Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha Indians become the first official Climate Refugees

By Pakalolo
Monday Feb 15, 2016 · 7:06 AM EST

The Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw just received $48 million to move off of their disappearing south Louisiana island. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced in January that it had awarded the tribe $48 million to pay for a move, most likely farther north and inland, making them the first community...
The Chitimacha Indians (Sitimaxa—“people of the many waters”) were the original inhabitants of Southern Louisiana. Circa 500 A.D., the Chitimacha began settling the bayous, where they lived in permanent villages in homes constructed of cane, wood and palmetto leaves.

The Chitimacha in this area lived along the Bayou Teche (a Chitimacha word meaning “snake”). Their legend has it that the bayou was formed when Chitimacha warriors battled a huge venomous serpent that terrorized the region. The snake was miles in length and as it twisted and writhed in death, it deepened the mud where it lay, forming the sinuous course of the bayou.

Like most Indian tribes, contact with Europeans put the tribe on the verge of extinction. In the mid-1800’s the Chitimacha obtained a governmental decree establishing title to 1,062 acres of land, but by the early 1900’s there were only 260 acres remaining in tribal hands. If not for the help of Sarah McIlhenny (of the Tabasco family) in the early 1900’s, all of their land would have been stolen. The reservation today stands at 283 acres with a tribal population of 360 souls.

The Chitimacha Indians were one of the official climate refugees in the continental (lower 48) United States. The tribe wants to move as a group as they are rightfully concerned that a dispersal of their people would be the end of their tribe.

The money awarded is part of $92 million provided to Louisiana as part of a National Disaster Resilience Competition the state had won. Note that the American taxpayer will foot the bill for the relocation. For some strange reason, the fossil fuel industry, who shares the bulk of the blame for climate induced catastrophes such as sea level rise, are never asked to contribute a dime.

The Isle de Jean Charles has been reduced from 11 miles long and five miles wide in the 1950s, to around a quarter-mile wide and two miles long today. The tribe’s disintegrating homelands have already displaced and scattered many families, and some of the funding will pay for homes to reestablish community.

“Now we’re getting a chance to reunite the family,” Naquin said. “They’re excited as well. Our culture is going to stay intact, [but] we’ve got to get the interest back in our youth.”

Chief Naquin expressed dismay that other communities are caught up in situations similar to theirs.

“Maybe we can be the model community to teach others,” he said.

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Beset by rising sea levels, communities on the Louisiana coast and offshore islands are constantly flooding, leaving the United Houma Nation and the Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha Choctaw struggling for dry land. These communities in southern Louisiana's bayou region “are fighting a daily battle against the rising seawaters and disappearing land—a natural process which has been expedited over the last century by the dredging of tens of thousands of miles of wetlands for pipelines and navigation canals by oil and gas companies dating back to the 1930s,” the newswire Climate Progress reported in a January 22 story.

“Honestly, I think there's maybe one or two generations more,” said Regee Dupree, executive director of the Terrebonne Parish Levee District, to Climate Progress. “It's heartbreaking with the culture aspects but sooner or later, as a government official, you have to be realistic about how much you can spend per capita. All you can do is rearrange the chairs on the deck of the Titanic right now.”
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44 COMMENTS

Pakalolo (/user/Pakalolo)  Feb 15 · 07:06:00 AM (/comments/1485411/59644295#comment_59644295)

Tip Jar

★ 94 Recommend

aphra behn (/user/aphra behn)  Feb 15 · 07:11:31 AM (/comments/1485411/59644325#comment_59644325)

Important topic. Thank you!

Recommended 16 times

wade norris (/user/wade norris) ➤ aphra behn  Feb 15 · 07:51:10 AM (/comments/1485411/59644580#comment_59644580)

thanks. been working on this topic awhile. I grew up learning Sailing near the Outer banks in NC and saw the 'writing on the wall'

Islands Going Under
For more, visit a website I started on this subject in 2008

http://www.praer.org/ (http://www.praer.org/)

Recommended 12 times

&wade norris

Feb 15 · 04:53:40 PM (http://comments/1485411/59654750#comment_59654750)

Let's hope sustainability becomes more of a concern...

You may find this interesting:

Shock Doctrine - The Rise of Disaster Capitalism (Updated)
(http://www.dailykos.com/story/2016/02/14/1484474/-Shock-Doctrine-The-Rise-of-Disaster-Capitalism)

Recommended 3 times

NWangle (/user/NWangle) ➤ Queries

Feb 17 · 05:56:24 AM (/comments/1485411/59686033#comment_59686033)

Naomi Kline has recently produced a film based on her latest book since publishing "The Shock Doctrine", called "This Changes Everything — It's not about carbon, it's about capitalism". Good book, will see the film soon.

