pepsi, Coke, General Mills, and Nestle – all primary purveyors of chronic disease.

Documents Unearthed in GMA Money Laundering Scandal Reveal Long-Term Plans to Combat GMO Labeling

Lawbreakers or not, the GMA's work continues unabated, and job number one is to keep you as uninformed about GMOs as possible. This was clearly evidenced in heavily redacted documents released through the Attorney General's investigation of the GMA money laundering scheme.
A previous Politico report revealed that a key aspect of the GMA's plan for combating GMO labeling efforts across the US included the pursuit of statutory federal preemption—a law that prevents a labeling requirement.
This is one part of a detailed, five-pronged strategic plan to keep its members from having to reveal what their foods are made of. The documents released through the Attorney General also reveal quite a bit about the GMA's strategic plan by what they *hide*. Large sections of the documents are redacted, including:

- A portion under the heading "Industry Image Efforts," which appears to be related to the GMA's plan for addressing "attackers," i.e. people and organizations working toward letting you know what's in your food

- Under the subhead "Industry Image Campaign," it is revealed that a PR firm, the name of which is redacted, "has been retained to help develop a comprehensive program for execution in 2014." The details relating to this plan are redacted

- A section redacted in its entirety is titled, "Examining Options for Conveying Information to Consumers"

- Also redacted is the name of an entity that "understands the need for continued opposition to efforts at the state level to impose mandatory labels and has directed GMA staff to continue to oppose such efforts." I for one am curious as to who this mysterious entity is that has "directed" the GMA to oppose labeling in the face of public demand for disclosure and transparency...

- Also redacted are several pages-worth relating to the Association's long-term plans to quench GMO transparency issues

GMA Now Pushing for Industry-Friendly GMO Labeling

As reported in the featured article and elsewhere, the GMA's preemptive attempts are now in full swing. As stated earlier, a major part of the GMA's plan is to prevent states from creating their own labeling laws by pushing for an industry-friendly, *voluntary* labeling law at the federal level.
"The push for a softer national standard on GMO labeling comes as consumer interest in biotech foods has blown up into an intense national conversation, and the food industry is

clearly trying to get out ahead of a strong, vocal movement pushing strict labeling requirements in multiple states around the country," Politico writes. *"GMA's proposal is aimed at protecting its members from having to fight a series of state labeling efforts as several states..."*

On December 5, 2013, the GMA sent a letter to Elizabeth Dickinson, Chief Counsel of the FDA, informing her that "GMA will be filing a Citizen Petition early in 2014 that asks FDA to issue a regulation authorizing foods containing ingredients derived from biotechnology to be labeled "natural."

According to the letter, 26 state legislatures are currently considering whether GMOs should be permitted in products bearing a "natural" label, and some 65 class action lawsuits have been filed against food manufacturers who use GMO ingredients in their "natural" products. The GMA essentially wants the FDA to settle the dispute and close the door on future lawsuits. The letter reads, in part:

"Consumers and the food industry would all benefit from uniform legal requirements and the consistent outcomes that result from federal regulations, rather than state-by-state dictates... As such, federal rulemaking is needed here so that the issue of whether foods that contain ingredients derived from biotechnology can be labeled "natural" is removed from judicial or state interpretation..."

The Center for Food Safety has previously urged the FDA to reject such petitions. Clearly, genetically engineered foods are far from natural. It is the very epitome of *unnatural*.

GMA Sues Washington State for Right to Hide Corporate Funding!

But the GMA has more dirty tricks up its sleeve. On January 13, the Washington State Office of the Attorney General announced that the GMA has *countersued* the state, challenging its campaign finance laws. Essentially, the Association is suing for the right to hide corporate campaign funds—a move that threatens the transparency of the state's elections on every issue! What's more, the GMA has also filed a civil rights complaint against the Attorney General himself, claiming that he acted unconstitutionally when he enforced the state's laws! According to the press release:

"In its counterclaim and civil rights suit, the GMA claims the following are unconstitutional as they have been applied in this case:

- *Washington's law requiring the GMA to file a political committee before collecting funds from its members for specific political activity in Washington;*
- *Washington's law requiring the GMA to disclose the organizations who contributed to its special political fund and how much they donated; and*
- *Washington's law requiring the GMA to secure $10 in donations from 10 separate registered Washington voters as part of its political committee before donating to another political committee"*

It would be laughable if it wasn't so serious. This is bullying at its finest. The GMA wants to send a message to any individual who thinks he has the power to stand in its way, and to any state who tries to protect the rights of its people, that *it's going to cost you*. Fortunately, Attorney General Ferguson is no wuss, boldly declaring:

"After breaking our state's campaign finance disclosure laws, the GMA now seeks to have them declared unconstitutional. I look forward to defending transparency in Washington elections."

A GMA document also lays out a clear-cut strategy for addressing any state that successfully implements a GMO labeling law, stating that, *"The first state to implement a GMO labeling law will be sued on the constitutional grounds seen in IDFA v. Amestoy."* Costly litigation is clearly part of the GMA's overall master plan to protect industry profits in the face of growing consumer awareness about the many problems inherent with genetically engineered and grossly adulterated, processed foods....

GMA Litigation Conference

The GMA also holds an annual Litigation Conference, where its members are taught to push for more mandatory vaccines to circumvent lawsuits against tainted CAFO products, and how to squash consumer groups seeking to rid the industry of hazardous ingredients . Here are just a couple of the presentations scheduled for the 2014 event:

- ***Preventing Foodborne Illness through Vaccinations.*** *Vaccinations and inoculations can be an effective tool for preventing foodborne illness outbreaks, however employment and labor laws create a significant hurdle to this approach.*
  For example, Hepatitis A is the cause of numerous outbreaks every year. A simple vaccination for food service employees would greatly reduce this risk, however current labor laws prevent employers from forcing the vaccination on employees. This session will explore this and other methods for preventing foodborne illness outbreaks, and how these approaches are impacted by employment and labor laws.
- ***Trans Fats and Beyond: Anticipating the Next Generation of Industry Risks.*** *The FDA's recent decision regarding GRAS status for partially-hydrogenated oils (PHO) containing trans fats may be just the tip of the iceberg if consumer groups and plaintiff's attorneys have their way. This presentation will discuss the litigation and regulatory implications of FDA's PHO decision, the increasing power and tactics of CSPI and other consumer groups, and the next generation of risks to face the food industry, such as the Pew Food Additives Project, challenges to GRAS self-affirmation, nanotechnology, pesticide residues, and involvement by state attorneys general in false labeling cases*.

Junk Food Industry Has Had Full Control Over Federal Food Policy for More Than 60 Years

Pesticide producers and junk food manufacturers have been allowed to create terrifyingly ignorant policies for health, in exchange for a rather lucrative business model that benefits their own bottom lines.

The GMA has not only resorted to illegal means to further the agenda of its junk food-producing members—some 300 of them in all—the organization is also trying to muscle its way out of its legal conundrums by filing countersuits at the expense of state governments.

An article written in 1950, titled "The Battlefront for Better Nutrition," clearly shows just how little has changed in the past 60 years, and how the junk food industry has had *full control* of our federal food policy this entire time. As you can see by the following excerpt, the corruption was already well-recognized 60 years ago, yet has been allowed to continue to flourish and grow with each passing year.

"... [T]here is a battle going on between those who are trying to promote better nutrition, and the food manufacturers who insist on making products 'worse so that they can be sold for less,' thereby eliminating the competition of more honest and self-respecting producers who would prefer to apply in business the Golden Rule...

*These commercial interests have the United States Government on their side, ever since they ousted Dr. Harvey W. Wiley from his job as head of the Food & Drug Administration in 1912. The present head of the Food & Drug Division of Nutrition, Dr. Elmer M. Nelson in a special Constitutional Court in Washington... testified that: 'It is wholly unscientific to state that a well fed body is more able to resist disease than a less well-fed body. My overall opinion is that there hasn't been enough experimentation to prove dietary deficiencies make one more susceptible to disease.' (*Washington Post*, October 26, 1949.)*

This is nothing new for Dr. Nelson. Ten years ago he, with his group of experts, testified in a similar court, that neither degenerative disease, infectious disease, nor functional disease could result from any nutritional deficiency. For all these years, he has battled for the maker of devitalized foods, tried to stem the tide of public opinion against the use of white flour, refined sugar, pasteurized milk and imitation butter by vigorous prosecution of any maker of any dietary supplement designed to abate the consequences of using such devitalized food, basing his arguments on the thesis that there were no such things as deficiency diseases.

Truly, as Dr. Wiley sadly remarked in his book The History of a Crime Against the Pure Food Law *(1930) the makers of unfit foods have taken possession of Food & Drug enforcement, and have reversed the effect of the law, protecting the criminals that adulterate foods, instead of protecting the public health."*

Take Control of Your Diet and Your Health

It's time we started to make real change, and we need to take that upon ourselves first and foremost.

You don't have to be a victim of corrupted food and health policy. Your diet is foundational for optimal health, and healthy eating is actually less complicated than most people think. Here's a quick and dirty summary. For a comprehensive, step-by-step program, please see my free optimized nutrition plan. If you're new to healthful living, these four basic steps alone can put you on the right path toward vastly improved health, regardless of how corrupted our government is:

- Focus on raw, fresh foods, and avoid as many processed foods as possible (for those who still have trouble understanding what "processed food" is: if it comes in a can, bottle, or package, and has a list of ingredients, it's processed)

- Avoid foods that contain fructose (check the label for ingredients like corn syrup or high fructose corn syrup.) Not only is excessive fructose consumption responsible for obesity and chronic disease, most processed fructose is made from genetically engineered corn

- Limit or eliminate grain carbohydrates, and replace them with healthful fats, such as avocados, butter made from raw grass-fed organic milk, grass-fed meats and organic pastured eggs, coconuts and coconut oil, and raw nuts such as macadamia
- Replace sodas and other sweetened beverages (whether diet or regular) with clean, pure water

Vote with Your Pocketbook, Every Day

The food companies on the left of this graphic spent tens of millions of dollars in the last two labeling campaigns—in California and Washington State—to *prevent* you from knowing what's in your food. You can send a message right back to the GMA and its members who tried to deceive you by illegally hiding their campaign contributions by switching to the brands on the right; all of whom stood behind the I-522 Right to Know campaign. Voting with your pocketbook, at every meal, matters. It makes a huge difference.

I also encourage you to continue educating yourself about our agriculture and food policies, and to share what you've learned with family and friends.

Example: **greed** and **corruption** – Politicians do whatever they like with people's lives and money, for their own enrichment as well as for the continuous expansion of their mandators' (**not** their voters') power and wealth.

Comment: Slavery in American prisons is a highly profitable Giant industry, just as in the old days on the cotton fields and throughout the worldwide imperialist hemisphere. Moreover, they distort market competition substantially – and one important reason is PRIVATE PRISONS.

Slavery, as said, is a highly profitable Giant industry… locking up people with no provided time limit even for minor offenses, over-filled penitentiaries, gang wars inside, wardens and guards indifferent to assault and murder, themselves committing grave unjustified assaults…

Guantanamo is a fortress of human rights violation – locking ALLEGED BUT NOT EVIDENCED OR EVEN TRIED "terrorists" in indefinitely. In a normal world this would be a self-evident case for UN resolve and action – and ages ago, wakey wake, it's been here for TWELVE YEARS now!

The 2 million inmates in US prisons is 25% of the world's total (!) – while US population portion of the world's total is only 5% – implying that the US overrepresentation is a factor 5!! Not in a dictatorship – but in the USA!

http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-prison-industry-in-the-united-states-big-business-or-a-new-form-of-slavery/8289

The Prison Industry in the United States: Big Business or a New Form of Slavery?

By Vicky Pelaez
Global Research, December 08, 2013

El Diario-La Prensa, New York and Global Research 10 March 2008

Region: USA

Theme: Global Economy, Law and Justice

Human rights organizations, as well as political and social ones, are condemning what they are calling a new form of inhumane exploitation in the United States, where they say a prison population of up to 2 million – mostly Black and Hispanic – are working for various industries for a pittance. For the tycoons who have invested in the prison industry, it has been like finding a pot of gold. They don't have to worry about strikes or paying unemployment insurance, vacations or comp time. All of their workers are full-time, and never arrive late or are absent because of family problems; moreover, if they don't like the pay of 25 cents an hour and refuse to work, they are locked up in isolation cells.

There are approximately 2 million inmates in state, federal and private prisons throughout the country. According to California Prison Focus, "no other society in human history has imprisoned so many of its own citizens." The figures show that the United States has locked up more people than any other country: a half million more than China, which has a population five times greater than the U.S. Statistics reveal that the United States holds 25% of the world's prison population, but only 5% of the world's people. From less than 300,000 inmates in 1972, the jail population grew to 2 million by the year 2000. In 1990 it was one million. Ten years ago there were only five private prisons in the country, with a population of 2,000 inmates; now, there are 100, with 62,000 inmates. It is expected that by the coming decade, the number will hit 360,000, according to reports.

What has happened over the last 10 years? Why are there so many prisoners?

“The private contracting of prisoners for work fosters incentives to lock people up. Prisons depend on this income. Corporate stockholders who make money off prisoners’ work lobby for longer sentences, in order to expand their workforce. The system feeds itself,” says a study by the Progressive Labor Party, which accuses the prison industry of being “an imitation of Nazi Germany with respect to forced slave labor and concentration camps.”

The prison industry complex is one of the fastest-growing industries in the United States and its investors are on Wall Street. “This multimillion-dollar industry has its own trade exhibitions, conventions, websites, and mail-order/Internet catalogs. It also has direct advertising campaigns, architecture companies, construction companies, investment houses on Wall Street, plumbing supply companies, food supply companies, armed security, and padded cells in a large variety of colors.”

According to the Left Business Observer, the federal prison industry produces 100% of all military helmets, ammunition belts, bullet-proof vests, ID tags, shirts, pants, tents, bags, and canteens. Along with war supplies, prison workers supply 98% of the entire market for equipment assembly services; 93% of paints and paintbrushes; 92% of stove assembly; 46% of body armor; 36% of home appliances; 30% of headphones/microphones/speakers; and 21% of office furniture. Airplane parts, medical supplies, and much more: prisoners are even raising seeing-eye dogs for blind people.

CRIME GOES DOWN, JAIL POPULATION GOES UP

According to reports by human rights organizations, these are the factors that increase the profit potential for those who invest in the prison industry complex:

. Jailing persons convicted of non-violent crimes, and long prison sentences for possession of microscopic quantities of illegal drugs. Federal law stipulates five years’ imprisonment without possibility of parole for possession of 5 grams of crack or 3.5 ounces of heroin, and 10 years for possession of less than 2 ounces of rock-cocaine or crack. A sentence of 5 years for cocaine powder requires possession of 500 grams – 100 times more than the quantity of rock cocaine for the same sentence. Most of those who use cocaine powder are white, middle-class or rich people, while mostly Blacks and Latinos use rock cocaine. In Texas, a person may be sentenced for up to two years’ imprisonment for possessing 4 ounces of marijuana. Here in New York, the 1973 Nelson Rockefeller anti-drug law provides for a mandatory prison sentence of 15 years to life for possession of 4 ounces of any illegal drug.

. The passage in 13 states of the “three strikes” laws (life in prison after being convicted of three felonies), made it necessary to build 20 new federal prisons. One of the most disturbing cases resulting from this measure was that of a prisoner who for stealing a car and two bicycles received three 25-year sentences.

. Longer sentences.

. The passage of laws that require minimum sentencing, without regard for circumstances.

. A large expansion of work by prisoners creating profits that motivate the incarceration of more people for longer periods of time.

. More punishment of prisoners, so as to lengthen their sentences.

HISTORY OF PRISON LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES

Prison labor has its roots in slavery. After the 1861-1865 Civil War, a system of “hiring out prisoners” was introduced in order to continue the slavery tradition. Freed slaves were charged with not carrying out their sharecropping commitments (cultivating someone else’s land in

exchange for part of the harvest) or petty thievery – which were almost never proven – and were then "hired out" for cotton picking, working in mines and building railroads. From 1870 until 1910 in the state of Georgia, 88% of hired-out convicts were Black. In Alabama, 93% of "hired-out" miners were Black. In Mississippi, a huge prison farm similar to the old slave plantations replaced the system of hiring out convicts. The notorious Parchman plantation existed until 1972.

During the post-Civil War period, Jim Crow racial segregation laws were imposed on every state, with legal segregation in schools, housing, marriages and many other aspects of daily life. "Today, a new set of markedly racist laws is imposing slave labor and sweatshops on the criminal justice system, now known as the prison industry complex," comments the Left Business Observer.

Who is investing? At least 37 states have legalized the contracting of prison labor by private corporations that mount their operations inside state prisons. The list of such companies contains the cream of U.S. corporate society: IBM, Boeing, Motorola, Microsoft, AT&T, Wireless, Texas Instrument, Dell, Compaq, Honeywell, Hewlett-Packard, Nortel, Lucent Technologies, 3Com, Intel, Northern Telecom, TWA, Nordstrom's, Revlon, Macy's, Pierre Cardin, Target Stores, and many more. All of these businesses are excited about the economic boom generation by prison labor. Just between 1980 and 1994, profits went up from $392 million to $1.31 billion. Inmates in state penitentiaries generally receive the minimum wage for their work, but not all; in Colorado, they get about $2 per hour, well under the minimum. And in privately-run prisons, they receive as little as 17 cents per hour for a maximum of six hours a day, the equivalent of $20 per month. The highest-paying private prison is CCA in Tennessee, where prisoners receive 50 cents per hour for what they call "highly skilled positions." At those rates, it is no surprise that inmates find the pay in federal prisons to be very generous. There, they can earn $1.25 an hour and work eight hours a day, and sometimes overtime. They can send home $200-$300 per month.

Thanks to prison labor, the United States is once again an attractive location for investment in work that was designed for Third World labor markets. A company that operated a maquiladora (assembly plant in Mexico near the border) closed down its operations there and relocated to San Quentin State Prison in California. In Texas, a factory fired its 150 workers and contracted the services of prisoner-workers from the private Lockhart Texas prison, where circuit boards are assembled for companies like IBM and Compaq.

[Former] Oregon State Representative Kevin Mannix recently urged Nike to cut its production in Indonesia and bring it to his state, telling the shoe manufacturer that "there won't be any transportation costs; we're offering you competitive prison labor (here)."

PRIVATE PRISONS

The prison privatization boom began in the 1980s, under the governments of Ronald Reagan and Bush Sr., but reached its height in 1990 under William Clinton, when Wall Street stocks were selling like hotcakes. Clinton's program for cutting the federal workforce resulted in the Justice Departments contracting of private prison corporations for the incarceration of undocumented workers and high-security inmates.

Private prisons are the biggest business in the prison industry complex. About 18 corporations guard 10,000 prisoners in 27 states. The two largest are Correctional Corporation of America (CCA) and Wackenhut, which together control 75%. Private prisons receive a guaranteed amount of money for each prisoner, independent of what it costs to maintain each one. According to Russell Boraas, a private prison administrator in Virginia, "the secret to low operating costs is having a minimal number of guards for the maximum number of prisoners." The CCA has an ultra-modern prison in Lawrenceville, Virginia, where five guards on dayshift and two at night watch over 750 prisoners. In these prisons, inmates may get their sentences reduced for "good behavior," but for any infraction, they get 30 days added – which means more profits for CCA. According to a

study of New Mexico prisons, it was found that CCA inmates lost "good behavior time" at a rate eight times higher than those in state prisons.

IMPORTING AND EXPORTING INMATES

Profits are so good that now there is a new business: importing inmates with long sentences, meaning the worst criminals. When a federal judge ruled that overcrowding in Texas prisons was cruel and unusual punishment, the CCA signed contracts with sheriffs in poor counties to build and run new jails and share the profits. According to a December 1998 Atlantic Monthly magazine article, this program was backed by investors from Merrill-Lynch, Shearson-Lehman, American Express and Allstate, and the operation was scattered all over rural Texas. That state's governor, Ann Richards, followed the example of Mario Cuomo in New York and built so many state prisons that the market became flooded, cutting into private prison profits.

After a law signed by Clinton in 1996 – ending court supervision and decisions – caused overcrowding and violent, unsafe conditions in federal prisons, private prison corporations in Texas began to contact other states whose prisons were overcrowded, offering "rent-a-cell" services in the CCA prisons located in small towns in Texas. The commission for a rent-a-cell salesman is $2.50 to $5.50 per day per bed. The county gets $1.50 for each prisoner.

STATISTICS

Ninety-seven percent of 125,000 federal inmates have been convicted of non-violent crimes. It is believed that more than half of the 623,000 inmates in municipal or county jails are innocent of the crimes they are accused of. Of these, the majority are awaiting trial. Two-thirds of the one million state prisoners have committed non-violent offenses. Sixteen percent of the country's 2 million prisoners suffer from mental illness.

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http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-incarceration-business-america-s-private-prisons/27631

Example: **slavery**, **greed** and **corruption** – politicians, administration and authorities continuing imperialist and slavery traditions for cheap labour, by sometimes arbitrarily incarcerating loads of people indefinitely for often trifling or simply alleged offenses.

Comment: Incarceration is Big Business in America's private prisons, and it has been going on for decades.

The Incarceration Business: America's Private Prisons

By Sherwood Ross

Global Research, November 12, 2011

12 November 2011

Region: USA

Theme: Police State & Civil Rights

The latest report by the American Civil Liberties Union(ACLU) is not likely to inspire politicians to shut down our private prisons when prison operators are pouring millions of dollars into their campaign coffers.

Jobbing out the incarceration business, said lawyer David Shapiro of the ACLU Prison Project "has been a bonanza for the private prison industry, which rakes in billions of dollars a year and dishes out multi-million dollar compensation packages to its top executives."

And those top executives, in turn, between 1998 and 2000, for example, wrote over $1.2-million in checks to political candidates and political parties. And why not, when their firms have received such huge public subsidies as $68 billion in tax-free bonds to help them build?

Since the 1980s Reagan era shift to privatization, more than 150 private facilities—detention centers, jails, and prisons—-with a capacity of about 120,000 have been opened, and 7% of all U.S. adults inmateshave been dumped in them.

“Abuse of prisoners, escapes, prison violence including prisoner-on-prisoner, prisoner-on-guard and vice versa, restricted and malfeasant health care, providing rotten food, and other prison management problems are characteristic of the private prison industry,” writes sociologist Margaret Rosenthal in “The Long Term View,” a journal published by the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover. Rosenthal is Professor Emerita, School of Social Work, Salem State College, Mass.

“One study found 49% more prisoner-on-staff and 65% higher prisoner-on-prisoner assaults in private medium and minimum security prisons than in public ones,” Rosenthal writes. Example: at the Northeast Ohio Correction Center in Youngstown, operated by industry leader Corrections Corporation of America(CCA), in a period of just 14 months there were 13 stabbings, two murders and six escapes that ended in violence. Rosenthal said other sociologists have documented “many other examples of brutality and incompetence perpetrated in CCA-run facilities.”

Since private prisons prosper in proportion to the number of prisoners they house, “the suspicion remains that they may hold on to prisoners, particularly ones who are not troublesome as a means to earn extra money,” Rosenthal writes. Even when operators do not directly control discharge decisions, she notes, “by controlling record-keeping about prisoners’ behavior they can have a determining role in establishing when a prisoner is to be released or paroled.”

The ACLU report, titled, “Banking on Bondage: Private Prisons and Mass Incarcerations,” was released Nov. 2 and traces the rise of the for-profit prison companies that have “capitalized on the nation’s addiction to incarceration (2.4-million behind bars) to achieve gigantic profits.”

“Spurred by criminal laws that impose needlessly steep sentences—especially for low-level, non-violent offenders—and curtail rehabilitation opportunities, the United States today imprisons more people than any other nation in the world,” an ACLU news release states.

“The crippling cost of incarcerating increasing numbers of Americans has saddled government budgets with rising debt and exacerbated the current fiscal crisis confronting states across the nation. Yet the two largest private prison companies alone obtained nearly $3 billion in revenue in 2010,” the ACLU statement said.

It noted that Arizona is seeking to add 5,000 more private beds despite its own Auditor General’s finding that for-profit imprisonment may cost more than jailing them in public facilities.

The ACLU report asserts that mass incarceration “wreaks havoc on communities by depriving individuals of their liberty, draining government resources and bringing little or no benefit to public safety.” The biggest losers in the privatization fiasco, apart from the taxpayers, are members of the Afro-American and Hispanic communities whose harsh sentences for minor crimes are filling many prison beds. Many marijuana prisoners are doing harder time than white collar criminals.

“It is imperative that we halt the expansion of for-profit incarceration,” Shapiro said, as “The private prison industry helped create, and continues to feed off, the social ill of mass incarceration.” He concludes, “Private prisons cannot be part of the solution—economic or ethical—to our nation’s addiction to incarceration.”

To “halt the expansion” of private prisons is an urgent first step—as long as it is quickly followed up by closing every one of them now in operation. This would be a fine project for church groups and

civic associations. And one way to find beds for private inmates would be to set free the hundreds of thousands of prisoners doing time for victimless crimes such as marijuana possession and to transfer others who rightfully belong in mental institutions, not behind bars. #

Sherwood Ross *is a Miami-based public relations consultant who writes on political and military topics. He formerly reported for the Chicago Daily News and contributed regular news columns to wire services. Reach him at* sherwoodross10@gmail.com

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Example: **slavery**, **greed** and **corruption** – politicians, administration and authorities continuing imperialist and slavery traditions for cheap labour, by sometimes arbitrarily incarcerating loads of people indefinetely for often trifling or simply alleged offenses.

Comment: African-Americans and Latinos make up 70% of total inmate numbers (30% in the 50's).

Unworthy of any civilized country, incarceration is Big Business in America's private prisons – and it has been going on for decades. However, seemingly, some states have begun to fix the US prison system.

http://www.globalresearch.ca/states-begin-to-fix-our-prison-system/17963

David Cole of Georgetown University and formerly of the Center for Constitutional Rights has been doing some good writing, not only on our failure to enforce laws against powerful people, but also on our out-of-control **epidemic of incarceration** which has struck those too unimportant to gain immunity.

Cole argues persuasively that we lock up a dramatically higher percentage of our people than any other nation because it is mostly poor African-American communities that get hit. He points out that when segregation was legal in the 1950s, African-Americans were 30 percent of the prison population, whereas now, with a monstrously increased prison population, African-Americans and Latinos make up 70 percent of it. Sixty percent of African-American high school dropouts have spent time behind bars.

Of course it costs less money to educate people than it does to incarcerate them. It costs less to treat them for drug addiction than to incarcerate them. It costs less to help them get on their feet than it does to repeatedly lock them up. And it is these cost considerations that are driving some badly needed, and encouraging, reform.

When Cole spoke on Friday at the University of Virginia, I asked him where the best successes were to be found. While Virginia Senator Jim Webb has proposed a national commission, Washington D.C. is obviously the last place anything is going to be reformed. The racism and demagoguing are joined by the legal bribery from the privatized prison industry, the corruption of the corporate media, and the control of party leaders. We must look to the states for action. But which states are making the most progress?

Cole pointed me to a new study by the indispensible Sentencing Project which looks at four states where incarceration is being downsized: Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York.

These states have "reduced their prison populations by 5-20% since 1999 without any increases in crime. This came about at a time when the national prison population increased by 12%; and in six states it increased by more than 40%. The reductions were achieved through a mix of legislative reforms and changes in practice by corrections and parole agencies."

That crime did not increase as these prison populations shrank is not shocking. But it's also probably not because crime shrank and incarceration shrank with it. The many-fold increase in US incarceration over the past 35 years did not follow any crime increase; it was the creation of more punitive laws and policies. And scholars give it very little credit for having reduced crime. In fact, with prisons no longer concerning themselves with rehabilitation, there is always the possibility of incarceration increasing crime.

The reforms the Sentencing Project found include:

"* Kansas – Changed sentencing guidelines to divert lower-level drug cases to treatment rather than incarceration; Expanded supportive services to people on parole supervision.
* Michigan – Eliminated most mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses; enacted statewide initiative to reduce parole revocations and enhance employment, housing, and treatment services for people leaving prison.
* New Jersey – Increased parole releases by adopting risk assessment instruments and utilizing day reporting centers and electronic monitoring.
* New York – Scaled back harsh drug penalties, established Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison programs, and applied 'merit time' credits to speed up parole consideration."

Another Sentencing Project report, "The State of Sentencing 2009: Developments in Policy and Practice," looks at newly enacted reforms in 19 states:

"* Three states – Minnesota, New York, and Rhode Island – significantly scaled back the scope of mandatory sentencing laws for certain drug offenses.
* Seven states increased the proportion of "good time" credits to be earned in prison to expedite parole eligibility.
* Four states Arkansas, Illinois, Nebraska and New Jersey – established oversight committees to examine sentencing policies, prison overcrowding and reentry services."

These reforms may be driven more by budget cuts than by demands for racial or class fairness. But they will produce that fairness in the end, and more humane and effective approaches to law enforcement will be proven to work by experience long before we develop a communications system that would permit a victory in the policy debate.

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The California Prison System. The Pelican Bay Prison Hunger Strikers: We Are Human Beings!

"What is of note here and something that should concern all U.S. citizens, is the increasing use of behavioral control, i.e. Torture units and human experimental techniques against prisoners, not only in California but across the nation. Indefinite confinement, sensory…

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The Incarceration Society: California's Overcrowed Prisons

Monday's Supreme Court decision ordering California to reduce its overcrowded prisons by 30,000 inmates is as welcome as a ray of sunlight streaming through prison bars. State officials have known for decades of the horrific, if not criminal, neglect of…

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Private Prisons Turn a Handsome Profit

While the nation's economy flounders, business is booming for The GEO Group Inc., a private prison firm that is paid millions by the U.S. government to detain undocumented immigrants and other federal inmates. In the last year and a half,…

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Prisoners' Strike against Torture in California Prisons

The torture of prisoners in U.S. custody isn't confined to foreign countries. For more than two weeks, inmates at California's Pelican Bay State Prison have been on a hunger strike to protest torturous conditions in the Security Housing Unit (SHU)…

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Mass Incarceration in America's Prison System

The courageous struggle of the prisoners at Pelican Bay should make many more people sit up and take notice and ask—and find the answers to—some important questions about the U.S. prison system.Why does the U.S., which has 5% of…

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Example: **greed**, **corruption** and **disinformation** – You can trust Nobody, especially not (as everyday life taught us) the camps proclaiming they're Good.

Comment: The Good Guys are in fact the Dirty Boys, the coalition is in fact the Dark Side (?/!)

http://www.globalresearch.ca/harold-pinter-on-the-tapestry-of-lies-and-totalitarian-dungeons-which-surround-us/5365787

Harold Pinter on "The Tapestry of Lies" and "Totalitarian Dungeons" which Surround Us

By Harold Pinter and Dr. Gary G. Kohls

Global Research, January 22, 2014

Theme: Crimes against Humanity, Police State & Civil Rights

"There comes a time when silence is betrayal" – Martin Luther King, Jr

British playwright Harold Pinter won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005. For me, his acceptance speech, delivered three years before he died in 2008, was an important glimpse into – and sort of a summary of — the innumerable documentable US war crimes that were facilitated by the multinational corporations, national security apparatus and military leaders that shaped American foreign policy since World War II. True patriots, if they really love their nations, must be honest about the dishonorable, dark side of their nation that the rest of the world, especially Pinter, sees so clearly.

In re-reading Pinter's powerful speech, and in light of the recent celebration of Martin Luther King (and his courageous "Beyond Vietnam" speech, delivered on April 4, 1967), I present an extended

excerpt from Pinter's acceptance speech below. Pinter's speech was videotaped and can be viewed at: http://www.nobelprize.org/mediaplayer/index.php?id=620.

Copies of the video of King's speech (which was recorded by television networks at the time) have apparently been destroyed as subversive, but the audio recording exists and can be heard at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSIAHeQ01Wc.

King's 1967 Beyond Vietnam speech, delivered almost five decades before Pintner's speech, accurately indicted American foreign policy as powerfully as the 2005 speech that follows here:

"…before I come back to the present I would like to look at the recent past, by which I mean United States foreign policy since the end of the Second World War. I believe it is obligatory upon us to subject this period to at least some kind of even limited scrutiny, which is all that time will allow here.

"Everyone knows what happened in the Soviet Union and throughout Eastern Europe during the post-war period: the systematic brutality, the widespread atrocities, the ruthless suppression of independent thought. All this has been fully documented and verified.

"…my contention here is that the US crimes in the same period have only been superficially recorded, let alone documented, let alone acknowledged, let alone recognised as crimes at all. I believe this must be addressed and that the truth has considerable bearing on where the world stands now. Although constrained, to a certain extent, by the existence of the Soviet Union, the United States' actions throughout the world made it clear that it had concluded it had carte blanche to do what it liked.

"Low Intensity Conflict" in Central America

"Direct invasion of a sovereign state has never in fact been America's favoured method. In the main, it has preferred what it has described as 'low intensity conflict'. Low intensity conflict means that thousands of people die but slower than if you dropped a bomb on them in one fell swoop. It means that you infect the heart of the country, that you establish a malignant growth and watch the gangrene bloom. When the populace has been subdued – or beaten to death – the same thing – and your own friends, the military and the great corporations, sit comfortably in power, you go before the camera and say that democracy has prevailed.

"The tragedy of Nicaragua was a highly significant case. I choose to offer it here as a potent example of America's view of its role in the world, both then and now.

"I was present at a meeting at the US embassy in London in the late 1980s.

"The United States Congress was about to decide whether to give more money to the Contras in their campaign against the state of Nicaragua. I was a member of a delegation speaking on behalf of Nicaragua but the most important member of this delegation was a Father John Metcalf. The leader of the US body was Raymond Seitz (then number two to the ambassador, later ambassador himself). Father Metcalf said: 'Sir, I am in charge of a parish in the north of Nicaragua. My parishioners built a school, a health centre, a cultural centre. We have lived in peace. A few months ago a Contra force attacked the parish. They destroyed everything: the school, the health centre, the cultural centre. They raped nurses and teachers, slaughtered doctors, in the most brutal manner. They behaved like savages. Please demand that the US government withdraw its support from this shocking terrorist activity.'

"Raymond Seitz had a very good reputation as a rational, responsible and highly sophisticated man. He was greatly respected in diplomatic circles. He listened, paused and then spoke with

some gravity. ‘Father,’ he said, ‘let me tell you something. In war, innocent people always suffer.’ There was a frozen silence. We stared at him. He did not flinch.

In war, innocent people always suffer

“Innocent people, indeed, always suffer.

“Finally somebody said: ‘But in this case “innocent people” were the victims of a gruesome atrocity subsidised by your government, one among many. If Congress allows the Contras more money further atrocities of this kind will take place. Is this not the case? Is your government not therefore guilty of supporting acts of murder and destruction upon the citizens of a sovereign state?’

“Seitz was imperturbable. ‘I don’t agree that the facts as presented support your assertions,’ he said.

“As we were leaving the Embassy a US aide told me that he enjoyed my plays. I did not reply.

“I should remind you that at the time President Reagan made the following statement: ‘The Contras are the moral equivalent of our Founding Fathers.’

“The United States supported the brutal Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua for over 40 years. The Nicaraguan people, led by the Sandinistas, overthrew this regime in 1979, a breathtaking popular revolution.

“The Sandinistas weren’t perfect. They possessed their fair share of arrogance and their political philosophy contained a number of contradictory elements. But they were intelligent, rational and civilised. They set out to establish a stable, decent, pluralistic society. The death penalty was abolished. Hundreds of thousands of poverty-stricken peasants were brought back from the dead. Over 100,000 families were given title to land. Two thousand schools were built. A quite remarkable literacy campaign reduced illiteracy in the country to less than one seventh. Free education was established and a free health service. Infant mortality was reduced by a third. Polio was eradicated.

“The United States denounced these achievements as Marxist/Leninist subversion. In the view of the US government, a dangerous example was being set. If Nicaragua was allowed to establish basic norms of social and economic justice, if it was allowed to raise the standards of health care and education and achieve social unity and national self-respect, neighbouring countries would ask the same questions and do the same things. There was of course at the time fierce resistance to the status quo in El Salvador.

Reagan’s tapestry of lies covered up gruesome atrocities

“I spoke earlier about ‘a tapestry of lies’ which surrounds us. President Reagan commonly described Nicaragua as a ‘totalitarian dungeon’. This was taken generally by the media, and certainly by the British government, as accurate and fair comment. But there was in fact no record of death squads under the Sandinista government. There was no record of torture. There was no record of systematic or official military brutality. No priests were ever murdered in Nicaragua. There were in fact three priests in the government, two Jesuits and a Maryknoll missionary. The totalitarian dungeons were actually next door, in El Salvador and Guatemala. The United States had brought down the democratically elected government of Guatemala in 1954 and it is estimated that over 200,000 people had been victims of successive military dictatorships.

“Six of the most distinguished Jesuits in the world were viciously murdered at the Central American University in San Salvador in 1989 by a battalion of the Alcatl regiment trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, USA. That extremely brave man Archbishop Romero was assassinated while saying

mass. It is estimated that 75,000 people died. Why were they killed? They were killed because they believed a better life was possible and should be achieved. That belief immediately qualified them as communists. They died because they dared to question the status quo, the endless plateau of poverty, disease, degradation and oppression, which had been their birthright.

“The United States finally brought down the Sandinista government. It took some years and considerable resistance but relentless economic persecution and 30,000 dead finally undermined the spirit of the Nicaraguan people. They were exhausted and poverty stricken once again. The casinos moved back into the country. Free health and free education were over. Big business returned with a vengeance. ‘Democracy’ had prevailed.

But this ‘policy’ was by no means restricted to Central America. It was conducted throughout the world. It was never-ending. And it is as if it never happened.

