

Eight ways to save the planet



Tesla Motors Inc. CEO Elon Musk speaks at Sorbonne University as part of the COP21. Francois Mori, Associated Press

There are more ways to save Earth

Re: *"Eight ways to save the planet," Dec. 6 Perspective.*

I was surprised that your article left out conservation technologies as part of the solution. It's not as sexy as wind and solar, nor is it as controversial as a carbon tax or nuclear energy. It works, though, and it's an easy measure for almost all parties to get behind. Most measures — such as efficient LED lighting — are all-around positive. They pay for themselves in energy and maintenance savings. They help to reduce the



The sun's light is reflected off a body of water as the Earth is photographed from the International Space Station on Dec. 2. Courtesy NASA, AFP/Getty images

number of peaking power plants that need to be built. Most utilities help you pay for the efficiency upgrades. The companies that participate in the industry employ well-paid professionals like architects, electricians and engineers. Plus, the technologies are better, so you get a better end product. End users, contractors, government, environmentalists,

utilities, manufactures, our children — basically everyone wins with conservation. So while parties argue about climate change, we all should get together for a big plate of energy efficiency and eat up like it's the holidays. There's plenty of it out there, and it's tasty stuff.

Scot Kelley, *Cherry Hills Village*

...

Bravo to The Denver Post for publishing this Perspective piece. As pointed out in one of the eight ways, an important element is to disseminate information. And what better way to do that than through the press? Of the eight suggestions, the most promising in terms of gaining popular support is through a revenue-neutral tax on CO2. Studies have shown that it is more efficient, less costly, and more effective than regulation in reducing CO2 emission levels — using market forces and American ingenuity to find alternatives to generating energy through fossil fuels. It is a plan that can be supported by the full spectrum of political ideologies. Although returning the revenue through reduced income taxes, as suggested by Bob Inglis (former Republican congressman from South Carolina and executive director of republicEn) is an efficient way of returning the revenue, because a CO2 tax is very regressive, a more equitable way would be through an equal per-capita dividend to all citizens.

Douglas M. Alde, *Denver*

...

The author of this article (Bloomberg View's Christopher Flavelle) overlooked the most effective and immediate remedy of all: reduce the human population. This would require that 1. All objections to any form of birth control be refused by governments everywhere; 2. Girls and women be educated so that they may do something with their lives besides procreate; 3. The guideline of One Woman, One Child be established. In fact, everybody should be educated about birth control and be taught that this is what we need to do to save the world. Maintaining a worldwide pool of cheap labor (aka overpopulation) has become unsustainable.

Susan P. Williams, *Lakewood* **Complicating factors of charter schools**

Re: *"The pull of charter schools," Dec. 6 Dick Hilker column.*

Dick Hilker summarizes many positive attributes of charter schools. Unfortunately, he omits several complicating factors.

- Many parents lack the ability and time off of work to transport their children to and from charter schools.
- Many parents don't understand how our school system works in general and the benefits that charter schools might offer their children.
- Many parents doubt their ability to communicate effectively with school officials.

- Many parents struggle to raise their children while tackling poverty, homelessness, and the transiency that often accompanies the search for employment.

Charter schools offer advantages for families able to access them, but operate unencumbered by many societal issues that plague “traditional” neighborhood schools. These issues are complex, pervasive and defy simple, quick-fix solutions.

Americans need to tackle our collective problems honestly and collaboratively. Vilifying one group or another hasn’t solved anything so far.

Richard Argys, *Westminster*

...

There certainly is no general agreement that teachers are more important than parents in the education of a child. This fallacy perpetuated by educational reformists, the media and politicians is at the core of a coordinated effort to destroy public education, in part by scapegoating teachers and unions.

Charter schools are driven by a combination of parents who are involved in their child’s education in a far greater way than a lot of other parents, coupled with a desire to separate their children from the children of uninvolved parents as well as children who disrupt the learning environment of a school in a variety of ways. Add into this mix the fear and anxiety of gun violence in the greater society, including in schools, and you have the perfect formula for the rise of charter schools.

If this is to be the future of public education, then so be it, but in turn we create an educational system consisting of haves and have-nots — where the students of involved parents congregate in one environment, and the throw-away children occupy what’s left of urban public schools — then be prepared for the inevitable social consequences of this new form of segregation in the not-too-distant future.

Gerry Camilli, *Englewood*

Responding to Mike Rosen

Re: *“Call Islamist terrorism what it is,” Dec. 4 Perspective.*

Mike Rosen echoes the sentiments of many conservatives who have called President Obama and Hillary Clinton out for failure to use the term “Islamist terrorists” when describing Muslim shooters. Obviously, the president and Clinton wish not to offend people of the Muslim faith. Using the logic in his article, would Rosen label those killers who murder individuals in Planned Parenthood clinics as “Christian terrorists?”

Bruce Huey, *Fort Morgan*

...

Re: *"ColoradoCare is toxic medicine," Nov. 22 Perspective.*

Mike Rosen's long rant against ColoradoCareYes was an attack on democracy. Gathering 156,000 signatures for ballot Initiative 20 for a single-payer health insurance program makes a very strong statement about what the citizens of Colorado desire.

This is truly one of the few democratic processes left in our country to enact change by the people. Colorado is one of those 25 fortunate states that has this initiative process. This initiative is an expression of the people's right to choose what they want in their health care system. It is my hope that the rest of this nation will follow Colorado's example on this health care initiative.

Let democracy rule for a change.

Randy Fricke, *New Castle*

Climate change conference

Re: *"Climate conference is meaningless," Dec. 6 Ross Kaminsky column.*

Apparently Ross Kaminsky doesn't take climate change seriously, nor does he think anyone else should, either. He doesn't believe the overwhelming majority of scientists who do think that there is a preponderance of evidence that climate change is happening, and that it will continue to accelerate and pose a real threat to a significant number of the world's population.

Maybe he thinks they're all delusional or crackpots. Maybe he hasn't viewed the many pictures and film footage of the alarming speed that glaciers are receding around the globe. That's certainly compelling visual evidence. And where does he think all of those people will go when the land they live on — islands throughout the Pacific and coastal cities around the world — is under water?

Jeannie Dunham, *Denver*

...

How can it be that the Department of Defense "recognizes the reality of climate change and the significant risk it poses to U.S. interests globally"? How can it be that MIT states that "the global and holistic nature of the climate change threat ... makes it society's grandest challenge of the present day, possibly of all time?"

How can it be that Pope Francis writes that “a very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system?” How can it be that Elon Musk said putting carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is “the dumbest experiment in history”?

So it goes, as climate deniers sink to raising the specter of terrorism to denounce those who seek progress confronting climate change.

Mary Richards, *Evergreen*

...

I’m shocked that you printed uncorroborated, unfactual head-in-the-sand musings. Climate scientists uniformly report the Earth’s temperature has already risen 1 degree Centigrade since the 19th century. We know that last year was the warmest ever. Places like New York City and Miami have noticed increased water levels. Colorado ski areas have seen unpredictably dry then very wet years, and are making serious plans to stay in business. If we admit reality, there is always something we can do about it.

Judy Danielson, *Denver*