

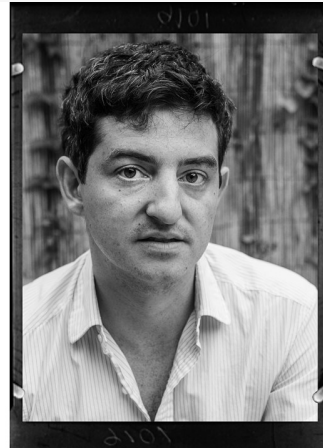
American Energy Society selects Nathaniel Rich as “Energy Writer of the Year, 2018”

The premier literary award for the energy sector.

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, December 4, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Palo Alto, Calif. -- December 4, 2018 – [American Energy Society](#) is pleased to announce that it has selected [Nathaniel Rich](#) as the “Energy Writer of the Year, 2018.” The Society took special note of his article, “Losing Earth: The Decade We Almost Stopped Climate Change” (New York Times Magazine, August 1, 2018). The 31,000-word piece weaves together a narrative about a critical ten-year period, 1979 to 1989, when science, politics and industry awoke to the fact that rising greenhouse gases posed an existential threat. Rich documents how and why this great awakening failed to translate to action despite universal and bipartisan acceptance of the problem. Accompanying aerial photographs and videos by George Steinmetz supports the thesis with a vivid display of disturbing images. Tucked into a prodigious amount of material is the story of the key figures who turned climate change into a major political issue. In the late 1970s, few Washington officials knew much of anything about global warming; by the end of the ‘80s, President George H.W. Bush almost signed a United Nations treaty to address it. Mr. Rich writes with gripping, novelistic detail and captures the tragicomedy of scientists struggling — and failing — to shape the political sphere.

According to [Eric Vettel](#), President of American Energy Society, “The topic of energy in 2018 captured the attention of many talented writers and the AES editorial board had to consider a number of worthy candidates. What sets Mr. Rich’s work apart and makes him the clear choice for Energy Writer of the Year, 2018, is his balanced, contextual treatment of a highly controversial issue.”

In recognizing Mr. Rich, the AES Editorial Board recognizes the necessity of addressing some of the criticism directed at *Losing Earth*, noting: “Nathaniel Rich has written a thoughtful essay, and it deserved equally thoughtful consideration. Instead, criticism - especially from the center-left - fixated on the absence of an identifiable antihero. In particular, *The Atlantic Monthly*, founded by



Nathaniel Rich



The premier literary award for energy

legendary existentialists who were not afraid to look inward, piled on Mr. Rich by pointing out a list of villains they think are to blame for the changing climate, apparently unaware that their own periodical was founded as a counter to such overly simplistic thinking.”

There are many ways to summarize the problem that Mr. Rich effectively captures in his thought-provoking essay. Mr. Rich himself noted in an interview with The Energy Gang that “the level of political will required to initiate action in a substantial way is really lacking, and I guess in that sense, political will is human will. We will have to get there eventually because of the level of devastation that is coming.... If we understand the nature of the problems and our own limitations – personal,

“

What set Mr. Rich’s work apart and makes him the clear choice for “Energy Writer of the Year - 2018” is his balanced, contextual treatment of a highly controversial issue.”

Eric Vettel, Ph.D., President - American Energy Society

social, political – we will then be able to grapple with this in a serious way at the level required to initiate major transformation, because transformation is coming, one way or the other. The only question is how involved are we going to be.”

Perhaps it is most apt to compare the present existential crisis documented by Mr. Rich to Thomas Jefferson’s equally upsetting remark about slavery, one of humanity’s first great crimes: “as it is, we have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go.” Mr. Rich is telling us that perhaps it is time to start thinking about the prospect of letting go.

About Nathaniel Rich: An alumnus of Yale University, where he studied literature, Mr. Rich is the author of many essays for Vanity Fair, Harper’s Magazine, Rolling Stone, and Slate, as well as novels such as Odds Against Tomorrow (2013) and non-fiction books like San Francisco Noir, named one of the best books of 2005 by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Previous winners:

- 2017: Meghan O’Sullivan, Windfall: How the New Energy Abundance Upends Global Politics and Strengthens America’s Power.
- 2016: Mark Mills: “Shale 2.0”.
- 2015: Coral Davenport, New York Times.

About the Society: The American Energy Society (AES) is a non-partisan, energy-neutral, independent network of nearly 500,000 professionals from every energy sector. Through a variety of services and programs, the AES supports its Members with recognized publications like Energy Today and Energy Matters, a website newsfeed dedicated to the “energy news you need to know today,” updates on groundbreaking discoveries, and notifications about upcoming conferences, funding and awards, job openings, and more. To learn more about AES, visit www.energysociety.org. Credentialed media can contact AES for more information about this award.

###

Eric Vettel
American Energy Society
+1 650-796-1947
[email us here](#)



**AMERICAN
ENERGY
SOCIETY**

The professional network for energy

Visit us on social media:

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

Disclaimer: If you have any questions regarding information in this press release please contact the company listed in the press release. Please do not contact EIN Presswire. We will be unable to assist you with your inquiry. EIN Presswire disclaims any content contained in these releases. © 1995-2018 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.