



Cornwall Alliance

Background information for reporters

The [Cornwall Alliance \(CA\)](#) is a fringe US evangelical Christian group that claims there is no evidence that increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will cause an environmental problem.

The group, which does not disclose its funders, claims environmentalism is “[one of the greatest threats to society and the church today.](#)” The group’s [Evangelical Declaration on Global Warming](#) states: “*There is no convincing scientific evidence that human contribution to greenhouse gases is causing dangerous global warming.*”

Though it portrays itself as independent, the CA is closely tied to the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT), who are also here in Rome promoting climate science denial.

Funding

The CA is a project of the US’s “[James Partnership](#)” which does not disclose its funders. In 2012, [more than half of the James Partnership’s \\$340,0000 income](#) came through a “dark money” funding group known as Donors Trust (DT), which is exclusively and explicitly tied to conservative donors who want to give anonymously to promote “free enterprise” and low government regulation.

DT, which helps to hide the identity of donors, has been described as the “[dark money ATM](#)” of the conservative right in the US. DT and its sister organisation Donors Capital Fund (DCF) funnelled millions of dollars to groups that deny climate science or oppose laws to cut fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions. Major contributors to DT and DCF include foundations funded and controlled by the US oil billionaire Koch brothers, who are major backers of the US Republican movement.

According to [US tax records](#), about one quarter of the James Partnership’s income is spent on the salary of **Calvin Beisner**, the founder and spokesperson for the Cornwall Alliance, and who will be speaking in Rome.

Key members:

[Calvin Beisner](#) has a Ph.D in Scottish History, and is a former Professor of Social Ethics at Knox Theological Seminary. Beisner is known as a “leading evangelical climate-change skeptic”.

In 2012, Dr. Beisner [claimed the modern environmental movement](#) represents “the greatest threat to Western civilization” because it combines “the utopian vision of Marxism, the scientific facade of secular humanism, and the religious fanaticism of jihad” into a pseudo-religion that undermines Christianity. Beisner claimed the 2012 tropical

storm Sandy, which killed more than 200 people and caused billions of dollars in damages, was “[perhaps judgement](#)” from God.

In 2014, CA Scholar and advisory board member **Dr Roy Spencer**, of the University of Alabama, called on people to use the term “[global warming Nazis](#)” to describe anyone who uses the term “denier” to describe groups or people who deny the findings of large amounts of scientific literature on climate change.

The CA’s “Evangelical Declaration on Global Warming” states: “*We deny that Earth and its ecosystems are the fragile and unstable products of chance, and particularly that Earth’s climate system is vulnerable to dangerous alteration because of minuscule changes in atmospheric chemistry.*”

History



In late 2005, US evangelical leaders like [Rick Warren](#) joined a drive to back a major initiative to fight global warming, saying “millions of people could die in this century because of climate change, most of them our poorest global neighbors.”

To counter this historic shift in the evangelical community, a group called the “[Interfaith Stewardship Alliance](#)” (ISA) was launched to oppose action on carbon emissions and to deny the existence of climate change. One of the men guiding this group was Paul Driessen, a PR professional and [consultant](#) for ExxonMobil, the mining industry, and [for CFACT](#).

For “streamlining” reasons, ISA [re-launched](#) as the Cornwall Alliance in [2005](#). With the new name came a redesigned website, [highly produced](#) web videos, and an organized [network](#) of churches to distribute climate change denying propaganda to hundreds of pastors around the country. CFACT President David Rothbard has been hailed as the “[driving force](#)” behind the Cornwall Declaration public relations effort. Calvin Beisner sits on [CFACT’s Board of Advisors](#).

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The Heartland Institute

Background for reporters

The [Heartland Institute](#) is a Chicago-based, libertarian think tank that promotes “public policy based on individual liberty, limited government, and free markets.”

Heartland has been one of the organizations at the forefront of US campaigns denying the scientific consensus on man-made climate change and attacking progress on climate and clean energy policies.

Heartland’s views run against [97 per cent of all peer-reviewed scientific research](#) on climate change and are counter to every major science academy in the world.

Heartland is a key player in pushing climate science denial in the US, where the vast majority of the Republicans in Congress refuse to accept global warming science. These Republican elected officials draw heavily on climate denying “science” published by the Heartland Institute.

- The Heartland Institute has organised nine so-called “international conference on climate change” events set up to challenge the science of climate change, and will [hold its tenth conference](#) in Washington in June 2015.
- In 2012, Heartland ran a [billboard campaign](#) that equated climate change advocacy with mass murder and terrorism. The billboard featured a picture of Ted Kaczynski (the “unabomber”) next to the text “*I still believe in Global Warming. Do You?*” Heartland intended to follow this with billboards featuring



- Charles Manson and Osama bin Laden. Heartland [claimed](#): “The most prominent advocates of global warming aren't scientists; they are murderers, tyrants, and madmen.”
- Heartland funds and hosts the “Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change” ([NIPCC](#)), a document series that looks like the reports issued by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The NIPCC produces a report called “Climate Change Reconsidered.” The last edition's (2014) main focus: [CO2 is good for plants and agriculture.](#)
 - Heartland routinely attacks climate science and scientists, especially after “climategate,” when the emails of prominent climate scientists were hacked and stolen from East Anglia University. Heartland used various lines from the emails, taken out of context, to [promote the myth](#) that a conspiracy of international science bodies are hiding the truth about the global climate.
 - When it was revealed recently that climate denying scientist, Willie Soon, of Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, had received - but not disclosed - more than \$1.25 million from the fossil fuel industry for his papers that purported to claim climate change wasn't real, it was the Heartland Institute that [ran his defence](#), issuing press releases on his behalf.

