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Greenpeace outs billionaire brothers as 'kingpins' of climate denial

By [Muriel Kane](#)
Wednesday, March 31st, 2010 -- 1:33 pm

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The billionaire owners of privately held technology company Koch Industries funneled nearly \$50 million in donations to climate change denial groups between 1997 and 2008, according to a new report from Greenpeace International.



"This private, out-of-sight corporation is now a partner to ExxonMobil, the American Petroleum Institute and other donors that support organizations and front-groups opposing progressive clean energy and climate policy," Greenpeace explains. "In fact, Koch has out-spent ExxonMobil in funding these groups in recent years. From 2005 to 2008, ExxonMobil spent \$8.9 million while the Koch Industries-controlled foundations contributed \$24.9 million in funding to organizations of the 'climate denial machine'."

"Charles and David [Koch] have a vested interest in preventing climate action," the environmental group notes. "They've made billions from Koch Industries, an oil and manufacturing giant that is the second largest privately-held company in America with tentacles extending around the globe. It's time more people were aware of the brothers Koch and just what they're up to."

In recent months, the Koch brothers have come under fire from a number of sources for their funding of a hard-right agenda. Last December, AlterNet reported that "billionaire brothers David and Charles Koch are the wealthiest, and perhaps most effective, opponents of President Obama's progressive agenda. ... At the dawn of the Obama presidency, Koch groups quickly maneuvered to try to stop his first piece of signature legislation: the stimulus. ... As their fronts were battling the stimulus, David's Americans for Prosperity (AFP) spent the opening months of the Obama presidency placing calls and helping to organize the very first 'tea party' protests."

Rolling Stone also singled out the Koch brothers in a January article titled "The Climate Killers," which noted how, "in addition to fomenting last summer's town-hall brawls over health care reform, AFP sponsored a 'Hot Air Tour' on climate change, deploying a manned balloon at 75 events for the purpose of 'Exposing the Ballooning Costs of Global Warming Hysteria.' At the events, the group's president, Tim Phillips, grossly exaggerated the costs of climate legislation, calling it a trillion-dollar tax on American families."


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The newly-issued Greenpeace report, however, goes into unprecedented detail on the network of Koch-backed organizations and politicians that make up what it describes as a "web of dirty money and influence."

"The company's tight knit network of lobbyists, former executives and organizations has created a forceful stream of misinformation that Koch-funded entities produce and disseminate," the report states. "This campaign propaganda is then replicated, repackaged and echoed many times throughout the Koch-funded web of political front groups and think tanks."

The report cites "ClimateGate" as one example of this Koch machine at work, noting, "At least twenty Koch-funded organizations have repeatedly rebroadcast, referenced and appeared as media spokespeople in the story, dubbed 'ClimateGate,' of supposed malfeasance by climate scientists gleaned from a cache of stolen emails from the University of East Anglia in November 2009. These organizations claim the emails prove a 'conspiracy' of scientists and casts doubt on the scientific consensus regarding climate change."

Among the top recipients of Koch funding are Americans for Prosperity, the Heritage Foundation, and the Cato Institute, which was **co-founded** by Charles Koch in 1977. Lesser amounts have gone to such groups as Grover Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform and the Capital Research Center, which has been the primary **source** of ACORN-related conspiracy theories.

Prominent members of Congress to whom Koch has donated generously include Republicans Eric Cantor (R-VA) and John Boehner (R-OH) and Democrat Blanche Lincoln (D-AR).

Koch Industries has already issued an official **response** to the Greenpeace report. "Koch companies and Koch foundations have worked to advance economic freedom and market-based policy solutions to challenges faced by society," it states. "The Greenpeace report mischaracterizes these efforts and distorts the environmental record of our companies. ... We have tried to help bring out the facts of the potential effectiveness and costs of policies proposed to deal with climate, as it's crucial to understand whether proposed initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases will achieve desired environmental goals and what effects they would likely have on the global economy."

Tags: [Greenpeace](#), [Koch Industries](#)

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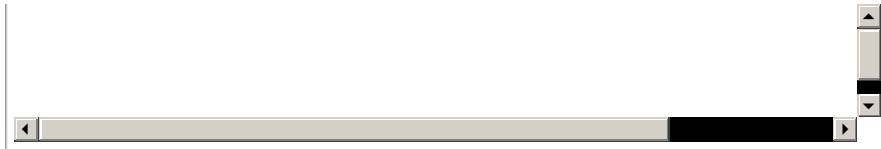
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 **healingshoes** 18 hours ago

6 people liked this.