Perennial US support for right wing military dictatorships

“United States supported and in many cases engendered every right wing military dictatorship in the world after the end of the Second World War. I refer to Indonesia, Greece, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Haiti, Turkey, the Philippines, Guatemala, El Salvador, and, of course, Chile. The horror the United States inflicted upon Chile in 1973 can never be purged and can never be forgiven.

“Hundreds of thousands of deaths took place throughout these countries. Did they take place? And are they in all cases attributable to US foreign policy? The answer is yes they did take place and they are attributable to American foreign policy. But you wouldn’t know it.

“It never happened. Nothing ever happened. Even while it was happening it wasn’t happening. It didn’t matter. It was of no interest. The crimes of the United States have been systematic, constant, vicious, remorseless, but very few people have actually talked about them. You have to hand it to America. It has exercised a quite clinical manipulation of power worldwide while masquerading as a force for universal good. It’s a brilliant, even witty, highly successful act of hypnosis.

“I put to you that the United States is without doubt the greatest show on the road. Brutal, indifferent, scornful and ruthless it may be but it is also very clever. As a salesman it is out on its own and its most saleable commodity is self love. It’s a winner. Listen to all American presidents on television say the words, ‘the American people’, as in the sentence, ‘I say to the American people it is time to pray and to defend the rights of the American people and I ask the American people to trust their president in the action he is about to take on behalf of the American people.’

“It’s a scintillating stratagem. Language is actually employed to keep thought at bay. The words ‘the American people’ provide a truly voluptuous cushion of reassurance. You don’t need to think. Just lie back on the cushion. The cushion may be suffocating your intelligence and your critical faculties but it’s very comfortable. This does not apply of course to the 40 million people living below the poverty line and the 2 million men and women imprisoned in the vast gulag of prisons, which extends across the US.

“The United States no longer bothers about low intensity conflict. It no longer sees any point in being reticent or even devious. It puts its cards on the table without fear or favour. It quite simply doesn’t give a damn about the United Nations, international law or critical dissent, which it regards as impotent and irrelevant. It also has its own bleating little lamb tagging behind it on a lead, the pathetic and supine Great Britain.

“What has happened to our moral sensibility? Did we ever have any? What do these words mean? Do they refer to a term very rarely employed these days – conscience? A conscience to do not only with our own acts but to do with our shared responsibility in the acts of others? Is all this

dead? Look at Guantanamo Bay. Hundreds of people detained without charge for over three years, with no legal representation or due process, technically detained forever. This totally illegitimate structure is maintained in defiance of the Geneva Convention. It is not only tolerated but hardly thought about by what's called the 'international community'. This criminal outrage is being committed by a country, which declares itself to be 'the leader of the free world'. Do we think about the inhabitants of Guantanamo Bay? What does the media say about them? They pop up occasionally – a small item on page six. They have been consigned to a no man's land from which indeed they may never return. At present many are on hunger strike, being force-fed, including British residents. No niceties in these force-feeding procedures. No sedative or anaesthetic. Just a tube stuck up your nose and into your throat. You vomit blood. This is torture. What has the British Foreign Secretary said about this? Nothing. What has the British Prime Minister said about this? Nothing. Why not? Because the United States has said: to criticise our conduct in Guantanamo Bay constitutes an unfriendly act. You're either with us or against us. So Blair shuts up.

The invasion of Iraq was an act of blatant state terrorism

"The invasion of Iraq was a bandit act, an act of blatant state terrorism, demonstrating absolute contempt for the concept of international law. The invasion was an arbitrary military action inspired by a series of lies upon lies and gross manipulation of the media and therefore of the public; an act intended to consolidate American military and economic control of the Middle East masquerading – as a last resort – all other justifications having failed to justify themselves – as liberation. A formidable assertion of military force responsible for the death and mutilation of thousands and thousands of innocent people.

"We have brought torture, cluster bombs, depleted uranium, innumerable acts of random murder, misery, degradation and death to the Iraqi people and call it 'bringing freedom and democracy to the Middle East'.

"How many people do you have to kill before you qualify to be described as a mass murderer and a war criminal? One hundred thousand? More than enough, I would have thought. Therefore it is just that Bush and Blair be arraigned before the International Criminal Court of Justice. But Bush has been clever. He has not ratified the International Criminal Court of Justice. Therefore if any American soldier or for that matter politician finds himself in the dock Bush has warned that he will send in the marines. But Tony Blair has ratified the Court and is therefore available for prosecution. We can let the Court have his address if they're interested. It is Number 10, Downing Street, London.

"Death in this context is irrelevant. Both Bush and Blair place death well away on the back burner. At least 100,000 Iraqis were killed by American bombs and missiles before the Iraq insurgency began. These people are of no moment. Their deaths don't exist. They are blank. They are not even recorded as being dead. 'We don't do body counts,' said the American general Tommy Franks.

"Early in the invasion there was a photograph published on the front page of British newspapers of Tony Blair kissing the cheek of a little Iraqi boy. 'A grateful child,' said the caption. A few days later there was a story and photograph, on an inside page, of another four-year-old boy with no arms. His family had been blown up by a missile. He was the only survivor. 'When do I get my arms back?' he asked. The story was dropped. Well, Tony Blair wasn't holding him in his arms, nor the body of any other mutilated child, nor the body of any bloody corpse. Blood is dirty. It dirties your shirt and tie when you're making a sincere speech on television…."

Dr Kohls *is a retired physician who is involved in peace, nonviolence and justice issues and therefore resists fascism, corporatism, militarism, racism and all other movements that are violent and anti-democratic.*

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Example: lobbying-driven **corruption** slowly but shurely chokes all citizen, health, and consumer rights initiatives by means of bribing obliging politicians and authorities, a k a lobbying or lobbyism.

Comment: CORRUPTION-COUPLED LOBBYISM AIM AT KEEPING YOU IN THE DARK: GM/GE/GMO INGREDIENTS SHALL AT ANY COST BE HIDDEN FROM INGREDIENT LABELING – THEREBY THE ANTI-GMO MOVEMENTS KNOW NOT WHAT OR WHERE TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST.

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/01/21/gm-food-labeling.aspx?e_cid=20140121Z2_DNL_art_2&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art2&utm_campaign=20140121Z2&et_cid=DM38204&et_rid=404434903

The Pesticide Producers and Junk Food Industry Lobby Against Consumer Rights

January 21, 2014 | 19,108 views (a one tehthousand part of the desired number)

By Dr. Mercola

The chemical/pesticide industry and junk food companies spent nearly $70 million to defeat ballot initiatives in California and Washington that would have required the labeling of genetically modified (GM) foods.

Even with that amount of money thrown at campaign ads, the initiatives were only *just barely* defeated, with voting margins of just over two percent in their favor. Labeling laws have now been proposed in more than two dozen states, and measures have already been passed in Connecticut and Maine.

These state GMO labeling initiatives are changing the game, forcing food manufacturers and the pesticide industry to face up to the inevitable: Americans want to know what's in their food.

Industry Tries to Pre-Empt State Initiatives with Voluntary Federal Standard

The industry certainly does not want you to know what is in your food, and they are willing to do just about anything to keep it that way. You see, the GMO debate has never been a public debate at all in the US.

It has been purposely avoided, since the pesticide companies had to deal with the public backlash over a decade ago in Europe. They decided to keep this modification to our foods hidden here in America, and what a successful strategy it has been... until now.

Beginning with Prop 37 in California, and continuing with I-522 in Washington -- they have finally engaged in the debate. And with each new piece of legislation introduced, the conversation is growing more public, more heated… and more in favor of transparency.

The junk food industry and the pesticide industry know they are losing their grip, and so they're trying to jump in at the federal level to introduce a voluntary standard that would kill GMO labeling initiatives in every state in one fell swoop.

Food Industry Introduces Voluntary Federal Labeling to Kill State-Level Mandates

The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), which represents food giants like ConAgra, PepsiCo and Kraft, has reportedly put together a "discussion draft" for Congress, outlining several industry-friendly moves, including:

1. ***Voluntary* labeling:** By advocating for a national voluntary labeling regulation for GMOs, it would mean that no state could mandate it and food companies could continue to keep you in the dark about what's in your food.

2. **Natural claims to include GMOs:** The GMA suggested that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) define "natural" claims on product labels, likely stipulating that GMOs should be considered natural.

3. **Pre-market notification:** Developers of new GM foods would only need to notify the FDA 120 days before they hit the market, and explain why they are "as safe as a comparable traditional food." In other words, the industry can bring any new GM foods to the market they want, and the FDA must issue a letter of objection if they deem it necessary.

4. **Federal standard would trump state laws:** The GMA's draft states that the new federal standard would pre-empt any state initiative concerning GMO claims or natural labeling. This means that no state would be able to mandate labeling of GM foods, even if a majority of their population wants it.

GMA's draft states: *"Given this new legal framework, states would be precluded from imposing any requirements that are not identical to these federal requirements."*

How Far Will GMA Go to Keep You in the Dark?

Your desire to know whether your food contains GMOs is a *THREAT* to the food industry and they're quite serious about keeping you in the dark about what you're eating. The tactics they use to ensure you remain ignorant should really raise some serious questions.

The proponents of Initiative 522 (to label GM foods in Washington) raised about $8.4 million for the campaign to label GMOs; $2.6 million of which was raised within the state. Meanwhile, the opposition poured more than $22 million into their campaign, but only *$550* was donated within Washington State.

The opposition's coffers were filled by donations from multinational corporations that laundered their campaign donations through a "brand defense" account created by the Grocery Manufacturers Association of America (GMA) in order to avoid consumer backlash.

They didn't get away with it, though. The GMA was caught red-handed and was sued,[1] accused of intentional money laundering, and it looks like the association will be found guilty in February. But money laundering is only the beginning.

Revealing Documents Released by Attorney General

Some very revealing documents[2] were released through the Attorney General's investigation of the GMA money-laundering scheme. The GMA's plan to prevent GMO labeling includes not only the preemption of all state laws by creating a "voluntary" federal labeling standard, which is essentially what exists today, but the documents also contain redacted sections that may reveal as much as they hide.
Redacted sections include a portion under the heading "Industry Image Efforts" that appears to be related to the GMA's plan for addressing "attackers," i.e. people and organizations that are working toward letting you know what's in your food, and anyone criticizing any food company that doesn't want to label their genetically modified wares.

Under the subhead "Industry Image Campaign," it is revealed that a PR firm of some sort, the name of which is redacted, "has been retained to help develop a comprehensive program for execution in 2014. More details relating to this plan are redacted.

Another section redacted in its entirety is one titled, "Examining Options for Conveying Information to Consumers." Also redacted is the name of an entity that "understands the need for continued opposition to efforts at the state level to impose mandatory labels and has directed GMA staff to continue to oppose such efforts."

Who is this mysterious, censored entity that has "directed" the GMA to oppose labeling efforts in the face of public demand for disclosure and transparency about what's in their food? Also redacted are several pages-worth relating to the Association's long-term plans to quench GMO transparency issues. Makes you wonder what efforts and strategies they're planning that are "too secret" to share, doesn't it?

'The Food Industry Is Running Scared'

Those in favor of GMO labeling have called out GMA's proposal for what it really is – a "desperate move to block states from protecting their consumers from misleading 'natural' claims or to tie FDA's hands in red tape," said Scott Faber, the executive director of Just Label It.[3] Katherine Paul, communications director for the Organic Consumers Association, also pointed out that the move shows the food industry is getting very nervous:

"After spending millions to defeat GMO labeling initiatives in California and Washington State, the food industry is running scared. This latest attempt to preempt state GMO labeling laws, and subvert the democratic process, comes as no surprise."

It is unclear how GMA's proposal differs from the current labeling system, except that it will give the industry even more power to keep you in the dark by taking away states' power to mandate GMO labeling while allowing GM foods to be labeled as natural.

The Power Is in Your Hands

There are already signs that defeat is near. Recently, food giant General Mills announced that it would begin producing Cheerios made without GMOs – and labeling them as such. The move came in response to consumer backlash when it came out that the company had donated more than $1 million to anti-GMO labeling laws.

Other companies, like Ben & Jerry's, Chipotle, and Whole Foods, have also announced their commitment to either becoming GMO-free or requiring mandatory labeling. Hundreds of companies have also enrolled in the Non-GMO Project, the rapid and dramatic rise in sales of products that are Non-GMO Verified clearly demonstrates the power you have as a consumer.

And this is how we will ultimately win to eradicate GM foods, because most food companies don't have a particular pro-GMO agenda. They're just selling what people will buy, and by using the most inexpensive ingredients possible they can increase profits. But if their profits go down due to an undesirable ingredient, they *will* change it, as evidenced by General Mills' recent reformulation to make Cheerios non-GMO. So, to keep the momentum going, I urge you to purchase organic or Non-GMO Project Verified foods, and to tell your friends and relatives to do the same.

We're Continuing to Win by 'Losing'

Increasing efforts to keep GM ingredients hidden, along with the recent state labeling defeats, may make it appear as though we're losing, but we're really making incredible headway and "winning" by losing. Already, these efforts are causing junk-food companies to divorce from the pesticide industry, scattering in all directions and making individual decisions about what they're going to do to stay in business. As one domino falls, so too will others, and soon we will be well past the tipping point that will force a dramatic change in the use of GM foods in the US. And remember, just a few weeks ago, General Mills announced GMO-free Cheerios.
In the meantime, If you buy processed food, opt for products bearing the USDA 100% Organic label, as certified organics do not permit GMOs. You can also print out and use the Non-GMO Shopping Guide, created by the Institute for Responsible Technology. Share it with your friends and family, and post it to your social networks. Alternatively, download their free iPhone application, available in the iTunes store. You can find it by searching for ShopNoGMO in the applications.

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Example: **greed** and **corruption** – US FDA and other administrations, authorities, and agencies all seem to be grafted with a single, unanimous world view – get rich, eff everything else. State-driven corruption will kill only more and more of us.

Comment: Corporate-dictated malfeasance at our federal agencies has resulted in food and agriculture systems that are knowingly killing people and the earth we live on. The situation will seemingly keep on aggravatinguntil one day, perhaps, the masses fight back. Only to late, even now – GMOs have poisoned our fields irrevocably.

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/01/20/food-nutrients-vitamin-supplements.aspx?e_cid=20140120Z2_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140120Z2&et_cid=DM38269&et_rid=403618354

Why Widespread Nutritional Deficiencies Are a Reality That Must Be Reckoned With

January 20, 2014

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Example: **greed** and **corruption** – Authorities and multinational companies owing the bodies and souls of not only US citizens but soon enough every one on this planet – according to plan – GMOs spreading throughout the world by lobbyism-driven corruption at any level.

Comment: The EU has banned GMOs, still on the national level Spain and Italy allowed GMO corn, and late in 2013 also France, overriding EU decisions.

Age of Reason? Not exactly. GMOs are a global hazard to the lives and health of us Earthlings, to animals, and to the future of the Earth's nutritional systems and soils. Since corn, one pick among many GMO products flooding the Earth as we speak, is a commonplace feed for many types of livestock, Your meat is affected – infected – too.

http://www.entheos.com/GMOs-What-You-Need-to-Know?c=Friends-of-the-Earth

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Example: **corruption** – World politician communities fainting commitment to climate issues, while in reality being indifferent.

Comment: … Final call for human civilization (as we know it) ?? Wishing and hoping for climate conference negociations to result … Negociations, negotiations… just an effing endless road show proudly boasting apathetic charlatans, nothing else.

http://wwf.panda.org/?212630/Last-chance-change-needed-for-climate-negotiations-in-Lima-2014

Last chance: Change needed for climate negotiations in Lima 2014

Posted on 23 November 2013
Warsaw – WWF issued the following statement today from Samantha Smith, Leader of WWF's Global Climate and Energy Initiative, as the UN climate talks drew to a conclusion:

"The climate change threat has given us a clear choice – a future where destructive weather events like Typhoon Haiyan become the norm, or a world powered by clean renewable energy.

"Negotiators in Warsaw were clearly unprepared or unable to take us towards a better future.

"They showed up unprepared to negotiate in good faith, particularly on issues affecting the most vulnerable people. The Japanese government backtracked on its previous commitments to cut emissions, and the new government in Australia is moving to water-down domestic climate legislation and being cheered on by the Canadian government.

"The issue of carbon emissions from forest loss will be critical for the negotiations in Lima next year and negotiators have a strong basis to build from the positive agreements and framework reached on this issue here. Most importantly, those talks will have to deal with the issue of financing to fight forest loss.

"The lack of urgency shown by governments in this process has been sickening. And that's why we walked out of these climate talks in Warsaw earlier this week.

"Negotiators in Warsaw should have used this meeting to take a big and critical step towards global, just action on

climate change. That didn't happen. This has placed the negotiations towards a global agreement in 2015 at risk.

"A repeat performance next year would be disastrous, not just for the progress of these negotiations, but more importantly for vulnerable communities everywhere and the natural world on which we all depend.

"The most polluting industries cast a long shadow over these talks, and governments put their own interests ahead of global citizens. That needs to change – there's no way we can get a strong climate change deal in 2015 until governments reflect the concerns of the people, and not the interests of the fossil fuel industry.

"Allowing fossil fuel interests so much influence over the talks is deeply unacceptable. That dynamic needs to change if governments want their citizens to trust that they are doing as much as possible in these talks to address climate change.

"By the time we get to next year's meeting in Lima, we urgently need to have political will, real commitments, and a clear path to a comprehensive and fair agreement in Paris 2015, where a new global agreement on climate change has to be signed. Heads of state will need to come to the UN Leaders' Summit called by the Secretary General next September with new commitments that match the scientific evidence of climate change. Heads of state also will need to engage directly in the negotiation process going forward, especially in Lima and Paris, if that's what it takes."

Tasneem Essop, WWF's head of delegation at COP19 said:

"In Warsaw, WWF joined a broad front of civil society organizations, social movements and trade unions to say, 'Enough is enough.' We are committed to mobilizing our members and supporters to put pressure on governments to take more concrete actions on climate change. And we look forward to building a direct link between the outcomes of the 'Social COP' in Venezuela and the Peruvian and French COP."

As COP19 comes to a close, we are joining our civil society colleagues in making the following requests to the incoming COP Presidents, Peru and France:
- Concrete steps to address pre 2020 ambition and an equitable agreement for 2015.
- An end to all dirty corporate sponsorship of UNFCCC climate talks.
- A guarantee of the right to freedom of expression and active participation by civil society organisations in the climate talks.

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Twitter: @climateWWF
Facebook: WWF Climate & Energy
Web: www.panda.org/COP19

Example: **solution** – Saving the world from METHANE by converting it into PETROL (gasoline) at HALF the CRUDE OIL price

Comment: Goes to prove that software* actually WILL do the trick of elaborating CATALYSTS for energy regeneration (here proven by SILURIA TECHNOLOGIES) and thereby (adaptively) also an atmospheric cleanup of Methane having leaked out on natural gas extraction from gas field wells, fracking (shale gas) these days being and futurewise expected to be an accelerating energy production business.

Rationally and conclusively, this goes to prove that it's just a matter of time before elaborated catalysts for converting also **CO2** into petrol (gasoline) **OR** other liquid hydrocarbon compounds, including DME or bio diesel, alcohols, gaseous hydrocarbons, even pure coal. Doing this nature's way utilizing photosynthesis artificially is the trick of the tail for achieving truly sustainable energy production out of resilient resources like sun , water, and atmospheric or smokestack recaptured Carbondioxide. And software* will be the spark plug for these kinds of processes too, speeding up and multiplying resource utilization in the elaboration process by factors of hundreds or thousands compared to the traditional research center lab set approach offerings.

*) Catalysts elaboration for recycling CO2 into regenerated energy: **CatELab-APS/e3** ("Catalyst ELaborator – Applying Artificial Photosynthesis Solutions for energy-ecology-economy") software on lease from **Arphosis.com**

(in Swedish – article in English: just below the following one)

http://www.nyteknik.se/popular_teknik/teknikrevyn/article3797821.ece

Till höger två olika katalysatorer som tagits fram och testats i Silurias laboratorium. Foto: Siluria Technologies

Bensin för halva oljepriset ur metan

Av: Jan Melin
Publicerad 15 januari 2014 14:4131 kommentarer

Med en ny metod för att producera bensin av naturgas kan priset sänkas dramatiskt.

Så ser flödet ut i bensintillverkningen. Foto: Siluria

Läs mer

- Skiffergas skapar guldfeber i Texas
- Fracking tar USA till energitoppen

- Så fungerar processen.
- Mer info om bensintillverkningen.

Taggar

- Bensin

Att utvinna bensin ur naturgas är en gammal och välkänd teknik. Men hittills har den i de flesta fall varit alldeles för dyr för kommersialisering.

Men nu har forskare i USA utvecklat en process som kostar hälften av att producera bensin från råolja, skriver MIT Technology Review.

"Vid en pilotanläggning i Kalifornien häller en tekniker in vita pellets i ett stålrör som han försluter och leder sedan in syre och metan som är huvudingrediensen i naturgas. Några sekunder senare rinner vatten och etylen ut ur röret. I en följande enkel process förvandlas etylenet till bensin".

Hemligheten är den katalysator som utvecklats av det nystartade företaget Siluria Technologies i Kalifornien.

De metoder som hittills använts för att utvinna bensin ur naturgas är dyra då processerna är komplicerade och slukar mycket energi. I första steget krävs höga temperaturer som delar upp metan i kolmonoxid och väte som blir till syntesgas. I katalytiska reaktioner omvandlas den till en blandning av olika kolväten vilka är dyra att förädla och separera till olika energiråvaror och kemiska produkter, skriver Technology Review.

Under lång tid har kemister letat efter katalysatorer som kan eliminera steget med syntesgas och direktomvandla metan till olika kemiska ämnen.

Att hitta lämpliga katalysatorer har varit ett tidsödande arbete där kemister analyserar hur de fungerar och sedan räknar ut vilka kombinationer av olika ämnen som kan förbättra processen.

Siluria har utvecklat en helt annan metod med ett automatiskt system där hundratals olika katalysatorer snabbt syntetiseras och testas hur väl de omvandlar metan till etylen.

- Det som tidigare tog kemister ett år att utföra kan vi göra på ett par dagar, säger Silurias forskningschef Erik Scher till Technology Review.

- Hittills har vi testat över 50 000 olika katalysatorer.

För att visa investerare att tekniken kan skalas upp till kommersiell produktion och integreras i existerande raffinaderier och kemifabriker bygger Siluria två demonstrationsanläggningar där den ena ska producera bensin och den andra etylen.

Inom fyra år tror företaget att den första kommersiella produktionsanläggningen kan tas i drift.

Ett skäl till att Silurias teknik anses intressant är de nya metoderna för utvinning av kolväten via så kallad fracking och horisontella borrning. Idag kostar ett fat råolja omkring 100 dollar per fat medan motsvarande mängd naturgas säljs för 20 dollar i USA, skriver Technology Review.

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Example: **solution** – Saving the world from METHANE by converting it to PETROL (gasoline) at HALF the CRUDE OIL price

(source article to the Swedish one just before this)

http://www.technologyreview.com/news/523146/chasing-the-dream-of-half-price-gasoline-from-natural-gas/

Chasing the Dream of Half-Price Gasoline from Natural Gas

A startup called Siluria thinks it's solved a mystery that has stymied huge oil companies for decades.

- By Kevin Bullis on January 15, 2014

Why It Matters

The world depends almost exclusively on oil for chemicals and liquid fuels.

Quick screen: A technician at Siluria operates some of the company's equipment for quickly making and testing new catalysts.

At a pilot plant in Menlo Park, California, a technician pours white pellets into a steel tube and then taps it with a wrench to make sure they settle together. He closes the tube, and oxygen and methane—the main ingredient of natural gas—flow in. Seconds later, water and ethylene, the world's largest commodity chemical, flow out. Another simple step converts the ethylene into gasoline.

The white pellets are a catalyst developed by the Silicon Valley startup Siluria, which has raised $63.5 million in venture capital. If the catalysts work as well in a large, commercial scale plant as they do in tests, Siluria says, the company could produce gasoline from natural gas at about half the cost of making it from crude oil—at least at today's cheap natural-gas prices.

If Siluria really can make cheap gasoline from natural gas it will have achieved something that has eluded the world's top chemists and oil and gas companies for decades. Indeed, finding an inexpensive and direct way to upgrade natural gas into more valuable and useful chemicals and fuels could finally mean a cheap replacement for petroleum.

Natural gas burns much more cleanly than oil—power plants that burn oil emit 50 percent more carbon dioxide than natural gas ones. It also is between two and six times more abundant than oil, and its price has fallen dramatically now that technologies like fracking and horizontal drilling have led to a surge of production from unconventional sources like the Marcellus Shale. While oil costs around $100 a barrel, natural gas sells in the U.S. for the equivalent of $20 a barrel.

But until now oil has maintained a crucial advantage: natural gas is much more difficult to convert into chemicals such as those used to make plastics. And it is relatively expensive to convert natural gas into liquid fuels such as gasoline. It cost Shell $19 billion to build a massive gas-to-liquids plant in Qatar, where natural gas is almost free. The South African energy and chemicals company Sasol is considering a gas-to-liquids plant in Louisiana that it says will cost between $11 billion and $14 billion. Altogether, such plants produce only about 400,000 barrels of liquid fuels and chemicals a day, which is less than half of 1 percent of the 90 million barrels of oil produced daily around the world.

The costs are so high largely because the process is complex and consumes a lot of energy. First high temperatures are required to break methane down into carbon monoxide and hydrogen, creating what is called syngas. The syngas is then subjected to catalytic reactions that turn it into a mixture of hydrocarbons that is costly to refine and separate into products.

Powerful pills: Two versions of catalysts developed by Siluria to convert natural gas into ethylene, which can be used to make gasoline and chemicals.

For years, chemists have been searching for catalysts that would simplify the process, skipping the syngas step and instead converting methane directly into a specific, desired chemical. Such a process wouldn't require costly refining and separation steps, and it might consume less energy. But the chemistry is difficult—so much so that some of the world's top petroleum companies gave up on the idea in the 1980s.

Siluria thinks it can succeed where others have failed not because it understands the chemistry better, but because it has developed new tools for making and screening potential catalysts. Traditionally, chemists have developed catalysts by analyzing how they work and calculating what combination of elements might improve them. Siluria's basic philosophy is to try out a huge number of catalysts in the hope of getting lucky. The company built an automated system—it looks like a mess of steel and plastic tubes, mass spectrometers, small stainless steel furnaces, and data cables—that can quickly synthesize hundreds of different catalysts at a time and then test how well they convert methane into ethylene.

The system works by varying both what catalysts are made of—the combinations and ratios of various elements—and their microscopic structure. Siluria was founded based on the work of Angela Belcher, a professor of biological engineering at MIT who developed viruses that can assemble atoms of inorganic materials into precise shapes. Siluria uses this and other methods to form nanowires from the materials that make up its catalysts. Sometimes the shape of a nanowire changes the way the catalyst interacts with gases such as methane—and this can transform a useless combination of elements into an effective one. "How you build up the structure of the catalyst matters as much as its composition," says Erik Scher, Siluria's vice president of research and development.

The process of making and testing catalysts isn't completely random—Siluria has the work of earlier chemists to guide it, and it has developed software that sorts out the most efficient way to screen a wide variety of possibilities. The result is that what used to take chemists a year Siluria can now do in a couple of days, Scher says. "We've made and screened over 50,000 catalysts at last count," he says. "And I haven't been counting in a while."

Nonetheless, some seasoned chemists are skeptical that Siluria can succeed. Siluria's process is a version of one that chemists pursued in the 1970s and 1980s known as oxidative coupling, which involves reacting methane with oxygen. The problem with this approach is that it's hard to get the reaction to stop at ethylene and not keep going to make carbon dioxide and water. "The reaction conditions you need to convert methane to ethylene do at least as good a job, if not better, of converting ethylene into carbon dioxide, which is useless," says Jay Labinger, a chemist at the Beckman Institute at Caltech.

In the late 1980s, Labinger wrote a paper that warned researchers not to waste their time working on the process. And history seems to have borne him out. The process "hasn't been, and doesn't appear at all likely to be" an economically viable one, he says.

Yet in spite of the challenging chemistry, Siluria says the performance of its catalysts at its pilot plant have justified building two larger demonstration plants—one across San Francisco Bay in Hayward, California, that will make gasoline, and one in Houston that will only make ethylene. The plants are designed to prove to investors that the technology can work at a commercial scale, and that the process can be plugged into existing refineries and chemical plants, keeping down capital costs. The company hopes to open its first commercial plants within four years.

Siluria can't tell you exactly how it's solved the problem that stymied chemists for decades—if indeed it has. Because of the nature of its throw-everything-at-the-wall approach, it doesn't know precisely how its new catalyst works. All it knows is that the process appears to work.

The hope for finding more valuable uses for natural gas—and making natural gas a large-scale alternative to oil—doesn't rest on Siluria alone. The abundance of cheap natural gas has fueled a number of startups with other approaches. Given the challenges that such efforts have faced, there's good reason to be skeptical that they will succeed, says David Victor, director of the Laboratory on International Law and Regulation at the University of California at San Diego. But should some of them break through, he says, "that would be seismic."

Credit: Photos courtesy of Siluria

Tagged: Energy, natural gas, oil, petroleum, Siluria, gas-to-liquids

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Example: **solution going places** ? – Only Time can tell.

Comment: Fantastic prospects. This was seven years ago. What happened then? Why hasn't anything evolved from this by now? Researcher Buy-Out?

http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn11390-catalyst-could-help-turn-co2-into-fuel.html#.U0B-afl_uSo

Catalyst could help turn CO_2 into fuel

- 18:00 15 March 2007 by Tom Simonite
- For similar stories, visit the Energy and Fuels Topic Guide

A new catalyst that can split carbon dioxide gas could allow us to use carbon from the atmosphere as a fuel source in a similar way to plants.

"Breaking open the very stable bonds in CO_2 is one of the biggest challenges in synthetic chemistry," says Frederic Goettmann, a chemist at the Max Planck Institute for Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam, Germany. "But plants have been doing it for millions of years."

Plants use the energy of sunlight to cleave the relatively stable chemical bonds between the carbon and oxygen atoms in a carbon dioxide molecule. In photosynthesis, the CO_2 molecule is initially bonded to nitrogen atoms, making reactive compounds called carbamates. These less stable compounds can then be

broken down, allowing the carbon to be used in the synthesis of other plant products, such as sugars and proteins.
In an attempt to emulate this natural process, Goettmann and colleagues Arne Thomas and Markus Antonietti developed their own nitrogen-based catalyst that can produce carbamates. The graphite-like compound is made from flat layers of carbon and nitrogen atoms arranged in hexagons.

The team heated a mixture of CO_2 and benzene with the catalyst to a temperature of 150 ºC, at about three times atmospheric pressure. In a first step**, the catalyst enabled the CO_2 to form a reactive carbamate, like that made in plants**.

Oxygen grab

The catalyst's next useful step was to enable the benzene molecules to grab the oxygen atom from the CO_2 in the carbamate, **producing phenol and a reactive carbon monoxide (CO) species**.
"Carbon monoxide can be used to build new carbon-carbon bonds," explains Goettmann. "**We have taken the first step towards using carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as a source for chemical synthesis**."

Future refinements could allow chemists to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels as sources for making chemicals. Liquid fuel could also be made from CO split from CO_2, says Goettmann. "It was common in Second World War Germany and in South Africa in the 1980s to make fuel from CO derived from coal," he adds.
The researchers are now trying to bring their method even closer to photosynthesis. "The benzene reaction currently supplies the energy that splits the CO_2," Goettmann says, "but in plants it is light." The new catalyst absorbs ultraviolet radiation, so the team is experimenting to see if light can provide the energy instead.

Recycled carbon

Joe Wood, a chemical engineer at Birmingham University in the UK, is also researching ways of fixing CO_2. "There's growing interest in using it as a recycled input into the chemical industry," he says.
The Max Planck technique has only been demonstrated on a small scale and it has a low yield of 20%, he points out. "**But it looks quite promising**," he adds. "**The catalyst can be made cheaply and it works at a relatively low temperature**."

The products of the technique are well suited to making drugs or herbicides, says Wood, "so hopefully they can improve the efficiency and scale it up."

Reference: *Angewandte Chemie* (vol 46, p 1) DOI:10.1002/anie.200603478

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Example: Example: **Solution going places** ? – Only Time can tell.

Comment: This example is of no good for climatic regulations purposes (well, very little at least), BUT goes to show that with resolve the world is going to win the race for breaking up carbondioxide molecules into oxygen and free carbon, reusing carbon as is, and recombining it with hydrogen and hydroxide for producing hydrocarbons and alcohols, respectively.

http://www.pnas.org/content/109/39/15606.abstract

Splitting CO_2 into CO and O_2 by a single catalyst

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Abstract

The metal complex $[(tpy)(Mebim\text{-}py)Ru^{II}(S)]^{2+}$ (tpy = 2,2′ : 6′,2″-terpyridine; Mebim-py = 3-methyl-1-pyridylbenzimidazol-2-ylidene; S = solvent) is a robust, reactive electrocatalyst toward both water oxidation to oxygen and carbon dioxide reduction to carbon monoxide. Here we describe its use as a single electrocatalyst for CO_2 splitting, $CO_2 \rightarrow CO + 1/2\ O_2$, in a two-compartment electrochemical cell.

- artificial photosynthesis
- polypyridyl Ru complexes
- proton coupled electron transfer
- single-site catalysis
- solar fuels

Footnotes

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Example: **Corruption** by lobbying inside EU (Sweden)

(in Swedish – article in English: Google on “substance(s), cancer”)

http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/energi_miljo/miljo/article3797859.ece

Ämnena som ger cancer – men som inte förbjuds

Här är produkterna runt omkring dig som innehåller livsfarliga fluorämnen men som ännu inte förbjudits på EU-nivå. Starka lobbykrafter är en förklaring.

Av: Olle Nygårds
Publicerad 15 januari 2014 15:4215 kommentarer

Skidvallor, kläder, soffor och matkartonger. Det är produkter som alla innehåller livsfarliga fluorämnen men som ännu inte förbjudits på EU-nivå. Starka lobbykrafter är en förklaring.

- Det finns enorma ekonomiska intressen inom det här området. Det är extremt mycket pengar som står på spel eftersom ämnet är så effektivt. Men det är farligt, det visar forskningen nu, säger Helena Nilsson, kemiforskare vid forskningscentrum Människa-Teknik-Miljö, MTM, vid Örebro universitet till Ny Teknik.

Tidigare i veckan kom uppgifter om att skidvallor innehåller farliga fluorämnen av typen PFOA (perfluoroktansyra). I sammanhanget framkom också att de som exponeras för detta ofta, exempelvis de svenska och amerikanska skidlandslagens vallateam, kan ha upp till 500 gånger så höga halter PFOA i blodet jämfört med normalfallet.

Men PFOA förekommer i betydligt fler produkter än skidvalla. Exempelvis finns det i soffor och i matförpackningar. Samt i kläder, vilket Ny Teknik berättade om i går. Ämnet används också i elektronik- och verkstadsindustrin, exempelvis på kromdetaljer till motorcyklar och bilar.

PFOA:s popularitet bygger huvudsakligen på dess näst intill unika förmåga att stöta bort såväl vatten som fett från olika ytor. Det är exempelvis det som gör att ämnet är så attraktivt för vallatillverkarna i jakten på bättre glid.

Men det har också sina nackdelar. Ämnet bryts inte ned i naturen och det misstänks vara cancerframkallande för människor. Dessutom finns det undersökningar som visar att en stark exponering för organiskt damm kan öka riskerna för att drabbas hjärtsjukdom och hjärtinfarkt.

Men finns det då inget ersättningsämne för detta?

- Det finns skidvalla som inte innehåller fluorämnen och som inte är dyrare än fluorvalla. Generellt sett så jobbar den globala kemikalieindustrin intensivt med att hitta ersättare till PFOA och har börjat ställa om sin produktion till snarlika ämnen. Problemet är att dessa inte heller kan brytas ner i naturen på grund av den extremt starka bindningen mellan kol- och fluoratomer, säger Helena Nilsson.

- Däremot verkar inte ersättningskemikalierna lagras i kroppen på djur och människor men vi vet inte hur de kommer att påverka oss på sikt vilket är oroande.

Vetskapen om att PFOA finns i skidvalla, och att det är farligt, är på inget sätt ny kunskap. Exempelvis anger Kemikalieinspektionen att EU-kommissionen har listat PFOA som ett ämne som är en kandidat till kommissionens lista över ämnen som det finns "mycket stora betänkligheter" kring.

Samtidigt står det klart att ett likande ämne PFOS (perfluoroktansulfonat) som används i exempelvis brandsläckningsskum, hydrauloljor och metallindustrin redan är uppfört på Stockholmskonventionens lista över farliga ämnen. Detta innebär att ämnet ska fasas ut i de länder som skrivit på konventionen, vilket de flesta nationer gjort. Dock inte USA, Italien och Irak.

- PFOA står på kandidatlistan till Stockholmskonventionen. Norge och Kanada har redan fasat ut ämnet och ett förbud är på gång i flera länder, säger Nilsson.

Av: Olle Nygårds
Mejla reportern

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Example: Negative **greed**, authority malfeasance, **corruption**, and **DISINFORMATION** as an instrument of control:

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/01/15/zilmax-beta-agonist-drug.aspx?e_cid=20140115Z2_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140115Z2&et_cid=DM37707&et_rid=398920537

Merck Continues Promoting Zilmax, Despite Cattle Losing Their Hooves

January 15, 2014 | 171,500 views

By Dr. Mercola

While the beta-agonist drug Zilmax (Zilpaterol) has been used to promote muscle growth in American-grown cattle since 2007, news of the dramatic adverse effects of this drug didn't hit mainstream news—and hence public consciousness—until late last year.[1]

In early August, 2013, Tyson Food Inc issued a statement saying it would no longer purchase Zilmax-fed cattle for slaughter due to animal welfare concerns.[2] The company had noticed that many of the cows that had been fed the drug had trouble walking. The cattle also displayed other behavioral issues.

