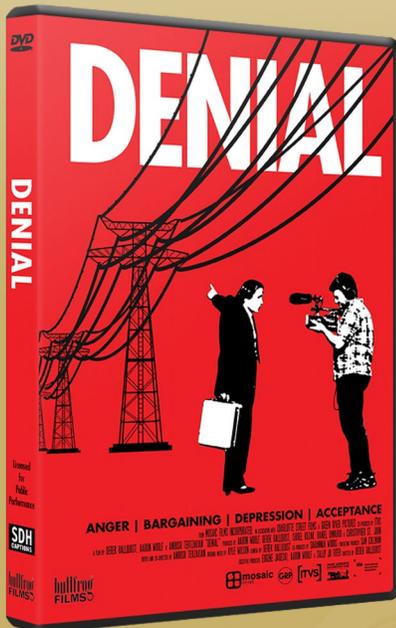


DENIAL

Use your film screening of **DENIAL** as a tool for educating your community about climate change denial, smart grid technology and the lived experience of transgender persons. This guide offers some background information, helpful tips & discussion questions for an informative, rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmaker
- ready to watch! screening guide
- ready to act! handout



About the film

Before Christine Hallquist was running for Governor of Vermont, she was David Hallquist, the CEO of the largest locally owned electric utility in Vermont. A self-described “closet environmentalist” Hallquist is dedicated to addressing the way electricity use in America contributes to climate change. But his mission is balanced with the utility’s charge to provide affordable and reliable service. As Hallquist struggles to build a transparent company whose honest approach can get stakeholders to accept the realities of how we generate and deliver electricity, he realizes he must apply that same transparency to his personal life and reveals to his son a lifelong secret.



About the filmmaker

Derek Hallquist received a filmmaking degree from Emerson College and started his career shooting TV shows for the Discovery networks. Derek was Director of Photography for *The House I Live In*, which won the 2012 Sundance Grand Jury Prize and won a Peabody award with *Independent Lens* in 2013. He also shot extensively for *Reagan*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2011 and won an Emmy Award with HBO in 2012. Derek’s production company, Green River Pictures, released his short documentary *The Opiate Effect* in, 2011, which Attorney General Eric Holder used for outreach and is currently in the collection of the Library of Congress.

ready to watch!

Ideas and best practices to help make your community screening a success!

1. Publicize Your Event! This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit <http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/denial> to register and get the word out about your upcoming screening. You can also email us at info@bullfrogcommunities.com if you need help getting started!

2. Visualize Your Goal! What do you hope to achieve with your screening? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion about issues raised in the film, gain support or recruit volunteers for a local grassroots campaign, or raise funds for a group on your campus or in your community. Or, you can simply use the screening to provide an opportunity for your audience to watch and learn together.

3. Where To Host? Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating a community film screening of the size you anticipate: downtown movie theaters, churches and synagogues, town halls, community centers, public libraries, school auditoriums, university and college venues, warehouses at a business and outdoor screenings at parks and playgrounds, and even private homes have been venues for many successful community screenings.

4. Find A Partner! Give some thought to who is already working on this issue in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Speak on a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include: student groups at universities and colleges; a local public or campus library; representatives from local religious congregations or faith-based community groups; local chapters of national/global activist or grassroots organizations; faculty members at nearby universities and colleges; reporters/journalists from local news publications such as newspapers and magazines; local nonprofits; and any community organizations that share goals or views with the film you are screening.

5. Invite A Guest Speaker! Guest speakers and panelists are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are engaged and thinking about the issues they will stay engaged long after the screening has passed. Contact representatives of local non-profits, faith groups, journalists and reporters from local media outlets, or teachers and professors who have expertise and/or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend your screening and participate in a discussion or Q&A session with your audience.

6. Engage Your Audience! Use this discussion guide to engage your audience. Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Act!, — which can be used as a handout — listing additional resources for further investigation about key issues raised in the film.

7. Spread The Word! Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing your film screening to people in your community. Sending emails to a contact list, creating event notifications on Facebook, Google+, Eventbrite or an online community calendar, using Twitter to announce your event, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. In addition to this guide, you can find and download a screening poster and press photos at <http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/denial> that can be used to help publicize your event.

