**A Greener America – There is Hope In Spite of the Politicians’ Irresponsibility**

No matter what your hopes were for Tuesday’s election, one outcome that we’re all too likely to see is political gridlock.

That makes the work we do together -- advancing social justice and environmental responsibility through economic action -- more important than ever. Here are just a few examples:

**1. By working to** [**close the filthiest coal-fired power plants**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715395/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL3Rha2VhY3Rpb24vc291dGhlcm4v%26x=755c2791)**,** we can work to meet our climate goals -- without one new piece of legislation.

**2. By creating** [**Clean Energy Victory Bonds**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715225/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL3Rha2VhY3Rpb24vY2V2Yi8%253d%26x=05ffd43f), we can finance the next big wave of solar and wind -- without one penny of taxpayer dollars.

**3. By focusing on** [**energy efficiency,**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715396/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL3B1YnMvZ3JlZW5hbWVyaWNhbi9hcnRpY2xlcy9TdW1tZXIyMDA4L0xldmVsT25lLmNmbQ%253d%253d%26x=7d396ef9) we can help every American family save hundreds or thousands of dollars a year -- better than a tax break, since it will happen year after year with no Congressional vote required.

**4. By accelerating the** [**transition to clean energy,**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715397/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL2Fib3V0L25ld3Nyb29tL2VkaXRvcmlhbHMvTm9Nb3JlU3BpbGxzLmNmbQ%253d%253d%26x=0116e1bd) we ensure the next big wave of good jobs.

**5. By going** [**local and organic with our food,**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715398/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL3B1YnMvZ3JlZW5hbWVyaWNhbi8%253d%26x=25e36be5) and rebuilding local food systems, we can make sure there is healthy, affordable food for all.

**6. By choosing** [**Fair Trade,**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715399/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL3Byb2dyYW1zL2ZhaXJ0cmFkZS8%253d%26x=4aa16238) we can help families around the world lift themselves out of poverty.

**7. By switching to** [**community banks and credit unions,**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715400/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL3NvY2lhbGludmVzdGluZy9jb21tdW5pdHlpbnZlc3RpbmcvYnJlYWt1cHdpdGh5b3VyYmFuazMuY2Zt%26x=666947ec) we can take support away from the mega-banks who were at the center of the global economic crisis – and invest in our local communities.

**8. By supporting** [**green businesses,**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/7/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbnBhZ2VzLm9yZy8%253d%26x=8a424121) we can rebuild our Main Streets and create new jobs. Recent studies confirm what you and I have known for years: According to the Kaufman Foundation, over the past 25 years, virtually all net new jobs in the US have been created by small, local and independent businesses that are less than five years old. The Pew Charitable Trust reported that green jobs in the U.S. grew more than twice as fast as the overall job market in the past ten years, and suffered fewer setbacks.

**9. By choosing green** [**products and services,**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715401/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmRlYWxzLm9yZy8%253d%26x=6762aa66) people can improve their health, live better and save money when they go green.

**10. By using our consumer and investing power, we can make real, lasting change.** Steps forward include Home Depot shifting to sustainably-harvested wood and Ben & Jerry’s committing to be 100% Fair Trade with their flavors by 2012. [Let's keep up the pressure on Hershey's](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715232/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL3Rha2VhY3Rpb24vaGVyc2hleS8%253d%26x=e7e77981) to go Fair Trade!

Americans can and do come together for clean energy and jobs, healthy food, a fair deal for all, and financing systems that rebuild our Main Streets. As we work together on strengthening local businesses and local communities, we're also building alliances across political divides, reknitting the fabric of our country. We have powerful tools at our fingertips for accelerating the shift to a just and sustainable economy.

Thanks for all you do for a better future for all,

Alisa Gravitz
Executive Director
Green America

**P.S. Please** [**forward this message**](https://outlook.umsl.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://lists.coopamerica.org:8383/t/8227854/744600/715402/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5ncmVlbmFtZXJpY2Eub3JnL3Rvb2xzL2VtYWlsZnJpZW5kLmNmbT9wYWdlPS9lbWFpbHMvY2FuZXdzLzIwMTAxMTAzQg%253d%253d%26x=b44fc104) to everyone you know who might need a hopeful message today.