

Climate Alarmism Governance in the Words of its Supporters

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Below, I present some evidence in the form of quotes from sources friendly to Climate Alarmism Governance. The quotes are unaltered from the original, except that any emphasis is mine. My remarks are in square brackets.

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1. (Hadden 2015) Networks in Contention

[1.1] As one interviewee explained to me regarding **the strategy of the international climate coalition: “We work together quite a lot. But we know that we all represent different brands, so we have to be careful to give the appearance of not working together all the time”** (Interview, WWF European Policy Office 2008).

[1.2] ... transnational NGOs working inside the UN negotiations organized numerous actions and media stunts during Copenhagen to build support for their concrete negotiating positions. They anchored their demands in available climate science, using numbers such as “350” or slogans such as **“Keep Global Warming Below 2 Degrees!”** They painstakingly built **the world’s largest transnational advocacy network** – composed of 700 NGOs in more than ninety countries ...

[1.3] As one environmental activist explained it to me, **“climate change isn’t just an issue anymore, it’s the issue, a meta-issue for everything we work on”** (Interview, Danish 92 Group, 2009).

[1.4] Starting in 1989, these organizations came together to form a coalition: the Climate Action Network (CAN). **CAN was founded as a vehicle for transnational coordination** among sixty-three organizations. ... Much of CAN’s efforts promoted the work of the IPCC and helped establish its centrality in **the international climate regime**. ... In fact, **CAN consolidated its coalition structure** during this period [1990’s] **by creating a high-level political group to facilitate policy and strategic coordination among member groups**.

[1.5] New CAN members were required to seek letters of recommendation from current CAN members, underscoring the importance of relational diffusion. As a result, **the initial CAN coalition was composed mostly of national chapters of big NGOs and major domestic groups in Europe and North America**.

[1.6] ... when organizations join CAN, they must adopt all of the coalition’s existing policies.

[1.7] Central to CAN’s advocacy has been the idea that member organizations must “speak with one voice” to influence the international negotiations.

[1.8] CAN has a large influence on the kinds of strategies which organizations choose to use: **“It seems like in CAN, a lot of the large groups set the tune, and we all tend to follow that. But when we work at home, we can’t always sell that, so we might do different things”** (Interview, Greenpeace Germany 2010).

[1.9] **NGOs that work on climate change will often sign up to, translate, and reuse the materials developed by CAN**. It was obvious to a careful eye that many of the NGO lobbying documents used by organizations in Copenhagen were recycled CAN documents translated into another language and with a different name on them.

[1.10] The CAN charter calls for the coalition to function according to consensus procedures. CAN uses conference calls and an extensive email list to consult with its membership on the development and adoption of positions, but, as the coalition acknowledges, the positions on which participants are invited to contribute are often “premeditated” by the big member groups. This means that **the major international NGOs in CAN – WWF, FOE (pre-2008), Oxfam, and Greenpeace – are extensively consulted before proposals are drafted. Most members acknowledge that the big groups have a de**

facto veto over CAN positions. If these groups approve of a position, the proposal is then circulated to the entire membership via an email list for an up- or down-vote. [in other words, WWF, Greenpeace and either FOE or Oxfam make the decisions]

[1.11] ..., **campaigner training materials across Greenpeace, WWF, and FOE encourage staff to identify political opportunities and alter tactics to fit the situation. FOE staff employ a “SWOT” analysis technique** – identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats – for the achievement of FOE’s aims. **Within Greenpeace, this technique is called “power analysis”** and is typically taught to new campaigners during organizational training. As one campaigner described it: We do a power analysis to see what kind of pressure the politicians are susceptible to. Are they susceptible to mobilization? Are they scared of Greenpeace? Can we use the media? **Is it better to work through other organizations?** We consider questions like this when we decide which tactics are best. (Interview, Greenpeace Nordic 2010)

[1.12] I think what happened in Copenhagen was that a lot of NGOs – northern NGOs, us included – were working for a long time with a frame that was very technical and demotivating for a lot of people. And it was really based on a theory of change that “if we change our governments, we can change the system.” **Climate justice is much bigger than that. Climate justice helps us build the movement.** (Interview, Friends of the Earth International, 2013)

[1.13] The Global Campaign for Climate Action (GCCA) was intended to **be the public face of a publicity campaign that supported CAN’s insider policy activities** (Interview, GCCA 2009).

