8) Corporate domination -
Coke uses its clout to bully governments. It is one of the largest Foreign Direct Investors in India, ranking with GM, Ford and Hugh Electronics. It pressured the Indian government to allow it to sell 49% of its Indian companies to local shareholders, while keeping 100% of voting rights. Coca-Cola controls bottlers via presence on local boards and by its financial power, but keeps its stakes at less than 50% to protect the mother company from debts and liabilities.

We Can Win

9) Coke is vulnerable -
Because it is not a dietary necessity, Coke is an ideal target for a strategic boycott, a confrontation of people power with corporate power. Ray Rogers with the Campaign to Stop Killer Coke (www.killercoke.org), says that a "corporate boycott" is a strategic and organized approach that confronts corporate power with power.

10) A growing movement -
A growing movement of unions, students and governments are challenging Coke. These include the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in the US, Dublin University College in Ireland, and the Muslim Consumers Association of Malaysia. Indian villagers have created slogans like “Save the village; chase away Coke.” At least 20 US colleges have canceled contracts with Coke.

What you can do -

A. Visit websites to learn more about the Coke Boycott. Visit the GPUSA website [www.greenparty.org] to learn about challenging corporate control of society.

B. Don’t drink Coke yourself. Persuade friends, neighbors and co-workers to boycott Coke.

C. If you belong to a union, church or community group that has Coke vending machines, work with it to cancel the contract.

D. Put up “Don’t Bring Coke in Here” signs in your home and get groups you are involved with to put them up.

E. Ask your school board to keep students off drugs and junk food by canceling contracts for Coke vending machines.

F. Ask your college or university to cancel Coke vending machine contracts.

END KING COKE’S RULE!
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www.greenparty.org

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10 Reasons GPUSA Calls for a Boycott of Coca-Cola

ENVIRONMENT
1) Groundwater -
Coke depletes massive amounts of groundwater in poor countries. Villagers in Plachimada and Mehidiganj, India charge Coke with draining wells, drying up ponds and destroying livelihoods. The Coke bottling plant in Mehdiganj, India drains hundreds of thousands of liters daily, lowering the groundwater level by 40 feet.

2) Toxic Discharges -
Coca-Cola pollutes water resources in Mexico, Ghana and India. The Coke plant near Benares, India outraged citizens by disposing its wastes into the holy Ganges River. In order to make way for a superhighway, Coke began discharging its waste into fields and mango groves. Over 20 acres were destroyed and stagnant water created a mosquito epidemic.

HEALTH
3) Sugar -
Obesity is perhaps the number one health problem in the US. Millions of health care dollars are spent on Diabetes Mellitus every year. Coca-Cola leads the junk food industry in manipulating people into eating sugar products. Over consumption of sugar is associated with obesity, diabetes and tooth decay. A 12 oz. Can of Coke contains 39g of sugar (about 9 teaspoons).

4) Caffeine -
A 12 oz. Can of Coke Classic has 34.5mg of caffeine, a Diet Coke 46.5mg. Caffeine is addictive, the same drug that causes parents not to let their children drink coffee. Caffeine plus sugar is particularly habit forming. Caffeine acts on the central nervous system and can make children hyperactive.

LABOR
5) Union Busting -
Coke has a reputation for racial discrimination and persecution of workers who raise safety issues. The Colombian union SINALTRAINAL has sued Coca-Cola in the US, saying local bottlers have hired death squads to kill union organizers. SINALTRINAL charges that in March 2004, administrators in Cucuta and Cartagena trapped workers in bottling plants to pressure them to renounce contracts.

6) Child Exploitation -
Coke buys sugar from at least four plantations that use child labor. In El Salvador, thousands of children as young as eight use machetes and sharp knives up to nine hours a day to harvest sugar cane.

ECONOMICS
7) Vending Machines -
The Coca-Cola Company has been a driving force in persuading school boards to compromise children’s heath by bringing soft drink vending machines into schools. The same vending machines placed to prey on school children pollute government buildings, private workplaces and union halls.