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A 12-Step Program

to Break America's Oil Addiction

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1

Admit we have a problem.

It's time for Americans to admit that we have a problem and commit deeply and truthfully to a national recovery program to break our oil addiction. Our country and the world deserves better.

A transition to a clean energy economy will create millions of sustainable jobs; clean our air; protect our water supplies, our forests, and our climate; and will help to build a safer and more secure world for everyone. But breaking our oil addiction requires humility and an unwavering commitment to change at every level of society. No one gets a free ride anymore, especially the world's richest energy companies.

Declare independence from oil at FreedomFromOil.com.

2

Separate oil & state.

Every year, oil companies continue to “invest” millions of dollars in political candidates at every level of the U.S. government. The pay off on that investment? Our representatives in Congress, the White House, and in the state legislatures dole out more than \$20 billion a year in corporate welfare to prop up Big Oil’s profits and projects around the globe.

To end our national addiction to oil, we must put a stop to the oil industry’s undue influence over public governance and eliminate government handouts for dirty oil. All oil subsidies should be redirected to improving energy efficiency and developing clean power now.

Visit PriceOfOil.org.

3

Jumpstart Detroit.

Transportation accounts for nearly 70 percent of US oil consumption, much of that wasted in gas guzzling cars, trucks, and SUVs. According to the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, if we paid at the pump the true cost for keeping our troops in the Middle East, a [gallon of gasoline would cost over \\$5.28](#). This figure would rise higher if we paid for carbon emissions, between 50-100 atmospheric tons per vehicle, and the environmental cost of oil extraction, currently the subject of a high-profile [lawsuit in Ecuador](#).

Led by Ford Motor Company, the American automobile industry remains in denial and refuses to improve its failing fleets. The average Ford vehicle gets worse gas mileage today than the Model-T did almost one hundred years ago.

Join the campaign to Jumpstart Ford—and the rest of Detroit—by visiting JumpstartFord.com.

4

Redesign American mobility for smart growth.

America's energy policy must include new approaches to mobility. [As our communities grow](#), they should be designed to maximize smart land use, reduce commute times, and utilize petroleum-free transportation options. Today's Amtrak trains and speedy European and Japanese bullet trains use far less oil than planes and automobiles, yet each year Amtrak has to beg for basic financing.

It's time for Congress to fully fund American train mobility and for governments to [prioritize mass transit](#), in urban planning and neighborhood zoning. Over 70% of Americans live in town and cities; each and every one of us should have access to a bus or train for commutes. With good planning, urban communities will develop road-share bike lanes and bike transit routes, and [bicycling can evolve](#) from a recreational activity to a transit option.

5

Plug in America.

Promote mass production of PHEVs (*Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles*) and zero emission EVs (*Electric Vehicles*) that can power up at the plug and not at the pump. When plugged into rooftop solar or a green grid (*see steps 7 & 8 below*), PHEVs and EVs are fossil-fuel free transportation.

Today's hybrids like the Toyota Prius and the Ford Escape are already being converted by eco-hot-rodders into PHEVs by enlarging the batteries and adding a plug for recharging. With no R&D support from the automakers or the government, these PHEVs are already getting more than 100 miles to the gallon and driving up to 40 miles without consuming a single drop of oil. And the movement is growing, with the city of Austin leading the way by placing 'soft orders' for 600 PHEVs, as soon they're built. Imagine how efficient PHEVs will be when they're mass-produced!

6

Grow our gas.

Entrepreneurs from [Louisiana](#) to [Idaho](#) to Fresno are inventing new ways of converting plant crops agricultural waste into efficient ethanol. Once we master making fuel oil from corn stalks instead of corn kernels, experts estimate that we could meet 30-50% of our current fuel demand with American-grown plants. And while we're at it, let's recover 100% of our waste veggie oil for locally-produced [home-fried biofuels](#).

7

Rooftop REVOLUTION!

More energy from the sun hits our planet in an hour than humans use in an entire year. It's time to capture that for our home, business and transportation needs. A massive transition to a solar energy economy will provide light and heat where we need it most, while strengthening the economy, because solar energy supports up to seven times more jobs than dirty fossil fuels.

States are already taking a leadership role. California is providing incentives to install solar systems on a million homes and businesses across the state, while New Jersey has a humming solar industry. It's time for a national plan to mainstream solar and give the power to the people.

8

Green the grid.

A green grid energized by the wind and the sun can power homes and businesses, recharge car batteries and help pull the plug on unsafe and unsustainable sources like coal and nuclear. With fossil fuel prices going through the roof, grid-based renewable power is not only better for maintaining the environment and national security, but it can save money as well. Customers can now save money on their monthly bills by choosing renewable green energy over volatile fossil fuels.

We must replace pollution-producing power plants with safe, secure and sustainable sources of clean, renewable energy from wind farms and solar arrays. Because coal is deadly and nuclear is a time-bomb.

Visit NewEnergyFuture.com.

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Fund the future.

Clean energy is an imperative not an “alternative.” For America to sober up and get off oil, Wall Street needs to rewire the global economy to run on clean energy. Every day, multinational mega-banks decide to fund some of the largest and most destructive “developments” in human history in order to access a dwindling supply of dirty energy. Between 1998 and 2003, private banks committed \$110 billion to fund 51 new oil extraction projects around the world.

However, renewable energy is one of the fastest growing sectors in the marketplace—one third of all energy venture capital went directly into solar in 2005, more than 30 times the amount invested in 1995. The bottom line is that we have the technology, and Wall Street needs to provide the investment capital necessary to bring wind, solar and other renewable sources online. Already, a handful of leading lenders have taken their first steps toward sustainability.

To find out who is still bankrolling Big Oil, visit DirtyMoney.org.

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Wean...to green.

American consumers have the right to easy access to retail financial products that can help wean our nation off oil and other fossil fuels forever. From energy efficient car and home loans to carbon-rated mutual funds, a handful of banks have green products in the pipeline, but more is desperately needed so that small businesses, home owners and car buyers can afford to make the switch to clean energy. Imagine Climate-Safe Mutual Funds, energy-efficient home mortgages and lines of credit, and other products.

Money isn't the only thing we need to save for our children's future. Kudos to Goldman Sachs for getting started, by establishing the Center for Environmental Markets to find efficient and effective ways to insure that profitability does not come at the expense of people and the planet.

Any comprehensive strategy to break our oil addiction and put our nation on the road to recovery must include aggressive measures to reduce energy consumption. A low-carbon energy diet will increase competitiveness for American businesses by reducing energy and health-care costs, lowering emissions, and producing sustainable jobs here at home.

Efficiency improvements in the last thirty years have doubled the amount of work we get from each barrel of oil. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, current proven technologies can double oil efficiency again, for less money than would be required to buy the oil we save.

Visit RMI.org.

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Vote.

Like your life depends on it.



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