

LETTERS

What Can

Paul Nitze is right that "the United States must lead the way" in dealing with pollution ["A Cold-War Solution for a Warming World," op-ed, July 2]. We spew out more global-warming pollution than any other nation, and we must take the lead in curbing emissions.

But leading cannot include trading away our obligations to developing countries using pollution-trading schemes.

Trading schemes provide polluters with the right to pollute a certain amount. If a company wanted to pollute more, it could buy pollution credits from another polluter in, for example, Ukraine, which would promise to pollute less. Or it could plant a forest of saplings in Guatemala, for example. Under such a system, enforcement and monitoring of thousands of international trades would be impossible and sham transactions unavoidable. How would we punish a country that cuts down forests that had been traded to allow a U.S. company to pollute more?

Steps taken to reduce greenhouse emissions also reduce soot, smog and acid rain. Therefore, allowing polluters to trade away greenhouse reductions would mean more of all these pollutants; improving energy efficiency, on the other hand, would cut pollution and save Americans money. And trading would reduce the pressure to develop new, cleaner technologies because it is always cheaper to buy "paper" pollution reductions than it is to put engineers to work creating real ones.

ANN MESNIKOFF
DANIEL BECKER
Washington

The writers are associate representative and director, respectively, of the Sierra Club's Global Warming and Energy Program.

Subject: Washington Post letter
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 1997 06:06:45 -0400
From: Byron Wine <byronw@erols.com>
To: ann.mesnikoff@sierraclub.org

Hi,

Read your letter in today's WP.

If you are interested in improving energy efficiency, you might find the information at: <http://www.erols.com/byronw> of interest.

I have source documentation for everything on that page, including the Shell Oil book with a photograph of their modified 376 mpg automobile.

Byron

Subject: Message for Daniel Becker
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 1997 07:17:46 -0400
From: Byron Wine <byronw@erols.com>
To: information@sierraclub.org

Hi,

Read your letter in the Washington Post today.

If you are interested in improving energy efficiency, see: <http://www.erols.com/byronw>. I have source documentation for everything on that page.

Byron

PS I sent two previous e-mail messages to the Sierra Club, no response. I'm beginning to wonder if the Sierra Club really wants energy efficiency.