Recommended 1 time

Queries (/user/Queries) ➤ NWangle

Feb 17 · 07:33:39 PM (/comments/1485411/59700921#comment_59700921)

Thank you!
I knew this issue was finally gaining traction when I heard Rush Limbaugh discrediting Sea level rise was not happening....

You only mention something that you want to discredit, when you know it's real...
(http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/daily/2016/02/12/libs_come_up_with_reason_algore_s_prediction_didn_t_come_true)

another point... The Kivalina were our first US Environmental Refugees...
and their case as told by the Atlantic (http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2008/06/conspiracy-theory/306812/) could be very important for us all...

Rush is an idiot, but he's made some payola from even bigger idiots.

I have been there. Kivalina is an Inupiaq Eskimo village on the NW coast of Alaska. When I was there the school principal had just moved into the library because his house was washing away. The village had to relocate the generator building for the same reason. The people of "Kivi" are among the first to testify in real terms that Climate Change is no myth.
rat racer (rat racer)  Feb 15 · 07:18:01 AM (comments/1485411/59644364#comment_59644364)
This helps visualize what's coming, needs many eyes.

Recommended 14 times

ellymae (ellymae)  Feb 15 · 08:21:25 AM (comments/1485411/59644813#comment_59644813)
Thank you again for bringing these important issues to us; you are an exception.

I hope the first inhabitants of this land do create a model. A model of "HELL RAISERS".

Recommended 7 times

ellymae (ellymae)  Feb 15 · 08:56:02 AM (comments/1485411/59645184#comment_59645184)
Your work reminds me of a verse in the Word of God.
"For mine eyes are upon all their ways; they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes." Jeremiah 16:17

Recommended 5 times

ypochris (ypochris)  Feb 15 · 09:20:23 AM (comments/1485411/59645512#comment_59645512)
As a Native American myself, I do feel the U.S. government has a responsibility to ensure the well being of the peoples it has displaced, and so in this case I don't think the mitigation was excessive. But if the nation winds up paying an eighth of a million dollars to every person displaced by catastrophic climate change, this is going to be a budget buster. The loss in Florida alone will suck up two trillion dollars at that rate, which doesn't include the inevitable efforts at forestalling the evacuation — let alone the vast sums needed to deal with the nuclear plants.

While I favor immediate action to confiscate the assets of fossil carbon companies and the shareholders who have benefited from the continued destruction of the planet after the threat was known, this will be a drop in the bucket compared to the costs of this disaster. There is no way we can pay to relocate everyone who will be affected. I think we need to stop it before it starts, and just be clear now that "you are on your own". Why should those who have made wiser choices be forced to pay for those who have chosen to live in lowlands and on the coast?

And just to be clear, I live on an Atlantic barrier island made of sand that will likely be among the first areas affected. This is not selfishness talking.

Recommended 7 times

NWangle (NWangle)  Feb 17 · 05:42:24 AM (comments/1485411/59686001#comment_59686001)
Correct, only government can raise co-ordinated programs, but it's not just American taxpayers who should cover the costs. The fossil fuel companies that caused much of the crisis, must pay the biggest chunk. They operate globally and this is not just a US issue.
"Why should those who have made wiser choices be forced to pay for those who have chosen to live in lowlands and on the coast?"

A “tradition”, not a “choice”. They didn’t “choose”. They were born there. Just like their parents and all their parents before them. They intended to die there and have their children do the same.

The “choice” was made by those that disregarded everything in the pursuit of profit while becoming expert at externalizing any and all obligations for doing the right thing or paying for the wrong.

It is oh so easy for those in the clouds who are “trickling down” to blame those on the ground for being wet — after they’ve stolen their raincoat. At some point, “I stole it fair and square!” will no longer be acceptable to those grasping for a lifeboat.

When you consider Florida and governor Rick Scott, refusing to acknowledge climate change to the point that anyone who works for the state is not allowed to use those words...it is just appalling. So they take no action to prepare for the inevitable How he ever got in office in the first place is just incredible, but then, you know, the Kochs. So people keep voting for these climate-change deniers. In fact in all of the GOP debates, they do not even discuss this issue. In Wisconsin our governor does not care about any of us either. He's looking to score points by privatizing the state's most precious resource, our water. I wish there was some way to get through to the right wing voters, that Trump is not the answer—in fact none of their candidates are. Trump is a business man and government is not a business. Governor Snyder in Michigan is a business man too. That didn't turn out so well. The state is bankrupt and the citizens of Flint were poisoned to save a nickle. Now it will cost the country billions. Pretty soon anyone with any kind of financial ability to do so will leave this country and then what?

