

Seven Deadly Solar Sins - A Comedy of Errors Starring Renewable Developers...

For years, the castaways of Gilligan's Island bumbled their way through every harebrained scheme imaginable, all while somehow remaining stranded on a deserted island. But what if I told you that they weren't just hopeless castaways? What if they were actually the perfect embodiment of the Seven Deadly Sins?

And even more shocking—what if I told you that renewable energy developers, in their relentless pursuit of subsidies and farmland, act just like them?

That's right, folks. The same dysfunctional dynamics that kept the S.S. Minnow from ever sailing home are at play every time a wind or solar developer waltzes into a rural community, promising prosperity while leaving destruction in their wake.

So grab your coconuts, sharpen your snark, and let's break this down.



The Skipper (Wrath) – The Bully Tactics of Big Renewable

The Skipper—big, blustery, and always one tantrum away from giving Gilligan a concussion—rules the island with a temper as short as a solar company’s promise to “restore the land” after decommissioning. He means well (sometimes), but the moment things don’t go his way, he turns red in the face, starts barking orders, and, if all else fails, finds someone else to blame.

On Gilligan’s Island, the Skipper’s wrath is mostly harmless—he smacks Gilligan with his hat, yells, and stomps around until something distracts him. But when renewable energy developers play the Skipper, their tantrums come with real consequences.

At first, these companies stroll into a rural community with a calculated charm offensive. They shake hands, give slick presentations, and pretend to care about local concerns. They act like friendly, patient experts who just want to “*help struggling farmers diversify their income*” or “*bring clean energy jobs to the community.*”

But the moment anyone asks a real question, the mood shifts. The Skipper shows his true colors.

- A landowner asks how the project will impact property values? “*That’s misinformation! There’s no evidence that solar or wind projects hurt home values!*” (Spoiler: There is.)
- A farmer raises concerns about water runoff, erosion, or the impact on livestock? “*We have experts who’ve already studied this! You just don’t understand how the industry works.*”
- A county official asks what happens when the panels degrade and who is responsible for cleanup? “*Like we have been telling landowners we have contracted with, 'This is a done deal!' You might as well accept this fact and help us pretend we are listening to your concerns!*”

The moment the public stops nodding along and starts pushing back, these developers turn into full-blown Skippers—red-faced, condescending, and completely unwilling to admit fault.

And just like the Skipper on Gilligan’s Island, they always have a fall guy to blame when things go sideways:

- The construction crews that didn’t follow proper protocols? “*Not our fault!*”
- The environmental study that overlooked a key impact? “*We hired consultants—blame them!*”

- The entire project turning into a boondoggle of broken promises and corporate bailouts? *“Hey, we just build the stuff—blame the government!”*

The Skipper is the ultimate authoritarian salesman—shouting orders, dismissing concerns, and pretending he knows best. But at the end of the day, just like on Gilligan’s Island, the only thing he ever delivers is another failed escape plan, leaving the locals to clean up the mess while he storms off in search of another subsidy-fueled scheme.

Ginger (Lust) – The Seductive Promises of Green Energy

Ginger, the glamorous Hollywood starlet, is all about charm, glitter, and dazzling distractions. She knows how to turn heads, steal the spotlight, and make the islanders believe in a fantasy that will never actually happen. She’s a master of seduction—not just in romance, but in persuasion. When she speaks, people get lost in the fantasy, forgetting for a moment that they’re still stuck on a deserted island with no way home.

Renewable energy developers play the exact same game.

When they roll into a rural community, they don’t show up wearing hard hats and high-visibility vests—they show up with slick marketing teams, professional spokespeople, and glossy presentations filled with stock photos of happy, sun-drenched farmers standing next to shiny solar panels. They purr buzzwords like “sustainability,” “clean energy revolution,” and “once-in-a-generation opportunity.”

It’s a seductive pitch, dripping with flattery and false hope:

- *"Oh, darling, this project will bring SO many jobs to your little town!"* (Spoiler alert: Those jobs are mostly temporary, specialized, and often given to out-of-state contractors.)
- *"Imagine how much money your community will make!"* (Translation: Your local government might see a few tax dollars before they mysteriously dry up, but your personal energy bills? Expect them to go up.)
- *"Wouldn't it feel so good to be part of something bigger?"* (That’s corporate speak for ‘You’ll get to look like you’re saving the planet while we cash in on tax subsidies.’)

And just like Ginger’s empty flirtations, these projects sound amazing—until reality kicks in.

