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The Dirty Truth of “Green” Energy

NEITHER GREEN NOR CLEAN

by E. Calvin Beisner, Ph.D., is Founder and National Spokesman of The Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation and author of over 16 books.

Remember President Obama’s “Clean Power Plan”? It aimed to reduce global warming by cutting American emissions of carbon dioxide from electricity generation. It never got very far, and the Trump Administration killed it.

Now President Biden has announced his “Energy Efficiency and Clean Electricity Standard”. The *Washington Post* reported it would “turbocharge the country’s transition from fossil fuels, using the muscle and vast resources of the federal government to intervene in electricity markets, speed the growth of solar and wind energy, and foster technological breakthroughs in clean power.”

This, supposedly, will spare us from what Biden calls the “existential threat” of climate change.

Don’t bet on it. Biden’s own “Special Presidential Envoy for Climate,” former Sen. John Kerry, said, “We could go to zero [carbon dioxide emissions] tomorrow and the problem isn’t solved.”

Is the “clean energy” Biden’s plan promotes really clean? Is it better for

people and the environment than the energy it replaces?

To answer that question we need first to define “clean” in this discussion, and then ask how well “green energy” meets that definition.

“Clean energy” used to mean energy the production of which didn’t fill our air and water with toxic fumes, toxic liquids, and soot. From the late-19th through the mid-20th centuries, such emissions, mainly from coal-fired power plants, were a serious problem — though the harm they did to Americans’ health was more than compensated for by the benefits that energy brought to the rest of our economy, as proved by our steady increase in life expectancy.

Since then, better processes have reduced those emissions to where they pose little risk to our health.

Thirty years ago, I wrote *Prospects for Growth: A Biblical View of Population, Resources, and the Future*:

“From 1976 to 1986 average carbon monoxide levels at monitoring stations fell 36 percent; ozone levels,

20 percent; sulfur dioxide levels, 40 percent; total suspended particulates levels, 24 percent; nitrogen dioxide levels, 11 percent; and lead levels, 80 percent.”

Those trends have continued. The Environmental Protection Agency reported last year, “Between 1970 and 2019, the combined emissions of criteria and precursor pollutants, dropped by 77%, while the U.S. economy grew 285%.”

Biden’s plan focuses primarily not on such traditionally understood pollutants, but on carbon dioxide because, supposedly, it is causing catastrophic global warming. Energy sources that supposedly curb that are “clean.” Those that don’t, aren’t.

This means treating carbon dioxide as a pollutant. But it isn’t. It’s an odorless, colorless gas, nontoxic at over 20 times its concentration in Earth’s atmosphere, and essential to photosynthesis and consequently to all life.

Biden calls energy sources that put less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere “clean”: wind turbines and solar panels. So, how “clean” are those — by the old definition or the new? Will they make a difference in global warming?

No. Why?

Substituting wind and solar for fossil fuels as energy sources in America would not eliminate all our



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emissions.

Manufacturing wind turbines and solar panels requires vast amounts of mining, moving, and processing of minerals, and then fabricating them into end products — and almost all of that has to be done with energy from fossil fuels.

In *Mines, Minerals, and “Green” Energy: A Reality Check*, Mark P. Mills explained why wind and solar simply are not “green” or “clean” as their advocates think.

First, producing wind turbines and solar arrays, and the batteries needed to store electricity from them for use in electric vehicles or when the wind doesn’t blow and the sun doesn’t shine, requires mining, moving, and refining vast amounts of earth — far more than required to obtain the same amount of energy from coal, oil, and natural gas.

Mills explains: “Building wind turbines and solar panels to generate electricity, as well as batteries to fuel electric vehicles, requires, on average, more than 10 times the quantity of materials, compared with building machines using hydrocarbons [fossil fuels] to deliver the same amount of energy to society. ... a single electric car battery weighing 1,000 pounds requires extracting and processing some 500,000 pounds of materials.”

