

Vermonters for a Clean Environment

Bringing Environmental Justice and Corporate Accountability to Vermont Communities Since 1999

House Transportation Committee

Alison Despathy

Community & Environmental Health Director

April 8, 2026



About Us

Vermonters for a Clean Environment is a statewide grassroots organization and non-profit corporation. We believe that Vermont's economic health depends on its environmental health.

VCE was founded in 1999 by citizens in southwestern Vermont who joined together to deal with an inappropriate industrial development project. VCE's members now come from all over Vermont.

Mission

VCE advocates for the wellbeing of all Vermonters, striving for the protection of the natural world: land, air, water, wildlife, people, and especially the web of life.

We unite to pursue the common goals of encouraging economic development with minimal environmental impacts and preserving Vermont's natural beauty.

We inspire and engage citizens in longterm planning for sustainable economic, environmental, telecom and energy policies that will benefit Vermont communities and Mother Earth.



Vermont Energy Perspective



“Vermonters use less total energy than the residents of any other state in the nation and their total energy consumption per capita is among the lowest five states.”

“The state has the lowest energy-related carbon dioxide emissions of any state in the nation”

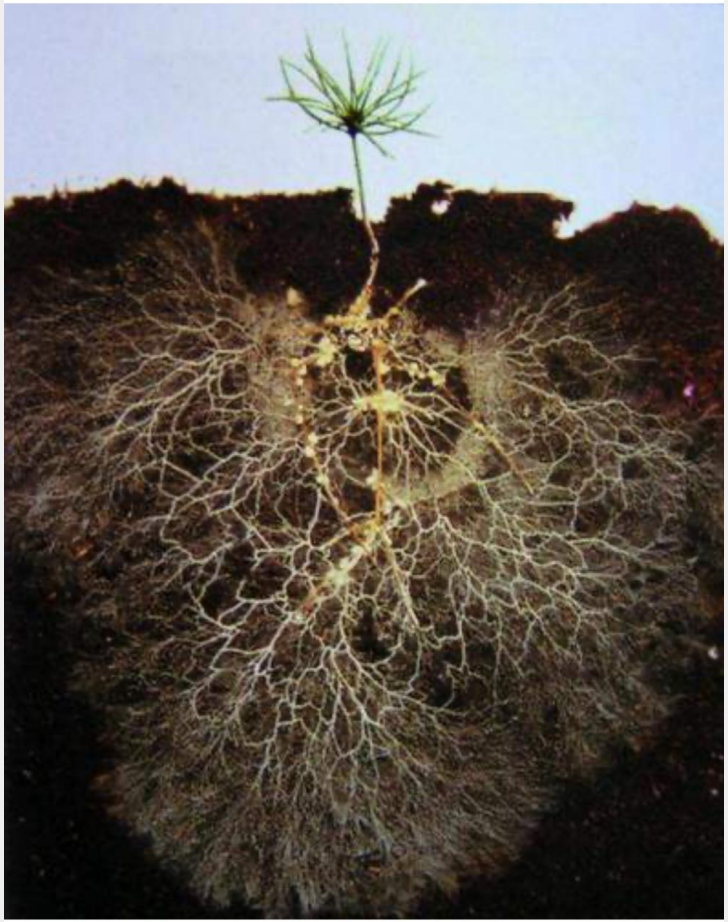
Vermont has the greatest in state net energy generation from renewable sources. Our energy consumption is for basic living necessities: heat, transportation, lights, cooking.

US Energy Information Adminsitration

VERMONT'S CARBON SINK

Mycelium are incredibly tiny "threads" of the greater fungal organism that wrap around or bore into tree roots. Taken together, myecelium composes what's called a "mycorrhizal network," which connects individual plants together to transfer water, nitrogen, carbon and other minerals.

Underground Networking: The Amazing Connections Beneath Your Feet - National Forest Foundation



A cross-section of the a seedling connected to the mycorrhizal network. Source.

Vermont's forests cover 4.6 million acres or 78% of the state

Overview of Vermont's Forests | Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation



Efficiency Vermont receives funding from electric ratepayers through the Energy Efficiency Charge (EEC), which is collected based on energy consumption.

