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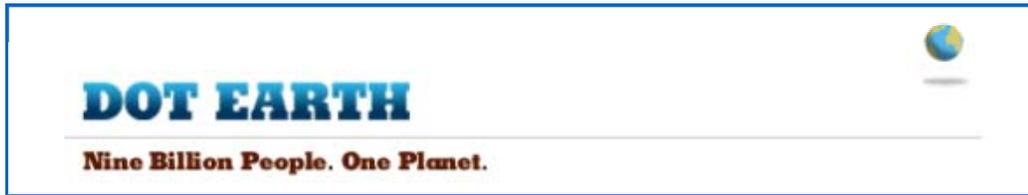
Wednesday, February 10, 2010

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February 8, 2010, 5:40 pm

Exxon and the Climate Fight

By [ANDREW C. REVKIN](#)

When the Heartland Institute held its gathering in New York City last year [celebrating climate skepticism](#), Exxon Mobil made a point of saying [it had stopped contributing money to that group](#), explaining that it did not want to support groups “whose position on climate change could divert attention from the important discussion about how the world will secure the energy required for economic growth in an environmentally responsible manner.”

But it turns out that Exxon money is still flowing to such efforts, just indirectly. An article on Monday in Britain’s Independent newspaper [laid out some of the links](#):

Free-market, anti-climate change think tanks such as the Atlas Economic Research Foundation in the U.S. and the International Policy Network in the U.K. have received grants totaling hundreds of thousands of pounds from the multinational energy company Exxon Mobil. Both organizations have funded international seminars pulling together climate change deniers from across the globe.

Environmental Web sites that had previously noted [the shrinking flow of oil money](#) for efforts challenging global warming science on Monday were echoing the Who hit, “ [We Won’t Get Fooled Again.](#)”

I reached out for a response to Alan Jeffers, media relations manager for the oil company. He did not deny the money flow of money to skeptics/contrarians/denialists/realists (take your pick depending on your worldview) and defended the company’s actions this way:

As indicated previously, we do not fund Heartland. We said at the time that we had discontinued contributions to several public policy research groups whose position on climate change could divert attention from the important discussion about how the world will secure the energy required for economic growth in an environmentally responsible manner.

When Exxon Mobil provides financial support to public policy organizations we do so openly and transparently by publishing our contributions on our Web site annually. The approximately 50 public policy groups to which Exxon Mobil provides support include some of the finest institutions in the world and encompass a range of points of view on a wide variety of policy topics. Such institutions include Stanford University, the Brookings Institution and M.I.T. We provide funding to promote discussion on issues of direct relevance to the company and contribute to a wide range of academic and policy organizations that research and promote dialogue on significant domestic and foreign policy issues.

We do not dictate the activities or policy positions of any of the public policy organizations to which

we provide funding. Only Exxon Mobil can speak for Exxon Mobil and our position on climate change is clear.

We take the issue of climate change seriously and believe the risks warrant action. ExxonMobil is taking action by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our operations, helping consumers reduce their emissions, supporting research into technology breakthroughs and participating in constructive dialogue on policy options with NGOs, industry and policy makers, such as our recent statements regarding the benefits of a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

We have the same concerns as people everywhere – and that is how to provide the world with the energy it needs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

There is additional information on our Web site at the following link exxonmobil.com/climate

Alan Jeffers
Media Relations Manager
Exxon Mobil Corporation

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[1](#) .

HIGHLIGHT ([what's this?](#))

[Mark - Dallas](#)

Dallas Tx

February 8th, 2010

4:22 pm

Exxon would have more environmental credibility if they would pay the judgment against them for the Exxon Valdez.

If they won't take responsibility for that, how can we trust that they believe they have a corporate responsibility to help stave off climate change calamity?

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[2](#) .

[Maurizio Morabito](#)

London, UK

February 8th, 2010

4:26 pm

Never mind the quasi-libelous juxtaposition in the Independent on Sunday article of a title like "Think-tanks take oil money and use it to fund climate deniers" to a picture of Steve McIntyre, without any evidence whatsoever linking Mr McIntyre to "oil money".