Since then, Cargill Inc. has also decided to reject Zilmax-fed cattle until it is confident that any animal welfare issues associated with the drug have been resolved.

Merck, the maker of the drug, initially said it would halt US and Canadian sales of Zilmax, pending company research and review. It wasn't long however before Merck announced it had no plans to discontinue the product,[3] saying the company stands behind the safety of the drug.

At present, Merck does not need approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to return Zilmax to market, as the FDA has not taken any action against the drug.

Agricultural drug use has become a major health concern for animals and humans alike, and in my view, organic, grass-fed meat that is humanely raised and butchered is really the *only* type of meat worth eating, if you want to maintain good health.

It is important to understand that grass-fed animals not only produce better eggs, milk & meat - but the return to native perennial grasses is key to future. We destroyed most of the grasslands and replaced them with monocultures like corn and soy. We then produce hydrogenated vegetable oil and high fructose corn syrup for human consumption, and use much of the remainder for feed in concentrated animal feeding operations.

The grasslands act very much like forests, while deforestation is very well known the destruction of grasslands have similar effects. Perennial grass farming produces more nutritious products, while work in a perfect cycle with nature.

Special Report Reveals Shocking Side Effects of Zilmax

Beta-agonist drugs such as Zilmax belong to a class of non-hormone drugs used as a growth promoter in livestock. As a class, beta-agonist drugs have been used in US cattle production since 2003.

They're fed to cattle in the weeks prior to slaughter to increase weight by as much as 30 pounds of lean meat per cow. Due to the short window between administration of the drug and slaughter, as much as 20 percent of it may remain in the meat you buy. A recent special report by Reuters[4] revealed some of the more horrific effects Zilmax has on cattle:

"As cattle trailers that had traveled up to four hours in 95-degree heat began to unload, 15 heifers and steers hobbled down the ramps on August 5, barely able to walk. The reason: the animals had lost their hooves, according to US Department of Agriculture documents reviewed by Reuters...

The next day... two more animals with missing hooves arrived by truck... The animals' feet were 'basically coming apart,' said Keith Belk, a professor of animal science at Colorado State University."

Merck responded to Reuters with a statement saying that:

"Several third-party experts were brought in to evaluate the situation, review the data and identify potential causes for the hoof issue... The findings from the investigation showed that the hoof loss was not due to the fact these animals had received Zilmax."

It would not, however, disclose the identities of these third-party experts; nor would they release any more details on the investigation. According to Reuters, Tyson Foods had noticed "cattle mobility issues" prior to the August 5 and 6 events that spurred the company to refuse Zilmax-fed cattle, but none of them had been quite this severe.

Increased Use of Livestock Drugs Is Cause for Concern

Merck is required by federal law to report all deaths occurring in treated animals, and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) records show at least 285 cattle have unexpectedly died or been euthanized after receiving Zilmax since the drug's introduction in 2007. At least 75 cows lost their hooves and were euthanized within the past two years. Other reported adverse effects in cattle following the administration of Zilmax include:

Stomach ulcers	Brain lesions	Blindness	Lethargy and lameness

Bloody nose	Respiratory problems	Heart failure	Sudden death

According to the featured report, it still has not been determined whether Zilmax is responsible for causing all these side effects—some of them so severe that cattle have to be euthanized. Some of the statistics are telling, however. Within the first two years of Zilmax's introduction to market, the number of euthanized cattle skyrocketed; shooting up by 175 percent compared to the pre-Zilmax range.

One working theory is that the drug might compound the adverse effects of ailments associated with confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), such as acidosis, which results when a cow eats too many grains or sugar. Excessive heat may be another compounding factor, as well as animal genetics.

"Regardless, the episode at the Tyson plant - which hasn't been publicly disclosed until now - is coming to light at a time of growing concern over risks to animal and human health posed by the increased use of pharmaceuticals in food production," Reuters[5] says.

"Livestock pharmaceuticals use is expanding as part of the push to produce more meat at lower cost... The cases of hoofless cattle also raise ethical questions about whether the drive by modern agriculture to produce greater volumes of food, as cheaply as possible, is coming at the cost of animal welfare."

Zilmax Banned for Use in Horses Due to Side Effects

Zilmax is already banned for use in horses due to severe side effects, including muscle tremors and rapid heart rates.[6] According to a 2008 veterinary case report[7] involving three horses that were given Zilmax:

"Within 90 minutes the horses had muscular tremors which began in the skeletal muscles of the neck, shoulder, and foreleg and spread throughout the visible skeletal muscles. Intermittent visible muscular tremors continued for up to 1 week after the initial dose of zilpaterol. They also all had certain changes to their blood chemistry, such as elevated BUN, creatinine, and glucose and mild hyponatremia and hypochloremia... Liver and kidney changes were also noted."

Ractopamine, another beta-agonist, is yet another drug used in the US, even though it's been banned in 160 other countries due to its potential health hazards. The researchers also noted that Zilmax is about 125 times more potent than ractopamine, saying this may be why side effects were overlooked in connection with ractopamine studies.

It's worth noting that, in human medicine, the same class of drugs (beta-agonists) can be found in certain asthma medications, such as Advair. One long-acting beta-agonist called salmeterol was linked to an epidemic of asthma deaths in the 1960s. Weight gain is also a common complaint among Advair users—so much so that the manufacturer has added weight gain to the post-marketing side effects. Other adverse reactions to beta-agonist drugs include increased heart rate, insomnia, headaches, and essential tremor—eerily similar to those experienced by horses. So why wouldn't the drug affect cows in a similar fashion?

Might Beta-Agonists in Meat Pose Human Health Hazards?

According to Randox Food Diagnostics,[8] which has created tests for Zilmax residue in beef, use of beta-agonists prior to slaughter is of particular concern "as this poses a risk to the consumer and may result in consumer toxicity." Research findings to this effect include:

- A 2003 study in Analytica Chimica Acta:[9] residue behaviour of Zilmax in urine, plasma, muscle, liver, kidney, and retina of cattle and pig was assessed. Two heifers and 16 pigs were treated with Zilmax and slaughtered after withdrawal times varying from 1 to 10 days. The drug was detectable at each point of time examined in all matrices except plasma after a withdrawal period of 10 days. It's worth noting that in the US, the recommended market window is three to 10 days after discontinuing Zilmax[10]
- A 2006 study[11] on residues of Zilmax in sheep found detectable levels in liver and muscle tissues up to nine days after discontinuation of the drug

Even before it was approved, scientists expressed concerns that beta-agonists might result in increased cardiovascular risk for consumers.[12] According to an article published in the *Journal of Animal Science* in 1998:[13]

"The use of highly active beta-agonists as growth promoters is not appropriate because of the potential hazard for human and animal health, as was recently concluded at the scientific Conference on Growth Promotion in Meat Production (Nov. 1995, Brussels)."

Story at-a-glance

- The beta-agonist drug Zilmax has been used to promote muscle growth in American-grown cattle since 2007. Within the first two years, the number of euthanized cattle shot up by 175 percent
- FDA records show that reported side effects of Zilmax include stomach ulcers, brain lesions, blindness, lethargy and lameness, bloody nose, respiratory problems, heart failure, lost hooves, and sudden death
- Zilmax is already banned for use in horses due to severe side effects, including muscle tremors and rapid heart rates
- According to previous research, Zilmax is about 125 times more potent than ractopamine—a similar growth-promoting drug that is banned in 160 countries due to its adverse health effects in cattle
- Organic, grass-fed and finished meat that is humanely raised and butchered is really the only type of meat worth eating, if you want to maintain good health

Not All Meat Is Created Equal

I believe the movement toward ethical and sustainable meat eating is an important one, both in terms of animal welfare and human health. Agricultural drug use is indeed becoming a major health concern for animals and humans alike, courtesy of factory farming methods where efficiency and low cost is the primary objective.

Besides beta-agonist drugs like Zilmax and Ractopamine (the latter of which, by the way, is banned in 160 countries), animals raised in American confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are also typically given a number of *other* drugs, including antibiotics and hormones.

You are essentially getting a concoction of drugs in every piece of meat you eat. The routine use of antibiotics alone now poses a significant threat to human health, as it has spawned a dramatic rise in antibiotic-resistant disease. Instead of their natural diet, which is plain grass, CAFO cattle are also fed a wholly unnatural diet consisting of pesticide-laden and oftentimes genetically engineered (GE) grains—primarilyGE corn and soy.

Organic, grass-fed and finished meat that is humanely raised and butchered is really about the *only* type of meat that is healthy to eat. By purchasing your meat from smaller farms that raise their animals in a humane fashion, according to organic principles, you're promoting the proliferation of such farms, which in the end will benefit everyone, including all the animals.

I've also previously written about the atrocities that take place in some U.S. CAFOs, where filthy, crowded conditions are the norm, and I think most people would agree that such animal abuse is inexcusable, even if they're "only" being raised for food. It would be foolish to think that the end result—the meat from these animals—would have any major health benefits.

In fact, the differences between CAFO beef and organic grass-fed beef are so vast; you're really talking about two different animals, and two separate industries with entirely different farming practices and environmental impact. The latter also tends to favor far more humane butchering practices, which is also a very important part of "ethical meat."

Rethink Your Shopping Habits, to Protect Your Family's Health

Whether you do so for ethical, environmental, or health reasons — or all of the above -- the closer you can get to the "backyard barnyard," the better. Ideally, you'll want to get all your animal products, including meat, chicken and eggs, from smaller community farms with free-ranging animals that are organically fed and locally marketed. This is the way food has been raised and distributed for centuries... before it was corrupted by politics, corporate greed, and the blaring arrogance of the food industry.

You can do this not only by visiting the farm directly, if you have one nearby, but also by taking part in farmer's markets and community-supported agriculture programs. The following organizations can also help you locate farm-fresh foods in your local area, raised in a humane, sustainable manner:

1. **Local Harvest** -- This Web site will help you find farmers' markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainably grown food in your area where you can buy produce, grass-fed meats, and many other goodies.
2. **Farmers' Markets** -- A national listing of farmers' markets.

3. **Eat Well Guide: Wholesome Food from Healthy Animals** -- The Eat Well Guide is a free online directory of sustainably raised meat, poultry, dairy, and eggs from farms, stores, restaurants, inns, and hotels, and online outlets in the United States and Canada.
4. **Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)** -- CISA is dedicated to sustaining agriculture and promoting the products of small farms.
5. **FoodRoutes** -- The FoodRoutes "Find Good Food" map can help you connect with local farmers to find the freshest, tastiest food possible. On their interactive map, you can find a listing for local farmers, CSAs, and markets near you.

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Example: Negative **greed** – Bad-Guy Scientists kill the integrity of science and thereby public confidence in it

Comment: Not only buy-out scientists, but also propagandist-of-Evil scientists may officially declare science dead (i.e. confidence in it)

Beta-Blockers Killed 800,000 in 5 Years—"Good Medicine" or Mass Murder?

January 29, 2014

By Dr. Mercola

Most people assume that scientific integrity is somehow assured; that there are safeguards along the way, preventing fraudulent research from harming patients.

Unfortunately, scientific misconduct has become a very serious and widespread problem that threatens the entire paradigm of science-based medicine—unless changes are made.

Again and again, papers assessing the prevalence of scientific fraud and/or the impact this is having shows that the situation is dire and getting worse. In short, we have lost scientific integrity, and without it, "science-based medicine" is just a term without substance.

Conflict of interest is another pervasive problem within the research field, and the featured article highlights a case that contains both.

Beta-blockers are drugs commonly used in the treatment of high blood pressure and congestive heart failure. They work primarily by blocking the neurotransmitters norepinephrine and epinephrine (adrenaline) from binding to beta receptors, thereby dilating blood vessels, which reduces your heart rate and blood pressure.

Until recently, the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) also recommended using beta-blockers in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery.

A recent article in *Forbes Magazine* highlights how medical guidelines based on questionable science may have resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of patients in just a few years:

"Last summer, British researchers provoked concern when they published a paper raising the possibility that by following an established guideline UK doctors may have caused as many as 10,000 deaths each year, " Larry Husten, editorial director of WebMD professional news, writes.

"Now, they have gone a step further and published an estimate that the same guideline may have led to the deaths of as many as 800,000 people in Europe over the last five years ...

The 800,000 deaths are comparable in size to the worst cases of genocide and mass murder in recent history."

Guideline Based on Discredited Research May Have Caused 800,000 Deaths

The paper, originally published in the online version of the *European Heart Journal,* is a testament to the dangers of modern medicine, and why scientific rigor needs to be reestablished as the norm. As I've discussed before, scientific misconduct by medical researchers affects real people, living real lives. It could affect you. When flawed research is used as the basis for medical guidelines, people that*shouldn't* die do... All in the name of increasing profits to the drug company with reckless abandon and little to no concern for the casualties.

The issue goes back to research done by Don Poldermans, a cardiovascular researcher in the Netherlands, who was fired for scientific misconduct in 2011. Some of the strongest evidence for the European Society of Cardiology's (ESC) guidelines on beta-blocker use in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery came from Poldermans' DECREASE trial.

It's well worth noting that Poldermans was also the chairman of the committee that drafted the guideline (he has since resigned from his position with the task force). While his DECREASE trial has not as of yet been retracted, the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam stated he was fired because he was:

"…careless in collecting the data for his research. In one study, it was found that he used patient data without written permission, used fictitious data and that two reports were submitted to conferences which included knowingly unreliable data."

You would think that once this was known, immediate action would result. However, it took two years before the ESC withdrew the beta-blocker recommendation once the Poldermans scandal had unraveled. This is absolutely scandalous as nearly a half of a million people died unnecessarily due to the delay.

In that two-year span, many European clinicians may have felt that their hands were tied, as failing to follow guidelines can lead to being penalized—even if the doctor knows the guidelines are likely to do more harm than good. As reported by*Forbes:*

"They note that more than half of the lives lost—potentially more than 400,000—may 'have occurred after the research was discredited,' though some of the damage may have been mitigated if doctors changed their practice after reading about the controversy...

Cole and Francis argue that much needs to be changed in the application of medical research: 'The aviation profession has led the way in systems to prevent, recognize, study, and learn from professional failures. Clinical medicine is now following the same path. We must develop similar systems for research.'"

Understanding and Weighing the Potential Risks and Benefits...

While some studies show perioperative beta blockers save lives, the featured report found that they're killing people. So which is it? It turns out that both may be true--the BIG DIFFERENCE is that it all depends on whether you have a pre-existing, serious, life-threatening heart condition or not.

If you DO have a pre-existing, life-threatening condition, beta blockers appear to be helpful when you go into surgery. But if you DON'T, they appear to harm or even kill you. o, it's important to realize that various studies address two very different scenarios:

- People already taking beta blockers for serious heart conditions
- People who are given beta blockers prior to surgery, even though their risk is negligible

One study opposing perioperative use of beta blockers showed that people who had the highest risk of dying from beta blockers were NOT the ones with the highest cardiac risk, meaning: Beta blockers may have helped those with the most serious conditions, while harming those with little or no prior heart risks.
The first indication that beta blockers should *not* be routinely given prior to non-cardiac surgery due to the increased risk of death came out in 2008, but it appears that even though cardiology guidelines were eventually changed in both the UK and the US to reflect this concern, physicians continued to prescribe the perioperative use of beta blockers anyway.
Now, the reason for the controversy is that Poldermans has been called out for corrupt research practices; thus, now researchers are speculating that hundreds of thousands of people have been killed by the mass use of beta blockers before surgery.

However, as early as 2009 Poldermans claimed that the adverse events are caused by individual physicians using too high of a dosage of beta blockers, and not because of problems relating to his research.
The medical literature and media articles reflect ongoing concern and confusion about whether or not to give beta blockers with non-cardiac surgeries. What the media are missing is that the studies are talking about two different classes of patients.

It's really all about weighing the risk/benefit ratio. In order to be of *potential benefit*, the risks associated with heart disease must outweigh the heavy risk and side effects of the drug itself, which is a very *limited target* population. The moral of the story is that patients should push back to ensure the physician sees a definite need before prescribing this, or any other, drug. In this case, it appears that nearly a million Europeans with little or no need were given the drug as part of a routine guideline, and paid with their lives.

How Many Americans May have Been Harmed by Similar Guidelines?

If the claim that beta blockers may be killing some people—those who don't already have serious risks for cardiac conditions, and who are not already on beta blockers –what is the potential number of deaths in the US?

Fortunately, according to a previous Forbes article published in July 2013, US guidelines are less aggressive in their support of perioperative beta blockers. Researchers say more than 30 million non-cardiac surgeries occur in the US each year, so if you divide 30 million by the 25 percent that European researchers claim may be harmed by this one-size-fits-all practice, you end up with a number of 7.5 million American surgery patients POTENTIALLY harmed by beta blockers each year. The numbers could be higher, or lower.

According to the CDC, the total number of surgical procedures performed in the US is 51.4 million, of which 4.7 million are cardiac-related. Using *this* statistic, the number of Americans potentially affected by dangerous beta blockers is 46.7 million, giving us a potential number of more than 11.6 million deaths each year. On the other hand, we don't know how many already had a life-threatening heart condition prior to going in for non-cardiac surgery and might have *benefited* from the drug, opposed to patients whose risk of death is increased by the absence of prior heart disease...

Some validation for the concern that beta blockers is not a great idea for everyone may be found in an October 2013 study done in New York, which hasn't been given much attention. It found that beta blocker use increased the odds of having an acute coronary event. In fact, researchers at SUNY were so concerned by what they found that they commented:

"The results from this study become especially important in view of the fact that beta-blockers are currently recommended by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) 2011 guidelines regarding cardiac risk and management before, during and after surgery,"

Paper Removed for Peer Review

Interestingly, the paper that summarized the action taken to stop using the drug that was killing hundreds of thousands was quickly removed from the *European Heart Journal*'s website, without explanation. Husten followed up with the journal, and was told that, due to an oversight, the paper had not been peer-reviewed prior to publication.

This is standard procedure for any article containing "scientific statements." The question is whether the paper actually contained statements in need of peer-review in the first place. Based on the reply from the paper's authors, this could be a matter of debate. Husten writes:

"The authors of the 'disappeared' article, Graham Cole and Darrel Francis, sent the following statement: 'Our article is a narrative of events with a timeline figure and a context figure. We had not considered it to contain scientific statements, but we admit that it does multiply together three published numbers...

The first of our two EHJ articles merely says that our community, which races to take credit when research-led therapy improves survival, must be equally attentive to the possibility of harm. The leverage of leadership means the magnitude of either may be far from trivial. Where our article relayed numbers, we made clear that alternative values were possible. The focus for readers was on how serious the consequences can be when clinical research goes wrong...

We admire Prof Lüscher's diligence in sending for peer review what we thought was merely multiplication. We await the review of the pair of articles. The first narrated one instance of a pervasive problem. The second suggests what each of us can do to reduce recurrences.'"

Research Claims an Apple a Day Is Comparable to Daily Statin Use

In related news, a recent study published in the *British Medical Journal (BMJ)* found that simply eating an apple a day might help prevent cardiovascular-related deaths in those over 50 to a similar degree as using a daily statin. This reminds me of the recent analysis that found exercise is just as potent as medications for pre-diabetes and heart disease. In fact, the evidence was so strong, the researchers suggested that drug companies ought to be required to include exercise for comparison when conducting clinical trials for new drugs.

Perhaps *diet* ought to be a standard comparator as well?

As reported by Medical News Today, there's plenty of research suggesting that statins will reduce your risk of a vascular event like heart attack and stroke, even if you don't have an underlying risk of cardiovascular problems. Such questionable research is being used to push for more widespread use of the drugs. But just how valuable is such research, once you compare it to something as simple as adding an apple to your diet?

"...[T]he investigators decided to see how widespread use of statins would impact the rate of vascular mortality in the over-50 UK population, and they compared this with the effects of apple consumption... ***From their calculations, they found that if 17.6 million people in the UK took a statin a day, this would reduce the number of vascular deaths by 9,400. If the whole over-50 UK population (22 million) ate an apple a day, this could reduce the annual number of vascular deaths by 8,500.***

But the researchers took into account the side effects of statin use, stating that prescribing a statin to everyone over the age of 50 could lead to over 1,000 extra cases of muscle disease (myopathy) and more than 10,000 additional cases of diabetes..."

Beware of New Cholesterol Guidelines

One in four Americans over the age of 45 currently take a statin drug, despite the fact that there are over 900 studies proving their adverse effects, and recently updated treatment guidelines for high cholesterol will likely DOUBLE the number of Americans being prescribed these dangerous drugs.

While they're trying to sell these new cholesterol guidelines as being focused on *prevention* through lifestyle modifications *along with* statin therapy, this is a gross misapplication of the word "prevention," as these drugs cannot possibly address the underlying conditions of heart or cardiovascular disease. (Even more egregious, it completely ignores recent research showing that statins can effectively nullify the benefits of exercise, which is one of the primary heart disease prevention strategies.)

It's also important to know that the cardiovascular risk calculator used to determine whether you are a candidate for statin drug treatment under these new guidelines (which ignores your cholesterol level), is seriously flawed. Until or unless the calculator is revised, it may overestimate your cardiovascular health risk by anywhere from *75 to 150 percent!* Basically, it is currently calibrated in such a way that virtually everyone will qualify for statin treatment, no matter how healthy you are.

How to Get Solid Information in an Era of Confusion and Corruption

Ultimately, the take-home message here is that even if a drug or treatment is "backed by science," this in absolutely no way guarantees it is safe or effective. Likewise, if an alternative treatment has *not* been published in a medical journal, it does not mean it is unsafe or ineffective. Exercising and eating more fresh fruits and vegetables may be just as effective as a drug treatment, as some studies have shown. That is why it is so crucial to have a philosophical framework to assist you in evaluating all these studies that can fire off your alarm signals if it violates those guidelines.

You've got to use all the resources available to you, including your own common sense and reason, true experts' advice, and other's experiences, to determine what medical treatment or advice will be best for you in any given situation. I advise you to remain skeptical but open -- even if it is something I'm saying, you need to realize that YOU are responsible for your and your family's health, not me, and certainly not drug companies trying to sell their wares and convince you to take dangerous "symptom-cover-ups" disguised as science-based solutions.

Since it is very well established that most prescribed drugs do absolutely nothing to treat the cause of disease, it would be prudent to exercise the precautionary principle when evaluating ANY new drug claim, as it will more than likely be seriously flawed, biased, or worse.

If you're facing a health challenge, it is best to identify a qualified natural health consultant—someone who really understands health at a foundational level and has had extensive experience in helping others resolve their health care challenges. Just make sure to see a competent regular physician to make certain serious disorders like cancer are ruled out as well.

Basic Tenets of Optimal Health

I have provided some general conclusions I have reached after seeing 25,000 patients and actively seeking to achieve a high level of wellness myself. Hopefully, you can use these as a starting point to develop your own personalized philosophical framework that can help you sort through any existing or new health recommendations as an additional filter, to help you determine if they are valid or not. We clearly want to learn from others' mistakes. No need to blindly follow medical advice that has killed hundreds of thousands.

1. **Eat a healthy diet focused on fresh, whole foods** (ideally organic and/or locally grown). Try to eat a large portion of your food raw. You want to pay careful attention to keeping your insulin levels down, which means avoiding sugars and grains of all kinds, and replacing the lost carbs with healthful fats. Also, be mindful of your protein sources, making sure they're of high quality (ideally organically-raised and pasture-fed). A high-fat, moderate-protein, low-carb diet is likely to improve the health of most people. My optimized Nutritional Plan can guide you, whether you're at a beginner or advanced level.
2. **Consume healthy fat**. The science is loud and clear on this point: omega-3 fats are essential for optimal health. Unfortunately, most fish commercially available today are polluted with mercury, PCBs, and other toxic substances, which is why I recommend you take a supplement like krill oil instead of getting it from your food. Other healthy fats include coconut oil, avocados, olives, olive oil, butter and macadamia nuts. All these fats are low in protein and carbs and will not impair insulin, leptin or mTOR.

3. **Make clean, pure water your primary beverage**, and steer clear of all sweetened and/or flavored beverages, including those that contain artificial sweeteners
4. **Manage your stress.** There are many effective stress-relieving tools out there, but I have found energy psychology approaches like the Emotional Freedom Technique ( ) to be very helpful.
5. **Exercise regularly**. Ideally, you want a comprehensive fitness regimen that includes , , exercises, and .
6. **Get plenty of appropriate sun exposure** to optimize your vitamin D levels naturally. UV exposure also has additional health benefits beyond vitamin D production. A robust and growing body of research clearly shows that vitamin D is absolutely critical for your health. The D*Action project has been initiated by GrassrootsHealth along with 42 leading vitamin D researchers to demonstrate how health can be achieved right now with what's known about vitamin D with a combination of vitamin D measurement and health outcome tracking. To learn more, please see this recent .
7. **Limit your exposure to toxins** of all kinds. The number of toxic chemicals and their sources is so large, addressing them all could easily require an entire library, but I believe you can help you keep your toxic load as low as possible by becoming an informed and vigilant consumer. This includes tossing out your toxic household cleaners, soaps, personal hygiene products, air fresheners, bug sprays, lawn pesticides, and insecticides, just to name a few, and replacing them with non-toxic alternatives
8. **Get plenty of quality sleep.** Scientists have discovered that your circadian rhythms regulate the energy levels in your cells. In addition, the proteins involved with your circadian rhythm and metabolism are intrinsically linked and dependent upon each other. Therefore, when your circadian rhythm is disrupted, it can have a profound influence on your physical health. For example, research has also linked disrupted sleep cycles to serious health problems like depression, coronary heart diseases, and even cancer. If you have any kind of sleep problem, whether you're having trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, my article "33 Secrets to a Good Night's Sleep" is packed with great tips to help you finally get some good rest.

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Example: **disinformation** – censorship, pennalism, and bullying in worklife – public and private sectors alike – prevents people from providing CRUCIAL INFORMATION and punishes those who do

http://products.mercola.com/callous-disregard/?e_cid=20140115Z2_DNL_YRP_3&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=yrp3&utm_campaign=20140115Z2&et_cid=DM37707&et_rid=398920537

"Exposed: This Book Uncovers the Truth That You Were Never Supposed To Know"

In 1995 Dr. Andrew Wakefield, a respected gastroenterologist and Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons and Pathologists, posed two seemingly innocuous questions…

Unknown to him at the time, these two simple queries would pit him directly against some of the **world's most powerful interests** – including political, corporate and multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical forces. This book details how those interests seemingly **had no interest in the truth** and definitely no desire for his questions (and the answers they suggested) to see the light of day…ever.

Over the course of a 15-year nightmare journey, Dr. Wakefield found himself embroiled in an epic personal and professional battle – often fighting against the very institutions typically perceived as being there to protect health and wellbeing at all costs. This book suggests **perhaps we are mistaken.**

Along the way, Dr. Wakefield would lose his job, his country, his career, and his medical license.

This book describes how, despite being **exposed to the toxic underbelly** of institutional and commercial medicine, and the pervasive lies, blatant mischaracterizations, libelous attacks, and virulent strong-arm tactics that he faced daily, Dr. Wakefield never lost sight of **the reason** why he was fighting back:

For the children.

Dr. Wakefield's odyssey, as detailed in the book, is a shocking reminder that the struggle for truth and justice is not just the stuff of far-off history books.

Indeed, the book describes a responsibility for which we all carry – as mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, and individuals everywhere – and one that defines us, protects us, and can help us achieve **a better world for children everywhere**.

Why Did Two Questions Cause the Medical Machine to Declare an Unprecedented War on a Doctor Who Was Only Trying to Help Our Children?

So, what were the two little questions Dr. Wakefield and his colleagues asked that **caused such an almighty uproar** and reverberated like nails on a chalkboard across the entire world?

According to the book, they were simply this:

- **Is the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine safe?**
- **Can the MMR vaccine cause autistic regression and intestinal disease?**

Now, if it isn't immediately apparent to you why these questions (and the early clinical findings that came as a result) should be cause for the ensuing chaos that would pour down from all sides, **you are not alone.**

It seems common sense that any questions – particularly those asked by doctors who just want to help our kids – should be welcomed, right?

It seems appropriate that – when parents started contacting Dr. Wakefield with story after story about their normally developing child who regressed into autism or autism-like states soon after receiving the MMR vaccine – he would want to do whatever he could to learn more.

And, the book asks, doesn't it make sense that Dr. Wakefield, a gastroenterologist, would take an especially keen interest in these cases since at the same time the children were exhibiting these autistic symptoms, they also were newly experiencing chronic gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms?

The book describes why, from the perspective of parents, many in the medical field, and rational people everywhere **the answer is a resounding YES.**

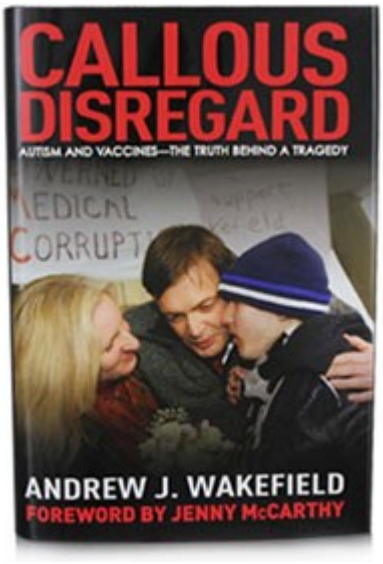
We say, "Do whatever it takes to make sure our children have the best, safest, and most effective healthcare… at all times… without question, right?"

One would think so, but – sadly – this book explains how ***we are not in control:***

- Although we want what's best for children, we do not have a vested interest in making sure a policy of "medicine for the masses" is **left unquestioned**…
- We do not have a **multi-billion-dollar financial stake** in a status quo vaccination policy…
- And, we do not rely upon multi-national corporate, pharmaceutical, and political forces to keep our interests in place – regardless of whether they do or do not have anything to do with actually keeping us as a world population safe and healthy…

And according to this book, this is why Dr. Wakefield found himself the author of…

A Misunderstood and Misrepresented Paper…
And a Wake-Up Call for Us All



As explained in the book, by asking these questions and showing commitment to his Hippocratic Oath, Dr. Wakefield awakened some **and not in a good way.**

When he and his colleagues in London, England later published the early clinical findings of 12 children suffering from autistic regression and bowel symptoms in the eminent medical journal *The Lancet*, they were about to **feel**

the oppressive and crushing blows of a giant with no interest in playing fair… nor having the truth revealed, according to this book. Indeed, this book describes how:

- **Never in the field of human endeavor** has so much been said by so many about a paper that has been read and understood by so few.
- **No medical article in world history** has received more attention, been subjected to closer regulatory scrutiny, and had more opprobrium heaped upon it than this Early Report.
- **No paper been misinterpreted and misrepresented** more than this important, but relatively humble contribution to the medical literature.

The real question, as posed by this book, is *why*?

- Why all this **methodical hostility** from people and institutions that have been charged with our own safekeeping and health?
- Why these seemingly **unscrupulous attempts** to sweep such important questions under the carpet?
- Why these **rigorous efforts** to keep mute a doctor who was only attempting to help our children by practicing the standards-based medicine he was trained for?

The book asks: without good answers to these questions, where are we left as a society?

How safe do you really feel when you know these forces are working… and working against you?

According to this Book, What You Need to Ask Yourself Is:

Why should the pursuit of possible links between childhood vaccines, intestinal inflammation, and neurologic injury in children cause such a concerted and systematic effort to discredit, dishonor, and ultimately dispose of Dr. Wakefield and his work?

Could it be the fact that the paper and Wakefield's recommendation for single vaccines **lit the fuse of the ensuing vaccine wars** that have spread like wildfire across worldwide media?

Could it be that as a result, **1 in 4 parents feel vaccines cause autism and 54% of parents are worried about the serious adverse effects caused by vaccines?**

Or, could it be that this one paper – *just an early case series at that* – had the very real potential to shine a bright light on the small, but significant number of children who do not respond well to the mass vaccination policy?

It is this last item that might be of the most importance…

According to This Book, What You Need to Know Is:

Families around the world are **suffering in silence** because the medical machine refuses to acknowledge the validity of their claims…

Parents with nowhere to turn are **desperate for help** because doctors are afraid to listen and insurance fails to provide coverage…

And, the book asks, children – **poor innocent children**, your sons and daughters – have to endure life-robbing symptoms that we can't even begin to imagine all because of what?

- All because of a global **'cover up'**?
- All because there are those for who **exposing the truth would be costly**?
- All because keeping **hush-hush** about *the few* is a better public health policy for *the masses*?

These questions seem preposterous – **these are kids we're talking about.**

Why should anything – profits, inconvenience, reputation, or political backlash – come between them and their health?

Nothing should.

That's why you will likely be shocked to discover that, as the book details, much does come between your children's health and wellbeing.

But, you may be even more outraged when you read about how…

His Paper Was Right… But If They Had Their Way, You'd Never Have Known…

According to the book, Dr. Wakefield was right.

The children in his early case series *did* suffer from a new disease syndrome.

It is *not* localized to the UK. In fact, it's been replicated around the world.

His findings and the ensuing studies that emerged are *not* the half-baked medically-unsound fantasy of a misinformed doctor that so many – inside and out of the medical establishment – claimed that it was.

The book describes how Dr. Wakefield did *not* do anything wrong. He did *not* have a conflict of interest. He did *not* engage in practices that were for his own self glory or financial benefit.

These and literally thousands of other mischaracterizations are what Dr. Wakefield has struggled against for over 15 years.

According to the book, he was simply a man **presented with a professional challenge and confronted by a moral choice.**

Previously normal children seemed to be regressing into autism and developing intestinal problems. Many of their parents blamed the MMR vaccine.

He chose, as you have seen but a small glimpse of, what would become **a very difficult road.**

And, now, Dr. Wakefield is finally able to share this story with the world…

Despite the best efforts of those who would seek to **erase these children and their stories** from the medical and scientific record, as the book describes – the truth is finally upon us.

To say it is an important story, a needed story, is an understatement of heroic proportions.

*This often **terrifying story** is one that affects us all because as Dr. Wakefield says, "If autism does not affect your family now, it will."*

Introducing "Callous Disregard: Autism and Vaccines – The Truth Behind a Tragedy"

Long delayed by a wearisome legal process, ***Callous Disregard*** pulls back the curtains for a **raw and unobscured look** behind this health scandal.

Dr. Wakefield's account **surgically explores** how he confronted first a disease and then the entire medical system; one that sought (and still seeks) to deny the resulting disease the evidence confirms – thus leaving millions of children suffering to this very day and a world that is still very much at risk.

As you will learn in this book, more and more people on a truly grand scale, either as parents or grandparents, will be tragically affected as the worldwide tsunami of childhood developmental disorders continues to build in scale and breaks hearts and bankrupts educational and healthcare infrastructures.

Callous Disregard gives you an **unparalleled opportunity** to see the inner workings of one man's major struggle against compromise in medicine, corruption of science, and a **real and present threat** to children in the interests of policy and profit.

- It is an uncompromising story of how "the system" deals with dissent among its doctors and scientists.
- In a **highly readable and engaging** format, Dr. Wakefield unflinchingly provides the facts and a complete explanation of the problem that confronted him and his colleagues fifteen years ago.
- He does this in a **detailed forensic analysis** of the lies, obfuscation, cover-up, and dystopian science and medicine that panders to commercial interests at the expense of your children.

Conspiracy—or ruthless pragmatism? You'll read about the reactions of those forces denying this scandal and come to your own conclusions.

The battle has just begun. If the forces for good have any hope to win, you need to…

Educate Yourself: It Could Be the First Step toward Real Change

Callous Disregard sounds a **loud and disarming warning bell** for us all.

Everybody – young and old – should read it. The book will inspire you to see just what is possible when you **stand up for what you believe.**

You will also learn in the book just how far the *powers that be* are willing to go to keep the status quo when their interests are threatened. It's a **frightening lesson,** but one you will see firsthand.

The book asks, if the "system" is possible of keeping good medicine from your children what else is it capable of doing? To unborn babies? To the elderly? To everyone in between?

This is not only a treatise that will likely shock you; **it will likely rally you** to take even greater responsibility for your health and the wellbeing of your loved ones.

At the very least, it **serves as a wake-up call to parents** and doctors everywhere.

To parents, Dr. Wakefield implores:

Trust your instincts above all else. When considering how to vaccinate your children, read, get educated, and demand fully informed consent and answers to your questions.

When you are stonewalled or these answers are not to your satisfaction, trust your instinct. I say this as someone who has studied and engaged in the science and who has become aware of the limitations of our knowledge and understanding of vaccine safety issues.

And, to doctors as he warns:

Doctors beware: prepare to be second-guessed by medical regulators on your clinical judgment and specifically on whether—despite your training, expertise, and documentary evidence—tests you undertake on the sickest of your patients are clinically indicated or for the purpose of research.

The ultimate message is positive. As Dr Wakefield puts it, "Nature can't be deceived." **The truth will overcome.**

But, in the short term, the message of the book is that we are all in this together.

This book is far from just a parochial look at a trivial medical spat in the UK. It is a dispatch from the frontlines of the battle for your health and safety.

And, now, others on the frontlines are speaking up about his book…

What Others Are Already Saying About Callous Disregard

Dr. Wakefield is no longer alone. Experts from all corners of the world are sounding in on the importance of his book:

"I'm so glad Andy Wakefield finally has the chance to tell his story. Perhaps no debate on the planet right now is more confusing, more conflicting, or more maddening for parents than the debate over the causes and treatments of autism . . . For hundreds of thousands of parents around the world, myself included, Andy Wakefield is a symbol of strength and conviction that all parents of children with autism can use to fight for truth and the best lives possible for their kids."

—from the foreword by Jenny McCarthy

"Dr. Wakefield sets the record straight. It was not he who showed callous disregard towards vulnerable, sick children with autism. It was the British medical establishment, the General Medical Council, the media and the pharmaceutical industry that threw the children under the bus to protect the vaccine program. This is a book for everyone whocares about our future."