So its true then. Right wing voters really are nothing but Koch Suckers...

Flag

 **dennycrane** 14 hours ago [in reply to healingshoes](#)


Ha ha ha ha.

Flag

 **Dan** 3 hours ago [in reply to healingshoes](#)

I'm with Denny Crane. LMAO!


Flag

 **NoOneYouKnow** 19 hours ago

2 people liked this.

The Koch brothers seem to be very bad for humanity.

Flag

 **canoetoo** 17 hours ago [in reply to NoOneYouKnow](#)

1 person liked this.

I suspect they are even worse than one might think. Both the Koch brothers are graduates of MIT, Charles in 1957 and David in 1962. It's hard for me to imagine any graduate of MIT who could genuinely believe global warming is not a fact or, worse, that it is a hoax. So they are deliberately and maliciously spreading lies and manipulating opinions that put humanity at risk, knowing that with their money they and their children can avoid the worst consequences of climate change that many others will not survive. So much for the idea that those with greater means have a higher duty... .


Flag

 **Blair** 15 hours ago

1 person liked this.

Ever watch the PBS show NOVA? At the beginning there's always a blurb about how this program was funded by "David H. Koch". I always wondered who that was. He also funds the ACLU, fought health care reform, and has given tens of millions to science museums and educational institutions, and apparently funds climate change denial. At the very least, that's an odd set of causes to see grouped together.

Flag

 **Mr. Neutron** 14 hours ago [in reply to Blair](#)

David H. Koch is the least right-wing of the family, apparently.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_H._Koch

He is "libertarian" (ran as VP for the Libertarian Party in the 1980 Presidential campaign), and lives in New York City (not Kansas). He is the 2nd wealthiest person in New York, after Mayor Bloomberg. In 2006, he made a \$20 million gift to the American Museum of Natural History, creating the David H. Koch Dinosaur Wing. He made a contribution of \$15 million to the National Museum of Natural History in 2009 to create the new David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins, which opened on the museum's 100th anniversary of its location on the National Mall on March 17, 2010.

David Koch currently serves on the board of directors of the libertarian Cato Institute and the Reason Foundation.

A prostate cancer survivor himself, He contributed \$100 million in 2007, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to help fund the construction of a new 350,000 square foot research and technology facility to serve as the home of the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. He also contributed \$20 million to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, \$30 million to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, \$25 million to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and \$15 million to New York-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Koch, along with his brother Charles, George Soros, the Ford Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation, each contributed \$10 million to the American Civil Liberties Union to defeat parts of the USA PATRIOT Act.

He also started for MIT in basketball, establishing an MIT record by scoring an average of 21 points per game over three years. He was captain of the team in his senior year, 1962. He held MIT's single-game scoring record of 41 points, which he set in 1962, until it was broken in early 2009 by Jimmy Bartolotta.

Not a total dick. At least he doesn't waste all his money on yachts and mansions.

Flag



johand 16 hours ago

1 person liked this.

The KOCH brothers think and behave very much like the KRUPP family in Nazi Germany. They were convinced that they could buy their way into power and helped dictate how the German people should behave and what they should do. Of course what they wanted is to get richer, gain more power and destroy everyone who is in their way (the Jews). Power to the rich is their only motto and that is also what the KOCH brothers (a very German name) underwrite. They are right wing extremists and as such have been supporting very right wing and dangerous organizations for a long time. These people don't deserve anyone's respect, in fact we and the government should fight them tooth and nail and let them stew in their small world.

Flag



peterlawrence 17 hours ago

1 person liked this.

Actually funny... just 2 days ago I told a friend of mine that if all the oil company executives and the Koch brothers died, we'd be able to actually save the planet. Well, I didn't actually say died, I said hunted and killed.

Flag



dennycrane 14 hours ago [in reply to peterlawrence](#)

.....boil the oil from their tory skins and use it to light up torches to find the rest of them.

Flag



Phil 18 hours ago

1 person liked this.

The Article still doesn't address the monetary system, or our country's sovereignty, or how screwed up that half-assed, (NON PUBLIC), Copenhagen treaty bullet we all dodged, it still doesn't prove a damn thing one way or the other about the truth. I don't like big oil any more than the rest of you, but you Don't have a right to tax the air we breath. You don't have a right to tax me and give that fucking money to banksters, the IMF and

the EU! I don't give a crap how you rationalize it.

