



Sustainability Pioneers Community Conversations

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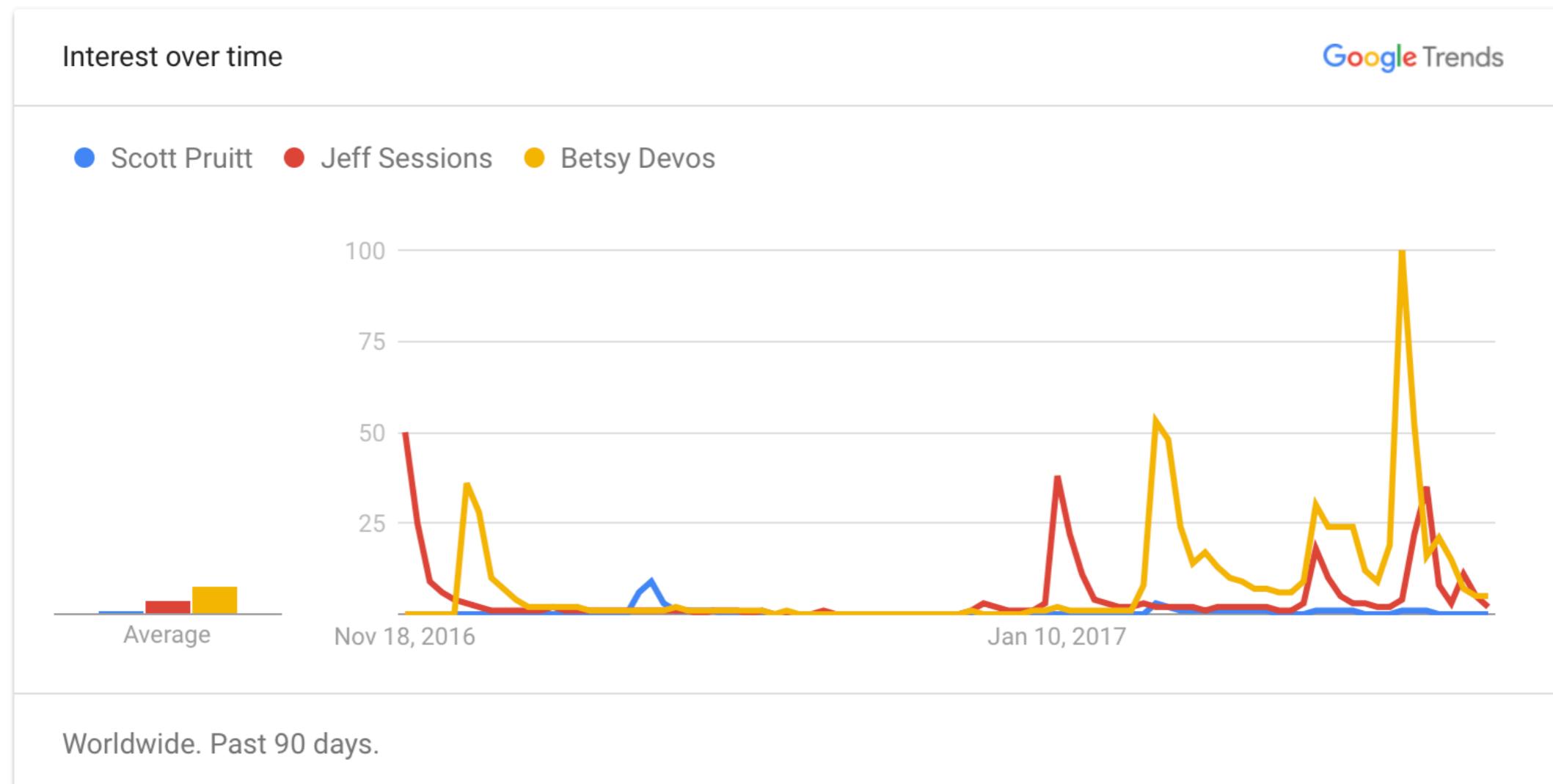
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Why we need a new narrative?

“The incoming EPA chief is as unqualified as Trump's new education secretary, and as morally outrageous as Jeff Sessions.” - THE NEW REPUBLIC



SOURCE: <https://newrepublic.com/article/140639/scott-pruitt-deserves-much-outrage-betsy-devos>

The *New Republic* was founded in 1914 as a journal of opinion which seeks to meet the challenge of a new time. For over 100 years, we have championed progressive ideas and challenged popular opinion. Our vision for today revitalizes our founding mission for our new time. The *New Republic* promotes novel solutions for today's most critical issues. We don't lament intractable problems; our journalism debates complex issues, and takes a stance. Our biggest stories are commitments for change.

