

Koch Industries: Still Fueling Climate Denial

Blogpost by **Cindy Baxter**



Just over a year ago, oil billionaire David Koch used to joke that the company he owns with his brother Charles, Koch Industries, was “the biggest company you’ve never heard of.”

Then Greenpeace released our March, 2010 report, “Koch Industries secretly funding the climate denial machine,” that documented the Kochs’ systematic funding of the political system in order to stop action on climate change, including funding campaigns on climate denial. We have now updated this report; [Koch Industries: Still Fueling Climate Denial](#).

Over the last year, the publicity-averse brothers have found themselves and their company, Koch Industries, under increased scrutiny from the public and the press. But the Koch Brothers continue to use their oil wealth to fund campaigns, front groups, think tanks, and politicians to sabotage climate and clean energy policies.

Greenpeace’s new research throws a focus on some of the information that has come to light over the last year, not least the Kochs’ previously-secret twice-annual gatherings of their rich and powerful allies to plot their strategy. In one of our three new case studies, we present a dossier showing that the media magnates invited to their summer 2010 meeting in Colorado have provided a convenient echo chamber for the [Kochs' media network](#), thrown into overdrive as more people become aware of the Koch Brothers and how they use their oil money.

Our next two case studies demonstrate how Koch’s network of climate denier front groups have attacked state policies that were developed to curb climate change. One of these new case studies documents how the [Kochtopus is currently attacking the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#) (RGGI), a multi-state effort in the Northeast to reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions. Ironically, Koch Supply and Trading, a subsidiary of Koch Industries, has participated in RGGI carbon trading even as Americans for Prosperity has campaigned to get states to pull out of RGGI.

Our third new case study offers a full overview of a similar multi-pronged attack on California's Global Warming Solutions Act, which took place during the 2010 election cycle when [Koch financed ballot Proposition 23](#). This effort was supported by Koch funded groups Americans for Prosperity and the Pacific Research Institute.

The Kochs' funding of the climate denial machine continued apace in 2009 (the most recent year that Koch foundation tax forms are available), when they contributed over \$6.4 million dollars to some 40 organizations that continue to deny the scientific consensus on global warming while attempting to slow or block policies to solve the climate crisis.

The Kochs have now given a total of \$55.2 million to these groups since 1997, \$31.6 million of which they spent between 2005 and 2009. Favorite Koch Foundation organizations like the Cato Institute and the Heritage Foundation, the Mercatus Center and the Institute for Humane Studies continued to be top beneficiaries. Americans for Prosperity, a front group founded by David Koch, has now received over \$5.6 million in documented donations from the Koch foundations.

It doesn't stop there. Where our 2010 report found that Koch Industries lobbying expenditures totaled \$37.9 million dollars since 2006, that figure has now risen to over \$49.5 million dollars, an increase of \$11.6 million over the last year. In 2010, Koch Industries was the largest political spender of the entire energy sector, dumping \$2,645,589 in campaign contributions from their political action committee. Koch currently outspends [heavyweights](#) ExxonMobil, Southern Company, American Electric Power and Chevron. In addition, the Koch Brothers and their spouses directly contributed over \$360,000 to federal politicians in 2010.

There's more. Plenty more. Visit our updated [Koch Industries web page](#) for the full deal.