



THE
CO₂
ISSUE

GREENING EARTH SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION:
THE CO₂
ISSUE

The CO₂ Issue, produced by Greening Earth Society,
provides valuable information on the environmental and political issues surrounding
increasing levels of CO₂ in our biosphere.

Many policy makers, environmentalists and others believe that rising CO₂ concentrations
will severely damage our planet by causing apocalyptic global warming. Such predictions have
been publicized widely and generate unnecessary fear among the public.

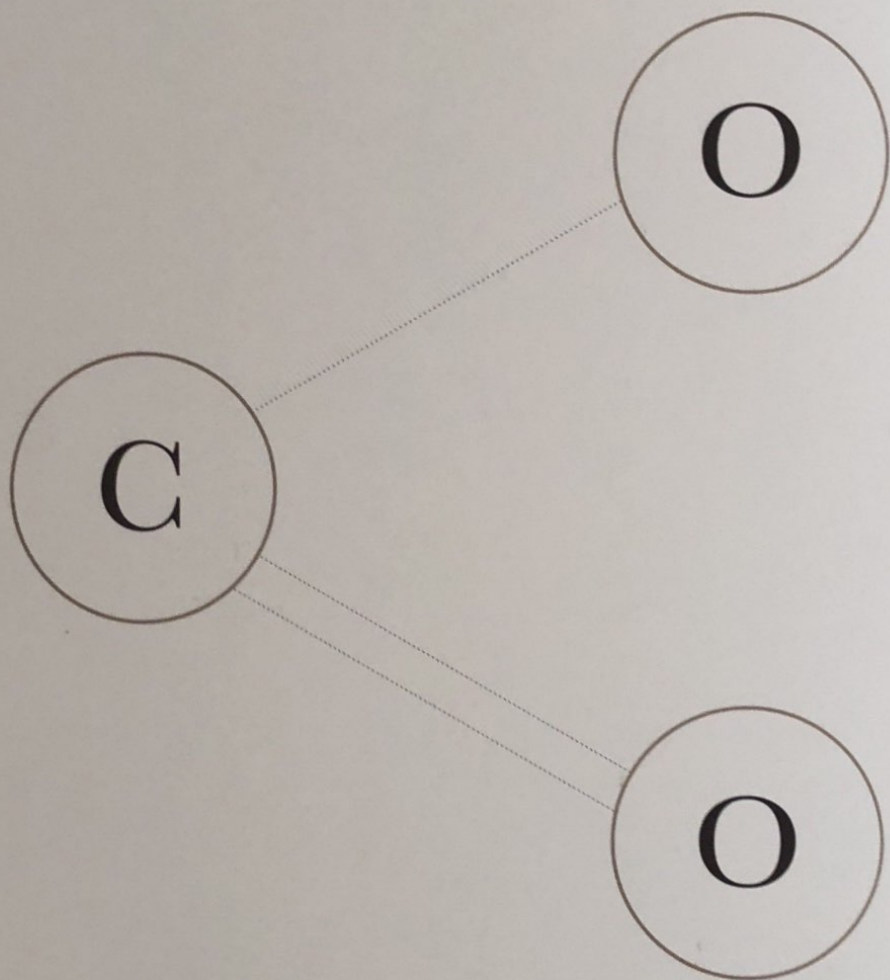
Greening Earth Society was formed to shed light on the truth
about CO₂—that it has always been a part of life on earth and is an essential nutrient for
plant, animal and human life.

The CO₂ issue has important consequences for our world's economic growth,
since we depend on fossil fuel combustion, which unavoidably creates CO₂.

Greening Earth Society, a creation of Western Fuels Association, is convinced
that citizens who understand the benefits of fossil fuels and the positive effects of CO₂ on
the earth will make decisions that benefit both humankind and the planet.