—2019, Vermont utilities collected over $57 million from ratepayers

—Efficiency Vermont 2026 Budget amount is $49,863,797

This funding supports various energy efficiency initiatives and programs aimed at reducing electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions

https://puc.vermont.gov/energy-efficiency-utility-program/eeu-budgets-performance-goals-and-annual-plans

S.65~Ed McNamara~Letter to Legislature~3-12-2025.pdf

WEATHERIZATION IN VERMONT



Over 38,000 homes and apartments across the state received comprehensive weatherization between 2008 and 2023,

Weatherizing Homes and Supporting Vermonters



Weatherizing Homes and Supporting Vermonters | Climate Change in Vermont

JFO Fuel Tax Overview

GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT 2020

Final Report of the Clean Heat Standard Equity Advisory Group to the Vermont Legislature

- **by Jan. 1, 2025: not less than 26% below 2005 emissions;**
- **by Jan. 1, 2030: not less than 40% below 1990 emissions; and**
- **by Jan. 1, 2050: not less than 80% below 1990 emissions.**

The GWSA mandates any action taken to reduce emissions must be technologically feasible, cost effective and equitable.

"to prioritize the most cost-effective, technologically feasible, and equitable greenhouse gas emissions reduction pathways and adaptation and preparedness strategies informed by scientific and technical expertise; "

Proving an impossible task, every proposal significantly raises the costs of heating fuel or transportation fuel, thus bringing economic collateral damage to Vermonters of increased costs for all living expenses.

Draft Bill Template. H-0688 As Passed by Both House and Senate Official.pdf. Act 153- Summary

REPORTS CONCLUDE HARM TO VERMONTERS



Multiple reports and studies have concluded that the proposed measures to reduce emissions such as the clean heat standard, the cap and invest program, advanced clean car and truck, and ecosystem services are NOT the right fit for Vermont, and would have undue adverse effects on Vermonters, especially low income Vermonters. None of the programs have been technologically feasible, cost effective or equitable as required by the law. Further, they drive a carbon market, 'ripe for fraud' as determined by the Vermont Public Utility Commission.

W~Mia Watson~Equity Advisory Group Clean Heat Standard Final Report~1-16-2025.pdf

DraftPriorityActions_April.pdf



Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding Viable Approaches to a Cap-and-Invest Program

"Although it is possible to insulate low- and moderate-income Vermonters from the resulting increased fuel costs, the TA does not describe any feasible methodology for doing so at this time. Due to rising healthcare and housing costs, increased property taxes, and higher prices generally due to inflation (and the uncertainty about the current direction of inflation) it is a very difficult time to impose the costs on Vermonters that would result from joining the WCI.".

W~Ashlynn Doyon~Report- Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding Viable Approaches to a Cap-and-Invest Program~3-25-2025.pdf

Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding Viable Approaches to a Cap-and-Invest Program

The TA's key conclusions about the economic effects of increased fuel costs on Vermont households are as follows:

- "Not every household will be able to adjust their fuel expenditures or will receive subsidies, especially in the early years of the program."

- "Such households will see their energy expenditures rise as a result of a policy."

W~Ashlynn Doyon~Report- Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding Viable Approaches to a Cap-and-Invest Program~3-25-2025.pdf

The Sawyer Family Case Study

The Sawyer family lives in Island Pond (Essex County), one works in forestry and construction, the other as a home health aide. Both must drive substantial distances to work sites, often in poor weather conditions and on primarily dirt roads. They need vehicles with good clearance and 4WD or AWD.

Family Income: $58,985 (Essex County median household income). Their monthly take home pay is $4,000.

Driving Costs: The Sawyers, like many others in rural parts of Vermont, must drive a long way to do their jobs, to see friends and family, and to run errands. They average 91.5 miles per day each (Essex County average). The Sawyers drive a 2015 Ford F-250 (13 mpg) and a 2013 Chevy Equinox (24 mpg). Both vehicles are financed via used-car loans at high interest rates, with total loan payments of $900/month.

The Sawyer family buys 3,960 gallons of fuel per year to run the two vehicles. At the current average price per gallon of $3.386 in Essex County, the family spends $13,408 per year on fuel for their vehicles.

Home Heating: The Sawyer family lives in a home originally built in 1850. They heat with oil, a woodstove, and sometimes kerosene. Their home has not had an energy audit or any systematic efficiency work because the Sawyers cannot miss work to be home for the audit. The Sawyers do what they can to button things up for winter. The family buys log-length firewood from a friend and processes it themselves. The cost of this averages out to $500/year for the roughly 5 cord they burn each winter. This is their cheapest form of heat, and they rely on the woodstove as much as they can. The family's oil furnace is older and runs at 80% efficiency. Heating oil retail prices in Island Pond are high: as of Jan. 27, 2025, quoted prices are at least $4.20 per gallon. In a typical year the Sawyers buy about 600 gallons of oil costing a total of $2,520 per year. They occasionally buy kerosene or propane when they don't have the money for a fuel oil delivery, spending about $500/year on those. Effects of Joining WCI: The added fuel cost at the initial, lowest WCI price ($0.26/gallon) for the Sawyer family would be about $1,000 – their spending to fuel their vehicles would increase to $14,399 per year, almost a third of their take-home income.

