

Green Notes: Weekly tips for reducing your carbon footprint from First United Methodist's Green Team:

Sen. Joe Manchin is on Big Oil's payroll

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin and his allies in Congress are holding a gun to the planet's head, insisting that fossil fuels remain the central focus of our nation's energy future. Manchin is committed to ["slow-walking" the climate crisis](#) – diverting our attention away from renewable energy sources with false solutions (carbon sequestration) and fictional "fears" (we're moving "too fast" toward renewable energy).

Big Oil is getting its money's worth from [Manchin and Company](#). (Manchin, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has received more donations from the fossil fuel lobby than any other member of Congress. The industry's largesse has filled the pockets of his colleagues as well.)

A recent report by [Inside Climate News](#) showed how energy companies and their lobbyists loaded the infrastructure bill passed last month by the Senate with \$12 billion for carbon-sequestration projects – "essentially, getting taxpayers to fund equipment to capture the climate-destroying gases that Big Oil's products emit," said author-activist Bill McKibben. "For the fossil-fuel industry, preservation of the business model is paramount – they want to burn the stuff they own, no matter the consequences."

That's the essence of the fossil fuel industry's "discourses of delay," messaging intended to circumvent the immediate, decisive action needed to prevent the climate catastrophe foretold in the most recent report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The IPCC report [spelled out the scientific evidence](#) in the strongest terms: The burning of oil, gas and coal are unequivocally warming the planet in ways that are causing

rapid changes in temperatures, precipitation, ice and sea levels, and extreme weather. Immediate global action is required, the IPCC's scientists warned. That action must include a halt to the burning of fossil fuels – for power, for plastics, for transportation. The future of life on Earth depends on the use of clean, renewable sources of energy.

Big Oil responded by doubling-down on its delay tactics, calling upon its political allies for the help they were all too ready to provide. In a [recent email](#) to the Senate majority leader, Manchin demanded “spending on innovation, not elimination.” Go ahead and fund solar panels and wind farms, he said, so long as the nation continues to pump and burn the same amount of oil and gas. Sure, provide tax credits for clean energy, but continue existing tax subsidies for fossil fuels. Federal energy policy, Manchin insisted, must be “fuel neutral.”

Here is the truth: The money being appropriated by Congress for carbon sequestration will allow polluting power plants and petrochemical facilities to continue operating longer into the future – without reducing our nation's greenhouse gas emissions. A clean, survivable future is not possible with an “all-of-the-above” energy supply. It is not possible with Joe Manchin dictating our nation's climate strategy.

This month, First UMC's Green Team will devote our Green Notes to an examination of Big Oil's tactics – the [“discourses of delay”](#) – followed by a look at actions we can take to counter these deadly misinformation campaigns.