

Wind Industry Donations Behind Biden, CAP, And Media Matters Misinformation

John Podesta, Founder of Center for American Progress, is giving away hundreds of billions in taxpayer subsidies

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US President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting about the Federal-State Offshore Wind Implementation Partnership in the Roosevelt Room of the White House June 23, 2022 in Washington, DC. The White House is partnering with 11 East coast governors to launch a new Federal-State Offshore Wind Implementation Partnership to boost the offshore wind industry. (Photo by Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

Offshore wind energy is the key to lowering electricity prices, say President Joe Biden and a range of groups, including the Sierra Club, the Center for American Progress, and Media Matters. “Folks, it’s also now cheaper to generate electricity from wind and solar than it is from coal and oil,” [said Biden](#) last November. “Literally cheaper. Not a joke.”

But if that were the case, then Biden would not have demanded Congress pass the “Inflation Reduction Act,”

which will send [\\$781 billion](#) to [\\$1 trillion](#) in taxpayer subsidies to wind and other renewable energy companies.

In response to this criticism, many experts say wind energy is good economics, good for jobs, and crucial for combatting climate change. “Offshore wind can lower energy prices and beat out oil and gas,” argued a [major report](#) by the Center for American Progress (CAP), one of Washington’s most influential think tanks, last fall.

The wind industry points to the 800 high-paying construction jobs that will be created to build projects like Ørsted’s 84-turbine Sunrise project off the coast of New York.

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But the US government’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) admits that US offshore wind projects “would by themselves probably have a [limited](#) impact on global emissions and climate change” and that benefits would be “[negligible](#).”

As for those 800 construction jobs, they [will last for just two years](#), after which the project will employ just 60 people over the next 25 years.

And now, New York’s regulator [says](#) that all this wind and solar energy not only won’t lower electricity prices, it will raise them by a whopping 64%. Supplier delays at

Sunrise, Ocean Wind 1, and Revolution Wind projects on the East Coast, and other factors will cost Ørsted \$2.3 billion overall, which, as Reuters [notes](#), is “over half the book value of Ørsted’s US operations.”

"Application of Empire/Beacon's request would result in a 54% increase on average across its portfolio of projects," [says](#) the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

All of this is on top of the fact that wind turbines grew 40% more expensive [over the last two years](#), in part because manufacturers have [increased turbine height and blade length](#).

Making the turbines larger has also made them more unsightly, as new visualizations of the East Coast wind projects show:



How America’s East Coast beaches would look if the wind projects go forward.

Into this perfect storm comes [new evidence that the wind industry is behind elevated whale deaths](#), simply from mapping the ocean floor and increasing boat traffic in

previously untrafficked areas. Deaths could spike further if and when construction begins.

Both CAP and Media Matters deny that the wind industry is killing whales. “The real reason behind the recent spike in whale deaths may simply be that [there are more whales](#),” claimed CAP.

But that’s false. In truth, the population of North Atlantic right whales has plummeted. Today there are [only 340](#) of the whales left, down from over 400 just a few years ago. Their average life expectancy has declined from a century to [45 years](#).

Biden, the Democrats, and progressive think tanks all say they care about working people, climate change, and the natural environment more than Republicans and conservatives. Why, then, are they pursuing offshore wind that would raise electricity prices, hurt working people, and kill whales, perhaps to the point of extinction?

The Subsidies-For-Donations Grift



John Podesta, senior advisor to the president for Clean Energy Innovation, and Neera Tanden, domestic policy advisor, attend the White House press briefing on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. (Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images)

Climate-motivated donors, including wind industry investors, in 2020 donated a minimum of **\$45 million to elect Biden** and Democrats and win hundreds of billions in subsidies. “One group, Climate Leaders for Biden, raised over **\$15 million** for the president-elect, while another, Clean Energy for Biden, reported raising **\$3.2 million,**” noted Open Secrets.

An astonishing 11,000 renewable energy professionals formed “Clean Energy For Biden” to donate millions. “There were some clean energy fundraisers for Hillary, but

it didn't grow as large as it was this cycle," its head, Nathan Wyeth, [said](#).

"In hopes of protecting these subsidies, the alternative energy industry gives primarily to Democratic candidates," [noted](#) Open Secrets, a campaign finance watchdog. In 2020, it noted, "of all partisan contributions, 77 percent went to Democrats....Close to \$1 million of the alternative energy industry's donations went directly to Biden."

The donations were transactional. "The future of renewable energy is looking brighter for these industry officials," noted Open Secrets, "especially if Biden's administration is able to pass some of the most aggressive climate policies to date."

The person at the center of the subsidies-for-donations scheme is [John Podesta](#). Biden selected Podesta to [guide](#) how the billions in federal subsidies are spent.

Who is Podesta? He is the former Chief of Staff to Bill Clinton, the 2016 campaign chairman of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, and the founder of CAP, an organization that the renewable energy industry [has supported](#) to lobby for taxpayer subsidies for more than a decade.

Podesta's protege at CAP, Neera Tanden, is the Director of the United States Domestic Policy Council at the White House.

