

Imagine...



Biden's Clean Energy Revolution... Bad Decision!

CJ Smythe

Critical Thinking

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WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

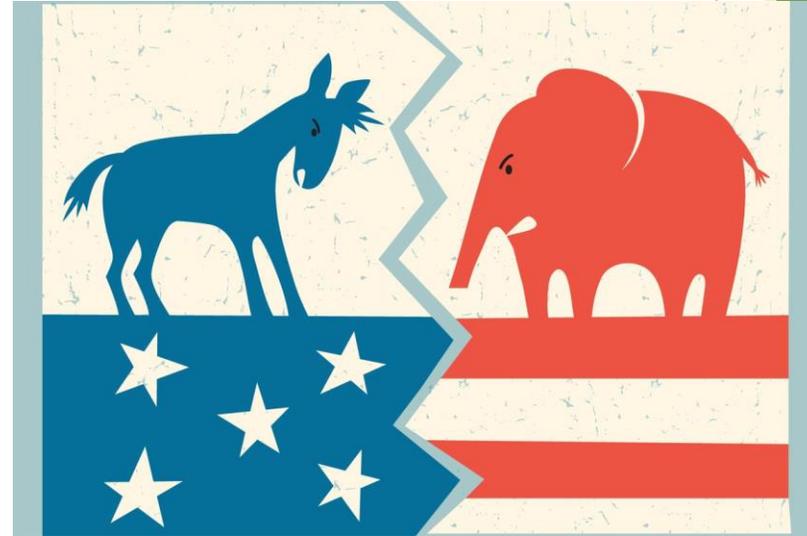
- 80% of global energy needs are currently met by fossil fuels.
- Science suggests fossil fuels threaten the environment.
- Many of the leading fossil fuel exporters are “unfriendly” to the US.
- Current renewable energy sources like solar and wind power cannot meet our energy needs on their own.

How does the United States reduce its reliance on fossil fuels in a realistic way to help the environment and to protect our own security?



BACKGROUND

- During 2020 it became apparent that Democrats and Republicans strongly disagreed about how to address fossil fuels in light of climate change.
- Republicans generally **support** more aggressive drilling for fossil fuels.
- Democrats generally express great **concern** about the impact fossil fuels have on the environment, instead promoting renewable energy forms such as solar or wind.



“WRONG” CONCLUSION

The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice

- Ensure the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions no later than 2050.



REASONS

- Mankind is responsible for the damage we've done to the earth.
 - Loss of biodiversity and ecosystems
 - Melting glaciers and ice sheets that raises water levels
 - Rise in water temperature (killing organisms like coral)
 - Deadly natural disasters
- We need to ensure that our planet is a sustainable place for generations to come.
- Because our very existence is in jeopardy, addressing climate change is of the utmost importance.



CONCERNS: #1 AD BACULUM FALLACY

Biden boldly says if we don't curb climate change it will...

- threaten our very existence
- require US military-supported relief
- leave us vulnerable to terrorist activity
- jeopardize human health, livelihood, food security, water supply, and economic growth



“Climate change poses an **existential threat**—not just to our environment, but to our health, our communities, our national security, and our economic well-being.” *joebiden.com*

CONCERNS: #2 AMBIGUOUS TERMS

The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice

- Ensure the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions no later than 2050.



CONCERNS: #3 RIVAL CAUSES

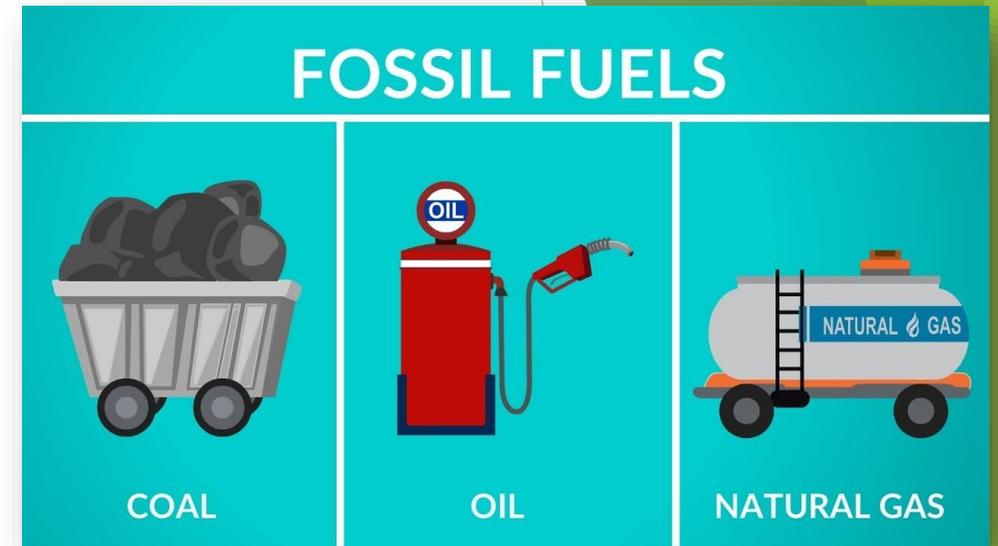
“Humans’ contribution to the greenhouse effect is indisputable...Excessive CO2 emissions caused by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, have contributed to a severe exacerbation of a natural phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect.”

