

Opening

Q: How do you turn down the temperature in Soviet building with central heating control?

A: Open the windows

Our hotel now: can't even open the window

Front desk: turn on 5 deg. Doesn't work

Our problem today is hubris

“Excessive pride in defiance of the gods, leading to nemesis – an inescapable agent of one’s downfall”

“We have met the enemy and he is us.” — Pogo

Hubris has blinded us to the real barrier to sustainability

We should NOT be talking Nature-based solutions.

We should be talking about Human-caused problems

The Anthropocene

Fossil fuels and the industrial revolution gave us “unnatural” power

Warning signs

1892 John Muir founded Sierra Club to try to slow the destruction of Nature

California – last Grizzly Bear seen in 1924

96 percent of coastal redwoods logged – mostly after WWII

1960 Silent spring: Overuse of chemicals by government agencies

I'm sure you have your own examples...

The solution is not more industry (aka “green growth”)

Cities: Fewer cars, more people

Social: Fewer smart phones, more face to face conversations (why we're here)

Soil: Less fertilizer, more conservation

Water: Less desalination, more water cycle

Climate: Less carbon, more forests

Barriers to less industry

1. Nature is a commons. “If something belongs to everyone, then it belongs to no one”
2. Most People are too poor, dumb (Trump) or distracted to care (mobile phones)
3. Others need to work collectively which is tough vs special interest. EU budget (155 billion) vs shell revenues (200 billion) – shell is 6th largest!

Real solutions

First, do no harm

End stupid policies like CAP

Second, force industry to respect commons

Clean Water Act (1972 – ? dead under Trump?) – ag pollution wavers that “save” consumers 5 cents/kg
Carbon tax (Sierra Club opposed b/c didn't fund green projects) – would raise gasoline price 6 cents/liter

We don't need Nature-based solutions, we need to end Human-caused problems