W~Ashlynn Doyon~Report- Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding Viable Approaches to a Cap-and-Invest Program~3-25-2025.pdf

Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding Viable Approaches to a Cap-and-Invest Program

"A family like the Sawyers has two adults working hard, with a take-home pay of $4,000 per month. Because of where they live, they spend hours per day driving; this time is unpaid and also not available to do things like research and apply for energy-efficiency rebates. They cannot reduce their consumption in any meaningful way in either the transportation or thermal sector. Most likely, a cap-and-invest program enacted today would result in increased costs for their family that they are unable to afford and do not have any real ability to avoid."

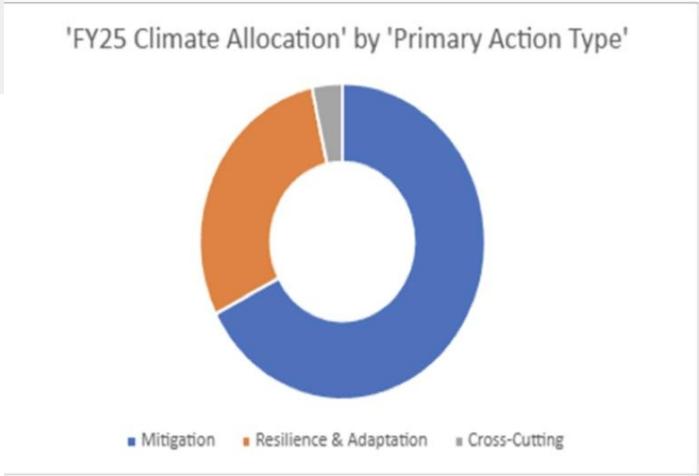
W~Ashlynn Doyon~Report- Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding Viable Approaches to a Cap-and-Invest Program~3-25-2025.pdf

Recommendations to the General Assembly Regarding Viable Approaches to a Cap-and-Invest Program

"Vermont is a rural, cold climate state with some of the oldest housing stock in the country, leading to above-average per-capita energy costs. Many Vermonters, particularly in rural counties, cannot choose to drive the most fuel efficient cars available given the seasonal conditions of their roads. And whatever vehicle a Vermonter drives, whether diesel, gas, hybrid, or electric, it is substantially less efficient due to the cold, snow, and other conditions."

FY 25 Climate Action Funding in Vermont

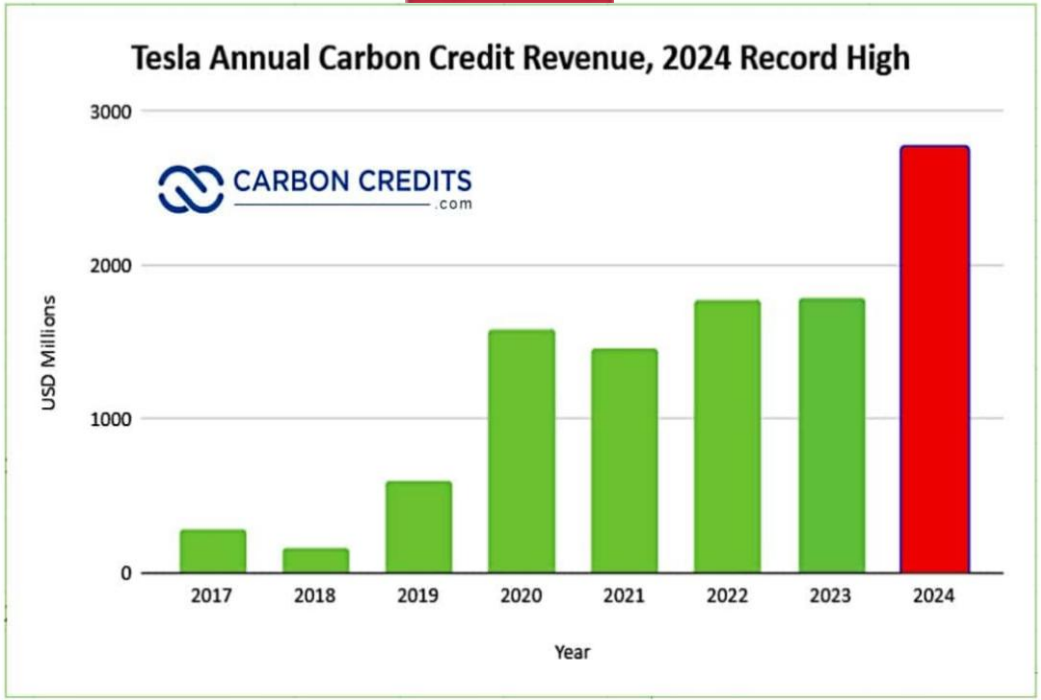
Climate action funds representing new and expanded resources in Fiscal Year 2025, totaling $524,508,384.



