

The Exxon Double-Cross

Exxon-Funded Global Warming Denier Groups Get Renewed Funding in 2006

Analysis of ExxonMobil's recently released 2006 World Giving Report reveals that ExxonMobil is still funneling millions to dozens of organizations that deny and distort the best available science on global warming, despite company statements to the contrary.



Since Exxpose Exxon launched its campaign in mid-2005, ExxonMobil has found itself in a firestorm of criticism. Respected scientists in the U.S. and in the U.K. and U.S. policy makers all have urged the company's to end its long-time disinformation campaign on global warming. In response, Exxon's Vice President of Public Affairs and Chair of Exxon's grantmaking foundation, Kenneth Cohen, started telling reporters in January 2007 that Exxon is no longer funding groups that deny the science of global warming.



THE TRUTH REVEALED

The latest analysis released by Greenpeace USA in May 2007 found that while Exxon did stop funding a few groups in 2006, most notably the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), the company is still funding a majority of the groups that, like CEI, mislead the public about global warming. Groups like the Heartland Institute (at left) are marked with the Exxon double-cross. Heartland received \$115k from Exxon in 2006, \$90k of which was specifically for their work on climate change as revealed in Exxon's 2006 IRS 990 form (not yet publicly released).

RESULTS FOR 2006:

- Exxon funneled \$2.1 million to 41 groups in 2006 identified by Greenpeace as misleading the public on global warming science and/or policy. Exxon-funded denial groups listed on ExxonSecrets.org have now received nearly \$23 million since 1998.
- Exxon funneled \$1.6 million to 21 groups identified by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) as misleading the public on global warming science or received specific grants for climate work. Exxon-funded denial groups identified in a UCS 2007 report have received a total of \$17.4 million since 1998.
- Discrepancies between Exxon's 2006 World Giving Report and its IRS 990 statements reveal that ExxonMobil attempted to cover up grants it specifically earmarked for climate outreach to 14 denier groups in 2005.
- Several groups still funded in 2006 were named as key participants in the 1998 leaked industry memo that revealed a plan to manufacture uncertainty around the science of global warming. The strategy, identical to that of the tobacco industry and using some of the same players, declared, "Victory will be achieved when uncertainties in climate science become part of the conventional wisdom" for "average citizens" and "the media."

Exxon-funded groups named in the 1998 memo as ideal misinformation spreaders include:

- **The George C. Marshall Institute**
(\$85,000 in 2006; \$745,000 since 1998)
- **Frontiers of Freedom**
(\$180,000 in 2006; \$1,182,000 since 1998)
- **American Legislative Exchange Council**
(\$86,000 in 2006; \$1,126,200 since 1998)
- **Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow**
(CFACT) (\$70,000 in 2006; \$567,000 since 1998)
- *Myron Ebell and the Competitive Enterprise Institute, named in the memo, did not receive funding in 2006.*

Depending on the criteria used to select the Exxon-funded groups that mislead the public, the results are slightly different. Regardless, all interpretations lead to the same conclusion. ExxonMobil is still funding a network of groups that undermine public understanding of what is arguably the most well-researched and urgent issue of our time.

The influence of ExxonMobil's disinformation campaign in blocking action on global warming over the past decade cannot be underestimated. Despite the international scientific consensus that fossil fuels are the primary contributors to global warming, a January 2007 poll by the Pew Research Center shows 53% of those that believe the earth is warming are still uncertain it is caused by human activity.

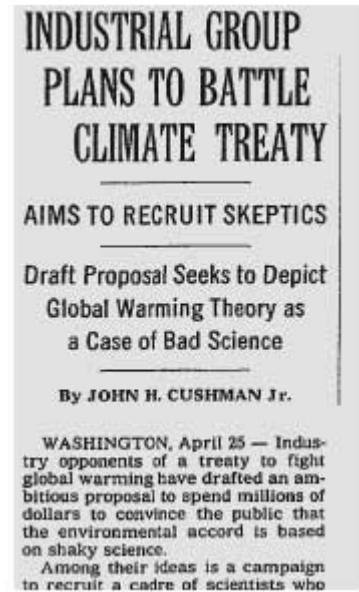
U.S. CONGRESS TAKES NOTE

Members of Congress are taking note of Exxon's underhanded tactics. The Chair of the U.S. House Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee on Science and Technology called on Exxon to, among other things, promptly release its 2007 funding of groups. "The support of climate skeptics, many of whom have no real grounding in climate science, appears to be an effort to distort public discussion about global warming," Rep. Brad Miller (D-NC) told Reuters in May 2007. "So long as popular discussion could be about whether warming was occurring or not, so long as doubt was widespread, consensus for action could be postponed," he said. The Subcommittee's letter echoes an earlier letter to Exxon from U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV), which called on the company to "come clean" on its funding of denier groups.

THE GOOD NEWS

Though the battle's not over, Exxpose Exxon has scored a victory! The close-knit network of Exxon-funded global warming denier groups lost more than \$1.4 million in 2006, or almost 40 percent of their funding from ExxonMobil since the year before, by some accounts. However, without a clearly stated policy from ExxonMobil in regards to its funding of such groups, it is unknown whether the groups that lost funding will be funded again in the future or if they were permanently dropped as part of Exxon's public relations makeover.

Copies of key documents at: <http://www.ExxposeExxon.com/facts/deniers.html>



The New York Times broke the story in April 1998 of Exxon's tobacco-style plan.

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