[1.14] I use the term “**civil society**” loosely to denote a “self-organized citizenry” that includes social movements, trade unions, and nongovernmental organizations but excludes state or corporate actors [mainly, their definition of the “civil society” excludes the People]

[1.15] For example, Heaney and Rojas (2014) show that “hybrid” organizations that span the boundaries of different movements were critical in the mobilization of the post 9/11 antiwar movement in the United States. [i.e., the Climate Alarmism Governance does not limit itself to climate or environmental issues, but actively supports American war enemies]

2. (Lyon 2012) Good Cop/Bad Cop: Environmental NGOs and Their Strategies toward Business.

[2.1] **In company-focused campaigns, individuals in different organizations often take the approach that one NGO will adopt a confrontational attitude while—in a pincer movement—another adopts a more collaborative posture. As Jules Peck of WWF-UK explains, “Different NGOs have different skills. The good cop, bad cop routine works really well. Where we agree on the overall objective, WWF will often go in the back door to work with companies behind the scenes, while other groups create the pressure by banging on the front door.”**

[2.2] ... **the U.S. political system, given its separation of powers and weak political parties** (note the absence of a viable Green Party) relative to much of the rest of the developed world, **appears ready-made for group influence over government decisionmaking.**

[2.3] Using the aggregate network data from the sample set creates a depiction of an interconnected constellation of actors: 54 NGOs, 425 corporations, and 156 foundations sharing communication ties through 422 common board members for the combined years 2000 and 2005 (361 common board members in 2000 and 383 in 2005). A comparison of the 2000 and 2005 data shows that the overall number of board level ties increased by 3 percent, while the average distance between reachable pairs decreased, suggesting that the individual actors in the field are becoming more closely tied. [Since 2005, centralization increased even more.]

[2.4] Newer national groups rooted in the environmental movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense Fund, tend to have **self-perpetuating boards of directors**. ... a tendency for **group decisionmaking authority to be concentrated** and **organizational democracy to be lacking**. Most notably, **viable electoral mechanisms are rare**. ... Alas, scholars that have spent time examining the role of elections and democratic processes in NGOs have typically come away disappointed. What they discover is **a lack of classic democratic processes in operation**. ... although many NGOs have democratic procedures on the books, **these groups are almost always oligarchic in practice**.

[2.5] Among its attributes, **Greenpeace** is seen as being brave, heroic, uncompromising, and strong. This is how the group attempts **to brand itself** through its campaigns and communications. ... **Greenpeace is an international organization**, with 40 offices across the globe. International headquarters are in Amsterdam, ... and **Greenpeace-US is based in Washington, D.C.** Each office is **licensed to use the Greenpeace name by Stichting Greenpeace Council**, a charitable foundation in the Netherlands. [i.e., Greenpeace USA is a branch of a foreign organization]

[2.6] Greenpeace is also integrally involved in the **Partnership Project**, another collaborative effort of the nation's most influential environmental advocacy organizations. **The primary purpose of the project is to share membership lists, which are combined and used as a resource** for calls to action on key legislation, referenda, corporate policy, and other issues. [shared membership or shared membership lists among advocacy organizations is a sure sign of them being one entity]

[2.7] In 2005, the **Exxpose Exxon campaign was launched by Greenpeace in collaboration with many of the other major environmental groups** in the country, including **Union of Concerned Scientists**, Sierra Club, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Public Citizen, Natural Resources Defense Council, Defenders of Wildlife, Alaska Wilderness League, **Friends of the Earth**, Move On, True Majority, Oil Change International, and others.