To this end, Greening Earth Society is a vehicle to provide sound information
about CO₂ and fossil fuels to educators, students, businesses and media representatives,
community leaders and policy makers. We have produced numerous publications,
including the biweekly *World Climate Report* and the annual *State of the Climate Report*, and two videos,
"The Greening of Planet Earth" and "The Greening of Plant Earth Continues."

We invite you to learn more about the benefits of CO₂ through our Web site at
www.greeningearthsociety.org or by calling us toll-free
at 877-GRN-ERTH (877-476-3784).



CO₂: NATURE'S
BUILDING
BLOCK
OR
MENACE
TO HUMANKIND?

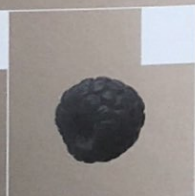
In a move that science teachers everywhere will find surprising, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has labeled carbon dioxide (CO₂) a pollutant. But CO₂ is not a pollutant; it is one of nature's most fundamental building blocks.

In this thinly veiled attempt to regulate where it has been unable to legislate, the Clinton Administration has taken its battle against fossil fuels to new ground. Many Americans may have forgotten what they learned in school about CO₂. This report offers a primer for those who refuse to sit on the sidelines while one of the most important debates of the century is carried on in Washington.

According to a computer-driven hypothesis, humankind's CO₂ emissions will trigger potentially catastrophic changes in earth's climate by inducing apocalyptic global warming. Billions of federal dollars have been spent on research in a vain attempt to prove this hypothesis.

Empirical evidence suggests that these expected negative results of fossil fuel combustion are unfounded. Instead, evidence of very modest nighttime winter warming, robust plant growth, rejuvenating forests and ample harvests abounds.

Even so, where CO₂'s positive effect is most evident, it is ignored. International policy makers and domestic environmental regulators have convinced themselves that increasing CO₂ emissions call for dramatic changes in the way we live. They assert that people must curtail their use of fossil fuels, that society must deal with "the CO₂ issue."



CO₂ IS VITAL


TO LIFE ON EARTH.

Life on earth is carbon-based. How is CO₂ essential to our existence?

Plants get their carbon from CO₂. During photosynthesis, plants use the sun's energy, CO₂ and water to make the sugars that fuel their growth. Through this process, plants store carbon in their cells and release oxygen into the atmosphere.