A July 2011 [Nature editorial](#) points out the group's lack of scientific credibility:
“Despite criticizing climate scientists for being overconfident about their data, models and theories, the Heartland Institute proclaims a conspicuous confidence in single studies and grand interpretations....makes many bold assertions that are often questionable or misleading.... Many climate sceptics seem to review scientific data and studies not as scientists but as attorneys, magnifying doubts and treating incomplete explanations as falsehoods rather than signs of progress towards the truth. ... The Heartland Institute and its ilk are not trying to build a theory of anything. They have set the bar much lower, and are happy muddying the waters.”

Funding:

While the Heartland Institute has not disclosed its funding sources since 2006, it received at least [\\$676,500 from ExxonMobil](#) from 1998-2006. But even ExxonMobil [dropped its funding of Heartland](#) after 2006. It has also received funding from the Koch Brothers. [Donors Capital Fund \(DCF\) and its partner organization Donors Trust \(DT\)](#) are explicitly aligned to conservative political views and allow donors to fund organizations anonymously. Heartland has received large anonymous donations of “dark money” through DCF and DT, with a combined total of at least \$10,815,644. [In the latest tax year available, 2013](#), Heartland was one of the largest recipients of money from Donors Capital Fund, receiving \$1.7 million in grants.

History:

The Heartland Institute was founded in 1984 by Chicago-based investment banker [David Padden](#). In the 1990s, Heartland [worked with the tobacco company Philip Morris](#) to question the science linking secondhand smoke to health risks, and lobbied against government public health reforms. Heartland continues to maintain a [“Smoker's Lounge”](#) section of its website with policy studies, Op-Eds, essays, and other documents that purport to “[cut] through the propaganda and exaggeration of



anti-smoking groups.” In the early 1990's, Heartland fought government regulations on tobacco by denying the health effects of secondhand tobacco smoke, while [taking significant funding from tobacco corporations](#) like RJ Reynolds and Philip Morris.

References:

<http://desmogblog.com/heartland-institute>

<http://www.polluterwatch.com/heartland-institute>

<http://www.exxonsecrets.org/html/orgfactsheet.php?id=41>

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Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT)

Background information for reporters

The **Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT)** is a free-market group that has “[waged a decades-long war on environmental activism.](#)”

Over the past 15 years, CFACT has worked to distort and attack the scientific consensus on climate change, and to confuse public opinion on the issue, regularly employing or sponsoring professional deniers and contrarians to peddle doubt and misinformation. It is a regular sponsor of the Heartland Institute’s climate change denier conferences (see Heartland info sheet).

CFACT is a member of the Cooler Heads Coalition, which describes its aim as “[dispelling the myths of global warming through sound science and analysis.](#)”



Their views run against 97 percent of all peer-reviewed scientific research on climate change and are counter to every major science academy in the world.

In December 2009, CFACT was a co-organiser of the [Copenhagen Climate Challenge](#), a conference for climate change deniers during the UN climate change conference. CFACT's Craig Rucker told the press at the time: "[We think there is no consensus on climate change and there should not be a treaty from Copenhagen based on a lack of consensus.](#)"

In December 2012, one of CFACT's delegates to the COP18 climate talks in Doha, **Lord Christopher Monckton** was permanently [expelled from the talks for impersonating an official UN party delegate](#). Monckton, who is not a climate scientist, will appear in Rome at the press conferences organised by CFACT and the Heartland Institute (see full list of "experts" for Rome). Monckton has described the Pope Francis encyclical as a "[climate-Communist](#)" declaration.

CFACT's other main speaker at the Rome events is **Marc Morano**, former communications director for the US's most prominent Republican climate denier, Sen. James Inhofe. CFACT hired Morano to run its new offshoot, ClimateDepot. Morano has regularly posted the email addresses of climate scientists on his website which has contributed to many scientists receiving vitriolic hate mail and, in some cases, death threats. What does Morano think about climate scientists? He once said: "[I seriously believe we should kick them while they're down. They deserve to be publicly flogged.](#)" He is exposed in a new film about science denial tactics called "Merchants of Doubt," where Morano boasts about his role in the targeting of climate scientists.

CFACT Funders

CFACT [has received over \\$4.1 million in funds from Donors Trust \(DT\) and Donors Capital Fund \(DCF\) between 2002-2011](#), plus an additional \$582,000 from ExxonMobil between 1998-2012. CFACT is among over a dozen organizations that get 30-70 per cent of their funding from Donors Trust and DCF - shadowy foundations described as the "dark money ATM" of the conservative right wing in the US. The DT and DCF have received significant funds through foundations controlled and financed by the US oil billionaire Koch brothers.

