

Confessions of a Greenpeace Dropout: the Making of a Sensible Environmentalist

Patrick Moore is a Greenpeace co-founder and scientist. He who holds a PhD in ecology. He left Greenpeace in mid-1980s due to "philosophical differences".

This is his story and his indictment of the organization he helped found and its drift to utopian surrealism. If you don't want to get an education on and a tutorial about organizational insanity that the first 150 or so pages of Greenpeace history reveals, or how the radical, irrational elements took it over, then skip to Chapter XI, Greenpeace Sails Off the Deep End. Here Moore sums up his reasons for leaving and highlights the final straw that led to his departure: Greenpeace's vendetta against chlorine. According to Moore, "...more than 75% of our pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics were based" on chlorine. He points out to Greenpeace that table salt is "two-thirds chlorine by weight", "an essential nutrient for plants and animals" and that no "form of life would be possible without it". All to no avail. Greenpeace wanted a "global ban" on chlorine, and Moore sees no choice but to quit.

I highly recommend his last seven chapters that deal with the paramount environment issues of today from an ecopragmatist-scientist perspective. From his unique viewpoint as a scientist and environmentalist of impeccable credentials, Moore addresses trees and sustainability, energy, food and genetic modification, biodiversity and species extinction, necessary chemicals in our life, population and climate change. His final chapter, Charting a Sensible Course to a Sustainable Future, brings it all together in a practical, doable agenda that probably will do some real good for the environment without impoverishing the world's poor. One surprise suggestion is to use more trees and paper and, of course, plant more trees, as well.