Flag



Joe Voter 11 hours ago [in reply to Phil](#)

No one is proposing to tax the clean air you breathe. They are proposing to levy a tax on emitting poisons into it.

What could you possibly have against that?

Flag



Phil 18 hours ago

1 person liked this.

Also 50 million is nothing in compared to the TRILLIONS this nonsense would cost, all at a time where we CAN NOT afford it.

Our officials swore an oath of office, it's time to get back to that. It's time to restore the United States Constitution. The COPENHAGEN treaty is an ENEMY of the Constitution.

Flag



BertHarvey 18 hours ago [in reply to Phil](#)

1 person liked this.

Care to back *any* of that up?

You can't, it's all hyperbolic talking points shrieked in a hysteric pitch.

Flag



wyt 16 hours ago [in reply to BertHarvey](#)

Ah come on. There's no danger here. If the Earth is destroyed, the Koch family will fly off in their private spaceship and their heirs will own the Universe. But this won't happen if they can't afford the spaceship. And they won't be able to if anyone gets in the way of their capital accumulation.

Flag



Phil 8 hours ago [in reply to BertHarvey](#)

Okay, my decimal was off. I admit I was wrong on the NUMBER.
Also 50 million is nothing in compared to the 100 Billion this nonsense would INITIALLY cost. With the cost expected to go UP.

Our officials swore an oath of office - Certainly you don't deny this!? If you do deny this, there's no hope for you, on the other hand if you don't deny it, then you can simply compare the constitution on DATE X, with DATE Y and see some folks who swore an oath screwed the pooch.

No one is proposing to tax the clean air you breathe. They are proposing to levy a tax on emitting poisons into it.

What could you possibly have against that?

(I already stated it above e.g. "The Article still doesn't address the monetary system, or our country's sovereignty")

It does tax the Air I breath. Via Taxpayer (MORE DEBT) to the banksters, the IMF and then to the EU. DON'T TELL ME IT WON'T TAX THE AIR I BREATH!

What do you have against the sovereignty of the United States? Furthermore show me in the Constitution where you get the authority to throw our sovereignty away, for a new set of EU rules.

The whole thing stinks and already the Carbon Offsets/Credits (or whatever the HELL you call these made up stupid ass units) are being exploited and abused and it's doing NOTHING to clean the god damned air!

Time for you to go away now.

Flag



raw Phil 7 hours ago [in reply to Phil](#)

The whole thing stinks and already the Carbon Offsets/Credits (or whatever the HELL you call these made up stupid ass units) are being exploited and abused and it's doing NOTHING to clean the god damned air!

Time for you to go away now.

Reference: HARPERS MAGAZINE FEB 2010 | Conning The Climate | Inside the Carbon-Trading Shell Game By Mark Schapiro

(more than enough information to make your head hurt)

Flag



raw iRead 16 hours ago [in reply to Phil](#)

You're right that \$50 million is a drop in the bucket as compared to what stopping the damage done by global climate change will likely cost. But trillions might be a low figure. Seen in context, however, it's comparable to the cost of a couple foreign adventures in which we are currently engaged (that is, referring to the costs we're aware of), which will never "save" us money.

You must also realize, moreover, that the costs of dealing with global climate change are inter-related with the costs of developing a new energy infrastructure. This has to be done irrespective of climate change, because energy demands cannot be met in the long-term, oil being a finite resource which is expected to become increasingly scarce. Oil-energy is unsustainable for the long term, period. We ALL know this.

So, if you accept these premises (and how can you not!), a significant portion of the cost is inevitable. And in a shitty economy, it makes pretty damned good sense to get started, putting research scientists to work, gearing up trade-schools, and putting the country in the business of improving the country.

Also--and you probably won't like this part much--anthropogenic global warming is a pretty well documented fact. We're already experiencing, and bearing the costs of, climatic events that cause widespread damage. That (regional climate volatility--more severe storms more often) was one of the earliest predictions made by climate scientists. Only the predictions were conservative and the frequency, intensity, damage and costs are proving far greater than originally anticipated, because inputs have increased at a rate unforeseen by scientists. Essentially, the climate scientists WERE wrong! They didn't think things would be as serious this soon. We were not really prepared for any of the disasters that have happened here. Katrina was only one example of how that has cost us, in terms of human misery and economic opportunity.