Actually, Michigan is not bankrupt. Between the governor cutting programs for the poor and elderly and raising taxes on the middle class, which created a surplus, and the Rainy Day Fund, there is 1.2 billion dollars available. He should be using that money for replacing the lead pipes in Flint. Instead, he is asking the Federal government to bail him out.
I told my distant family to sell the Florida land my mom mistakenly bought back in 1980, while they still can. What was that joke “if you believe this, boy do I have a piece of land in Florida to sell you.”

It may not just be Rick Scott towing the GOP line, but if snowbirds figure out his scam then they may not show up and buy.

The mayor of south Miami said that he wants to secede. Light flooding on the roads at king tide but good weather, brackish water in the wells and this has inundated several miles inland, septic systems failing, not sure but told that the highest state elevation is the top of the main landfill, grim outlook.

As to Scott Walker, he's one of those crooked businessmen. Potable water is a human right, not a commodity to buy and sell, unless it's the total ripoff in little plastic bottles. Even if a Democrat takes the White House, that crap won't likely change for a long time.

Okay, I understand your argument about paying for relocating this tribe. But are American taxpayers supposed to pay for everyone that lives along coastal areas to move? That I don't agree with.

It's not just rising sea level, it's increased tornadoes, bigger hurricanes, more frequent droughts, forest fires and floods. Relatively rare at the moment, but increasing substantially every decade.

Did you know that the Syrian crisis is partially due to a big drought similar to the 4 year one in California, and that Ethiopia is beginning to experience a bigger drought than the one in the 70s that led to all the starvation?

It's time to 'regulate' big fossil fuel companies, to insist that they stop externalizing costs of their activities for share holder (such as the Koch bros) profit making on everyone and everything else.

If that can be done, taxpayer costs will be lower. Maybe wait until the global economy recovers. And no, those companies aren't moving.

But it's also time to charge more to consumers who would use large amounts of fossil fuels, often wasted. Why do people have big second or third homes that they rarely visit? We call them dark homes but they suck up energy. Why do people heat their outdoor patios, glass them in with sliding doors. Why do some workers in office towers need sweaters or baseboard heaters when it's hot and sweltering outside? Why cool the house all day when 15 minutes would do before coming home from work. Or multiple yearly, non essential, vacation airline trips, etc.
Nobody will like it but charge considerably more for energy used by industry and consumers, and apply those funds for climate change mitigation such as moving people away from the low lying coastal areas. If you are careful, you won't pay much taxes, but if you are wasteful ...

To abandon people only leads to even higher costs that you'll pay through your taxes. Bad idea.

Recommended 2 times

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bimplebean (user/bimplebean)  Feb 15 · 02:46:30 PM (/comments/1485411/59651984#comment_59651984)

An interesting factoid. Look at the island here on Google Maps: goo.gl/…
(https://goo.gl/maps/Esx8DRDFVfx)

If you view the map, then view the satellite image you can see a noticeable difference in size.

Recommended 5 times

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jusducky (user/jusducky) → bimplebean  Feb 15 · 03:31:12 PM (/comments/1485411/59652947#comment_59652947)

Whoa!

Recommended 3 times

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snappycappy (user/snappycappy)  Feb 15 · 03:05:14 PM (/comments/1485411/59652387#comment_59652387)

This is not just Climate Change, it is also the destructive Oil Industry. They should help pay for this problem to which they contributed. It must be difficult to watch your home crumble into the sea.

Recommended 6 times

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Dvalkure (user/Dvalkure) → snappycappy  Feb 15 · 06:47:14 PM (/comments/1485411/59657424#comment_59657424)

The oil industry should have to match any funds the Government ( we ! ) pays out.

Situations like this with a Native American tribe involved are unique — they need and deserve to be moved as a unit. But we do need to think about and prepare a policy on this kind of aid to people in general. We are all complicit in the cause of the damage, but some of us more so than others.

Recommended 5 times

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belinda ridgewood (user/belinda ridgewood) → snappycappy  Feb 15 · 06:47:24 PM (/comments/1485411/59657431#comment_59657431)

Thanks for your first comment, snappycappy.
Welcome to Daily Kos. If you have any questions about how to participate here, you can learn more at the Community Guidelines (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/08/23/1233352/-New-community-guidelines-final-draft), the Knowledge Base (http://helpdesk.dailykos.com/kb), and the Site Resource Diaries (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/08/1177381/-New-Diarists-More-Resources-for-All?detail=hide). Diaries labeled “Open Thread” are also great places to ask.