Never mind the paranoid reference in the Independent on Sunday to "a network of climate change sceptics", obviously funded by aforementioned "oil money".

Never mind the stalinist attempt at smearing names by referring to "connections" when those "connections" appear to mean "they have exchanged e-mails in the past" (the shock! the horror! Don't you know Andy, since we follow each other on Twitter you too are now "connected" to "a network of climate change sceptics", as I have exchanged e-mails to all sorts of people)

How could you provide any credibility to that Independent on Sunday collection of innuendos, perhaps I will never know

ps DISCLAIMER I received once a minimal fee (<\$100) for an article of mine in an online magazine that was or had been funded by Exxon. Pretty bad, uh..

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[Andy Revkin](#)

Dot Earth blogger

February 8th, 2010

4:26 pm

Indeed, I'm connected to everyone from Marc Morano (we correspond by hackable email) to the CRU scientists (just plug "Revkin" into the search engine at <http://www.eastangliaemails.com>). In this case, Exxon has confirmed the money flowing to groups that, in turn, publicly have paid for climate-skeptics' gatherings. Whatever other elements might be astray in the Independent article, that one is evidently correct.

[3](#) .

[Michael May](#)

Chicago

February 8th, 2010

4:33 pm

So this is the official position of ExxonMobil: "We take the issue of climate change seriously and believe the risks warrant action."

They must be socialists bent on giving away sovereignty to the UN.

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HIGHLIGHT ([what's this?](#))

[Michael May](#)

Chicago

February 8th, 2010

4:33 pm

Andy,

Did you get Jeffers to provide ExxonMobil's position on whether skeptics ought to apply asbestos powder to their faces at night? Because I suspect they're for it...

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5 .

HIGHLIGHT ([what's this?](#))

[coddington.morton](#)

New Hampshire

February 8th, 2010

4:35 pm

The Economist says the portion of worldwide oil reserves that Exxon controls is puny when compared to the 13 oil companies that are larger (much, much larger) than Exxon. Gazprom, for instance, controls over 10 times more oil than midget company Exxon; Saudi Aramco controls 15 times more oil than dwarf Exxon.

<http://tiny.cc/XaKGW>

Why the fixation with whatever this relatively small company does, I find hard to understand.

Unless people have no objection to whatever the 13 giant government-owned companies do, but choose to fixate on what a relatively small private U.S. company does.

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6 .

[Mike M.](#)

Comstock Park, Mi.

February 8th, 2010

4:40 pm

While we're on the subject of money, let's take a gander at the hundreds of millions of dollars WWF and Greenpeace have raked in during this scam, especially how much has been given to them by governments. The numbers dwarf anything scrounged up by Exxon. You'll notice that the Alarmists here are never accused of being paid hacks for WWF. It's because you all communicate so poorly and do so much harm to your cause. No way your'e paid! :)

<http://www.climate-resistance.org...>

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7 .

[Tenney Naumer](#)

Vitoria da Conquista, Bahia, Brazil

February 8th, 2010

4:54 pm

What a joke!

EXXON-MOBIL IS DOING ZIP ON MOVING TO GREENER ENERGY!

Do not be fooled by the man behind the curtain!

[Recommend](#) Recommended by 10 Readers

8 .

[Raven](#)

Canada

February 8th, 2010

4:54 pm

Andy,

Why don't spend some time examining the how money from corporations in lobby groups influences the science on the pro-AGW side of fence. The revelation of how Pachauri's company TERI directly benefited from the Himalayan glacier hoax would be a good place to start. From their you can look at all of the companies peddling green products. For example, how has GE's interest in peddling green technology affected the coverage of the climate related news on NBC.

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[Mike Roddy](#)

Yucca Valley, Ca.

February 8th, 2010

5:02 pm

I second Mark, #1. Over 6,000 victims of the Valdez oil spill died before they could collect any compensation, since Exxon lawyers kept appealing in various ways for about 15 years.

