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2010-12-23

After Failure of Chicago Climate Exchange, California Opens the Pacific Carbon Exchange

California hasn't learned from the failure of the Chicago Climate Exchange this year, when one ton of CO₂ traded for \$0.05, and nobody was buying even at that price. But like a zombie, carbon trading rises again in California with the Pacific Carbon Exchange (PCarbX). The state's Air Resources Board has approved the rules for the exchange, which will support a cap-and-trade system, starting in 2012 and designed to limit CO₂ from the state's 500 largest emitters (power plants, energy companies and heavy industry.) The ARB will initially give away emission allowances for free.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/12/16/chicago-climate-exchange-fail-now-california-opens-pacific-carbon-exchange/>

EPA to Limit Emissions from Power Plants, Refineries

Threatened with lawsuits from environmental groups, the US Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to issue another round of greenhouse gas limits on both power plants and refineries. These two sectors produce about 40% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA plans to issue proposed rules for these sectors in July and December of 2011, respectively.

Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives on January 2 aim to scuttle the EPA regulations. Their first opportunity will be a partial-year spending bill that Congress must pass early in 2011 to avoid government shut-downs by March 4.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/12/23/23greenwire-epa-agrees-to-limit-emissions-from-power-plant-95260.html?pagewanted=all>
<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN2210867120101222?sp=true>

Lawrence Solomon: Ontario's Odious Obligations

According to the Doctrine of Odious Debts, obligations that are odious should not be honoured. Mr. Solomon's example is Ontario's spending spree in the name of creating green energy jobs, by replacing its reliable coal-fired plants with renewable energy contracted from developers at windfall rates of up to 20 times the cost of coal power. As electricity rates soar in the province during the 20-year terms of the contracts and beyond, Ontario businesses will flee and Ontarians will join the growing ranks of those in fuel poverty. Holders of the contracts, meanwhile, will be gleefully taking in tens of billions of dollars in untoward payments from captive Ontario ratepayers.

Mr. Solomon argues that the McGuinty government has failed to live up to its fiduciary duty by committing present and future generations of Ontarians to obligations in which they have little or no say, including out-sized payments to favoured suppliers. Since parliament is supreme, a future Ontario government, facing soaring power rates and a declining economy, could amend or extinguish the contracts by regulation or legislation.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/12/17/lawrence-solomon-ontario%E2%80%99s-odious-obligations/>

Red Faces at the UK Met Office

The Met Office is front and centre in rationalizing the British government's commitment to fight catastrophic man-made global warming with more and bigger bureaucracy. During the recent Cancún climate conference it presented a study suggesting that the global climate outlook was worse than projected in the last IPCC report. After predicting a milder than usual winter for the UK just two months ago, the Met Office is profoundly embarrassed by the current deep freeze, admitting that the current December may be the coldest in Britain for 100 years.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/12/21/peter-foster-rosy-u-k-cheeks-mean-red-faces-at-the-met-office/>
<http://www.thegwpf.org/uk-news/2098-the-met-office-and-its-seasonal-problems.html>

Germany Grows Tired of Leading Europe on Climate Change

For the Cancún climate change agreement to be effective, the EU will have to cut its CO₂ emissions to 30% (instead of 20%) below 1990 levels. Based on past patterns of distribution within the EU, this would mean that Germany's share would be 42% to 50%. While the Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen was initially keen on the idea, claiming that hundreds of thousands of jobs would be created by a new eco-boom, Chancellor Angela Merkel is opposed, arguing that it would put too much pressure on the economy. Minister Röttgen is now demanding that other European countries move towards Germany's 40% target, which promises to trigger substantial controversy in the EU.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,735594,00.html>

On the Recovery from the Little Ice Age

A new paper by Syun-Ichi Akasofu of the University of Alaska rebuts the IPCC's claim of a 4°C (±2.0°C) temperature increase by 2100, predicting instead 0.5°C (±0.2°C). Dr. Akasofu researched publications and data on sea level changes, glacier retreat, freezing/break-up dates, sea ice retreat, tree-ring observations, ice cores and changes in cosmic ray intensity from the year 1000 to the present, in order to examine how the earth recovered from the Little Ice Age. He found that this recovery has proceeded in a

roughly linear manner from 1800-1850 to the present at a rate of about 0.5°C/100 years. Superposing the multi-decadal oscillation on this linear change caused temporary halts in the recovery in 1940 and 2000.

<http://www.scirp.org/Journal/PaperInformation.aspx?paperID=3217&JournalID=69#abstract>

2010-12-16

Walter Russell Mead: Bureaucrats Swindle Greens in Cancún

Dr. Mead is professor of foreign affairs and humanities at Bard College in New York and is recognized as one of the leading students of American foreign policy. Here, in his blog he argues that the Cancún climate conference was a clear and resounding win for the bureaucrats and the NGOs: they kept alive the “process” (and the job-creating gravy train) while doing little or nothing about the problem they were supposed to solve.

Japan, Russia and other countries tired of the Kyoto Protocol allowed other countries to pretend that the protocol lives on. Advanced countries pretend that they will be shipping \$100 billion/year to developing countries by 2020, and the latter agree to pretend that this will happen. Countries make inadequate and non-binding “pledges” on carbon emissions, and everyone pretends that an eventual climate treaty will be ratified by the US Senate.

For the true-believer greens, even if all the pledges are fulfilled the earth will warm by more than 4°C, rather than the 2°C target. But the greens have run up against a force stronger than climate change: the bureaucratic instinct for process. For the skeptics the Cancún outcome is a best-case scenario: the cost of the endless UN gabfests is trivial compared to the cost of the carbon emission reductions demanded by UN scientists.

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/12/12/bureaucrats-swindle-greens-in-cancun/>

Corporate Irresponsibility - Deutsche Bank

David Henderson, in a commentary for the *Financial Post*, says that Deutsche Bank is putting its interest in making money off climate change ahead of the facts. In September a unit of the bank (DB Climate Change Advisers) sponsored a report *Climate Change: Addressing the Major Skeptic Arguments*, the purpose of which was to demonstrate that major skeptic arguments are to be rejected. The report claims to be balanced and accurate, which was questioned by Ross McKittrick, who published *Response to Misinformation from Deutsche Bank*. Dr. McKittrick focused on two central topics of the DB report: the hockey-stick controversy and the Climategate emails.

The DB authors put out a revised text where they inserted at the end a three-page response to Dr. McKittrick, admitting to a few mischaracterizations, but leaving the original wording in the text. Dr. McKittrick responded with a second set of comments, to which DB has not replied. Mr. Henderson notes that the DB authors appear to be all people “pre-committed to the urgency of the climate cause.” Also, DB was one of 68 big investors who united to urge Californians to vote against efforts to roll back the state's carbon legislation.

To Mr. Henderson, DB's Climate Change Advisers are no more than the climate change division of Deutsche Asset Management. But DB is no different than the many businesses across the world that make uncritical comments on the climate change issue as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/12/13/corporate-%C2%ADirresponsibility/>

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/12/13/terence-corcoran-deutsche%E2%80%99s-climate/>

US Foundations: Demarketing Alberta

US foundations, including the Tides Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David & Lucille Packard Foundation, the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, have spent more than \$300 million since 2000 on “reform” of resource industries in Canada. Since 2004 foundations have spent \$18 million specifically for “demarketing” (reducing demand for or shifting demand away from) Alberta oil.

Their current campaign, supported by the Liberal opposition in Ottawa, is to legislate a ban on tanker traffic along the British Columbia coast to prevent construction of a new pipeline to export Alberta's oil to Asian markets. Though marine conservation is an ostensible issue in the campaign, the foundations have no apparent objection to tanker traffic along the coasts of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and the Gulf of Mexico.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/Demarketing+Alberta/3984670/story.html>

Climate “Consensus” Opiate - The 97% Solution

The above title comes from a January 2009 paper *Examining the Scientific Consensus on Climate Change* by Peter Doran and Kenneth Zimmerman from the department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois. That paper claimed that 97% of climate scientists believe in AGW, which is quoted in other alarmist publications. Here, Dennis Ambler for the *Science and Public Policy Institute* has prepared a seven-page debunk of the Doran and Zimmerman paper.

Doran and Zimmerman contacted 10,257 scientists of whom 3,146 responded, with 5% (157) of the latter describing themselves as climate scientists. Then the authors reduced that sample to 79 whom they classed as “specialists.” Of these, 75 out of 77 answered “yes” to a question on human activity as a significant contributing factor in changing mean global temperatures, from which the authors obtained the 97% “consensus.”

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/consensus_opiate.pdf

New NASA Model: Doubled CO₂ Means Just 1.64°C Warming

According to a new paper in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, existing climate models fail to accurately include the effects of rising CO₂ levels on green plants. These plants will find it easier to harvest carbon from the air, thus introducing a negative feedback into the warming/carbon process. In particular the increased precipitation resulting from a warmer-higher CO₂ atmosphere would mean increased evapotranspiration, rather than surface runoff, resulting in a cooling effect not accounted for in previous simulations.

According to the authors, a doubling of CO₂ levels from the current 390 ppm to 780 ppm would cause the world to warm up by 1.64°C. At the present increase of 2 ppm/year, we could go for centuries without dangerous warming. With current climate models, the goal is to hold CO₂ concentrations to 450 ppm in order to limit warming to 2°C or less.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/12/08/new_model_doubled_co2_sub_2_degrees_warming/

The Dessler Cloud Feedback Paper in *Science*: A Step Backward for Climate Research

Roy Spencer comments on a new paper by Andrew Dessler (see FoS Extracts 2010-10-24) that appears in *Science*. The Dessler paper claims that cloud feedback is positive and supports the IPCC climate models. An earlier paper by Spencer and Braswell in the *Journal of Geophysical Research* and using the same satellite dataset as Dr. Dessler's paper found that the feedbacks were negative. To Dr. Spencer argues the different interpretations revolve around distinguishing cause and effect: does lack of clouds cause warmer temperatures, or do warmer temperatures reduce cloud cover?

Dr. Spencer says that Dr. Dessler used a simplistic and misleading interpretation of the Spencer and Braswell paper and suspects that the Dessler paper was published in order gain scientific respectability for the IPCC at the Cancún conference. This provides one more reason why the public is increasingly distrustful of the scientific community when research has policy implications.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2010/12/the-dessler-cloud-feedback-paper-in-science-a-step-backward-for-climate-research/>

2010-12-12

Climate Deal in Cancún

At 4:00 am on December 11, delegates adopted the Cancún Agreements - 24 of them are listed in the first link below (the first document on Long-term Cooperative Action is the main one.) Under these agreements: (1) rich countries “shall aim to complete” further cuts in greenhouse gas emissions before the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012; (2) parties set a goal to hold global average temperature to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels; (3) parties will “work towards identifying a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050” for consideration at the next meeting in Durban; (4) parties dropped the shared vision that global greenhouse gases should peak by 2015; (5) parties set up a process for accounting and monitoring of greenhouse gases; (6) developing countries undertaking mitigation actions supported by outside money will be subject to international auditing; (7) parties will establish a Green Climate Fund with a 24-member board of directors, half from developed and half from developing countries.

Environment Minister John Baird refused to commit Canada to taking on new obligations under Kyoto, preferring the more flexible Copenhagen approach.

<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

<http://reason.com/blog/2010/12/11/cuncan-climate-change-conferen>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/global-accord-on-climate-change-hailed-as-breakthrough/article1834216/?cmpid=rss1>

Lawrence Solomon: How to Renege on Egregious Green Contracts

Mr. Solomon notes that, a century ago, public outrage at high electricity prices resulting from long-term contracts between Ontario municipal governments and private utilities forced the province to write legislation that reneged on those contracts. Today the Ontario government is forcing consumers to pay developers 20 times the market price for wind and solar electricity. The contracts are virtually risk-free, since the price is paid when the power is produced, whether needed or not. Another negative aspect is that the government must build expensive backup facilities and new transmission corridors. To pay for all this the government levies a “Provincial Benefit” representing more than half the cost of power generation that consumers pay.

Mr. Solomon suggests options for the new government after next October's election: (1) new legislation to undo the old (even threatening to tear up contracts would force concessions from the renewables developers); (2) impose a windfall profits tax as the UK did retroactively on 33 utilities in 1997; (3) impose environmental levies for birds killed by wind farms; (4) apply the Precautionary Principle to the noise effects of wind turbines on humans. Whatever option the government chooses would trigger a useful public debate.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/12/10/lawrence-solomon-how-to-renege-on-egregious-green-contracts/>

Global Warming Case Goes to US Supreme Court

On December 6 the Supreme Court agreed to decide whether eight states and other plaintiffs can proceed with lawsuits that seek to reduce CO₂ emissions by utilities. In 2005 a New York judge ruled that the plaintiffs could not proceed because the case raised political questions. This was overturned on appeal, and the defendants (America Electric Power Co., Southern Co., Xcel Energy Inc., the Tennessee Valley Authority and Cinergy Corp.) sought leave to appeal to the Supreme Court, which has agreed to hear the case.