These costs will not only continue, but will accelerate, like an unpaid loan. Even if you only count preparation for, and recovery from the events themselves, that's easily imaginable as in the trillions per decade. Katrina was one event. How much did that cost? Do nothing and expect to recover from a similar event every decade.

Or, maybe, admit of a reality you may possibly not understand completely, and accept that it demands action; a policy that puts the interests of people (your kids, our future leaders, humanity) ahead of the profits of a few people who already have more money than they could ever spend.

Because there will be costs either way. Sort of like the mechanic in the Fram commercials; "You can pay me now, or pay me later." If you change the oil in your car, it doesn't make any sense to ignore what's happening in your environment. In a degraded environment, everything costs everyone more. Food is more difficult to produce in degraded soils--you pay; water treatment is not free--you pay; insurance (hail on your car, tree limbs through your roof, flooded basement, etc.) costs aren't declining--you pay; asthma (a previously very rare disease) is increasing exponentially--public health--you pay.

These costs are not borne by the producers of the products that cause these problems. You pay.

I sure as hell hope you work for the Messrs. Koch. But with all the money they spend denying the problems they're part of causing, they might not be able to pay you enough to buy all that stuff.

Flag



raw Phil 8 hours ago [in reply to iRead](#)

"I sure as hell hope you work for the Messrs. Koch. But with all the money they spend denying the problems they're part of causing, they might not be able to pay you enough to buy all that stuff."

Let's get this CLEAR NOW.
I don't work for Messrs, or Koch.

I think for myself, and I produce a public access tv show. It's that simple. One trait I learned early on in life is to challenge everything.

I challenge this false science, to answer what I said about the CORE of the EARTH, the SOLAR EFFECTS, the AERIAL SPRAYING, and HAARP (like) technologies (Yeah I play with RF now and then too so I got the electronics background here.)

I ain't saying I know everything. I don't but this crap we are being fed is INCOMPLETE.

Flag



iRead 4 hours ago [in reply to Phil](#)

"I think for myself, and I produce a public access tv show."

I wouldn't presume to tell you how to decorate your mom's basement for your public access tv show set. That's your gig. Challenge everything about tv production. Come up with a better program or line-up, and get everything you want.

But leave the science to scientists. They've been compiling and analyzing those data for likely as long as you've been in television, and you'd probably claim to know a thing or two about that after doing it for awhile. I don't imagine you got a B.S., and then a M.S., and then a PhD just so you were qualified to begin your career in public access tv. Those guys do. They know a lil' something-something about climate dynamics. Falsification or ill-conceived manipulation of data ends any legitimate career chances for a research scientist. There are just not many who will throw away a career by misrepresenting results. That the overwhelming majority of climate scientists agree about the fact of anthropogenic global warming should tell you something. The consequences of that truth are not any less burdensome for a man making his living studying climate science than any other. Just as surely, he has no reason to hope he will find that the situation is terrible.

Your steadfast _disbelief_, in the face of sound, reproducible science does not speak well of your reasoning skills. A rational person would look at the situation objectively (which scientists have already done for you, just as they'd have asked of you had they required tv production expertise), and move decisively to prevent, mitigate, or forestall adverse consequences. Any other response would be irrational, and could even be called cowardice.

Or are you one of those people who freezes up when the shit hits the fan, and hopes someone else is smart enough or brave enough to save your family?

Flag



iRead 4 hours ago [in reply to Phil](#)

"Let me bring you up to speed. My name is Wayne Campbell. I live in Aurora, Illinois, which is a suburb of Chicago - excellent. I've had plenty of jo-jobs; nothing I'd call a career. Let me put it this way: I have an extensive collection of nametags and hairnets. Ok, so I still live with my parents, which I admit is bogus and sad. However I do have a cable access show, and I still know how to party. But what I'd really like is to do Wayne's World for a living. It might happen. Yeah, and monkeys might fly out of my butt. "

Flag



Well Well Well 18 hours ago

1 person liked this.

Truth stand in the Way of global warming BS thats the problem. These AGW crooks were caught and I want to see Al Gore lose his Nobel and these "scientists" in Jail.

Flag



n lynd steele 15 hours ago [in reply to Well Well Well](#)

What?????? they just showed today after a long real investigation what I believe you are referring to

scientist to be put in jail and that they were exonerated. How about a few details or are you on the Koch suckers payroll also?