Back then, they said things like: "We're very concerned about the environment and take responsibility for it" etc. Now, their spokesman claims that they are very concerned about climate change, and prove it by things like turning down their thermostats etc. Only a sucker would believe anything they say on any subject.

Only one group trusts Exxon executives: their wealthy stockholders, who are the only ones they pay any attention to. It's sad, really.

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[Eli Rabett](#)

Washington, DC

February 8th, 2010

5:43 pm

Eli is shocked.

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11 .

[Boballab](#)

Ocean City MD

February 8th, 2010

5:48 pm

Mr. Revkin when are you going to do an article on the funding sources of the CRU?

You know how the CRU was founded by "Big Oil" Companies, money from foundations that get their revenue from Big Oil including Exxon.

"The CRU was founded in 1971 as part of the university's School of Environmental Sciences. The establishment of the Unit owed much to the support of Sir Graham Sutton, a former Director-General of the Meteorological

Office, Lord Solly Zuckerman, an adviser to the University, and Professors Keith Clayton and Brian Funnel, Deans of the School of Environmental Sciences in 1971 and 1972.[4][5] Initial sponsors included British Petroleum, the Nuffield Foundation and Royal Dutch Shell.[5] The Rockefeller Foundation was another early benefactor, and the Wolfson Foundation gave the Unit its current building in 1986."

<http://en.wikipedia.org...>

Where does the Rockefeller Foundation get its money from?

"The foundation also has traditionally held a major portion of its shares portfolio in the family's oil companies, beginning with Standard Oil and now with its corporate descendants, including Exxon Mobil.[20]"

<http://en.wikipedia.org...>

How about how the CRU let an Oil Company set some of the research agenda:

"Mick Kelly and Aeree Kim (CRU, ENV) met with Robert Kleiburg (Shell International's climate change team) on July 4th primarily to discuss access to Shell information as part of Aeree's PhD study (our initiative) and broader collaboration through postgrad. student project placements (their initiative), but Robert was also interested in plans for the Tyndall Centre (TC). What ensued was necessarily a rather speculative discussion with the following points emerging.

1. Shell International would give serious consideration to what I referred to in the meeting as a 'strategic partnership' with the TC, broadly equivalent to a 'flagship alliance' in the TC proposal. A strategic partnership would involve not only the provision of funding but some (limited but genuine) role in setting the research agenda etc.
2. Shell's interest is not in basic science. Any work they support must have a clear and immediate relevance to 'real-world' activities. They are particularly interested in emissions trading and CDM.
3. Robert seemed to be more interested in supporting overseas (developing world) than home/EU studentships, presumably because of the credit abroad and their involvement in CDM. (It is just possible this impression was partially due to the focus on Aeree's work in the overall discussion but I doubt it.) It seems likely that any support for studentships would be on a case by case basis according to the particular project in question.
4. Finally, we agreed that we would propose a topic to this year's MSc intake as a placement with Shell and see if any student expressed interest. If this comes off we can run it under the TC banner if it would help."

<http://tiny.cc/TdX1p>

Of course if you wrote an article on that, the Alarmist attempts to smear people with "Your a Big Oil Shill" would be a shown to be just as truthful as an IPCC WG II report on Himalayan Glaciers.

If the little money that groups like the Heartland Foundation recieved from Exxon is enough to toss out anything they produce, then we have to apply the same to the CRU and anything they touched including every IPCC report.

So what is it going to be Alarmists? You really want to hang your hats on the "Big Oil" Shill line? Do you really want try to defend the IPCC that way because if you do then we toss out every piece of work that relies on data from the CRU since it was paid for by "Big Oil"

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[Andy Revkin](#)

Dot Earth blogger

February 8th, 2010

5:48 pm

It's truly hopeless. Full disclosure: I received a Guggenheim Fellowship a few years ago to start outlining a book on the human journey toward 9 billion and that effort indirectly spawned this blog. And it's all based on mining money. <http://www.jstor.org/pss/3111268>

[12](#) .

[Eli Rabett](#)

Washington, DC

February 8th, 2010

5:48 pm

The nonsense about Exxon and Gazprom has been making the rounds. Exxon does not own the oil, but they market it, you won't see this at the usual places.

