



Don't Get Fooled Again

Attacks on Climate Action Recycle Years of False Claims

Finally, with adults in the White House, we're seeing a lot of big, ambitious proposals to start confronting the climate crisis. Opponents have greeted climate action by repeating the same scary warnings we've heard for decades to justify doing absolutely nothing. But the clock has run out.

Here's a few examples of how they're lying about climate policy to protect the fossil fuel industry – and leave the nation increasingly vulnerable to the threat of a changing climate.

Distract with False Patriotism

Oil, gas and coal are the biggest drivers of climate change, yet elected Republicans and Big Oil tried out a new, jingoistic "[freedom gas](#)" for the post-Trump era: "[cleaner American energy](#)."

In reality: **American lives depend on cutting pollution.** [Nearly 300,000 of deaths](#) from air pollution a year could be prevented with significant and meaningful climate action. Clean energy means cleaner air, cleaner water, and healthier Americans.

Serve up Red Meat Lies

Clean energy and millions of new jobs are incredibly popular, so opponents made up a whole-cloth false attack – that President Biden's entirely meat-free climate plan is actually a plan for abolishing red meat.

Actually: This [has been debunked](#) (and satirized) [by an impressive number of fact-checkers](#). **Even FoxNews [ran a correction](#), and Biden's [USDA chief called it dishonest](#):** "Sometimes in the political world, games get played and issues are injected into the conversation knowing full well that there's no factual basis."

Ask 'What About Them?'

It's easier to distract with problems elsewhere. Deniers, particularly those in conservative media, play up anti-Asian discrimination by using terrible labor and mining practices in China as a reason to oppose building renewables here in the US.



China [needs to improve](#) its labor practices, but “Whataboutism” **doesn’t let the US off the hook**. The United States is [responsible for more greenhouse gasses than any other country](#) and emits more per person than China. Yes, China needs to do more on climate too, but it is a leader in building solar and wind power [and is only ramping up production further](#).

Pretend to Care about Social Justice

Despite opposing basically every policy ever intended to aid the working class, one of the growing themes we’re seeing among professional [deniers](#) and those in the [oil industry](#) is the [exploitation](#) of social justice language to [defend fossil fuels](#).

This is wrong, and offensive: **Fossil fuels hurt marginalized communities the most**, given the [disproportionate burden of pollution](#) those [communities bear](#). Civil Rights organizations like the [NAACP](#) and the Movement 4 Black Lives have [extensive climate action platforms](#) and even explanations of [the industry’s exploitation and deception](#).

Deny the Job-Creating Reality and Potential of Clean Energy

The jobs issue, one of the oldest and most-used myths, made its usual appearance, but the fossil fuel industry’s [massive layoffs over the last year \(and longer\) despite taking millions in stimulus bailouts](#), has seemed to have somewhat dulled the edge of this well-honed attack.

Clean energy, meanwhile, is the [fastest-growing industry](#) in America, and has the potential to grow even faster. Kicking fossil fuels and hooking up new renewables and other clean tech can create up to [25 million good-paying jobs](#) across every zip code in America. A report from [UC Berkeley](#) also finds that building a 90% clean grid can support over half a million jobs each year. Before the pandemic, clean energy jobs employed [three times as many American workers](#) as the fossil fuel industry, and jobs in solar and wind have more benefits and [pay better](#).

Clean energy also saves money. The average American household could save up to \$2,500 in annual energy costs in a 100% clean economy – totaling more than \$300 billion in nationwide household energy savings – according to [analysis from Rewiring America](#).

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