—Mary Holland, Esq., Co-founder, Elizabeth Birt Center for Autism Law and Advocacy

"Andrew Wakefield has been subjected to extraordinary criticism and condemnation from professional colleagues and the wider community since he first questioned the safety of the MMR vaccine. In this book he answers his critics—powerfully and comprehensively— and sets the record straight. It is essential reading for anyone wanting to know the truth behind the MMR debate and the politics of vaccination policy."

—Dr. Richard Halvorsen, author of The Truth about Vaccines

"As a mother of a boy who regressed into autism immediately following his MMR vaccination, I welcome this book unreservedly … Whatever your thoughts on the issue, if you read nothing else at all on the vaccine-autism debate, this has to be the most crucial book you read."

—Polly Tommey, Editor-in-Chief, The Autism File

"Meeting Dr. Andy Wakefield changed our lives and … we are forever grateful. His wise and measured advice about vaccinations helped us dodge a bullet . . . Our fourth son [had] multiple allergies and repeated infections . . . We now fully realize [he] would have been a victim of immune overload had we followed the regular vaccine schedule ... [He] is [now] bright and healthy . . . This book provides a terrifying insight into what has been happening behind the scenes as efforts redouble to silence Dr. Wakefield . . . It is a wake-up call to those who think [he] is anything other than a modern day hero fighting for all of our children."

—Robert Rodriguez and Elizabeth Avellán, Troublemaker Studios, Austin, Texas

How will *Callous Disregard* affect you? What contribution to this incredible story will you have to share?

Find out today by getting your own copy…

Get the Answers You're Looking For Order Your Copy Today

Dr. Wakefield created this book to help people just like you… people who want to **get the real answers you're looking for**… from a trusted source.

He created this book so you could **make an informed decision about your life and that of your children** here and now and into the future….

He made this book available to people everywhere because he didn't want anything to stand between you and the **information you need.**

Secure Your Copy of Callous Disregard: Autism and Vaccines – The Truth Behind a Tragedy

Dr. Wakefield has responded honorably to a battle that was not of his own making. It's time for all of us – you included – to learn all about it.

Get started by learning the truth. In this case, **truth is power.** And, with that power, you have the potential to do great things.

Discover The Truth. Order Your Copy Today.

About the Author

Dr. Andrew Wakefield, MB, BS, FRCS, FRCPath, is an academic gastroenterologist. He received his medical degree from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School (part of the University of London) in 1981, one of the third generations of his family to have studied medicine at that teaching hospital.

He pursued a career in gastrointestinal surgery with a particular interest in inflammatory bowel disease. He qualified as Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1985 and in 1996 was awarded a Wellcome Trust Traveling Fellowship to study small-intestinal transplantation in Toronto, Canada. He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2001. He has published over 130 original scientific articles, book chapters, and invited scientific commentaries.

In the pursuit of possible links between childhood vaccines, intestinal inflammation, and neurologic injury in children, Dr. Wakefield lost his job in the Department of Medicine at London's Royal Free Hospital, his country, his career, and his medical license.

He is married to Carmel, a physician and a classical radio presenter. He has four children, James, Sam, Imogen, and Corin

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Example: **solution** or **greed** ?? – Be this a (yet another) future (or even present) buyout? – God forbid, but if so, yet another victim to negative greed. OR is this, as we hope, a scientists-at-heart propelled future enterprise?

(in Swedish – article in English: search for Harvard and Michael J Aziz research news)

http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/energi_miljo/energi/article3796857.ece

Michael J Aziz vid Harvard har utvecklat ett billigt flödesbatteri utan metaller. Foto: Eliza Grinnell/SEAS Communications

Genombrott för stort billigt batteri

Av: Ulla Karlsson-Ottosson
Publicerad 10 januari 2014 16:3217 kommentarer

En ny typ av batteri kan lösa problemet med att lagra energi från sol och vind. Bakom genombrottet ligger forskare vid amerikanska Harvard university.

- Solenergi inte längre alternativt 2013

Hur gör man om man vill lagra energi från vindkraftverk eller solceller? Man använder en ny typ av flödesbatteri, svarar forskare vid Harvard.

Med pengar från amerikanska energimyndigheten har Michael Marshak och hans kolleger utvecklat ett batteri som är betydligt billigare, men lika bra, som dagens flödesbatterier.

Ett flödesbatteri är ett laddningsbart batteri, ungefär som ett bilbatteri, men annorlunda på två sätt. Dels är båda elektroderna flytande, dels lagras elektroderna i tankar utanför själva battericellen där reaktionen sker. På så sätt kan cellen göras stor och få en hög laddningskapacitet.

Men flödesbatterier är stora och passar bäst i fasta installationer, till exempel för kapacitetsutjämning i elnät. De flödesbatterier som finns i dag använder elektrolyter av metall. Det gör dem dyra. Harvardforskarna har lyckats ersätta metallerna med små kolbaserade molekyler, så kallade kinoner. De finns bland annat i gröna växter och i råolja. De kinoner som används i batteriet är lika de som finns i gummi, går att lösa i vatten och kan inte fatta eld.

- Man kan exempelvis tänka sig ett batteri, stor som en oljepanna, som står i källaren och lagrar den solenergin som alstras av solpanelerna på taket under en dag, säger Michael Marshak i en press release från Harvard.

För att lagra energi från ett vindkraftsverk kommer det att krävas en större tank och en omfattande solenergianläggning kan behöva några stycken, enligt forskarna.

Harvardforskarnas batteri beskrivs i det senaste numret av den vetenskapliga tidskriften Nature.

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Comment: Solar electricity, solar electricity … with no storage capacity and therefore with no equalization capacity either.

(in Swedish – article in English: search for business magazine The Economist news/ Geoffrey Carr editorship)

http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/energi_miljo/solenergi/article3611357.ece

En solcellsanläggning som invigdes 2011 i franska alperna och är på 50 hektar. Foto: Boris Horvat/Scanpix

Solenergi inte längre alternativt 2013

Av: Anna Orring
Publicerad 3 januari 2013 09:0089 kommentarer

I år kommer alternativ och förnybar energi att bli det normala, och solenergi få sitt definitiva genombrott. Det spår affärstidningen The Economist.

Tidskriftens vetenskapsredaktör Goeffrey Carr bygger sin förutsägelse på en prisjämförelse, där solenergi är på väg att bli mer kostnadseffektivt än en del fossila energislag. Priset på en solpanel är mindre än en dollar per watt, medan kolkraftverk kostar runt 3 dollar per watt i investeringar.

"Förnybar energi är på väg att bli det normala" skriver han.

Trots att solenergi står för endast 0,25 procent av världens elproduktion ökar användningen snabbt - förra året med 86 procent, enligt tidskriften. En nyckel är just att investeringskostnaden sjunker. Geoffrey Carr använder en modell kallad

Swansons lag där kostnaden för att tillverka solceller sjunker med 20 procent för varje fördubbling av tillverkningskapaciteten.

Modellen är uppkallad efter en amerikansk solcellsföretagare, och har den berömda Moores lag som förebild.

I soliga delar av USA kan solenergi redan i dag stå på egna ben, utan subventioner, och gott och väl mäta sig med traditionella energislag, skriver han, trots stor tillgång i USA på naturgas via fracking.

Men tillförlitligheten? Problemet med lagring?

Geoffrey Carr menar att det forskas intensivt inom de områdena, speciellt lovande är utvecklingen av flödesbatterier, där flytande elektrolyter används.

Av: Anna Orring
Mejla reportern

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Example: **Disinformation** from **greedy** big natural gas companies and politicians faint climatic benefits from natural gas (Methane).

Comment: This is why natural gas (Methane) is NOT an alternative producing less greenhouse gases – we will obtain a lot worse problems from atmospheric Methane as a complement to the those caused by CO2.

http://www.climatecentral.org/news/limiting-methane-leaks-critical-to-gas-climate-benefits-16020

Limiting Methane Leaks Critical to Gas, Climate Benefits

Published: *May 22nd, 2013*

By Climate Central

Knowing how much methane is leaking from the natural gas system is essential to determining the potential climate benefits of natural gas use. Our extensive review of the publicly available studies finds that a pervasive lack of measurements makes it nearly impossible to know with confidence what the average methane leak rate is for the U.S. as a whole. More measurements, more reliable data, and better understanding of industry practices are needed.

It has been widely reported that shifting from coal to gas in electricity generation will provide a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. In reality, the extent of reduced global warming impact depends largely on three factors:

1. The methane leak rate from the natural gas system;
2. How much time has passed after switching from coal to gas, because the potency of methane as a greenhouse gas is 102 times that of carbon dioxide (on a pound-for-pound basis) when first released into the atmosphere and decays to 72 times CO2 over 20 years and to 25 times CO2 over 100 years; and;
3. The rate at which coal electricity is replaced by gas electricity.

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Our interactive graphic below incorporates all three factors, making it easy to visualize the greenhouse benefits of converting power generation from coal to natural gas for different assumptions of methane leak rates and coal-to-gas conversion rates while also considering methane's greenhouse potency over time.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently estimated methane leaks in the natural gas system at 1.5 percent. A 1.5 percent leak rate would achieve an immediate 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, at the individual power plant level. However, EPA's estimate contains significant uncertainty, and like all estimates available in the peer-reviewed literature, lacks sufficient real-world measurements to guide decision-making at the national level. We found that the ongoing shift from coal to gas in power generation in the U.S. is unlikely to provide the 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions typically attributed to

it over the next three to four decades, unless gas leakage is maintained at the lowest estimated rates (1 to 1.5 percent) and the coal replacement rate is maintained at recent high levels (greater than 5 percent per year).

The climate benefits of natural gas are sensitive to small increases in leak rates. Assuming that natural gas replaces 2.5 percent of coal-fired power each year (the average over the past decade) even a relatively low overall leak rate of 2 percent would not achieve a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the current fleet of coal-fired power plants, for over 100 years. If the leak rate were as high as 8 percent, there would be no climate benefit at all from switching to natural gas for more than 60 years.

To compute these estimates, we analyzed first the potential greenhouse gas benefits from replacing the electricity generated by a single coal power plant with electricity from natural gas instead. For an individual power plant, if the leak rate were 2 percent it would take 55 years to reach a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse impacts compared to continued coal use. If the leak rate is more than 6 percent of methane production, switching to natural gas provides zero global warming benefit for the first 5 years compared to continuing with coal. The switch achieves a modest 17 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions after 37 years (or by 2050, if the switch occurs in 2013). An 8 percent leak rate increases greenhouse gas emissions until 2050 compared with continued coal use, and produces only about 20 percent less climate pollution than continued coal use after 100 years of operation.

But unlike converting a single power plant from coal to natural gas, the U.S. cannot switch its entire fleet of coal-fired power plants to natural gas all at once. When substitution is analyzed across the entire fleet of coal-fired plants, the rate of adoption of natural gas is a critical factor in achieving greenhouse benefits. The rate of adoption is analyzed together with the powerful but declining potency of methane emissions over time. Each year, as a certain percentage of coal plants are converted to natural gas, a new wave of highly potent methane leaks into the atmosphere and then decreases in potency over time.

When the rate of adoption is included, the greenhouse gas benefits of switching to natural gas can be even more elusive. With a 2 percent methane leak rate, and an average annual conversion rate of electricity from coal to gas of 2.5 percent (a rate that would be supportable with new gas production projected by the U.S. Department of Energy) the reductions would be 29 percent by 2050 and 16 percent by 2030. If methane leakage is 5 percent of production, by 2050 the U.S. would reduce the global warming impact of its fleet of coal fired power plants by 12 percent. By 2030, the reductions would be just 5 percent. With an 8 percent leak rate, greenhouse gas emissions would be greater than with coal for more than 50 years before a benefit begins to be realized.

What is the natural gas leak rate in the U.S.? There are large differences among published estimates of leakage from the natural gas supply system, from less than 1 percent of methane production to as much as 8 percent. At the basin level, studies have reported methane leak rates as high as 17 percent. The EPA's 2012 annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory estimate was 2.2 percent. Its 2013 inventory estimate made a large adjustment that reduced the estimate to 1.5 percent. The degree of methane leakage is uncertain, but it is likely to be reduced in the future since it also represents lost profits for gas companies. Nevertheless, our analysis indicates that the ongoing shift from coal to gas in power generation in the U.S. over the next three to four decades is unlikely to provide the 50 percent benefit that is typically attributed to such a shift.

Determining methane leakage is complicated by various uncertainties:

- Large variability and uncertainty in industry practices at wellheads, including:
  - Whether methane that accompanies flowback of hydraulic fracking fluid during completion of shale gas wells is captured for sale, flared, or vented at the wellhead. Industry practices appear to vary widely.
  - Liquids unloading, which must be done multiple times per year at most conventional gas wells and at some shale gas wells. Gas entrained with the liquids may be vented to the atmosphere. There have been relatively few measurements of vented gas volumes, and estimating an average amount of methane emitted per unloading is difficult due to intrinsic variations from well to well.

- Lack of sufficient production experience with shale gas wells:
  - There are orders of magnitude in variability of estimates of how much gas will ultimately be recovered from any given shale well. This makes it difficult to define an average lifetime production volume per well, which introduces uncertainty in estimating the percentage of gas leaked over the life of an average well.

- The frequency with which a shale gas well must be re-fractured to maintain gas flow. This process, known as a well workover, can result in methane emissions. The quantity of emissions per workover is an additional uncertainty, as it depends on how workover gas flow is handled.

- The leak integrity of the large and diverse gas distribution infrastructure:
  - Leakage measurements are challenging due to the large extent of the distribution system, including more than a million miles of distribution mains, more than 60 million service line connections, and thousands of metering and regulating stations operating under varying gas pressures and other conditions.
  - Recent measurements of elevated methane concentrations in the air above streets in Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles strongly suggest distribution system leakages. Additional measurements are needed to estimate leak rates based on such measurements.

- *Posted in **Basics**, **Causes**, **Greenhouse Gases**, **Impacts**, **Trends**, **Projections**, **Climate**, **Energy**, **Fossil Fuels**, **United States**, **Reports***

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Example: **Disinformation** – authorities' indifference and corruption through medical company lobbying on the US FDA

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/01/16/dr-brogan-on-depression.aspx?e_cid=20140116Z2_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140116Z2&et_cid=DM37687&et_rid=399838731

A Psychiatrist's Perspective on Using Drugs

January 16, 2014 | 22,719 views

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=R3TEYOzCogM

By Kelly Brogan, MD

http://www.kellybroganmd.com

When I see new patients, I do not prescribe medication for them. Patients who come to me know that I plan to help them understand "why" they are experiencing "what" they are going through.

Once I have tapered patients off of medication, we use alternatives if symptoms crop up again.

Knowing my basic orientation around the issue of psychiatric prescribing doesn't seem to stop some patients from asking for what they believe will be a quick fix in an antidepressant pill. Where did they learn to make these treatment requests of providers?

Perhaps they are a reflection of the 49% of requests for drugs prompted by "direct-to-consumer" (DCA) advertising by pharmaceutical companies.[1] Fully 7 out of 10 times, doctors prescribe based on these requests made by patients who learned from advertising that they have an "imbalance" that must be fixed with a pill.

In a 10-year period from 1999 to 2008, DCA tripled from 1.3 to 4.8 billion dollars devoted to educating patients about their need for psychiatric medication.

The "mass provision" of SSRIs to the public is not a reflection of their well-understood mechanism, of their efficacy, or of their safety. In fact, it flies in the face of all three. As stated by Professor of Neuroscience, Elliot Valenstein:[2]

"What physicians and the public are reading about mental illness is by no means a neutral reflection of all the information that is available."

Reasoning Backwards: What Are We Treating?

If you were to ask the average person on the street what the biology of depression relates to, they would very likely parrot, "serotonin deficiency." This hypothesis, referred to as the monoamine hypothesis, grew out of observations of mood-related side effects in the treatment of tuberculosis patients with iproniazid,[3] which has some inhibitory impact on the breakdown of monoamines.

From this accidental observation and double talk about reserpine's role in inducing and treating depressive states, a theory was born. Six decades of subsequent studies in never-medicated depressed patients have been conflicting, confusing, and inconclusive, and a critical review of the hypothesis concludes:[4]

" … there is no direct evidence of serotonin or norepinephrine deficiency despite thousands of studies that have attempted to validate this notion."

Similarly conclusive is a *New England Journal of Medicine* review on Major Depression,[5] which stated:

" … numerous studies of norepinephrine and serotonin metabolites in plasma, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid as well as postmortem studies of the brains of patients with depression, have yet to identify the purported deficiency reliably."

Even in the pursuit of this appealingly reductionist idea of a chemical deficiency, we are unable to measure central nervous system quantities, to account for the inner workings of 14 different types of serotonin receptors,

Also for the vast projections of serotonin trafficking neurons, and for the delicate interplay between the 100 some neurotransmitters that we know to be active in the brain. Dr. Daniel Carlat, author of *Unhinged*, writes:

"We have convinced ourselves that we have developed cures for mental illnesses…when in fact we know so little about the underlying neurobiology of their causes that our treatments are often a series of trials and errors."

How Do These Meds Work?

Even if we were to accept the premise that these medications are helpful, extrapolating a medical etiology from this observation would be the same as saying that shyness is a deficiency of alcohol, or migraine a deficiency of codeine.

And to my holistic and integrative colleagues who are very excited about tryptophan and 5HTP in medication-naïve patients, I will remind them that the only time that tryptophan depletion has correlated with low mood is in those patients previously treated with SSRIs.

We have been taught to associate serotonin with feeling good, but the fact is that high serotonin has been associated with feeling bad, including carcinoid syndrome, Alzheimer's, autism, and schizophrenia.

Low serotonin metabolite (5H1AA) is indicative of turnover of serotonin, and is the eventual result of increased serotonin in the synapse. This has been associated with suicide, violent crime, alcoholism, bulimia, and exhibitionism! Clearly, we are not dealing with a simple more is better, or even a "looking for the right balance" type of scenario.

Chasing this pattern and seeking to alter "levels" is like trying to connect a pile of scattered dots into a long straight line – you have to ignore the ones that don't fit. *What about genetics? Wasn't I born with this defect?*

Despite the continued efforts to identify "the gene," a false start in 2003,[6] which suggested that those with a variant in the serotonin transporter were 3x more likely to be depressed, was later mowed over by a meta-analysis of 14,000 patients that denied this association.[7] Dr. Insel, head of the NIMH, had this to say:

"Despite high expectations, neither genomics nor imaging has yet impacted the diagnosis or treatment of the 45 million Americans with serious or moderate mental illness each year."

Carlat goes on to say:

"And where there is a scientific vacuum, drug companies are happy to insert a marketing message and call it science. As a result, psychiatry has become a proving ground for outrageous manipulations of science in the service of profit."

Pharma Weaves an Irresistible Tale

Eleven billion dollars are spent each year on antidepressant medications,[8] pharmaceutical companies have 625 lobbyists,[9] and they underwrite more than 70% of FDA trials.

They court physicians,[10] give them samples, tell patients to "ask their doctor," pay consultants to speak at scientific meetings, advertise in medical journals, fund medical education, and ghostwrite, cherry pick and redundantly submit data for publication. Psychiatric studies funded by pharma are 4x more likely to be published if they are positive,[11] and only 18% of psychiatrists are disclosing their conflicts of interests when they publish data. Their studies allow:

- *Placebo washout* (getting rid of those who are likely to respond to placebo before the study to strengthen the perceived benefit)
- *Replacement of non-responders*
- *Breaking blind* by using inert placebos so that subjects know that they have received the treatment
- *Use of sedative medications* concurrent to study medications

A now famous 2008 study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*[12] by Turner et al sought to expose the extent of data manipulation. Through valiant efforts to uncover unpublished data, they determined that from 1987 to 2004, 12 antidepressants were approved based on 74 studies. 38 were positive, and 37 of these were published. Thirty-six were negative (showing no benefit), and 3 of these were published as such while 11 were published with a positive spin (always read the data not the author's conclusion!), and 22 were unpublished.

Since two studies are required by the FDA for approval, you can see how these companies are tossing the coin repeatedly, until heads comes up, and hoping no one is looking when it's tails. Per Robert Whitaker, author of *Anatomy of An Epidemic* and *Mad In America*, references, these practices undermine the accuracy of data and deliver information that corrupts physician's delivery of care and endangers patients.

The costs of this manipulation of information is the loss of true **informed consent** – physicians cannot adequately share with patients the risks and benefits if the benefits are fabricated and the risks are not uncovered (by 5-6 week trials) or are unacknowledged.

Placebo Effect – Why They "Work"

Despite Pharma's efforts, the truth about these brain bombs is emerging. In 1998, Dr. Irving Kirsch, an expert on the placebo effect, published a meta-analysis[13] of 3,000 patients who were treated with antidepressants, psychotherapy, placebo, or no treatment and found that 27% of the therapeutic response was attributable to the drug's action.

This was followed up by a 2008 review,[14] which invoked the Freedom of Information Act to obtain access to unpublished studies, finding that, when these were included, antidepressants outperformed placebo in only 20 of 46 trials (less than half!), and that the overall difference between drugs and placebos was 1.7 points on the 52 point Hamilton Scale. This small increment is clinically insignificant, and likely accounted for my medication side effects strategically employed (sedation or activation).

He found that severely depressed patients were less placebo responsive, generally, potentially accounting for the impression of some increased benefit, such as that found by Fournier et al.[15] When active placebos were used, the Cochrane database[16] found that differences between drugs and placebos disappeared, given credence to the assertion that inert placebos inflate perceived drug effects.

In response to 2005 recommendations from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence that SSRI medications be first line treatment recommendations for depression, Drs. Kirsch and Moncrieff pointed out[17] that

the NICE data, itself, demonstrates a 1 point difference on the 52 point Hamilton Scale between placebo and drug groups, and that it was not in more severely depressed patients that this was found.

The finding of tremendous placebo effect was also echoed in two different meta-analysis by Khan et al[18] who found a 10% difference between placebo and antidepressant efficacy, and comparable suicide rates. The largest, non-industry funded study,[19] costing the public $35 million dollars, followed 4000 patients treated with Celexa (not blinded, so they knew what they were getting), and half of them improved at 8 weeks. Those that didn't were switched to Wellbutrin, Effexor, or Zoloft OR "augmented" with Buspar or Wellbutrin.

Guess what? It didn't matter what was done, because they remitted at the same unimpressive rate of 18-30% regardless. Only 3% of patients were in remission at 12 months.

So what if it's placebo effect? It's working at least some of the time, so who cares? Here's why I, and other concerned psychiatrists and practitioners, care: I first became aware of the habit forming nature of these medications when I tapered a patient off of Zoloft in anticipation of a pregnancy in the coming year, and she experienced about 6 months of protracted withdrawal that began at about two months after the last dose. This was nothing I was prepared, by my training, to deal with.

What are these medications actually doing?! The truth is, we have very little idea. We like to cling to simple explanations, but even the name of the various antidepressants, *selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors* and *norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors* is misleading.

They are far from selective. An important analysis[20] by the former director of the NIMH makes claimed that antidepressants "create perturbations in neurotransmitter functions" causing the body to compensate through a series of compensatory adaptations which occur after "chronic administration" leading to brains that function, after a few weeks, in a way that is "qualitatively as well as quantitatively different from the normal state."

Changes in beta-adrenergic receptor density, serotonin autoreceptor sensitivity, and serotonin turnover all struggle to compensate for the assault of the medication.

Andrews et al[21] calls this "oppositional tolerance," and demonstrate through a careful meta-analysis of 46 studies demonstrating that patient's risk of relapse is directly proportionate to how "perturbing" the medication is, and is always higher than placebo (44.6% vs 24.7%). They challenge the notion that findings of decreased relapse on continued medication represent anything other than drug-induced response to discontinuation of a substance to which the body has developed tolerance. They go a step further to suggest:

"For instance, in naturalistic studies, unmedicated patients have much shorter episodes, and better long-term prospects, than medicated patients (Coryell et al., 1995; Goldberg et al., 1998; Posternak et al., 2006). Several of these studies have found that the average duration of an untreated episode of major depression is 12–13 weeks (Coryell et al., 1995; Posternak et al., 2006).

Since acute ADM management of major depression minimally requires several weeks to reduce symptoms, the duration of untreated episodes is much shorter than the recommended duration of ADM therapy. This suggests that ADM therapy may delay resolution of depressive episodes."

Harvard researchers[22] also concluded that at least fifty percent of drug-withdrawn patients relapsed within 14 months. In fact:

"Long-term antidepressant use may be depressogenic . . . it is possible that antidepressant agents modify the hardwiring of neuronal synapses (which) not only render antidepressants ineffective but also induce a resident, refractory depressive state."[23]

Buyer Beware

Here we come to the little disclosed poor outcomes associated with long-term treatment. We won't focus on the risk of suicide and violence, bleeds, or even suppressed libido and sexual dysfunction, indifference (or "medication spell-binding" as Dr. Peter Breggin calls it), or weight gain and dysglycemia. Let's just focus on what the data shows on how your ability to function, long-term, in the world with depression is significantly sabotaged by treating that first episode of depression with medication.

This was famously explored by Robert Whitaker, and can be summarized with the following studies, as a primer. Longitudinal studies demonstrate poor functional outcomes for those treated with 60% of patients still meeting diagnostic criteria at one year[24] (despite transient improvement within the first 3 months). When baseline severity is controlled for, two prospective studies support a worse outcome in those prescribed medication:

One in which the never-medicated group experienced a 62% improvement by six months, whereas the drug-treated patients experienced only a 33% reduction in symptoms,[25] and another WHO study of depressed patients in 15 cities which found that, at the end of one year, those who weren't exposed to psychotropic medications enjoyed much better "general health;" that their depressive symptoms were much milder;" and that they were less likely to still be "mentally ill."[26]

I'm not done yet. In a retrospective 10-year study[27] in the Netherlands, 76% of those with unmedicated depression recovered without relapse relative to 50% of those treated. Unlike the mess of contradictory studies around short-term effects, there are no comparable studies that show a better outcome in those prescribed antidepressants long term.

Perhaps most concerning to a holistic physician is data[28] that suggests that long-term antidepressant treatment actually compromises the known and evident benefits[29] of exercise! Benefits of exercise treatment of depression were comparable to Zoloft and were diminished when combined with Zoloft where patients relapsed at higher rates than they did with exercise alone.

Selling Sickness

Whitaker helps us to remember: Prior to the widespread use of antidepressants, the National Institute of Mental Health told the public that people regularly recovered from a depressive episode, and often never experienced a second episode.[30]

Now we have skyrocketing rates of disability in the setting of skyrocketing prescriptions. Whitaker has compiled and analyzed data demonstrating that days of work lost are increased by medication treatment as is long-term disability (19% vs 9%),[31] 3-7 times the incidence of loss of "principal social role" and "incapacitation,"[32] with treated illness, and that 85% of unmedicated patients recover in a year, with 67%[33] doing so by 6 months – an enviable statistic.

What has happened here? Since its 1952 inception and notorious inclusion of homosexuality as a diagnosable syndrome, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual has now ballooned to more than 300 diagnoses in its fifth edition, all arrived at through general consensus of a committee consisting of practitioners with conflicts of interest[34] and pharmaceutical enmeshments. Allen Frances at Columbia states:

"Wholesale imperial medicalization of normality that will trivialize mental disorder and lead to a deluge of unneeded medication treatment – a bonanza for the pharmaceutical industry but at a huge cost to the new false positive patients caught in the excessively wide DSM-V net."

We need to break the populace out of its spell, reject the serotonin meme, and start looking at depression (and anxiety, and bipolar, and schizophrenia, and OCD, etc) for what they are – disparate expressions of a body struggling to adapt to a stressor. We need to identify vulnerabilities, modifiable exposures, and support basic cellular function, detox, and immune response. This is personalized medicine, where these abstract labels become meaningless because they only address the "what" of the symptoms" in an impressionistic, non-specific manner. One as helpful as saying the fever is the disease, and Tylenol the cure. Psychiatry's swan song has been sung…listen for its plaintive wail.

About the Author

Dr. Brogan is boarded in Psychiatry/Psychosomatic Medicine/Reproductive Psychiatry and Integrative Holistic Medicine, and practices Functional Medicine, a root-cause approach to illness as a manifestation of multiple-interrelated systems. After studying Cognitive Neuroscience at M.I.T., and receiving her M.D. from Cornell University, she completed her residency and fellowship at Bellevue/NYU. She is one of the only physicians with perinatal psychiatric training who takes a holistic evidence-based approach in the care of patients with a focus on environmental medicine and nutrition. She is also a mom of two, and an active supporter of women's birth experience, rights to birth empowerment, and limiting of unnecessary interventions which is a natural extension of

her experience analyzing safety data and true informed consent around medical practice. She is the Medical Director for Fearless Parent, and an advisory board member for GreenMedInfo.com and Pathways to Family Wellness. She practices in NYC and is on faculty at NYU/Bellevue.

Story at-a-glance

- Contrary to popular belief, depression is not typically the result of 'low serotonin' levels, nor is it an imbalance that needs to be fixed with antidepressant drugs
- Eleven billion dollars are spent each year on antidepressant medications, pharmaceutical companies have 625 lobbyists, and they underwrite more than 70% of FDA trials
- There are no studies that show a better outcome in those prescribed antidepressants long term, while side effects are well documented; long-term antidepressant treatment even compromises the known benefits of exercise
- Prior to the widespread use of antidepressants, the National Institute of Mental Health told the public that people regularly recovered from a depressive episode, and often never experienced a second episode
- We need to identify vulnerabilities, modifiable exposures, and support basic cellular function, detox, and immune response to effectively treat depression

Dr. Izabella Wentz is a PharmD and Hashi's patient who has written a great resource for Hashi's patients.
http://www.thyroidpharmacist.com/
Dana Trentini of Hypothyroid Mom who is raising awareness of low thyroid and pregnancy.
http://hypothyroidmom.com/
Michelle Bickford and Denise Rodriguez of ThyroidChange.
http://www.thyroidchange.org/
I bet all of them would welcome you and want to post some of the articles you have written or even exchange posts.
Dana and Michelle are in New York, Izabella is in the Chicago area.

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Example: Negative **greed**, indifferent politicians & authorities, **corruption** by strong lobbying forces, information sneaked away rather than **disinformation**

(in Swedish – article in English: search for research news on poisonous chemicals in childrens' clothes)

http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/energi_miljo/miljo/article3797526.ece


Foto: Greenpeace

Giftiga kemikalier hittade i barnkläder

Greenpeace fann farliga kemikalier i 76 av 82 testade skor och klädesplagg för barn. "En mardröm." (20 kommentarer)

Resultatet av undersökningen presenterades under tisdagen i rapporten A Little Story About the Monsters in Your Closet (ungefär En liten saga om monstren i din garderob).

Undersökningen har gjorts genom att Greenpeace har köpt in 82 olika produkter från tolv klädmärken i 25 olika länder och regioner världen över. I Sverige inhandlades fyra plagg från Adidas, Burberry, H&M och Nike.

Produkterna har sedan undersökts av oberoende ackrediterade laboratorier för att se om de innehåller farliga kemikalier. Alla produkter testades för nonylfenoletoxilat och en del undersöktes även med avseende på ftalater, organiska tennföreningar, perfluorerade ämnen och antimon. Testerna för antimon gjordes vid Greenpeace eget laboratorium i Storbritannien.

Flera av de ämnen som Greenpeace letade efter i kläderna är hormonstörare som kan påverka fortplantningsförmågan och immunförsvaret.

I 76 av de 82 produkterna hittades minst en farlig kemikalie i en halt över detektionsgränsen.

– För föräldrar som försöker handla giftfria kläder till sina barn är det här en mardröm. De farliga kemikalierna finns i såväl exklusiva lyxmärken som budgetkläder. Dessa gifter förorenar vattendrag och sprids över hela jorden. Klädföretagen måste sluta använda giftiga kemikalier och gå över till de miljömässigt bättre alternativ som redan finns i dag, säger Annica Jacobson, chef för Greenpeace i Sverige, i ett pressmeddelande.

Varje klädmärke som testades hade plagg som innehöll farliga kemikalier. Enligt Greenpeace hade en baddräkt från Adidas högre halter av perfluoroktansyra, PFOA, än vad som är tillåtet enligt företagets egen policy. En t-shirt från Primark innehöll elva procent ftalater och höga nivåer av nonylfenoletoxilat hittades i produkter som säljs av Disney, American Apparel och Burberry.

– Vår undersökning visar att det fortfarande finns mycket kvar att göra innan vi kan lita på att de kläder och skor vi köper till våra barn är giftfria, säger Annica Jacobson.

Greenpeace driver en kampanj som kallas Detox, där klädföretag uppmanas att fasa ut alla farliga kemikalier i produktionskedjan till år 2020. Hittills har 18 stora klädmärken åtagit sig detta och enligt Greenpeace gör flera av dem tydliga framsteg mot målet. De senaste två företagen att ansluta sig är Fast Retailing och Coop.

FAKTA Greenpeaces resultat

Nonylfenoletoxilat hittades i 50 av de 82 produkterna, i halter mellan 1 och 17 000 milligram per kilo. De högsta nivåerna fanns i artiklar från C&A, Disney, American Apparel och Burberry.

Ftalater hittades i 33 av 35 produkter. De högsta halterna hittades i en t-shirt av märket Primark som såldes i Tyskland och en bebisdräkt från American Apparel som såldes i USA. T-shirten innehöll elva procent ftalater och bebisplagget 0,6 procent. Greenpeace konstaterar att dessa halter inte skulle vara tillåtna i leksaker och barnartiklar som säljs i EU enligt EU:s lagstiftning. Men den lagstiftningen omfattar inte kläder.

Organiska tennföreningar hittades i sex av 32 testade artiklar. De högsta halterna fanns i tre olika skor av Puma och Adidas. Alla dessa hade högre halter av dioktyltennföreningar, DOT, än Puma och Adidas egen policy.

Perfluorerade ämnen hittades i alla 15 testade artiklar. Perfluoroktansulfonat, PFOS, fanns i en Adidas-sko och i en baddräkt från Burberry. I en baddräkt från Adidas var halten av PFOA högre än gränsen på 1 mikrogram per kvadratmeter som Adidas har i sin egen policy.

Antimon hittades i alla 36 artiklar.

FAKTA Farliga kemikalier

Perfluorerade ämnen används i kläder för sin förmåga att stöta bort vatten och olja. PFOS är giftigt och reproduktionsstörande och bryts inte ned i naturen. PFOA är också reproduktionsstörande och misstänks även vara cancerframkallande.

Nonylfenoletoxilat används bland annat i tvättmedel och färger. I naturen bryts ämnet ned till nonylfenol som är giftigt för vattenlevande organismer och misstänks ge nedsatt fortplantningsförmåga.

Ftalater används mestadels som mjukgörare i plast, särskilt PVC. Vissa ftalater kan skada fortplantningsförmågan och har förbjudits i leksaker och barnvårdsartiklar. DEHP är en ftalat som har visat sig vara hormonstörande i djurförsök.

Antimon är en halvmetall som har flera likheter med arsenik. Den används som tillsatsämne i textilier och plast, bland annat som flamskyddsmedel och färgmedel. I koncentrerad form är ämnet hälsofarligt. Långvarigt intag kan ge ögonskador, hosta och ät- och sovstörningar. Akuta effekter vid stort intag är kramper, diarré, hjärt- och andningsproblem. En antimonförening misstänks vara cancerframkallande.

Organiska tennföreningar används bland annat som bakteriedödare och som stabilisatorer i plast. Vissa föreningar har hormonstörande egenskaper och kan störa fortplantningen.

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Example: (illusory) **solution** – cost of producing biogas out of forestal waste

Comment: enormous forestal waste transportation requirements devouring fossil fuel will by the farthest surpass any climatic benefits from this type of initiative

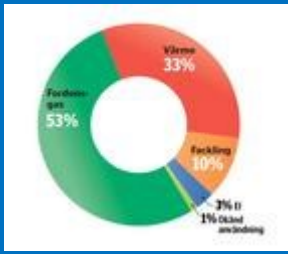
(in Swedish – article in English: search for research news on biogas production from forestal/forest waste)

http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/energi_miljo/bioenergi/article3797929.ece

Jättefabrik skapar bilbränsle av skog

Av: Charlotta von Schultz
Publicerad 17 januari 2014 07:0062 kommentarer

Skogsrester in, fordonsgas ut. Nu tas världens första storskaliga produktion av biogas från förgasning i drift. Anläggningen ska försörja upp till 20 000 bilar med bränsle.



Svensk biogas Ungefär 1,6 terawattimmar biogas producerades från sammanlagt 242 anläggningar i Sverige år 2012. Råvarorna var i huvudsak avfall, exempelvis avloppsslam, källsorterat matavfall och avfall från livsmedelsindustrin. I slutet av år 2012 fanns det ungefär 44 000 gasfordon i Sverige. Det såldes fordonsgas, motsvarande 1 426 gigawattimmar. Cirka 60 procent var biogas, för resten var naturgas. Fakta: Biogasportalen, gasbilen.se

Läs mer

- Utredaren föreslår mer stöd till gasen

– Vi ska visa att det går att producera gas från skogsavfall i stor skala. Det är unikt, säger Åsa Burman, projektchef och vd för Gobigas, som ägs av Göteborg Energi.

Trots att det bara är en demonstrationsanläggning så gör den Göteborg Energi till Sveriges i särklass största biogasproducent.

Landets övriga cirka 240 anläggningar utvinner biogas genom rötning av framför allt avloppsslam och matavfall, råvaror som det börjar råda brist på. Göteborg Energi blir först med att i stället använda förgasning, en metod som lämpar sig för storskalig produktion.

Råvaran ska vara spill från skogsbruket, exempelvis grenar och toppar.

I full drift kan anläggningen producera 160 gigawattimmar gas per år, tillräckligt för att försörja mellan 15 000 och 20 000 bilar. Anläggningen blir därmed störst i världen på förgasning av biobränsle, enligt företaget.