We look forward to your contributions.

~~ from the DK Partners & Mentors Team (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/03/22/1196175/-Announcing-Partners-Mentors?detail=hide)

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riverlover (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/08/1177381/-New-Diarists-More-Resources-for-All?detail=hide)

Feb 15 · 03:55:14 PM (/comments/1485411/59653491#comment_59653491)

What will be the logistics of this relocation/build of a new community? Do they have to purchase the land uphill/inland? Presumably there are no federal lands down there to be granted.

So how will this play out over the next 10-20 years for individuals with receding and eroding property? Has there been any compensation “rules” set up after petro-disasters?

Recommended 3 times

Old Redneck (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/08/1177381/-New-Diarists-More-Resources-for-All?detail=hide)

Feb 15 · 04:46:18 PM (/comments/1485411/59654593#comment_59654593)

When rising sea levels start to affect $1 million homes on the Outer Banks or Dafuskey Island, then you'll see an outpouring of Congressional action. compensation, and the like.

As long as the only people affected are a few poor minorities, screw 'em.

Recommended 4 times

NWangle (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/08/1177381/-New-Diarists-More-Resources-for-All?detail=hide)

Feb 17 · 06:28:53 AM (/comments/1485411/59686147#comment_59686147)

You mean like parts of New Orleans?

Recommended 0 times

mcwoot (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/08/1177381/-New-Diarists-More-Resources-for-All?detail=hide)

Feb 15 · 06:57:13 PM (/comments/1485411/59657640#comment_59657640)

We should repay them with Manhattan. Well, maybe they could trade us some glass beads for it.

Recommended 3 times

hannah (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/08/1177381/-New-Diarists-More-Resources-for-All?detail=hide)

Feb 16 · 10:50:37 AM (/comments/1485411/59667866#comment_59667866)
It really doesn't make any difference where the money comes from. Dollars are IOUs which tell the recipients “we recognize that we owe you help in relocating to higher ground and here's some money to pay for the actual job.” It's our currency, issued in our name by the U.S. Treasury. It’s guaranteed because U.S. citizens always pay their debts.

VCRAGAIN (/user/VCRAGAIN) Feb 16 · 01:23:21 PM (/comments/1485411/59671321#comment_59671321)
So — this single group get $48 million, but the total monies for this kind of thing is around twice that much — and this group are going to look for somewhere in the same general low-lying area? — that whole low-lying area of the US is going to be gone by about 2050 so why isn't there a MASSIVE relocation plan and rules about how much higher they have to be or they will just have to re-locate again later? All these silly piecemeal resolutions are a waste of time — it is time to THINK BIG while there IS time to plan — Miami is doomed and they may as well start doing something NOW — all you ever hear about are 'sea walls' and diddling around — time to admit there is a PROBLEM people! Start the conversation NOW about what will be the answer!

chickenfarmerwood (/user/chickenfarmerwood) Feb 16 · 05:55:01 PM (/comments/1485411/59677102#comment_59677102)
In all likelihood these people have for generations used the seas and brackish water areas for their livelihood. Their traditions are probably wrapped around fishing, hunting gators, crabbing and shrimping. It would be very disrupting to them to be moved to an area that does not have these things available to them. Yes, that poses a problem for their future. Their future is already in big trouble because they are Natives. Every tribe has the potential of going extinct. Many already have. Many are scattered in cities living in awful conditions, overtaken by drugs and booze. Languages have been lost. That is one reason the Navaho are so set on having their President fluent in their language. They are trying to stop it from dying. We owe a great deal to Native tribes, we should help them find a suitable place, one that provides them a safe place for many, many years to come and yet respects their traditions.

NWangle (/user/NWangle) Feb 17 · 06:48:40 AM (/comments/1485411/59686254#comment_59686254)
Should look to the west coast of Canada to see potential models for land rights, tribal governance or language retention and education. No panacea by any stretch of the imagination, lots of problems, but compared to some US tribes, they're way ahead, including both English and native language radio and TV programming by their public broadcaster.

On the other hand, indigenous people are having really tough times in parts of South America, Wounded Knees nearly monthly. As usual it's the logging, gold mining, big oil and ranching interests, similar activities to 1800s America. Check out Survival International for more info.

Any GOP dude in the White House would extinguish the last gasps, except maybe casinos.
That Louisianan governor must not be that smart. Scott Walker, Wisconsin, Rick Snyder, Michigan and “Crazy Eyes” Scott of Florida would have stolen the money already. Oop’s, left out the #1 thief governor Chris Christie of New Jersey!