Climate does not need to be
a bi-partisan issue



Former Secretary of State James Baker speaks at the funeral of former First Lady Nancy Reagan on March 11, 2016 in Simi Valley, California. Baker is leading an effort to advocate for a carbon tax. Irfan Khan—LA Times via Getty Images

CLIMATE CHANGE

Republicans Tell Their Party It's Time to Address Climate Change

Justin Worland
Feb 08, 2017



A group of Republican elder statesmen called on their party's leadership to address climate change by enacting a carbon tax to replace much of the Obama-era environmental regulation.

SOURCE: <http://time.com/4663995/republicans-gop-climate-change-council/>

A group of Republican elder statesmen, Climate Leadership Council, called on their party's leadership to address climate change **by enacting a carbon tax** to replace much of the Obama-era environmental regulation.

The group includes GOP leaders from the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, including former Secretary of State James Baker, former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and former Secretary of State George Shultz. Leading Republican economists Martin Feldstein and N. Gregory Mankiw endorsed the economics of the plan.

"The simplistic view is that Democrats want to solve climate change and Republicans don't," said Ted Halstead, CEO of the Climate Leadership Council, in a speech announcing the proposal. "As our statement proves, that is not true... it is not enough to repeal the current programs. You also must replace those current programs with something better."

SOURCE: <http://time.com/4663995/republicans-gop-climate-change-council/>

How to talk to a climate denier?

- 1. Have the conversation.** You might not change a person's mind overnight, but being willing to engage respectfully at least opens the way for understanding. Always stay civil and courteous.
- 2. Find the common ground.** Talk about related issues that can resonate with anyone regardless of their environmental views, such as "U.S. energy independence, reducing foreign oil imports, promoting economic growth, protecting our families from harm, and improving the U.S. balance of trade."

You can still counter straight-up misinformation about climate science using plentiful resources online, for example: NASA, Skeptical Science, Scientific American.

- 3. Maintain your sense of humor.** Climate scientists have learned to cope with laughter. For example, check out Katharine Hayhoe's Global Weirding.

Message from Arnold Schwarzenegger



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER · MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015



I see your questions.

Each and every time I post on my Facebook page or tweet about my crusade for a clean energy future, I see them.

There are always a few of you, asking why we should care about the temperature rising, or questioning the science of climate change.

I want you to know that I hear you. Even those of you who say renewable energy is a conspiracy. Even those who say climate change is a hoax. Even those of you who use four letter words.

Message from Arnold Schwarzenegger

I've heard all of your questions, and now I have three questions for you.

Let's put climate change aside for a minute. In fact, let's assume you're right.

First - do you believe it is acceptable that 7 million people die every year from pollution? That's more than murders, suicides, and car accidents - combined.

Every day, 19,000 people die from pollution from fossil fuels. Do you accept those deaths? Do you accept that children all over the world have to grow up breathing with inhalers?

Message from Arnold Schwarzenegger

Now, my second question: do you believe coal and oil will be the fuels of the future?

Besides the fact that fossil fuels destroy our lungs, everyone agrees that eventually they will run out. What's your plan then?

I, personally, want a plan. I don't want to be like the last horse and buggy salesman who was holding out as cars took over the roads. I don't want to be the last investor in Blockbuster as Netflix emerged. That's exactly what is going to happen to fossil fuels.

A clean energy future is a wise investment, and anyone who tells you otherwise is either wrong, or lying. Either way, I wouldn't take their investment advice.

Message from Arnold Schwarzenegger

Renewable energy is great for the economy, and you don't have to take my word for it. California has some of the most revolutionary environmental laws in the United States, we get 40% of our power from renewables, and we are 40% more energy efficient than the rest of the country. We were an early-adopter of a clean energy future.

Our economy has not suffered. In fact, our economy in California is growing faster than the U.S. economy. We lead the nation in manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, entertainment, high tech, biotech, and, of course, green tech.

Message from Arnold Schwarzenegger

I have a final question, and it will take some imagination.

There are two doors. Behind Door Number One is a completely sealed room, with a regular, gasoline-fueled car. Behind Door Number Two is an identical, completely sealed room, with an electric car. Both engines are running full blast.

I want you to pick a door to open, and enter the room and shut the door behind you. You have to stay in the room you choose for one hour. You cannot turn off the engine. You do not get a gas mask.

I'm guessing you chose the Door Number Two, with the electric car, right? Door number one is a fatal choice - who would ever want to breathe those fumes?

Message from Arnold Schwarzenegger

This is the choice the world is making right now.

To use one of the four-letter words all of you commenters love, I don't give a damn if you believe in climate change. I couldn't care less if you're concerned about temperatures rising or melting glaciers. It doesn't matter to me which of us is right about the science.

I just hope that you'll join me in opening Door Number Two, to a smarter, cleaner, healthier, more profitable energy future.

What would your elected officials
say to Arnie?

Take-away Message

- We don't need to be experts on climate science to talk about the future we want to create.

Homework

- Think about our climate legacy. What kind of a climate legacy do you want us to leave to future generations?
- Talk about climate solutions with your people.