- The “good-paying jobs” last only as long as the construction phase.
- The land “preservation” turns out to mean miles of metal and glass.

- The “benefits to the local economy” are mostly promises on paper that never materialize.

Of course, when people start noticing the cracks in the illusion and raising concerns, Ginger—the renewable energy PR machine—distracts them with another flashy performance.

- A farmer asks what happens when the solar panels degrade? *"Look, we have a beautiful rendering of what your community will look like when we're done! Isn't it stunning?"*
- A landowner points out that nearby communities with similar projects haven't seen the economic boom they were promised? *"Oh, sweetheart, every community is different! You'll be the exception—just trust us!"*
- A county commissioner asks why the developer needs more land than they originally claimed? *"Oh, darling, this project is just growing because it's so successful! You wouldn't want to stand in the way of progress, would you?"*

Much like Ginger, these developers love the spotlight, but when it's time to actually deliver on their grand promises, they're nowhere to be found. They'll bat their eyelashes, shake a few hands, and sell you a fantasy—but when the honeymoon phase is over and the harsh realities set in, the only ones left dealing with the consequences are the local residents.

At the end of the day, renewable developers are performers, not problem-solvers. They come in with grand visions, sell a dream of a “greener future,” and leave with full pockets while rural communities are left stranded—just like Ginger and her broken promises of fame and fortune that never quite pan out.

Thurston Howell III (Greed) – The Corporate Cash Grab

Thurston Howell III is the billionaire snob who lounges around in a three-piece suit on a deserted island. Why? Because even in total isolation, he still believes money can solve everything. While the rest of the castaways are gathering coconuts and trying to build rafts, Thurston is relaxing in a beach chair, sipping on a drink, and mumbling something about “passive income.”

Renewable energy companies are the same way. They show up in rural communities dressed in their finest Patagonia vests, pretending to be environmental stewards, but the only “green” they truly care about is the color of money.

Here's how they pull off the greatest cash grab in modern history:

- They chase subsidies like Thurston chases cocktails. They don't build wind turbines and solar fields out of the goodness of their hearts—they do it because the government is handing out billions in tax credits, grants, and guaranteed profits. If the free money stopped flowing tomorrow, so would their interest in “saving the planet.”
- They squeeze every dime out of tax credits, then disappear when the money dries up. Renewable developers make sure that every project is financially front-loaded—they pocket subsidies and incentives up front, leaving the long-term costs, maintenance, and cleanup to somebody else (usually the landowners and taxpayers). Once the gravy train slows down, they either flip the project to another company or declare bankruptcy, effectively dodging any responsibility.
- They sign contracts that favor them exclusively, leaving farmers with unusable land after 20 years. Developers love to tell landowners, “*You can keep farming around the solar panels!*” but fail to mention that the land beneath the panels will be heavily compacted, chemically treated, and littered with deteriorating materials after decades of exposure. Worse yet, when it comes time to remove the panels, the contract language is often so vague that it's unclear who's actually responsible for decommissioning fully—meaning farmers and communities could be left with acres of rusting, useless junk.
- They have zero emotional attachment to the communities they infiltrate. Thurston Howell III didn't really care about getting off the island—he was rich anywhere he went. Likewise, renewable energy executives don't care if they turn your small town into a sea of industrial solar panels and transmission lines, because they don't live there. Once they've sucked every last dollar out of the deal, they pack up and move on, leaving the locals to deal with the aftermath.

And just like Thurston, when you ask them to take responsibility, they just chuckle and say:

"My dear fellow, surely someone else can clean up this mess?"

These companies don't just take the money and run—they take your land, your tax dollars, and your community's future, too. And in the end, much like Thurston on the island, they sit back and watch as everyone else scrambles to fix the problems they created.

Lovey Howell (Pride) – The Condescending Elitism of Renewable Lobbyists

Where Thurston Howell III is all about greed, his wife, Lovey Howell, is all about pride—the kind of pride that comes with old money, designer luggage on a deserted island, and an unshakable belief that she is simply better than everyone else.

Lovey doesn't just think she's superior to the other castaways—she knows it. She looks down her nose at their struggles and sees them as simpletons who just don't understand “the way things work.”

Sound familiar?

That's because renewable energy lobbyists, corporate spokespeople, and green energy think tanks behave exactly the same way when they walk into rural America.

- *"Oh, you poor, uninformed dears! You just don't understand how clean energy works!"*
- *"Your town is stuck in the past. We're here to help modernize it!"*
- *"Trust us, we know what's best for your land better than you do!"*

From the moment they arrive, they exude arrogance, assuming that anyone who questions their plans must simply be uneducated, backward, or a pawn of "big oil." They present themselves as the enlightened ones—armed with degrees from prestigious universities, research from well-funded think tanks, and talking points carefully crafted to sound progressive and inevitable.

