



How do these people sleep at night?

Posted by [Stuart Staniford](#) on December 8, 2005 - 4:03am

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

Tags: [global warming](#), [hubbert peak](#), [oil prices](#), [peak oil](#) [[list all tags](#)]

The excellent British newspaper [The Independent](#) quoth:

A detailed and disturbing strategy document has revealed an extraordinary American plan to destroy Europe's support for the Kyoto treaty on climate change.

The ambitious, behind-the-scenes plan was passed to The Independent this week, just as 189 countries are painfully trying to agree the second stage of Kyoto at the UN climate conference in Montreal. It was pitched to companies such as Ford Europe, Lufthansa and the German utility giant RWE.

Put together by a lobbyist who is a senior official at a group partly funded by ExxonMobil, the world's biggest oil company and a fierce opponent of anti-global warming measures, the plan seeks to draw together major international companies, academics, think-tanks, commentators, journalists and lobbyists from across Europe into a powerful grouping to destroy further EU support for the treaty.

Mind you, given that the Bush administration have now moved us to the point where most of the European public would rather drink toxic waste than be seen agreeing with current US policy, the American fingerprints on this plan are likely to render it dead-on-arrival.

It's also striking the fierce scepticism the British press brings to this, compared to the docile way the US press tends to get manipulated. The US press quotes global warming sceptics all the time without making it clear that the whole thing is basically an industry PR campaign with very limited backing beyond a handful of contrarian scientists. The Independent's reporting, and the very hard-hitting columns from [George Monbiot](#) in the Guardian lately are in sharp contrast.

Plus they don't put cartoons like this one from [Steve Bell](#) in US newspapers:



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