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[13](#) .

[Patrick Henry](#)

Colorado

February 8th, 2010

5:49 pm

No one needs Exxon. The IPCC and the East Anglia players have blown away any remaining credibility of the global warming scam. Only the American press and government continues to protect them - the rest of the world has seen the light and moved on.

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[14](#) .

[augwhite](#)

Houston, TX

February 8th, 2010

6:57 pm

Locally, ExxonMobil is a major supporter of the United Way, which benefits (among many other non-profits) the Jewish Community Center. So, the moral is that we ought to become antisemitic?

This guilt-by-association stuff is not only illogical, but rather unattractive -- and it very easily gets out of control. Don't go there.

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[David B. Benson](#)

Pullman

February 8th, 2010

7:11 pm

A revelation of other dirty tricks?

<http://climateprogress.org...>

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[16](#) .

[Eli Rabett](#)

Washington, DC

February 9th, 2010

6:29 am

Eli doesn't think anyone else ever confused the Jewish Community Center with the Heartland Institute, but since you have you might enjoy this video from Jesse Ventura

<http://www.mediaite.com...>

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[-wordsworth-](#)

Colorado

February 9th, 2010

6:29 am

"It's truly hopeless. Full disclosure: I received a Guggenheim Fellowship a few years ago to start outlining a book on the human journey toward 9 billion and that effort indirectly spawned this blog. And it's all based on mining money. <http://www.jstor.org/pss/3111268>"

Wow.

Don't feel too bad; I worked security for Exxon during a strike protecting it from what could only be described today as "domestic terrorists."

But hey, now we're saving the world ... and you've got that song ...

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[18](#) .

[Bob](#)

NYC

February 9th, 2010

6:29 am

"And it's all based on mining money. "

Good for you, without mines and their products, we'd still be in the dark ages.

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[19](#) .

[JD](#)

Ohio

February 9th, 2010

6:30 am

Think it is funny that some people think that an association with Exxon taints those opposing CO2 restrictions. Helping people travel is a useful business and I am sure that at least 95% of the posters here use gasoline in some way. Environmental advocacy groups take in large amounts of money. For instance, the WWF took in \$189,000,000 last year including \$26,000,000 from the government. See <http://www.bbb.org...> It and its advocates are no more objective than Exxon.

JD

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[20](#) .

[Jean Jones](#)

Washington State

February 9th, 2010

6:30 am

Mr. Jeffers tries to take cover by citing a contributions to Stanford, et al., but a look at Exxon Mobils 2008 contributions available here

<http://www.exxonmobil.com...>

reveals an overwhelming pattern of funding right-wing think tanks and foundations that lead the climate change denial effort including AEI, American Spectator Fdn, Annapolis Center, Atlas, CORE, Heritage, Manhattan Institute, Pacific Research Insitute for Public Policy. These contributions overwhelm the small number given to entities like Stanford and Brookings to produce, in Fox-like fashion, superficial "fair and balanced" contributions. Don't be fooled, Exxon is simply more clever these days.

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[21](#) .

[raypierre](#)

Chicago, IL

February 9th, 2010

6:31 am

Some of the defenders of Exxon are getting the inference precisely backwards. It's not that one thinks Heartland is telling lies about climate because they're funded by Exxon. Anybody who actually understands the science understands already that Heartland and its ilk are telling lies. You don't need to follow the money to learn that.

Rather, the culpability of Exxon is that they are funding organizations like Heartland to DO BAD STUFF -- telling lies about climate science in order to confuse people and inhibit sound decision making on energy policy. This is contrary to Exxon's current stated corporate policy.

Sources of money that have funded bad stuff have also funded good stuff, and to note that not everything a company has funded is bad stuff tells you little. If you are funding people to do bad stuff, you are doing something bad -- especially if you have just made a big noise about how you aren't going to do bad stuff anymore.

