

## OnlyOneEarth - There's No Planet B



### Not Just Preventing Climate Change, but Undoing It

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[OurNeighborhoodEarth.org](http://OurNeighborhoodEarth.org)

That's right, undoing it.

We should have started tackling the issue of Climate Change once the broad-based scientific community got wind of it, around the mid 80's. Actually there were scientists, w--a--y back in the late 19th century, that began smelling the rat, and even identified the probable cause: Ol' King Coal.

The Regan Administration, which began in the early 1980's, could have addressed the issue long before it became the monster that it is now. Instead, he chose as his Environmental Protection Administrator, Anne Gorsuch, who did everything within her power to limit the control of the E.P.A. She was a believer in limited government, which I interpret as her agency having no place regulating the industries that have wreaked havoc on that very environment the E.P.A. was created to protect. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/02/01/neil-gorsuchs-mother-once-ran-the-epa-it-was-a-disaster/?utm\\_term=.2a12ec904bc4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/02/01/neil-gorsuchs-mother-once-ran-the-epa-it-was-a-disaster/?utm_term=.2a12ec904bc4)

If her name sounds familiar, the *Tweeter-in-Chief* named Anne Gorsuch's son, Neil, as his first Supreme Court Nominee.

What does the Supreme Court have to do with the environment? As it turns out: not much. Most of the recent cases brought before the highest court in the land have remained adjudicated, except for ones attempting to weaken the Endangered Species Act. I'll let you guess which way those rulings went. The dusky gopher frog is not celebrating.

So it was no surprise that he was approved by a Senate that clearly does not represent the people. Oh, wait. Aren't corporations people, too? According to the Citizen's United ruling by that Supreme Court, they absolutely are.

Agencies created to protect the people from the harm that can come when water and atmospheric safety rules are ignored, are now filled with expert ignorers.

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The fight to stop the activities of the fossil fuel industry, people whose vested interest is that very industry, are running these agencies. You know who the winners are (or should), and I hope you get that people (actual people) are the losers.

To return to the basic theme of this message:

We have already passed the tipping point on Global Warming, as any story about record temperatures throughout the world, and even Sarah Palin's Alaska could verify. Her cries of "Drill, baby Drill" during her 2008 campaign for the Vice Presidency, will now have to change to "Chill, baby Chill." Yes, Sarah, even Alaska is becoming too hot to handle. And speaking of Alaska: It, and the rest of the Arctic region, is noted for its Permafrost layer, that currently stores megatons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Where will it go as that layer melts away?

So, not only must we wean ourselves off of fossil fuels and make use of some of nature's renewable energy gifts, but we also must remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, and we'd better not sleep on it.

How do we accomplish this herculean task, you might be asking. The answer is "not easily." There are proposals to capture CO<sub>2</sub>, and bury it beneath the topsoil layer. These approaches are complicated and costly. We can address this in a rant shown at the end of this blogpost. Incidentally, CO<sub>2</sub> is not the only Greenhouse gas. Natural Gas, A.K.A. Methane, is far more powerful, and absolutely nothing is being done to address this problem. Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking) interests are selling natural gas as a "cleaner" alternative to CO<sub>2</sub>. The only clean alternative is not to burn fossil fuels in the first place. .

Forests are the greatest absorbers of CO<sub>2</sub>, as any 6th grade science student can attest. There is one country principally responsible for deforestation on a mass scale. The world had better wake up and let China know that their denuding of the world's forests is not acceptable, and action will be taken if the practice is not immediately halted.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/amazon-rainforest-deforestation-crisis/article37722932/>

The only way China can feel the pinch is for it to lose business wherever it currently has a foothold (which is just about **everywhere**). World leaders need to collaborate on the idea that a price must be paid for the damage that China is inflicting on the rest of the planet. This could be in the form of boycotts of Chinese goods, and giant technology companies, such as Apple moving their manufacturing facilities elsewhere. Unfortunately, that leadership will not be coming from the U.S., as our President refuses to admit that Climate Change is real.

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Am I suggesting that the Koch Bros. campaign contributions of almost 1 billion played a role in Trump's decision to drain the swamp of those filthy environmentalists, and replace them with fossil foolish loyalists? I'm not suggesting it, I'm simply echoing the myriad of stories from "fake" news sources like the NY Times, the Washington Post and Politico: <https://politico.com/story/2016/11/trump-koch-brothers-231863/>

A positive approach - that might be easier to achieve than carbon sequestration - is to go on a tree-planting rampage. This article from CBS News talks about how this can come about. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/planting-a-trillion-trees-could-be-the-most-effective-solution-to-climate-change/>

To address the Greenhouse Gas issue, discussed earlier, at the next campaign rally, lets start this chant about CO2: "**Send it back! Send it back !**"