The Obama Administration filed a brief saying that the executive and legislative branches of government should handle CO₂ regulation, not the courts. The Supreme Court apparently disagrees.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704156304576003323338816658.htm>

US Congress Likely to Investigate Climategate

Republican Ralph Hall is poised to become the next chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee. There, he is expected to be at the forefront of GOP efforts to probe the Obama administration's climate policies next year. Mr. Hall says that he is not a climate skeptic, but wants to question all sides of the issue (including the scientists at the heart of the Climategate controversy) and find out what the real facts are. At a hearing last month, Mr. Hall said that the exposed emails showed a “dishonest undercurrent” in the scientific community.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1210/46101.html>

New Peer-Reviewed Paper Shows How Bad the Climate Models Really Are

One of the biggest issues with climate science is the reliance on computer model projections to suggest future outcomes. A peer-reviewed paper by four authors from the Technical University of Athens and published in the *Hydrological Sciences Journal* compares the output (temperature and precipitation) of six climate models used in the last two IPCC reports (three in each) to observed data for the USA from 1905 to 1995.

Proponents of the models claim that they produce credible quantitative estimates of future climate change, particularly at continental scales and above. However, the authors found that local projections (at 55 points) do not correlate well with observations, and the correlation is worse for the contiguous USA. The authors think that the question is not whether models can credibly estimate future climate, but rather whether climate (being so complex) is at all predictable in deterministic terms. Instead, they suggest looking at stochastic processes.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/12/05/new-peer-reviewed-paper-shows-just-how-bad-the-climate->

[models-are/](#)

2010-12-06

Cancún Climate Change Summit: Japan, then Canada, Russia and Australia Oppose Extending Kyoto Protocol

The delicately-balanced global climate talks in Cancún suffered a setback at the outset when Japan categorically opposed extending the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. Jun Arima, an official in the economics, trade and industry department, said that the protocol covers only 27% of global emissions, a portion that will decline in future years. Any replacement would have to include all the major emitters.

The head of the UN climate change secretariat, Christiana Figueres, dealt with rumours of a secret text emanating from Mexico and an exclusive group of countries. She named Canada and Russia as resisting making new commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. Australia was also reported to be opposed. For its stand on Kyoto, Canada was voted “fossil of the day” by 500 environmental groups on December 4.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/dec/01/cancun-climate-change-summit-japan-kyoto>
<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/article931955.ece>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/rejecting-kyoto-extension-threatens-climate-talks-developing-nations/article1825499/>

Rex Murphy: The Last Global Warming Conference Ever?

While England is locked in the jaws of an early freeze-up, a precious subset of the English population (climate-change activists, bureaucrats, politicians, puppeteers and NGOs) are enjoying the warmth of Cancún's sun as they attempt to spell out a future of rationing for the rest of us. The great minds decoding the next century's weather are unable to see the contradiction of holding a conference on the imminent threat of global warming in a place where people fly to get warm.

With Japan walking away from the Kyoto Protocol and the A-list politicians staying away from Cancún, it is hard to see how there will be another save-the-planet holiday next year.

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2010/12/04/rex-murphy-cancun-sun-speeds-decay-of-global-warming-charade/>

Terence Corcoran: Beyond Cancún, a Fossil-Fuel World

While the UN climate-change machine in Cancún keeps cranking out scenarios, reports, research and propaganda on the evils of a carbon-based economy, the real world is moving in the other direction. Global availability and demand for fossil fuels continues to climb because the world needs energy, and lots of it, to fulfill the economic dreams of people everywhere. According to the International Energy Agency, coal will remain the backbone of electricity generation in the OECD countries. The main increase in fossil-fuel use, however, will come from natural gas, especially shale gas.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/12/03/terence-corcoran-beyond-cancun-a-fossil-fuel-world/>

Lawrence Solomon: Green Collapse

Mr. Solomon compares Ontario's green status (home of the biggest subsidies in the Western world) to that of other jurisdictions: Spain (where support for wind projects was cut 35% while denying support for

solar thermal projects in their first year of operation and cutting subsidies for photovoltaic); France (four-month freeze on solar projects and a cap on the total amount of solar); Germany (which may discontinue the solar industry's sweetheart tariffs in 2012); New South Wales (where the state cut 2/3 of the revenue for roof-top solar); the UK (which announced cuts to renewable projects and changes that strengthen local planning laws); Denmark (Vestas, the world's largest wind turbine company, is closing five production facilities and laying off 3,000 workers); and the US (where regulators in five states have canceled or delayed renewable projects).

Mr. Solomon speculates about a coming confrontation between the province's captive ratepayers and a renewables industry that, thanks to deals negotiated in secret with the government, has "been making off like bandits." After next October's election, there will be pressure on the future Ontario government to abort uncompleted deals and abrogate the rest. There are ample precedents to draw on.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/12/03/lawrence-solomon-green-collapse/>

Sea Level Could Rise in the South, Fall in the North

Oceanographer Detlef Stammer, director of the Center for Marine and Climate Research at the University of Hamburg, explains the counter-intuitive phenomenon by which an expected 1 m rise in sea level could be more than that off some coasts, and even fall off others. This is because of regional effects from winds, currents, gravity and the laws of thermodynamics.

If the Greenland ice sheet melted, a process that would take centuries, sea levels would rise by 7 m on average. However, north of a line from Newfoundland to the North Sea, the sea level would fall, due to the loss of mass from Greenland. South of that line, and in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, sea levels would rise.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,732303,00.html>

2010-12-02

US Republicans Axe Global Warming Panel and Threaten EPA Budget

House Republicans will scrap the committee set up by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to investigate global warming, the panel's top Republican announced. The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, currently chaired by Ed Markey (D-Mass.) was created in 2007.

Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA) wants to chair the Appropriations Committee once Republicans take control of the House in 2011. He has fixed his sights on the Environmental Protection Agency and its "arbitrary interpretations of the *Clean Air Act*." Mr. Lewis has written to EPA head Lisa Jackson telling her that the Committee will scrutinize the agency's entire FY 2012 budget and will exercise its prerogative to withhold funding for EPA regulations, both past and future.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1210/45802.html>
<http://hotair.com/archives/2010/11/30/lewis-to-epa-well-gut-your-funding/>

America Gets Gored

Al Gore admits that in 1994 he cast the deciding Senate vote in favour of ethanol subsidies because he paid particular attention to the farmers in his home state of Tennessee and had a certain fondness for Iowa farmers because he was about to run for President. Today, 45% of all corn grown in the US goes to

ethanol, and food prices have surged to feed the government's ethanol monster. The ethanol tax credit comes up for renewal in Congress by December 31.

DeSmogBlog, a foe of both “promoting climate change denial” and corn ethanol, applauds Mr. Gore for admitting that his support for subsidies was based on votes, not science.

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/554576/201011221858/America-Gets-Gored.htm>
<http://www.desmogblog.com/gore-admits-corn-ethanol-mistake>

Black Days Ahead for the Carbon Industry

As the Cancún climate conference gets underway, the carbon trading lobby is desperate for an accord. A statement issued by 259 investment organizations, controlling assets totalling \$15 trillion, calls for government action on climate change. At the top of their list is implementing the UN's REDD scheme (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), which would enable them to make hundreds of billions of dollars by selling the CO₂ locked up in the world's tropical rainforests as “carbon offsets.”

In the US, buying and selling carbon permits in the emerging market designed to control global-warming pollution is no longer an attractive prospect for Wall Streeters seeking to make a career switch, though California is moving ahead with its own program.

Also in the US, carbon credits reach their true value as the demise of the Chicago Climate Exchange is barely noticed.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8165189/There-are-black-days-ahead-for-the-carbon-industry.html>
http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/nov2010/tc20101123_671505.htm?campaign_id=yahoo
<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/11/carbon-credits-reach-their-true-value/>

BBC Gives an Even-Handed Assessment of 2010 Temperature Prediction

The BBC reports that the UK Met Office is calling for 2010 to be the hottest or second hottest on record, according to data from NASA and HadCRUT3 (Hadley Centre of the Met Office compiled by the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia.) The Met Office says it is very confident that man-made global warming is forcing up temperatures, and that after plateauing for the past ten years, global temperatures should resume their long-term warming trend of about 0.16°C/decade. However, the BBC goes on to point out that the Met Office has wrongly predicted a record warm year at least twice before. It quotes John Christy who points to a recent plunge in global temperatures and challenges the Met Office's speculation as to the cause of the warmth.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11841368>

Germany Announces Rollback on Green Subsidies

Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen announced that Germany will not guarantee that existing rules for feed-in tariffs for solar power will continue after 2012. The country is on track to install about 8 GW of photovoltaic capacity this year and gets about 16% of its electricity from green sources. However, the popularity of solar and wind power has drawn criticism from consumer groups and politicians, who complain about the €13 billion annual cost. The Government cut the feed-in tariffs for PV power by a further 16% this year, on top of an earlier 10% reduction.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE6B01R920101201?sp=true>

2010-11-27

Cooling Climate Change: Environmental Inaction Seems to be Taking Hold

In a survey of the climate change movement since Copenhagen, Kevin Libin of the *National Post* discusses how the impetus for action has lessened. He cites examples such as the closure of the Chicago Climate Exchange, Al Gore's repenting his work in promoting ethanol, lack of funding for the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, demise of the *Climate Change Accountability Act* in the Canadian Senate, opinion polls in various countries, real scientists letting Al Gore be their spokesman, and the treaty drafted for Copenhagen with its "climate debt" owed to developing nations.

Mr. Libin quotes Ross McKittrick as saying that the past two decades saw the creation of an international policy machinery that is bound to endure. If the climate change lobbyists have missed their window for a sweeping global industrial program, they'll remain a persistent and influential part of the political scenery for a generation.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/Cooling+climate+change+Environmental+inaction+seems+taking+hold/3892945/story.html>

Ontario's Pricey Green Dreams

For years the Ontario Government has been pushing its green energy alternatives. Recently, the Government's own Task Force on Competitiveness, Productivity and Economic Progress (TFC) has released a study that, inter alia, looked at the province's *Green Energy Act* (GEA). The study concludes that the GEA underestimates the cost of electricity to consumers and overestimates the net number of new jobs created in switching from carbon energy to wind, solar and biofuel. The reason for these higher costs is the fact that markets for green energy simply do not exist if governments don't force them into being.

The TFC's report can be downloaded from the second link below. The discussion about the GEA begins on page 45 (pdf page 47). The TFC recommends a carbon tax rather than the GEA's feed-in tariff, since the former is "agnostic" between technologies and is likely to reduce emissions more at less cost. Under the GEA, the TFC estimates that residential electricity will increase 6.7-8% annually over the next five years; for non-residential users the annual rate increases will be 8-10%.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/McGuinty+pricey+green+dreams/3875462/story.html>
http://www.competeprosper.ca/download.php?file=ICP_AR9_Final.pdf

Carbon Tax Won't Hurt Alberta and Saskatchewan

First, the Canadian Council of Chief Executives called on the Federal Government to impose a carbon tax on fossil fuels (FoS Extracts 2010-11-12). Now another business-friendly organization is recommending the same. The C.D. Howe Institute has published a commentary *Taxing Emissions, Not Income* in which it examines a number of scenarios for meeting Ottawa's target of a 17% reduction (not 20% as stated in *The Globe and Mail* story) in greenhouse gases from 2005 levels by 2020, which the Institute calls modest. Under a carbon tax scenario, the revenue would be recycled through corporate tax cuts and returned to the provinces in proportion to their contributions. Thus, Alberta and Saskatchewan would be compensated for their higher emission intensities.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/carbon-pricing-wont-hurt-alberta-and-saskatchewan-cd-howe/article1814133/>
http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Commentary_314.pdf

At Long Last: *The Economist* Adapts to Political Reality

The Economist, a steadfast believer in AGW and the need to curb CO₂ emissions, admits that (because of the Copenhagen experience and the modest expectations for Cancún) global action is not going to stop climate change. Instead, the world needs to look harder how to live with it. Referring to data from the International Energy Agency and quoting former IPCC head Bob Watson, the goal of keeping the global temperature rise to 2°C by 2100 is a “wishful dream,” and 3.5°C is more likely. In a resigned tone, the article discusses the likely effects of such a temperature change and what adaptation will be needed.

http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=17572735

Wind Turbines in Europe and Ontario

In a 25-minute video, *Europe's Ill Wind*, rural residents talk about wind turbines in Britain and Denmark - the visual impacts, effect on property values, noise effects, “saving the planet”, limitations of wind power and required backup, subsidies (“renewables obligation”), “wind-powerism” and the resources of the wind-power industry vs that of local authorities.