Michael Kal

In addition to the rising level of the ocean, how much is caused by the removal of the underlying oil resources and erosion from the decimation of sea grass due to defoliation caused by oil companies as well?

NWangle

The Perfect Storm. Can't see past that quarterly profit margin.

Little Bill

Simple-minded voters and consumers (whom I refer to here as “we” or “us,” because we are the culprits) are perhaps more responsible than petroleum companies for global warming/climate change. Among us are those who voted for anti-environment, childish, goofy, or malicious candidates, at least beginning with President reagan (which removed solar panels and nominated James T. Watt, a known ANTI-environmental activist, as Sec of Interior!). Who let reagan get away with that and then re-elected it in 1984? We did. We acted like fat-and-happy children pretending that nothing could go wrong. When gasoline prices were considered relatively low, we bought unnecessarily spacious vehicles for show-off purposes: Pick-up trucks, vans, SUVs. These things are trucks, and their main use is to sit so high that drivers behind us can't see the road ahead. Thus, we control those bastards...we win the competition! The demand for heavy, high, pretentious vehicles is so high that companies do not make really fuel-efficient vehicles sold at low initial cost anymore. My new (year 2000) Chevy Metro cost just under 10,000 dollars and got 51mpg during summer. In 2011, nothing I could find to replace it for about 10,000 dollars could do better than 34mpg.

Until we recognize that we, not just the other guy, have been stupid, and we change our stupid little behaviors, we are the dopes who are flooding these and many other people.

NWangle

Please don't include everyone in those “us”.

Little Bill
Never voted for any of those assholes since starting in the early 70s. Got to know some fine blacks, latinos and whites in the 60s. What race?

Bike, no car or truck. Stopped flying before 9/11. Learned about ecofootprinting in the 90s. Not perfect, but doing pretty good compared to ...

Isn't the big house, big truck, big ... compensation for small dicks?

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**Little Bill**

Feb 17 · 08:38:14 AM

Well, actually, the “we” is partly to be polite. I guess many of us do better, though. I don't know about the compensation angle, but it has always seemed to me that boys (no age limit on immaturity) do lot of focusing on their own dicks. What could be so fascinating to them? Please don't tell me.

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**kattail**

Feb 16 · 10:19:31 PM

Thank you for sharing this.

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**Shannyn Moore**

Feb 17 · 02:49:46 PM

Sadly, they are not the first nor will they be the last. http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2381218/Kivalina-Americas-climate-change-refugees-Hundreds-forced-flee-Alaskan-village-disappears-underwater-decade.html

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**serendipityisabitch**

Feb 17 · 03:07:38 PM

Scoop/despaminate3000 flag — reported to help desk. Looks like a totally legitimate comment.

(https://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/12/08/1457613/-Moderation-in-All-ThingsIncluding-Moderation)
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~~ from the DK Partners & Mentors Team (http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/03/22/1196175/-Announcing-Partners-Mentors?detail=hide).

Heartbreaking, Shannyn.

The city of Miami will be next and it will only cost us 48 trillion....But the Kochtopus will still be selling coal.....

Important topic. Thank you!

thanks. been working on this topic awhile. I grew up learning Sailing near the Outer banks in NC and saw the 'writing on the wall'
For more, visit a website I started on this subject in 2008

http://www.praer.org/ (http://www.praer.org/)

Recommended 12 times

Queries (/user/Queries) ➤ wade norris
Feb 15 · 04:53:40 PM (/comments/1485411/59654750#comment_59654750)

Let's hope sustainability becomes more of a concern...

You may find this interesting:

Shock Doctrine - The Rise of Disaster Capitalism (Updated)
(http://www.dailykos.com/story/2016/02/14/1484474/-Shock-Doctrine-The-Rise-of-Disaster-Capitalism)

Recommended 3 times

NWangle (/user/NWangle) ➤ Queries
Feb 17 · 05:56:24 AM (/comments/1485411/59686033#comment_59686033)

Naomi Kline has recently produced a film based on her latest book since publishing "The Shock Doctrine", called "This Changes Everything — It's not about carbon, it's about capitalism". Good book, will see the film soon.

Recommended 1 time
I knew this issue was finally gaining traction when I heard Rush Limbaugh discrediting Sea level rise was not happening....

You only mention something that you want to discredit, when you know it's real...

another point... The Kivalina were our first US Environmental Refugees...

and their case as told by the Atlantic could be very important for us all...
I have been there. Kivalina is an Inupiaq Eskimo village on the NW coast of Alaska. When I was there the school principal had just moved into the library because his house was washing away. The village had to relocate the generator building for the same reason. The people of "Kivi" are among the first to testify in real terms that Climate Change is no myth.