[W~Julie Moore~Vermont State Climate Spending FY25 and Beyond~4-17-2025.pdf]

1. **Mitigation: $353,547,850**. Mitigation efforts reduce greenhouse gas emissions through programs including weatherization, renewable energy projects, and sustainable transportation.
2. **Resilience & Adaptation: $153,020,486**. Resilience and adaptation efforts aim to enhance Vermont's ability to withstand, recover from, and prepare for climate-related impacts. Programs include infrastructure improvements, flood hazard mitigation, and community resilience.
3. **Cross-Cutting: $17,940,048**. These programs support overarching goals that intersect with mitigation and resilience and adaptation, such as workforce training and community engagement.

“Tesla’s profits took a hit in 2024, dropping 23%. But one revenue stream kept surging—carbon credit sales. The carmaker reached a new record in selling regulatory credits, recording a 54% jump from 2023.”



[Tesla's Carbon Credit Revenue Soars to $2.76 Billion Amid Profit Drop]

“In Q4 2024 alone, Tesla earned $692 million from selling regulatory credits or carbon credits, accounting for nearly 30% of its quarterly net income of $2.33 billion.... the company’s total carbon credit revenue for 2024 surged to $2.76 billion, marking a 54% year-over-year increase from $1.79 billion in 2023. This substantial boost underscores the ongoing demand for emissions credits as legacy automakers struggle to meet regulatory targets.”

Tesla's Carbon Credit Revenue Soars to $2.76 Billion Amid Profit Drop



“Since 2017, Tesla’s total earnings from these transactions have soared to over $10.4 billion. It has become one of the most lucrative aspects of its business.

This revenue comes at a minimal cost to Tesla, making it a near-pure profit stream. Unlike other automakers that must purchase credits to comply with emissions regulations, Tesla generates them simply by selling zero-emission vehicles.”

Tesla's Carbon Credit Revenue Soars to $2.76 Billion Amid Profit Drop



“This resilience is due in part to the slow transition of legacy automakers to electric vehicles. While companies like Ford and General Motors have made strides in EV production, many still rely on Tesla’s credits to meet tightening emissions standards in the U.S., Europe, and China.



With increasingly stringent regulations worldwide—such as the European Union’s plan to ban new gasoline and diesel car sales by 2035—the demand for carbon credits is unlikely to disappear anytime soon.”



Children mining for cobalt in the Congo – Carter Center photo

Mining Minerals - Child Labor and Forced Labor

Cobalt, lithium and copper are necessary for electric vehicles and electrification.

CHINA'S ROLE IN CHILD AND FORCED LABOR IN THE CONGO EXPLORED AT CECC (Congressional Executive Commission on China) HEARING entitled, "From Cobalt to Cars- How China exploits Child and Forced Labor in the Congo."

"Around 70% of the world's cobalt supply comes from the DRC and 41% of all batteries containing cobalt are imported from the People's Republic of China"

Miners work in unsafe worksites and reliance on child and forced Congolese labor, as well as environmental degradation are rampant. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that at least 25,000 children are working in cobalt mines in the DRC.

CBS News finds children mining cobalt in Democratic Republic of Congo

2022-TVPRA-List-of-Goods-v3.pdf

From Cobalt to Cars: How China Exploits Child and Forced Labor in ...

CECC Chair Representative Chris Smith

“the biggest beneficiaries of this cobalt continue to remain silent and refuse to face this uncomfortable truth: From dirt to battery, from cobalt to cars, the entire system is fueled by violence, cruelty, and corruption… By ignoring these rights and by treating people including children as expendable, China is committing gross violations of human rights and is seeking to rewrite the international order—all while controlling the supply chains of this critical metal, cobalt…The United States has been asleep at the wheel for far too long and China has taken advantage of that. We need to provide alternative options—options that champion transparency, human rights, peace, and prosperity for all.”