Men Åsa Burman poängterar att tekniken ändå är beprövad. Mindre anläggningar finns i Güssing i Österrike och i Senden i Tyskland.

Så här går produktionen till:

Det kolhaltiga bränslet förgasas vid ungefär 880 grader i en syrefri miljö. Då bildas syntesgas, en blandning av vätgas, kolmonoxid och koldioxid samt cirka tio procent metan.

Syntesgasen omvandlas i flera processteg där tjära och svavel tas bort. Därefter omvandlas gasblandningen stegvis till 95-procentig biometan, som även kallas biogas.

Gasen matas direkt ut i det befintliga västsvenska gasnätet och hamnar till sist i gasfordonens tankar.

Den nya anläggningen ligger i Ryahamnen vid Älvsborgsbrons norra fäste i Göteborg.

Den har kostat cirka 1,5 miljarder kronor att bygga, varav Energimyndigheten skjutit till 222 miljoner.

Vid Ny Tekniks besök före jul råder full verksamhet i kontrollrummet. Produktionen skulle egentligen ha varit i gång, men starten är framskjuten efter lite småstrul. En fläkt nöp, läckor behövde tätas, murbruk måste bättras på i förgasaren.

Nu ska allt vara åtgärdat och i februari ska den första gasen börja levereras. I början kommer bränslet att vara träpellets. Först om två år är anläggningen redo att ta emot skogsavfall per lastbil – gasdriven förstås.

Den nya anläggningen är bara ett första steg. Göteborg Energi har som ambition att bygga en fyra till fem gånger så stor förgasningsanläggning på granntomten.

Upp till 1 000 gigawattimmar per år ska den ge, vilket skulle räcka till 100 000 gasbilar. Så många gasfordon finns inte i hela Sverige –antalet uppgick till drygt 44 000 i slutet av 2012.

– Visst, marknaden behöver växa rejält. Men användningen av gas till transporter ökar i världen på senare år, och vi hoppas även få leverera förnybar gas till processindustrin, säger Åsa Burman.

EU har lovat att stödja projektet med cirka 500 miljoner kronor. För att det ska bli verklighet måste flera förutsättningar vara uppfyllda.

– Vi måste visa att tekniken fungerar med tillräckligt bra prestanda, få finansiering och få lönsamhet i produktionen, säger Åsa Burman.

Lönsamheten är en stor utmaning. Gobigas biogas har inte en chans att konkurrera mot fossila bränslen utan stöd. Företagets råvara kostar ungefär lika mycket som oskattad bensin.

Den färdiga gasen är två till fyra gånger så dyr. Åsa Burman hoppas därför på nya politiska styrmedel, gärna den prispremie för biobränsle som föreslås i regeringens utredning för en fossiloberoende fordonsflotta.

– Vi missade tåget för vindkraft och solceller där Danmark och Tyskland tog ledningen. Men vi är duktiga på förgasning och har chansen att bli världsledande, säger hon.

FAKTA I Gobigas finns:

25 km rör.

90 km kabel.

2 500 instrument.

4300 ventiler varav 400 styrda.

Totalt 130 pumpar, kompressorer, fläktar och transportörer.

Totalt 200 torn, reaktorer, värmeväxlare, tankar och behållare.

Kapaciteten är 20 megawatt biogas.

Årsproduktion är 160 gigawattimmar gas. Därutöver ger anläggningen 50 gigawattimmar fjärrvärme.

FAKTA Svensk biogas

Ungefär 1,6 terawattimmar biogas producerades från sammanlagt 242 anläggningar i Sverige år 2012.

Råvarorna var i huvudsak avfall, exempelvis avloppsslam, källsorterat matavfall och avfall från livsmedelsindustrin.

I slutet av år 2012 fanns det ungefär 44 000 gasfordon i Sverige.

Det såldes fordonsgas, motsvarande 1 426 gigawattimmar. Cirka 60 procent var biogas, för resten var naturgas.

Fakta: Biogasportalen, gasbilen.se

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Example: (illusory) **solution** –Criticism againt LNG/ natural gas and biogas propelled vehicles (buses) as a substitute for petrol (gasoline)/ diesel propelled engines, due to accidents occurred and feared.

Comment: In India, which is however not covered by this article, numerous accidents harvesting lives have occurred.

(in Swedish – article in English: search for research news on biogas and LNG/ natural gas fuels in vehicles)

http://www.nyteknik.se/asikter/debatt/article3800915.ece

Två biogasbussar totalförstördes efter en brand i Helsingborg i februari 2012. Branden startade efter att den ena bussen kört in i den andra bakifrån. En byggnad bredvid bussarna fattade också eld. Ingen ombord kom till skada vid olyckan.
Foto: Johan Nilsson50090

”Explosionsrisken för stor i gasdrivna bussar”

Publicerad 29 januari 2014 06:003 kommentarer

DEBATT Måste det till en större olycka med en gasbuss innan man förstår hur stora riskerna är? Vilka slutsatser har dragits av branden i Helsingborg? Det undrar Bertil Sander som ifrågasätter säkerhetstänkandet när man tilllåter gasbussar på våra vägar.

- Gas en utmaning vid trafikolyckor
- Här ska branden stoppas
- Debatt
- Biogasbussar

Bussar med bio- eller naturgasdrivna motorer brinner ofta. I februari 2012 i Helsingborg totalförstördes två gasbussar i ett eldhav efter en lätt kollision. Fler har brunnit i Landskrona, Borås, Lund och häromdagen i en anlagd brand i Mölndal.

Biogas, det vill säga metan spetsad med cirka åtta procent propan, är eldfängd. Bussarna har ömtåliga, kollisionsutsatta och läckagekänsliga ledningar, ventiler och filter mellan taktankar och motor.

Hur hanteras en brinnande buss med ett tryck i gastankarna på 200 kg/cm^2 om den skulle befinna sig några meter från ett daghem, en skola eller ett hus av trä? Brandförsvaret hinner ju inte, med de snabba brandförloppen, reagera innan bussen är utbränd och omgivningen antänd.

Trycktankarna på taket ska vid brand och tryckstegring kunna flamma ut gasen på ett kontrollerat sätt. Felfunktion i termiska säkerhetsventiler/smältsäkringar har dock förekommit med tanksprängningar som resultat. En explosion ger ett expanderande eldklot av brinnande gas, med tryckvåg och kringkastade fragment.

En olycka där bussen välter på sidan mot ett fordon eller ett annat hinder och river upp gastankarna kan ge en explosion även utan föregående brandförlopp.

Förstår man inte olycksrisken förrän en större olycka hänt?

Man kan lätt föreställa sig en bussolycka utanför en förskola eller i en tunnel.

Bussen välter på dörrsidan. Några av taktankarna rivs upp, gasen sprutar ut och bildar sekundsnabbt en högexplosiv blandning av metan, propan och luft på flera hundra m3 som efter några sekunder exploderar.

Vad blir eldklotets diameter i värsta tänkbara läge, 100–150 m^3? Vad blir effekten i en tunnel?

Behövs det särskild information eller till och med evakueringsträning för passagerare, övrig trafik, boende, skolor etc i händelse av brand i en gasbuss?

Borde brandförsvaret våga säga ifrån att man av säkerhetsskäl och i förebyggande syfte bör avstå från denna busstyp?

Borde kanske Statens Haverikommission, om de lyft blicken från den utredda och rapporterade Helsingborgsbranden, också kommit till den slutsatsen?

Två biogasbussar totalförstördes efter en brand i Helsingborg. Branden startade efter att den ena bussen kört in i den andra bakifrån. En byggnad bredvid bussarna fattade också eld. Ingen ombord kom till skada.

Bertil Sander, miljöintresserad.

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Example: (illusory) **solution** – Criticism against electric cars as a substitute for combustion engines, and thereby against the electric car industrial hype entailing politician prestige and ideologic favoring locked into new industries and industrial branches forming a future bauta corner stone in climatic debate of the future

Comment: Despite the fact that road transports constitue a mere 6% of greenhouse gas emissions, one of the pillars of ignorance among common people, corporate leaders, and politicians alike is that once the world has abolished fossil fuel propelled vehicles, then Earth's climate issues will be solved ☺

(in Swedish – article in English: search for research news for and against electric cars)

http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/fordon_motor/bilar/elbil/article3795816.ece

Så lätt knäcktes elbilarna i kylan

Av: Eddie Pröckl
Publicerad 3 januari 2014 15:18253 kommentarer

Att ta elbilen på skidsemester är ingen bra idé, inte ens om man bor nära backen. I bästa fall kommer man upp på en laddning och kan rulla ner. Den tyska tidskriften Auto Bild försökte – och kom ungefär halvvägs.

Läs mer

- Tesla väljer Telia Sonera för uppkoppling
- Elbilarna på väg mot fördubbling
- Här provkör Ny Teknik VW:s första elbil
- Tredje Teslabranden i höst
- Audi R8 Etron inte omöjlig

Visa fler »

Taggar

- Elbil

Minusgrader och alpin terräng är ingen bra kombination för elbilar. Ett test bland skidorter i alperna som gjordes av tidskriften Auto Bild gav nedslående resultat. Ingen av de fem populära elfordon som provkördes var ens i närheten av de räckviddsuppgifter som lämnats av tillverkarna. Kylan och alpvägarna sög musten ur den ena bilen efter den andra.

Först att ge upp, efter bara 59 kilometer, blev Renault Zoe. Mitsubishi i-Miev och BMWs nya stolthet i3 rullade två kilometer till, sedan var det slut. Storsäljaren Nissan Leaf kom 69 kilometer. De här bilarna har alla en angiven räckvidd på 100 till 200 kilometer på en laddning.

Längst, eller 207 kilometer, rullade Tesla S. Teslan har dock en angiven räckvidd på 500 kilometer.

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Example: (illusory) **solution** – Criticism against electric cars as a substitute for combustion engines – investigation shows that hybrids generally run don't run on electricity.

Comment: Car Batteries work fine for a while – a year or two – before their capacity begins to decline, only to seize completely a few years later.

(in Swedish – article in English: search for research news for and against electric cars)

http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/fordon_motor/bilar/elbil/article3797737.ece

En studie visar att laddhybriderna Opel Ampera och Toyota Prius mest går på bensin. Foto: Opel, Toyota

Laddhybrider kör inte på el

Av: Eddie Pröckl
Publicerad 15 januari 2014 11:3373 kommentarer

Nederländerna är ett av de länder som har högst laddelbilstäthet, bland annat beroende på kraftiga subventioner och utbyggda laddstationer. Nu visar en ny studie att laddhybriderna ändå för det mesta går på bensin.

Studien har genomförts av TNO, Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (motsvarar de svenska industriforskningsinstituten RISE, Research Institutes of Sweden) och gäller laddhybrider som fanns i trafik 2012. Målet var att utvärdera utsläpp och bränsleanvändning i riktig trafik.

TNO studerade 540 Opel Ampera/Chevrolet Volt och 100 Toyota Prius plug-in som användes i riktig trafik. TNO hade tillgång till data från de bränslebetalkort som användes för de här bilarna, och kunde där se hur mycket varje bil tankade. Nyhetsbrevet Omvärldsanalys av energieffektiva fordon redogör för resultatet i sin senaste utgåva.

Enligt testcykeln ska Ampera/Volt ha cirka 78 procent elmil av totala mil och Prius plug-in cirka 50 procent. Men i riktig trafik hade Ampera/Volt bara 24 procent elmil och Prius 22 procent elmil. Det gjorde att skillnaden i CO2/km enligt typgodkännandet och riktig trafik var stor, skriver nyhetsbrevet.

Enligt typgodkännandet ger Prius plug-in 49g, i verklig trafik 106g. För Volt/Ampera var skillnaden ännu större: Typgodkännandet säger 27g, verklig trafik 110g.

TNO-rapporten ger två förslag till förklaringar. Dels är laddinfrstrukturen inte tillräckligt utbyggd, dels används bilarna i tjänsten. Det betyder att föraren inte behöver betala bränslet själv, utan väljer det bekvämaste alternativet.

FAKTA Var fjärde var laddelbil

- 2013 såldes cirka 2 000 elbilar och 20 000 laddhybrider i Nederländerna.
- I december svarade laddelbilar för 25 procent av nybilsförsäljningen.
- Prognosen för 2014 är något lägre, 1 500 elbilar och 10 000 laddhybrider, beroende på sänkta subventioner.

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Example: (illusory) **solution** –Criticism against electric cars as a substitute for combustion engines

Comment: Within six weeks in the autum of 2013, three Tesla model S electric cars have caught fire.

(in Swedish – article in English: search for news on Tesla S, battery fire, research news for/against electric cars)

Tredje Teslabranden i höst

Av: Håkan Abrahamson
Publicerad 8 november 2013 10:25

Inom loppet av sex veckor har tre bilar av märket Tesla modell S börjat brinna.

I onsdags hände det igen, en Tesla modell S började brinna på vägen. Branden inträffade i staden Smyrna i den amerikanska delstaten Tennessee, inte långt ifrån den plats där Nissan tillverkar sin eldrivna bil Leaf.

Det är ännu oklart vad som orsakade branden, trafikpolisen säger till Reuters att även denna bil kan ha kört på ett metallföremål som förstört batteripaketet och utlöst branden.

Precis som vid de tidigare olyckstillfällena har föraren lyckats stanna bilen och kliva ur i tid. Ingen har blivit skadad.

Tesla Motors meddelar att man skickar personal för att undersöka bilen.

Den första branden inträffade 1 oktober utanför Seattle, där en Tesla körde på ett större metallföremål som låg på vägen. Metallföremålet skadade bilens litiumjonbatterier, och en brand utlöstes.

Den andra branden orsakades av att en Tesla körde in i en betongvägg och kraschade mot ett träd.

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Example: **solution** – Climatic change counteractions must build upon a strong opinion pressure from common people

Comment: Record breaking levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases (WMO records, Dec 2013)

(in Swedish – article in English: search for research news on greenhouse gas levels)

TT dec 2013:

Rekordhöga halter av växthusgaser

Halterna av växthusgaser i atmosfären når rekordnivåer - igen. Fortsätter vi att släppa ut så mycket som vi gör nu kommer koncentrationen att fortsätta att öka, säger en klimatforskare.

Det var en dyster läsning som FNs väderorganisation World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presenterade igår.

WMO har gått igenom hur stor mängden av de klimatuppvärmande växthusgaserna i atmosfären var under 2012.
Och rapporten påminner en hel del om den som presenterades förra året. Den stora skillnaden är att siffrorna är ännu högre i år. Exempelvis har växthusgasernas uppvärmande effekt ökat med 32 procent sedan 1990. Motsvarande siffra förra året var 30 procent.
WMOs generalsekreterare Michel Jarraud konstaterar att det krävs stora och varaktiga minskningar av utsläppen av växthusgaser för att begränsa klimatförändringarna.
"Vi måste agera nu, annars kommer vi att äventyra framtiden för våra barn, barnbarn och många kommande generationer", säger han i ett pressmeddelande.
Att nya rekordhalter av växthusgaser uppmättes förra året är inte förvånande, anser Markku Rummukainen, klimatforskare vid SMHI och Lunds Universitet.
- Nej, växthusgasutsläppen fortsätter ju att öka år från år. Det är tyvärr så att vi är med och driver den utvecklingen, säger han.
Christian Axar, professor i hållbara energi- och materialsystem vid Chalmers, är inne på samma linje.
Om en förändring ska kunna bli av och utsläppen av växthusgaser ska minska krävs det bland annat ett starkt opinionstryck från allmänheten, säger Azar.
- Det måste bli det i USA, i EU och också bland kinesiska medborgare. (TT)
min kommentar:
Oinionstryck ja, men inte på politiker utan på marknadsaktörer som då agerar i vinstsyfte.
(exempel på usel journalistik, men värdefullt ändå)

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Example: **greed** – Companies directing ruthlessly and greedily directly at children as a target consumer group in order to "foster" them in their favor by means of brain-washing

Comment: Disgusting

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2014/01/01/top-10-articles-of-2013.aspx?e_cid=20140101Z2_DNL_art_1&utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20140101Z2&et_cid=DM37058&et_rid=385362001

Is Monsanto Using 4-H to Brainwash Your Children About GMOs?

December 31, 2013

Categories

- Aspartame
- Cancer
- Fluoride
- Fructose/Sugar
- GMO
- Mercury Free Dentistry
- Nutritional Typing
- Vaccines
- Vitamin D
- **See All Categories**

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Example: **greed** and **corruption** – Political groupings, agencies, and authorities actively counteract efficient fights against climate change

Comment: Demoralizing and disgusting, counteraction aimed at favoring their domestic energy sector industries

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/dec/20/conservative-groups-1bn-against-climate-change

- Environment
- Climate change scepticism

Conservative groups spend up to $1bn a year to fight action on climate change

• Author: 'I call it the climate-change counter movement'

• Study focuses on groups opposing US political action

- Suzanne Goldenberg US environment correspondent
- theguardian.com, Friday 20 December 2013 19.58 GMT

Conservative groups may have spent up to $1bn a year on the effort to deny science and oppose action on climate change, according to the first extensive study into the anatomy of the anti-climate effort.

The anti-climate effort has been largely underwritten by conservative billionaires, often working through secretive funding networks. They have displaced corporations as the prime supporters of 91 think tanks, advocacy groups and industry associations which have worked to block action on climate change. Such financial support has hardened conservative opposition to climate policy, ultimately dooming any chances of action from Congress to cut greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet, the study found.

"I call it the climate-change counter movement," said the author of the study, Drexel University sociologist Robert Brulle. "It is not just a couple of rogue individuals doing this. This is a large-scale political effort."

Brulle's study, published on Friday in the journal Climatic Change, offers the most definitive exposure to date of the political and financial forces blocking American action on climate change. Still, there are big gaps.

It was not always possible to separate funds designated strictly for climate-change work from overall budgets, Brulle said. "Since the majority of the organizations are multiple focus organizations, not all of this income was devoted to climate change activities."

Some of the think tanks on Brulle's list – such as the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) – said they had no institutional position on climate change and did not control the output of their scholars. In addition, Brulle acknowledged that he was unable to uncover the full extent of funding sources to the effort to oppose action on climate change. About three-quarters of the funds were routed through trusts or other mechanisms that assure anonymity to donors – a trend Brulle described as disturbing and a threat to democracy.

"This is how wealthy individuals or corporations translate their economic power into political and cultural power," he said. "They have their profits and they hire people to write books that say climate change is not real. They hear people to go on TV and say climate change is not real. It ends up that people without economic power don't have the same size voice as the people who have economic power, and so it ends up distorting democracy.

"That is the bottom line here. These are unaccountable organisations deciding what our politics should be. They put their thumbs on the scale … It is more one dollar one vote than one person one vote."

Top-tier conservative think tanks

The vast majority of the 91 groups on Brulle's list – 79% – were registered as charitable organisations and enjoyed considerable tax breaks. Those 91 groups included trade organisations, think tanks and campaign groups. The groups collectively received more than $7bn over the eight years of Brulle's study – or about $900m a year from 2003 to 2010. Conservative think tanks and advocacy groups occupied the core of that effort.

The funding was dispersed to top-tier conservative think tanks in Washington, such as the AEI and Heritage Foundation, which focus on a range of issues, as well as more obscure organisations such as the Atlas Economic Research Foundation and the John Locke Foundation.

Funding also went to groups that took on climate change denial as a core mission – such as the Heartland Institute, which held regular conclaves dedicated to undermining the United Nations climate panel's reports, and the Competitive Enterprise Institute, which tried and failed to prosecute a climate scientist, Michael Mann, for academic fraud.

AEI was by far the top recipient of such funds, receiving 16% of total funding over the eight years, or $86.7m. Heartland Institute, in contrast, received just 3% of the total, $16.7m. There was also generous support to Americans for Prosperity, the advocacy group affiliated with the conservative Koch billionaires, which received $22.7m.

'It won't be going to liberals'

Brulle admits, however, that he was far less successful in uncovering the sources of funding for the counter-climate movement. About 75% of such funding sources remain shrouded in secrecy, with wealthy conservatives routing their donations through a system of trusts which guarantee anonymity.

The leading venue for those underground donations was the Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund, which alone accounted for 25% of funding of the groups opposed to climate action. An investigation by the Guardian last February found that the Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund had distributed nearly $120m to more than 100 anti-climate groups from 2002-2010. The Donors group has now displaced such previous prominent supporters of the climate denial movement as the Koch-affiliated foundations and corporations like Exxon Mobil, Brulle said.

Other conservative foundations funding climate denial efforts include: the Searle Freedom Trust, the John William Pope Foundation, the Howard Charitable Foundation and the Sarah Scaife Foundation, which also promote a free-market approach on other issues.

A number of the groups on Brulle's list – both as funders and recipients – refused to comment on his findings or disputed his contention that they were part of a movement to block action on climate change.

Whitney Ball, the president of the Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund, said the organisation had no say in deciding which projects would receive funding. However, Ball told the Guardian last February that Donors offered funders the assurance their money would never go to Greenpeace. “It won't be going to liberals,” she said at that time.

“We do not otherwise drive the selection of grantees, nor do we conduct in-depth analyses of projects or grantees unless an account holder specifically requests that service,” Ball said in an email. “Neither Donors Trust nor Donors Capital Fund as institutions take positions with respect to any issue advocated by its grantees.”

Recipients of the funds also disputed the assertion they were part of a larger effort to undermine climate science or block action on climate change.

“Each of the scholars that work on any particular issue speaks for his or hers own work,” said Judy Mayka Stecker, director of media relations at AEI, in an email. She went on to write, however, that most of the AEI scholars who have worked on energy and climate change have moved on and would be unavailable to comment.

David Kreutzer, an energy and climate change fellow at the Heritage Foundation, said Brulle was unfairly conflating climate denial with opposition to policies that would require industry reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“We do believe that CO2 is a greenhouse gas and that man-made emissions will lead to some warming,” said David Kreutzer, an energy and climate-change fellow at the Heritage Foundation. “We are opposed to mandatory greenhouse gas emissions cuts.”

He said many conservatives saw a carbon tax, cap-and-trade and other climate policies as a government takeover by stealth.

“What we are not interested in doing is a huge shift of power to the government under the guise of preventing some climate problem,” he said.

The Hoover Institution, which received about $45m, claimed to produce no work on climate change – while displaying on its website an article by a Hoover research fellow on an August 2013 Hoover poll on economic, energy and environmental issues.

"Hoover has no institutional initiatives on climate change,” a spokeswoman, Eryn Witcher, wrote in an email. “Individual Hoover fellows research and write on a wide variety of topics of their own choosing, but we're not aware of any who are working in that field at this time, nor are we aware of any gifts or grants that have been received for that purpose.”

In the article, the Hoover fellow, Jeremy Carl, who works extensively on energy and climate issues, discussed climate change and fracking, concluding: “Many Democrats and liberals are in denial when it comes to reality on energy and climate policy, endorsing both science and political fiction.”

• This headline on this article was amended on 21 December 2013 to reflect that not all the $1bn referred to will have funded climate change work.

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Example: FDA and other US authorities’ **disinformation** to the people founded on **corruption** and **greed**

Comment: The major problem of conveying information is that enlightment or tuition don’t easily bite on the world’s major pollutor populations in the US and China – so those populations should really constitue THE major target group of every climate-energy related campaign in the future from now on. Kill ignorance & denialism now! Denialism is terrorism. And Maritn Luther King once said: “There will come a time when

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2013/07/10/banned-foods.aspx

10 American Foods That Are Banned in Other Countries

July 10, 2013 | 549,011 views

Story at-a-glance

- Many foods sold in the US are banned in other countries due to harmful additives, growth promoters, genetically engineered ingredients or other dangerous practices
- This includes farm-raised salmon, Hawaiian (GMO) papaya, artificial food dyes, arsenic-laced chicken, ractopamine-tainted meat, bromate-containing drinks and bread, olestra, carcinogenic preservatives, and rBGH-laced milk
- To avoid potentially hazardous foods and harmful ingredients permitted in the US food supply, ditching processed foods entirely is your best option
- Also swap out your regular meat sources to organic, grass-fed/pasture-raised versions of beef and poultry. The same goes for dairy products and animal by-products such as eggs

By Dr. Mercola

Americans are slowly waking up to the sad fact that much of the food sold in the US is far inferior to the same foods sold in other nations. In fact, many of the foods you eat are BANNED in other countries.

Here, I’ll review 10 American foods that are banned elsewhere, which were featured in a recent MSN article.[1]

Seeing how the overall health of Americans is so much lower than other industrialized countries, you can’t help but wonder whether toxic foods such as these might play a role in our skyrocketing disease rates.

#1: Farm-Raised Salmon

Farmed salmon are raised on a wholly unnatural diet of grains along with a concoction of antibiotics and other drugs. This diet leaves the fish with unappetizing grayish flesh, so to compensate, they're fed synthetic astaxanthin made from petrochemicals, which has not been approved for human consumption. Farmed Salmon fed these chemicals are banned in Australia and New Zealand.

If you want to maximize health benefits from fish, you want to steer clear of farmed fish, particularly farmed salmon fed dangerous chemicals. Wild salmon gets its bright pinkish-red color from natural carotenoids in their diet. Farmed salmon, on the other hand, are raised on a wholly unnatural diet of grains (including genetically engineered varieties), plus a concoction of antibiotics and other drugs and chemicals not shown to be safe for humans.

This diet leaves the fish with unappetizing grayish flesh so to compensate, they're fed synthetic astaxanthin made from petrochemicals, which has not been approved for human consumption and has well known toxicities. According to the featured article, some studies suggest it can potentially damage your eyesight. More details are available in yesterday's article.

Where it's banned: *Australia and New Zealand*

How can you tell whether a salmon is wild or farm-raised? The flesh of wild sockeye salmon is bright red, courtesy of its natural astaxanthin content. It's also very lean, so the fat marks, those white stripes you see in the meat, are very thin. If the fish is pale pink with wide fat marks, the salmon is farmed.

Avoid Atlantic salmon, as typically salmon labeled "Atlantic Salmon" currently comes from fish farms. The two designations you want to look for are: "Alaskan salmon," and "sockeye salmon," as Alaskan sockeye is not allowed to be farmed. Please realize that the vast majority of all salmon sold in restaurants is farm raised.

So canned salmon labeled "Alaskan Salmon" is a good bet, and if you find sockeye salmon, it's bound to be wild. Again, you can tell sockeye salmon from other salmon by its color; its flesh is bright red opposed to pink, courtesy of its superior astaxanthin content. Sockeye salmon actually has one of the highest concentrations of astaxanthin of any food.

#2: Genetically Engineered Papaya

Most Hawaiian papaya is now genetically engineered to be resistant to ringspot virus. Mounting research now shows that animals fed genetically engineered foods, such as corn and soy, suffer a wide range of maladies, including intestinal damage, multiple-organ damage, massive tumors, birth defects, premature death, and near complete sterility by the third generation of offspring. GE papaya is banned in the EU.

Most Hawaiian papaya is now genetically engineered to be resistant to ringspot virus. Mounting research now shows that animals fed genetically engineered foods, such as corn and soy, suffer a wide range of maladies, including intestinal damage, multiple-organ damage, massive tumors, birth defects, premature death, and near complete sterility by the third generation of offspring. Unfortunately, the gigantic human lab experiment is only about 10 years old, so we are likely decades away from tabulating the human casualties.

Where it's banned: *The European Union*

Unfortunately, it's clear that the US government is not in a position to make reasonable and responsible decisions related to genetically engineered foods at this point, when you consider the fact that the Obama administration has placed former Monsanto attorney and Vice President, Michael Taylor, in charge of US food safety, and serious conflicts of interest even reign supreme within the US Supreme Court! That's right. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is also a former Monsanto attorney, but refuses to acknowledge any conflict of interest.

#3: Ractopamine-Tainted Meat

The beta agonist drug ractopamine, which reduces the overall fat content of meat, is currently used in about 45 percent of US pigs, 30 percent of ration-fed cattle, and an unknown percentage of turkeys. Up to 20 percent of ractopamine remains in the meat you buy from the supermarket.

The beta agonist drug ractopamine (a repartitioning agent that increases protein synthesis) was recruited for livestock use when researchers found that the drug, used in asthma, made mice more muscular. This reduces the overall fat content of the meat. Ractopamine is currently used in about 45 percent of US pigs, 30 percent of ration-fed cattle, and an unknown percentage of turkeys are pumped full of this drug in the days leading up to slaughter. Up to 20 percent of ractopamine remains in the meat you buy from the supermarket, according to veterinarian Michael W. Fox.

Since 1998, more than 1,700 people have been "poisoned" from eating pigs fed the drug, and ractopamine is banned from use in food animals in no less than 160 different countries due to its harmful health effects! Effective February 11, 2013, Russia issued a ban on US meat imports, slated to last until the US agrees to certify that the meat is ractopamine-free. At present, the US does not even test for the presence of this drug in meats sold. In animals, ractopamine is linked to reductions in *reproductive function, increase of mastitis in dairy herds, and increased death and disability.* It's also known to affect the human cardiovascular system, and is thought to be responsible for hyperactivity, and may cause chromosomal abnormalities and behavioral changes.

***Where it's banned**: 160 countries across Europe, Russia, mainland China and Republic of China (Taiwan)*

#4: Flame Retardant Drinks

Citrus-flavored sodas and sports drinks sold in the US typically contain a synthetic chemical called brominated vegetable oil (BVO), which was originally patented by chemical companies as a flame retardant. BVO has been shown to bioaccumulate in human tissue and breast milk, and animal studies have found it causes reproductive and behavioral problems in large doses.

If you live in the US and drink Mountain Dew and some other citrus-flavored sodas and sports drinks, then you are also getting a dose of a synthetic chemical called brominated vegetable oil (BVO), which was originally patented by chemical companies as a flame retardant.

BVO has been shown to bioaccumulate in human tissue and breast milk, and animal studies have found it causes reproductive and behavioral problems in large doses. Bromine is a central nervous system depressant, and a common endocrine disruptor. It's part of the halide family, a group of elements that includes fluorine, chlorine and iodine. When ingested, bromine competes for the same receptors that are used to capture iodine. This can lead to iodine deficiency, which can have a very detrimental impact on your health. Bromine toxicity can manifest as skin rashes, acne, loss of appetite, fatigue, and cardiac arrhythmias. According to the featured article:

"The FDA has flip-flopped on BVO's safety originally classifying it as 'generally recognized as safe' but reversing that call now defining it as an 'interim food additive' a category reserved for possibly questionable substances used in food."

***Where it's banned:** Europe and Japan*

#5: Processed Foods Containing Artificial Food Colors and Dyes

1. More than 3,000 food additives -- preservatives, flavorings, colors and other ingredients -- are added to US foods. Meanwhile, many of these are banned in other countries, based on research showing toxicity and hazardous health effects, especially with respect to adverse effects on children's behavior.

More than 3,000 food additives -- preservatives, flavorings, colors and other ingredients -- are added to US foods, including infant foods and foods targeted to young children. Meanwhile, many of these are banned in other countries, based on research showing toxicity and hazardous health effects, especially with respect to adverse effects on children's behavior. For example, as reported in the featured article:

"Boxed Mac & Cheese, cheddar flavored crackers, Jell-O and many kids' cereals contain red 40, yellow 5, yellow 6 and/or blue 2, the most popularly-used dyes in the United States. Research has shown this rainbow of additives can cause behavioral problems as well as cancer, birth defects and other health problems in laboratory animals. Red 40 and yellow 6 are also suspected of causing an allergy-like hypersensitivity reaction in children. The Center for Science in the Public Interest reports that some dyes are also "contaminated with known carcinogens."

In countries where these food colors and dyes are banned, food companies like Kraft employ natural colorants instead, such as paprika extract, beetroot, and annatto. The food blogger and activist Vani Hari, better known as

"Food Babe," recently launched a Change.org petition[2] asking Kraft to remove artificial dyes from American Mac & Cheese to protect American children from the well-known dangers of these dyes.

Where it's banned: *Norway and Austria. In 2009, the British government advised companies to stop using food dyes by the end of that year. The European Union also requires a warning notice on most foods containing dyes.*

#6: Arsenic-Laced Chicken

1. Arsenic-based drugs are approved for use in animal feed in the US because they make animals grow quicker and make the meat appear pinker (i.e. "fresher"). The FDA claims these products are safe because they contain *organic* arsenic, which is less toxic than the other *inorganic* form, which is a known carcinogen. However, studies suggest the organic arsenic can transform into inorganic arsenic, which has been found in store-bought chickens sold in the US. The EU does not permit arsenic-based drugs in food animals.

Arsenic-based drugs are approved for use in animal feed in the US because they make animals grow quicker and make the meat appear pinker (i.e. "fresher"). The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has stated these products are safe because they contain *organic* arsenic, which is less toxic than the other *inorganic* form, which is a known carcinogen.

The problem is, scientific reports surfaced stating that the organic arsenic could transform into inorganic arsenic, which has been found in elevated levels in supermarket chickens. The inorganic arsenic also contaminates manure where it can eventually migrate into drinking water and may also be causing heightened arsenic levels in US rice.

In 2011, Pfizer announced it would voluntarily stop marketing its arsenic-based feed additive Roxarsone, but there are still several others on the market. Several environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the FDA calling for their removal from the market. In the European Union, meanwhile, arsenic-based compounds have *never* been approved as safe for animal feed.

Where it's banned*: The European Union*

#7: Bread with Potassium Bromate

The use of potassium bromate as an additive to commercial breads and baked goods has been a huge contributor to bromide overload in Western cultures. Bromated flour is "enriched" with potassium bromate. Studies have linked potassium bromate to kidney and nervous system damage, thyroid problems, gastrointestinal discomfort, and cancer. Use of potassium bromate is banned in Canada, China and the EU.

You might not be aware of this, but nearly every time you eat bread in a restaurant or consume a hamburger or hotdog bun you are consuming bromide, as it is commonly used in flours. The use of potassium bromate as an additive to commercial breads and baked goods has been a huge contributor to bromide overload in Western cultures.

Bromated flour is "enriched" with potassium bromate. Commercial baking companies claim it makes the dough more elastic and better able to stand up to bread hooks. However, Pepperidge Farm and other successful companies manage to use only unbromated flour without any of these so-called "structural problems." Studies have linked potassium bromate to kidney and nervous system damage, thyroid problems, gastrointestinal discomfort, and cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies potassium bromate as a possible carcinogen.

Where it's banned*: Canada, China and the EU*

#8: Olestra/Olean

Olestra, aka Olean, created by Procter & Gamble, is a calorie- and cholesterol-free fat substitute used in fat-free snacks like chips and French fries. Adverse reactions include diarrhea, cramps and leaky bowels. More importantly, olestra also interferes with the absorption of fat soluble vitamins such as A, D, E and K. Olestra is banned in the UK and Canada.

Olestra, aka Olean, created by Procter & Gamble, is a calorie- and cholesterol-free fat substitute used in fat-free snacks like chips and French fries. Three years ago, *Time Magazine*[3] named it one of the worst 50 inventions ever, but that hasn't stopped food companies from using it to satisfy people's mistaken belief that a fat-free snack is a healthier snack. According to the featured article:

"Not only did a 2011 study from Purdue University conclude rats fed potato chips made with Olean gained weight, there have been several reports of adverse intestinal reactions to the fake fat including diarrhea, cramps and leaky bowels. And because it interferes with the absorption of fat soluble vitamins such as A, D, E and K, the FDA requires these vitamins be added to any product made with Olean or olestra."

Where it's banned: *The UK and Canada*

#9: Preservatives BHA and BHT

BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole) and BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene) are commonly used preservatives. BHA is known to cause cancer in rats, and may be a cancer-causing agent in humans as well. US experts concluded that BHA "is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen." BHA and BHT are banned in Japan and parts of the European Union, and the UK does not permit BHA in baby foods.

BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole) and BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene) are commonly used preservatives that can be found in breakfast cereal, nut mixes, chewing gum, butter spread, meat, dehydrated potatoes, and beer, just to name a few. BHA is known to cause cancer in rats, and may be a cancer-causing agent in humans as well. In fact, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, National Toxicology Program's 2011 Report on Carcinogens, BHA "is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen." It may also trigger allergic reactions and hyperactivity, while BHT can cause organ system toxicity.

Where it's banned: *The UK doesn't allow BHA in infant foods. BHA and BHT are also banned in parts of the European Union and Japan*.

#10: Milk and Dairy Products Laced with rBGH

RBGH is a synthetic version of natural bovine somatotropin (BST). It's injected into cows to increase milk production, but it is banned in at least 30 other nations because of its dangers to human health, which include an increased risk for colorectal, prostate, and breast cancer by promoting conversion of normal tissue cells into cancerous ones. The only way to avoid rBGH is to look for products labeled as "rBGH-free" or "No rBGH." RBGH is banned in Australia, New Zealand, Israel, the EU, and Canada.

Recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH) is the largest selling dairy animal drug in America. RBGH is a synthetic version of natural bovine somatotropin (BST), a hormone produced in cows' pituitary glands. Monsanto developed the recombinant version from genetically engineered E. coli bacteria and markets it under the brand name "Posilac."

It's injected into cows to increase milk production, but it is banned in at least 30 other nations because of its dangers to human health, which include an increased risk for colorectal, prostate, and breast cancer by promoting conversion of normal tissue cells into cancerous ones. Non-organic dairy farms frequently have rBGH-injected cows that suffer at least 16 different adverse health conditions, including very high rates of mastitis that contaminate milk with pus and antibiotics.

"According to the American Cancer Society, the increased use of antibiotics to treat this type of rBGH-induced inflammation 'does promote the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, but the extent to which these are transmitted to humans is unclear,'" the featured article states.

Many have tried to inform the public of the risks of using this hormone in dairy cows, but their attempts have been met with overwhelming opposition by the powerful dairy and pharmaceutical industries, and their government liaisons. In 1997, two Fox-affiliate investigative journalists, Jane Akre and Steve Wilson, attempted to air a program exposing the truth about the dangers of rBGH. Lawyers for Monsanto, a major advertiser with the Florida network, sent letters promising "dire consequences" if the story aired.

