Decolonizing Fossil Fuels

Create Abundance while honoring our planetary limitations
Earth as Body

Your body is a really good model of the Earth. The Earth is mostly water (and salt water at that) and so is your body. Your body is a living system made up of interdependent living systems, and so is the Earth.

- A circulatory system, which are the river and oceans
- The wetlands are the Earth’s kidneys,
- The digestive system is the nutrient cycles of the planet.
- The respiratory system, which are the forests.
- Even the skeletal-muscular system, are the mountains and valleys and ridges.
- The central nervous system is our underground mycelial network.
And where do we fit into this scheme?
What are we good at?

Imagine we are the immune system: antibodies adapting to emerging threats. As the immune system we need to avoid auto-immune behavior such as geo-engineering which could backfire and result in the cure being worse than the disease.
Are we colonized?

Proceed until apprehended!
What would we do as our world’s immune system?

In his essay, You Choose, Derrick Jensen poses a question:

Why aren’t we defending our world with everything we’ve got?

Pretend that space aliens landed and are destroying the planet. These space aliens are changing the Earth’s climate. Their actions are warming the planet up. Growing seasons are unpredictable. Pollinators are dying. They are murdering the oceans; 90 percent of the large fish are gone, the oceans are rapidly acidifying, there are dead zones, coral is bleaching, there is six to ten times as much plastic as phytoplankton in the oceans (which would be the equivalent of nine out of every ten bites you take being Styrofoam instead of food), and so on. They are decapitating mountains, they are putting dioxins into every stream. They are damming every river. They are burning the forests. Heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, and flooding are increasingly devastating.
What is proper antibody activity?

Antibodies do not talk...they react...

Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it, and make it survive, you haven’t done a thing. You’re just talking.

–WANGARI MAATHAI
No business on a dead planet

We must free ourselves from greenhouse gas emissions yesterday. The titanic we call our electric utilities and fossil fuel merchants deny that there is ‘no business on a dead planet.’ To put it in business terms, we must pivot, and fast. This isn’t easy for massive institutions, government bureaucracies, corporations, and industries that are heavily invested in old technologies and ways of doing things don’t adapt very well to change.
Re-invented

A Grid that is:
- Decarbonized
- Decentralized
- Democratized

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
One-way to Two-way supply and demand

We will press for a modern grid that connects supply and demand. Last century’s central model, based on high startup costs, was a one-way download. The replacement network energy model, based on ubiquitous renewables and storage, requires two-way communication between supply and demand. Further, we can get a cleaner and better energy deal right now: ask Raton NM, Greensburg KS, or Lancaster, CA. Breaking up the telephone monopoly ended up in a digital economy. Breaking up the energy monopoly will empower a local revolution. We must jettison the fossil-fueled system that is killing us.
So how would we act as Earth’s Antibodies?
Mobilization through an Arsenal of Democracy – getting to zero

To get to carbon zero, do we fight World War Zero. (John Kerry may have coined this term: a wartime effort to get the economy to zero-carbon emissions.) Even if the situation seems mired in blah…blah…blah, we have to act. Is the fastest possible pathway to decarbonization a rapid industrial scale-up like the heroic industrialization effort known as the “Arsenal of Democracy” that rapidly scaled up production to fight World War II?
And rewrite Churchill’s beaches speech to address our climate crisis?

We shall go on to the end. We shall fight right here, we shall fight for the earth and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength for clean air, we shall defend our planet, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight with our homes, we shall fight with our vehicles, we shall fight with our grid and in the streets, we shall fight in our cities; we shall never surrender.
Or civil disobedience?

If you object to the war metaphor, perhaps civil disobedient actions would be better? The **Salt March** was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience in colonial India led by Mahatma Gandhi. A direct action campaign of tax resistance and nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly.

- Our salt is Fossil Fuels...
Is mobilization a pipe dream? Not even close. This is how many Americans are already living. The more people that embrace this clean energy vision, the faster the costs will come down, and the more efficient and ubiquitous the technology will become. Think about this: the number of Americans with TVs jumped from 9 percent to 65 percent in five short years, from 1950 to 1955. That’s how quickly technology can spread. As the solar panels and wind turbines pay for themselves over time, energy costs will become so low that we’ll have an abundance of incredibly cheap energy available. Think of all the challenges that we’ll be able to overcome when we’re not constrained by energy.
Just south of the Wasatch Mountains in Utah stands a colony of aspen trees considered to be the oldest and largest living organism on the planet. It has thrived there for more than 80,000 years, since before humans walked out of Africa. The 47,000 trees in the colony, all sharing the same DNA, are sustained and united by a single, massive, and highly interconnected underground root system capable of transporting water and nutrients from one part of the colony to another. Roots near abundant water supplies deliver water to trees in drier areas, while those with access to critical nutrients elsewhere return the favor. This underground network has helped the Utah colony to survive millennia of droughts and floods, heat waves and cold spells, and a changing landscape of resource availability.
Reframing struggle for decolonization?

WE THE PEOPLE of the United People Of Earth
hold these truths to be self-evident: We can be, do or have anything we want. We live in a Magnetic Universe, and are co-creating our own reality. Because like attracts like, whatever we focus on grows. We hereby proclaim the unanimous

DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE

We hereby reaffirm our dedication to Family, Friends, Community, Country, as well as our Global Family and the common home we all share: Mother Nature. We realize that this begins with we, as individuals, committing to our own inner personal success.

We recognize the value of both – Contrast and Unity: honoring different viewpoints, the fertile soil for new ideas, from which a shared vision grows on common ground.

We hereby set forth a renewed focus on Peace, Love, Joy, Unity, Equality and Sustainability. This is the legacy we strive to leave for our children, which they will expand in their own inspired ways.

We sign this declaration based on a timeless creed: E Pluribus Unum Out Of Many One
Considering our Code Red status

Our immune response must be all of the above!
And don’t forget to also

Plant a tree whose shade you’ll never know.