

On the day after Pearl Harbor America was unprepared for fighting the Japanese and German war machines which were in high gear. Within six short months American industry stopped making cars and refrigerators and started making the planes, ships, tanks and weapons needed to fight the war. Control of the oil supply was a central part of the war. The Soviet Union defeated the Germans, but the Allies recruited the "best" of the German war machine and they just transitioned into the Cold War against the Soviet Union.

You have chosen Earth Day to host your conference. In 1970 I participated in the first Earth Day at 13 years old. Our school director refused to let us demonstrate. We organized a walk-out anyway. Does any of this sound familiar? We combined that demonstration to also protest the American War in Viet Nam and eventually put a stop to one war. But we had little impact on halting the war machine and our dependence on fossil fuels.

I went on to work for the fossil fuel industry with many regrets. I helped plant the stakes which would lead to the largest coal mine in the world. I was at Exxon Headquarters in 1977 when they had finished their climate study showing that burning fossil fuels would be a problem. They ripped the study out of my hands before I realized what it meant and hid it in a drawer for 40 years. (Partly true). I had many arguments with my colleagues when I suggested we could use the sun and wind for energy. I started Engineering School at Wyoming where we discussed Peak Oil, but also the techniques that would be needed when tight-seamed oil and tar sands had to be tapped. My friends in the Petroleum field thought that those highly polluting techniques would never see the day. I also was in close contact with the Climate Scientists though a family member that was on the faculty and who eventually worked for NOAA.

In 2010 the International Energy Agency proposed a plan to the 40 OECD nations for developing a charging infrastructure and the automobile industry promised to build electric vehicles. The goal was for Germany and France to have 1 million chargers by 2015, and 40% of the vehicles to be EV by 2017. Today they have less than 15,000 chargers and less than 2% of their vehicles are electric. Only Norway has adopted the plan, and the Big Oil has blocked any investment in producing batteries. Today the propaganda machine has moulded public opinion against batteries and EV. Batteries and solar panels are recyclable, they are much less harmful to the environment than fossil fuels, they last 25 years and there is a Return on Investment after less than 2 years. Remember, there is zero ROI with fossil fuels. At present rates Europe will only have enough batteries to make 4% of their vehicles electric. That is why I am here today.

I have borrowed that original plan and expanded it into the Windyday Concept. I would like cities on all continents to declare a Climate Emergency and to implement this concept. They would then invest in worker cooperative factories to build their own batteries, solar panels, wind & tide turbines, yellow vests, pitchforks and tiny homes where needed. This would give us the building blocks of a Green New Deal. It would be best to use labor intensive production techniques since we need to transition people from our fossil fuel based economy. This will require training. We need to have EV mechanics but also be able to convert existing ICE trucks, buses and vehicles to electric power. We have two generations of people that have lost contact with the soil. We need local farms for our food supply until we can electrify our transportation fleet. If we want to replace plastic we need to plant hemp and bamboo. This will detoxify the soil, restore the micro-filamentous network which gives life, and are seven times better at capturing CO2 than trees.

This is a far bigger challenge than any faced by our ancestors. In the past we have said to our children that they were the first generation to see the effects of climate change and the last to do something about it. But the way the Arctic is heating up, we join you in that statement.

Rory Gallagher used to say, "Let's get to work."