That’s 5 pounds of earth for every mile the car will go in its lifetime — about 25 times as much as required for an internal combustion engine.

Mills also points out that “Oil, natural gas, and coal are needed to produce the concrete, steel, plastics, and purified minerals used to build green machines. The energy equivalent of 100 barrels of oil is used in the processes to fabricate a single battery that can store the equivalent of one barrel of oil.”

In addition, most of the equipment needed — the enormous excavators, trucks, and other giant machines — must run on diesel, made from oil.

They’re simply too big and heavy to be powered efficiently by batteries.

Second, the vast majority of the rare-earth minerals used in wind turbines and solar panels are mined and refined in two countries: China and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There, women and children working in slave-labor conditions are exposed to deadly hazards, and the processes result in major emissions of toxic chemicals that harm both the environment and surrounding populations.

What is the national security risk of making the United States dependent on Communist China for increasing amounts of energy?

Five of the world’s top-10 wind turbine manufacturers are CCP-owned or operated.

Nine of the world’s top-10 solar panel manufacturers are CCP-owned or operated.

More than two-thirds of the world’s solar panels and one-half of wind turbines are produced in China.

Today, the United States is 100% reliant for 17 strategic minerals and depends on imports for over 50% of 28 widely used minerals. China is a significant source for half of those 28 minerals.

China is responsible for 37% of passenger electric vehicles and 99% of e-buses sold globally since 2011.

China controls 90% of the battery industry’s cobalt supply chain.

Third is the disposal problem. Spent wind turbines, solar panels, and batteries wind up as enormous quantities of non-recyclable waste, much of it toxic. “By 2050,” writes Mills, “... the quantity of worn-out solar panels ... will constitute double the tonnage of all today’s global plastic waste, along with over 3 million tons per year of unrecyclable plastics from worn-out wind turbine blades. By 2030,

more than 10 million tons per year of batteries will become garbage.”

Wind and solar energy increase the cost of energy, because they start with low-density sources (fossil fuels contain hundreds of times more energy by volume than wind and sunlight) and are intermittent (requiring back-up by fossil fuel or nuclear when the wind doesn’t blow or the sun doesn’t shine). Increasing the cost of energy raises the cost of living for everyone, harming the poor most of all.

When Germany replaced fossil fuels with wind and solar to generate its electricity, its electricity costs more than doubled.

A clean, healthful, beautiful environment is a costly good. When we increase energy prices, we slow, stop, or reverse the climb out of poverty for the 2 billion or more people in the world still suffering it. We also restrict how much people in already developed countries can afford to spend on things other than energy. Green energy would make environmental cleanliness less affordable — and consequently less common.

Another problem with wind and solar as major energy sources is that they do not make liquid transport fuels. Wind and solar can only make electricity, but to replace all the electricity we now get from fossil fuels, we would need to cover all of the United States east of the Mississippi River with wind turbines. If we were to convert our vehicles with electric vehicles, we would need to cover all the rest of the land from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean. The situation is similar for solar. That would be both environmentally and economically — devastating.

Wind and solar are neither “green” (good for the environment) nor “clean” (effective to curb global warming or reduce traditional pollutants). 



THE GREEN DEAL IS A RAW DEAL

by Marc Morano, Former Senior Staff of Senate Environment & Public Works Comm.

The Green New Deal is using the unfounded global warming scare as a thinly disguised ruse for more government central planning. It is not about saving the planet. The new book *Green Fraud: Why the Green New Deal is Even Worse than you Think*, serves as the official handbook for the public, the media, legislators, and activists on how to critically analyze and expose the dangerous premises and “solutions” of the deal.

Green Fraud reveals that no matter the environmental scare since the 1960s, the same solution is always proposed — less freedom, more regulations, less sovereignty, and higher costs. “Global warming” is merely the latest environmental scare with the same solutions of wealth redistribution and central planning. The “Green New Deal” has very little to do with the environment or climate.