Flag



iRead 15 hours ago in reply to Well Well Well

Aren't you the perceptive one!

Dooooo, there's a _reason_ the Koch bros. "fund" other groups to cast doubt and confuse the issue with BS and long-since debunked pseudo-science. Even the oil companies themselves no longer deny the dangers posed by gajillions of tons of CO2 in the atmosphere year after year. There's too much reliable science confronting them. Oil execs, like the tobacco company executives who for years had suppressed studies showing the ill-effects of smoking and funded "research" to deny the truth or muddy the issue, at some point realized that the preponderance of evidence makes them transparent in their duplicity. And fearing liability, they "fund" others to disseminate a message they, themselves, dare not speak for it's patent falsehood.

I expect one day to see a judgment against the oil companies which rivals that which the tobacco industry paid.

Flag



dennycrane 14 hours ago in reply to Well Well Well

You tory shill. Go to another planet with the Comet people.

Flag



Big AL 19 hours ago

1 person liked this.

Aint corporate America grand! What a country.

Flag



kerwoodmiles 19 hours ago

Sounds pretty reasonable to me dude. I mean really.

Lou
www.anon-toys.cz.tc

Flag



RoadScholar 18 hours ago in reply to kerwoodmiles

Ah, but it's deceptive. Their closing statement, "We have tried to help bring out the facts of the potential effectiveness and costs of policies proposed to deal with climate, as it's crucial to understand whether proposed initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases will achieve desired environmental goals and what effects they would likely have on the global economy," is, in fact, reasonable. But that's not the message they pay untold millions to broadcast. Their message to the Fox audience etc. is "The planet isn't warming. But if it is, man isn't causing it. But if we are, it would cause complete economic collapse to do anything about it. Oh, and it's a socialist, new-world-order conspiracy."

Not the same message at all. The first is a message of a concerned rational citizen; the second is a "denialist" message, intended to (and succeeding at) convincing the right-wing base that it's all a big hoax, when nothing could be further from the truth.

Flag



wildthang 19 hours ago

yeah and we still are playing warcards and more drill baby drilling in our cards too...

Flag



me 19 hours ago

War is one of the greatest contributors to the planets pollution, why not start there?

Flag



braind 18 hours ago

What's new? This is new.

<http://www.thezeitgeistmovement.com/joomla/inde...>

Flag



allenallen 18 hours ago

I'm amazed at how effective the false message has been. They (or whomever they are hiring) certainly know how to do propaganda.

Flag



Koch Industrial Complex 18 hours ago

Heck, climate change is just the tip of the iceberg (Ha!) Check out the cool expose below. We've been wheelin' and dealin' and stealin' everything that's not nailed down for years now. (It's true what they say -- your first billion is the hardest -- then after that, they're like eating potato chips, you just can't stop!)

<http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/du...>

Flag



Phil 7 hours ago in reply to Koch Industrial Complex

"Heck, climate change is just the tip of the iceberg (Ha!) Check out the cool expose below. We've been wheelin' and dealin' and stealin' everything that's not nailed down for years now. (It's true what they say -- your first billion is the hardest -- then after that, they're like eating potato chips, you just can't stop!)

<http://www.democraticunderground.com>"

--

I left DU back in after 2006. DU is a (D) vs (R) paradigm from the (D) point of view, BOTH parties ignored our elections and specifically demonised me about electronic vote tabulation devices early on. I took it to Randi Roads, Demonized, ignored. Now your elections are haunting your apathy

Flag



Prattvictory 15 hours ago

Isn't GW's sister married to "Bobby" Koch part of the Koch family?

Wikipedia has scrubbed the connection.

Flag



texanarch 15 hours ago

Remember how the French dealt with the rich?

Flag



dennycrane 15 hours ago

These "koke-heads" have a list longer than a japanese ship's fishing net, listing the people, organizations that they have put under their wings to lie about the climate. Tory asswipes.

Flag



Scorchy 15 hours ago

Regardless of what side you're on in this debate when international bankster criminals like the Rothschilds are backing global warming I have to question its validity.

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/march2007/...>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Mayer_de_Rot...

Flag

rw 14 hours ago

And how much money has the Nuclear industry put into AGW support?

Flag

rw 14 hours ago

And how much money has the Nuclear industry and World Bank put into the AGW side?

Flag

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