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Comparison of Environmental Perspectives between France and the United States

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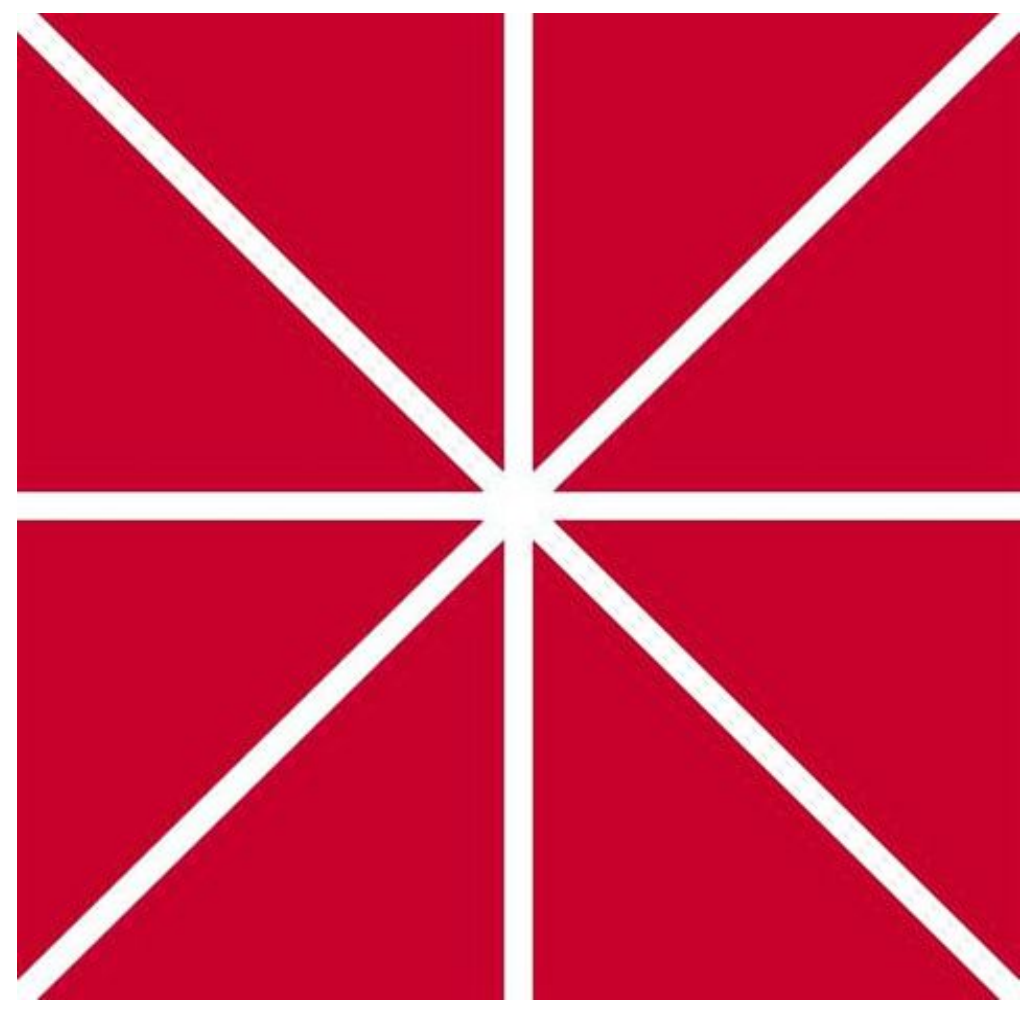
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Comparison of Environmental Perspectives between France and the United States

Ritter, Hannah

Thesis Statement: With a comparison between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministre de Transition Écologique and Environnemental as well as how they present themselves to the public, one can see that France is propelling itself towards a future using renewable energy sources while the United States works towards the collection of data and statistics on the issue. We will also see by the conclusion that while both strategies have their merits, there is much that one can learn from the other.

Nicholas Hulot

Hulot is largely considered a force for the expansion of governmental programs. Hulot spent his early career campaigning for various environmental problems he was seeing in France. He is most well known for his films on these issues. While he has often been referred to as an environmental extremist, he is now advocating with his new position for a transition towards diversification in France's energy portfolio; namely, away from nuclear energy.

Mission Statement

Two Departments– The Mission of the Energy Department & the Mission of the Climate Service and Energy Efficiency

Mission of the Climate Service and Energy Efficiency:
“...Implements control and distribution measures for energy products and raw materials ... public service missions in the field of energy...”

Le Panorama

Set to discuss “...climate change, improve air quality, control energy demand, diversify the energy mix, guarantee security of supply...”

Electric Car Program

French pledge to end the sale of diesel cars by 2040– after the boom in electric cars world wide is projected to happen.

- Rebate: up to 6,000 euros
- If exchanging your car, you may be eligible for up to 4,000 euros additionally
- Tax Credit: 30% for installation of a charger
- Bonus for two wheeled vehicles, price dependent.

Conclusion: France chooses to place emphasis on the consumer as it pertains to renewable energy programs and efforts. Governmental aid is meant to help all consumer groups have equal access to different programs around sustainable living. However, extremely little evidence as to how effective these programs are.

Scott Pruitt

Pruitt has stated his intentions to take the EPA “back to basics” responsibilities of his department and collection of statistics. Most known for advocating against the EPA and threatening to sue it several times, he is the replacement for Gina McCarthy, who was (like Hulot) referred to as an environmental extremist. He is currently working for the EPA to start aggressive clean up of superfund sites. As it pertains to climate change, he wishes to have a “real debate” between the scientists of both sides to decide if this is an issue worth pursuing further. In the meantime he has backed extensive research into the issue while remaining “neutral” on the topic.

Mission Statement

The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment.

Strategic Plan

...”Provides the foundation for EPA's performance management system... and contains the EPA's strategic measurement framework of long-term goals, objectives, and strategic measures which describe the measurable human health and environmental results the Agency is working to achieve over the next 4 years.”

Goals: 1. Address Climate Change 2. Improve Air Quality 3. Restore and Protect the Ozone Layer et 4. Minimize Exposure to Radiation

Electric Car Program

- No Federal Rebates
- Top 3 States for Incentives:
 - Colorado: rebate of up to \$13,500
 - Texas: rebate of up to \$3,500
 - South Carolina: additional 20% tax credit
- Tax Credit: \$2,000-\$7,500
- Various small state programs

Conclusion: The United States chooses to let the individual states decide how they would like to run their own renewable energy programs. The United States is dedicated towards helping its economy as a whole while focusing on the collection of data to then best decide its moves towards a sustainable future in the arena of renewable energy.



Fox News



Le Figaro



The Guardian

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