- Insists that mankind is responsible for climate change
- Does not acknowledge any other explanations
 - Volcanoes
 - Earth’s changing spin and tilt
 - The sun’s activities



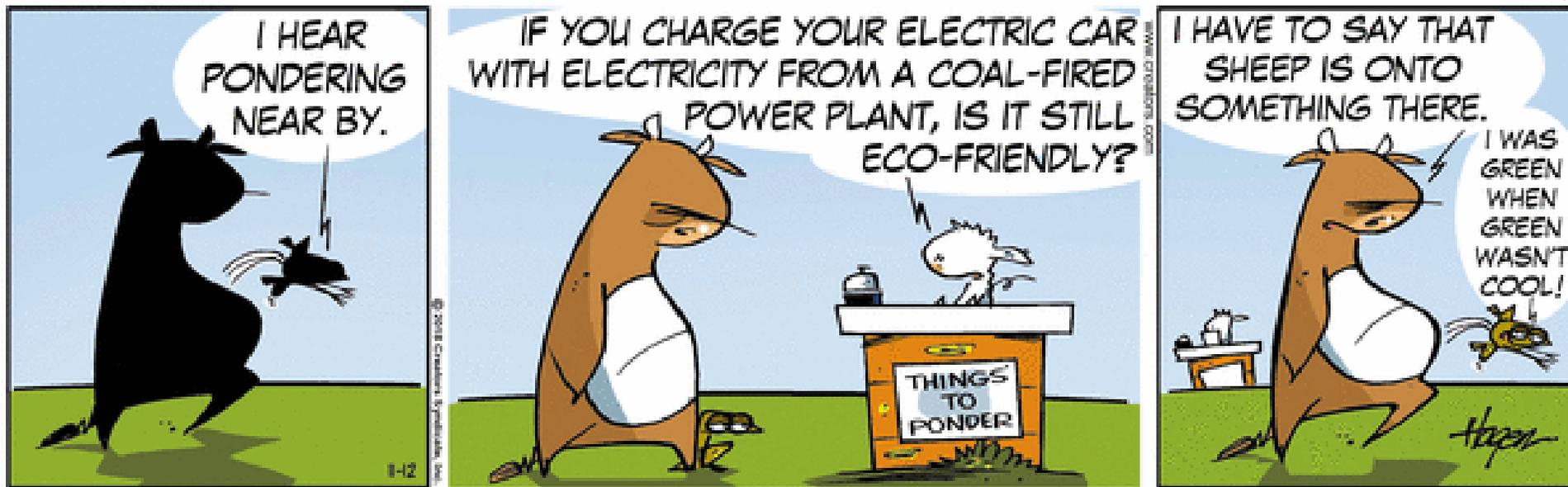
WAR ON FOSSIL FUELS!

- During his campaign, Biden committed to refusing contributions from fossil fuel corporations.
- On Day 1 of his administration, he revoked building permits for Keystone XL.
- Biden promised to stop oil drilling on public lands.
- Fracking is process that extracts oil from rock deposits and has been used to increase US oil production substantially. However, Biden has shackled these oil companies with onerous regulations intended to strangle their businesses.



CONCERNS: #4 OMITTED INFORMATION

- It takes 10+ years to offset the environmental impact of the manufacturing process for an electric car
- Electric cars may be powered by coal-fired power plants



CONCERNS: #4 OMITTED INFORMATION

- Energy sources, like solar and wind, require batteries
- Best batteries are lithium based
- Lithium primarily comes from South America, Africa, China, and Australia
- 97% of lithium is refined in China
- Lithium mining harms the environment



CONCERNS: #6 BIFURICATION

- “Failure is not an option. If Congress falls short of its duty to act, [I] will hold them accountable.”

joebiden.com

- “Experts say that it is now impossible for Mr. Biden to meet his pledge to the world that the United States will cut its emissions in half by 2030”

New York Times



UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES



- Russian-Ukrainian War
- Want to be “energy secure,” not dependent on “unfriendly” countries
- Oil companies have stopped fracking, but now we need more oil
- Biden is releasing record amounts of oil from reserves—1 million barrels/day
- Consider the examples of Germany and France

“The U.S. oil companies are like a prisoner that was condemned to death, and suddenly the warden of the prison lets them out and wants them to produce as much oil as quickly as possible,” said Robert McNally, a consultant who was a senior energy and economic adviser to President George W. Bush.

“BETTER” SOLUTION

- Rather than trying to please a political party and promote myself, I would propose a moderate, comprehensive plan.
 - Yes! We should be good stewards of our environment
 - Suggest a plan that considers our current resources and technology
 - We have 100 years of fossil fuels left—use wisely
 - Support fracking as a bridge to a longer-term solution
 - Currently nuclear energy is the most promising
- Invest in energy security
 - Bring industry BACK to the US
 - Strengthen relationships with “friendly” nations