The purpose of the Ontario Wind Performance website is to inform the public about the actual physical performance of industrial wind turbines in that province. It also challenges the claims that wind is a viable source of power, that the industry is telling the truth, that wind will replace other sources of energy, and that wind will save the planet.

<http://www.europesillwind.org/films/europes-ill-wind-2.html>
<http://ontariowindperformance.wordpress.com/>

2010-11-23

Climate of Confusion

The feed-in tariff under Ontario's *Green Energy and Green Employment Act*, which started as a program of weaning the province off coal power while rebuilding its floundering manufacturing section, has become a muddled mess. Companies which build alternative power plants in Ontario get up to 64.2 ¢/kWh for electricity, nearly ten times the current market value. FIT has sparked a World Trade Organization challenge from abroad, over its made-in-Ontario provisions. Mounting outrage over increasing power bills from consumers has prompted the government to promise to cut electricity rates for consumers (but not for industry which doesn't vote) by 10% for the next five years. Finally, the opposition Progressive Conservative Party has vowed to scrap the program if elected next October.

Now companies dependent on FIT are wondering whether there will be an alternative energy industry left in Ontario in a year's time. Some are threatening a class action lawsuit if FIT is abolished.

<http://www.financialpost.com/CLIMATE+CONFUSION/3859647/story.html>

Eastern Europe Puts Emergency Brakes on Solar Energy

The lower house of the Czech parliament has passed a law that slaps a 26% tax on any revenue from the operation of solar energy projects put into operation since last year. This comes after a solar boom (1034 MW of photovoltaic capacity already installed) raised fears that electricity prices could explode and networks become unstable. While it would have been easier to ditch the renewables obligation, rather than impose a tax, the former would have posed a risk of billions of euros in compensation claims against the Czech Republic.

Neighbouring Slovakia amended its Energy Law last May, severely curtailing the potential for solar investment.

<http://www.thegwpc.org/energy-news/1889-eastern-europe-puts-emergency-breaks-on-solar-energy.html>

Spain's Solar Power Sector Falls into the Abyss

The Spanish government has launched a new regulatory framework that will result in subsidized tariffs for ground-mounted solar energy projects drop 45% this year, killing future investment in the trade, which industry leaders expect will be frozen in the next few years. The Spanish solar industry has seen investment plunge in the past two years with only 100 MW of generating capacity having been installed in 2009 and 2010 - compared to 2,700 MW in 2008.

The industry is so frustrated that it has sued Spain's government, arguing that that new regulation is way too harsh and even “unconstitutional” as the tariff cuts are expected to apply to both new and existing projects, meaning the industry may have to make retroactive payments.

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2010/11/spains-solar-power-sector-falls-into-the-abyss>

Cancún: Global Climate Consensus Is Disintegrating

The two-week UN Climate Change Conference starts next week in Cancún without much hope of any real success. The Cancún conference follows on last year's failed effort in Copenhagen and is officially referred to as the 16th session of the *Conference of the Parties* (COP 16) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 6th session of the *Conference of the Parties* serving as the meeting of the Parties (CMP 6) to the Kyoto Protocol. Last year 100,000 people attended the Copenhagen conference; this year about 10,000 are expected in Cancún.

Nations like China believe that they should be allowed increases in CO₂ emissions in order to develop their economies, while saying that developed nations should take the lead in drastic emissions cuts, as well as offering funds and technology to developing countries. Events over the past year, starting with the Climategate emails, revealed that the science of climate change is dodgy. The global consensus that at one point a year or so ago seemed unstoppable, that man can influence the fact of, or the speed of climate change and agreement on how to go about the task, seems to be disintegrating.

<http://www.leadershiponline.co.za/articles/environment/997-climate-change>
http://unfccc.int/conference_programme/items/5775.php

The New Guard of Climate Questioners: Get Ready for the Next Round of Climate Science Debate

On November 17 the US House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Energy & Environment held a hearing on climate change titled “Rational Discussion of Climate Change: the Science, the Evidence, the

Response.” The Republican invitees were Richard Lindzen, Patrick Michaels and Judith Curry. The first two each presented compelling evidence as to why anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions might not rapidly push up global temperature—not now, nor in the future. Dr. Curry's written testimony discussed the “wickedness” of the climate problem, uncertainty in climate science and statements that have resulted in her being labelled a “climate heretic” by her colleagues. Having been duped by the IPCC, Dr. Curry has decided to try to restore integrity to climate science and dig deeply into the broader aspects of the science and the IPCC's arguments to try and assess the uncertainty.

The full 3-hour and 46-minute hearing can be followed on C-SPAN. The first 18 minutes is taken up by opening remarks by the sub-committee chairman and ranking members. Then there are three panels of witnesses. On Panel 1, Ralph Cicerone of the National Academy of Sciences speaks from there to 0:26 , Dr. Lindzen to 0:34, Gerald Meehl of National Center for Atmospheric Research to 0:39, Heidi Cullen from Climate Central to 0:47. Questions from the sub-committee took until 1:25. Panel 2 consisted of Patrick Michaels of the Cato Institute to 1:32, Ben Santer of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to 1:38, Richard Alley of Penn State to 1:43, Richard Feely of NOAA to 1:50. Questions of Panel 2 from the sub-committee took to 2:43. Panel 3 consisted of Adm. David Titley of the US Navy to 2:49:, James Lopez of the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to 2:55, William Geer of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to 3:03, and Judith Curry of Georgia Tech to 3:09. Questions from the sub-committee took the rest of the time.

<http://www.masterresource.org/2010/11/new-guard-climate-questioners/>
<http://www.c-span.org/Watch/Media/2010/11/17/HP/A/40918/House+Science+Technology+Subcommittee+Hearing+on+Climate+Change+Science.aspx>

2010-11-18

Climate Change Bill Killed by Canadian Senate

The *Climate Change Accountability Act*, a private member's bill was passed in the House of Commons last spring when the combined Opposition outvoted the Government and sent it to the Senate for review (see FoS Extracts - 2010-05-16). The 12-page bill sets greenhouse-gas targets of 25% and 80% below 1990 levels for 2020 and 2050, respectively and requires the Minister of the Environment to set interim target plans at five year intervals. The Government considers the bill irresponsible as it sets targets without any measures for achieving them. On November 16 the Government used its majority in the unelected Senate to defeat the bill in a quick vote.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/tory-senate-overturms-opposition-bill-for-first-time-on-climate-change/article1803609/>
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Docid=3662654&file=4>

The Copenhagen Emissions Gap

The International Energy Agency, in its *World Energy Outlook*, forecasts that by 2035, primary fuel demand will increase by a third and world CO₂ emissions will reach 35.4 Gt annually. This is 13.7 Gt more than the target in the Copenhagen Accord, which is intended to slash global emissions by 80%. The IEA talks about “getting prices right,” which means cutting fossil-fuel subsidies (mainly in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, China, Egypt, Venezuela and Indonesia), while increasing subsidies for renewables from \$57 billion in 2009 to \$205 billion in 2035. China would be the main beneficiary of the latter.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/11/12/peter-foster-the-copenhagen-emissions-gap/>

<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/>

IPCC Official: “Climate Policy Is Redistributing the World's Wealth”

German economist and co-chair of IPCC Working Group III (Mitigation of Climate Change) Ottmar Edenhofer is interviewed by *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. Mr. Edenhofer acknowledges that economic growth means burning coal, oil or gas, and the latter two are becoming more expensive relative to the first. Since emerging markets will use coal for their development, he proposes a Global Deal where emission rights are distributed on a per capita basis, with Africa being the big winner and recipient of huge amounts of money. The climate change conference in Cancún (Nov. 29 to Dec. 10) will not be a climate conference, but one of the largest economic conferences since the Second World War. Since developed countries have basically expropriated the atmosphere of the world community, the world's wealth must be redistributed by climate policy.

<http://thegwpc.org/ipcc-news/1877-ipcc-official-climate-policy-is-redistributing-the-worlds-wealth.html>
<http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/>

Green Pork Fight: US Administration Begg China to Subsidize US Industry

US Energy Secretary Steven Chu says China should allow American companies to qualify for subsidies that Beijing offers for renewable energy projects. There are growing complaints that China violates world trade rules by subsidizing its green energy companies, such as solar panel and wind turbine manufacturers. Washington wants those subsidies to be open to all companies working on environmentally-sound energy sources.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/asia/US-Tells-China-Fairness-Needed-in-Green-Energy-Industry-108647599.html>

Geoengineering Liftoff

The *Economist* has published a story on geoengineering: the idea of fixing man-made climate change once the greenhouse gases that cause it have already been emitted to the atmosphere. Ideas for such fixes include emitting aerosols to reflect more sunlight back into space, sucking in excess carbon dioxide using plants or chemistry, and locking up the glaciers of the world's ice caps so that they cannot fall into the ocean and cause sea levels to rise. Prominent among the scientists quoted is David Keith of the University of Calgary. Dr. Keith talked the Alberta Government into the underground carbon sequestration project that is costing Alberta residents \$2 billion of their tax money.

http://www.economist.com/node/17414216?story_id=17414216&CFID=148597923&CFTOKEN=29101510
<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~keith/index.html>

The Solar Dynamo and Its Influence on Terrestrial Surface Temperatures

C. De Jager and S. Duhau of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research have published a paper that discusses some essential properties of the solar dynamo and refine their earlier prediction of the maximum annual sunspot number for cycle # 24 while also improving their forecast of a coming Grand (Maunder-type) Minimum of solar activity. They expect a low next solar maximum around 2014. After the 20th century's Grand Maximum, a Grand Minimum will start in one or two decades from now.

<http://www.cdejager.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/2010-Variable-solar-dynamo3.pdf>

2010-11-12

Canadian Business Leaders Cite Need for Carbon Tax in Energy Strategy

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives has released a study (*Clean Growth 2.0: How Canada Can Be A Leader In Energy and Environmental Innovation*) calling for the Federal Government to set a national carbon price, per tonne of CO₂ emitted, on all fossil fuels. This would be preferable to the patchwork of provincial policies being adopted, and the revenue raised could be used to reduce other taxes and support the development of new technologies. The CCCE report says that industry wants a policy “road map” from the government that provides clarity and predictability, in order to reach energy and environmental goals.

In the *Financial Post*, Peter Foster accuses the CCCE of adopting a supine stance toward climate activism. To Mr. Foster, the whole document is a refutation of the idea that the key to successful markets and prosperity is the dispersion of decision-making to those with the knowledge and ideas, not calling on government to impose a Plan.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/business-leaders-cite-need-for-national-energy-strategy/article1789042/>

<http://www.financialpost.com/Yellow+brick+road+green+serfdom/3804205/story.html>

http://www.ceocouncil.ca/publications/pdf/test_09ebfb64765872c39d1b1a6e8b8db638/Clean_Growth_2_0_November_8_2010_with_cover_page.pdf

\$1.1 Billion (Australian) Wasted on Solar Power

A review of a scrapped government solar rebate scheme in Australia showed that more than \$A1 billion was wasted on subsidies for rooftop solar panels that favored the rich and did little to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions. The program started in 2000 and was abruptly canceled last June when surging demand made the scheme financially unsustainable. The program cost \$A301/tonne of CO₂ saved. While the domestic solar industry benefited by \$A780 million, solar panel imports from China rose from \$A17 million in 2002 to \$A295 million in 2009.

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/11bn-wasted-on-solar-power-20101110-17nrh.html>

Green Jobs in California Cut despite Subsidy

Despite a \$535 million loan guarantee from the federal government, Solyndra, a maker of solar panels in the southeast San Francisco Bay Area city of Fremont, will close one of its manufacturing plants, lay off 40 permanent and 150 contract workers, delay expansion plans of a new plant largely financed with the government-guaranteed loan and scale back production capacity more than 50%. Solyndra seems unable to compete with Chinese manufacturers, whose prices are lower. This is the latest bad news for the company touted by Governor Schwarzenegger and President Obama as one of the green industry's supposed shining lights.

<http://www.oregister.com/opinion/solyndra-275413-government-jobs.html>

Climate Scientists Plan Campaign against Global Warming Skeptics

Roy Spencer comments on a story in the *Los Angeles Times* about the *American Geophysical Union's*

plans to enlist the help of 700 scientists to fight back against global warming deniers in Congress who are standing in the way of greenhouse gas regulations and laws needed to save humanity from itself. Dr. Spencer considers the AGU's plan a good thing as it means that there will be a real public debate, not just pronouncements from politicians and UN bureaucrats. As he has pointed out, virtually all global warming research either builds the case for AGW or assumes that humans are the cause.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2010/11/climate-scientists-plan-campaign-against-global-warming-skeptics/>

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-climate-scientists-20101108.0,545056.story>

The Climate Coincidence - Why Is the Temperature Unchanging?