And when landowners, farmers, or local officials push back?

They don't argue on facts—they argue from a place of condescension and dismissal.

- A county commissioner raises concerns about the economic downsides of industrial-scale renewables? *"Oh, bless your heart. We have studies that say otherwise."*
- A farmer asks what happens if the project disrupts longstanding agricultural supply chains? *"Agriculture? Oh, my dear, that's such an old-fashioned way of thinking. Haven't you heard of green jobs?"*
- A rural community points out that city elites would never accept a sea of solar panels ruining their own scenic views? *"Oh, but darling, the countryside is where these projects belong—don't you want to do your part?"*

Just like Lovey Howell lounges around in pearls and a fur coat on a deserted island, these corporate elites have never actually lived in the communities they seek to “improve.”

- They don't farm.
- They don't rely on rural infrastructure.
- They don't understand the way of life they're disrupting.

But that doesn't stop them from lecturing rural residents on how they "should" be using their land—while never once considering putting these projects in their own wealthy neighborhoods.

And much like Lovey, when things go sideways, they simply shrug it off, retreat to their comfortable city offices, and move on to the next target.

After all, what's a little rural displacement and economic hardship when there are billions in subsidies to chase?

Mary Ann (Envy) – The “Just One More Thing” Expansion Strategy

Mary Ann, the sweet, wholesome farm girl, may seem innocent, but deep down, she's always battling a little envy. She doesn't crave wealth like Thurston Howell III, and she doesn't chase the spotlight like Ginger—but she does wish she had just a little more. More attention. More excitement. More significance. She's not trying to take over the island, but if she had the chance to be the star for once, well... she wouldn't say no.

And that, folks, is exactly how renewable energy developers operate.

They don't start off looking like greedy land barons—oh no, their first request is always modest, reasonable, and harmless.

- *"This is just a small solar farm!"*
- *"We only need a little bit of land, less than 1% of the farmland in this community!"*
- *"It won't change your way of life at all!"*

At first, everything seems manageable—until suddenly, they want more.

- First, they say they just want to install solar panels.
- Then, suddenly, they want to install Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
- Next thing you know, supporting industries and development surround the solar facility, and our countryside is ruined.

It always starts small. ALWAYS.

A rural community agrees to a few hundred acres of solar panels, thinking they'll still have room for farms, scenic landscapes, and maybe a few deer roaming the edges. But once the first contract is signed, the requests start multiplying like rabbits on a warm spring day.

- *“We just need a little buffer zone for safety.”*
- *“We have an opportunity to expand—this will benefit everyone!”*
- *“We need more infrastructure, but don’t worry—it won’t affect you.”*

Before long, the original “small” solar farm has ballooned into an industrial complex of panels, high-voltage transmission lines, substations, and storage batteries, effectively erasing the rural character of the land it was built on.

And much like Mary Ann—who once dreamed of just being the “cute farm girl” but now finds herself competing with Ginger for the spotlight—renewable developers always want more than they originally let on.

But by the time the community realizes they’ve been played, it’s too late—the land is locked up, the farmland is disappearing, and the scenic countryside has been transformed into an industrial eyesore.

And the worst part? Once the developers have what they want, they move on to the next town, looking for the next “small” project to expand into something massive and irreversible.

Just like Mary Ann never stops wishing she could have Ginger’s spotlight, renewable energy developers never stop expanding their footprint. Because in their minds, there’s always just one more thing to add.

Gilligan (Sloth) – The “Eh, Good Enough” Approach to Due Diligence

Oh, Gilligan. The lovable, well-meaning, but hopelessly incompetent deckhand. No matter how simple the task, you can always count on Gilligan to mess it up in spectacular fashion. He’s constantly given small responsibilities—tying a knot, keeping watch, steering a raft—only to bungle them so badly that everyone else on the island suffers for it.

And yet, despite his catastrophic failure rate, the castaways keep trusting him to do important things, only to be disappointed time and time again.

Renewable energy developers? They’re the Gilligans of the corporate world.

When these companies roll into town promising “thorough” research and “comprehensive” environmental impact studies, they assure landowners and local officials that they’ve done their homework. They swear their projects will be low-impact, safe, and beneficial for all.

And then—just like Gilligan—they turn in half-baked work and act surprised when things fall apart.