The Green New Deal is a cover for the far-left agenda of the environmental movement and has nothing to do with science or “saving” the planet. The Green New Deal would literally impact every aspect of your life, from your lightbulbs to your appliances, to your home heating and air conditioning to your SUVs to your transportation to the food you eat to clothes you wear to the size of your home to land use to the economic impacts on jobs and prices and finally to impacts on our national sovereignty.

The Democrat Party and the environmental movement are forcing the Green New Deal on America as a “solution” to the alleged climate “emergency.” The book exposes how the Green New Deal is neither “green,” nor “new” nor a “deal.” It is a raw deal for America that will pave

the way for a massive expansion of government and will further lay the path for “global governance.”

Former United Nations climate chief Christiana Figueres declared in 2012 that the U.N. is seeking a “centralized transformation” that is “going to make the life of everyone on the planet very different.” The domestic version of that plan is the Marxist Green New Deal and it seeks unprecedented wealth redistribution and crushing of U.S. domestic energy and the American way of life of wealth and favor of austerity and an economic degrowth strategy.

Mark Steyn explained what is behind the climate agenda. “Take a look around: politicians and activists who can’t save their state or county, town or school district instead claim to be able to save the planet,” Steyn wrote in the foreword to Green Fraud. “The Green New Deal is their ultimate omnibus spending bill: it asserts jurisdiction over every aspect of life — which is to say every aspect of you. At their Monday night poker game in Hell, Hitler, Stalin, Mao, and Pol Pot must be laughing their socks off: ‘Oh, we’re only doing this to save the planet’? Why didn’t we think of that?” Steyn added.

The wacky claims of the Green New Deal are numerous, from “farting” cows to destroying existing buildings only to rebuilt to “green” standards to eliminating plane travel in favor of high-speed transit. Government regulations cannot “save” the planet or control the climate or weather.

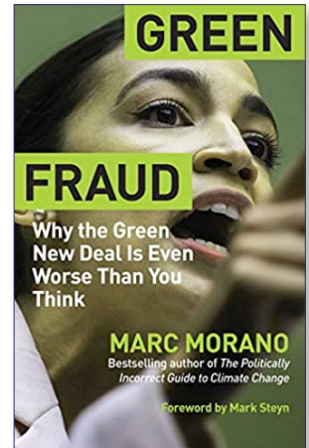
In the words of Al Gore, the climate scare is being “torqued up” to lobby government officials to impose climate policies with minimal to no

debate. The climate activists openly are using climate scare tactics to achieve their ends. Sadly, it has been a very effective strategy because they’ve bullied Republicans into submissiveness.

The book reveals that the entire premise of the Green New Deal is fatally flawed.

Key Climate Facts:

- Global temperatures have been virtually flat for about 20 years according to satellite data, and peer-reviewed literature is now scaling back predictions of future warming.
- Despite claims of snow being called “a thing of the past,” record cold and snowfalls keep occurring.
- Sea level rise rates have been steady for over a century, with no recent acceleration.
- Droughts, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods are neither historically unusual nor caused by mankind, and in many cases are declining on climate timescales.
- So-called hottest year claims are based on year-to-year temperature data that differs by only a few HUNDREDTHS of a degree to tenths of a degree Fahrenheit — differences that are within the margin of error in the data.
- Polar bears are nearing record numbers, with their numbers way up since the 1960s.



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Despite the evidence, the Biden-Harris administration will continue to push the Green New Deal and many other “climate” regulations and the U.N. Paris climate pact. Leftist hero Noam Chomsky noted Biden is “farther to the left than any Democratic candidate in memory.”

This agenda has never been about climate, energy, or the environment. It is about a takeover of our economy by using a climate scare.

New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s Chief-Of-Staff admitted that the Green New Deal was not about climate change. “It wasn’t originally a climate thing at all,” Saikat Chakrabarti revealed. “Because we really think of it as a how do you change the entire economy thing.”