8. Tell Us How It Went! Visit <http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/denial> to tell us about your event. Contribute to the film's discussion page to help other student groups, universities, non-profits, congregations and community groups further the discussion and put on successful screening events of their own. Where was your screening held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? What did you discuss? Your feedback will help others to organize their own events, and will energize Bullfrog Communities as a whole.

ready to act!

handout

What is the Smart Grid? - https://www.smartgrid.gov/the_smart_grid/smart_grid.html

The Department of Energy's Advanced Grid Research and Development activities accelerate discovery and innovation in electric transmission and distribution technologies and create "next generation" devices, software, tools, and techniques to help modernize the electric grid.

Smarts Grid: Tracking Clean Energy Progress

<https://www.iea.org/tcep/energyintegration/smartgrids/>

Smart grids comprise a broad mix of technologies to modernise electricity networks, extending from the end user to distribution and transmission. Smart-meter deployment has advanced considerably in recent years in several key regions.

Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative - <https://smartenergycc.org/>

SECC works to learn the wants and needs of energy consumers in North America, encourages the collaborative sharing of best practices in consumer engagement among industry stakeholders, and educates the public about the benefits of smart energy and energy technology.

Vermont Electric Cooperative - <https://www.vermontelectric.coop/>

Vermont Electric Cooperative is a member-owned smart-energy electric utility on the cutting edge of smart-grid technology, energy efficiency and renewable generation.

Pride Center of Vermont - <https://www.pridecentervt.org/>

The Pride Center celebrates, educates and advocates with and for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) Vermonters.

The National Center for Transgender Equality - <https://transequality.org/>

The National Center for Transgender Equality is the nation's leading social justice advocacy organization winning life-saving change for transgender people.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) - <https://www.electric.coop/>

NRECA represents more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts in the U.S.

350.org - <https://350.org/>

350.org is building the global grassroots climate movement that can hold our leaders accountable to science and justice.

Shepson Atmospheric Chemistry Group
<https://www.science.purdue.edu/shepson/index.html>

Shepson Atmospheric Chemistry Group pursues scientific studies related to chemical exchanges and photochemical processes that occur at Earth interfaces.

Skeptical Science - <https://skepticalscience.com/>

Skeptical Science is a non-profit science education organization, run by a global team of volunteers. The goal of Skeptical Science is to explain what peer reviewed science has to say about global warming.

Climate Denial - Inside Climate News - <https://insideclimatenews.org/topics/climate-denial>

Millions of dollars have been pumped into organizations that peddle scientific doubt to create an impression that scientists are divided about the cause of climate change. Many say the strategy has helped delay or thwart climate action.

Appearing In The Film

Christine Hallquist - <https://www.christineforvermont.com/>

Christine David Hallquist is the first Transgender candidate for Governor in the United States. In 1998, she joined Vermont Electric Coop as an engineering and technology consultant, bringing a background in process engineering from her work with leading information technology companies and consulting for top manufacturers. In 2000, Christine became Engineering and Operations Manager, and then its Chief Executive Officer in 2005. Christine's experience as head of VEC and her national prominence as an expert on the electric grid and climate change inspired her cinematographer son Derek to direct a biographical documentary about her, entitled *Denial*. While in the process of filming *Denial* in 2015, Christine made the decision, after years of holding it inside, to come out as her true self, a transgender woman, becoming the first business leader in the country to transition while in office.

Dr. Cortney S. Warren, Clinical Psychologist - <http://choosehonesty.com/>

Raised traveling the world as the child of two professors, Cortney has a unique perspective on human nature. She is an award-winning expert on eating disorders, addictions, self-deception, and the practice of psychotherapy from a cross-cultural perspective. Cortney's work appears in some of the field's top journals, including the International Journal of Eating Disorders, Appetite, and Obesity. She also wrote a book called, *Lies We Tell Ourselves: The Psychology of Self-Deception*. She also writes a blog for Psychology Today.

Dr. Phillip F. Schewe - <http://www.phillipfschewe.org/photography.html>

Phillip F. Schewe is a scientist, photographer, and writer. He has a PhD in physics and has spent much of his professional career popularizing physics research. His plays have been produced in New York and Washington, DC, and he has contributed articles to the Washington Post and the New York Times among others. He is the author of two books: *The Grid*, a look at how society uses and loses electricity (and declared by NPR as one of the science books of the year); and *Maverick Genius*, a biography of physicist Freeman Dyson.