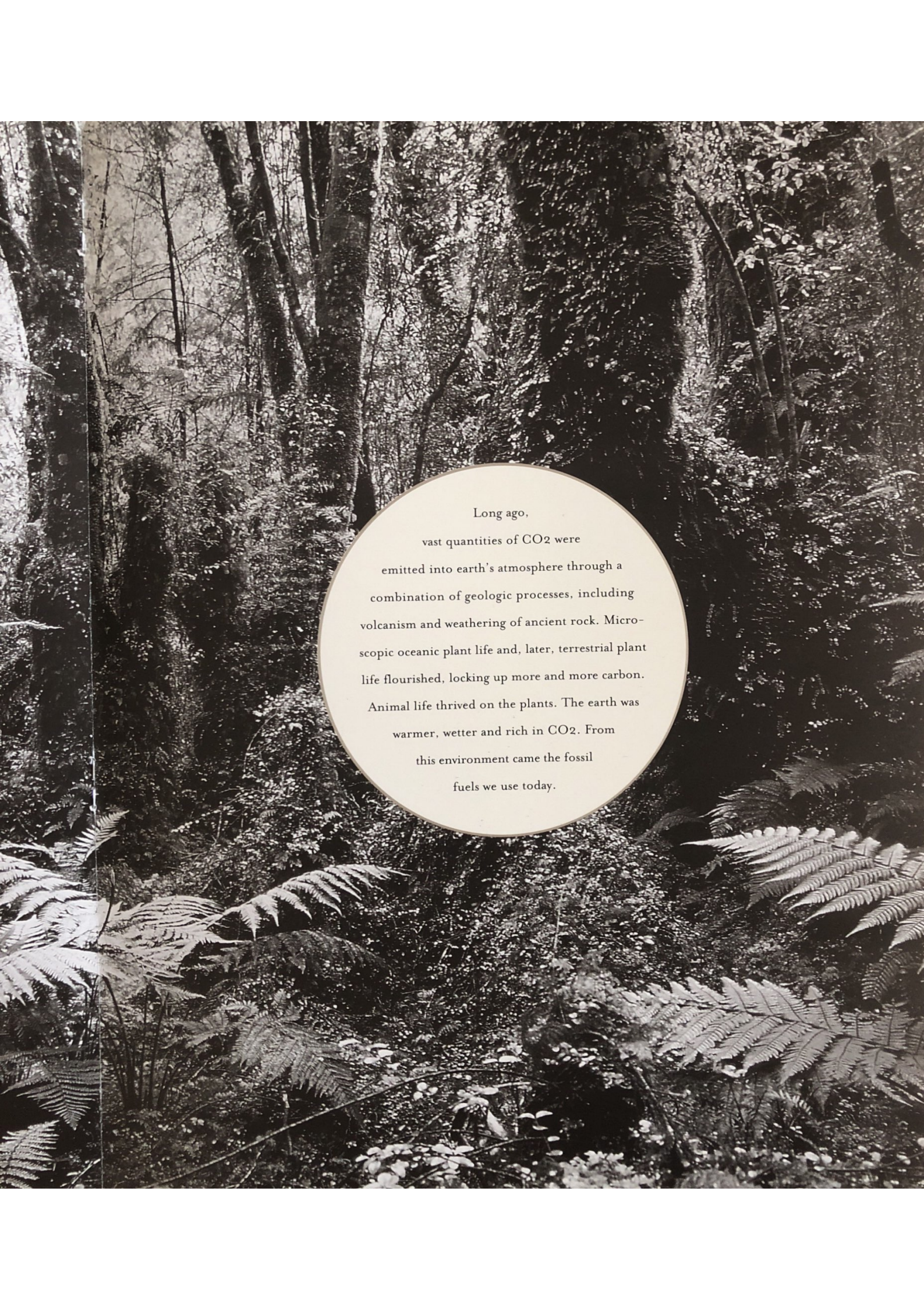
Humans and animals get the carbon we need from the plants we eat. The oxygen we breathe oxidizes the carbon in our systems, and we exhale CO₂.

CO₂ is produced through fossil fuel combustion in the following way: An internal combustion engine, coal-fired power plant or natural gas turbine uses carbon stored in a fossil fuel (such as coal, which is ancient plant life) and burns (oxidizes) it—releasing energy and emitting CO₂. Humans have learned to harness this energy.



