

Golden Gate Climate Update Transcript

Interview with Daryl Hanna

Actress, prominent environmental advocate

Interviewed on October 14, 2009

Craig Glassner interviewer

Part 1

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Craig - Hi, I'm Ranger Craig Glassner, and welcome to Golden Gate Climate Update, your source for information on climate change and sustainability. Join us as we hear from people helping your National Parks understand and adapt to climate change.

Today, we are talking with actress Daryl Hanna, who is also a prominent environmental advocate, and promoter of biodiesel fuels. So Daryl, can you tell us what led you to get involved with environmental activism and with promoting biodiesel?

Daryl - Well, you know I like clean water and unpolluted air, and healthy food and soil to grow my food in, and we're obviously doing a lot of damage to our ecosystems and all other living things, and so I just tried to educate myself. And the more I educate myself, I'm like, wow, I wish somebody had told me that, and then I figure I might as well share the information so that other people have the access to some of this stuff I'm finding out. And in terms of biodiesel, it was one of the first things that made me realize that I could be free from my personal addiction to petroleum. You know, I have been living in LA, so I drove a car quite a bit, and you know we are just sort of a slave to the petroleum industry, and participating in that unfortunate scenario. And so I love the fact that when I learned about biodiesel, I could get off of that and perhaps grow my own fuel even. And so, it was a nice entrée into some larger discussions of what sustainability is, and also some other transportation options, not just biodiesel. You know because as I started sharing information about biodiesel, I realized that there are obviously very unsustainable ways to make biofuels as well as sustainable ways. So I started the sustainable biodiesel alliance in order to kind of raise the awareness about the difference between regular, just any old biofuels, and actual sustainably sourced, grown and distributed biofuels.

Craig - Now there is some controversy about biodiesel in terms of food crops being replaced by biodiesel crops.

Daryl - Actually that food crop versus fuel issue was really based around ethanol. But the thing is that food versus fuel was really and ethanol issue because they were using corn in this country to produce ethanol, which is not really the most efficient crop to grow biofuels or ethanol out of anyway. There are lots of other waste streams that you can make ethanol out of and even things that will bioremediate ecosystems. You know, clean up brackish, dirty water, or even sewage, or rehabilitate our oceans, and also produce biofuels, produce ethanol, and the same thing with biodiesel. Biodiesel, most of the controversies surrounding biodiesel is that they are burning down rainforests to plant palm oil plantations. And all of these scenarios usually go back to someone who just wants to make money, to make it fast and get out. You know, and it is not really about someone thinking about the long-term benefits of really switching away from our petroleum-based economy.

Craig - Before we move on to our next question, its time for the climate update challenge. Today's question is: If all US corn and soybean crops became biofuels, what percent of America's gasoline needs would be met? 70%? 12%? 42%? The answer after the next interview segment. Hear the answer, and the second half of this interview in part two. This is Craig Glassner, thanks for listening.

Music fades in and then out

Male voice - Golden Gate Climate Update is produced by Will Elder and is a product of the Earth to Sky Program, an innovative partnership between the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NASA.

Music from A Walk in the Desert by Electronic Symphonic