CECC Cochair Senator Jeff Merkley

"Chinese companies and the Chinese government directly profit from forced and child labor used to mine these minerals, extending their abusive practices across continents. And they supply American companies that produce products we use every day. American consumers deserve to be protected from becoming unwitting and unwilling accomplices in these abuses...both the Executive Branch and Congress have important roles to play to reduce and eliminate labor and other human rights abuses in DRC mining operations. Addressing these issues is an opportunity for the United States to lead the world in both clean, sustainable energy and in human rights."

Department of Labor- Child Labor reports

"For the first time in decades, progress toward eliminating child labor has reversed and the number of children working in conditions of child labor has increased."

"Thousands of children miss school and work in terrible conditions to produce cobalt for lithium-ion batteries, a product which carries a label that simply says, "produced in China." Entire families may work in cobalt mines in the DRC, and when parents are killed by landslides or collapsing mine shafts, children are orphaned with no option but to continue working. (20) Both adults and children are also trafficked to work in eastern DRC "artisanal" mines, where much of the abusive labor conditions occur."



2022-TVPRA-List-of-Goods-v3.pdf

Department of Labor- Child Labor reports

"Tracking the cobalt supply chain requires knowledge of trade data, supplier information, transport routes, and processing steps. While large-scale mining operations get more oversight than smaller, artisanal mines, cobalt from both large-scale mines and artisanal mines are refined together, predominantly in China, and then further processed into battery components and sold to consumers, who are unaware that the product contains an input that is often produced with child labor."

Department of Labor- Child Labor Reports

—ILO. Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward. June 10, 2021.

—Kara, Siddharth. Is your phone tainted by the misery of the 35,000 children in Congo's mines? October 12, 2018.

—U.S. Department of State. 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report: Democratic Republic of the Congo. June 2021.



Apple and Google named in US lawsuit over Congolese child cobalt mining deaths

Dell, Microsoft and Tesla also among tech firms named in case brought by families of children killed or injured while mining in DRC

- Comment: 'I saw the unbearable grief inflicted on families by cobalt mining. I pray for change'



Exploitation in focus

The lawsuit argues that Apple, Google, Dell, Microsoft and Tesla all aided and abetted the mining companies that profited from the labour of children who were forced to work in dangerous conditions - conditions that ultimately led to death and serious injury.

The Guardian



"THIS IS WHAT WE DIE FOR"

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO POWER THE GLOBAL TRADE IN COBALT

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. We reach almost every country in the world and have more than 2 million members and supporters who drive forward our fight for rights, as well as more than 5 million activists who strengthen our calls for justice.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

First published in 2016 by
Amnesty International Ltd
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

© Amnesty International 2016

Index: AFR 62/5183/2016
Original Language: English
Printed by Amnesty International,
International Secretariat, United Kingdom

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Cover photo: Charles, 13 years old, works with his father in the afternoons and goes to school in the morning when he has the money. Charles sorts and washes the minerals, before helping to transport them to a nearby trading house, which buys the ore, May 2015. © Amnesty International

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 2016 REPORT







SAMSUNG



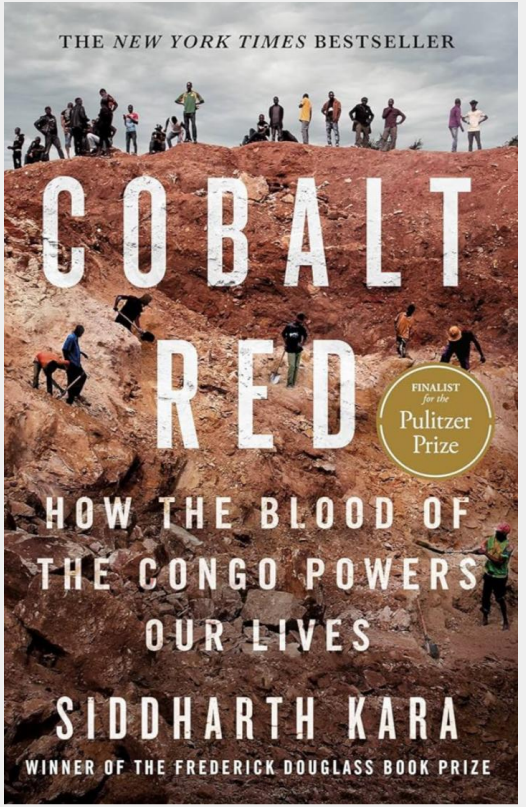
COBALT RED- Siddharth Kara

“An unflinching investigation reveals the human rights abuses behind the Congo’s cobalt mining operation—and the moral implications that affect us all.