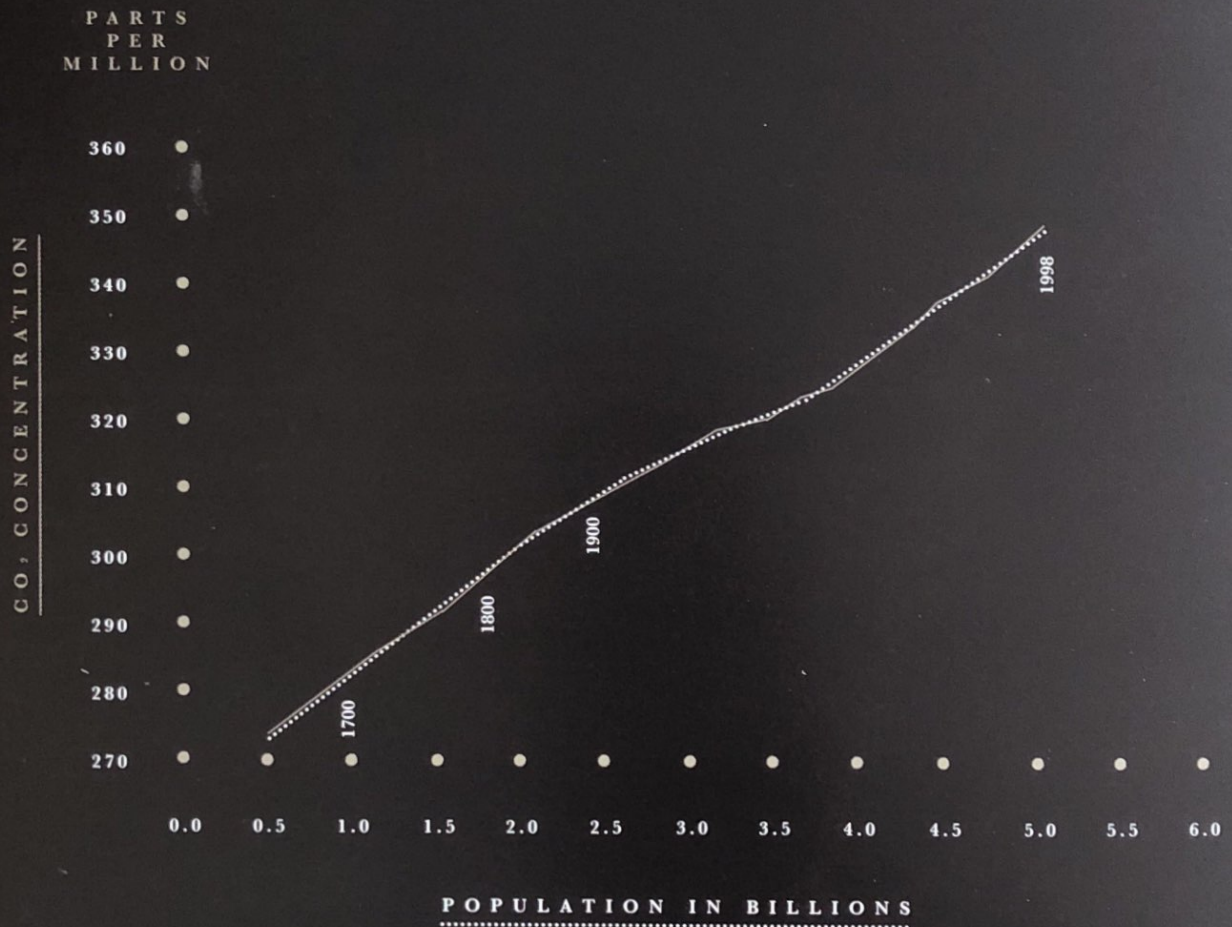
A GREENHOUSE WORLD:

