

TPH Energy News

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TPH Energy News - Switch Energy Alliance

A few nights ago, Quantum Energy Partners and TPH hosted a reception and dinner at the Houston Museum of Natural History. The purpose was to feature [Switch Energy Alliance](#), a 501(c)3, and try to raise some funds for their energy education efforts. Importantly, SEA's materials are heavily used on college and high school campuses. Quantum and TPH are both supporters of Switch and its efforts to provide students and the broader public with a fact-based, balanced approach to the current energy dialogue.

Many of us know Dr. Scott Tinker, Switch's founder and chairman. In his spare time, Scott is the state geologist of Texas, director of the 250-person Bureau of Economic Geology, and holder of an endowed chair professorship at UT Austin. He is also one of the world's most effective energy communicators.

Scott gave a talk after dinner. As usual for Scott, it was fact-based, balanced, logical, and purposeful, yet entertaining. He noted that if you write down a list of the top 10 global public policy challenges for the next fifty years, none of them get solved without energy. None of them. Yet the public discourse about energy has been pulled to the extremes. Scott made the case for "the radical middle". He defines the radical middle as the center where reason, compromise, and civility are practiced.

To make the case, Scott methodically presented the global energy supply and demand data (oil, gas, coal, solar, wind, nuclear, and hydro), as well as global demographic and economic data. He also presented statistics on scientific and economic challenges and limitations. For example, he walked through the math on how many batteries would be required to power the 600 million electric vehicles projected by Bloomberg New Energy Finance (answer: more than 3 trillion, at today's technical specs). He concluded the data convincingly show global energy will continue to be dominated by hydrocarbons for man decades to come.

Scott also spoke about the 2.5 billion people globally living with little or no access to energy. Switch is about to release a documentary (*Switch On*) that looks for real solutions on how to provide sustainable electricity and clean cooking and heating fuels for these people. 'Sustainable' and 'clean' in many locations will mean natural gas not solar or wind.

To place Switch's fact-based communications in context, we at TPH assembled statistics from tax filings on the fundraising and grant-making dollars of anti-hydrocarbon activists.

- We found the 37 largest non-profits financing these efforts raised more than \$2 billion in gifts, grants, and contributions in the fiscal year ending 2017 (latest data). More than \$1.8 billion of these revenues were spent on programming. Of that amount, at least \$1 billion financed anti-hydrocarbon messaging. That is more than one billion dollars attacking oil and gas in just one year.
- In that same fiscal year, the 50 largest non-profit organizations representing the voice of oil and gas collectively had \$428 million in total revenues (all sources, including dues and conference fees). Functional expenses were \$456 million, including staff salaries and all other administrative expenses excluded from the \$1.8Bn program expenses of the other group. (\$2.4Bn is the comparable figure.)
- That means net income for the oil & gas group was -\$28.6 million in 2017, dropping net assets to \$116 million at end of 2017. Compare those figures to +\$531 million in net income for the 37-member anti-hydrocarbon activist group, lifting net assets to \$14.51 billion.
- Put it more simply: total spending by the 50 largest oil & gas advocacy organizations is less than 20% of functional expenses—and equal to about 25% of programming expenses—across the 37 largest anti-hydrocarbon advocacy organizations.

I hope you will take the time to visit the [Switch](#) website, consider inviting Scott to speak to your organization and/or screening *Switch* and *Switch On* as corporate events, and most importantly send some support to SEA. We all need to get involved and help Scott and others drive a more non-partisan and fact-based conversation around the future of energy, and our planet.

Thanks to you all!



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