Successful Failures: The Bush Environmental and Energy Legacy
“There is no success like failure
And that failure is no success at all.”

--Bob Dylan
“Conservation may be a sign of personal virtue, but it is not a sufficient basis all by itself for sound, comprehensive energy policy.”

--Vice President Cheney, April 30, 2001
When President Bush took office, the average price of gasoline was $1.72/gal. ('07 $)

Today, the average price of gasoline is $3.07/gal.

Increase: 78%

Source: http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_top.asp
When President Bush took office, the price of a barrel of oil cost $37.71 (‘07$). Today, the cost of a barrel of oil is $91.87 (as of January 20, 2008).

Source: http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/hist/wtotworldw.htm

Increase: 240%
In 2001, the big five oil companies had a combined profit of $40.9 billion (‘07$).

In the first three quarters of 2007 alone, the big five oil companies had a combined profit of $90.8 billion.

**Big Five Oil Company Profits Increase 210+%**


**Increase: 210+%**
Arctic Wildlife National Refuge

During his 2000 presidential campaign, President Bush urged oil drilling in the Arctic.

Offshore Drilling

In 2001 the Bush administration supported drilling for oil in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas.


Failure: In 2006 Congress passed legislation for drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.
Protection of Public Lands

In 2001 the National Energy Policy proposed opening more public land to fossil fuel exploration.

Failure: By 2006, oil and gas drilling had doubled on federal land in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.
Fuel Economy Standards

In 2001, President Bush resolved to review fuel economy standards.

Failure: In 2002, President Bush proposed a mere 1.5 MPG increase over five years for light trucks.

Success: In 2007, President Bush signed the Energy Independence and Security Act with 35 MPG standard after opposing it during Congressional deliberations.
In 2001 the National Energy Policy proposed the expansion of nuclear power capacity.

Failure: In 2003 the Yucca Mountain was approved as a nuclear waste repository despite the numerous health threats.

Failure: In 2005 the Energy Policy Act provided subsidies, loopholes for new nuclear plants
Energy Assistance Programs


Failure: The average LIHEAP grant fell from $349 in 2003 to $305 in 2007.
Energy Assistance Programs Cont.

In 2001 President Bush promised to double funding for the Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program over a 10 year period.

Failure: The administration's FY 2008 budget proposed to cut weatherization funds.
Oil Exploration

In 2005 President Bush said “I will tell you with $55 oil we don’t need incentives to oil and gas companies to explore.”

Failure: the 2005 Energy Policy Proposal included several billion dollars in tax breaks and subsidies for oil and gas.

Failure: In 2007, after President Bush threatened to veto energy bill because of provisions to close new tax loopholes for big oil companies, the tax package was dropped from the energy bill.
Global Warming--Domestic

“We will require all power plants to meet clean-air standards in order to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, mercury and carbon dioxide within a reasonable period of time.”

--Governor President Bush, 2000 campaign
Greenhouse Gas Increases

When President Bush entered office, energy-related US emissions were 5.709 billion metric tons.

In 2006, energy-related US emissions were 5.877 billion metric tons.

Increase: 168 million metric tons or 3%
Science-based Policy

In 2001, President Bush affirmed a commitment to decisions based on “sound science.”

Failure: In 2007, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform found “a systematic White House effort to minimize the significance of climate change.”
Reducing Greenhouse Gases

In 2002 President Bush expressed support for not only slowing GHG growth, but also “to stop and then reverse the growth of emissions.”

Failure: In response to Senate legislative proposals, President Bush “promised to veto any cap-and-trade proposal” for the reduction of global warming pollution.
Commitment to Battling Climate Change

In 2007, upon signing the Energy Security and Independence Act President Bush said: “We'll do our duty to future generations by addressing climate change.”

Failure: That very day, EPA denied California a waiver that would allow it and 17 other states to adopt a single program that would reduce global warming pollution from motor vehicles by 30%.
Global Warming--International

“I am today committing the United States of America to work… to develop with our friends and allies and nations throughout the world an effective and science-based response to the issue of global warming

--President Bush, June 11, 2001
A History of Rebuffing the United Nations on Global Warming Solutions

Failure: Upon entering office in 2001, President Bush repudiated the Kyoto Protocol.

Failure: In 2002, President Bush skipped the Earth Summit meeting and sent negotiators with instructions to interfere with “any detailed language that would establish clear goals and timetables for improving the environment.”

Failure: In 2004 US negotiators were able to co-opt a weak resolution on global warming at the December summit of the UN in Argentina.
The Latest Rejections UN Climate Change Efforts

Failure: In 2007 President Bush skipped the UN meeting on global warming, instead hosting his own meeting of “major emitters,” and calling for voluntary cuts in global emissions.

Failure: At the 2007 meeting in Bali, Bush Administration officials scuttled numerical binding reduction targets for post-Kyoto negotiations, despite support of many developed and developing nations.
Stalling G-8 Global Warming Solutions

Failure: In 2005 at the Scotland G-8 meeting, President Bush admits the existence of global warming, but his negotiators attempted to block environmental safeguards for future World Bank projects.

Failure: At the 2007 Germany G-8 meeting, President Bush opposed the adoption of binding greenhouse gas reductions as proposed by European Allies.
Clean Air

“When the White House unveiled its National Energy Policy, it was clear that Big Coal's message had been heard.”