Writing for the *Global Warming Policy Foundation*, David Whitehouse examines the recent global temperature record. In the seven decades since 1940, the world has gotten warmer in only two of them, and even Phil Jones of the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Institute suggests that global average temperatures haven't changed in the last 15 years. This means that the earth's natural climatic variables (changes in solar irradiance, volcanoes, oceanic oscillations) have offset any anthropogenic warming influences. Mr. Whitehouse wonders if this is a coincidence.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/1821-the-climate-coincidence.html>

Is the Western Climate Establishment Corrupt? - Complete Report

Joanne Nova's blog published a series under this title that was included in prior editions of FoS Extracts (October 7, 14, 21 and 24.) The Science and Public Policy Institute has expanded and published this series in a comprehensive 42-page document by Dr. Dave Evans, formerly of the Australian Department of Climate Change.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/western_climate_establishment_corrupt.pdf

2010-10-24

Photovoltaic Companies Claim that Ontario's Solar Rules Hurt the Province

A group led by Mitsubishi Electric Corp. calculated the costs of Ontario's feed-in tariff requirement that solar-energy projects have 60% local content. They concluded that this requirement will increase the cost of solar projects, and result in 9,000 fewer jobs and \$2 billion in lost investment. Mitsubishi, with a lengthy presence in Ontario, likes the feed-in tariff, but not the domestic content provisions. It is threatening to leave the province if faced with a closed market. Even a Canadian company, Timminco, based in Toronto with operations in Quebec, can't meet the local content rules.

In a biting commentary in the *Financial Post*, Peter Foster pillories the hypocrisy of Mitsubishi and its fellow "solar robber barons." Referring to Spain's experience, Mr. Foster predicts that the Ontario solar industry is headed for a crash.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/solar-rules-will-hurt-ontario-group-warns/article1766007/>

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/10/21/peter-foster-the-solar-robber-barons/>

Environmentalism: An Anti-Human Ideology

Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, gave a speech to the *Global Warming Policy Foundation* in which he says that environmentalism has existed in various forms for centuries. The common focus is on the earth, nature or the planet, with humans as something foreign to this element. In its current form, human-generated CO₂ is claimed to be the cause of all kinds of climate change, with the only proof being coexistence of increasing CO₂ emissions and temperatures over a short period of time. President Klaus refers to a Chinese study showing that a random walk model gave a better fit for temperature changes over the past 160 years than any physical model. However, a coalition of special interests - bureaucracies, scientific establishments and businesses - have invested too much in AGW to give it up easily. In effect, they are undermining our democratic and prosperous society.

President Klaus has also written an article praising Professor Bob Carter for refuting the global warming dogma in his book *Climate: The Counter Consensus*.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/10/20/vaclav-klaus-an-anti-human-ideology/>
<http://www.thegwpf.org/best-of-blogs/1749-vaclav-klaus-thank-heavens-for-bob-carter.html>

Scientific American: Why Can't We Have a Civil Conversation about Climate?

Scientific American has traditionally been on the alarmist side of the climate debate. Here, the magazine examines the case of Judith Curry, once a staunch member of the climate establishment and now one of its harshest critics. There are two competing story lines about Dr. Curry. In one she is a peacemaker, trying to restore civility to the debate. In the other she is a dupe, pouring fuel on the fire. The article summarizes Dr. Curry's increasing engagement with, and developing respect for, the skeptics, while losing her faith in the IPCC - which she accused of "torquing the science." Mainstream climate scientists worry that Dr. Curry has the power to damage the consensus that has been building over the past 20 years. To Steve McIntyre she is criticized for not maintaining the fatwa [against talking to outsiders.] To a disinterested commentator, Dr. Curry is being treated as a pariah, which enhances her reputation as a renegade who speaks truth to power.

Scientific American ends by calling for everyone to stop sniping at one another and focus on the science, not the noise.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=climate-heretic>

Experts Debate Climate Change Science and Policy

In this 1 hour and 54 minute video, Professors Andrew Dessler from Texas A&M and Richard Lindzen from MIT debate the scientific evidence of anthropogenic global warming, while University of Virginia Law School Professors Jonathan Cannon and Jason Johnston discuss the policy implications. Over the first 31 minutes Prof. Dessler notes that there is general agreement that temperatures have risen over the past 150 years, and the real question is how much does CO₂ warm the climate. He discusses the components of feedback from CO₂ forcing and claims that the net effect is positive, so that a doubling of CO₂ in the atmosphere would cause 2.7°C of warming. Based on geological records he claims that temperature and CO₂ are related. When dealing with the skeptics, Prof. Dessler employs ad hominem attacks, referring to the doubt strategy used by friends of the tobacco industry (Lindzen is a smoker.) He claims that there is no evidence of scientists chasing grant money.

Prof. Lindzen begins by stating that the issue is not if humans are affecting the climate, but by how much and whether it is a concern. He argues that the alarmists' claim that dangerous AGW is "incontrovertible" is more suspicious than the skeptics' claim of doubt. Global warming is often cited at the cause of short-

term events, such as the fires in Russia the past summer. Prof. Lindzen explains how data from stations are used to determine an average temperature anomaly. The climate is never in equilibrium as heat is exchanged between the oceans and the atmosphere. The *National Academy of Science* and the *Royal Society*, while stating that more research is needed on the IPCC's models don't properly handle oceanic oscillations and that feedbacks from water vapour and clouds require more research, claim that the NAS and the RS will provide the scientific backdrop to the political and business leaders in order to create a low carbon economy. In other words, science should be in the service of politics. Prof. Lindzen discusses in detail the feedback question.

Prof. Cannon outlines a policy approach based on Prof. Dessler's position. He favours a risk-management paradigm that limits risks to an acceptable level. Costs and benefits are too uncertain to be useful. He compares the risks of under- and over-reacting to climate change, concluding that it is easier correct an over-reaction by going back to fossil fuels and dis-investing in low carbon technology if there is too much economic harm or the climate fails to warm as predicted.

Prof. Johnston points out that there is no process for dealing with the unknown probabilities of harm associated with climate change. He discusses the “fat tail” phenomenon in economics. He notes examples where economists have been wrong in predicting how people will react to price changes in energy. Similarly, it would be impossible to predict how people would react to carbon taxes or a warmer climate. The UN has consistently over-estimated population growth, which has been decreasing due to improved economic conditions of individuals. Prof. Johnston therefore concludes that it is better to spend money today to improve the condition of women in developing countries and minimizing the impact of climate change.

<http://climaterealists.com/index.php?id=6507>

Is the Western Climate Establishment Corrupt? Part 9

Part 9 of Joanne Nova's series deals with what she calls the heart of the matter. This concerns the three links of the AGW thesis: (1) Humans are raising the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere; (2) This increasing CO₂ causes the earth's surface temperature to rise (the “direct” warming effect); (3) The earth responds to the direct warming through something called “feedback,” which amplifies the direct warming about threefold. There's ample evidence for links 1 and 2. For link 3 the establishment argues that only rising CO₂ caused the actual warming (Fig. 17 in Part 4). This requires a threefold feedback factor, and then it uses that factor to calibrate its climate models.

The establishment contests that water vapour is the dominant feedback effect that amplifies the direct warming (warmer air holds more moisture), while ignoring clouds (which the climate models handle poorly - see Chapter 8 of the IPCC's AR4, WG1, in particular pp. 601-602 and the discussion on parameterizations.) The climate models calculated that this water vapour should have caused a hotspot of about 0.5°C/decade in the upper troposphere (8 - 12 km) over the tropics. Radiosonde data for 1979-1999 shows no such hotspot. At first the establishment ignored this, then in 2008 denied the data, claiming that the radiosonde thermometers were faulty. Also in 1998 Steven Sherwood published a paper in which he adjusted the data according to wind theories, and also adjusted the temperature colors in a graph to make a hotspot appear.

Some of the points discussed here also appear in the above debate between Professors Dessler and Lindzen.

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/10/is-the-western-climate-establishment-corrupt-part-9-the-heart-of-the-matter-and-the-coloring-in-trick/>

2010-10-21

California's "Green Jobs" Nightmare

California has become the poster child for green jobs. In his 2007 State of the State Address, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger boasted that "California has taken the leadership in moving the entire country beyond debate and denial [on global warming] to action. As goes California, so goes the nation." The Golden State was first in the nation in renewable energy standards, is the home of the most stringent cap-and-trade legislation (called AB 32) to reduce carbon emissions, and has poured hundreds of millions of state tax dollars into renewable energy research.

However, a 2010 study by the University of California-Berkeley comes to the sobering conclusion that the "green economy" accounts for just 1% (159,000) of California's jobs. As of June California had 2.2 million unemployed workers, the fifth highest rate in the nation at 12.3%. The state's budget deficit is \$20 billion and its credit rating is the worst of any US state. Even the governor's office in a study concluded that California's existing iron-fisted environmental and workplace regulations have resulted in 4 million lost jobs.

The greens-vs-jobs fight comes to a climax in November when voters will decide on a ballot initiative to suspend the global warming law AB 32 until unemployment falls back to 5.5%. DeSmogBlog accuses oil companies, including arch-villain Exxon, of being behind the campaign against AB 32. Writing in the *Orange County Register*, Gabriel Calzada, author of a 2009 study on Spain's experiment with the green economy, says that California could feel Spain's pain unless it repeals AB 32.

<http://spectator.org/archives/2010/10/11/californias-green-nightmare>
<http://www.desmogblog.com/koch-funded-attacks-prop-23-include-manufacturing-science>
<http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/jobs-271385-green-state.html>

Green Subsidies: Price Shock for German Electricity Customers

The German electricity network operator has announced that next year the renewable energies levy, that every household in Germany must pay as part of their electricity bills, will increase by 70%, meaning additional costs of around €10 per month. The levy will increase in future years because the Federal Government has failed to cut subsidies for solar energy fast and strongly enough. Overall, German consumers will subsidize green energy by around €13 billion in 2011. This has been exacerbated by a 50% expansion of photovoltaic systems in the first eight months of this year, combined with lower prices for conventional electricity - which increases the required subsidies for green energy. German industry is demanding an end to the subsidies in face of the price explosion, but the Federal Environment Minister insists that the promotion of renewable energies is an investment in future technologies.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/energy-news/1715-green-subsidies-price-shock-for-german-electricity-customers.html>

Renewables Will Add £880 a Year to UK Electricity Bills

Christopher Booker in *The Telegraph* argues that for the UK to meet the EU renewable energy target of generating 30% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020 would more than double power bills. Meeting the target means spending £40 billion (£160/year per household) on connecting renewable sources to the grid, £100 billion (£400/year per household) on offshore wind farms with a capacity of 23 GW, and £320/year per household for the "ludicrously generous" feed-in tariff for solar power.

Meanwhile, 40% of current electricity supplies will be lost as older nuclear and coal-fired stations are forced to close.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8068402/Renewables-will-add-880-a-year-to-bills.html>

Spain's Solar Deals on Edge of Bankruptcy as Subsidies Founder

Bloomberg provides a tale of a Spanish procurement manager, German Vilimelis, who persuaded his family to pool their savings, mortgage his apartment, and borrow €400,000 to invest in a 500-panel, 80 kW solar generation unit. Mr. Vilimelis was lured by a 2007 law that guaranteed solar producers a tariff of €0.44/kWh for 25 years, more than 10 times the €0.04/kWh paid to mainstream producers. Now Mr. Vilimelis and 50,000 other Spanish solar entrepreneurs are facing disaster because the Spanish Government, with an obligation of more than €126 billion to green energy investors and a budget deficit of 11.2% of GDP, contemplates cutting the price guarantees by 40%.

The Spanish experience is a stark lesson to other aspiring green-energy jurisdictions (e.g., Ontario.) The mistakes include a too-generous feed-in tariff that attracted too many investors, assuming that the subsidies would spur the development of a domestic manufacturing industry, underestimating how cheaply and quickly the panels could be installed. Chinese panel manufacturers, thanks to low labor costs and ability of step up production, were the chief beneficiaries.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-18/spanish-solar-projects-on-brink-of-bankruptcy-as-subsidy-policies-founder.html>

Global Warming Propagandist Slapped Down

William Connolley, through his administrative position, has for years kept dissenting views on global warming out of *Wikipedia*, allowing only those that promoted the view that global warming is a threat to mankind. Mr. Connolley's career as a propagandist for AGW has been stopped, following a unanimous verdict through an arbitration proceeding conducted by *Wikipedia*. He has been barred from participating in any article, discussion or forum dealing with global warming.