WHERE
FOSSIL
FUELS
BEGAN

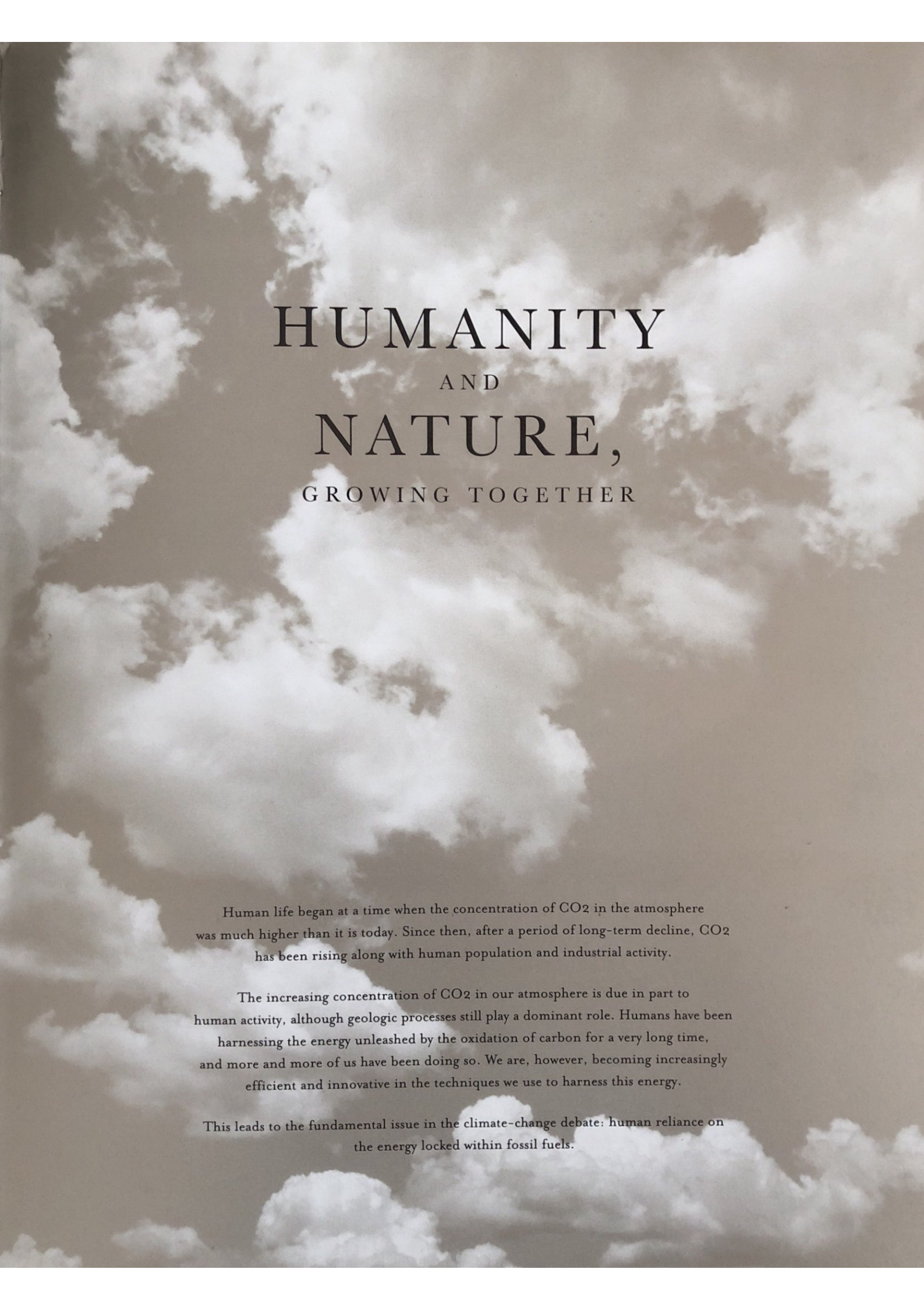


Long ago,
vast quantities of CO₂ were
emitted into earth's atmosphere through a
combination of geologic processes, including
volcanism and weathering of ancient rock. Micro-
scopic oceanic plant life and, later, terrestrial plant
life flourished, locking up more and more carbon.
Animal life thrived on the plants. The earth was
warmer, wetter and rich in CO₂. From
this environment came the fossil
fuels we use today.

CORRELATION BETWEEN POPULATION
AND CO₂ EMISSIONS



This graph shows how CO₂ concentration has risen in direct proportion to population growth, from the year 1600 to present. The world's governments intend to pass laws to break this correlation, limit the growth in population, or both. They might as well pass a law ordering the sun not to set or the moon not to rise. (Early historic data on CO₂ concentration is derived from the study of ice cores and other proxy data.)

