

GOING GREEN

The Eco Vote.

A field guide to the would-be Presidents

BY JEFFREY KLUGER

THE MOST REMARKABLE THING ABOUT THE environmental debates taking place in this year's presidential campaign is that they're occurring at all. Once the stuff of a few hug-the-planet bromides in green states like Vermont and Oregon, the envi-

ronment is one of the hot topics of the 2008 campaign. Yes, there are some candidates who haven't gotten the message (witness Fred Thompson's loopy joke that global warming is taking place on Mars and Jupiter too). But for voters shopping for a green Prez, it's all at once a buyer's market. Here's how the Big Six candidates shape up.

	CARBON CAPS	ENERGY EFFICIENCY	MILEAGE	NUCLEAR ENERGY	DRILLING
HILLARY CLINTON 	Supports cap-and-trade, allowing businesses to swap carbon credits. Seeks an 80% carbon cut by 2050	Seeks a 10% reduction in national energy use by 2020. Wants new federal buildings to be "zero emission" by 2030	Calls for raising gas-mileage (CAFE) standards to 35 m.p.g. within 10 years. Will use administrative power if Congress declines to act	Has not taken a strong position on nuclear power; calls herself "agnostic" on the topic	Has opposed drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and in the Atlantic
JOHN EDWARDS 	Supports cap-and-trade beginning in 2010 and 80% reduction in carbon output by 2050	Wants 15% cut in energy use by 2018. Seeks efficiency standards for federal buildings and vehicles	Wants 40-m.p.g. national average to be achieved by 2016. Proposes \$1 billion per year fund to stimulate innovations in fuel efficiency	Opposes expanded use of nuclear power. Worries about safety	Opposes drilling in ANWR and offshore. Voted against both while in the Senate
RUDY GIULIANI 	Acknowledges global warming but rejects cap-and-trade . Has not proposed any specific carbon-reduction targets	Broadly approves of alternative-energy sources and improved efficiency, but has no specific proposals	Hasn't called for specific changes in auto-mileage requirements. Not seen as likely to do so	Supports increased use of nuclear energy. His private firm has conducted security work for the nuclear industry	Supports drilling in the Gulf of Mexico as well as in ANWR. Has received heavy campaign contributions from oil and gas industries
JOHN MCCAIN 	Co-sponsor of Senate cap-and-trade bill; seen as a bipartisan leader on the issue. Wants 65% reduction in carbon by 2050	Generally supports increased energy efficiency but has not announced specific targets	 Calls generally for raising CAFE standards. In past has advocated 35 m.p.g.	Supports expanded use of nuclear energy. Advocates including it as part of a broad mix of nonpetroleum power sources	Opposes drilling in ANWR. Has consistently voted against it despite party pressure favoring expanded exploration
MITT ROMNEY 	Would consider cap-and-trade only if part of a larger global plan	Generally supports improved efficiency but does not address the issue regularly and offers no targets	Would not support mileage goals as a stand-alone measure. Would consider them only if they were part of a comprehensive energy plan	Supports more use of nuclear power as part of energy mix	Supports drilling in ANWR and offshore and stresses the point in video on his campaign website
BARACK OBAMA 	Supports cap-and-trade legislation and calls for an 80% carbon reduction by 2050	Stresses innovation as a means to improve efficiency. Calls for a 50% improvement by 2030	Has alternately called for 50 m.p.g. within 18 years or 1-m.p.g.-improvement per year rule. To ease transition, wants tax credits for automakers	Is willing to explore expanded use of nuclear power. Not an enthusiast	Opposes ANWR drilling. Missed 2007 Senate vote on drilling off the coast of Virginia

Conclusion So who's the greenest in this red-blue scrum? For the GOP, it's McCain. For the Dems, a toss-up. But beyond the Big Six, there's a surprise seventh: Bill Richardson. The New Mexico Gov sets higher targets than the rest: a 90% cut in carbon by 2050; 50 m.p.g. by 2020. He would also slash oil imports 85% by 2025. Being a second-tier candidate may free him to take chances. Among green voters, that's a way to make it to the top tier. ■



Bill Richardson

CLINTON: GULIANI; ROMNEY; BROOKS; KRAFT—CORBIS FOR TIME; EDWARDS; MCCAIN; CHRISTOPHER MORRIS—VII FOR TIME; OBAMA: JAY L. CLENDENIN—AURORA SELECT; ENERGYGUIDE; BETTY; RICHARDSON; EVAN VUJO—AP