

The logo for Record Searchlight features a blue square icon with a white stylized sun or starburst pattern. To the right of the icon, the word "Record" is written in a large, bold, black serif font, and the word "Searchlight" is written below it in a larger, bold, black serif font.

Record Searchlight

Kings of climate crime

By: Doug Craig – April 12, 2013

The Three Pure Precepts
Cease to do harm.
Do only good.
Do good for others.

"The Three Pure Precepts are as follows: Cease doing evil; Do good; Do good for all beings.

"To cease doing evil is really simple. One just stops doing bad stuff. What bad stuff, you ask? Anything that harms another being. Within this precept are all the others. Ahimsa, that old Hindu concept of non-harming is at the source. If we at least do not harm, we are doing well.

"Second, a positive precept, do good. What good? Anything that will be good to do. Good and bad do not exist independently of our behavior, We must bring good into the world, just as we cease bringing bad into the world. All it takes is a willingness to be present and do what is necessary.

"Third, bring about good for all beings. Now this one is a challenge. It's a call to social action, like the Jewish concept of Tzadikah or Christian charity. We are not isolated beings, living on islands apart from each other. We are on a planet where the whole ecosystem is interdependent on us. We should care for all beings, nurture all beings, be well in a world of pain and suffering and bring a relief to as much suffering as we can. This is a challenge for most of us as we tend to live as if we are in bubbles. As we all know, however, bubbles are quite delicate and are easily popped. None of us can afford social isolation any more."

At some point, all of us must awaken to a greater purpose. A purpose beyond ourselves. On this planet are seven billion souls in human form. Some are seeking to live according to religious or spiritual precepts and values while others are merely trying to get all they can while they can and are willing to promote lies and provide cover for those out to exploit the planet for their own private gain.

Some understand that the world that is our mother and father is under assault. It is dying. It will survive but not until legions of lights go dark. Much of life in the air, on the land and under the sea will cease to be. The die has been cast. The only uncertainty is how bad it will become and how soon.

The best among us are fighting for the Earth, fighting for the truth, seeking to restore climate justice, and promote and preserve essential goodness in the world of human beings. But among us are many who would prefer we fail. They have devoted their lives to this dark task. None more than the Koch Brothers.

Who are the Kochs?

According to the Center for American Progress, "their combined wealth of \$50 billion is exceeded only by the Microsoft founder's \$59 billion fortune."

And the Kochs sent more than \$60 million "to climate science denying front groups...from 1997-2010, over \$37.7 million of which was spent from 2005-2010."

"Despite overwhelming consensus among climate change researchers and scientific institutions worldwide--including all the Academies of Sciences in industrialized countries, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, NASA and all other major US scientific institutions--recognition of global warming among Americans remains startlingly low. Fueled by Koch money, the Climate Denial Machine has executed an unceasing, anti-scientific and anti-regulatory public relations campaign that mirrors the tactics used by tobacco companies to deny the health consequences of smoking.

"The top recipients of Koch money in the Climate Denial Machine include Americans for Prosperity (\$5.7 million since 1997), the Heritage Foundation (\$2.7 million), the Cato Institute (\$1.2 million), and the Manhattan Institute (\$1.2 million).

"By dragging credible science into the agenda-driven realm of politics and vilifying the world's most prominent climate researchers, dirty money and fossil fuel apologists have prevailed in polluting public opinion and blocking national policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Koch Industries itself has been aggressive in dismissing global warming, even suing a group of young activists who created a spoof press release on behalf of Koch announcing that it would drop support for policy groups that belittle climate science.

"Ironically, the Kochs funded research that concluded the planet is warming but failed to admit their hypocrisy. The Charles G. Koch Foundation gave \$150,000 to the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) study in 2011, which was embraced by the denial machine until it redundantly re-confirmed that the surface of our planet has been warming increasingly for decades. While David Koch had previously claimed that "global warming could be good for the planet," neither Charles nor David has explained how the BEST study they funded contradicts their denial of climate change, including when Greenpeace activists asked David Koch to his face."

Don't believe the Kochs are the ultimate climate criminals, using their money and power to make vastly more money at the expense of the Earth and all life? Then watch Robert Greenwald's film below, "Koch Brothers Exposed."