CAP is the policy architect of Biden's offshore wind energy push. Last year it published "[Key Actions To Scale an Offshore Wind Industry in the United States](#)" as a guide to the White House. CAP is the unofficial think tank of the Biden White House.

According to the [Washington Free Beacon](#), "Podesta also raked in \$140,000 in consulting fees from the Sandler Foundation, a charity founded by multibillionaire banker Herbert Sandler that funds leftwing groups including Podesta's Center for American Progress, the ACLU, Earthjustice, and the Sierra Club."

CAP has long tried to hide its donors' identities. "A number of left-wing foundations have chosen Bermuda and other offshore destinations to mask the origins of contributions," reports the [Washington Free Beacon](#) in [an investigative piece](#) exploring how CAP and Sierra Club "received money from foreign dark money Sea Change Foundation."

The Sea Change Foundation has been a significant donor to the Tides Foundation, a philanthropy that also donates to the Sierra Club and [established Media Matters](#). Soros, who has [invested \\$1 billion](#) in renewables and other

“climate tech,” is also a donor to Media Matters, donating \$1 million.

The way it all works is relatively straightforward. The renewable energy industry gives money to Podesta’s CAP and CAP lobbies for subsidies for renewables, which allow the cycle to continue. The wind industry tells CAP what it needs to be profitable and CAP advocates the White House do that. Then, when it comes time for implementation, Podesta oversees it.

Meanwhile, as Podesta and CAP take money from the wind industry to spread disinformation about the wind industry, they smear conservationists trying to save the North Atlantic right whales from extinction. “The various organizations, news outlets, and elected representatives that have been promoting misinformation about offshore wind have **two things in common**: 1) conservative politics and 2) ties to the oil industry,” **claimed** CAP last year.

Podesta and CAP know perfectly well that the people trying to save the whales are independent of the oil and gas industry. They know that they are people like well-respected conservationists and researchers like Cindy Zipf, Lisa Linowes, and Rob Rand.

Podesta and CAP’s role at the Biden White House is similar to the role they played for President Barack Obama. Podesta, CAP, and Media Matters **orchestrated** a campaign of character assassination against Roger

Pielke, Jr., for testifying accurately in Congress that climate change wasn't making disasters worse.

Podesta oversaw the White House's attack on Pielke through science advisor John Holdren. Meanwhile, CAP and Media Matters [organized](#) a mob of mainstream news journalists to smear Pielke as a climate denier and even got Rep. Raul Grijalva to imply that Exxon was funding Pielke, which was gross disinformation.

Why, in the end, are Biden, the Democrats, and progressive think tanks, which say they care about working people, climate change, and the natural environment more than Republicans and conservatives, pursuing offshore wind, which will raise electricity prices, hurting working people the most, lock in natural gas, and kill whales to the point of extinction?

Part of the reason is ideological. Climate change constitutes a secular apocalypse for progressive Baby Boomer elites like Podesta, who view renewables as a way to harmonize with Mother Nature. Another part of the reason is political. Climate change motivates Democrats, puts Republicans on the defensive, and instills fear in the public, which makes them easier to control.

But the renewable energy spiritual quest and raw power play is only possible thanks to the billions in taxpayer money to support them. No industry has benefited more from the roughly \$1 trillion in subsidies won by Democrats

than renewables. And few industries have more reliably financed Biden, Democrats, and the think tanks upon which they depend.

Fighting Back



Another image of how the wind industry will ruin the scenic value of East Coast beaches

The corruption of politics by wind industry subsidies and political donations is unlikely to end any time soon. It's a major source of revenue for Democrats, which use climate change to greenwash the money-for-power transactions.

But a growing movement is fighting back against the wind projects. New visualizations of the wind farms show how ugly they will be, and the potential impact they will have on property values.

And now, at least eight multinational wind firms are either backing out of or seeking to renegotiate their contracts. They include Shell, [BP](#), [Ørsted](#), [Equinor](#), [Iberdrola](#), [Energias de Portugal](#), [Engie](#), and Electricite de France. "The cost problems they're facing," [noted Barron's](#) in July, "make offshore wind a dicey investment proposition today, with the potential for substantial write-downs ahead."

There is good reason that whale lovers will be able to defeat the wind projects on both ecological and economic

grounds. “The problems with launching offshore wind projects in the US go beyond obstructed views,” notes Barrons. “Europeans have been less sensitive to higher prices because they already pay a premium for electricity compared with American consumers, who benefit from abundant coal and natural gas reserves.”

The problems facing wind energy are industry-wide. Norway's Equinor and its partner, BP, are demanding a more than 50% increase in the price of electricity it would produce from its three projects offshore from New York. And if the wind industry cancels their projects on the East Coast, they are unlikely to ever be revived.

And all of this is happening without yet having a Congressional investigation or hearings on the role of the wind industry in killing whales.

Change is coming. Soon, when Biden claims “it’s cheaper to generate electricity from wind and solar than it is from coal and oil,” people will understand that he’s not fulfilling his promise to the American people, but rather to the wind energy lobby.