Cobalt Red is the searing, first-ever exposé of the immense toll taken on the people and environment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by cobalt mining, as told through the testimonies of the Congolese people themselves. Activist and researcher Siddharth Kara has traveled deep into cobalt territory to document the testimonies of the people living, working, and dying for cobalt. To uncover the truth about brutal mining practices, Kara investigated militia-controlled mining areas, traced the supply chain of child-mined cobalt from toxic pit to consumer-facing tech giants, and gathered shocking testimonies of people who endure immense suffering and even die mining cobalt.

Cobalt is an essential component to every lithium-ion rechargeable battery made today, the batteries that power our smartphones, tablets, laptops, and electric vehicles. Roughly 75 percent of the world’s supply of cobalt is mined in the Congo, often by peasants and children in subhuman conditions. Billions of people in the world cannot conduct their daily lives without participating in a human rights and environmental catastrophe in the Congo. In this stark and crucial book, Kara argues that we must all care about what is happening in the Congo—because we are all implicated.”

Cobalt Red



Lithium Extraction and Ecological Devastation

The demand for lithium has rapidly increased, as the global market's annual consumption has risen by 8.9 percent annually. This demand will only intensify as hybrid and electric vehicles, energy storage systems, and portable electronics become increasingly widespread.

Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia—together referred to as the "Lithium Triangle"—hold more than 75 percent of the world's supply beneath their salt flats.



The Lithium Triangle region. YALE ENVIRONMENT 360

The Lithium Triangle: Where Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia Meet

Metals, Minerals & Glass Market Research | Mining, Manufacturing & Recycling Industry Reports - The Freedonia Group

Battery Minerals - A View on Lithium Brine Projects in Latin America - Lexology

Lithium Extraction and Ecological Devastation

Bolivia is home to Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat that spans 4,000 square miles. Beneath this natural wonder are massive lithium deposits, composing about 50 percent of the earth's total.

Lithium extraction in Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile requires significant amounts of water, at approximately 500,000 gallons per ton of lithium. In Chile's Salar de Atacama, lithium extraction being performed by various companies has consumed 65 percent of the region's water supply. This has not only created extreme water shortages, but has also had a substantial impact on the abilities of local farmers to grow crops and maintain livestock.

The Salar de Uyuni Will Be Mined for Lithium | JSTOR Daily

The spiralling environmental cost of our lithium battery addiction | WIRED

Bolivia's role in the energy transition threatened by lithium uncertainty - Atlantic Council

The Lithium Triangle: Where Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia Meet

Why the Rush to Mine Lithium Could Dry Up the High Andes

The demand for lithium for EV batteries is driving a mining boom in an arid Andes region of Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia, home to half the world's reserves. Hydrologists are warning the mines could drain vital ecosystems and deprive Indigenous communities of precious water.

BY FRED PEARCE · SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Saving the planet, however, should not come at the cost of destroying fragile ecosystems. Lithium mining cannot be considered a long-term or just solution if it contributes to water depletion and air pollution, which have severe and disparate impacts for local communities that are already struggling in many ways to make ends meet.



Brine pools at the Soquimich lithium mine on a salt flat in northern Chile. IVAN ALVARADO / REUTERS VIA ALAMY

Lithium Extraction and Ecological Devastation

Lithium demands are predicted to rise 2.4 million metric tons per year in the next decade, four times the current use. Australia is the primary lithium supplier but, due to green energy needs, global mining corporations have descended like parasites on the Lithium Triangle — Argentina-Chile-Bolivia, home of more than half of the world's lithium dissolved in ancient underground water. Water that is essential to the lives and environments of Indigenous communities in the Andes



The Lithium Triangle: Where Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia Meet

Lithium Extraction and Ecological Devastation

On Sept. 19, 2022, Fred Pearce wrote an article for Yale Environment 360 titled, "Why the Rush to Mine Lithium Could Dry Up the High Andes."

Pearce discussed that a mobile phone requires a tenth of an ounce of lithium compared to 130 pounds in electric cars. Lithium is typically extracted via evaporative mining — for every ton of lithium, about a half a million gallons of water evaporates, bringing risk of drought to the Andes and Indigenous communities.

The Andes hold unique, diverse and intact ecosystems — salt flats, wetlands, pastures and lakes. Hydrologists warn lithium extraction will result in desertification. This green vehicle drive intended to fight climate change sacrifices environments, indigenous communities and water sources that nourish life.