— RD Pruitt

This helps visualize what's coming, needs many eyes.

— rat racer

Thank you again for bringing these important issues to us; you are an exception. I hope the first inhabitants of this land do create a model. A model of "HELL RAISERS".

— ellymae

"For mine eyes are upon all their ways; they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes." Jeremiah 16:17

— ellymae

As a Native American myself, I do feel the U.S. government has a responsibility to ensure the well being of the peoples it has displaced, and so in this case I don't think the mitigation was excessive. But if the nation winds up paying an eighth of a million dollars to every person displaced by catastrophic climate change, this is going to be a budget buster. The loss in Florida alone will suck up two trillion dollars at that rate, which doesn't include the inevitable efforts at forestalling the evacuation — let alone the vast sums needed to deal with the nuclear plants.

While I favor immediate action to confiscate the assets of fossil carbon companies and the shareholders who have benefited from the continued destruction of the planet after the threat was known, this will be a drop in the bucket compared to the costs of this disaster. There is no way we can pay to relocate everyone who will be affected. I think we need to stop it before it starts, and just be clear now that "you are on your own". Why should those who have made wiser choices be forced to pay for those who have chosen to live in lowlands and on the coast?

And just to be clear, I live on an Atlantic barrier island made of sand that will likely be among the first areas affected. This is not selfishness talking.

— ypochris
Correct, only government can raise co-ordinated programs, but it’s not just American taxpayers who should cover the costs. The fossil fuel companies that caused much of the crisis, must pay the biggest chunk. They operate globally and this is not just a US issue.

"Why should those who have made wiser choices be forced to pay for those who have chosen to live in lowlands and on the coast?"

A "tradition", not a “choice”. They didn’t “choose”. They were born there. Just like their parents and all their parents before them. They intended to die there and have their children do the same.

The “choice” was made by those that disregarded everything in the pursuit of profit while becoming expert at externalizing any and all obligations for doing the right thing or paying for the wrong.

It is oh so easy for those in the clouds who are "trickling down" to blame those on the ground for being wet — after they’ve stolen their raincoat. At some point, "I stole it fair and square!" will no longer be acceptable to those grasping for a lifeboat.

When you consider Florida and governor Rick Scott, refusing to acknowledge climate change to the point that anyone who works for the state is not allowed to use those words…it is just appalling. So they take no action to prepare for the inevitable. How he ever got in office in the first place is just incredible, but then, you know, the Kochs.. So people keep voting for these climate-change deniers. In fact in all of the GOP debates, they do not even discuss this issue.

In Wisconsin our governor does not care about any of us either. He’s looking to score points by privatizing the state’s most precious resource, our water. I wish there was some way to get through to the right wing voters, that Trump is not the answer—in fact none of their candidates are. Trump is a business man and government is not a business. Governor Snyder in Michigan is a business man too. That didn’t turn out so well. The state is bankrupt and the citizens of Flint were poisoned to save a nickle. Now it will cost the country billions. Pretty soon anyone with any kind of financial ability to do so will leave this country and then what?
Actually, Michigan is not bankrupt. Between the governor cutting programs for the poor and elderly and raising taxes on the middle class, which created a surplus, and the Rainy Day Fund, there is 1.2 billion dollars available. He should be using that money for replacing the lead pipes in Flint. Instead, he is asking the Federal government to bail him out.

Recommended 1 time

I told my distant family to sell the Florida land my mom mistakenly bought back in 1980, while they still can. What was that joke “if you believe this, boy do I have a piece of land in Florida to sell you.”

It may not just be Rick Scott towing the GOP line, but if snowbirds figure out his scam then they may not show up and buy.

The mayor of south Miami said that he wants to secede. Light flooding on the roads at king tide but good weather, brackish water in the wells and this has inundated several miles inland, septic systems failing, not sure but told that the highest state elevation is the top of the main landfill, grim outlook.

As to Scott Walker, he's one of those crooked businessmen. Potable water is a human right, not a commodity to buy and sell, unless it's the total ripoff in little plastic bottles. Even if a Democrat takes the White House, that crap won't likely change for a long time.

Recommended 0 times

Okay, I understand your argument about paying for relocating this tribe. But are American taxpayers supposed to pay for everyone that lives along coastal areas to move? That I don't agree with.

Recommended 1 time

It's not just rising sea level, it's increased tornadoes, bigger hurricanes, more frequent droughts, forest fires and floods. Relatively rare at the moment, but increasing substantially every decade.