The climate movement is also using children as foot soldiers, skipping school, suing the governments for climate “action” and indoctrinating them from kindergarten through college on how mankind has caused a climate “crisis.”

All of this is for naught, all pain for zero gain to the climate. There are no criteria by which climate activists will say that the crisis is solved. A cost-benefit of the Green New Deal is not even on the table. To transform America into a less free, less rich nation and yet they do not even promise a better climate for our efforts.

The Green New Deal is also a threat to U.S. national security as the plan would only serve to shrink U.S. energy production and increase our dependence on energy from other nations, which could increase the odds of future wars.

The Green New Deal’s goal is to place more restrictions or eliminate altogether American drilling, mining, fracking, pipelines, and energy extraction. Restricting fossil fuels and mandating solar, wind and

electric vehicles will result in more environmental degradation due to increasing the U.S. dependence on rare earth mining operated by China and Russia.

“Shutting down U.S. energy supplies means dependence on Middle East oil, which means a permanent state of war for the Military-Industrial Complex,” climate skeptic Tony Heller wrote in 2020.

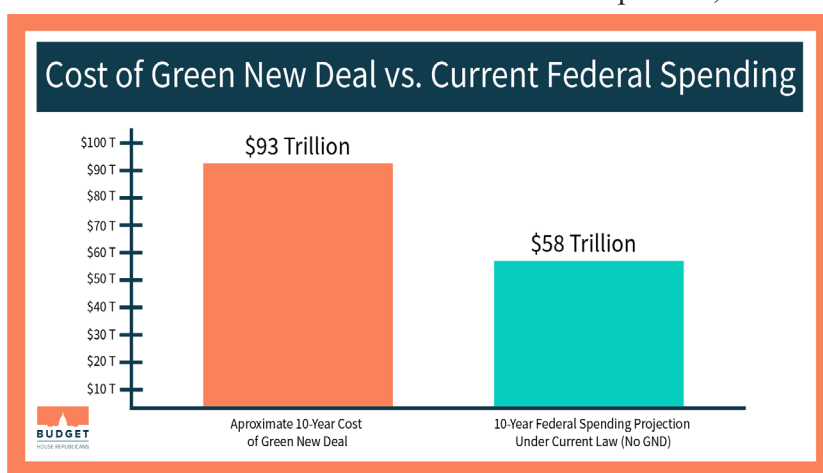
The GND with its restrictions on fossil fuels and mandates on solar, wind, and electrical vehicles will result in the U.S. losing both energy independence and dominance, and the GND will further increase U.S. dependence on rare earth mining operated by China and Russia.

Biden’s climate czar John Kerry is dead wrong on climate change being a national security threat. No, “global warming” is not a national security threat. The data reveal that warm periods coincide with less conflict — which helps explain why, in 1974, the CIA claimed that “global cooling” would cause conflict and terrorism. The Center for Strategic and International Studies report pointed out that the truth is the opposite of recent claims regarding “global warming” and war: “Since the dawn of civilization, warmer eras have meant fewer wars.”

Finally, if we actually did face a man-made climate crisis and we had to rely on the U.S. Congress or the United Nations to save us, we would all be doomed. University of Pennsylvania geologist Robert Giegen-

gack noted, “None of the strategies that have been offered by the U.S. government or by the EPA or by anybody else has the remotest chance of altering climate if in fact climate is controlled by carbon dioxide.”

If we actually faced a climate “crisis”, what we would want is more free markets, more innovation, more technological advancements, more wealth — not some top-down, cen-



tral planning, bureaucratic, crushing American entrepreneurship plan. You would want the exact opposite of the Green New Deal or the U.N. Paris pact.

But Green Fraud reveals why the climate agenda is not about “the climate.” As former Czech president Vaclav Klaus told me, the climate agenda is about power. “They want to dictate it, control, regulate, mastermind from above,” Klaus said. “This is the way to the end of freedom. This is the way to a brave new world of the future. The brave new world of dictatorship and totalitarianism.”



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