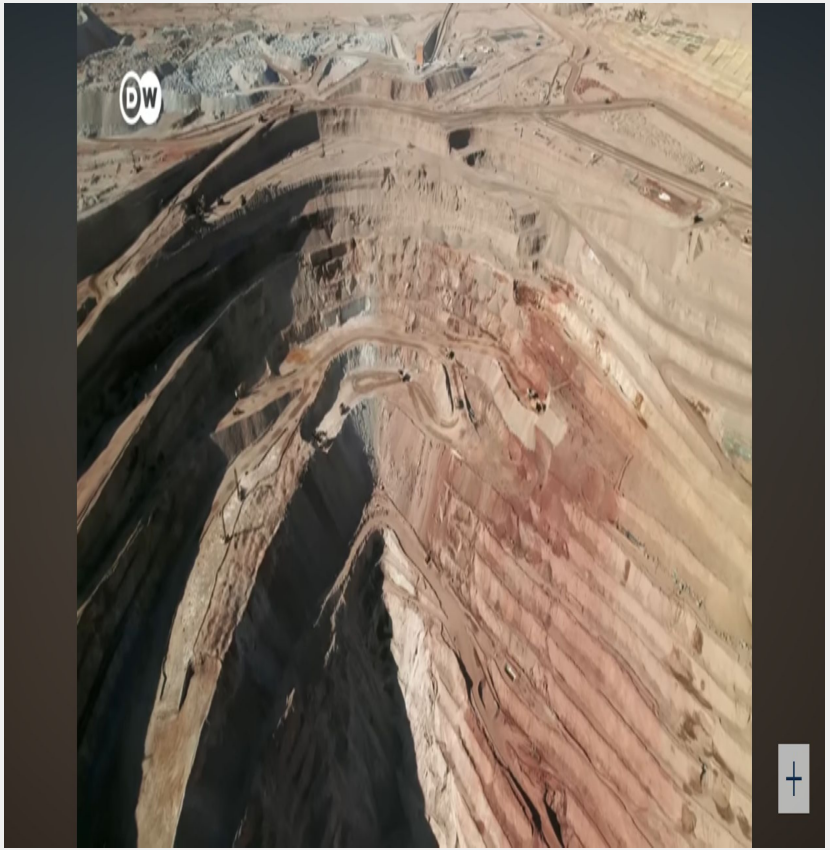

DW
DIRTY COPPER
The Dark Side of the Energy Transition

Copper- the Raw Material of the world's energy transition

The largest copper mines are in South America, where over 5.5 million tons of copper are mined annually. The Chilean state-owned CODELCO mine is the largest copper mine in the world. The people in this region of the country have the highest rates of cancer, severe respiratory disease, birth defects, premature death, infant mortality, and tumors. The air, land and water are contaminated with over 66 toxins from mining operations, including arsenic and lead. Schools and neighborhoods are covered with fine black particulate dust and levels of arsenic in the air are well over 200% of the acceptable limits. The water is drying up due to copper mining and many areas are no longer suitable for growing food or even living.

The people are taken advantage of in the mines and protective gear for most is basically nonexistent. Speaking out about the injustice results in loss of work — work that many are dependent on to feed their families. The women in this area have banded together to reclaim the health of their children, water and lands and basic human rights. Equity does not stop at the borders of Vermont. Be prepared to cry if you watch this video about copper mining in Chile.

Copper and the dark side of the energy transition | DW Documentary - YouTube



Environmental and Social Injustice

Does any of this sound like real green policy or an effective and ethical solution? Is destroying delicate ecosystems, precious water supplies, and Indigenous communities justified in order to "save the earth". Destroying the earth, depleting water supplies, wrecking communities, abusing humans and hoarding minerals defines environmental and social injustice. Is this what we support?

This level of destruction is criminal and counterproductive to the goal. Due to minimal regulations and protections, there are approximately 50 mining projects licensed in Argentina alone. This is an abusive corporate drive for massive resource extraction as demands, incentives and propaganda regarding green energy and electric vehicles are promoted and marketed to the people, politicians and industry.

BIOFUELS AND DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON

Deforestation in the rainforest of Amazon is driven by many factors. Agricultural expansion, including biofuel crops, such as genetically modified soy and sugar beets are two of the primary drivers of deforestation.

185 million acres cleared since 1978

[Scientific Insights- Deforestation in the Amazon]



[Deforestation in Brazilian Amazon hits highest annual level in a ...]