Did you know that the Syrian crisis is partially due to a big drought similar to the 4 year one in California, and that Ethiopia is beginning to experience a bigger drought than the one in the 70s that led to all the starvation?

It's time to 'regulate' big fossil fuel companies, to insist that they stop externalizing costs of their activities for share holder (such as the Koch bros) profit making on everyone and everything else.
If that can be done, taxpayer costs will be lower. Maybe wait until the global economy recovers. And no, those companies aren't moving.

But it's also time to charge more to consumers who would use large amounts of fossil fuels, often wasted. Why do people have big second or third homes that they rarely visit? We call them dark homes but they suck up energy. Why do people heat their outdoor patios, glass them in with sliding doors. Why do some workers in office towers need sweaters or baseboard heaters when it's hot and sweltering outside? Why cool the house all day when 15 minutes would do before coming home from work. Or multiple yearly, non essential, vacation airline trips, etc.

Nobody will like it but charge considerably more for energy used by industry and consumers, and apply those funds for climate change mitigation such as moving people away from the low lying coastal areas. If you are careful, you won't pay much taxes, but if you are wasteful ...

To abandon people only leads to even higher costs that you'll pay through your taxes. Bad idea.

An interesting factoid. Look at the island here on Google Maps: goo.gl/…
(https://goo.gl/maps/Esx8DRDfVFx)

If you view the map, then view the satellite image you can see a noticeable difference in size.

This is not just Climate Change, it is also the destructive Oil Industry. They should help pay for this problem to which they contributed. It must be difficult to watch your home crumble into the sea.

The oil industry should have to match any funds the Government (we!) pays out.

Situations like this with a Native American tribe involved are unique — they need and deserve to be moved as a unit. But we do need to think about and prepare a policy on this kind of aid to people in general. We are all complicit in the cause of the damage, but some of us more so than others.
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What will be the logistics of this relocation/build of a new community? Do they have to purchase the land uphill/inland? Presumably there are no federal lands down there to be granted.

So how will this play out over the next 10-20 years for individuals with receding and eroding property? Has there been any compensation “rules” set up after petro-disasters?

When rising sea levels start to affect $1 million homes on the Outer Banks or Dafuskey Island, then you’ll see an outpouring of Congressional action. compensation, and the like. As long as the only people affected are a few poor minorities, screw ‘em.

You mean like parts of New Orleans?
We should repay them with Manhattan. Well, maybe they could trade us some glass beads for it.

Recommended 3 times

 arabalicious
 arabalicious  Feb 16 · 10:50:37 AM (/comments/1485411/59667866#comment_59667866)

It really doesn't make any difference where the money comes from. Dollars are IOUs which tell the recipients “we recognize that we owe you help in relocating to higher ground and here's some money to pay for the actual job.” It’s our currency, issued in our name by the U.S. Treasury. It’s guaranteed because U.S. citizens always pay their debts.

Recommended 1 time

 VCRAGAIN
 VCRAGAIN  Feb 16 · 01:23:21 PM (/comments/1485411/59671321#comment_59671321)

So — this single group get $48 million, but the total monies for this kind of thing is around twice that much — and this group are going to look for somewhere in the same general low-lying area? — that whole low-lying area of the US is going to be gone by about 2050 so why isn't there a MASSIVE relocation plan and rules about how much higher they have to be or they will just have to re-locate again later? All these silly piecemeal resolutions are a waste of time — it is time to THINK BIG while there IS time to plan — Miami is doomed and they may as well start doing something NOW — all you ever hear about are ‘sea walls’ and diddling around — time to admit there is a PROBLEM people! Start the conversation NOW about what will be the answer!

Recommended 2 times

 chickenfarmerwood
 chickenfarmerwood  Feb 16 · 05:55:01 PM (/comments/1485411/59677102#comment_59677102)

In all likelihood these people have for generations used the seas and brackish water areas for their livelihood. Their traditions are probably wrapped around fishing, hunting gators, crabbing and shrimping. It would be very disrupting to them to be moved to an area that does not have these things available to them. Yes, that poses a problem for their future. Their future is already in big trouble because they are Natives. Every tribe has the potential of going extinct. Many already have. Many are scattered in cities living in awful conditions, overtaken by drugs and booze. Languages have been lost. That is one reason the Navaho are so set on having their President fluent in their language. They are trying to stop it from dying. We owe a great deal to Native tribes, we should help them find a suitable place, one that provides them a safe place for many, many years to come and yet respects their traditions.