History:

CFACT was founded in 1985 to pursue a free-market approach to environmental issues. They describe their role as "relentlessly infusing



the environmental debate with a balanced perspective on environmental stewardship.”

Resources:

DeSmogBlog information page:

<http://www.desmogblog.com/committee-constructive-tomorrow>

SourceWatch information page:

http://sourcewatch.org/index.php/Committee_for_a_Constructive_Tomorrow

Monckton quote on “climate-

Communism” :<http://www.climatedepot.com/2015/01/03/the-great-pause-lengthens-again-global-temperature-update-the-pause-is-now-18-years-3-months/>

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QUESTIONS THE CLIMATE DENIERS IN ROME HOPE YOU WON'T ASK

- In 2012, the Heartland Institute claimed that [*“the most prominent advocates of global warming aren't scientists; they are murderers, tyrants, and madmen”*](#)
Is this what you think of the Pope's efforts on climate change?
- Lord Monckton [likened the views of Australian climate change policy advisor Ross Garnaut to a nazi](#), and said his views on climate change were “fascist”.
Is this what you think of the Pope's views?



- World Bank President [Jim Yong Kim said last year](#): “We have powerful new evidence that even if climate change falls short of the much-discussed 4°C warmer world, we could witness the rolling back of decades of development gains and force tens of millions more to live in poverty. If we don’t confront climate change, we won’t end poverty.” Do you agree with this view?
- You claim that global warming has “paused” - but how do you explain the fact that the oceans have warmed, that sea level is rising, that ice sheets are melting and we’ve just had the hottest decade on record?
- Your group member (speaker) Lord Monckton [has described Pope Francis’ approaching encyclical](#) as “a climate-Communist” document. Can you explain why you think this is linked to communism?
- Are greenhouse gases from human activity currently causing warming and climate change? Yes or No
- Are you confident that the weather is not being affected by climate change right now, and will not be disrupted in the future? Will you go on the record stating there will never be any harm caused by human induced climate change and extreme weather that results from it?
- Who is currently funding your climate change campaigns? How many climate scientists are paid employees of the Heartland Institute, CFACT or the Cornwall Alliance?
- Are any of you Roman Catholic? Do you question the importance that Pope Francis has placed on protecting God’s creation?
- Lord Monckton - you [once suggested science should only be practised by people who adhere to a religion, preferably Christian](#). Do you still think that?

The “experts” who will speak against climate science in Rome

Hal Doiron: Promoted as a NASA scientist, Dr. Doiron has published science papers on engineering, space structures, and “space shuttle pogo prevention.” Dr. Doiron has never published in peer-reviewed journals on the subject of climate change.

Richard Keen: Dr. Keen is instructor emeritus at the University of Colorado Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. According to Keen, he has experience as a meteorologist in the army and has “[done some climate modeling when I was younger and less wise](#).” He has never claimed any training as a climatologist.

Lord Christopher Monckton: British politician Lord Monckton, who dubs himself the “high priest of climate skepticism” was [sacked as head of the UK Independence Party’s Scottish branch](#). According to The Guardian’s George Monbiot, Monckton “has a degree in classics and a diploma in journalism and, as far as I can tell, no further qualifications.” Monckton [once likened a prominent government climate policy advisor to a nazi](#), claiming his views on climate change were “fascist.” He [says the Pope Francis encyclical on the environment](#) is a “climate-Communist” document.



Referring to climate scientists, Monckton told an Australian crowd: "[We are going to prosecute you, and we are going to lock you up.](#)"

Calvin Beisner: Dr. Beisner, a founder of the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation, has a Ph.D in Scottish History, and is a former Professor of Social Ethics at Knox Theological Seminary. Beisner is known as a "leading evangelical climate-change skeptic."

Thomas Sheahen: Vice chair of the board of the Science and Environment Policy Project (SEPP), an organisation set up by one of the early climate science deniers, S. Fred Singer. Questions science on [Antarctic Ice sheet melting](#), and calls environmentalism a "[surrogate religion](#)". A [copy of Sheahen's own CV](#), linked from the Heartland Institute's website, shows no relevant scientific papers published on climate change.

Marc Morano: former communications director for the US's most prominent Republican climate denier, Sen. James Inhofe. In 2009, Morano set up a new website: ClimateDepot. Morano has regularly posted climate scientists' email addresses on his website, contributing to many receiving hate mail and, in some cases, death threats. He once said of climate scientists: "[I seriously believe we should kick them while they're down. They deserve to be publicly flogged.](#)" He has been exposed in a new film about climate science denial tactics called "Merchants of Doubt".

[Morano on the Pope and climate change this week:](#)

'Instead of entering into an invalid Marriage with climate fear promoters -- a marriage that is destined for an annulment -- Pope Francis should administer last rites to the promotion of man-made climate fears and their so-called solutions. This unholy alliance must be prevented....'