BIOFUELS AND DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON

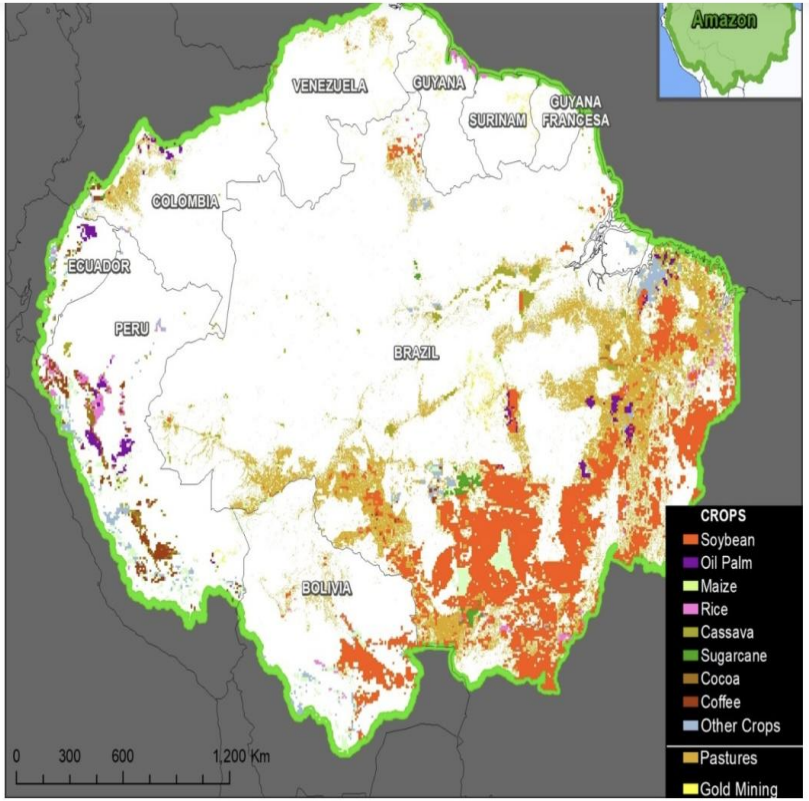
Since 1978, over 185 million acres of forests have been lost in the Amazon.

Between 2001 and 2020, the Amazon lost over 54.2 million hectares (approximately 134 million acres), with agriculture being a major contributor.

Biofuels Contribution: the expansion of crops for biofuels, such as soy and sugarcane, is a significant factor in the overall agricultural deforestation rates.

Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest: causes, effects, solutions

New datasets identify which crops deforest the Amazon, and whereSome of the crops are well-known drivers of deforestation, such as soy, which covers over 67.5 million hectares (166 million acres) across much of southern Brazil and northeastern Bolivia.



Deforestation in the Amazon

Deep sea bed mineral mining

Deep seabed mining is the extraction of critical mineral resources from the ocean floor. The deep seabed has valuable resources like manganese, nickel, cobalt, copper, and rare earth elements. Critical minerals are used in everything from defense systems and batteries to smartphones and medical devices. Access to these minerals is a key factor in the resilience of U.S. supply chains.

Douglas McCauley | UCSB Center for Responsible Machine Learning

Deep Seabed Hard Minerals Mining NOAA

NOAA accelerates permitting timeline for deep seabed mining applications

Final rule will streamline the exploration license, commercial recovery permitting process

January 1,, 2026

NOAA accelerates permitting timeline for deep seabed mining applications | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Deep sea bed mineral mining

The International Seabed Authority and Deep Seabed Mining | United Nations

The Intergovernmental Seabed Authority has approved 28 mining contracts covering 360,000 square miles of ocean floor. Over 90 nongovernmental organizations have demanded a moratorium on ocean mining until impacts are understood.



Remotely operated vehicle traverses over an extensive field of polymetallic nodules on the deep sea floor. Credit: NOAA.

June Tierney quote - Climate Council meeting

The problem and risks associated with this extreme carbon reduction obsession in Vermont was summed up perfectly at the Vermont Climate Council meeting on December 16, when Climate Council member and soon to be retired Commissioner of the Department of Public Service, June Tierney, stated,

"With all due respect, as someone who lost her home in Irene, I think the emphasis of this council is completely misdirected. We need to be thinking about how we use our resources and we should be directing those at resiliency in my opinion and also frankly in recovery because we can think large thoughts about remission reductions…….our emissions at the end of the day and our reductions of them may be morally just and therefore compelling but it is a compulsion to focus on them when the immediate needs of keeping people safe, directly knowing that we've got storms coming, are being sidelined and neglected in order to pursue those measures. And by that I mean every cent that goes into polices that are directed toward reductions when we need to be directing every cent towards hardening our systems and helping people to survive here. I would urge this council to rethink where it's putting its intellectual capital…. I cannot overemphasize how wrong I think what it is we are doing, those are my parting words to the council."

Planet of the Humans

[Michael Moore Presents: Planet of the Humans | A Film by Jeff Gibbs]