[2.8] By 2006, pressured by actors as diverse as Senators **Jay Rockefeller** and Olympia Snowe and the Royal Society of London, ExxonMobil began privately and publicly backing away from denial on climate science and quietly withdrawing funding from the major think tanks profiled on ExxonSecrets. [no funding from "fossil fuels" for the last ten years, with all the alarmist cackle]

3. (Michael Strauss 2013) How to Lobby at Intergovernmental Meetings

[3.1] *A long-standing relationship between the UN and Felix Dodds [the co-author of the book] has given him the authority and the experience to bring the reader closer to one of the remarkable inventions of the 20th century.*

[3.2] **Know the Government Officials. Identify who the key governments are and who their key officials are. Meet them and buy them coffee!** [“coffee” means a lunch, a dinner, luxury travel, a car, a house, an account in a Swiss bank and much more]

[3.3] *Some NGOs use **dinners** as a means of connecting with governments and sharing ideas. In 1998 a number of NGOs **twice brought together a group of 10 to 12 governments** ... There may be many objectives for organizing **dinners**. Just the recognition that an NGO is trying to help governments to think creatively in a particular area **can pay great dividends** when those **NGOs are lobbying**.*

[3.4] *Stakeholder Forum operates a relatively unique approach to preparing for a meeting. In addition to training for staff and others, it gives its team members a photographic delegate display of key officials. **This helps new members start lobbying from day one.*** [being “stakeholders” is another delusion of CAG affiliates]

[3.5] *The Earth Negotiations Bulletin produces a very good summary of delegates' statements the following day; but if you are there **to lobby**, you need to know what is happening as it happens. **Floor managers** play a critical role. They can: note what each government is saying about a particular issue; **help to identify the countries causing obstacles to action**; help to identify who might be a broker for a solution; identify who is working/negotiating with whom; act as a **focal point for lobbyists** who are coming in and out of the meeting and help them to identify the next delegate **to lobby**; ...*

[3.6] *At the Habitat conference, NGOs called a meeting in London to look at institutional follow-up. Each UN region selected a country to attend the two-day workshop, which dealt with a very controversial issue. The outcome from the workshop was that **G77 changed its position in line with that which NGOs were advocating**.* [G77 is the block of the Third World countries; it has about 133 members and holds majority of votes in the UN organizations, except for the Security Council]

[3.7] *National political parties cannot gain UN consultative status, but international political groupings can – for example, the UK Liberal Democrat party: no; Liberal International: yes. [good to know]*

[3.8] *Often stakeholder representatives are the only delegates consistently attending, as government officials are moved on. ... The main discussion is often very procedural and can be a bit boring, so government delegates are often pleased to be asked to go for a coffee. [meaning of the “coffee” and “stakeholders” is explained above]*

[3.9] *When giving some information about what you want, you need to be very specific. If you want text in a particular place, then provide material that shows the preferred text and where it should go.*

4. (Riley E. Dunlap 2015)

[4.1] To strengthen their position at the UNFCCC, **NGOs formed a loose self-organizing committee, which meets daily and has historically been coordinated by Climate Action Network. Climate Action Network is a massive network of NGOs from around the world and carries a great deal of scientific and moral authority as a representative of civil society interests at the climate change talks.** [“scientific and moral authority”, “a representative of civil society interests” are figments of their imagination]

[4.2] Throughout the negotiating sessions, **the NGOs arrange meetings with government delegations and lobby those delegates in hallways, bathrooms, and just about anywhere they can find them.**

[4.3] **The solution to climate change in the discourse of green governmentality is the implementation of a strong system of governance of the economy, natural resource use, and individual behavior informed by the natural sciences that is developed at an international level.**

[4.4] ... the UNFCCC is less likely to accredit smaller, local organizations because the secretariat emphasizes the international character of those who apply. Just under 70 NGOs attended the 1995 negotiations, but in 1997 over 230 NGOs were represented by over 3,500 people (Pulver 2004), and in Copenhagen the number surged to approximately 40,000 accredited representatives of NGOs ...