Despite decades of evidence about the dangers of rBGH, the FDA still maintains it's safe for human consumption and ignores scientific evidence to the contrary. In 1999, the United Nations Safety Agency ruled unanimously not to endorse or set safety standards for rBGH milk, which has effectively resulted in an international ban on US milk.[4] The Cancer Prevention Coalition, trying for years to get the use of rBGH by the dairy industry banned, resubmitted a petition to FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, MD, in January 2010.[5] Although the FDA stubbornly sticks to its position that milk from rBGH-treated cows is no different than milk from untreated cows, this is just plain false and is not supported by science. The only way to avoid rBGH is to look for products labeled as “rBGH-free” or “No rBGH.”

***Where it's banned**: Australia, New Zealand, Israel, EU and Canada*

Take Control of Your Health with REAL Food

There are many other examples where the US federal regulatory agencies have sold out to industry at the expense of your health, while other countries have chosen to embrace the precautionary principle in order to protect their citizens. If you want to avoid these questionable foods and other potentially harmful ingredients permitted in the US food supply, then ditching processed foods entirely is your best option. About 90 percent of the money Americans spend on food is spent on processed foods, so there is massive room for improvement in this area for most people.

Next, you’ll want to swap out your regular meat sources to organic, grass-fed/pasture-raised versions of beef and poultry. The same goes for dairy products and animal by-products such as eggs.

Swapping your processed-food diet for one that focuses on fresh whole foods is a necessity if you value your health. For a step-by-step guide to make this a reality in your own life, whether you live in the US or elsewhere, simply follow the advice in my optimized nutrition plan, starting with the beginner plan first.

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Example: **Corruption** by manufacturer lobbyism – administration, politicians, and authorities make decisions and legislation based on what’s best for themselves, despite a suffering and crippled people

Comment: No children spared! No way!! Those forces are cluttered with guys and dolls who simply **despise You**

Phtalates are, just like bisphenol-A (BPA), an estrogen type of substance that delay the sex-determination of the fetus in the uterus (every fetus is by nature a girl up until the sex-determination takes place) so that less boys are born and many boys are born having dwarfed penises and other parts of the reproductive apparatus (since the delay triggers the process of developing a male manligt sex later, and the continued exposure to estrogen detrimentally impacts the production of male sex hormone).

http://thestir.cafemom.com/pregnancy/164588/something_you_use_every_day

Something You Use Every Day Could Lead to a Premature Birth

by **Jacqueline Burt** November 22 at 8:47 PM

I'm not usually one to spread **pregnancy panic**, as I'm still scarred from the paranoia fever dreams I experienced during my first pregnancy as a result of too much "What to Expect When You're Expecting." (What was I expecting? THE WORST, after reading that book.) But the latest study on potential pregnancy dangers, while scary, at least has a silver lining ... sort of. Research recently published in JAMA Pediatrics found that **pregnant women exposed to phthalates** are at an **increased risk** of going into **pre-term labor** (before 37 weeks).

As you are most likely well aware, preemies are more likely to suffer from **breathing** and **developmental problems**. The freak-you-out part, of course, is that phthalates are found in lots and lots of places, from contaminated food and water to commonly used **toiletries** like **deodorant** and **lotion**. EEEK!

Except, not so much. Here's why:

While phthalates are, as we said, found in lots and lots of places, there are a few tried-and-true ways to avoid them. Here are some incredibly helpful, comprehensive tips:

1. Always read ingredients. While most labels won't come right out and say "phthalates," there are other ways to detect their presence. DBP (di-n-butyl phthalate) and **DEP** (diethyl phthalate) are often found in beauty products such as nail polishes, deodorants, perfumes, shampoos, hair gels and hand lotions. (BzBP is also in some toiletries.) **DEHP** (di-2-ethylhexyl) phthalate or Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate) is used in PVC plastics. **BzBP** (benzylbutyl phthalate) is used in some flooring, car products and toiletries. **DMP** (dimethyl phthalate) is used in insect repellent and some plastics.

2. Watch out for the word "fragrance." This blanket term can hide possible phthalates, too. combination of compounds, possibly including phthatates, which are a subject of recent concern because of studies showing they can mimic certain hormones.

3. Always pick plastics with the recycling codes 1, 2 or 5. Recycling codes 3 and 7 are more likely to contain bisphenol A or phthalates. So, as you can see, there are definitely measures you can take to keep your pregnancy as phthalate-free as possible. Sure, it'll take a little vigilance -- but the payoff is worth it: A healthy baby!

Do you try to avoid phthalates as much as possible?

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Example: **disinformation** – Politicians talk with forked tongue, on any level, anywhere, any (even #) ONE…

Comment: Don't blame the Republicans, You Fraud…

The Democrat party presidential re-election campaign autumn of 2013 was completely devoid of any climate issue botherings – the little climate talk that actually went down was conducted by the Republicans. Now he seems to have turned his mind around… ?

"Tripled" should have said "3000-folded", dirtbuster!! Mr Obama evidently is a Millimeter-Cut guy, not a Mile- or even Meter-Cut one. Is he really serious about this?? Well, since this is just another one of his pathetic Let-us-put-our-heads-in-the-sand testimonies in a "Mitigation, Adaption, and Reducing our Carbon foot-prints" clan disguise, I'm afraid this is an evidence of his maximum capacity and understanding.

While really, what we must NOT do is to try choking the GHG emissions by parts, each big or tiny one at the source, trying to reduce emissions a little, then a a little more, AT ASTRONOMOUS EXPENSES TYING UP FUNDS AND PAINTING PEOPLES ASPIRATIONS INTO CORNERS. Cause that's what the GREED MAFIA needs to see. What the PLANET needs to see, what common people, our children and theirs need to see, is A MAJOR ATMOSPHERIC CLEAN-UP ACT through letting a sustainable climate-energy balanced endeavor invade the stage. No more shitting in the sofa hoping fore a tiny part less shitting the next day, and the next, and another day. (Courtesy of David Bowie?)

http://cleantechnica.com/2013/12/06/obama-federal-government-7-years-triple-renewable-energy/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+IM-cleantechnica+%28CleanTechnica%29

Obama: Federal Government Has 7 Years To Triple Renewable Energy

Originally published on Climate Progress.
By Emily Atkin

When President Obama made his second State of the Union address, he talked extensively about the importance of addressing global climate change. "For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more," he said. "But if Congress won't act soon to protect future generations, I will. I will direct my Cabinet to come up with executive actions we can take, now and in the future, to reduce pollution, prepare our communities for the consequences of climate change, and speed the transition to more sustainable sources of energy."

Obama now seems to be making good on those statements. On Thursday, the administration released an executive order directing the federal government to triple its use of renewable energy by 2020, which would bring the government's renewable energy usage to 20 percent. The order will apply to all federal agencies, including the military.

The Associated Press, which obtained a copy of the executive order before it was published,noted that the federal government itself occupies approximately 500,000 buildings and operates 600,000 vehicles, and purchases more than $500 billion per year in goods and services. The order does not disclose the cost of the transition, but says the goal will be reached "to the extent economically feasible and technically practicable."

The top priority for federal agencies is installing agency-funded renewable energy on-site at federal facilities, and retaining renewable energy certificates, or RECs. An REC is a certificate that represents the environmental value of one megawatt-hour of electricity. In buying a REC, the government essentially pays a little bit of money in order to claim and keep track of the clean benefit of the electricity produced.

Obama has pledged to address climate change during his second term, and in a June speechdetailed a three-tier plan for the administration. That plan would cut carbon pollution in America, lead international efforts to cut global emissions, and prepare the U.S. for the costly impacts of climate change. President Obama framed the action as a moral obligation to do what we can for "the world we leave our children."

"This is the global threat of our time," Obama said in June. "And for the sake of future generations, our generation must move toward a global compact to confront a changing climate before it is too late. That is our job. That is our task. We have to get to work."

But once the President makes an official announcement of the executive order, he will likely face harsh opposition from fossil fuel-backed politicians who have historically opposed his attempts to mandate the use of more renewable energy. After his June speech, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) — a coal insider who maintains an income of almost $2 million from a coal firm — compared the President's rhetoric on climate change to a "war on America."

The military has already begun a transition to efficient and renewable energy, after the head of the U.S. Pacific Command cited climate change as "probably the most likely thing that is going to happen … that will cripple the security environment, probably more likely than the other scenarios we all often talk about." The Army is now proceeding with its "Net Zero Energy" initiative, which means that on some domestic bases, they will aim to produce as much energy, water, and waste as they consume. Cost and reliability are the primary reasons, but cutting carbon pollution will be one of the outcomes.

The executive order can be read in full here.

Image Credit: Obama in Charlotte, NC via Action Sports Photography / Shutterstock.com

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Example: (illusory) **solution** – Local, marginal thinking – from a climatic perspective, electric road transportation belongs to second wave market solutions. Whereas first wave market needs – greenhouse gas recycling – still lie uncultivated

Comment: In some countries sustainable start-ups focus in entirely on transportation – solar powered hubs and electric vehicles …

http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/israel-energy-sustainable-start-ups?CMP=

Israel's drive for energy independence creating wave of sustainable start ups

Electric scooters, solar-powered transport hubs and solar pod cars, Israel is making a name for itself as a cleantech centre.

The Arava Power Company is planning the Middle East's first commercial solar farm

- **Claudia Cahalane**
- Guardian Professional, Thursday 28 November 2013 18.23 GMT

- Outside Israel's first ever fuel choices summit in Tel Aviv, earlier this month, delegates zipped around Habima Square on a futuristic-looking Muv-e, a portable, lightweight, electric scooter designed to travel at up to 25mph.
- Weighing in at 30lbs, it was one of a dozen or so sustainable transport options being exhibited at the summit on the 12 to 13 November as part of the Israeli government's fuel choices initiative.
- There were spaceship-like, solar-powered overhead transport pods for cities, cars running on a battery powered by fresh air from a company called Phinergy, and a detachable electric battery which can be fixed to any bicycle from a venture named Cycli. The battery is expected to be on the market next year for about $300.
- The Muv-e creation can be folded and wheeled on to public transport and is also due on the market next year for around $2,000 to $3,000, with a battery radius of roughly 7 miles. Also, on show was BeemCar, a proposed alternative to light rail, run on solar panels and designed to travel overhead in busy cities. It would offer 67% energy savings over an urban bus, say its creators.
- The Israeli government is serious about becoming fuel independent as soon as possible, with a focus on ensuring 60% of energy in transport comes from the renewables sector by 2025. As part of the government's fuel choices initiative, launched in 2010, several sustainable energytechnology pilots are being supported with a mixture of government and venture capital investment.
- Israel has become known for its tech start ups, even if the best ones are often bought in their infancy by US companies. In August, the Boston Globe said the start up scene in Tel Aviv was second only to Silicon Valley. And, in March, Apple announced it would be opening its third Israeli-based R&D centre, in Ra'anana, a Tel Aviv suburb.
- So, what is creating such a throng of activity in Israel? "There is a strong entrepreneurial vibe here," says Joanna Landau, founder of Kinetis, an organisation which sets about promoting Israel as somewhere which isn't just about conflict. "Our grandparents kind of created Israel as a start up in the forties. They were creating everything from scratch and they left an entrepreneurial legacy. That's the spirit we have here. We're a small place, with eight million people, and we're very close knit. And, a lot of innovations, like those in water recycling and drip irrigation have been a matter of survival."
- Mandatory military service often brings people even more closely together, and a number of start ups happen during or after service between groups of people who've met while serving, Landau told me and a group of sustainability writers on a recent tour of the country.
- The drive towards energy independence is bringing all sorts of developments in Israel's solar industry too. Since the country's early days solar power has been harnessed and now, 90% of homes have solar panels to heat their water.
- Down in the Arava desert there is a cluster of companies making strides in this space, aiming to take the region towards complete energy independence in the next 18 months. One of the most prominent, the Arava Power Company is planning the Middle East's first commercial solar farm, after five years of battling government legislation.
- Its pilot site has 16,000 solar panels and generates 9m k/w hours of energy a year. It was set up on the Kibbutz Ketura by Yosef Abramowitz – a Jewish American, named one of the world's six leading green pioneers by CNN last year.

- "We're looking at a commercial site which will straddle Israel and Jordan and it's expected to grow to a $2bn entity," said Abramowitz. "Between all the solar programmes in this region, we will hopefully be carbon neutral in 18 months," he says.
- Kibbutz sites are a noticeable hotbed of sustainable innovation as you look around Israel. While some struggle with growing costs and more people to support, the most forward-thinking are inputting energy-free air-conditioning systems – Neot Semadar, fully solar-powered cafes and modern housing made from recycled materials – Kibbutz Lotan. And, at Ketura, along with the solar plant, there is Algatech, an algae farm, set up to provide green fuel, food and animal feed, just using sun. It has sold all its expected output two years in advance of production. The venture is part of the government's fuel choices initiative.
- "I think it's not a coincidence that we have so many sustainable initiatives here on the Kibbutz," says our guide Yuval Ben Chai. "We are based on co-operation and the Kibbutz is a place that truly gives space for people's ideas and dreams. And, I think it couldn't be done in any other place."
- Once Kibbutz culture is added into the mix, it's even clearer to see why start ups have such fertile ground in Israel.
- • This article was amended on 29 November to correct the name of the algae farm from UniVerve Biofuel to Algatech and to correct the attribution of the quote "I think it's not a coincidence that we have so many sustainable initiatives here on the Kibbutz," from "Ohad Zuckerman, one of the founders of the algae venture" to "our guide Yuval Ben Chai".

Example: **Disinformation** by purposeless yet expensive private corporate initiatives clad in a Superman's costume

Comment: Planting 1 million new trees will absorb **38.000** metric tons of CO2 during the **first 10 years** of life. Compare that to: Our seas currently absorb over **25 million** metric tons of CO2 **every day**

Many forests are threatened by climate change (forest fires, acidification, nourish leach, temperature rise), human encroachment (chopping down), and extraction of natural resources (mining, oil drilling, farming, hardwood retailing)

http://www.mnn.com/money/sustainable-business-practices/sponsorstory/what-can-1-million-trees-do-infographic?isn=ups&isc=homepage#

What can 1 million trees do? [infographic]

UPS is working with organizations to plant 1 million trees on five continents as part of its forestry initiative this year.

Content provided by UPS

As part of its global forestry initiative, UPS is working with organizations like The Nature Conservancy, Earth Day Network, Arbor Day Foundation, and the National Park Foundation this year to plant 1 million trees all over the world — protecting water, offsetting carbon emissions, and reducing air pollution. Learn more at ups.com/sustainability.

WHAT CAN 1 MILLION TREES DO?*

AS PART OF ITS GLOBAL FORESTRY INITIATIVE, UPS IS WORKING WITH ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, EARTH DAY NETWORK, ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION, AND THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION THIS YEAR TO PLANT 1 MILLION TREES ALL OVER THE WORLD – PROTECTING WATER, OFFSETTING CARBON EMISSIONS, AND REDUCING AIR POLLUTION.

Absorb **38,000 metric tons** of CO_2 in the first 10 years of life, helping keep our atmosphere in balance[1]

Absorb enough CO_2 in the first 10 years of life to offset the climate impact of **8,000 passenger vehicles** for one year[1]

Supply the oxygen needs of up to **4 million** people each day[2]

Provide **$62 billion** worth of air pollution control every 50 years[2]

Improve the lives of over **1,000 farmers** and their families by providing **sustainable resources** that can be utilized for food and work[3]

A Global Commitment

Today, many forests are under threat from climate change, human encroachment, and extraction of natural resources. At UPS, we are committed to doing more for the environment. That's why this year we are planting 1 million trees on five continents - from Angeles National Forest in California to the Boreal Forests in Europe, Canada, and China – because conserving our global forests is imperative to maintaining balance in the atmosphere, preserving biodiversity, and protecting a host of other vital ecological processes.

Who we're partnering with:

The Nature Conservancy

EARTH DAY NETWORK

Arbor Day Foundation™

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

Fact: O cean acidification evolving much faster than researchers conceivied

Comment: And this article was published 5 years ago – in 2014, the situation is evolving ever more rapidly

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/11/081124-acidic-oceans.html

Oceans Becoming Acidic Ten Times Faster Than Thought

Helen Scales
for National Geographic News

November 24, 2008

Increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may make Earth'soceans more acidic faster than previously thought—unbalancing ecosystems in the process, a new study says.

Since 2000, scientists have measured the acidity of seawater around Tatoosh Island off the coast of Washington state. The acidity increased ten times quicker than climate models predicted.

- Acid Threat (November 2007)
- Growing Ocean Acidity May Erode Coastal Ecosystems (May 22, 2008)
- No Pristine Oceans Left, New Map Shows (February 14, 2008)

The research also revealed the corrosive effect of acidic oceans could trigger a dramatic shift in coastal species and jeopardize shellfish stocks.

"The increase in acidity we saw during our study was about the same magnitude as we expect over the course of the next century," said study co-author Timothy Wootton, a marine biologist from the University of Chicago.

"This raises a warning flag that the oceans may be changing faster than people think," he said.

Increased carbon dioxide emissions from human activities have led to a 30 percent rise in ocean acidity in the past 200 years.

(Related: "Acid Oceans Threatening Marine Food Chain, Experts Warn" [February 17, 2007].)

When atmospheric carbon dioxide dissolves in the oceans it forms carbonic acid, which in turn has a negative impact on marine life.

Laboratory studies show that as seawater acidity increases, the calcium carbonate shells and skeletons of many marine species, such as hard corals, sea urchins, and stony seaweeds, begin to corrode.

A Shifting Balance

Wootton and colleagues built models of an ecosystem based on field data of how species interact along Tatoosh Island's rocky shores.

Surprisingly, in a scenario of increasing acidity, not all species with calcium carbonate shells faired badly.

Instead, a shift took place: Larger mussels and barnacles suffered, leaving smaller barnacles and some calcium-based seaweeds better off.

In nature, "species are competing for space, they are eating each other, it's an incredibly dynamic system," said James Forester, a Harvard University ecologist who co-authored the study in this week's journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"When you change the playing field—in this case by altering acidity—you can get unexpected responses," he said.

"Mussels usually dominate the ecosystem because they are good at overgrowing and crushing out other species that grow on the rocks," said co-author Wootton.

"But when the mussels decline, it means other species—no matter whether or not they have a shell—can do better," he said.

Nancy Knowlton is a marine biology professor at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, who was not involved in the study.

She pointed out the importance of adopting this "enemy of my enemy is my friend" approach when trying to understand how various shelled species respond to ocean acidification.

An acidity-driven shift in coastal ecosystems could spell disaster for shellfish industries that rely on mussels and other similar species, Wootton warned.

A Wider Pattern?

While the field surveys did show an overall decline in mussels, the predictive models were needed to hunt for longer-term changes.

"There is inertia in the system because many of these species live for a long time," said co-author Wooton.

"The little changes we see in the dynamics of the ecosystem may magnify over time."

These are the first data on ocean acidity from temperate—rather than tropical—waters. No one knows whether similar rapid changes are taking place elsewhere.

"The rules might be quite different on Tatoosh Island," Wootton suggested.

"There could be mechanisms going on in the waters around our island that are unique.

"We really need to get more data from other sites away from the equator to see what patterns are there," he added.

Marine biologist Knowlton said, "This is typical of so many climate studies—almost without exception things are turning out to be worse than we originally thought."

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Fact: Shelled animals are at risk by a CO_2 level rise induced pH drop in oceans

Comment: This already does and in the future even more will break food chain in the seas, eventually extinguishing every type of organism be it those depending on plankton or on smaller animals.

http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/critical-issues-ocean-acidification/

Shallow-water creatures, like these corals, are extremely vulnerable to carbonic acid. Scientists are calling for drastic measures to avert massive bleaching of the world's reefs.

Photograph by Ove Hoegh-Guiderg/AFP/Getty Images

For tens of millions of years, Earth's oceans have maintained a relatively stable acidity level. It's within this steady environment that the rich and varied web of life in today's seas has arisen and flourished. But research shows that this ancient balance is being undone by a recent and rapid drop in surface pH that could have devastating global consequences.

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution in the early 1800s, fossil fuel-powered machines have driven an unprecedented

burst of human industry and advancement. The unfortunate consequence, however, has been the emission of billions of tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other greenhouse gases into Earth's atmosphere.

Scientists now know that about half of this anthropogenic, or man-made, CO_2 has been absorbed over time by the oceans. This has benefited us by slowing the climate change these emissions would have instigated if they had remained in the air. But relatively new research is finding that the introduction of massive amounts of CO_2 into the seas is altering water chemistry and affecting the life cycles of many marine organisms, particularly those at the lower end of the food chain.

Carbonic Acid

When carbon dioxide dissolves in this ocean, carbonic acid is formed. This leads to higher acidity, mainly near the surface, which has been proven to inhibit shell growth in marine animals and is suspected as a cause of reproductive disorders in some fish.

On the pH scale, which runs from 0 to 14, solutions with low numbers are considered acidic and those with higher numbers are basic. Seven is neutral. Over the past 300 million years, ocean pH has been slightly basic, averaging about 8.2. Today, it is around 8.1, a drop of 0.1 pH units, representing a 25-percent increase in acidity over the past two centuries.

Carbon Storehouse

The oceans currently absorb about a third of human-created CO_2 emissions, roughly 22 million tons a day. Projections based on these numbers show that by the end of this century, continued emissions could reduce ocean pH by another 0.5 units. Shell-forming animals including corals, oysters, shrimp, lobster, many planktonic organisms, and even some fish species could be gravely affected.

Equally worrisome is the fact that as the oceans continue to absorb more CO_2, their capacity as a carbon storehouse could diminish. That means more of the carbon dioxide we emit will remain in the atmosphere, further aggravating global climate change.

Scientific awareness of ocean acidification is relatively recent, and researchers are just beginning to study its effects on marine ecosystems. But all signs indicate that unless humans are able to control and eventually eliminate our fossil fuel emissions, ocean organisms will find themselves under increasing pressure to adapt to their habitat's changing chemistry or perish.

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Fact: Our oceans are turning into soda streams, dissolving food chains and thereby killing off four billion years of evolutionary achievements …

Comment: Hoorray for Modern Man – You know, that Gilette/Pirelli/Marlboro advert-pervert macho of a He-Man Species Clone/Clown?

http://saveourseas.com/projects/ocean_ph/state_of_the_ocean_report_on_acidification_video

— JASON HALL-SPENCER, 16 OCTOBER, 2013

Our seas currently absorb over 25 million tons of CO_2 every day. This has caused surface waters to become 30% more acidic since wide-spread burning of fossil fuels began. As well as lowering pH, increased CO_2 levels are altering surface water chemistry. Falling carbonate levels are a major conservation concern since these are the building-blocks of shells for marine organisms from tiny coccolithophores to giant coral reefs.

The second 'State of the Ocean' report by the International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO) and IUCN was released on October 3rd 2013. The report confirms the IPCC's recent findings that the ocean is bearing the brunt of climate change, but says additional impacts, such as deoxygenation, overfishing and pollution are creating a deadly combination which means the ocean's ability to act as Earth's buffer is seriously compromised. IPSO contributing scientist Professor Jason Hall-Spencer explains the problem of acidification and his research into its effects on marine life.

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Fact: Oceanic acidification through CO_2 emissions

http://saveourseas.com/projects/ocean_ph

Aims and Objectives

The broad aim of this project is to act as a wake-up-call to raise public awareness of the problems associated with ocean acidification and to get people to think about the consequences of unabated CO2 emissions. The new results that this project will generate will be used as a platform for educating children and adults alike, it will be publicized using interactive public lectures, on websites and through the media. It is clear that with such a small amount of funding the project cannot hope to carry out detailed studies of new CO2 vent areas as the costs of the necessary ship-time, ROV time and man-power would involve a project running into several hundred thousand dollars. The objectives of this project are more modest; to create as much publicity as possible for preliminary findings from CO2 vent areas showing the dramatic ecosystem tipping points that occur when the pH of seawater is lowered to the levels expected by the year 2100 if current emissions continue unabated. We have established the firm scientific credentials needed to speak with authority on this subject, by publishing our findings in Nature, the most rigorous of internationally peer-reviewed journals. We will now obtain better video images of the sites, visit more CO2 vent sites and engage with the specialist scientific community at conferences to sell the idea that this Save the Seas funded project shows the way for a larger, fully resourced international programme designed to harness naturally acidified areas to refine our understanding of the conservation consequences of ocean acidification under the various emissions scenarios predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

A secondary aim of the project is to publish the findings from research into CO2 vent fields in the scientific literature.

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Fact: Temperatures will keep rising even if all CO2 emissions instantly would come to a complete halt

Comment: There is now so much Methane aggregating in the atmosphere due to natural gas/ LNG leakage from gas distribution and extraction (e g pipelines and shale gas fracking) and from thawing Siberian tundras and deep ocean beds – Methane over a twenty year period being **86 times** (102 times over a century) more aggressive a greenhouse gas than CO2 – that this will act as a continuously energetic CO2 substitute engine for further climate changes. Also, there is an inertia in the climate system like a 300,000 tonnage oil tanker going on for miles and miles and miles on a complete engine breakdown.

Putting A Cap On CO2 Emissions Won't End Global Warming

http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1113012121/global-warming-continues-despite-end-carbon-emissions-112513/

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Fact: Time is running out for stabilizing the temperature before more frozen/liquid Methane thaws and is released into the atmosphere AND before the Antarctica is affected to the point where land ices start sliding into the ocean due to enfeebled surrounding shelf ice support

http://co2now.org/Current-CO2/CO2-Now/global-carbon-emissions.html

What the world needs to watch

Global warming is mainly the result of CO_2 levels rising in the Earth's atmosphere. Both atmospheric CO_2 and climate change are accelerating. Climate scientists say we have years, not decades, to stabilize CO_2 and other greenhouse gases

Where humanity's CO2 comes from (2010):

36 billion (2013) metric tons of CO2 emissions per year

91% fossil fuels and cement industry

9% land use change (deforestation)

Where humanity's CO2 goes to (2010):

50% atmosphere

26% land

24% oceans

2010 data updated from:

Le Quéré et al. 2009, Nature Geoscience

Canadell et al. 2007, PNAS

*Global emissions due to fossil fuel alone are set to grow in 2013 at a slightly lower pace of **2.1%** than the average **3.1%** since 2000, reaching a level that is **61%** above emissions in 1990

*Growth rates for major emitter countries in 2012 were **5.9% (China)**, −3.7% (USA), −1.3% (EU28), and **7.7% (India)**.

*The 2012 carbon dioxide emissions breakdown is coal (43%), oil (33%), gas (18%), cement (5.3%) and gas flaring (0.6%).

*Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels increased in 2012 at a faster rate than the average over the past 10 years because of a combination of continuing **growth in emissions** and a **decrease in land carbon sinks** from very high levels in the previous two years.

* Dr. Mike Raupach of CSIRO: "A continuation of the emissions growth trends observed since 2000 would place the world on a path to reach 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times in 30 years"

*Key Sources: GlobalCarbonBudget.org CDIAC 2013 Global Carbon Budget

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Fact: Emissions simulation (interactive)

http://climateinteractive.org/simulations/c-learn/simulation

Global Carbon Emissions C-learn simulation

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Fact: Water vapor H2O in the form of uncondensated atmospheric humidity is the worst greenhouse gas of all.

Comment: Where condensated in the form of clouds it reflects sunlight, thus cooling Earth's surface at least to some part.

Climate warming is a self-amplifying phenomenon: increased temperature increases atmospheric humidity which increases the greenhouse effects which increase temperature which …

(UN stats) http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/air_greenhou Fact: se_emissions.htm

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere itself, and by clouds. This property causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapour (H_2O), carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4) and ozone (O_3) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. Moreover, there are a number of entirely human-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such as the halocarbons and other chlorine- and bromine-containing substances, dealt with under the Montreal Protocol. Beside CO_2, N_2O and CH_4, the Kyoto Protocol deals with the greenhouse gases sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs).

Fact: Greenhouse gas emissions by source

http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/global.html

- **Energy Supply** (26% of 2004 global greenhouse gas emissions) – The burning of coal, natural gas, and oil for electricity and heat is the largest single source of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Industry** (19% of 2004 global greenhouse gas emissions) – Greenhouse gas emissions from industry primarily involve fossil fuels burned on-site at facilities for energy. This sector also includes emissions from chemical, metallurgical, and mineral transformation processes not associated with energy consumption. (Note: Emissions from electricity use are excluded and are instead covered in the Energy Supply sector.)
- **Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry** (17% of 2004 global greenhouse gas emissions) – Greenhouse gas emissions from this sector primarily include carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from deforestation, land clearing for agriculture, and fires or decay of peat soils. This estimate does not include the CO_2 that ecosystems remove from the atmosphere. The amount of CO_2 that is removed is subject to large uncertainty, although recent estimates indicate that on a global scale, ecosystems on land remove about twice as much CO_2 as is lost by deforestation. [2]
- **Agriculture** (14% of 2004 GHG emissions) – global greenhouse gas emissions) – Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture mostly come from the management of agricultural soils, livestock, rice production, and biomass burning.
- **Transportation** (13% of 2004 global greenhouse gas emissions) – Greenhouse gas emissions from this sector primarily involve fossil fuels burned for road, rail, air, and marine transportation. Almost all (95%) of the world's transportation energy comes from petroleum-based fuels, largely gasoline and diesel.
- **Commercial and Residential Buildings** (8% of 2004 global greenhouse gas emissions) – Greenhouse gas emissions from this sector arise from on-site energy generation and burning fuels for heat in buildings or cooking in homes. (Note: Emissions from electricity use are excluded and are instead covered in the Energy Supply sector.)
- **Waste and Wastewater** (3% of 2004 global greenhouse gas emissions) – The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in this sector is landfill methane (CH_4), followed by wastewater methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O). Incineration of some waste products that were made with fossil fuels, such as plastics and synthetic textiles, also results in minor emissions of CO_2.

Example: Predominant **ignorance** (here: sheer **idiocy**) among **politicians**, based on incompetence and indifference about the (mis)use of common people's tax money, "confidence", and opinion.

Comment: And yet this is not the worst example of waste and idiotic projects – soon ten years ago local authorities of Sevilla (if not on the Spanish national level) decided to erect a new suburb for some 50,000

inhabitants. Problem was, hardly anyone wanted to move in there. And at that, or maybe one reason: the architechture was the arguably worst to be found anywhere on our planet.

. . . However the world record of political **ignorance**/**idiocy** must be held by the Chinese: the central leader committee proclaimed that cities for millions of inhabitants be erected out of nowhere in sparsely populated outback areas, reckoning that a tenant-market would spring from nowhere concurrently with the skyscrapers. It didn't and now they stand there as monuments . Uninhabited brand-new cities and districts is already something of a tradition in China – already before the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008, lots of new districts were erected having very few inhabitants, if any. The previous local settlements on the spots were demolished and its population driven off. Even today, much less than half of the new contructions in Beijing stand uninhabited. Their sole original purpose was vainglory – the international press, television viewers, and visitors were to be overwhelmed by the modernity and fast progress of China. The complete political awkwardness came completely evident when the severe scarcity of drinkable water in Beijing and many other cities, thereamong the new ghost-towns, was made clear to the world.

Goes to show: don't trust **politicians** to have the brains in order to take any sane initiatives when it comes to climate changes (either), since they're able to cook up sewage like this, shamelessly but so bluntly exposing an obvious lack of brains or "mental sanity". Don't assume that your politicians or authorities, neither on the local nor on the national or global levels, have the aim, desire, or feeling for doing what's right for the people or climate. Their point of departure is often self-authorized arbitrariness.

Instead, trust the **market** to do the trick . . . – so waste no time before you go about the work required to induce it: help erecting the towers of demand for recycled fuels out of greenhouse gases, founded on climatically and socially responsible business.

(in Swedish – article in English: Google search for "Spain", "Ciudad Real", "Sevilla", "China", "Beijing", "water supply", "Leon", "train tunnel")

http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/fordon_motor/jarnvag/article3807099.ece

Tanken var att flygpassagerarna på den nya storflygplatsen Ciudad Real utanför Madrid skulle kunna ta sig direkt till stationen för höghastighetståg. Men efter tre år i drift lades flygplatsen ner. Foto: Marc Femenia

Den kostade 10 miljarder kronor att bygga och har en av Europas längsta landningsbanor. I dag står jätteflygplatsen Ciudad Real utanför Madrid övergiven. I december förra året gjordes ett misslyckat försök att sälja den på auktion. Foto: Marc Femenia

Framtidsstaden i norra Spanien skulle innehålla en teknikpark för 100 miljöföretag, konferensanläggning, hotell, miljövänliga bostäder, hundratals parkeringsplatser med laddstolpar etc. Bygget stoppades förra året på grund av ekonomiska problem. Byggtillståndet har i efterhand underkänts. Ironiskt nog står hela komplexet på särskilt skyddad mark. Foto: Marc Femenia

Många av Spaniens nybyggda motorvägar har låg trafiktäthet. På denna väg mellan León och Astorga passerar bara 4 000 bilar per dygn. Minst 10 000 skulle krävas för att vägen skulle vara motiverad. Foto: Marc Femenia

En tio kilometer motorväg i Katalonien som inte leder någonstans. Motivet till att den hamnade just här, långt från närmaste knutpunkt: Det var lätt att köpa loss mark. Foto: Marc Femenia

Bygget av den 87 kilometer långa höghastighetsbanan i bergiga Galicien har kostat drygt 20 miljarder kronor. 50 kilometer går antingen i tunnlar eller på viadukter som denna i O Eixo. Passagerarna är få. Under tåglinjens första år 2012 var beläggningen bara 15 procent. Foto: Marc Femenia

När flygplatsen i La Rioja öppnades 2003 var den tänkt att få 300 000 passagerare per år till 2015. Förra året blev det 10 600. I dag lyfter tio plan i veckan och flygplatsen håller stängt på helgerna. Foto: Marc Femenia

För tio år sedan bestämde den spanska regeringen att bygga 51 nya avsaltningsanläggningar längs medelhavskusten. Hittills står 17 klara som går på sparlåga. Ytterligare 15 har påbörjats men i de flesta fall har bygget stannat av. I Balerma har arbetet återupptagits sedan EU hotat med återkrav på utbetalade bidrag. Foto: Marc Femenia

Spaniens övergivna satsningar

Av: Marie Alpman
Publicerad 21 februari 2014

Flygplatser som ingen använder. Höghastighetståg som ingen åker. Vägar som inte leder någonstans. Och längs hela den spanska medelhavskusten: avsaltningsanläggningar som är för dyra för att användas. Spanien är fullt av misslyckade teknikprojekt.

Året var 2004. Spanien var fullt av optimism. Det ena stora bostadsområdet efter det andra planerades längs den spanska medelhavskusten. Problemet var brist på vatten.

Lösningen blev en ambitiös plan att bygga 51 stora anläggningar för avsaltning av havsvatten.

Tio år och en sprucken fastighetsbubbla senare har 17 byggts och 15 är påbörjade. Men trots investeringar på motsvarande 16 miljarder kronor så står många oanvända eller körs långt under sin maximala kapacitet.

Den största i Torrevieja, med en kapacitet på 240?000 kubikmeter om dagen, har till exempel bara kommit så långt som till testkörningar.

– Ett fruktansvärt slöseri med resurser, säger Marc Femenia.

Han är spansk ingenjör med doktorstitel från KTH som sadlat om till fotograf. De senaste åren har han rest runt och dokumenterat misslyckade byggprojekt i krisens Spanien.

Mer än 23 000 bilder har det blivit från mer än 250 platser. Några av dem ser du här i tidningen.

Marc Femenia vet inte om han ska skratta eller gråta åt motorvägarna som tar slut i en åker, eller åt stationerna för höghastighetståg där knappt någon kliver på eller av.

– Jag läser hela tiden om nya exempel, senast om ett stort nytt sjukhus som aldrig tagits i bruk. Det tar aldrig slut, säger han.

Byggfesten tog ordentlig fart efter millennieskiftet.

– Politikerna behandlade offentliga medel som om de vore gratis. Och om en liten stad byggde en internationell flygplats – då skulle städerna intill också ha en.

Kvar efter boomen står hundratusentals osålda fastigheter. Under bubbelåren investerades också hejdlöst i infrastruktur. Spanien är till exempel det land i världen som har flest kilometer höghastighetsjärnväg efter ettan

Kina. Ändå är alla planerade linjer inte färdigbyggda och de tåg som rullar har bara en bråkdel av det beräknade antalet passagerare.

Byggivern har till och med gett Spanien ett eget Hallandsås. Nära staden León i norra Spanien har bygget av en 25 kilometer lång tåg-tunnel havererat eftersom grundvattnet rinner in i tunneln. Hittills har den slukat motsvarande 30 miljarder kronor.

Spanien har Europas längsta motorvägsnät och dubbelt så många flygplatser som Tyskland. Men flera av de privata motorvägarna, tänkta att finansieras med vägavgifter, har gått i konkurs. Splitter nya flygplatser står oanvända. Den största, ”spökflyg-

platsen” Ciudad Real utanför Madrid med en av Europas längsta landningsbanor på fyra kilometer, hann knappt användas innan den stängdes.

Nu är den kanske mest känd som inspelningsplats för Volvo lastvagnars Youtube-succé med skådespelaren Jean-Claude van Damme i split mellan två lastbilar.

Marc Femenia säger att han drivs av en ilska mot politikerna i sitt gamla hemland som inte tar ansvar för alla de havererade byggprojekten.

– Jag upprörs över att så mycket pengar spenderats på ogenomtänkta projekt. Politikerna drivs av egna eller partipolitiska intressen, inte av samhällsnyttan. Problemet med korruption är också stort. Nu får vanligt folk betala när politikerna skär ner på vård och utbildning.