Recommended 6 times

 NWangle
 NWangle  Feb 17 · 06:48:40 AM (/comments/1485411/59686254#comment_59686254)

Should look to the west coast of Canada to see potential models for land rights, tribal governance or language retention and education. No panacea by any stretch of the imagination, lots of problems, but compared to some US tribes, they're way ahead, including both English and native language radio and TV programming by their public broadcaster.
On the other hand, indigenous people are having really tough times in parts of South America, Wounded Knees nearly monthly. As usual it's the logging, gold mining, big oil and ranching interests, similar activities to 1800s America. Check out Survival International for more info.

Any GOP dude in the White House would extinguish the last gasps, except maybe casinos.

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**jon6er**  Feb 16 · 02:34:41 PM (/comments/1485411/59673029#comment_59673029)

That Louisianan governor must not be that smart. Scott Walker, Wisconsin, Rick Snyder, Michigan and “Crazy Eyes” Scott of Florida would have stolen the money already. Oop’s, left out the #1 thief governor Chris Christie of New Jersey!

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**Michael Kal**  Feb 16 · 03:56:00 PM (/comments/1485411/59674789#comment_59674789)

In addition to the rising level of the ocean, how much is caused by the removal of the underlying oil resources and erosion from the decimation of sea grass due to defoliation caused by oil companies as well?

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**NWangle**  Feb 17 · 06:50:23 AM (/comments/1485411/59686262#comment_59686262)

The Perfect Storm. Can't see past that quarterly profit margin.

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**Little Bill**  Feb 16 · 07:17:46 PM (/comments/1485411/59678686#comment_59678686)

Simple-minded voters and consumers (whom I refer to here as “we” or “us,” because we are the culprits) are perhaps more responsible than petroleum companies for global warming/climate change. Among us are those who voted for anti-environment, childish, goofy, or malicious candidates, at least beginning with President reagan (which removed solar panels and nominated James T. Watt, a known ANTI-environmental activist, as Sec of Interior!). Who let reagan get away with that and then re-elected it in 1984? We did. We acted like fat-and-happy children pretending that nothing could go wrong. When gasoline prices were considered relatively low, we bought unnecessarily spacious vehicles for show-off purposes: Pick-up trucks, vans, SUVs. These things are trucks, and their main use is to sit so high that drivers behind us can't see the road ahead. Thus, we control those bastards...we win the competition! The demand for heavy, high, pretentious vehicles is so high that companies do not make really fuel-efficient vehicles sold at low initial cost anymore. My new (year 2000) Chevy Metro cost just under 10,000 dollars and got 51mpg during summer. In 2011, nothing I could find to replace it for about 10,000 dollars could do better than 34mpg.

Until we recognize that we, not just the other guy, have been stupid, and we change our stupid little behaviors, we are the dopes who are flooding these and many other people.
NWangle (/user/NWangle)  Little Bill
Feb 17 · 07:03:01 AM (/comments/1485411/59686326#comment_59686326)

Please don't include everyone in those “us”.

Never voted for any of those assholes since starting in the early 70s. Got to know some fine blacks, latinos and whites in the 60s. What race?

Bike, no car or truck. Stopped flying before 9/11. Learned about ecofootprinting in the 90s.
Not perfect, but doing pretty good compared to ...

Isn't the big house, big truck, big ... compensation for small dicks?

Recommended 1 time

Little Bill (/user/Little Bill)  NWangle
Feb 17 · 08:38:14 AM (/comments/1485411/59686962#comment_59686962)

Well, actually, the “we” is partly to be polite. I guess many of us do better, though.
I don't know about the compensation angle, but it has always seemed to me that boys (no age limit on immaturity) do lot of focusing on their own dicks. What could be so fascinating to them? Please don't tell me.

Recommended 0 times

kattail (/user/kattail)
Feb 16 · 10:19:31 PM (/comments/1485411/59682275#comment_59682275)

Thank you for sharing this.

Recommended 1 time

Shannyn Moore (/user/Shannyn Moore)  Shannyn Moore
Feb 17 · 02:49:46 PM (/comments/1485411/59695032#comment_59695032)

Sadly, they are not the first nor will they be the last. http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2381218/Kivalina-Americas-climate-change-refugees-Hundreds-forced-flee-Alaskan-village-disappears-underwater-decade.html

Recommended 3 times

serendipityisabitch (/user/serendipityisabitch)  Shannyn Moore
Feb 17 · 03:07:38 PM (/comments/1485411/59695537#comment_59695537)

Scoop/despaminate3000 flag — reported to help desk. Looks like a totally legitimate comment.
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The city of Miami will be next and it will only cost us 48 trillion....But the Kochtopus will still be selling coal.....