[4.5]

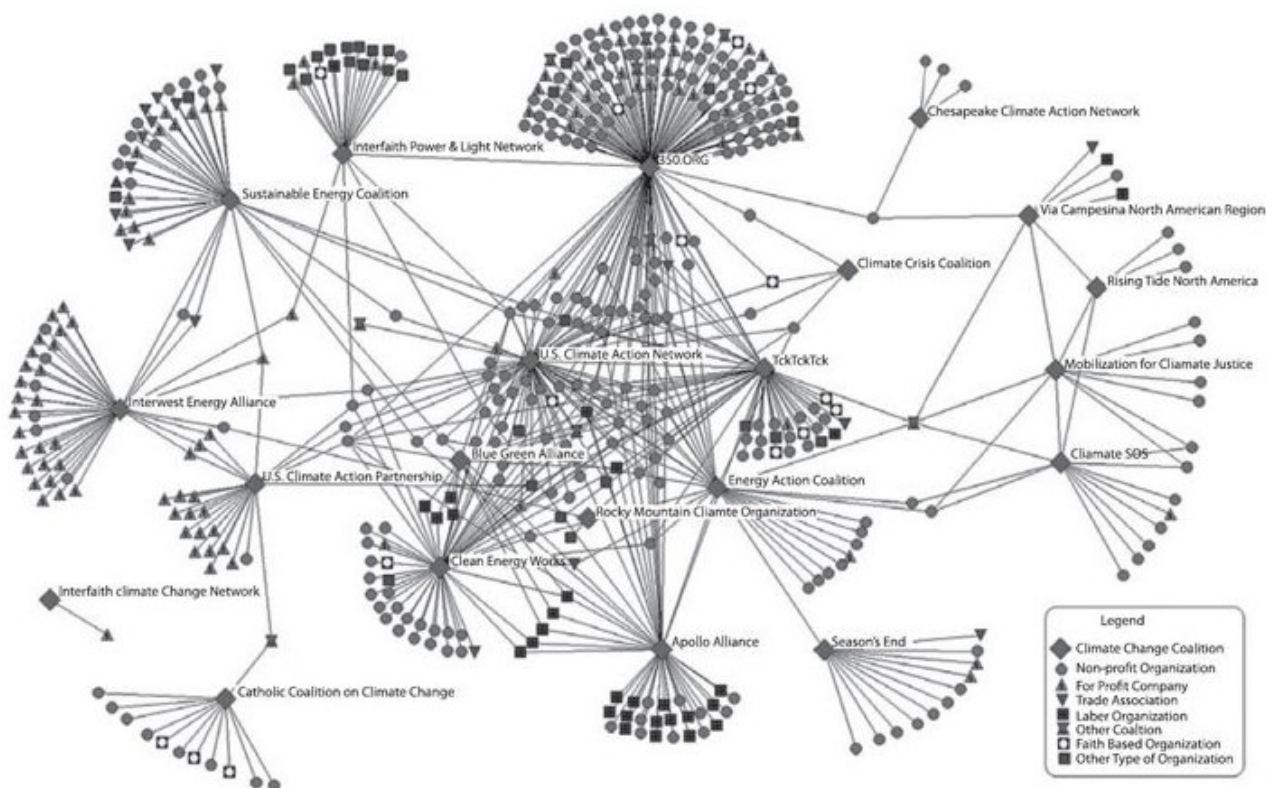


Figure 8.2 Network of U.S. Climate Coalitions, 2010

5. (James Gustave Speth 2013) Global Environmental Governance

[5.1] *The challenge of the global environment is fundamentally one of effective governance—**global environmental governance**.*

[5.2] ***Global environmental governance is the intersection of global governance** with environmental affairs.*

6. (McKibben 2014) The End of Nature

[6.1] *In important ways, **modern human beings are machines for burning fossil fuels**.*

[6.2] *We would have to conquer the desire to grow in numbers; **the human population would need to get gradually smaller, though how much smaller is an open question. Some deep ecologists say the human population shouldn't exceed a hundred million, others a billion or two**— roughly our population a century ago. **And those people would need to use less in the way of resources**— not just oil, but wood and water and chemicals and even land itself. Those are the essentials. But they are practical rules, not moral ones. Within them, a thousand cultures— vegetarian and hunter, communal and hermitic— could still exist. A pair of **California professors, George Sessions and Bill Devall, listed what they saw as some of the principles of deep ecology in a book (Deep Ecology)** they published several years ago.*

[6.3] *The dam, built a couple of decades ago near the Utah-Arizona line, is just upstream of the Grand Canyon. ... **(Blowing up the dam is the great aim of the Monkey Wrench Gang.)** [yes, this is in the original]*

References

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