Now it will be possible to correct *Wikipedia's* page on the *Friends of Science* (third link below.)

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/10/14/global-warming-propagandist-slapped-down/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Connolley
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friends_of_Science

Is the Western Climate Establishment Corrupt? Parts 6 and 7

The infamous Hockey Stick is the subject of Part 6 of Joanne Nova's series. Faced with the obvious disconnect between human CO₂ emissions and temperature (see Figs. 21 and 22 in Part 5), the climate establishment either had to change its theory or its data. It chose the latter. Because CO₂ figures are hard to dispute, the temperature data were changed to move the start of the warming trend from 1700 to 1910, which is when human CO₂ emissions were becoming significant and which also happens to be a minimum in the warming-cooling pattern (see Fig. 20 in Part 4 and Fig. 22 in Part 5.)

Accordingly, in 1998 Michael Mann created the Hockey Stick, which the IPCC featured prominently in its 2001 assessment report. He used statistical processing to put a lot of weight on any hockey-stick shaped inputs and relied heavily on temperature proxies from bristlecone pines. This species of pine is

notorious for having a 20th century growth spurt because they respond to CO₂ levels in the air, humidity and sunshine. rather than temperature. In 2006 the US Congress had a committee of statisticians (the Wegman Committee) which concluded that Dr. Mann's assertion that the 1990s was the hottest decade of the millennium cannot be supported by his analysis.

The subject of Part 7 is Other Climate Establishments Disagree. The western climate establishment consists of the climate science research bodies in the western world, their climate scientists, together with the IPCC, the CRU in Britain, and GISS and NOAA in the US. But there are other climate establishments such as the Chinese who refuse to commit to any emission reductions, Russian climate scientists who have spoken out against man-made global warming, and India which has set up its own body because it can't rely on the IPCC. Moreover, the French Academy and the British Royal Society have recently expressed uncertainty on the subject of AGW.

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/10/is-the-western-climate-establishment-corrupt-part-6-the-hockey-stick/>
<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/10/is-the-western-climate-establishment-corrupt-part-7-other-climate-establishments-disagree/>

2010-10-14

Power Failure

IKEA is investing \$4.6 million to install solar panels on three of its Toronto area stores. These will be capable of producing 960,000 kWh each year, or enough for 100 homes. Under Ontario's feed-in tariff IKEA will get 71.3 ¢/kWh, or \$684,000/year for power that today retails for \$115,000 (12 ¢/kWh). IKEA will recover its investment in seven years. (Over the 20-year amortization of the project and ignoring maintenance costs, IKEA's annual rate of return will be 13.7%.) All of this demonstrates why solar power projects are so popular with their owners.

The purpose of Ontario's *Green Energy Act* and its feed-in tariffs is to reduce CO₂ emissions even though the province has set no targets. Assuming solar power replaces gas-fired generation (emitting 515 g/kWh), the 71.3 ¢/kWh cost will reduce CO₂ emissions at a cost of \$1,384/tonne. Official national and international proposals for carbon taxes are in the order of \$25/tonne, or \$200/tonne at the extreme.

The province's regulator, the Ontario Energy Board, won't release its projection of electricity costs over the next five years. However, a forecast prepared for the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters group shows residential rates jumping by 60% between 2010 and 2015, while industrial customers will pay 55% more. The same forecast projects that Ontario's electricity customers will pay \$7.7 billion more in 2015, of which \$3.8 billion is for the feed-in tariff. Total electricity demand over the period is expected to remain relatively flat, but Ontario is expected to produce more power. The surplus will likely be exported to the US where prices should be more stable, meaning that the province will be subsidizing US consumption.

<http://www.financialpost.com/Power+failure/3641528/story.html>

Power in Ontario: In the Dark

Globe and Mail columnist Margaret Wentz says that power bills could bring down the Ontario government in next year's election. So far this year, the cost of electricity has gone up 18%. Come next year at election time, the rates will be twice what they were when the Liberal government took office in 2003. While the government talks about inheriting a legacy of debt and crumbling infrastructure, it is

silent about the ideologically-driven *Green Energy Act*. Ms. Wentz quotes power expert Tom Adams, executive director of think tank Energy Probe, who says that Ontario's rates have passed the US average and are headed for European levels, all because of public policy. Though power demand has been dropping since 2005, spending on renewables is going all out, and there is so much excess power that sometimes the province has to pay neighbours to take the power off its hands. On top of that the province is building power lines to connect remote wind farms.

As Mr. Adams puts it: "Energy policy has been entirely decoupled from economic policy and attached to the runaway train of environmental policy. Everyone in the power system knows it. But they're so terrified to raise their hands, most of the public is still in the dark."

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/when-it-comes-to-power-in-ontario-were-in-the-dark/article1750752/>

Calgary Herald: Rethink Needed on Alberta Government's \$2 Billion Investment in Carbon Capture

In an editorial the *Calgary Herald* points to the Royal Society's turn-around on the science of climate change (see FoS Extracts 2010-10-03 - Royal Society Bows to Climate Skeptics) and the society's position that human activity is a "potential" cause of global warming. In that light, the newspaper wonders if the Alberta government's \$2 billion investment in the unproven technology of carbon capture needs a rethink.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/nigh/3655723/story.html>

The AGW Equivalent of Luthor's Theses Nailed to the Cathedral Door

Harold Lewis is Emeritus Professor of Physics at University of California Santa Barbara and was a member of the American Physical Society for 67 years. Here is his very public resignation from the APS over the society's acceptance of the global warming scam and the resulting corruption as the norm. The APS adopted a hard-line policy ("the evidence is incontrovertible") on AGW in November 2007 and added a commentary last April (2nd link below.) In response to this policy, Dr. Lewis and some fellow APS members collected the required signatures and petitioned the society to reconsider. In response the APS President refused to accept the petition and used his control over the mailing list to prevent the matter going forward to the full membership.

Dr. Lewis points out that there are trillions of dollars involved, together with fame and glory, that go with being a member of the club. The APS President's own physics department at Princeton University would lose millions in annual funding if the global warming bubble burst. Penn State and the University of East Anglia were aware of the financial penalties if they didn't clear Michael Mann and Phil Jones, respectively.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/10/08/hal-lewis-my-resignation-from-the-american-physical-society/#more-26117>

http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/07_1.cfm

Is the Western Climate Establishment Corrupt? Parts 3, 4 and 5

In Part 3 of her series Joanne Nova looks at measurement of ocean temperatures. Since most of the heat in the climate system is stored in the oceans, their temperatures are a better indicator of global warming than air temperatures. The Argo network of over 3,000 diving buoys has been measuring ocean temperatures

since mid-2003. When the network showed a slight cooling trend for 2003-2008, NASA kept quiet about the results. If trend were otherwise, NASA would be publicizing it endlessly.

Part 4 considers past temperatures. Satellite records go back to 1979 and land thermometer records to 1850. Before then we have to rely on “proxies,” where temperatures are deduced from various natural phenomena. Ms. Nova shows a graph for air temperatures from AD 16 to 2010 where the ones prior to 1850 were constructed using 18 proxies over a wide geographical range (excluding tree rings which make poor proxies.) This graph shows that the modern warming started in 1700, before the Industrial Revolution, and so must have had a natural cause. For the period 1850-2010 there have been alternating warming and cooling periods within an overall warming trend. The last such period began in 1975.

CO₂ emissions versus temperatures is the subject of Part 5. Ms. Nova notes that the establishment never directly compares temperature to human emissions of CO₂. She presents a pair of graphs showing both, for AD 16 to 2010 and 1850 to 2010. Human emissions were negligible before 1850, yet the warming trend had started 150 years earlier. A table accounting for all human emissions shows that 25% of the total occurred since 1998, during which no significant global warming has occurred (as Phil Jones agrees.)

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/10/is-the-western-climate-establishment-corrupt-part-3/>
<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/10/is-the-western-climate-establishment-corrupt-part-4-past-temperatures/>
<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/10/is-the-western-climate-establishment-corrupt-part-5-co2-emissions-versus-temperature/>

2010-10-07

Last Year They Tried to Scare You to Death. That Didn't Work, So Now They Issue Threats! (and they think its funny?)

Green PR Disaster for 10:10

In the wake of 10:10's *No Pressure* video depicting schoolchildren, office workers and celebrities being blown up for not taking action on climate change (FoS Extracts 2010-10-03), businesses have begun to distance themselves from the 10:10 campaign. Among these were Sony UK and document imaging company Kyocera Mita. Sony was one of the companies planning a series of carbon-cutting activities in partnership with 10:10 in the build-up to the October 10 “Day of Doing.”

Dominic Lawson in *The Independent* and Damian Thompson in *The Telegraph* take aim at the producers of the video. Mr. Lawson thinks they should have shown the government heads of Brazil, South Africa, China and India being blown up, instead of fat English school children. Mr. Thompson comments on the quasi-religious nature of 10:10. Today, the *National Post* weighs in with an editorial.

<http://www.greenwisebusiness.co.uk/news/businesses-distance-themselves-from-1010-campaign-over-tasteless-film-1841.aspx>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/dominic-lawson/dominic-lawson-kill-a-schoolchild-how-hilarious-2097680.html>
<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/damianthompson/100056928/richard-curtis-and-the-ritual-slaughter-of-children-welcome-to-the-bloodlust-of-the-apocalyptic-imagination/>
<http://www.financialpost.com/climate+killers/3635602/story.html>

Inefficient and Costly Systems Guaranteed to Save You from Non-existent Problems Brought to You by incompetent Bureaucrats

Solar Boom Drives Up German Power Price

Electricity prices rose by 2.1% in Germany during the first half of 2010, which the German Association of Energy and Water Industries mainly credited to the levies paid by taxpayers for roof-mounted solar panels. Taxes and levies now make up 41% of people's electricity bills. Tariffs paid for wind, solar and hydro power will increase from \$7.3 billion in 2009 to \$11.3 billion by the end of 2010, despite a decision by Berlin to reduce subsidies for rooftop panels by 16%. A German consumer organization claims that panels installed in 2010 will result in \$36 billion in additional costs over 20 years (the feed-in tariff period contained in the *Renewable Energy Law*.)

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/10/05/Solar-boom-drives-up-German-power-price/UPI-74351286299555/

Green Folly: UK Households Face 68% Annual Increase in Power Bills

Industry analysts say that the forecasted £200 billion cost to build new wind farms, power stations (including nuclear) and a modern national grid will increase the average annual electricity bill by £769 or 68% to £2,000. The industry regulator Ofgem (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets) claims that “Britain needs to be rewired in a smarter way to secure sustainable energy supplies for consumers.”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1317600/769-year-rise-power-bills-rewire-nation-green-energy.html>

Is the Western Climate Establishment Corrupt? Parts 1 and 2

Joanne Nova begins each part of this series with a quote: “The public might not understand the science, but they do understand cheating.” Measuring climate change requires accurate temperature recordings. In Part 1 Ms. Nova presents a series of photos of temperature stations that speak for themselves, assembled for the first time in one web page. Red arrows point to nearby heat sources affecting each thermometer. She says that the climate establishment is measuring urban and airport warming, rather than global warming. The establishment gets away with this deception because there are no auditors or regulators to check on it.

In Part 2 (Air Temperatures) Ms. Nova notes that satellite data show that there has been no “hottest year ever” since 1998, but NASA doesn't seem too keen on using data recorded from space. She describes more “thermometer tricks,” such as removing the inconvenient ones (there were 6,000 in the official global network during the 1980s, but only 1,079 now), adjusting the temperature data to increase the apparent warming, revising the adjusted data after a decade or so, and hiding or losing data. A pair of graphs compare 1979-2010 air temperatures produced from ground data by Jim Hansen's Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA with those from satellite data prepared by the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The former shows a steady trend line with 2006 being the hottest year. The UAH graph shows 1998 as the peak.

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/10/is-the-western-climate-establishment-corrupt-part-1/>
<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/10/is-the-western-climate-establishment-corrupt-part-2/>

The UN Carbon Fiasco

Thousands of delegates are meeting in Tianjin, China at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's last chance to reach a global carbon-emission agreement prior to the December meeting in Cancún. In this article, *National Post* editor Terence Corcoran forecasts another calamity like Copenhagen. He quotes Roger Pielke Jr., author of a new book *The Climate Fix: What Scientists and*

Politicians Won't Tell You About Global Warming. The book exposes that disastrous interface between science and public policy as orchestrated by the UN. At its core is Article 2 of the UNFCCC, "... stabilization of greenhouse-gas concentrations in the atmosphere that would prevent dangerous atmospheric interference with the climate system." The problem is getting agreement on what is "dangerous."

