Global Climate Coalition

The Global Climate Coalition (GCC) was one of the most outspoken and confrontational industry groups in the United States battling reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Prior to its disbanding in early 2002, it collaborated extensively with a network that included industry trade associations, "property rights" groups affiliated with the anti-environmental Wise Use movement, and fringe groups such as Sovereignty International, which believes that global warming is a plot to enslave the world under a United Nations-led "world government."

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### Personnel

- **Glenn Kelly**, Executive Director
- **Gail McDonald**, President
- **William O'Keefe**, Chairman, an executive for the American Petroleum Institute
- **Frank Maisano**, Media Contact, is a member of the Potomac Communications Group, whose other clients include Con Edison, the Edison Electric Institute, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In April, 2006, E magazine interviewed Maisano, reporting that he is now working with Bracewell and Giuliani.

### History

In 1989, the United Nations created the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The members of the IPCC are governments. At approximately five-year intervals, the IPCC assembles a group of some 2,500 climate scientists from throughout the world to evaluate the evidence linking anthropogenic greenhouse gas and other emissions (such as particulates) to global climate change. The Global Climate Coalition was created in 1989, shortly after the IPCC's first meeting.

The GCC operated until 1997 out of the offices of the National Association of Manufacturers. Its early members included Amoco, the American Forest & Paper Association, American Petroleum Institute, Chevron, Chrysler, Cyprus AMAX Minerals, Exxon, Ford, General Motors, Shell Oil, Texaco, and the United States Chamber of
Excerpts from the GCC web site address the problem.

Endorsement of the organization's parting shot at history combined a tacit admission that it had been wrong all along, along with an GCC. After years spent denying that greenhouse emissions were a serious environmental problem, the approach to global warming. The Bush administration will soon announce a climate policy that is expected to rely on the development of new technologies to reduce greenhouse emissions, a concept strongly supported by the GCC.

The GCC disbanded in early 2002, explaining that it "has served its purpose by contributing to a new national approach to global warming.

Instead, membership would be limited to "only trade associations" and "other like-minded organizations." By sides to become a senior vice president for Shandwick Public Affairs, the second-largest PR firm in the United States. (Recent Shandwick clients include Browning-Ferris Industries, Central Maine Power, Georgia-Pacific Corp., Monsanto Chemical Co., New York State Electric and Gas Co., Ciba-Geigy, Ford Motor Company, Hydro-Quebec, Pfizer, and Procter & Gamble.)

The coalition also opposed Senate ratification of the Kyoto Protocol that would assign such stringent targets...
for lowering greenhouse gas emissions that economic growth in the U.S. would be severely hampered and energy prices for consumers would skyrocket. The GCC also opposed the treaty because it does not require the largest developing countries to make cuts in their emissions.

At this point, both Congress and the Administration agree that the U.S. should not accept the mandatory cuts in emissions required by the protocol.

**What is the GCC?**

The Global Climate Coalition is an organization of trade associations established in 1989 to coordinate business participation in the international policy debate on the issue of global climate change and global warming.

Currently, GCC members collectively represent more than 6 million businesses, companies and corporations in virtually every sector of U.S. business, agriculture and forestry, including electric utilities, railroads, transportation, manufacturing, small businesses, mining, oil, and coal.

As a leading voice for business and industry, both domestically and internationally, GCC volunteers and staff attend all international climate change negotiations. They also closely monitor the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and contributes to the IPCC's scientific assessment documents.

Domestically, the GCC represents the views of its members to legislative bodies and policymakers. And it reviews and provides comments on proposed legislation and government programs.

Businesses and industries that make up the GCC's member trade associations are active participants in voluntary programs for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are part of the federal government's U.S. Climate Action Plan.

**Funding**

The GCC website was decorated with numerous photos of happy children playing in idyllic farm fields, but it did not provide any information about its budget or where its money comes from. GCC was not registered as a nonprofit organization and was not required to make public disclosures of its IRS tax filings, so it is difficult to obtain even basic information about its finances. However, the information that is publicly available shows that the GCC has spent tens of millions of dollars on the global warming issue.

