

## Questions for the Grassroots Solutions to Corporate Power Workshops

### Saving The Environment From Corporate Destruction

### Climate Change, Resource Depletion and Global Pollution

1. **How involved are the biggest energy producers in controlling public policy?**
  - Huge lobbying and campaign expenditures,
    - Pg 3 Energy issue
  - Notice Koch on the list
  - Lobbying expenditures increased by over 50% 2000-2007
    - 252 million in 2007
  - Both 2008 Presidential campaigns had staffers from energy industry
  - Bush Administration was run by the oil & gas industry
    - Both Bushes worked in the West Texas oil & gas industry
  - 2016 – Ted Cruz “totally controlled by oil industry
  - War in Iraq
    - Reclaiming oil supplies for private industry
    - Imperial overstretch- foot in the door to reprivatize oil industry
2. **Does public policy favor energy corporations over the environment?**
  - Cheney Task Force
    - Called for Move to Shale oil & Liquified Coal
    - Largely cause of low gas cost &
  - American Petroleum Institute lobbyist head of Bush’s Council on Environmental Quality
  - Environmentalist removed from Policy positions
  - Fraudulent anti global warming propaganda
  - 75% of federal subsidies go to the oil, gas & nuclear industry
  - Exxon avoided \$60 Billion in royalty payments on publicly owned oil supplies
  - 66% of new loan guarantees goes to nuclear
3. **What is Exxon’s role in the Climate debate?**
  - Biggest lobbying & campaign finance spender
  - Spent huge amounts to pay the experts
    - The Competitive Enterprise Institute published Global Warming & other Eco-Myths
    - Received \$1,645,000 from ExxonMobil since 1998
4. **What are the corporate assumptions that threaten our environment?**
  - Cheap food is worth destroying the environment
  - Avoiding the costs of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer
  - Our resources will go on forever
  - Natural systems have no value
5. **Should big energy companies take over renewable energy companies?**
  - It is all show – Antonia Juhasz
  - Will destroy the renewable industry
  - King CONG makes money on destroying the planet not saving it
6. **What is the problem with extracting oil from tar sands?**
  - Destruction of the water supply
    - Pollution
    - 2-4 barrels of H2O for 1 barrel of oil
    - Huge problem for the Canadian indigenous groups
  - Huge delivery costs
  - Train wrecks

XL Pipeline reminiscent of the super corridors of the Security & Prosperity Partnership  
Local govts may be financially responsible for destruction of the water supply  
3 times the carbon emissions as traditional oil production

7. **How does climate change cap and trade work? Is it a solution? Who Benefits?**

Corporate creation of pollution becomes property that they can sell to other polluters  
Wall Street & corporate polluters benefit

8. **What is the corporate impact on our soil?**

Save for the class on food

Bob St. Peters article —

Nitrogen based bombs to nitrogen based fertilizers after WWII

WWII never ended, just attacked nature

Rebecca Solnit article

Nitrogen rich fertilizers leading to Gulf dead zone

Algae bloom stealing the oxygen from sea life

Small, diversified farmers 1000% more productive

Farmer's that save the environment should be rewarded w federal subsidies

Break up mega food corps

9. **Whose side is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on?**

Taken public water & power rights and given them to corporations

Believe in market-based solutions that avoid the problems

Disregard the costs

Fight with Mineral mgt

Claimed regulatory rights over local govts

Sonoma Co has law suit over jurisdiction

Few environmental studies

10. **What is the difference between centralized and decentralized power?**

Long fight 100 yrs ago and again today

Private Utilities JP Morgan and General Electric

Local distributed power

Local, publicly owned power makes the most sense

Decentralized production makes the most sense

No transmission cost,

the fuel is free

Compromised on Regulated Utilities

Regulated monopolies do not work

Corps & Democracy interview with CA PUC member

Crispin Hollingshead in WA Victorious

Feed in Tariffs Germany

11. **How effective has the fight been against big coal?**

Coal Swarm

15 states & many national groups

Scares off financiers

Put coal industry n a defacto moratorium

12. **Is there such a thing as clean coal?**

No

2008 Democratic political conventions

13. **What are the Rights of Nature?**

Right to sustain natural systems integrity

Ecuador & Bolivia

Present govt ignoring

Developing oil in the Amazon

## Outlawed CONAIE

### Measure S

14. **What is CELDF's approach to protecting the environment?**

Tom Linzey "No environmental movement in this country."

Disregards regulation, concentrating on the Corporate Actor

Drive the rights of nature into the constitution

CELDF wants to rewrite the Constitution

Group that initially developed community rights initiatives

Specific legal language that denies corporate rights & asserts community rights

Hard to challenge in courts

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15. **What is the role of the Commerce Clause in environmental laws?**

No mention of nature in the US Constitution

Natural systems cross state boundaries?

Treating nature as commerce?

CELDF approach is to rewrite the Constitution

Dormant Commerce Clause

States do not have the right to discriminate against or overly burden commerce

Trade agreements follow suit

16. **Would passing a Toxic Trespass ordinance be good for your local area?**

Talk about local examples of corporate pollution

17. **How do corporations impact our bodies?**

Save for class on Health

18. **Should we regulate the sea or let it be open?**

Bush Administration ready to conquer the sea

Local zoning?

19. **Is nuclear power sustainable?**

Dorothy Boberg article

Uses more power than it generates

Unreported costs

Government Insurance

Short life span

Environmental disasters

Hanford – Jan DeVries

Scott ANSI pushing standards

Uranium in short supply uses 30x more energy to mine than it produces