Furthermore, there are no practical alternatives to fossil fuels. Meeting the target of cutting carbon emissions 50% below 1990 levels by 2050 requires the construction of 12,000 nuclear power stations, that is, one new plant online every day between now and 2050.

In a companion article Prof. Pielke describes his "iron law of climate policy:" when environmental and economic objectives clash, the latter always win out.

<http://www.financialpost.com/carbon+fiasco/3624087/story.html>

<http://www.financialpost.com/iron+climate+policy/3624088/story.html>

2010-10-03

As the Facts Emerge, the Total Folly of Renewable Wind and Solar Energy is Becoming Apparent to Everyone.

The Farm That Will Milk Britons of Billions

The world's largest wind farm, with 100 three-MW turbines near Thanet just off the Kent coast, opened in September to glowing accolades from the UK Climate Change Secretary, Chris Huhne. Though the farm's developer claims the facility will power 200,000 homes (at 1.5 kW each), the Secretary's own department admits that the average output of UK offshore turbines last year was only 26% of capacity. Omitted from the media reports was the subsidies the wind farm will earn. Under the system of Renewable Obligation Certificates, UK consumers pay a subsidy of £100/MWh for wind power. Assuming an average output of 75 MW (25% of 300 MW), the Thanet facility will receive £60 million/year in subsidies, or £1.2 billion over 20 years. The Swedish owners of the wind farm expect to earn a 13% annual return on their investment.

Mr. Huhne claims that the Thanet wind farm is only the beginning and will create green jobs. According to the developers, only 21 jobs will be permanent, meaning an annual subsidy of £3 million/job.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8025148/The-Thanet-wind-farm-will-milk-us-of-billions.html>

<http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/thanet-offshore-wind-farm.htm>

Well, Maybe Not Everyone, the Ontario government hasn't noticed. I wonder how long it will take them?

US and EU Join Fight over Ontario's Green Energy Plan

Japan has already filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization over the made-in-Ontario provisions for "green" energy projects in that province (see FoS Extracts 2010-09-17 - Japan Opposes Ontario's Feed-in Tariff at the WTO). Now the United States and the European Union have filed notices with the WTO stating that they have key commercial interests at stake and want to join the consultations. Ontario's government is already under fire over rising electricity costs, in part due to the feed-in tariffs for wind, solar and small-scale hydro projects under its *Green Energy Act*.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario/us-eu-join-fight-over-ontarios-green-energy-plan/article1736573/?cmpid=rss1>

If Evidence Was Needed About the Total Uselessness of the European Union, one has only to consider this latest nonsense. Remember, Europe Exists on Tourism!

Climate Wars: EU Threatens Rest of World with Flight Ban

An internal EU Directive proposes that airlines flying to and from Europe emit only as much CO₂ as they hold certificates for, with a landing ban for those airlines which refuse to comply. International resistance to the plan is growing, and some question whether the EU can impose its law on third countries. Other critics say that the EU Commission is looking for negotiation leverage after getting pressure from European airlines complaining that their emissions costs are making them uncompetitive.

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/09/climate-wars-eu-threatens-rest-of-the-world-with-flight-ban/#more-10586>

Uncertainty in The Royal Society! Unheard of! Things Were Different in Queen Victoria's day.

Royal Society Bows to Climate Change Skeptics

After 43 of its members complained that its previous guide on climate change was too one-sided, the Royal Society issued a new version of *Climate change: a summary of the science* that admits there are uncertainties. The 19-page guide, while stating that there is “strong evidence” of warming over the past half century due to burning of fossil fuels and land use changes, avoids making any predictions on the possible impacts of climate change.

The guide lays out where the science is established (changes in global-average surface temperature, and temperatures in the oceans and troposphere, CO₂ in the atmosphere and resulting climate forcing), where there is consensus but continuing debate (the carbon cycle and climate, natural drivers, climate sensitivity to CO₂ changes, attribution and future climate change), and where there remains substantial uncertainty (temperatures prior to 1850, cloud representation in climate models, additional mechanisms that influence climate sensitivity, melting of the West Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets and model projections of regional climate change.)

Watt's Up With That? critiques the Royal Society's new stance because it fails to offer scientific justifications for some of the politically-correct statements in the guide. WUWT provides a link to an annotated version of the guide and is particularly critical of the IPCC's climate models.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1316469/Royal-Society-issues-new-climate-change-guide-admits-uncertainties.html>

<http://royalsociety.org/climate-change-summary-of-science/>

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/10/01/the-royal-society-still-embarrassing-science/>

Monbiot - From the Diary of a Sore Loser!

George Monbiot: Climate Change Enlightenment Was Fun While It Lasted. But Now It's Dead.

Mr. Monbiot is an English writer known for environmental and political activism. In this downbeat blog for *The Guardian* he looks back at the outcome of the Copenhagen climate summit as taking away all momentum for change. After failure governments lose interest, and current negotiations leading up to Cancún in December are going nowhere. The Kyoto Protocol, which took a total of 13 years to negotiate and come into force, lapses in 2012, with scant prospect of replacement. Countries like Britain cut their nominal greenhouse gas emissions by outsourcing them to other countries, while official accounts ignore

imports, shipping, aviation and tourism. The result is that the UK's true GHGs have increased by 29% since 1990, rather than the claimed reduction of 19%. The US can't pass a feeble climate bill under President Obama and Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress. The one piece of reassuring news for Mr. Monbiot is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's report that June, July and August of this year were the second warmest on record.

Mr. Monbiot wonders whether the environmental movement could have done better over the past 18 years, but concludes that the industrial lobby groups were too powerful, while blaming government cowardice and the human tendency to deny what we don't want to see. Many of the comments to his blog are unsympathetic.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/sep/20/climate-change-negotiations-failure>

This One Shows How Out of Touch Some Environmental Groups Are.

Gory Film by Environmental Group 10:10 Backfires

10:10 is global campaign to cut carbon by 10% a year, starting in 2010. To help its cause 10:10 produced a four-minute video called *No Pressure* that depicts a teacher exploding two of her students who refuse to cut their carbon emissions. Similar fates occur to office workers, a soccer player and the actress who provides the voice over. Within hours of posting *No Pressure* on its website on October 1 and getting angry feedback from disgusted viewers, 10:10 removed it "... to avoid upsetting people." In the apology on its website the group said: "At 10:10 we're all about trying new and creative ways of getting people to take action on climate change. Unfortunately in this instance we missed the mark. Oh well, we live and learn."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11458726>

<http://www.1010global.org/uk/2010/10/sorry>

2010-09-23

In Britain, Even the Greens Think Pachauri Must Go!

British Greens Call for UN Climate Chief's Resignation

Prominent UK greens, including the chairman of the Commons Climate and Energy Committee, the Royal Society's climate change head and a former IPCC lead author, want the current chairman of the IPCC, Rajendra Pachauri, to resign. They cite controversies over errors in the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report and an implied recommendation in the recent InterAcademy Council report. There is also the fear that skeptics will use Dr. Pachauri's continued presence on the IPCC to undermine its next report, AR5. However, the governments of Britain and other developed countries are trying to strike a deal on biodiversity and don't want to upset developing countries by calling for the resignation of a high-profile Indian.

Dr. Pachauri's future will be decided during a review of the IAC report at the IPCC's meeting in Busan, Korea, October 11-14.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11395194>

They're Waking Up all Over America, and it's about time!

US House of Representatives Member Wants "Relook" at Climate Science

Darrell Issa (R-CA) is the ranking member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

and promises to give a “careful relook” at climate change science in the light of last year's Climategate scandal, if his party wins control in November. Mr. Issa said that it's clear that people played fast and loose with the truth and taxpayers' money. He refuses to accept anything as settled science and wants to find out what is happening, how much and why.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/120455-issa-calls-for-qcareful-relookq-of-climate-science>

Same Thing in France!

French Academy Debate on Climate

The French Academy of Science held a full day of debate on climate change on September 20. This debate followed controversy triggered by former research minister Claude Allègre and other scientists who challenged the causes of climate change. According to a press release from the Academy, participants agreed that links between solar radiation and the earth's orbit are not contested, but disagreed on the impact of solar activity. There was consensus on the direct impact of CO₂, but the indirect effects are still controversial. The Academy will release a report on the meeting next month.

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/09/veil-lifted-on-french-academy-de.html?rss=1>
<http://www.thegwpf.org/opinion-pros-a-cons/1577-jean-michel-belouve-french-academy-of-science-allows-science-debate.html>

The Democrats will learn that you should never ask an Environmentalist for help, they'll want your economy in return!

US Democrats Fighting Election Battles Ask for Environmentalists' Help

Environmentalists provided money, zeal and manpower to the Democrats in the 2008 campaign, which gave them control of the White House and both houses of Congress. This year, citing the fate of global warming legislation, key donors are holding back. Some Democratic leaders accuse environmentalists of failing to back members in tough districts who took a risk in voting for the controversial legislation to cap carbon emissions. Environmentalists expect to be outspent by business groups like the US Chamber of Commerce.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-environmental-election-20100921.0,4154116.story>

2010-09-17

Read the motion to stay linked to this article. Pay particular attention to the wording of the EPA regulations. Ostensibly they pertain to light vehicles and power plants only, but once in place they can be extended to all CO₂ emitters!

Texas Challenges EPA on Science of Global Warming

In a case before the US Court of Appeals that puts global warming science on trial, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbot filed a motion that accuses the Environmental Protection Agency of relying on faulty science to regulate greenhouse gases. (Last December the EPA issued an “endangerment” finding on greenhouse gases, and in February Texas and 15 other parties filed court challenges.) The Texas motion says that the EPA is delegating its legally-mandated judgment on climate science to the scandal-plagued IPCC. The third link below points to the motion, pages 13 to 17 of which discuss the IPCC and the recent InterAcademy Council report.

<http://www.statesman.com/news/local/state-hammers-epa-on-science-of-global-warming-920778.html>
<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/oagNews/release.php?id=3484>
http://www.oag.state.tx.us/newspubs/releases/2010/091610motion_to_stay_ett.pdf

Guess what? The new Ontario law may be in violation of the WTO trade regulations. Well done, Ontario!

Japan Opposes Ontario's Feed-in Tariff at the WTO

Ontario's *Green Energy and Green Economy Act* guarantees a long-term feed-in tariff, at many times the current market price, for electricity produced from wind farms, solar or renewable biogas. So far the program has attracted \$8 billion worth of projects. The catch is that producers must prove that a certain percentage of their projects was spent in the province. Now the Japanese government has filed a claim with the World Trade Organization that the made-in-Ontario requirements violate international trade law.

The next step in the WTO process will be a bilateral consultation between the Japanese and Canadian governments, to attempt to resolve the problem. If that fails the issue goes to arbitration, and if Canada loses, Japan can retaliate with restrictions on imports of Canadian goods. It will be interesting to see how Ottawa handles this one, since it has no jurisdiction over Ontario in this matter. Legal experts quoted in the stories say that the Japanese have a good case.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/Ontario+plan+sends+Japan/3520194/story.html>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/ontario-clean-power-subsidies-draw-wto-challenge-from-japan/article1705239/>

Something's rotten in the state of Denmark.

An Ill Wind Blows for Denmark's Green Energy Revolution

To green campaigners, Denmark is wind farm heaven, claiming to generate a fifth of its power from wind, namely 4,000 onshore turbines. In 1980 the Danish government was Europe's first to bring in the large-scale subsidies upon which the wind industry depends. However, people are becoming fed up with having their property devalued and sleep ruined by large wind turbines. As a result, state-owned DONG Energy announced last month that it would not build any more onshore wind turbines. Also, facing resistance to high power prices, the government is cutting the subsidies for wind.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/denmark/7996606/An-ill-wind-blows-for-Denmarks-green-energy-revolution.html>

Sometimes changing governments does some good!

UK Minister: Britain Must Adapt to "Inevitable" Climate Change

In a major shift from the previous Labour government's emphasis on cutting carbon emissions, the new coalition's Secretary of State for the Environment is to announce that inevitable severe weather conditions will preset a "survival of the fittest scenario." Only those who have planned ahead will thrive. For example, hospitals and fire stations should be built on hills to avoid floods, skyscrapers should be designed to reflect the sun's rays, and tracts of land allowed to be reclaimed by the sea. However, the UK government admits that no new money will be allocated for this program.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/green-living/britain-must-adapt-to-inevitable-climate-change-warns-minister-2077175html>

Wouldn't ya know it ? Just when we thought that the Earth wasn't going to get too warm, some B----- --r tells us it will get too cold. Jeez!