The Clear Skies Initiative

In 2002, President Bush proposed the Clear Skies Initiative to replace the Clean Air Act, which would weaken standards for pollutants that cause acid rain and smog.

Success: Clear Skies was blocked by Congress in 2003 and 2005.
In 2002 President Bush issued rules that would weaken the “New Source Review” program and allow more air pollution from rehabilitated or expanded smokestack industries.

Partial Success: In 2005 the courts blocked the worst elements of proposed rules because of health threat from more pollution, but upheld other elements.
Continued assault on NSR

In 2003 a giant new loophole was proposed for “new source review” program that would allow more pollution from electric power plants.

Success: Three months later the courts temporarily blocked Implementation of the revisions because it would cause environmental harm.

Success: In 2006 the proposal was officially overturned by the courts.
Power Plant Mercury Emissions

In 2004 President Bush ignored recommendations by the EPA’s Children’s Health Advisory Panel and issued rules that would weaken and delay mercury pollution reductions from power plants.

Unresolved: In 2005 states and environmental organizations sued because the rules violate Clean Air Act requirements. A decision by the US Court of Appeals is still pending.
Particulate Matter Standards

A 2005 EPA assessment estimates that over 4,700 premature deaths each year in just nine major US cities, even though they all met the current PM2.5 (fine soot) standard.

Failure: By 2006, despite recommendations from its own scientific advisory panel, the EPA still had not revised health standards for particulate matter, which raise “serious scientific concerns regarding the public health and welfare.”
The Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR)

In 2005 the EPA proposed CAIR, which has pollution limits similar to the “Clear Skies Initiative.”

Partial Success: Although it would generally reduce pollution over time, CAIR includes loopholes that would permit many power plants to avoid even minimal pollution controls.
Stalling Clinton-era Safeguards

In 2001 President Bush tried to block the Clinton rule for the removal of sulfur from diesel fuel.

Success: Political pressure forced the administration to adopt the rule later that year.
Clean Water

“On October 18, 2002, our Nation...begins the observance of the Year of Clean Water. [The Clean Water Act] ...has been central to the important progress we have made as a Nation in improving the quality of our drinking water and the health of our waters, wetlands, and watersheds. “

--President Bush, October 18, 2002
Upon entering office in 2001, President Bush blocked the drinking water health standard for arsenic set by President Clinton.

Success: That same year, Congress voted to implement rule. Bush eventually gave in to the public outcry and issued the rule.
MTBE & Drinking Water Contamination

In 2001 President Bush supported the oil companies’ efforts to evade clean-up of groundwater contamination caused by leaks of fuel additive MTBE.

Success: In 2003 and in 2005 Congress blocked legislation that would absolve oil companies of responsibility for MTBE clean-up.
Factory Farm Water Pollution

In late 2002 President Bush adopted regulations that included loopholes for livestock factory farms, allowing water pollution from animal waste.
Wetlands Destruction

“Today I'm going to announce a new policy and a new goal for our country: Instead of just limiting our losses, we will expand the wetlands of America.”

-- President Bush, Earth Day 2004

Failure: In 2003 the Administration proposed to eliminate protection for millions of acres of wetlands.

Success: The proposal was withdrawn in response to fierce opposition from hunters and anglers.

Failure: However, an agency guidance that complicated protection efforts was retained.
Enforcement

“The solution is not to eliminate the federal role in protecting the environment; the solution is reform, reform that sets high standards and produces results.”

--Governor President Bush, 2000
A Promise Kept

During his 2000 campaign, Governor Bush promised to reject strict enforcement of environmental laws.

Failure: The number of environmental cases, civil penalties, criminal fines, and criminal investigations performed between 2001 and 2006 were all significantly lower compared to the period between 1996 and 2000.
Brownfields Clean Up

In 2001, President Bush said “My budget will improve our environment by accelerating the cleanup of toxic brownfields.”

Failure: Funding for clean-up of brownfields was cut from $111 million in FY 2000 (’07 dollars) to $88 million in FY 2007.

Partial Success: The 110th Congress raised it to $94 million for FY 2008.
National Forests

“With the Healthy Forest Restoration Act we will help to prevent catastrophic wildfires, we'll help save lives and property, and we'll help protect our forests from sudden and needless destruction.”

--President Bush, on signing the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, December 3, 2003
Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)

In 2003 President Bush signed HFRA to “reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes.”

Failure: In fact HFRA allows increased logging in national forests.

Failure: The years 2006 and 2007 both set records for wildfire damage, with the greatest acreage burned in 2006 since 1960, and 2007 beating the 2006 record by 200,000 acres.
Logging Untouched Forests

In 2001 President Clinton issued the roadless area rule to protect 60 million acres of national forest.

Failure: In 2004 the Bush Administration issued rules that would end this protection for forests.

Success: In 2006 a federal Court overturned the Administration’s action and reinstated the roadless area rule.
Bush Legacy: Successful Failures

Many of President Bush’s myriad of assaults on the environment and to our energy policies were adopted. They have scarred the land, fouled the water, and warmed the planet. Bush’s successes failed the nation and the planet.
Fortunately, Americans’ opposition led to many rejections. These successes led to the President’s failure.

The next president can succeed by restoring our environment, promoting clean energy, creating green jobs and slowing global warming.
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