

Ted Turner says:

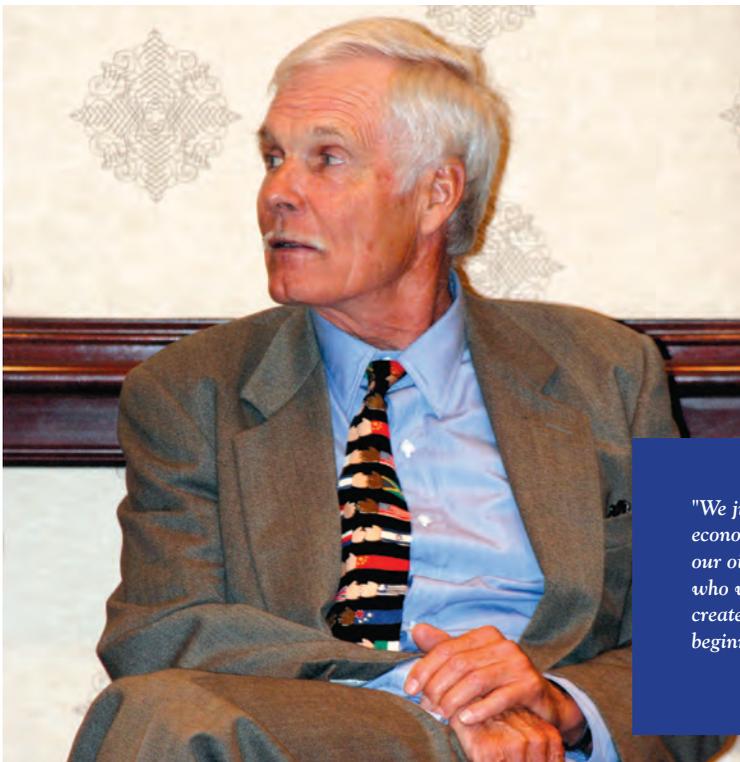
“Think.
CHANGE.
Grow!”



By Sue Mayfield-Geiger

Ted Turner advocates change and made Houston a recent stop to explore and discuss changes in energy production and alternative fuels. When I introduced him to *Change Magazine*, he lit up. “Now that’s a great name for a magazine,” he said with enthusiasm. “We all need to change, everything is always changing, and we definitely have to be open to change.”

Speaking to a sold-out crowd, the packed ballroom of over 800 listened intently to what Turner had to say.



The founder of CNN, an entrepreneur, environmentalist, and philanthropist, Turner was joined by former Senator Timothy Wirth (D-CO) who is President of the UN Foundation. Both men spoke at the World Affairs Council of Houston about the opportunities available in the alternative fuels arena.

Dapper in blue shirt, gray suit, and colorful tie displaying unity among nations, Turner was more subdued than usual, yet full of enthusiasm, as he sat on stage with Wirth and moderator Matt Simmons. Basically, Turner got right to the point, letting everyone know that fossil fuels must become a thing of the past, that new alternative fuels are needed and needed NOW.

Speaking candidly about his ability to make money, Turner talked about making his first million; then his first billion. Then, after he made a few more billion, he thought: *What am I going to do with all this money?* Saying he wanted to do something in the interest of humanity, he gave a billion dollars to the United Nations.

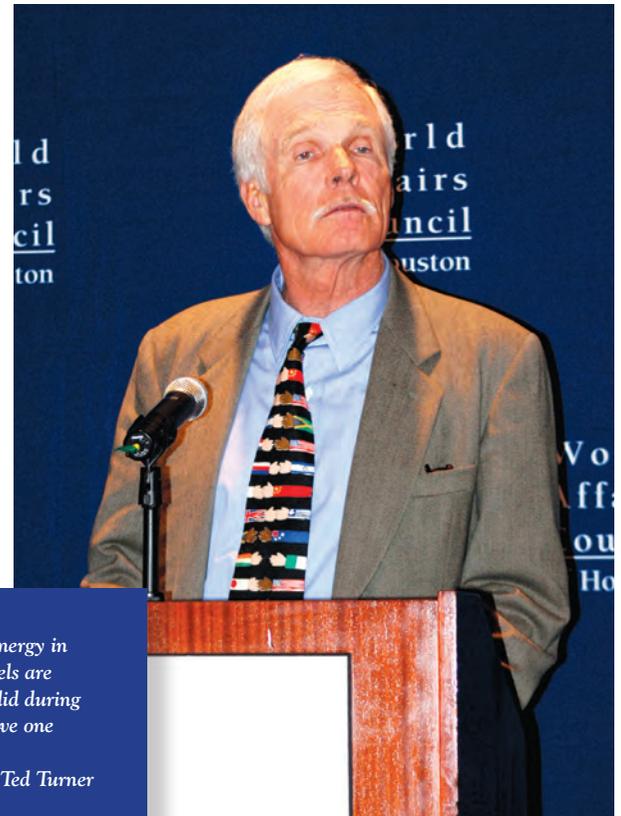
In that light, the UN Foundation was created to support UN causes and activities. The Foundation builds and implements public-private partnerships to address the world's most pressing problems and also works to broaden support for the UN through advocacy and public outreach.

"We just can't continue on the energy path we are on. It's too dangerous in terms of its economic and political risks, and it's ruinous to our climate. We need to move away from our oil dependence and towards a future that embraces alternative fuels. There are some who would see that change as a threat to their livelihoods; they are missing the boat. Change creates opportunity, and there are boundless opportunities emerging from the transition we are beginning to a new energy future."

– Ted Turner



"We need to invest in clean alternative energy. It will take a giant capital investment to refuel our energy requirements, and we are not moving fast enough. As far as the mindset of major oil companies, many are responding quickly; others not so quickly."
 – Ted Turner



"It is not fair of us to use up all the earth's energy in one or two generations. The days of fossil fuels are over. If we would all come together like we did during WWII and unite, it can happen. We only have one atmosphere."
 – Ted Turner

Saying he's lived his whole life by the Rotary motto ("Service above Self"), Turner knew the UN was in serious debt and he wanted to help. Acknowledging that he's given a lot of money away during his life, he doesn't worry because he knows he will make more. He added humorously that he might even buy the Astros.

Calling for a moratorium on all new coal plants, on all new carbon-

producing energy power technologies, and working to replace them with renewable alternatives, Turner's tone never wavered.

Stating that solar and wind energy are the most progressive ventures on the horizon, Turner recently partnered with New Jersey-based Dome-Tech Solar to launch a new business undertaking to provide clean power solutions. The Turner renewable energy company, DT Solar, will be one of the nation's largest developers of on-site solar power generation.

"We have to move fast!" were words peppered throughout Turner's speech. "Energy policy is all about getting the rules right. For economic, environmental, and security reasons, the energy economy is being transformed, and we've got to get the rules right so that this new frontier of opportunity is opened up to business enterprise." □



"Earlier this year, the world's leading scientists announced a consensus agreement that the Earth is warming, that we humans are primarily responsible for this, and that, if we don't change our ways, we will alter our planet forever. There is no doubt that the global climate is changing and, therefore, that the global energy economy must be transformed. Our message today is: embrace this transformation. Get ahead of the curve because the opportunity is immense. This transformation is occurring so rapidly that business leaders have two choices – lead or be left behind." (*referencing the recent report published by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).*

– Former Senator Timothy Wirth

(Ed. Note: A group of high school students attended a separate press conference with Turner and Wirth. Afterwards, they were asked how they felt about the energy situation. "We are very concerned and we plan to do everything we can to change the situation." From the looks in their eyes and expressions on their faces, it appears that this next generation will go forward with determination. We do believe they will.)