Lawrence Solomon: Chilling Evidence

Mr. Solomon, author of *The Deniers*, describes two recent scientific papers dealing with sunspots. These indicate that the world could be entering a multi-decade cooling period comparable to the Maunder Minimum from 1645 to 1715. He notes that some \$80 billion has been spent over the past 20 years on research assuming global warming. Virtually no investigations have been done on the consequences of global cooling.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/09/16/lawrence-solomon-chilling-evidence/>

2010-09-09

Another Government Recognizes Reality and Backs Down on the Solar Power Subsidies It Has Granted

French Government Study: More Cuts to Solar Power Subsidies Needed

A report prepared for the French government says that targets for solar energy and a further cut in subsidies are needed to prevent consumer costs ballooning by 2020. Companies are rushing to profit from the inflated tariffs for solar energy such that France is on track to surpass its 2020 target for installed solar capacity by 2013. In 2009 there were 80,000 applications to connect photovoltaic capacity to the grid, a four-fold increase over the previous year. If the trend continues to 2020, installed PV capacity will reach 17,000 MW and cost consumers more than €4.5 billion/year by 2020. With the feed-in tariff and declining installation costs, solar power owners were getting annual returns of up to 26% in the sunniest parts of France.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-06/france-needs-more-cuts-to-solar-power-subsidies-government-study-says.html>

Spain, Denmark, Germany and now France Have Come to Realize the Folly of Solar and Wind Power. How Long Will it Be Before Ontario Gets the Message?

Ontario Sustainable Energy Association Responds

FoS Extracts of 2010-08-24 had an article ("Power Without the People") in which Parker Gallant criticized the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association for its influence over the province's energy policy. Here the OSEA's executive director Krisoffer Stevens says that Mr. Gallant's attack on the OSEA is a backhanded attempt to discredit Ontario's *Green Energy Act*. Mr. Stevens describes various community groups, first nations, farmers, co-ops and landowners that benefit from green energy projects, with an annual return of 9%-11%/year going into the "pockets of ordinary people." He claims that while green energy requires subsidies, so does coal and nuclear power. (If the latter are subsidized, one may ask why the market price for electricity in Ontario is 3.4¢/kWh, compared to the feed-in tariff of 80.2¢/kWh for roof-top solar.) Mr. Stevens finishes by claiming that the Green Energy Act is putting people to work, installing solar panels, building and operating wind turbines.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/Profit+sustainable+energy/3482050/story.html>

Rajendra Pachauri: Admits that the IPCC is Political

In an interview for *The Times of India*, IPCC the IPCC Chairman responds to questions about the InterAcademy Council's report on the IPCC. He disagrees with the recommendation that the top team should be replaced after each assessment report as that would lose institutional memory. Regarding the IAC's recommendation to quantify uncertainties, Dr. Pachauri stresses the importance of expert judgment. Most significantly, he says that the IPCC cannot keep the politics out of science, because it's an inter-governmental body, and its assessments have to include realistic response strategies, which means coming out with a range of policies. The 2014 report will include for the first time issues of equity and ethics. In his second term Dr. Pachauri promises to do what he thinks is right and he may be a little more uncomfortable for the people than he was in his first term.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/I-am-happy-that-truth-has-come-out-Pachauri/articleshow/6482854.cms>

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/09/pachauri-admits-the-ipcc-just-guesses-the-numbers/>

2010-08-31

The Floodgates are open. A Stream of Criticism about the IPCC and its deceitful ways!

InterAcademy Council Report on the IPCC Released

Following controversy over the IPCC's 2007 assessment report, last March the UN and the IPCC asked the IAC to assemble a committee to review the processes and procedures of the IPCC. The 12-member committee from ten countries and headed by Harold Shapiro of Princeton University released its report on August 30. Unlike the Climategate inquiries, this one is no whitewash. Key recommendations (see Chapter 5 of the report) include:

1. Modernizing the IPCC's management structure to include an Executive Committee, a rigorous conflict of interest* policy and limiting the term of the Chair to one term only;
2. Strengthening the review process to ensure more effective responses to reviewer comments;
3. Characterizing and communicating uncertainties, particularly with regard to the level-of-understanding and likelihood scales used in the IPCC reports;
4. Developing an effective communications strategy that emphasizes transparency, rapid and thoughtful responses;
5. Increasing transparency, including explicit documentation that a range of scientific viewpoints** has been considered;
6. Clarifying use of unpublished and non-peer-reviewed sources;
7. Engaging the best regional experts;
8. Expediting approval of the Summary for Policy Makers;
9. Reducing the growing burden on the scientific community, for example, by having shorter reports focusing on key issues or significant new developments; and
10. Maintaining flexibility.

* Chapter 4 of the report deals extensively with the conflict-of-interest question, noting that no such policy exists for the IPCC and that questions were raised about its Chair's (i.e., Rajendra Pachauri's)

service with some for-profit energy companies and the practice of Lead Authors reviewing their own work (p. 46.)

** Chapter 2, page 20, notes John Christy's presentation that alternative views are not always cited in a chapter if a Lead Author disagrees with them.

One of the Issues for Future Consideration the committee suggests is a Wiki-style, web-based system for uploading literature on climate change, reviewing and synthesizing information.

Comments on the IAC report are provided from the BBC, the *National Post*, the *Globe and Mail* and the *Telegraph* (2). The Global Warming Policy Foundation calls for implementing the IAC recommendations without delay, but Roy Spencer says that the IPCC should be dumped as it can't be fixed.

<http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/report.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11131897>

[http://www.nationalpost.com/news/world/climate+panel+urged+reform+stick+science/3459936/story.htm](http://www.nationalpost.com/news/world/climate+panel+urged+reform+stick+science/3459936/story.html)

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<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/editorials/pour-more-cold-water-on-the-ipcc/article1690681/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7972034/IPCC-told-to-stop-lobbying-and-restrict-role-to-explaining-climate-science.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7972013/IPCC-report-raises-fresh-questions-over-Dr-Rajendra-Pachauris-leadership.html>

<http://www.thegwpf.org/ipcc-news/1455-gwpf-calls-on-ipcc-to-implement-fundamental-reforms-without-delay-.html>

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2010/08/dump-the-ipcc-process-it-cannot-be-fixed/>

Don't read too much into this item. Remember there's a midterm election taking place in the USA this November. But, perhaps even the Obama administration is beginning to have its doubts about global warming.

Obama Administration Urges Supreme Court to Dismiss Lawsuit against Emitters of Greenhouse Gases

In a move that the plaintiffs (a coalition of states, environmental groups and New York City) consider a “stab in the back,” the Obama Administration asked the Supreme Court to toss out an appeal court decision that would allow lawsuits against major emitters of greenhouse gases. The defendants are America Electric Power, Duke Energy and Xcel Energy, which are facing a common-law “public nuisance” lawsuit over GHG emissions. The administration's main argument for dismissal of the suit is that the Environmental Protection Agency has issued regulations to regulate GHGs. Two other similar cases are working their way through the courts, and the administration doesn't want multiple district courts acting without benefit of statutory guidance.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/08/25/25greenwire-obama-admin-urges-supreme-court-to-vacate-gree-42072.html>

Some facts about Biofuels for your consideration.**Killing Biofuels**

In the blog *Resilient Earth*, Doug Hoffman examines the biofuels issue - that they make no sense in terms of energy policy, neither environmentally nor economically. In the US 25% of the corn crop is turned into ethanol to fuel automobiles, despite the negative impact on food production and land use. Unlike cap-and-trade, this program enjoys support in Congress, which has capped corn ethanol at 15 billion gallons by 2015 in order to promote development of “cellulosic” ethanol from farm and forest wastes. However, the cellulosic program faces technological difficulties, and its product costs the equivalent of \$120/barrel oil. Mr. Hoffman concludes that the world will not soon run short of fossil fuels (i.e., 200 years of coal, 100 years of gas, and oil will not “peak” until 2030.)

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/killing-biofuels>

2010-08-24

The USA is the country in which the Environmental Protection Agency Has declared Carbon Dioxide to be a pollutant, and yet, 30 Coal-fired Power Plants have been built there since 2008. Coal fired power plants are the cheapest to operate with the longest life span. We have lots of coal! Why Can't We Build Them in Alberta?

Coal-Fired Plants Expanding in the US

In examining US Department of Energy records the Associated Press found that more than 30 coal-fired power plants have been built or are under construction since 2008. Though the Obama administration has allocated \$3.4 billion of stimulus spending for “clean coal” plants that capture and store greenhouse gases, more than \$35 billion has been spent on traditional coal-fired plants. The plants were approved by federal and state agencies that did not factor in emissions of CO₂.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iCjlywOJyCu1MSGH7FUqj7jD1c1QD9HL5RUO2>

When you read this Item, remember we are not making this up

Power Without the People

In the *Financial Post*, retired Canadian banker Parker Gallant examines how the cosy world of vested interests involved in Ontario electricity policy-making works, by focusing on the activities of the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association. OSEA claims prime responsibility for the 2009 *Ontario Green Energy Act* and recently got the Ontario Government to partially reverse its decision to cut the subsidy price paid to small producers of solar electricity [see FoS Extracts 2010-07-14 - Ontario Solar Program in Disarray]. OSEA is also active in proceedings before the Ontario Energy Board in a case involving expenditure of \$2.3 billion by the province's transmission grid operator Hydro One. This money is needed to connect solar and wind energy generators to the power system. OSEA receives its funding from a variety of government agencies in order to lobby the government to take actions that will cost taxpayers even more money.

<http://www.financialpost.com/Power+without+people/3411979/story.html>

Gaming the system - Chinese style

UN Board Could Curtail \$2.7 Billion Carbon Market

Yahoo!News reports that the executive board of the UN's Clean Development Mechanism announced that five chemical plants in China no longer qualify for funding. Under the Kyoto Protocol industrialized nations buy CDM credits which pay developing countries to cut their greenhouse gases. The chemical plants are paid \$100,000/ton to destroy the potent greenhouse gas HFC-23, which is produced as a by-product of the ozone-friendly refrigerant HFC-22. It turns out that the manufacturers were creating excess HFC-23 in order to destroy it and earn CDM credits.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100821/ap_on_bi_ge/un_un_carbon_cutting_scheme

Still Cooling: Sea Surface Temperatures to August 18, 2010

Global sea surface temperatures measured by the AMSR-E instrument on NASA's Aqua satellite continue to fall, in a process that began several months. In his blog Roy Spencer points to high cloud water contents, as measured by the Aqua satellite's CERES (Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System) as being responsible for the cooling.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2010/08/still-cooling-sea-surface-temperatures-thru-august-18-2010/>

We Have Been Conned: An Independent Review of the IPCC

The *Science and Public Policy Institute* has published a 67-page review of the IPCC by John McLean, PhD student at James Cook University in Melbourne, who begins by stating that the IPCC is a disgrace to science. The author covers the IPCC in eight chapters titled: The Dubious Scientific Justification for Establishing the IPCC; Flawed Authoring of IPCC Reports; Flawed and Deceptive Review Process; Deceptions, Concealment, Misinformation and Distortions; Flawed Temperature Data; Flawed Climate Models; Summary; and Recommendations.

The chapter on Flawed Climate Models is the most important one, because the IPCC acknowledges that accurate models can't be created, yet relies on them to attribute blame for climate change to human emissions of CO₂ and to project future temperatures.

Mr. McLean makes four recommendations: Disbanding the IPCC and the UNFCCC that it serves; giving the World Meteorological Organization the primary role in climate matters; that the WMO should prepare and maintain temperature datasets; and the WMO should prepare annual climate summaries in an open and transparent fashion.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/mclean_we_have_been_conned.pdf

2010-08-14

Canadian Provincial Premiers at Odds on Green Strategy

As reported by the *Calgary Herald*, the premiers of Canada's 13 provinces and territories agreed that more must be done to combat climate change, but differed over the means. British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, all with large amounts of hydro power, favour cap-and-trade. However, Alberta and Saskatchewan are committed to carbon capture and storage.

Herald Columnist Don Braid says that cap-and-trade could milk Alberta for generations.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Premiers+odds+green+strategy/3371798/story.html>
<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Braid+trade+could+milk+Alberta+generations/3371816/story.html>

Climate Deal Retreats as Bonn Talks End

Reuters and *the UN Dispatch* report that UN climate talks in Bonn ended on August 6 and moved backward, rather than forward on a hoped-for climate deal at the end of this year. The US deputy special climate envoy, Jonathon Pershing complained that some countries backed off from progress made at Copenhagen. He also said that some countries are seeking staggering amounts under climate finance. The negotiating text increased from 17 pages to 34 as new proposals were inserted and old one reinserted.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE67512J20100806?sp=true>
<http://www.undispatch.com/node/10135>

UN Economic Panel Proposes New Taxes for \$100 Billion Climate Fund

Associated Press reports that a panel of 18 experts in public finance appointed by the UN Secretary-General recommends carbon taxes, add-ons to international air fares and a levy on cross-border money movements as ways to raise \$100 billion/year to fight climate change. The advisory panel began working in March and is to deliver its final report in October.

