## Widener Law

Widener Law School Legal Studies Research Paper Series no. 13-36

Responses To The Claims of the
Anti-Agenda 21 Disinformation Campaign

Donald A. Brown Widener University School of Law

## Responses To The Claims of the Anti-Agenda 21 Disinformation Campaign

Donald A. Brown

Scholar In Residence, Sustainability Ethics and law

Widener University School of law

Dabrown57@gmail.com



The following chart identifies frequent claims made by the anti-Agenda 21 campaign and responses to these untruthful assertions.

For a more detailed response to these claims see:

The Agenda 21 Disinformation Campaign in the United States: An Ethical Critique of an Attack on Sustainability

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=2277882

Also see: <a href="http://blogs.law.widener.edu/climate/2013/05/30/the-agenda-21-disinformation-campaign-in-the-united-states-an-ethical-critique-of-an-attack-on-sustainability/">http://blogs.law.widener.edu/climate/2013/05/30/the-agenda-21-disinformation-campaign-in-the-united-states-an-ethical-critique-of-an-attack-on-sustainability/</a>

And: <a href="http://blogs.law.widener.edu/climate/2013/06/02/the-anti-agenda-21-disinformation-campaign-part-2/">http://blogs.law.widener.edu/climate/2013/06/02/the-anti-agenda-21-disinformation-campaign-part-2/</a>

## Response To the anti-Agenda 21 campaign. For details, see: EthcsandClimate.org

 $\frac{\text{http://blogs.law.widener.edu/climate/2013/05/30/the-agenda-21-disinformation-campaign-in-the-united-states-an-ethical-critique-of-an-attack-on-sustainability/ \\ \frac{\text{http://blogs.law.widener.edu/climate/2013/06/02/the-anti-agenda-21-disinformation-campaign-part-2/}{\text{http://blogs.law.widener.edu/climate/2013/06/02/the-anti-agenda-21-disinformation-campaign-part-2/}}$ 

Claim, About Agenda 21	Response
Erodes American sovereignty	Agenda 21 expressly reaffirms national sovereignty and calls for decision making at the lowest practical level. Agenda 21 is simply a non-binding menu of options with no legal force on the US. No one in the UN reviews US compliance because it is a non-binding document.
Implements a Marxist/socialist one-world order and is a UN plot to eliminate private property.	Agenda 21 has an entire chapter which calls for strengthening the role of business in decision-making and calls for greater use of market mechanisms. Thousands of US businesses strongly support sustainability.
Undermines property rights	Agenda 21 affirms property rights and calls on nations to establish legal procedures to redress rights violations.
Erodes local control of land use decision-making	Agenda 21 calls for decision-making to take place at the lowest level of government that can solve the problem. Agenda 21 is only a menu of options.
Calls for property decisions to be made in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations	The United Nations Charter says that it shall not be construed to interfere with matters of national jurisdiction. Agenda 21 calls for local decision-making. Nothing the UN does is binding on nations except for Security Council decisions over which the US has a veto.
Calls for individual rights to be transferred to the collective	Agenda 21 calls for decision-making to take place at the lowest level of government that can solve the problem, reaffirms rights, changes no existing rights, and calls for multi-sector participation in decision-making. The UN has no control over local decision making, nor does it review or comment on local decision-making.
Groups including "Smart Growth,": "American Planning Association", "ICLEI", and others are covertly implementing UN agenda	The UN has no control over these groups, they engage in their work because they believe planning is necessary to implement community visions and the UN does not review their work. Agenda 21 is simply a menu of options for consideration. Most people preparing local plans have never heard of Agenda 21 nor look to it for guidance.
Implementation will mean the only place US citizens may live is in a few urban centers, no more living in rural areas.	This is a complete fabrication; nothing in Agenda 21 remotely calls for this. Agenda 21 is simply a menu of options, all land use decisions remain in full local control.
Implements an extreme environmentalism	Agenda 21 contains examples of environmental laws and policies before 1992. Most are pre-existing US laws and policies. It is a menu of options not a set of rules. Local governments are encouraged to choose what meets their needs according to their own laws and policies.
Clinton administration's President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD) is proof that the US implemented Agenda 21	The PCSD made a series of recommendations on how to move the US toward a sustainable future. Neither the Clinton nor Bush administrations did anything with the recommendations. Nothing ever came of the PCSD.