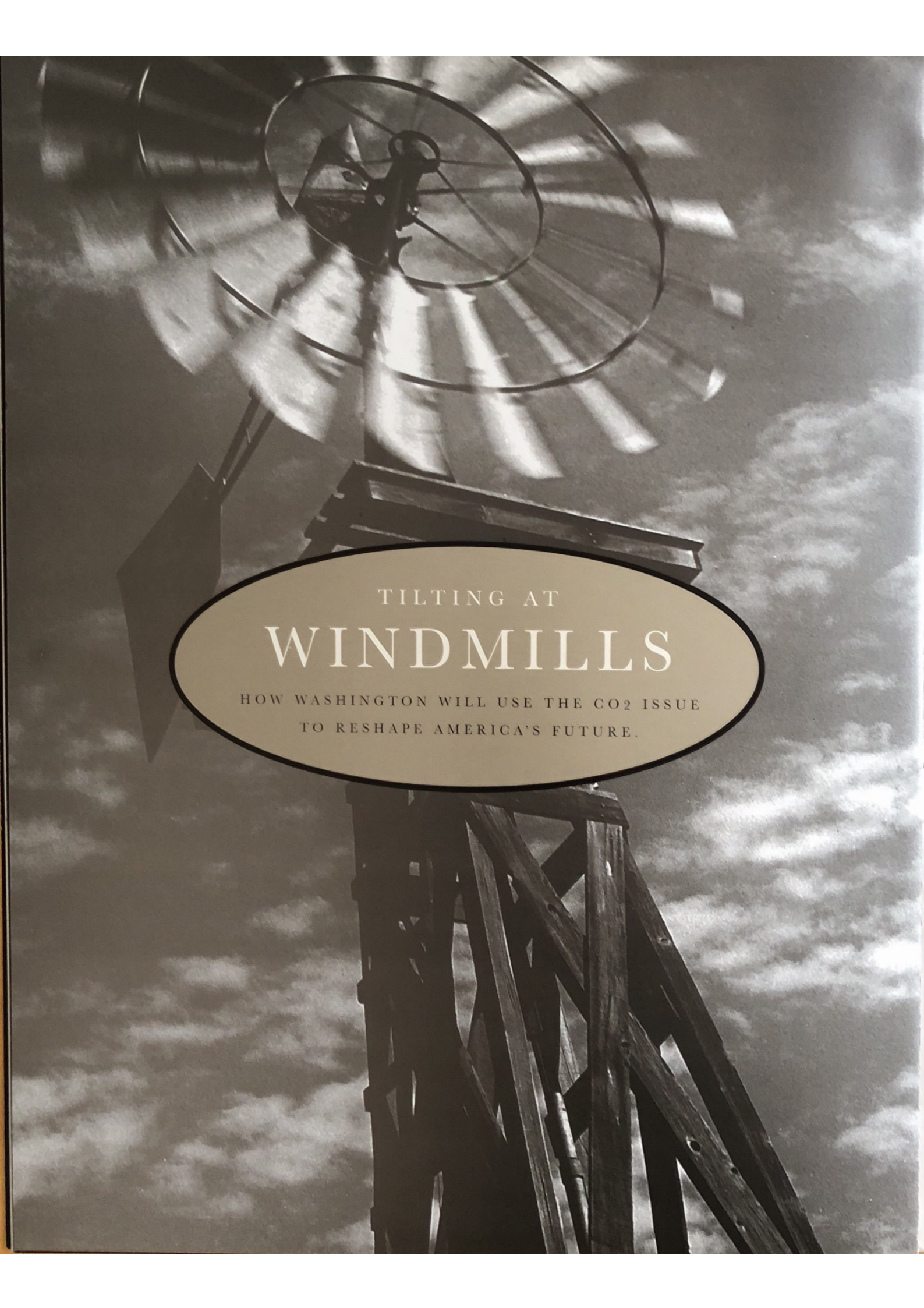


HUMANITY AND NATURE, GROWING TOGETHER

Human life began at a time when the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere was much higher than it is today. Since then, after a period of long-term decline, CO₂ has been rising along with human population and industrial activity.

The increasing concentration of CO₂ in our atmosphere is due in part to human activity, although geologic processes still play a dominant role. Humans have been harnessing the energy unleashed by the oxidation of carbon for a very long time, and more and more of us have been doing so. We are, however, becoming increasingly efficient and innovative in the techniques we use to harness this energy.

This leads to the fundamental issue in the climate-change debate: human reliance on the energy locked within fossil fuels.



TILTING AT
WINDMILLS

HOW WASHINGTON WILL USE THE CO₂ ISSUE
TO RESHAPE AMERICA'S FUTURE.