Även EU har ilsknat till. Många av projekten har delfinansierats av EU, exempelvis en tredjedel av den totala budgeten för avsaltningsprogrammet.

Spanien har bland annat kritiserats för att hålla vattenpriserna nere med hjälp av subventioner vilket gör det omöjligt att få avsaltningsanläggningarna lönsamma.

Från och med i år får Spanien räkna med kraftigt minskade bidrag från EU för avsaltning och annan infrastruktur.

– Spanien hör till de länder som lagt för mycket pengar på infrastuktur. Inför nästa budgetperiod vill vi se en ändring mot jobbskapande och energibesparande projekt, säger Shirin Wheeler, regionalpolitisk talesperson på EU-kommissionen.

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Example: Predominant **ignorance**/lack of information/ **disinformation** as an instrument of control in the hands of “predator” powers

Comment: 22 percent of Swedes believe that gasoline is “fossil-free”, i.e. does NOT add CO2 to the atmosphere on combustion , consequently does NOT add the greenhouse effect…

(in Swedish – article in English: Google search for Petrol (or Gasoline) Fossil-free, and Diesel Fossil-free)

http://www.svd.se/naringsliv/motor/bensin-ar-val-fossilfritt-eller_8770976.svd

Bensin är väl fossilfritt - eller?

Det är si och så med kunskaperna om bilarnas miljöpåverkan. Det visar en stor undersökning som gjorts av TNS Sifo på uppdrag av drivmedelsföretaget St1.

28 november 2013 kl 17:24

Till exempel tror 22 procent av svenskarna att bensin är ett fossilfritt drivmedel och lika många, 22 procent har för sig att även diesel är fossilfritt. Rätt svar är att både bensin och diesel är fossila

bränslen, med tillägget att det finns alternativa bränslen för dieselmotorer som inte framställts ur petroleum.

Följaktligen skulle 41 procent av de svenska bilförarna skaffa sig bensin- eller dieseldriven bil i fall de skulle byta bil idag. 9 procent vet inte skillnaden mellan fossila eller fossilfria bränslen och 11 procent bryr sig inte. Det rätta svaret är att fossila bränslen framställs ur petroleum medan exempel på fossilfria bränslen är etanol, biogas och biogas.

42 procent av bilförarna skulle välja en miljöbil i fall de skulle byta bil idag.

Enkäten omfattar 6 223 personer i åldrarna 18 till 74 år och som alla har körkort och tillgång till bil. De som svarat på enkäten är spridda över hela Sverige. Bakom undersökningen står det finskägda drivmedelsföretaget St1 som bland mycket annat storsatsar på etanol, som tillverkas ur inhemska råvaror i Finland och Sverige.

Nästan var femte bilist, 28 procent, tror att etanol inte bidrar till minskade utsläpp av koldioxid och 47 procent, nästan hälften, hävdar att produktionen av etanol är oetisk. Korrekta svar är att etanol som motorbränsle och som i Sverige betecknas E85 och har 15 procents inblandning av bensin, i princip är utsläppsfritt. I moderna etanolfabriker framställs etanolen ur hushålls-, skogs-, och jordbruksavfall.

42 procent av bilförarna skulle välja en miljöbil i fall de skulle byta bil idag medan 20 procent inte skulle välja en miljöbil. Skälet till att inte köpa en miljöbil är att miljöbilar är för dyra menar 61 procent.

Enkäten pekar också på en del skillnader i kunskap och inställning till miljöbränslen mellan könen. Männen tror i högre grad att bensin och diesel är exempel på fossilfria bränslen än kvinnor. Likafullt anser männen att de har bättre kunskap när det gäller bilarnas påverkan på miljön och skillnaden mellan olika drivmedel. Kvinnorna erkänner sina kunskapsbrister och att de inte vet vilket miljödrivmedel de skulle välja i dag.

På samma sätt visar enkäten på skillnader i inställning till miljöbilar mellan olika landsändar. I Norr- och Västerbotten är andelen som skulle kunna tänka sig att köpa en miljöbil lägre än de som bor på Gotland där varannan skulle köpa en miljöbil.

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Example: Public **ignorance** at a level that neither We nor probably You even conceived possible...

One quarter of Americans believe the sun revolves around the Earth.

Comment: Goes to prove that our age hardly meets the standards of an “age of information”...

http://cir.ca/news/sun-revolves-around-earth-survey

One quarter of Americans believe the sun revolves around the Earth

Culture - February 15, 2014 2:18AM

A survey conducted by the National Science Foundation published Feb. 14 found 1 in 4 Americans believe the sun revolves around the Earth and not the other way around.

1 The survey is prepared for the president and U.S. lawmakers by the NSF about every two years. The question, which can be found on page 406 of the 600 page report, was answered by 2,200 people in the U.S. in 2012. Only 1 in 3 respondents believe the U.S. should provide more funds toward science.

2 Based on previous reports, the U.S. has made little progress. In 2004, only 71% of the people answered the question correctly-- which was down slightly from 75% in 2001.

3 Americans are not alone in answering the question incorrectly, data available from 2005 for the European Union found only 66% answered the question correctly. Likewise, a 2004 survey of India found 70% were able to answer the question correctly.

4 While a recent Pew survey found one-third of Americans believe in evolution, the NSF had a different result. When asked if "Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals" was true, only 48% of respondents said the statement was true.

Related Storyline On Circa

- Survey of Americans show 1/3 deny human evolution

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Example: Public **ignorance** at a level that neither We nor probably You even conceived possible...

One third of Americans deny human evolution.

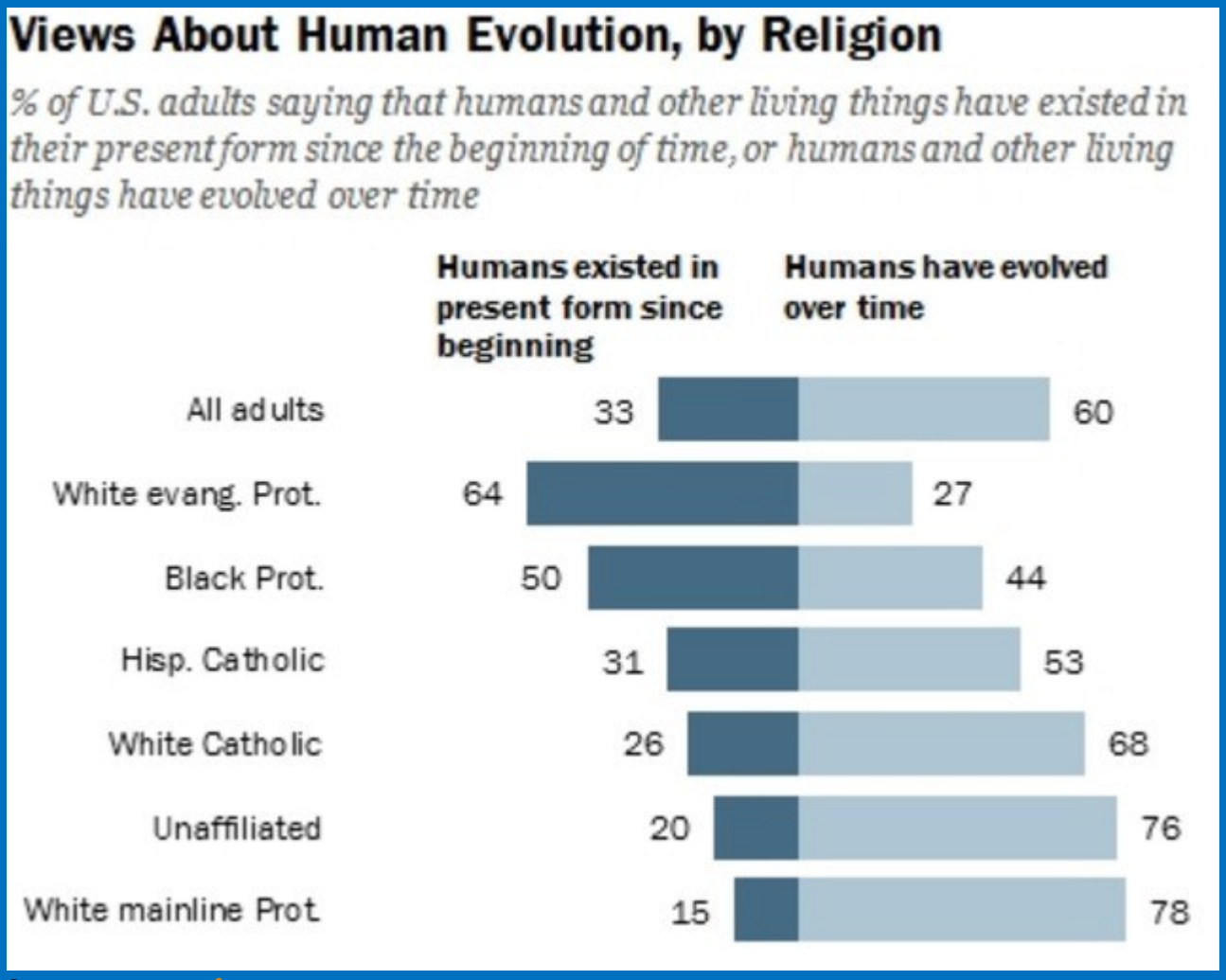
Comment: Goes to prove that our age hardly meets the standards of an "age of information"…

http://cir.ca/news/us-evolution-survey

Survey of Americans show 1/3 deny human evolution

U.S. - February 15, 2014 1:28AM

A telephone survey on evolution showed Americans generally differ along political and religious lines.



Source: www.pewforum.org

A survey by the Pew Research Center released on Dec. 30 shows that 60% of U.S. adults contacted said they believed that "humans and other living things have evolved over time," while 33% said "humans and other living things have existed in their present form since the beginning of time."

2 Less than half of those who identified with the Republican party, or 43%, said they believed humans evolved over time, dropping from 54% in a survey four years earlier. Some 67% of Democrats and 65% of independents said humans evolved, results which were roughly unchanged from the previous survey.

3 "Men are somewhat more inclined than women to say that humans and animals have evolved over time. Younger adults are more likely than older generations to believe that living things have evolved over time. And those with more years of formal schooling are more likely than those with less education to say that humans and animals have evolved over time." Pew Research Center

The results showed that beliefs about evolution vary by gender, age and education. The survey was conducted by phone in English and Spanish. It consisted of "a national sample of 1,983 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia."

4 A panel in Texas appointed to review a biology book ruled Dec. 18 that no changes needed to be made to it, handing a victory to board members opposed to including Biblical teachings in public school books. Schools will be able to begin purchasing the book in the Spring of 2014.

Related Storyline On Circa

- Texas Board of Ed. delays approval of biology books until evolution 'errors' are reviewed

5 "The layout at the Creation Museum really is beautiful. However, the quality of information is worthless, which makes the 'museum' nothing more than an expensive way to confuse and indoctrinate children." Hemant Mehta, blogger at "Friendly Atheist"

The Kentucky Creation Museum has been criticized for advancing religious beliefs under the guise of facts. It says the earth is 6,000 years old, not 4.5 billion years old, as scientists argue. Many have acknowledged its impressive appearance—its designer worked on attractions at Florida's Universal Studios.

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Example: **IGNORANCE** (lack of enlightment due to lack of factual independant information) as a control mechanism, as an instrument of control in the hands of power, and **DECEPTION** execised by companies, agencies, authorities, and governmental administrations. **GENOCIDE** is an entailing consequence exerted by greed for and corruption.

http://allafrica.com/stories/201311240059.html

Kenya: Are We Jumping From the Frying Pan of Hunger Into Fire of GMOs?

BY JOHN MWANDIA, 23 NOVEMBER 2013

ANALYSIS

The introduction of genetically modified foods may be the most premature application of scientific work for the use by humans, advocated by a corporation with one of the worst track records of safety in corporate history.

Let's first set the record straight regarding the corporate assertion that GMO crops produce higher yields than conventional crops. GMO crops do not produce more yields than conventional crops, it is that plain and simple.

However, the impression most people have of genetically-modified crops is that they yield more. Let's cut to the chase; according to the US Department of Agriculture, GMO crops available for commercial use do not increase the potential of a variety to yield more. In fact, the yields may even decrease and nothing said or done will change the facts.

The crops are not engineered to produce more. They instead contain in their cells insecticides and herbicides. The seeds are technically chemicals and for the GMO crops to succeed, the insecticides and herbicides in them must perform.

There are three methods used to insert DNA into a plant cell. In the vector-mediated transformation method, a plant cell is infected with a virus or bacterium.

It is during the infection process that the DNA is inserted. The most commonly used vector is the crown-gall bacterium - agrobacterium tumefaciens.

A more common method is the use of a 'gene gun' or the particle insertion method. In simple terms, scientists coat millions of particles of tungsten or gold in the DNA (the bullet) during the gene gun procedure.

A petri dish which is filled with the desired cells is used. The scientists then shoot the bullet into the solution after which the particles release the DNA. The DNA enters into the cells making them genetically modified.

The question is: How do you know you have not disrupted an important sequence in the DNA? The other method used is direct DNA absorption. This method involves bathing a cell in the DNA then applying an electric shock on it to stimulate DNA uptake.

The surviving cells are grown in a nutrient medium which allows them to develop into plants. Once they are fully developed, researchers multiply the desired transgenic line by planting the seeds or by making more clones through tissue culture of the plant cells. There are reasons why one needs to take a careful look at this technology before implementing it.

The Science: If I may borrow words from a leading campaigner on the health dangers of genetically modified organisms, blasting genetically engineered DNA into a plant arbitrarily - like throwing a dart in a haystack - disrupts a sequence of genes that have evolved over hundreds of millions of years for optimal functioning of the organism.

This is bound to destabilise the biochemistry of the plant. We are still learning about the myriad ways through which this crude insertion process can mutate or permanently turn genes on or off, alter RNA or protein in plants, produce allergies or even trigger wider unpredictable impacts elsewhere in the genome.

Further adverse GMO reactions are almost never rigorously followed up, abnormal proliferation of cells - which might be a precursor to cancer - is also ignored.

Evidence of horizontal gene transfer into plant bacteria or human DNA - which could cause long term damage - is studiously ignored, and mortality data on animals fed with GMO crops is swept aside or suppressed. In other words, the study is incomplete and the implementation of this technology is premature.

Failed Technology

In Texas, a leading GMO corporation faces a lawsuit filed by farmers over Bt cotton, which suffered cotton boll-worm damage. As a result, farmers had to use pesticides in spite of corporate propaganda that genetic engineering meant an end to the pesticide era.

In India, trials of GMO crops have been undertaken and already there is scientific evidence that genetic engineering is not a sustainable route for controlling crop pests and diseases.

In fact, over 250,000 farmers in India have reportedly committed suicide due to debts incurred from their going into GMO crops. There are endless such stories.

Functioning GMO Genes Remain Inside You

There are no human clinical trials of GMO foods. The only published human feeding experiment revealed that the genetic material inserted into GMOs turn into bacteria which live in our intestines and continue to function.

This means that long after we have stopped eating GMO foods, we may still have GMO proteins being produced continuously in our bodies. If the antibiotic gene inserted into most GMO crops is transferred, it would create serious diseases which are resistant to antibiotics.

If the gene that creates Bt toxin in GMO corn is transferred, it would turn our intestinal bacteria into living pesticide factories. Animal studies show that DNA in food can travel into organs throughout the body, even into the foetus.

Link to cancer

Professor Robert Belle of the National Center for Scientific Research and of the Pierre & Marie Curie Institute in France believes Roundup may be a toxic chemical.

He has carried out research on the effects of Roundup on fertilised sea urchins' eggs. He says Roundup affects a key process in cell division; not the cell division mechanisms themselves, but those that control cell divisions.

Effectively, Roundup provokes the first stages that lead to cancer. It does not however provoke cancer because you won't see the cancer develop for 30 to 40 years. The tested doses were well below the ones people normally use.

In Europe, there was a food scare in the UK when people learnt the truth about GMOs. This was after renowned GMO researcher Arpad Pusztai was invited to testify in UK Parliament and stated his controversial discoveries about GMOs. The food industry was compelled to respond after consumers overwhelmingly resisted GMO foods.

In April 1999, Unilever publicly committed to remove GMO ingredients from its European brands. Within a week, nearly all major food companies followed suit.

The rejection by manufacturers and retailers continues to this day: it has kept GMO food out of European Union in spite of official approvals of GMO varieties by the EU commission.

The same corporations that removed GMOs from their European lines, however, continue to sell them in the United States, where consumers remain uninformed.

The point is that the American government does not perform testing on GMOs and so we cannot rely on what America does in this regard. The testing is left to the corporations themselves. These corporations are profit-driven rather than need-driven.

Kenyan government officials have come out openly and declared that Kenya does not have the capacity to handle GMO foods. Kenya cannot determine the 'type' and 'quantity of gene' in the products that have been opened up to Kenya's consumer markets. In other words, the consumers will be at the mercy of whoever it might be, that produced the GMO crops and the seed company that supplied the seed to the farmer.

This is a declaration that the government cannot guarantee the safety of the food it has allowed to be imported into the country. The implication is that the government will not protect its people. In this regard, the sovereignty of Kenyans has been undermined.

Again, since government officials admit they lack the technical ability and facilities to assure the people of GMO's safety, it seems policy decisions to okay GMO foods were not based on sound judgment. The safety of Kenyans was not given as high a priority as was given to the competing forces to supply GMOs to Kenya.

Allowing GMO seeds into the country will of course contaminate our conventional seeds everywhere.

If Kenyans roll over down the road, people will have to buy all their seeds from the international seed corporations. Still further down the road, Kenyans will possibly have to buy medicine from the international medicine corporations to ward off or manage ailments that may possibly arise from the government's weakness: failure to test and verify the safety of GMO imported foods.

We will know in 30 to 40 years after we have eaten the GMOs if we have escaped the bullet.

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Example: Governments' and authorities' **arbitrary** actions (fiscal policy, subsidiaries, discounts, propaganda) aim at reducing public healthcare costs through reducing life expectancy age among the people. Also, demonstrating the power of controlling (**dis**)**information**, and public **ignorance**.

Comment: Don't even for a second anticipate that governments or authorities will act in accordance with the interest of what's good for the people or for our planet.

Sugar Consumption Accounts for a Big Chunk of Healthcare Costs

March 29, 2014 | 70,777 views

The Secrets of Sugar - CBC News

By Dr. Mercola

America spends two and a half times more on healthcare per capita than any other developed nation, quickly approaching $3 trillion EVERY year. With this kind of expenditure, you would expect our citizens to be the healthiest in the world, but this is not the case.

In fact, the US ranks *dead last* in quality of care—Americans are sicker and live shorter lives than people in most other industrialized nations. So where's the money going?

The Credit Suisse Research Institute's 2013 study "Sugar: Consumption at a Crossroads" found that 30 to 40 percent of US healthcare expenditures are for diseases directly related to the overconsumption of sugar!

We spend more than a trillion dollars each year fighting the damaging health effects of sugar. This, combined with the massive waste, fraud, and inefficiency of our healthcare system, make it completely unsustainable over time.

US Government Actually Encourages Sugar Consumption

Excess sugar causes obesity as well as a plethora of illnesses, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease and cancer. If you want to locate the sickest people, follow obesity rates. According to a United Health Foundation study, nine of the 10 least healthy states in the nation also have nine of the 10 worst obesity rates.

With one food causing such pervasive health problems and so much national expense, you would think our government regulators would do everything they could to lower sugar consumption. But the opposite is true—*they encourage it!*

Maybe the US government read the 2008 study that challenged the common notion that preventing obesity would save governments millions of dollars. The study suggested that healthy people are more expensive to care for because they live longer.

Maybe the government wants us to get obese—because we'll die younger. As cynical as that sounds, it would explain why they continue to *subsidize the corn syrup industry*.

Cancer Predicted to Become #1 Killer of Americans

Besides the obvious sugar-obesity link, I've also often discussed the intrinsic connection between sugar consumption and cancer. It's no surprise to me that cancer rates keep rising, considering that most people consume highly processed food as the bulk of their diet.

A diet devoid of healthy fats and natural vitamins and minerals, while being chockfull of processed sugars and fructose along with synthetic chemicals of all kinds simply *cannot* produce health, and the proof of this is plain

for all to see... A recent report by the American Society of Clinical Oncology predicts that a mere 16 years from now, cancer will be the leading cause of death in the US, surpassing heart disease, which is currently number one. As reported by CNN Health:

"The number of new cancer cases is expected to increase nearly 45 percent by 2030, from 1.6 million cases to 2.3 million cases annually. This influx of new patients will place a bigger burden on a field of medicine already stretched by physician shortages and financial difficulties, says the report, which highlights growing problems for cancer care in the United States."

Without Sugar, Cancer Cannot Thrive

The most powerful essential strategy I know of to treat cancer is to starve the cells by depriving them of their food source, which, in large part, is typically *sugar*. Unlike all the other cells in your body, which can burn carbs or fat for fuel, cancer cells have lost that metabolic flexibility and can *only* thrive if there enough sugar present. Dr. Otto Warburg was actually given a Nobel Prize over 75 years ago for figuring this out but virtually no oncologist actually uses this information.

Make no mistake about it, the FIRST thing you want to do if you want to avoid or treat cancer if you have insulin or leptin resistance (which 85 percent of people do) is to cut out all forms of sugar/fructose and grain carbs from your diet, in order to starve the cancerous cells.

I recommend reducing your total fructose intake to a maximum of 25 grams/day, from all sources, including fruit. If you are insulin resistant, you'd do well to make your upper limit 15 grams/day. Cancer patients would likely be best served by even stricter limits. For a more detailed discussion please review my interview with Dr. Seyfried.

The easiest way to dramatically cut down on your sugar and fructose consumption is to switch to a diet of whole, unprocessed foods, as most of the added sugar you end up with comes from processed fare, not from adding a teaspoon of sugar to your tea or coffee. But there are other ways to cut down well. This includes:

- Cutting back on the amount of sugar you personally add to your food and drink
- Using Stevia or Lo Han instead of sugar and/or artificial sweeteners. You can learn more about the best and worst of sugar substitutes in my previous article, "Sugar Substitutes – What's Safe and What's Not"
- Using fresh fruit in lieu of canned fruit or sugar for meals or recipes calling for a bit of sweetness
- Using spices instead of sugar to add flavor to your meal

Also consider reducing your protein intake to one gram per kilogram of lean body weight. It would be unusual for most adults to need more than 100 grams of protein and most likely close to half of that amount. Replace the non-vegetable carbs (sugar/fructose/grains) and excess protein with high quality fats, such as organic eggs from pastured hens, high quality meats, avocados, and coconut oil. It's certainly much easier to prevent cancer than to treat it, once it takes hold, and I believe you can virtually eliminate your risk of cancer (and radically improve your chances of recovering from cancer if you currently have it) by following certain basic lifestyle guidelines. For a full list, please see this previous article.

Corporate Welfare: Big Ag Bailouts

A depression-era program originally intended to save American farmers from ruin has devolved into a 21st Century scam enabling the food, agricultural, and financial industry to get wealthy at the taxpayer's expense. The game is called agricultural subsidies and crop insurance. Last year, USDA spent about $14 billion insuring farmers against the loss of crop income, almost seven times more than in 2000, according to the Congressional Research Service. This is a good deal for everyone but taxpayers. Since 2000, the handouts have only become more generous, so that farmers now pay only about 38 percent of their insurance bills. According to Bloomberg:

"By 2013, 'almost 1.2 million policies covering 282 million acres of farmland were in force. In 2011, the latest year for which data is available, 26 farmers each got annual subsidies of more than $1 million; more than 10,000 received $100,000 or more.'"

Is the farming industry really incapable of thriving on its own, without the help of taxpayers? Not if you look at what farmers have been earning. Farm income has doubled over the past four years. In 2011, the median income of commercial farm households was $84,649, almost 70 percent higher than the average American household. Subsidized insurance also gives farmers an incentive to plant on land where crops may or may not flourish, and many farmers are "farming the program" with the intent of making insurance claims rather than harvesting crops... which brings us back to sugar.

The Corn Industry Has Its Own Sugar Daddy: YOU, the Taxpayer

If you want to ascertain the government's priorities, look no further than to which crops they subsidize most heavily. It's clear that the profits of Big Ag trump any concern over public health or reversing the obesity epidemic. Current farm subsidies bring you high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS), fast food, junk food, corn-fed beef from CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations), monocultures, and a host of other contributors to our unhealthful contemporary diet.

The corn industry, thanks to its little darling HFCS, is heavily subsidized by taxpayers. Very few farm subsidies are being doled out to the farmers who grow your produce—the vast majority is sent to the meat and dairy industry and "King Corn". Were you to grow corn without these subsidies, you'd be virtually guaranteed to lose money. Billions of dollars go to corn farmers who have driven down the price of corn so deeply that HFCS is now the number one source of calories in the standard American diet, simply because it's so cheap. Between 1995 and 2012, the amount gifted to corn growers was $84,427,099,356. Compare this with the amount that went to apple growers: $242,064,005. In a 2012 report entitled "Apples to Twinkies," it was determined that each year, your tax dollars (in the form of subsidies) would allow you to buy 19 Twinkies but less than a quarter of one red delicious apple.

US Government Suffers from 'Fiscal Schizophrenia'

The US government is throwing money into the wind when it comes to healthcare. One office is funding an anti-obesity campaign while another across the hall subsidizes the junk food industry. For 40 years, the sugar industry has hoodwinked America, never missing an opportunity to cast doubt on studies suggesting sugar can make you ill and obese. To protect business, the industry has bought scientists and hired powerful lobbyists to ensure sugar would not be subject to legislative restriction.

Opponents of junk food subsidies line both sides of the aisle, yet amendments to the farm bill that reform the sugar subsidy and other measures that would inhibit sugar consumption repeatedly fail under the crush of the powerful sugar lobby. Congressional Democrats abandon their principles with the same vigor as Republicans when sugar money is at stake. Sugar subsidies are among the most corrupting practices of corporate welfare in the United States.

Clipping Coupons May Be Bad for Your Health

This is a Flash-based video and may not be viewable on mobile devices.

The money trail can also be followed into the coupon kingdom. Low-income families often rely on coupons to stretch tight food budgets. But the vast majority of coupons is for processed food—not fresh produce, organic foods, or local foods. Coupons and subsidies dance to the same drummer. A new study found that most grocery store coupons slice the cost of junk food and sugary drinks, but relatively few discount high-quality meats, dairy, or fresh fruits and vegetables. The study, published this month in the journal *Preventing Chronic Disease*, looked at more than 1,000 online coupons offered by six major chain grocery stores in April 2013. The relative percentage of coupons from each food category is shown in the following chart.

Stores obviously use these coupons to entice customers to buy things. The majority of the coupons are for processed foods because those are the stores' most profitable products, so they make deals with manufacturers to promote them. If the poorest families are the most frequent coupon users, then it makes sense they would also have the worst diets and most health problems—and indeed, that is what the research

shows. The healthiest states in the union are also the wealthiest, and nearly all of the nation's least healthy states have the lowest per capita income.

Americans eat the cheapest food in the world, and easy access to cheap, poor-quality food is contributing to our rising illness and obesity rates. In 2010, Americans spent just over nine percent of their disposable income on food, which is less than half that of any other country. The "faster, bigger, cheaper" approach to food production is unsustainable and contributing to the destruction of our planet and health. To protect your health and the environment, strive to make 90 percent of your diet non-processed, organic whole foods. It may cost more to eat this way, but the amount you will save in the long run is immeasurable—especially with respect to the proven risks of consuming excessive sugar.

Two Sodas Per Day May DOUBLE Your Chances for an Untimely Death

A new study found a significant relationship between added sugar consumption and death from heart disease. Americans who consumed the most sugar — about a quarter of their daily calories — were twice as likely to die from heart disease as those who limited their sugar intake to seven percent of their total calories. The average American is consuming 22 teaspoons of sugar per day, about three times what's recommended. That's the equivalent of about two sodas.

According to Dr. Robert Lustig, one of the leading experts on childhood obesity, excess sugar acts as a poison, responsible for weight gain and a multitude of chronic and deadly diseases. Recent research shows that fructose can activate taste cells found on your pancreas, a reaction that can increase your body's secretion of insulin and raise your risk for type 2 diabetes. Sugar also reacts with AGEs (advanced glycation end products), which is one of the major mechanisms by which damage accrues in your body and leads to aging and disease.

To protect your health, consider restricting your fructose consumption to 25 grams per day or less. If you're overweight or have a disease such as cancer, diabetes, or heart disease (or are at high risk for them) then you're probably better off further reducing your fructose intake to 15 grams per day or less (and this includes *all* sources—HFCS, sugar, honey, agave, fruit, fruit juice, maple syrup, etc.).

Redesigning Subsidies for the Health of People and Planet

The time is ripe for change. Redesigning our food system could help move us toward health and economic recovery. If we're going to subsidize farmers, let's subsidize them in a way that helps restore the health of American citizens and our land—programs that might just pay for themselves by the reduction in healthcare costs they bring about. Two years ago, Mark Brittman of the *New York Times* argued that subsidy money could be easily redirected toward helping smaller farmers to compete in the marketplace in a number of ways. For example, funds could be redirected toward:

- Funding research and innovation in sustainable agriculture
- Providing incentives to attract new farmers
- Saving farmland from development
- Assisting farmers who grow currently unsubsidized fruits and vegetables, while providing incentives for monoculture commodity farmers (corn, soy, wheat, and rice) to convert some of their operations to more desirable foods
- Leveling the playing field so that medium-sized farms can more favorably compete with agribusiness as suppliers for local supermarkets

Your Help Is Needed to Create a Farm Bill That Actually Makes Sense

If you don't like the idea of your tax dollars funding corporate welfare programs for corporations that flood the market with sugary beverages and processed foods, join forces with organizations that are actively working for positive change. Here are five actions you can take:

- The Environmental Working Group has started a petition urging Congress to enact a Farm Bill that protects family farmers who help us protect the environment and public health. Take a moment to sign it now.
- Sign up with The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition to keep abreast of news and action alerts relating to the Farm Bill.
- Join Food Democracy Now, an organization co-founded by Aaron Woolf, director of the documentary film *King Corn*.
- Of course, you can also voice your opinion *every day* by voting with your wallet and supporting small family farms in your area.
- Say no to junk food producers *by not buying their products,* andreturn to a diet of real, whole foods—fresh organic produce, meats from animals raised sustainably and humanely on pasture, and raw organic milk and eggs.

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Example: The power of controlling (**dis**)**information**

http://www.newrepublic.com/article/113045/free-speech-internet-silicon-valley-making-rules

TECH APRIL 29, 2013

The Delete Squad

Google, Twitter, Facebook and the new global battle over the future of free speech

BY JEFFREY ROSEN @rosenjeffrey

A year ago this month, Stanford Law School hosted a little-noticed meeting that may help decide the future of free speech online. It took place in the faculty lounge, where participants were sustained in their deliberations by bagels and fruit platters. Among the roughly two-dozen attendees, the most important were a group of fresh-faced tech executives, some of them in t-shirts and unusual footwear, who are in charge of their companies' content policies. Their positions give these young people more power over who gets heard around the globe than any politician or bureaucrat—more power, in fact, than any president or judge.

Collectively, the tech leaders assembled that day in Palo Alto might be called "the Deciders," in a tribute to Nicole Wong, the legal director of Twitter, whose former colleagues affectionately bestowed on her the singular version of that nickname while she was deputy general counsel at Google. At the dawn of the Internet age, some of the nascent industry's biggest players staked out an ardently hands-off position on hate speech; Wong was part of the generation that discovered firsthand how untenable this extreme libertarian position was. In one representative incident, she clashed with the Turkish government over its demands that YouTube take down videos posted by Greek soccer fans claiming that Kemal Ataturk was gay. Wong and her colleagues at Google agreed to block access to the clips in Turkey, where insulting the country's founder is illegal, but Turkish authorities—who insisted on a worldwide ban—responded by denying their citizens access to the whole site for two years. "I'm taking my best guess at what will allow our products to move forward in a country," she told me in 2008. The other Deciders, who don't always have Wong's legal training, have had to make their own guesses, each with ramifications for their company's bottom line.

The session at Stanford concluded with the attendees passing a resolution for the formation of an "Anti-Cyberhate Working Group," then heading over to Facebook's headquarters to drink white wine out of plastic cups at a festive reception. But despite the generally laid-back vibe, the meeting, part of a series of discussions dating back more than a year, had a serious agenda. Because of my work on the First Amendment, I was asked to join the conversations, along with other academics, civil libertarians, and policymakers from the United States and abroad. Although I can't identify all the participants by name, I am at liberty, according to the ground rules of our meetings, to describe the general thrust of the discussions, which are bringing together the Deciders at a pivotal time.

As online communication proliferates—and the ethical and financial costs of misjudgments rise—the Internet giants are grappling with the challenge of enforcing their community guidelines for free speech. Some Deciders see a solution in limiting the nuance involved in their protocols, so that only truly dangerous content is removed from circulation. But other parties have very different ideas about what's best for the Web. Increasingly, some of the Deciders have become convinced that the greatest threats to free speech during the next decade will come not just from authoritarian countries like China, Russia, and Iran, who practice political censorship and have been pushing the United Nations to empower more of it, but also from a less obvious place: European democracies contemplating broad new laws that would require Internet companies to remove posts that offend the dignity of an individual, group, or religion. The Deciders are right to be concerned about the balkanization of the Internet. There is, moreover, a bold way to respond to that threat. The urgent question is whether the Deciders will embrace it.

At Facebook, the deciders are led by Dave Willner, the head of the company's content policy team. His career provides a kind of case study in how the Deciders' thinking has evolved. Now 28, Willner joined Facebook five years ago, working night shifts in the help center, where he answered e-mails from users about how to use the photo uploader. Within a year, he had been promoted to work on content policy. Today, he manages a crew of six employees who work around shared desks at Facebook's headquarters in Menlo Park; rather than a global hub for content control, their space, festooned with colorful posters, more closely resembles a neater-than-usual college dorm. Toiling under Willner's team are a few hundred "first responders" who review complaints about nudity, porn, violence, and hate speech from offices in Menlo Park, Austin, Dublin, and Hyderabad, India. (Willner is also married to a fellow Facebook employee who now leads the User Safety team, responsible, among other things, for child protection and suicide prevention; one imagines rather heady dinner chatter.) Facebook had only 100 million users when Willner was hired, compared with the billion-plus it has now. Each day, they upload more than 300 million photos alone; every week, Facebook receives more than two million requests to remove material. (The New Republic's owner was a Facebook co-founder.)

When I first met Willner at the Stanford meeting, he wore an orange T-shirt, a gray striped sweater, blue corduroy trousers, round glasses, and a bookish beard—looking very much like the former anthropology and archeology major that he was before starting at Facebook. He took a class about Islam in his senior year, which he says comes in handy in his current job. At the time Willner joined Facebook's content policy team, the company had no rules on the books for what speech violated its terms of service. So Willner decided to write them himself. He chose as his model university anti-harassment codes, since he himself had just graduated from college. But he soon found that vague standards prohibiting speech that creates a "hostile environment" weren't practical. The Facebook screeners scattered across three continents brought vastly different cultural backgrounds to their roles and had to rule on thousands of pieces of content daily. The sheer range and complexity of the judgment calls that had to be made compounded the challenge: Is this person naked? Is a photo of Hitler racism, or political commentary? Is it bullying to post a photo of someone distorted through Photoshop? Is posting a photo of a gun a credible threat of violence? What if the gun is from the cover of a rap album?

Willner had read John Stuart Mill in college and understood the crowning achievement of the American First Amendment tradition, which allows speech to be banned only when it is intended—and likely—to incite imminent violence or lawless action. By contrast, as Willner was learning, European law draws a tighter line, prohibiting so-called group libel, or speech that offends the dignity of members of a protected class and lowers their standing in society. Willner decided that neither method would do: Both the U.S. focus on the speaker's intent and the European focus on the social consequences of their speech would be too subjective for a 22-year-old content reviewer in Dublin or Hyderabad to apply in 20 seconds.What Facebook needed, he came to believe, was a hate-speech policy that focused on concrete, easily categorized actions, so that the decision to remove controversial content, or to escalate the dispute to Willner and his colleagues in Silicon Valley, could be based on nothing more than the information contained within the form that Facebook users file to complain about offensive posts and applied like an algorithm. He sought an engineer's response to a thorny historical and legal problem—a very Silicon Valley approach.

At first, it didn't go well. To try to spell out what qualified as a hateful post, Facebook hired an outside firm to write an "Operations Manual for Live Content Moderators," which was subsequently leaked. Some of the distinctions made by the document were ridiculed by the blogosphere for being jesuitical: "Blatant (obvious) depictions of camel toes and moose knuckles" were banned in the "sex and nudity category," while the graphic content category held that "bodily fluids (except semen) are ok to show unless a human being is captured in the process."Furthermore, the draft standards seemed to ban all "Holocaust denial which focuses on hate speech" and "all attacks on Ataturk (visual and text)" around the world, even though Holocaust denial is illegal only in certain countries, including France and Germany, and attacking Ataturk is outlawed only in Turkey. In response to the uproar, Facebook fired the consulting company, and Willner redoubled his efforts to minimize the opportunities for subjective verdicts by his first responders.

Eventually, the project led to Facebook's most important free-speech decision: to ban attacks on groups, but not on institutions. The current community standards declare: "We do not permit individuals ... to attack others based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or medical condition." But Facebook allows caricatures that depict members of protected groups doing unflattering things, as well as attacks on their faith or leaders. It's only when a user categorically reviles a protected group that he crosses the line: "I hate Islam" or "I hate the Pope" is fine; "I hate Muslims" or "I hate Catholics" is not. The distinctions might be seen as a triumph of reductionism. But they have empowered the company to resist growing calls for the wholesale deletion ofspeech that foreign governments and their citizens consider blasphemous.