- *"Oh, we forgot to study the adverse economic effects that will be experienced in the long-established agriculture industry locally? Oops!"*
- *"Turns out our panels disrupt wildlife? Ah well!"*
- *"Wait, this project will actually cause more noise than we were told? Uh... LOOK OVER THERE!"*

Just like Gilligan, renewable developers rarely, if ever, actually do their due diligence.

They hire outside consultants to slap together cookie-cutter environmental reports, using pre-written templates that barely acknowledge the unique concerns of each community.

- What about the impact on local groundwater? *"Should be fine. Moving on."*
- What about fire hazards from lithium-ion battery storage? *"We'll put a note about safety training in the plan."*
- What about the effect on property values? *"No significant impact—according to a study we paid for."*

They don't bother to examine local weather conditions, soil composition, or existing infrastructure. They gloss over potential dangers, rush through approval processes, and ignore legitimate concerns raised by locals.

And when problems inevitably arise, they act completely blindsided.

- The solar panels start failing far earlier than promised? *"Oh wow, we didn't think that would happen so soon."*
- The wind turbines cause more noise pollution than anticipated? *"That's weird. Guess we didn't measure it right."*
- The promised economic benefits never materialize? *"Huh. Must've been a miscalculation."*

Just like Gilligan, these companies are repeatedly trusted with massive responsibilities—despite having a track record of failure, neglect, and cluelessness.

And, just like Gilligan, they always have an excuse, never accept responsibility, and blame others.

- *"The conditions were different than we expected!"*
- *"We relied on the wrong data!"*

- *"We'll do better next time!"*
- *"The contractor obviously didn't do what we asked!"*

The only difference? Gilligan's incompetence is funny.

The incompetence of renewable energy developers? It leaves communities with ruined landscapes, financial burdens, and no way to escape the mess they've created.

The Professor (Gluttony) – The Insatiable Hunger for Expansion

The Professor is the brainiac of Gilligan's Island, always inventing some new contraption that will supposedly get everyone off the island—except, of course, it never actually works. He spends his days tinkering, expanding, and experimenting, convinced that if he just keeps adding more bamboo, more coconuts, and more pulleys, eventually he'll build something that actually succeeds.

But no matter how many projects he embarks on, he never stops to ask himself if what he's doing is actually effective.

Sound familiar also?

That's because renewable energy developers embody this same endless, mindless pursuit of more.

- First, it's one project. Just a few hundred acres. Nothing to worry about!
- Then, they need more land. The first phase is "so successful" that expansion is inevitable.
- Then, it's more transmission lines. Because, well, they have to move all that energy somewhere!
- Then, it's more battery storage. Can't have all that solar power going to waste!
- Then, it's more government subsidies. After all, none of this actually makes money without massive taxpayer funding.

No matter how much land they acquire, how many projects they build, or how much money they siphon from taxpayers, it's never enough.

They always need more.

And just like the Professor—who never stops building ridiculous gadgets instead of just fixing the dang boat—renewable developers refuse to pause and evaluate whether their projects are actually beneficial in the long run.

- Will this actually help local energy needs? Doesn't matter—just build more!
- Is this even the best place for a solar farm? Who cares—more land means more profits!
- Will this harm agriculture, tourism, and rural economies? Ignore that—we need more subsidies!

But here's the kicker: The Professor is, at least on the show, well-intentioned.

Renewable developers? They aren't just building for the sake of it—they're expanding to chase endless profits, with no regard for how much land, money, or resources they consume in the process.

And when communities start pushing back, pointing out the sheer excess of these projects, their response is always the same:

- *"We NEED more renewables!"*
- *"We HAVE to expand!"*
- *"We MUST keep growing!"*

At no point do they ever stop to reassess, adjust, or admit that they might already have enough.

The Professor's experiments never got the castaways off the island.

And renewable energy developers' unquenchable thirst for expansion won't solve the energy crisis—it'll just leave rural communities stranded in an industrialized wasteland.

The Ultimate Castaway Scheme

Much like the castaways of Gilligan's Island, rural communities are being led to believe that renewable developers have their best interests at heart, when in reality, they are only looking out for themselves.

And just like the castaways who could never quite get off that island, communities that fall for these schemes often find themselves trapped—stuck with altered landscapes, decreased property values, and little recourse when things inevitably go wrong.

So next time a developer comes into your town, promising paradise, just remember—Gilligan's Island never got rescued, and neither will you.

The real question is - Are you going to be another Gilligan, falling for their nonsense, or are you going to take back control before it's too late?