I'll follow Andy into full disclosure: U. of Chicago was started with Rockefeller money. The Art Institute (of which I'm a member and frequent visitor) got a lot of its early collection with money from robber-baron families who engaged in quite questionable business practices. I don't think anybody would argue that money that finds its way into worthy causes justifies or expiates the wrongs done by some of the ways that money was made. The question of to what extent money is "dirty" if it is deployed in a good cause is a complex moral one. I recommend Marguerite Yourcenar's "A Coin in Nine Hands".

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[22](#) .

[Doug](#)

Massachusetts

February 9th, 2010

6:31 am

Scientists working to confirm the elite's more fashionable view of the nature of the globe's warming since it's emergence from the LIA have received what share of all the climate research dollars awarded for such research?

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[Phil](#)

Santa Cruz, CA

February 9th, 2010

6:31 am

Andy, if alarmist scientists weren't awash in (outcome and policy vested) government grant cash, this post would make a meaningful and actual point.

With agnostic scientists often making due with research "pennies," this blog post implies a fact not only refuted by the grant award evidence, it implies the reverse of the actual research grant truth.

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[Angie Fran](#)

Bronx, NY

February 9th, 2010

6:32 am

And did you miss this article, from a day earlier, also from a Britain newspaper?

Excerpts begin below:

8 Billion Pound BBC ECO-BIAS

STRIKING parallels between the BBC's coverage of the global warming debate and the activities of its pension fund can be revealed today.

The corporation is under investigation after being inundated with complaints that its editorial coverage of climate change is biased in favour of those who say it is a man-made phenomenon.

The £8billion pension fund is likely to come under close scrutiny over its commitment to promote a low-carbon

economy while struggling to reverse an estimated £2billion deficit.

Concerns are growing that BBC journalists and their bosses regard disputed scientific theory that climate change is caused by mankind as “mainstream” while huge sums of employees’ money is invested in companies whose success depends on the theory being widely accepted. . .

The BBC is the only media organisation in Britain whose pension fund is a member of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, which has more than 50 members across Europe. Its chairman is Peter Dunscombe, also the BBC’s Head of Pensions Investment. Prominent among its recent campaigns was a call for a “strong and binding” global agreement on climate change – one that fell on deaf ears after the UN climate summit in Copenhagen failed to reach agreement on emissions targets and a cut in greenhouse gases. . .

Official BBC editorial policy governing how its correspondents should cover global warming was revealed after a member of the public wrote in: . . .

In a reply dated October 26 last year, Stephanie Harris, Head of Accountability at BBC News, said: “BBC News takes the view that our reporting needs to be calibrated to take into account the scientific consensus that global warming is man-made.” . . .

Veteran journalist and former BBC newsreader Peter Sissons is unhappy with the corporation’s coverage. He said recently: “The corporation’s most famous interrogators invariably begin by accepting that ‘the science is settled’ when there are countless reputable scientists and climatologists producing work that says it isn’t. It is, in effect, BBC policy, enthusiastically carried out by the BBC’s environment correspondents, that those views should not be heard.

Source: [Express.co.uk](http://www.express.co.uk) - Home of the Daily and Sunday Express | UK News :: £8bn BBC eco-bias
Address : < <http://www.dailyexpress.co.uk...> >

Angie@WhatNewsShouldBe.Org
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[25](#) .

[Christopher Yaun](#)
Portsmouth NH
February 9th, 2010
6:32 am
The EARTH MATTERS

Blame EM if it makes you feel better. But remember that we finance their activities everytime we pump gas into the tank of our cars.

I have built large commercial buildings for over 20 years. These projects often experience minor system failures that can cost 5 and 6 dollar figures to repair the damage, For example, frozen heating coils are a common failure in cold northern climates and often result in flooding damage. When a failure occurs it becomes necessary to assign blame for the purpose of deciding which contractors will bare the cost of repairs and in what proportions. As the heating, ventilation, air conditioning controls contractor (think thermostats) I am often at the center of these failures and have developed some expertise, I use that word loosely, in "discovering" which contractors are culpable.