Facebook's new policy was dramatically tested last September, when the company refused to remove Innocence of the Muslims, the anti-Muhammad video that was initially blamed for causing the Benghazi riots that led to the death of the American ambassador to Libya. After watching the video, Willner and his colleagues concluded that, because nobody said anything explicitly denigrating of Muslims, there was nothing to ban.

As the world watched footage of the body of Christopher Stevens being dragged through the streets, YouTube reached a similar decision. Despite allegations that the riots had been caused by an Arabic-language version of the video posted on the site, it turned out that an English version of Innocence of the Muslims had been in circulation since July. YouTube had determined that the clip didn't violate its terms of service, which by then were similar to Facebook's: "Sometimes there is a fine line between what is and what is not considered hate speech. For instance, it is generally okay to criticize a nation, but not okay to make insulting generalizations about people of a particular nationality." As the violence spread from Libya to Egypt, YouTube temporarily restricted access in those two nations, because of the confusion on the ground. But the company refused to delete the video around the world, even as Egyptian leader Mohamed Morsi, speaking at the United Nations, called on YouTube to do just that.

In a separate U.N. speech, invoking the American free-speech tradition, President Barack Obama rejected Morsi's idea that the video could be banned simply because it was blasphemous: The First Amendment, he suggested, prohibits the government from taking sides in religious disputes. Instead, in the name of protecting U.S. foreign policy interests, the Obama administration asked YouTube to reconsider its conclusion that the video didn't violate the company's terms of service. By exerting this subtle pressure, Obama came close to a version of the heckler's veto, urging for the film's removal because of its potential to provoke riots. U.S. courts, despite Obama's demands, discourage the government from suppressing speech because of its likely effect on an angry mob; judges generally require the authorities to control the audience, not muzzle the speaker. In this case, of course, the mobs fell well outside of U.S. jurisdiction, and the link between the video and potential violence also wasn't clear. In fact, subsequent investigation called into question the claims of causality that had seemed obvious early on.

Like Facebook, Google and YouTube were right to focus on the content of the film, and right to conclude that, unless the incitement to violence was obvious—say, in the form of a tagline reading, "RISE UP IN VIOLENCE AGAINST MUSLIMS"—the Innocence video should remain as widely available as possible. Had YouTube made a different decision, links to the video from the many news stories that mentioned it would have been disabled, denying millions of viewers across the globe access to a newsworthy story and the chance to form their own opinions. In the heat of the moment, both the White House and the content teams at Facebook and YouTube

had to make judgments about the same inflammatory material. From a free-speech perspective, the young Deciders made better decisions than the president of the United States.

The meetings that the deciders have been holding at Stanford and elsewhere trace their origins to an earlier gathering half a world away. It was convened in 2011 by the Task Force on Internet Hate of the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism, an initiative with an unwieldy name but a crucial mission: to try to get European parliamentarians and law-enforcement officials to work together with American civil libertarians, the Anti-Defamation League, and the leading Internet companies in shaping standards for online expression. The venue was the Houses of Parliament in London, in a paneled room near the top of the Big Ben clock tower.

After some spirited discussion, the group trooped down a winding stone staircase to the visitors' gallery overlooking the House of Commons, from which the task force watched our chairman, Member of Parliament John Mann, deliver a blistering summary of his position on the regulation of online speech. "Freedom of expression is not always a good thing," he told his colleagues in the House. "The Internet is now the place where anti-Semitic filth is spread."

Because of its historical experience with fascism and communism, Europe sees the suppression of hate speech as a way of promoting democracy. Paradoxically, it has increasingly begun to pursue this goal by legislative and judicial fiat. More than 20 European countries have signed a protocol on cyber-crime that calls on member nations to expand the existing criminal penalties for "acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems." The Council of Europe has also pushed for increased hate-speech regulation. It's because of moves like those that some Deciders are worried, as one of them put it, that "we may end up in a situation where Europe slides into a situation currently occupied by Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and India"—countries in which claims of offensiveness can be deployed as a tool of oppression.

A recent book, The Harm in Hate Speech, vividly confirms the Deciders' fears. It was written by Jeremy Waldron, a New York University and Oxford professor who is a vocal champion of the European approach and its most prominent defender for American audiences. Waldron is best known for his longstanding opposition to judicial review: He believes that legislatures, rather than courts, should take the lead in formulating public policy. But this faith in the power of legislation to protect fundamental rights makes him naively optimistic about the capacity of legislatures (rather than Deciders) to balance the competing values of dignity, privacy, and free speech. He notes, accurately, that the U.S. is a global outlier in not regulating group libel and sympathetically invokes laws in countries like the United Kingdom, Germany, and France that prohibit expressions of racial and religious hatred even when there's no immediate prospect that they will provoke violence. He maintains that hate speech creates what he calls "an environmental threat to social peace."

Waldron's argument has a remarkable blind spot: It virtually ignores the Internet. He begins his book by imagining a Muslim man walking with his two young daughters on a city street in New Jersey, where they are confronted with an anti-Muslim sign. Waldron believes that allowing these posters on street corners will convince members of vulnerable minorities "that they are not accepted as ordinary good-faith participants in social life." But like the European regulators who share his views, Waldron seems unaware that the most significant free-speech debates today don't take place on street corners, or lampposts, or sandwich boards. They take place online, where a person's social networks and RSS feeds can filter out many unwelcome views—but where the risks that overregulation will open the door to suppression of political expression are exponentially higher than in the offline world. The secret police can't eavesdrop on every whisper of revolution. Armed with a Great Firewall, on the other hand, repressive governments can block entire categories of information.

And they're determined to do so. At a December meeting in Dubai, for example, a majority of the 193 countries that make up the U.N.'s International Telecommunication Union approved a proposal by China, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to create ominous "international norms and rules standardizing behavior of countries concerning information and cyberspace," as a description of the measure provided by the Chinese government puts it. Waldron, who endorses an earlier U.N. resolution condemning religious defamation while emphasizing the need to protect ideological dissent, would of course never go that far. But the thing about slippery slopes is

that, in practice, they can prove hard to avoid. The Dubai meeting highlights the danger of addressing hate speech on the borderless Internet by expanding international regulation: It may be authoritarian dictatorships, not enlightened democracies, who end up writing the new rules.

Waldron offers a defense of free-speech regulation for the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries that threatens the openness of the Internet in the twenty-first. He can't clearly tell us, for example, whether his definition of hate speech would permit or ban the anti-Muhammad cartoons that Facebook refused to take down after they were first published by a Danish newspaper in 2010. Here is his torturous analysis: "In and of themselves, the cartoons can be regarded as a critique of Islam rather than a libel on Muslim; they contribute, in their twisted way, to a debate about the connection between the prophet's teaching and the more violent aspects of modern jihadism." But, he adds, "They would come close to a libel on Muslims if they were calculated to suggest that most followers of Islam support political and religious violence." He then offers this hedging conclusion: "So it might be a question of judgment whether this was an attack on Danish Muslims as well as an attack on Muhammad. But it was probably appropriate for Denmark's Director of Public Prosecutions not to initiate legal action against the newspaper." That byzantine verdict, offered after the fact, is all very well for Denmark's Director of Public Prosecutions, but Waldron's opaque standard would be impossible for an Internet first responder to apply in a matter of seconds. And Web companies have another, better reasonfor rejecting European-style prohibitions on group libel, with their complicated calculations about the social consequences of hate speech: Even if they could be applied by Internet screeners, they would open the door to vast subjectivity and to a less open world.

The deciders, of course, have blind spots of their own. Their hate-speech policies tend to reflect a bias toward the civility norms of U.S. workplaces; they identify speech that might get you fired if you said them at your job, but which would be legal if shouted at a rally, and try to banish that expression from the entire Internet. But given their tremendous size and importance as platforms for free speech, companies like Facebook, Google, Yahoo, and Twitter shouldn't try to be guardians of what Waldron calls a "well-ordered society"; instead, they should consider themselves the modern version of Oliver Wendell Holmes's fractious marketplace of ideas—democratic spaces where all values, including civility norms, are always open for debate.

Some of the Deciders understand this. At a hate-speech panel in Houston in November, Jud Hoffman, Facebook's global policy manager, told the audience that his company was tightening its policies, introducing a new system for identifying speech likely to provoke violence. Rather than examining the context in which speech arises, Hoffman said the company now looks for evidence of four objective standards to determine whether a threat is credible: time, place, method, and target. If three of the four criteria are satisfied, the company removes the post or video. This refined approach, Hoffman stressed, helps to protect users against the heckler's veto, preventing speech from being based on the predicted reaction of the audience. It also avoids Waldron's murky inquiries into the effect of speech on a group's social status.

The company that has moved the furthest toward the American free-speech ideal is Twitter, which has explicitly concluded that it wants to be a platform for democracy rather than civility. Unlike Google and Facebook, it doesn't ban hate speech at all; instead, it prohibits only "direct, specific threats of violence against others." Last year, after the French government objected to the hash tag "#unbonjuif"—intended to inspire hateful riffs on the theme "a good Jew ..."—Twitter blocked a handful of the resulting tweets in France, but only because they violated French law. Within days, the bulk of the tweets carrying the hash tag had turned from anti-Semitic to denunciations of anti-Semitism, confirming that the Twittersphere is perfectly capable of dealing with hate speech on its own, without heavy-handed intervention.

As corporate rather than government actors, the Deciders aren't formally bound by the First Amendment. But to protect the best qualities of the Internet, they need to summon the First Amendment principle that the only speech that can be banned is that which threatens to provoke imminent violence, an ideal articulated by Justice Louis Brandeis in 1927. It's time, in other words, for some American free-speech imperialism if the Web is to remain open and free in twenty-first century.

As it happens, the big Internet companies have a commercial incentive to pursue precisely that mission. Unless Google, Facebook, Twitter, and other Internet giants draw a hard line on free speech, they will find it more

difficult to resist European efforts to transform them from neutral platforms to censors-in-chief for the entire globe. Along with tougher rules on hate speech, the European regulators are weighing a sweeping new privacy right called “the right to be forgotten.” If adopted, it would allow users to demand the deletion from the Internet of photos they’ve posted themselves but come to regret—as well as photos of them that have been widely shared by others and even truthful but embarrassing blog comments others have posted about them. The onus would be on Google or Facebook or Yahoo or Twitter to take down the material as soon as a user makes the request or make the bet that a European privacy commissioner—to whom requests could be appealed—would determine that keeping the material online serves the public interest or provides journalistic, literary, or scientific value. If the companies guess wrong, they could be liable in each case for up to 2 percent of their annual incomes. A European Commission press officer stresses that each member country would choose how to implement the penalties, but for Google, the fines could hit $1 billion per incident.

Invoking a version of the right to be forgotten, an Argentinian judge in 2009 ordered Yahoo to remove racy pictures of Argentinian pop star Virginia da Cunha that were leading users to pornographic sites when they searched for her name. Claiming it was too technologically difficult to remove only the photos, Yahoo removed all references to her on its Argentine servers, so that, if you plug “da Cunha” into the Yahoo Argentina search engine now, you get a blank page and a judicial order. While Yahoo eventually won on appeal, the big Internet companies don’t want to host blank pages—their business models depend on their ability to ease the free exchange of information. But the right to be forgotten, if put in place, could turn them into the equivalent of TV stations with weak signals, resulting in shows that forever flicker in and out. The Deciders would bolster their position in the fight if their own guidelines more strictly limited the kind of speech they will voluntarily delete.

When I spoke with Nicole Wong at Google five years ago, she seemed a little uneasy with the magnitude of the responsibility she had taken on. “I think the Decider model is inconsistent,” she said. “The Internet is big, and Google isn’t the only one making these decisions.” The recent meetings, though not intended to produce a single hate-speech standard, seem to have bolstered the Deciders’ belief in the necessity of embracing the challenges of their unique positions and, perhaps in some cases, how much they relish the work. “I think this is probably what a lot of people who go to law school want to do,” Willner told me. “And I ended up doing it by accident.”

Meanwhile, the quest for the perfect screening system continues. Some of the Internet companies are exploring the possibility of a deploying an algorithm that could predict whether a given piece of content is likely to cause violence in a particular region, based on patterns of violence in the past. But hoping that the machines will one day police themselves amounts to wishful thinking. It may be that U.S. constitutional standards, applied by fickle humans, are the best way of preserving an open Internet.

Silicon Valley Is Insensitive to Homeless People

What Big Data Will Never Explain

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Example: **Disinformation**/ lack of information/ **ignorance** as an instrument of control

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/23/monsanto-glyphosate-weed-killer_n_4148763.html

Monsanto Says Its Glyphosate Weed-Killers Are Safe After AP Report Of Misuse In Argentina

By MICHAEL WARREN 10/23/13 12:07 AM ET EDT

AP
Bottles of Roundup herbicide, a product of Monsanto, are displayed on a store shelf on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 in St. Louis. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina -- BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Monsanto Co. is calling for more controls on agrochemicals, including its Roundup line of glyphosate-based weed-killers, in response to an Associated Press report about concerns that illegal pesticide applications are harming human health in Argentina.

"If pesticides are being misused in Argentina, then it is in everyone's best interests - the public, the government, farmers, industry, and Monsanto - that the misuse be stopped," the St. Louis, Missouri-based company said after the AP report was published Monday.

The company criticized the AP report as lacking in specifics about health impacts, though the story cited hospital birth records, court records, peer-reviewed studies, continuing epidemiological surveys, pesticide industry and government data, and a comprehensive audit of agrochemical use in 2008-11 prepared by Argentina's bipartisan Auditor General's Office.

Argentine doctors interviewed by the AP said their caseloads — not laboratory experiments — show an apparent correlation between the arrival of intensive industrial agriculture and rising rates of cancer and birth defects in rural communities, and they're calling for broader, longer-term studies to rule out agrochemical exposure as a cause of these and other illnesses.

Asked for Monsanto's position on this, company spokesman Thomas Helscher told the AP in an email Tuesday that "the absence of reliable data makes it very difficult to establish trends in disease incidence and even more difficult to establish causal relationships. To our knowledge there are no established causal relationships."

Earlier, Monsanto criticized the AP report as "overbroad in indicting all 'pesticides' when we know that glyphosate is safe."

"The U.S. EPA and other agencies not only say there is no evidence of carcinogenicity but go further to give it the highest rating, "E," which means there is affirmative evidence that glyphosate does not cause cancer in humans."

This claim of safety is part of the problem, Monsanto's critics say. While glyphosate is less toxic in terms of acute exposure than many other herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, it is routinely blended with other chemicals when applied to crops. The spray that drifts from fields and seeps into groundwater adds to an overall chemical burden, a mix of many individual ingredients.

In 1996, Monsanto paid a $50,000 fine and agreed to "cease and desist" promoting glyphosate as "safe" after New York's attorney general sued it for false advertising.

Monsanto acknowledged then that EPA approval "is not an assurance or finding of safety" because U.S. regulations are based on a cost-benefit analysis, which balances the potential of "any unreasonable risk to man or the environment" against the "the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide."

Argentine federal law follows a different standard. It says that when "faced with the possibility of serious and irreversible harm," the users of a chemical must make sure they protect human health and the environment, even when there's "a lack of information or scientific certainty," and "no matter the costs and consequences."

Asked which standard Monsanto should follow in Argentina, the company spokesman said it follows all applicable regulations all over the world.

"It is not for Monsanto to decide or give opinion about the legal principles that rule the regulations of the country. Monsanto is respectful of the Argentine legal and regulatory framework, and will comply with the principles Argentine authorities decide," Helscher wrote Friday in response to questions from the AP.

Agriculture Secretary Lorenzo Basso did not respond to requests for comment sent to his office, his secretary and his biotechnology deputy.

Dr. Damian Verzenassi runs a continuing epidemiological study at the National University of Rosario Medical School that has found a 90 percent increase in cancer rates since 1997.

"They said this new system of production would diminish agrochemical use in the country. They called the arrival of GMOs a second green revolution," he said Tuesday.

Helscher acknowledged to the AP that agrochemical use has not decreased and in fact has grown beyond what would be required by the dramatic expansion of farming in Argentina alone.

The country's "agricultural production has tripled in the last 20 years, going from around 35 to just about 100 million tons that are currently produced. In the same period, the agrochemical application per produced ton grew at a dramatically lower pace of 2.85 to 3.2 liters according to the figures of the agrochemical industry," Helscher wrote.

The AP report cited data from CASAFE, Argentina's pesticide industry chamber, showing a ninefold increase in the overall amount of formulated agrochemicals sold annually, from 9 million gallons (34 million liters) in 1990 to more than 84 million gallons (317 million liters) in 2012.

Agrochemical use declined at first, then jumped after 100 percent of Argentina's soy came from genetically modified plants and farmers stopped tilling the soil to kill weeds. As resistant pests exploded, farmers found themselves with little choice but to mix in much more toxic chemicals.

"It's an integral chemical compound — it has glyphosate, it has surfactant (to facilitate its dispersion), and on top of that they blend in 2,4,D (a hormonal weed-killer), endosulfan (an insecticide) and other agrotoxins," Verzenassi said.

Helscher told the AP that "scientists do see a tendency for higher probability for resistance to evolve in these situations especially when there is sole reliance on a single herbicide for the management of the key weed species." The answer, he said, is using "the appropriate combination of multiple herbicides."

Dave Schubert, who runs the cellular neurobiology laboratory at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California, disagrees. "People worry about genetic modification, but with herbicide resistant crops, perhaps the biggest health risk is the huge amount of herbicides currently being used," he said Tuesday.

Schubert's study of the shortcomings in the U.S. pesticide approval process, published in Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Reviews in 2004, concluded that more rigorous testing by the EPA and the Food and Drug Administration is necessary, since so many other nations cite U.S. reviews for their own approvals.

"All of this stuff should be fed to pregnant animals to look for birth defects, and feeding studies should be done for at least a year to determine potential long-term toxicities," Schubert told the AP.

Monsanto said it would keep urging farmers to follow the rules. That hasn't happened in Argentina, where no one was punished for violating federal spraying rules from 2008 to 2011, the auditor general found.

"We deplore the misuse of any pesticides, regardless of who makes them. Monsanto's employees work very hard to ensure that our customers and suppliers are properly trained and use the products according to label instructions, and that applies to Argentina, the United States, and everywhere else we do business," the company said.

Given ample evidence of poor enforcement and growing complaints of human health impacts 17 years after Argentina accepted this farming system, Monsanto should do more, said Judy Hatcher, chairwoman of Pesticide Action Network International.

"Argentina was an early adopter of genetically engineered seed technology," she wrote in an email to the AP. "As we've also learned in the United States, herbicide-resistant GE crops lead to dramatically increased pesticide use. And as weeds develop resistance to these chemicals, industry rolls out even more hazardous chemicals to battle the 'superweeds. Farmers get trapped on the pesticide treadmill."

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http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2013/06/09/monsanto-roundup-herbicide.aspx

Monsanto's Roundup Herbicide May Be Most Important Factor in Development of Autism and Other Chronic Disease

June 09, 2013

Story at-a-glance

- Two key problems caused by glyphosate in the diet are nutritional deficiencies, especially minerals, and systemic toxicity
- Glyphosate is possibly "the most important factor in the development of multiple chronic diseases and conditions that have become prevalent in Westernized societies," according to researchers
- Your gut bacteria are a key component of glyphosate's mechanism of harm, as microbes have the pathway used by glyphosate to kill weeds
- Glyphosate causes extreme disruption of microbes' functions and lifecycles. What's worse, glyphosate preferentially affects beneficial bacteria, allowing pathogens to overgrow
- Two key problems in autism unrelated to the brain yet clearly associated with the condition are both linked with glyphosate exposure: gut dysbiosis, and disrupted sulfur metabolism/impaired sulfate transport

By Dr. Mercola

In recent weeks, we've learned some very disturbing truths about glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's broad-spectrum herbicide Roundup, which is generously doused on genetically engineered (GE) Roundup Ready crops.

GE crops are typically far more contaminated with glyphosate than conventional crops, courtesy of the fact that they're engineered to withstand extremely high levels of Roundup without perishing along with the weed.

A new peer-reviewed report authored by Anthony Samsel, a retired science consultant, and a long time contributor to the Mercola.com Vital Votes Forum, and Dr. Stephanie Seneff, a research scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), reveals how glyphosate wrecks human health.

In the interview above, Dr. Seneff summarizes the two key problems caused by glyphosate in the diet:

- Nutritional deficiencies
- Systemic toxicity

Their findings make the need for labelling all the more urgent, and the advice to buy certified organic all the more valid.

The Horrific Truth about Roundup

In 2009, a French court found Monsanto guilty of lying; falsely advertising its Roundup herbicide as "biodegradable," "environmentally friendly" and claiming it "left the soil clean."

Mounting evidence now tells us just how false such statements are. I don't believe that Monsanto is one of the most evil companies on the planet for nothing. The company has done absolutely nothing to improve their worldwide influence on human and environmental health.

In the video above, Jeffrey Smith, author of the bestseller *Seeds of Deception,* says Monsanto, during some reflective moment, must have asked "What would Darth Vader do?" Because what they've come up with is a way of pretending that they're beneficial and then insinuating themselves into the food and agriculture industry, and now it turns out that what they have is very, very dangerous.

Indeed, according to Dr. Seneff, glyphosate is possibly "the most important factor in the development of multiple chronic diseases and conditions that have become prevalent in Westernized societies," including but not limited to:

Autism	Gastrointestinal diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease, chronic diarrhea, colitis and Crohn's disease	Obesity
Allergies	Cardiovascular disease	Depression
Cancer	Infertility	Alzheimer's disease
Parkinson's disease	Multiple sclerosis	ALS, and more

How Glyphosate Worsens Modern Diseases

While Monsanto insists that Roundup is as safe to humans as aspirin, Seneff and Samsel's research tells a different story altogether. Their report, published in the journal *Entropy*[1], argues that glyphosate residues, found in most commonly consumed foods in the Western diet courtesy of GE sugar, corn, soy and wheat, "enhance the damaging effects of other food-borne chemical residues and toxins in the environment to disrupt normal body functions and induce disease."

Interestingly, your gut bacteria are a key component of glyphosate's mechanism of harm.

Monsanto has steadfastly claimed that Roundup is harmless to animals and humans because the mechanism of action it uses (which allows it to kill weeds), called the shikimate pathway, is absent in all animals. However, the shikimate pathway IS present in bacteria, and that's the key to understanding how it causes such widespread systemic harm in both humans and animals.

The bacteria in your body outnumber your cells by 10 to 1. For every cell in your body, you have 10 microbes of various kinds, and all of them have the shikimate pathway, so they will *all* respond to the presence of glyphosate!

Glyphosate causes extreme disruption of the microbe's function and lifecycle. What's worse, glyphosate *preferentially* affects *beneficial* bacteria, allowing pathogens to overgrow and take over. At that point, your body also has to contend with the toxins produced by the pathogens. Once the chronic inflammation sets in, you're well on your way toward chronic and potentially debilitating disease. In the interview above, Dr. Seneff reviews a variety of chronic diseases, explaining how glyphosate contributes to each condition. So to learn more, I urge you to listen to it in its entirety. It's quite eye-opening.

The Overlooked Component of Toxicity

The research reveals that glyphosate inhibits cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes, a large and diverse group of **enzymes** that catalyze the oxidation of organic substances. This, the authors state, is "an overlooked component of its toxicity to mammals." One of the functions of CYP enzymes is to detoxify xenobiotics—chemical compounds found in a living organism that are not normally produced or consumed by the organism in question. By limiting the ability of these enzymes to detoxify foreign chemical compounds, glyphosate *enhances* the damaging effects of chemicals and environmental toxins you may be exposed to.

But that's not all. Dr. Stephanie Seneff has been conducting research at MIT for over three decades. She also has an undergraduate degree in biology from MIT and a minor in food and nutrition, and I have previously interviewed her about her groundbreaking insights into the critical importance of sulfur in human health. Not surprisingly, this latest research also touches on sulfur, and how it is affected by glyphosate from food.

"[W]e show how interference with CYP enzymes acts synergistically with disruption of the biosynthesis of aromatic amino acids by gut bacteria, as well as impairment in serum sulfate transport," the authors write.

"Consequences are most of the diseases and conditions associated with a Western diet, which include gastrointestinal disorders, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, autism, infertility, cancer and Alzheimer's

disease. ... [T]he recent alarming increase in all of these health issues can be traced back to a combination of gut dysbiosis, impaired sulfate transport, and suppression of the activity of the various members of the cytochrome P450 (CYP) family of enzymes."

The Roundup-Autism Connection

For the past 30 years, Dr. Seneff has been passionate about teasing out potential causes of autism, after seeing what it was like for a close friend whose son was diagnosed. She points out the clear correlations between increased glyphosate use over recent years (the result of genetically engineered crops causing weed resistance, necessitating ever-larger amounts to be used) and skyrocketing autism rates.

The rate of autism has risen so quickly, there can be no doubt that it has an environmental cause. Our genes simply cannot mutate fast enough to account for the rapid rise we're now seeing. The latest statistics released by the CDC on March 20 show that 1 in 50 children in the US now fall within the autism spectrum[2,3] with a 5:1 boy to girl ratio. Just last year the CDC reported a rate of 1 in 88, which represented a 23 percent increase since 2010, and 78 percent since 2007. Meanwhile, I remember when the incidence of autism in the US was only 1 in 100,000—just short of 30 years ago!

Dr. Seneff identified two key problems in autism that are unrelated to the brain yet clearly associated with the condition—both of which are linked with glyphosate exposure (starting at 10 minutes into the interview, she gives an in-depth explanation of how glyphosate causes the many symptoms associated with autism):

1. Gut dysbiosis (imbalances in gut bacteria, inflammation, leaky gut, food allergies such as gluten intolerance)
2. Disrupted sulfur metabolism / sulfur and sulfate deficiency

Interestingly, certain microbes in your body actually break down glyphosate, which is a good thing. However, a byproduct of this action is ammonia, and children with autism tend to have significantly higher levels of ammonia in their blood than the general population. Ditto for those with Alzheimer's disease. In your brain, ammonia causes encephalitis, i.e. brain inflammation.

Another devastating agent you really do not want in your body is formaldehyde, which a recent nutritional analysis discovered is present in genetically engineered corn at a level that is *200 times* the amount that animal studies have determined to be toxic to animals. Formaldehyde destroys DNA and can cause cancer.

Other research backing up the Roundup-autism link is that from former US Navy staff scientist Dr. Nancy Swanson. She has a Ph.D. in physics, holds five US patents and has authored more than 30 scientific papers and two books on women in science. Ten years ago, she became seriously ill, and in her journey to regain her health she turned to organic foods. Not surprisingly (for those in the know) her symptoms dramatically improved. This prompted her to start investigating genetically engineered foods.

She has meticulously collected statistics on glyphosate usage and various diseases and conditions, including autism. A more perfect match-up between the rise in glyphosate usage and incidence of autism is hard to imagine... To access her published articles and reports, please visit Sustainable Pulse[4], a European website

dedicated to exposing the hazards of genetically engineered foods.

When Food Is Poison...

What the biotech industry, spearheaded by Monsanto, has managed to do is turn food into poison... quite literally, and in more ways than one. Here, we're just talking about the effects of Roundup. There are plenty of indications that the genetic alteration of a crop itself can pose significant health concerns. So with the vast majority of GE crops, you have no less than two potentially hazardous factors to contend with, glyphosate toxicity being just one part of the equation.

As discussed above, glyphosate has a number of devastating biological effects. So much so that it may very well be one of *the* most important factors in the development of a wide variety of modern diseases and conditions, including autism. In summary, these detrimental effects include:

Nutritional deficiencies, as glyphosate	Disruption of the biosynthesis of aromatic amino

immobilizes certain nutrients and alters the nutritional composition of the treated crop	acids (these are essential amino acids not produced in your body that must be supplied via your diet)
Increased toxin exposure (this includes high levels of glyphosate and formaldehyde in the food itself)	Impairment of sulfate transport and sulfur metabolism; sulfate deficiency
Systemic toxicity—a side effect of extreme disruption of microbial function throughout your body; beneficial microbes in particular, allowing for overgrowth of pathogens	Gut dysbiosis (imbalances in gut bacteria, inflammation, leaky gut, food allergies such as gluten intolerance)
Enhancement of damaging effects of other food-borne chemical residues and environmental toxins as a result of glyphosate shutting down the function of detoxifying enzymes	Creation of ammonia (a byproduct created when certain microbes break down glyphosate), which can lead to brain inflammation associated with autism and Alzheimer's disease

How to Protect Yourself and Your Family from This Systemic Poison

It's important to understand that the glyphosate sprayed on conventional and genetically engineered crops actually becomes systemic throughout the plant, so it cannot be washed off. It's *inside* the plant. For example, genetically engineered corn has been found to contain 13 ppm of glyphosate, compared to zero in non-GMO corn. At ***13 ppm*, GMO corn contains more than *18 times* the "safe" level of glyphosate set by the EPA.** Organ damage in animals has occurred at levels as low as 0.1 ppm. If that's not reason enough to become a label reader to avoid anything with corn in it, such as corn oil or high fructose corn syrup, I don't know what is.

You'd also be wise to stop using Roundup around your home, where children and pets can come into contact with it simply by walking across the area.

Until the US requires genetically engineered (GE) foods to be labeled, the only way you can avoid GE ingredients is to make whole, fresh organic foods the bulk of your diet, and to only buy 100% USDA certified organic processed foods. Meats need to be grass-fed or pastured to make sure the animals were not fed GE corn or soy feed.

Last but not least, do not confuse the "natural" label with organic standards.

The natural label is *not* based on any standards and is frequently misused by sellers of GE products. Growers and manufacturers of organic products bearing the USDA seal, on the other hand, have to meet the strictest standards of any of the currently available organic labels. In order to qualify as organic, a product must be grown and processed using organic farming methods that recycle resources and promote biodiversity. Crops must be grown without synthetic pesticides, bioengineered genes, petroleum-based fertilizers, or sewage sludge-based fertilizers.

Vote with Your Pocketbook, Every Day

The food companies on the left of this graphic spent tens of millions of dollars in the last two labeling campaigns—in California and Washington State - to *prevent* you from knowing what's in your food. You can even the score by switching to the brands on the right; all of whom stood behind the I-522 Right to Know campaign. Voting with your pocketbook, at every meal, matters. It makes a huge difference.

I encourage you to continue educating yourself about genetically engineered foods, and to share what you've learned with family and friends. Remember, unless a food is certified organic, you can assume it contains GMO ingredients if it contains sugar from sugar beets, soy, or corn, or any of their derivatives.

If you buy processed food, opt for products bearing the USDA 100% Organic label, as certified organics do not permit GMO's. You can also print out and use the Non-GMO Shopping Guide, created by the Institute for Responsible Technology. Share it with your friends and family, and post it to your social networks. Alternatively, download their free iPhone application, available in the iTunes store. You can find it by searching for ShopNoGMO in the applications. For more in-depth information, I highly recommend reading the following two books, authored by Jeffrey Smith, the executive director of the Institute for Responsible Technology:

- Seeds of Deception: Exposing Industry and Government Lies about the Safety of the Genetically Engineered Foods You're Eating
- Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods.

For timely updates, join the Non-GMO Project on Facebook, or follow them on Twitter.

Please, do your homework. Together, we have the power to stop the biotech industry from destroying our food supply, the future of our children, and the earth as a whole. All we need is about five percent of American shoppers to simply *stop* buying genetically engineered foods, and the food industry would have to reconsider their source of ingredients—regardless of whether the products bear an actual GMO label or not.

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Example: Predominant **ignorance**/lack of information/ **disinformation** as an instrument of control in the hands of "predator" powers

Comment: Roundup is a product of the military complex? Labelled Agent Orange, it was sprayed over Viet Nam, now they got it classed as "harmless to humans" and are allowed to spray it over fields where GMO crops grow … which may soon enough cover the entire globe…

http://www.infowars.com/is-monsantos-roundup-glyphosate-the-new-agent-orange/

Is Monsanto's RoundUp (Glyphosate) the New Agent Orange?

Christina Sarich
Infowars.com
November 18, 2013

Monsanto has been in the poison game for a long time. All the propaganda in the world can't erase the fact that they first poisoned thousand of Vietnamese, Thai, and Koreans as well as countless American soldiers with Agent Orange, who only now receive compensation for the effects of Monsanto's bio-warfare decades later. The proof is finally so pervasive that the company can no longer just sweep away evidence of their evil-doing.

Image: Wikimedia Commons.

While it was our own government who did the spraying, they colluded with Monsanto, one of the nine government contractors who made the toxic combination of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, which came to be called Agent Orange. Many people don't know this, but after decades of research proving that Agent Orange is lethal and **tens of millions of dollars paid to victims** in settlements – it is still being used in many Asian countries.

The company has switched to using it's best-selling herbicide RoundUp predominately now, yet another innocent product constructed of poisons even the most stalwart farmer would wince at should they really understand its fallout. RoundUp is made of glyphosate, the primary active ingredient and Agent Orange of our time. Even the RoundUp label warns not to get the stuff in your eyes or on your skin, and to wear gloves when handling it – so what makes it o.k. to eat?

RoundUp " kills weeds because glyphosate (a salt compound) inhibits enzyme pathways, preventing plants from synthesizing amino acids necessary for growth. It basically stops plants from eating, so they die." It is probable that Monsanto and other companies who use this substance under other names besides RoundUp are now

dumping more than 300 million pounds of this toxic poison into our soil annually. It's use has at least tripled since 1990.

Read: Stopping Resurgence of Agent Orange in Food Supply

This calls into question some of the arguments posted by anti-labeling and pro-GMO propagandists who say that "the science isn't conclusive that GMO herbicides are dangerous." Meanwhile, hundreds of scientists, many being former pro-GMO, are speaking up about the ineffectiveness and potential dangers surrounding GMOs. The idea is similar to how the tobacco industry lied to citizens for decades about the ill-effects of cigarettes and how they cause lung cancer, among other problems.

This is why countless people continue to rail against Monsanto. It's why Monsanto and their nefarious crew of poison mongers (the Grocery Manufacturer's of America) spend **millions of dollars illegally** to try to defeat GMO labeling bills.

The truth is that RoundUp, in the form of glyphosate, is just another product of the military industrial complex, and an evolution of Agent Orange. If we don't wake up and fight, en masse, then Monsanto and its government connections will completely destroy our food supply and our planet.

This post originally appeared at Natural Society

This article was posted: Monday, November 18, 2013 at 5:17 am

Tags: domestic news, food, gmo

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http://www.nyteknik.se/nyheter/it_telekom/allmant/article3800236.ece

Fact: Bill Gates says the worlds is a better place than ever before

Comment: In a Scandinavian TV-show he was interviewed on Earth's poverty and health states.

He claims they are better off than ever. Perhaps contradicted by too few voices, but also confirmed by even less, all we can conclude is really that Mr Gates may be better off than ever. What streets around the world has his eyes scanned off, what reports have they read, what people has he been speaking with? – Me, I've no idea.

Do his sources of statistics include child labor, food poor in nutrition due to artificial NPK-based fertilizers, bad health and diseases cased by pollutants and sewage outlets in their reports? Do they count the dead and starving soon-2B-corpses in the constantly growing numbers and sizes of refugee camps world-wide? The dead in civil wars, terrorist attacks, conflicts, and in deteriorating phenomena like hurricanes and flooding due to aggravating climate effects? Cause all of these and many other parameters are growing ever worse and stronger – killing and impoverishing so MANY.

(in Swedish – article in English: Google search for Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)

Bill Gates: Världen är bättre än någonsin

Av: Mats Lewan
Publicerad 23 januari 2014 16:46

"Föreställningen att vi inte kan göra något åt extrem fattigdom och sjukdom är inte bara felaktig. Den är skadlig." Det skriver Bill Gates i sitt årliga publika brev.

Bill Gates

- Se Bill Gates förklara ”if”-satsen
- Bill Gates pressas släppa Microsoft
- Gates åter i topp
- 2014 Gates Annual Letter
- Bill Gates

Bill Gates som tillsammans med sin fru Melinda Gates leder välgörenhetsorganisationen Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, fokuserar i årets upplaga av "Gates Annual Letter" på tre myter som förhindrar framsteg för världens fattiga.

Han inleder med att konstatera att världen enligt nästan alla mått mätt är en bättre plats att leva på än någonsin, men att förvånande många människor tror att det är tvärtom. Och han anser att det är en direkt skadlig uppfattning som gör arbetet med att förbättra världen svårare.

Bill Gates tar sedan upp tre myter som han diskuterar ingående för att visa att de är just myter:

- Fattiga länder är dömda att förbli fattiga.

- Bistånd är ett stort slöseri.

- Att rädda liv leder till överbefolkning.

Med en rad exempel visar han att många av de länder som var fattiga i hans ungdom i dag tagit sig upp till en nivå där de klarar sig själva, och att det inte längre är relevant att tala om utvecklade länder och utvecklingsländer, utan snarare om låg-, medel- och höginkomstländer, i en kontinuerlig skala. Han vågar sig också på att spå att det 2035 knappt kommer att finnas några fattiga länder, med dagens mått mätt.

När det gäller bistånd ger Bill Gates en rad exempel på att det verkligen leder till förbättrade villkor för människor, och att alternativet – att dra ner på bistånd – inte ger några stora besparingar, samtidigt som det förvärrar situationen. Han underkänner också argument om exempelvis korruption för att stoppa bistånd, och konstaterar att de flesta exempel på ineffektivt bistånd kommer från kalla kriget då det mer handlade om att skaffa sig allierade stater än att hjälpa.

Den tredje myten, den om överbefolkning, punkterar Bill Gates med statistik som entydigt visar att minskad barnadödlighet mycket snabbt leder till minskat barnafödande och minskad befolkningstillväxt. Dessutom är det en fråga som gäller kvinnors möjlighet att planera sin familj och sina liv.

Med en förmögenhet på nästan 76 miljarder dollar är Microsofts medgrundare Bill Gates världens rikaste man. I morgon, fredag, går det att höra mer av hans syn på världen och hur han använder sin förmögenhet, då han gästar tv-programmet Skavlan.

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