If one believes that increasing atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ place the world at risk, then the obvious solution is this: Society must de-carbonize, and the Fossil Fuel Age must end. Policies promoting such solutions represent a wrenching transformation of society and can not be accomplished without economic disruption, no matter the time frame chosen. To pretend otherwise is disingenuous.

The 1992 Rio Treaty (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), as amended by the Kyoto Protocol in December 1997, would begin such a transformation. The treaty commits industrialized nations to curtailing CO₂ emissions. Because developing countries' emissions will continue to rise, the Kyoto Protocol will fail to significantly reduce the theoretical risk of apocalyptic change in climate and will fail the political test of ratification by the US Senate, even if President Clinton makes the US a signatory.

Still greater transformation will be necessary.

Using the climate-change issue as the political lever to transform US energy policy has been part of the environmental agenda since at least 1980. President Carter's environmental advisors, then, are scattered throughout the domestic and international environmental policy apparatus insisting we "do something" about CO₂ now.

Greening Earth Society engages this issue by providing useful information on the known, proven effects of CO₂ on our environment.

One way we do this is in partnership with the National Mining Association (NMA) in resisting EPA's initiative to regulate CO₂ as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act. NMA prepared the legal study of EPA's authority and Greening Earth Society provided a study of the science.

Greening Earth Society is designed to involve the grassroots in an ongoing way. "Doing something" about CO₂ means treating a building block of nature—a part of the web of life—as though it were a threat to nature and life. The climate-change debate will be won or lost on the basis of science.

Ultimately, the science had to be the CO₂ issue.

Greening Earth Society, a creation of Western Fuels Association, Inc., promotes the optimistic scientific viewpoint that humankind is a part of nature, rather than apart from nature.

Greening Earth Society believes that humankind's industrial evolution is good, and that using fossil fuels to enable our economic activity is as natural as breathing.

Greening Earth Society is convinced that if citizens receive information that increases their understanding of the benefits of fossil fuels and the positive effects of carbon dioxide on the earth's biosphere and atmosphere, they will make decisions that benefit both humankind and the planet.

To this end, Greening Earth Society serves as a vehicle to provide sound information about carbon dioxide and fossil fuels to educators, students, business and media representatives, community leaders and policy makers.

For more information, visit our Web site at <http://www.greeningearthsociety.org> or call us toll-free at 877-GRN-ERTH (877-476-3784).

Greening Earth Society's membership base is our lifeblood. Our membership, a diverse group of people, seeks and disseminates information, encourages activism within our communities and contributes financially to Greening Earth Society projects. Corporate and organization sponsorship is intended to provide additional funding.

BECOME A MEMBER OF GREENING EARTH SOCIETY

Together we provide useful written materials and our videos—"The Greening of Planet Earth" and "The Greening of Planet Earth Continues: The Promise for the 21st Century and Beyond"—to educators, grassroots activists, families, students, politicians and scientists. We commission original research exploring CO₂'s effects on our environment and about "Humanity and Nature, Growing Together." Please take a moment to commit to a greener future by supporting Greening Earth Society.

\$15 Acorn Membership Benefits

Video: "The Greening of Planet Earth" or "The Greening of Planet Earth Continues."
Annual *State of the Climate Report*, a 30-page collection of essays on global climate change by leading scientists
Updates on Breaking Research
Greening Earth Society Decal

\$25 Seedling Membership Benefits

All of the above, plus:
Invitation to Grassroots Training Day

\$50 Sapling Membership Benefits

All of the above, plus:
A subscription to *World Climate Report*, an acclaimed biweekly newsletter analyzing the science and politics of global climate change—including the effects of CO₂ on our biosphere

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your membership contribution, to:

GREENING EARTH SOCIETY, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 805, Arlington, VA 22203-4193, (703) 907-6168

\$15 Acorn \$25 Seedling \$50 Sapling Other

Name _____

Address _____

e-mail address (optional) _____



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