According to the Los Angeles Times (December 7, 1997) the GCC spent $13 million on its 1997 anti-Kyoto ad campaign, an amount roughly equivalent to Greenpeace’s entire annual budget.

*Common Cause* has documented more than $63 million in contributions to politicians from members of the Global Climate Coalition from 1989-1999.[1]

GCC’s efforts were coordinated with separate campaigns by many of its members, such as the National Coal Association, which spent more than $700,000 on the global climate issue in 1992 and 1993, and the American Petroleum Institute, which paid the Burson-Marsteller PR firm $1.8 million in 1993 for a successful computer-driven “grassroots” letter and phone-in campaign to stop a proposed tax on fossil fuels.

GCC’s members and supporters included the following companies and trade associations:

- Air Transport Association
- Allegheny Power
- Aluminum Association, Inc.
- **American Automobile Manufacturers Association**
- American Commercial Barge Line Co.
- **American Farm Bureau Federation**
- **American Forest & Paper Association**
- American Highway Users Alliance
- American Iron and Steel Institute
- **American Petroleum Institute**
- American Portland Cement Alliance
- Amoco
- Association of American Railroads
- Association of International Automobile Manufacturers
- **Atlantic Richfield Coal Company**
- Baker Refineries
- Bethlehem Steel
- BHP Minerals
- Chamber of Shipping of America
- Chemical Manufacturers Association
- Chevron
- Chrysler Corporation
- Cinergy
- CONRAIL
- Consumers Energy
- Council of Industrial Boiler Owners
- CSX Transportation, Inc.
- Cyprus-Amax
- Dow Chemical Company
- Drummond Company
- Duke Power Company
- DuPont
- Eastman Chemical
- Edison Electric Institute
- ELCON
- ExxonMobil
- Fertilizer Institute
- Ford Motor Company
- General Motors
- Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
- Greencool
- Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group
- Illinois Power Company
- Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp.
- McDonnell-Douglas
- Mobil Corporation
- National Association of Manufacturers
- National Lime Association
- National Mining Association
- National Ocean Industries Association
- National Petrochemical and Refiners Association
- Natural Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- Norfolk Southern
- Northern Indiana Public Serv. Co.
- Ohio Edison
- Parker Drilling Company
- Process Gas Consumers
- Shell
- Society of the Plastic Industry
- Southern Company
- Steel Manufacturers Association
- TECO Energy Inc.
- Texaco
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- USX Corporation
- Union Carbide
- Union Pacific
- Virginia Power
- Western Fuels Association

Internal Documents
- Global Climate Coalition, "Primer on Climate Change Science· Final Draft" January 18, 1996.
Case Studies

- Accu-Weather's science for hire

Contact Information

Global Climate Coalition
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Email: gcc@globalclimate.org
http://www.globalclimate.org

Other SourceWatch Related Resources

- climate change
- E. Bruce Harrison

External links

- Lester Brown, "The Rise and Fall of the Global Climate Coalition," Worldwatch Institute. This essay examines the significance of member companies' defections from the GCC.
- "Disguise the Limit: the Global Climate Coalition," Corporate Watch UK
- "Cooking the Books: the Bogus Economics of the Global Climate Coalition"
- In a speech to Greenpeace, Ford Motor Company CEO William Clay Ford, Jr. explains why his company left the Global Climate Coalition: “The present risk is clear. The climate appears to be changing, the changes appear to be outside natural variation, and the likely consequences will be serious. From a business planning point of view, that issue is settled. Anyone who disagrees is, in my view, still in denial.”
- The Heat Is Online, a website by journalist Ross Gelbspan, explains the science of global warming and industry's disinformation campaign.
- "The Rhetoric of Uncertainty." This essay examines the two-pronged strategy used by opponents of regulating carbon emissions: an assault on the scientific foundations of climate change theory, and a rhetorical campaign to discredit its proponents and their proposed mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- John Vidal, "Revealed: how oil giant influenced Bush White House sought advice from Exxon on Kyoto stance", The Guardian, June 8, 2005
- Much of the information for this article was taken from "Global Climate Coalition," from the PR Watch Impropaganda Review. (Used with permission)

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