When a hot water coil freezes and bursts and water floods a dozen rooms the controls system is suspect and bears the brunt of the cost of repairs. But then I ask, "Who was responsible for keeping and "eye" on the building?" and discover that a failure alarm was generated at the computer workstation....but the owner had failed to assign responsibility for monitoring alarms on the weekend.....the cement and plumbing contractors had installed the

floor drain incorrectly.....etc, etc.

My point is that we (we, as in, all Americans on the "local" scale and all humans on the "global" scale) are wholly culpable for AGW. When I attempt to assign blame for the purpose of deciding who "pays" for this tragedy I find that we are all culpable. It may be easy to trace a record of payments from EM to skeptics, deniers and big-mouthed liars that profited from actively confusing the public....but we continue to consume EM's products. You might say that we create the world that we want to live in by how we spend out money. Stop buying their products and EM will get the message instantly.

If the science of AGW is correct (as I, an average citizen, understand it):

- dumping of CO2 has increased at a rate that exceeds the IPCC #4s worst case prediction.
- temperature forcing is proportional to the increasing atmospheric CO2 concentration.
- the statistical flat line temperature profile of the past decade will break-out with a run to the upside in the immediate future.
- We have chosen to ignore the warnings of science.
- We will decide the matter based on what the climate does over the next 10-20 years.
- We will change our minds based on our gut and how we as individuals are impacted.
- No amount of arguement will decide this issue.
- If the AGW science proves to be correct, we will discover that it is too late to avoid the worst of the tragedy.

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By 2050 or so, the world population is expected to reach nine billion, essentially adding two Chinas to the number of people alive today. Those billions will be seeking food, water and other resources on a planet where, scientists say, humans are already shaping climate and the web of life. In Dot Earth, reporter Andrew C. Revkin examines efforts to balance human affairs with the planet's limits. Conceived in part with support from a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, Dot Earth tracks relevant news from suburbia to Siberia. The blog is an interactive exploration of trends and ideas with readers and experts. You can follow Mr. Revkin on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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Enshrined in history as an untouchable frontier, the Arctic is being transformed by significant warming, a rising thirst for oil and gas, and international tussles over shipping routes and seabed resources.

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Slow Drips, Hard Knocks



Human advancement can be aided by curbing everyday losses like the millions of avoidable deaths from indoor smoke and tainted water, and by increasing resilience in the face of predictable calamities like earthquakes and drought.

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Biology

Life, Wild and Managed



Earth's veneer of millions of plant and animal species is a vital resource that will need careful tending as human populations and their demands for land, protein and fuels grow.

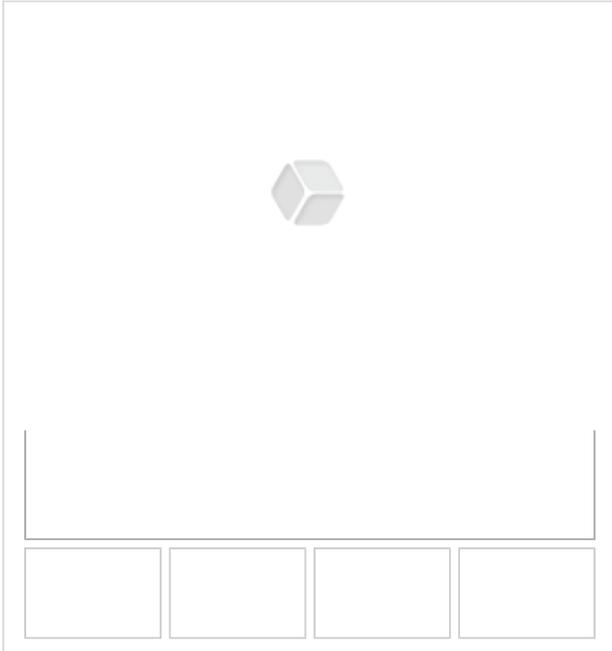
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Slide Show



[A Planet in Flux](#)

Andrew C. Revkin began exploring the human impact on the environment nearly 30 years ago. An early stop was Papeete, Tahiti. This narrated slide show describes his extensive travels.

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Many of the videos featured here can be found on Andrew Revkin's channel on YouTube. Recent reader favorites:

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