

Global Warming Indictment

Count 1: Denial and Distortion of Scientific Consensus and Findings--

The Bush administration has consistently denied the scientific consensus around global warming and its causes. Administration officials have misrepresented, distorted, and suppressed scientific information on the subject, especially as it would impact public opinion.

Count 2: Obstructionism on International Efforts--

The Bush administration has refused to take any measures to curb the emissions of greenhouse gases, guided by narrow corporate interests. It has withdrawn from any international efforts that would impose binding restrictions, however minimal. It has done this with full knowledge of the catastrophic effects of global warming and the disproportionate U.S. share of world greenhouse gas emissions, the leading cause of global warming.

For both counts:

- a. Held responsible in this indictment for crimes against humanity are George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, and their administration.
- b. The Bush administration's actions and policies on global warming, with their catastrophic planetary impact, constitute crimes against humanity, as popularly understood and conceived, that is, acts that, by their scale or nature, shock the conscience of humankind. They include inhumane acts perpetrated against a population, conducted in wartime or not.

Global warming is caused by massive increases of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, resulting from the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consisting of 2,000 scientists from 100 countries, predicts that global temperatures could rise between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Celsius, and sea level between 20 cm and 88 cm by 2100. The impact on coastlines and low-lying islands will be devastating, and entire populations of mostly impoverished people will be forced to relocate. The destruction of glaciers and increased temperatures will also threaten the availability of fresh drinking water in large parts of the Third World, and the intensity of extreme weather events like hurricanes, floods and droughts will continue to increase. There is sweeping and indisputable scientific consensus around the above scientific findings.

Bush administration policies on global warming involve foreseen risk of catastrophic proportions, putting millions around the world at risk, and are predictable consequences of policies guided by their ideological and political goals, including energy industry interests, rather than scientific consensus.

- c. In the commission of these counts, the acts engaged by the named Bush, Cheney, et al. included, but was not limited to:
 1. In early 2001, shortly after taking office, President Bush withdrew the U.S. support for Dr. Robert Watson, chief of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a panel of climate

scientists reporting to the United Nations. The Bush Administration acted to remove Watson following on a memo sent by an ExxonMobil official, stating the company was displeased with Watson's criticism of U.S. climate policies.

2. In 2003, President Bush ordered the EPA to remove an assessment of the impacts of climate change in the United States from the agency's website. He dismissed the thoroughly researched, scientifically peer-reviewed document as a mere "product of the bureaucracy."
3. President Bush has consistently refused to admit the dangers of climate change and has scuttled efforts to reduce emissions in the U.S. By contrast, European leaders are following the lead of the community of climate scientists who declared as early as 1995 that humanity must cut its use of coal and oil 70 percent to avert catastrophic climate impacts.
4. In the spring of 2005, an official in the White House's environmental office was found to have altered a scientific report on the dangers of global warming. The report, compiled by Rick Piltz, an official of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, was covered with handwritten notes and deletions which substantially altered the tone of the report. The alterations were made by Philip Cooney, a former official of the American Petroleum Industry who was appointed to the environmental office of the Bush White House.
5. Scientists whose findings conflict with Bush policies and corporate interests have received subpoenas from Bush-allied Representative Joe Barton (R-TX), in his capacity as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, to produce the location of their scientific data, computer codes, responses to critical reviews of their work, and all grants and all other funding awards given for research in the area of climate or paleoclimate research, including the identity of the recipients, principal investigators, and whoever is contractually obligated to ensure provisions of the awards are met.
6. During the 2000 Presidential campaign, George W. Bush pledged to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants -- one of the largest contributors to global warming. But just two months into his administration in 2001, President Bush announced he was reversing that pledge and imposing no caps on coal emissions.
7. In 2001, President Bush withdrew the U.S. from the U.N.-sponsored Kyoto Protocol -- an international agreement signed or ratified by more than 150 nations to reduce the coal and oil emissions that are fuelling global warming.
8. At the recommendation of ExxonMobil, Bush appointed a conservative Congressional staffer as the chief U.S. diplomatic climate negotiator. The appointee, Harlan Watson, promptly announced that the U.S. would not rejoin the Kyoto process for at least 10 years.
9. In March, 2001, Vice President Cheney released the first draft of the Bush Administration's energy plan. The plan, that was largely shaped by coal and oil company officials, notably the CEO of Peabody Energy, the country's largest coal company, called for the construction of 1,300 to 1,900 new power plants, most of them coal fired.

10. In December 2004, the delegates to Kyoto, aware of the escalating pace of climate change, prepared to dramatically increase the goals and shorten the timetables of the Kyoto Protocol. The urgency of the situation was underscored by the head of the IPCC who declared that climate change was approaching a "point of not return." In response, the Bush administration used its diplomatic leverage to limit the following round of Kyoto talks to an "informational seminar" and prohibited it from formulating any plan of action.

11. In July, 2005, following a pledge by the mayors of 132 U.S. cities to meet the Kyoto emission-reduction goals, President Bush, following a year of secret negotiations, signed a treaty with Australia (the world's largest coal exporter) and several other nations. The treaty set voluntary goals which were far less stringent than the binding requirements of the Kyoto Protocol.