Troy Media has posted a related story that notes that Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice pledged \$400 million (Cdn) to the climate change fund last December. The story quotes Benny Peiser, Director of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, as stating that once trendy green taxes have turned into liabilities for many governments, resulting in the dumping of climate schemes in the Europe, the US and Australia.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g1JSga_CNGr6cpuIGcVrNxOuOBOARD9HDEAGG0
<http://www.troymedia.com/?p=13234>

Meteorologists Blame Jet Stream for Unusual Weather Patterns

According to a story in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the devastating Russian heat wave and Pakistan floods are caused by an unusual static jet stream. Normally the northern hemisphere jet stream, a fast-moving, high-altitude air current, circles the earth from west to east. However, in the past month a “blocking event” has halted the jet stream, keeping weather patterns stationery over certain countries. Such events, normally last eight to 11 days. Low solar activity could be one cause.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/weather-blocker--jet-stream-stops-and-causes-disasters-20100812-120th.html>

Ross McKittrick: Response to the Climategate Inquiries

Dr. McKittrick has issued this 41-page response to five inquiries into the Climategate emails. These included the UK House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (reported March 12), the Oxburgh Inquiry (reported April 14), the Muir Russell Inquiry (report July 7), the Penn State Inquiry into Michael Mann (reported January 26) and the Inter-Academy Council to investigate the IPCC (due to

report in August.) For each of the first four inquiries Dr. McKittrick includes the terms of reference, composition of the committee, call for evidence, public hearings, cross-examination, report and reactions to the report. In summarizing, he notes that the evidence shows that scientists manipulated IPCC reports with the effect of misleading readers, deleted emails to prevent disclosure of information, privately expressed doubts about the science, and took steps to block access to data or methodologies. The first four inquiries have failed to put the issues to rest.

http://rossmckitrick.weebly.com/uploads/4/8/0/8/4808045/inquiries_response.pdf

2010-08-04

Roy Spencer: My Global Warming Scepticism, for Dummies

In his blog Dr. Spencer provides concise and easy-to-understand answers to a list of 19 climate change questions. These questions deal with whether it's warming or cooling, past temperature changes, the "hockey stick", Arctic ice, sea levels, CO₂, natural causes of climate change, bias in climate research, climate models and predictions for the future. He emphasizes the uncertainties involved with the subject of climate change, unlike the misleading assertions emanating from the IPCC.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2010/07/my-global-warming-skepticism-for-dummies/>

Ottawa Praises Three Provinces Set to Introduce Cap-and-Trade System

In a move that critics say reduces the pressure for federal action, the government says that it is pleased that Canada's three largest provinces (Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia) are working independently with two US states (California and New Mexico) on a cap-and-trade system. This is the Western Climate Initiative, which will impose caps on large industrial emitters starting in January 2012.

In an editorial, *The Globe and Mail* considers the WCI, even with its flaws, as forming a basis for study to improve whatever continental policy emerges.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-praises-three-provinces-set-to-introduce-cap-and-trade-system/article1655271/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/editorials/the-provinces-step-in-to-fight-climate-change/article1656706/>

Researchers: The Earth is Hotter than Ever, Global Warming is Real

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced that 300 scientists from the US, Canada, the UK and Australia have collected data from 10 climate indicators measured by 160 research groups in 48 countries. NOAA claims that his data collection indicates that the globe is warming, with each of the last three decades being the warmest on record. One of the letters to the editor of the *Globe and Mail* (which ran the NOAA story on page one) provides a more long-term view of the temperature issue.

In graphs, the lack of a vertical scale magnifies (or diminishes) the impact of data on a reader, while the absence of a horizontal time scale leads to false comparisons for different events over different time periods. Thus, for example, your front-page graph Air Temp covers 49 years (1960-2009) while the adjacent Ocean Temp graph covers 159 years (1850-2009).

Yes, the Earth is warming, as I and other geoscientists would readily agree, but as a result of natural cycles. A graph of the Earth's temperature record for the past 400,000 years (published in *The Globe* in 2007 with vertical and horizontal scales!) clearly illustrates the approximately

100,000-year periodicity of cooling and warming, the result of the interaction of a number of complex factors. That graph shows that the temperature today is, indeed, at a peak, but the same peak as 130,000 years ago, 240,000 years ago, 325,000 years ago and 410,000 years ago. Even 159 years is but the blink of an eye in the Earth's 4.6-billion-year history or, more realistically, in the approximately 600 million years that complex life has existed on the planet. Temperature changes over the past decade, as quoted from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report, need to be considered in context. On this time scale, stating that "for the first six months of 2010 ... temperature was the warmest on record" is utterly meaningless.

Kenneth Grace, Innisfil, Ont.

The blog New American critiques the NOAA report, quoting experts who have damned the agency's temperature-gathering methodologies, such as the removal of 75% of the world's stations, particularly the high-altitude rural ones which tended to be cooler. In fact one of the indicators, Antarctic ice, is growing at record levels.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/science/the-earth-is-hotter-than-ever-global-warming-is-real-researchers/article1655436/?cid=art-rail-ivortossell>
<http://www.thenewamerican.com/index.php/tech-mainmenu-30/environment/4171-alarmist-state-of-the-climate-report-draws-fire>

EPA Denies Petitions for Reconsideration of "Endangerment Finding"

On July 29 the US Environmental Protection Agency announced that, after considering petitions submitted by ten groups opposing its CO₂ endangerment finding, the agency had concluded that the evidence supporting its finding is "robust, voluminous and compelling." This evidence includes the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report, the NOAA's and US Global Change Research Program, as well as the recent inquiries into the CRU emails and Michael Mann.

Roger Pielke Senior comments on the EPA's denial, noting that the agency ignored peer-reviewed research that differed from its findings.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment/petitions.html>
<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2010/07/29/comment-on-the-denial-of-petitions-for-reconsideration-of-the-endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-for-greenhouse-gases-under-section-202a-of-the-clean-air-act/>

Action on Carbon Down the Drain

The *Financial Times*, in an editorial, reflects on the US Senate's suspension of efforts to pass a climate change bill. A supporter of "meaningful climate change policies" the FT implicates almost everybody in the US - the Republican Party, divisions among the Democrats, the Administration's focus on health care reform and fiscal stimulus, and a general lack of strong leadership. Even leading scientists who worked as activists to scare the public, rather than as scholars, get blamed. The IPCC became a lobbying shop, and an incompetent one at that. The FT calls for restoring confidence in climate science (which was set back by the recent inquiries into the climategate emails), a new leadership for the IPCC and for governments to stop outsourcing advocacy to supposedly non-political scientific bodies like the IPCC.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/international-news/1304-action-on-carbon-is-down-the-drain.html>

2010-07-26

If you think that “Cap and Trade” is being promoted by honest, well-meaning people, please read the following. The scams described are actually happening in countries around the world.

Ten Ways to Game the Carbon Market

Michelle Chan of Friends of the Earth, an international environmental network that wants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, has prepared this 8-page description of how the carbon market can be gamed. For each gaming method, she describes how to do it and how it has already been done. Her main point is that carbon trading systems are complex, and the more complex the easier they are to manipulate.

http://www.foe.org/sites/default/files/10WaystoGametheCarbonMarkets_Web.pdf

Green Britain Faces Blackouts

The Daily Express warns that a growing obsession with global warming and “renewable” power sources means that Britain faces years of blackouts and soaring electricity bills. The authors of the article quote Derek Birkett, a former Grid Control Engineer and author of a new book *When Will the Lights Go Out*. Mr. Birkett forecasts that the country is going to have to make a choice whether to go along green ideas of renewable generation or go back to coal and nuclear power.

The UK is not the only jurisdiction with a fixation on power generation and greenhouse gases. Here in Canada we have Minister Prentice's June 23 announcement about regulating coal-fired electricity generation.

<http://www.dailyexpress.co.uk/posts/view/187749>

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=E5B59675-BE60-4759-8FC3-D3513EAA841C>

US Government Halts Funds for CRU

The Global Warming Policy Foundation quotes an article in *The Times* that reports that in April the US Department of Energy should have renewed a £131,000/year contract with the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit. However, a spokesman for the DOE said that the renewal application was put on hold pending an inquiry into scientific misconduct by Sir Muir Russell. A DOE review panel must now study the inquiry's report and decide if American taxpayers should continue to fund the CRU.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/climategate/1262-us-government-halts-funds-for-climate-research-unit-cru.html>

US Emissions Bill Abandoned

According to the *Washington Post*, due to lack of votes Democrats in the US Senate abandoned efforts to create a comprehensive energy bill which would curb greenhouse gas emissions. Instead the Democrats will try for a more limited measure that would increase liabilities for oil companies following spills, as well as create incentives for natural gas vehicles and products that reduce home energy use. The Democrats themselves are deeply divided over the emissions issue.

Fox News, in an opinion piece, speculates that cap-and-trade remains the ultimate goal of any new energy bill. The Democrats would use the lame-duck session of the present Congress following the November elections to merge the new bill with the Waxman-Markey bill passed by the House last year.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/22/AR2010072203614.html>
<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2010/07/23/phil-kerpen-democrat-obama-climate-cap-trade-senate/>

Calmly and quietly, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist puts the whole global warming debate in the proper perspective.

Please Remain Calm: The Earth Will Heal Itself

In *The Globe and Mail*, columnist Neil Reynolds refers to Stanford University physicist, and 1998 Nobel Prize winner, Robert Laughlin's article in the summer edition *The American Scholar*. Prof. Laughlin says that the geologic record suggests that the climate is beyond our power to control. Excess CO₂ in the atmosphere will be dissolved in the oceans, which already hold 30 trillion tons of it. Then the excess will be transformed into limestone rocks.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/please-remain-calm-the-earth-will-heal-itself/article1642767/>

2010-07-19

The Climategate Whitewash Continues

In the *Wall Street Journal*, Patrick Michaels, a former Professor of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia, comments on the recent exoneration of the of the climate scientists at the University of East Anglia (Phil Jones, et al) and Penn State University (Michael Mann). He notes that both institutions receive millions in federal global warming research funding, which would be likely lost following any finding of scientific misbehavior.

See also the commentary by Clive Crook, a senior editor of *The Atlantic*, who thinks that "... climate science points to a risk that the world needs to take seriously" and is for a carbon tax. However, he slams the Penn State inquiry that exculpated Michael Mann, as well as the Oxburgh report. Mr. Crook argues that these inquiries have delayed the process of restoring the confidence in climate science.

In the *National Post* columnist Lorne Gunter offers his opinion on the three recent inquiries.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704075604575356611173414140.html>
<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/07/climategate-and-the-big-green-lie/59709>
<http://www.nationalpost.com/dismiss+Climategate+just/3284294/story.html>

The Economist: Flawed Scientists

In an editorial the *Economist* says that recent inquiry into the climategate emails by Sir Muir Russell's team and one by a Dutch environmental assessment agency have done nothing to weaken the case for limiting carbon emissions. It insists that, while "other mechanisms at play in the climate complicate the issue," none of them offers a satisfactory alternative explanation for the 20th century's temperature rise. While the "noxious campaign" against climate science gets part of the blame for the derailment caused by climategate, the climate scientists and the institutions they work in also are at fault. The *Economist* calls for Rajendra Pachauri's replacement as head of the IPCC.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16539392>

IPCC Struggles with Media Plan

The IPCC has sent to the 831 researchers who will contribute to its next assessment a letter admonishing them to “keep a distance from the media” and send any press inquiries about their work to supervisors. In an opinion piece for *The New York Times*, Andrew Revkin points out that clampdowns on press access almost always backfire. Even one of the IPCC's best friends, Jim Hoggan in DeSmogBlog, argues that, for an organization accused of lacking transparency, the last thing it wants to do is increase the secrecy of its operations.

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/07/10/climate-panel-struggles-with-media-plan/?emc=eta>
<http://www.desmogblog.com/ipcc-fumbles-media-relations-strategy-must-review-basic-principles-public-relations>

UN Carbon Scam

The Guardian reports how the UN is set to channel £3.5 billion of public money to giant energy companies to build 20 coal-fired power plants in China and India on the basis that they will emit less CO₂ than older ones. Many of the plants would be paid for with carbon offsets bought by British and European companies in lieu of cutting their own emissions. Companies are rushing to take advantage of the UN's Clean Development Mechanism subsidies. Further, the Medupi coal-fired power plant in South Africa, if built, could be able to offset emissions in the UK, allowing the British government to meet its carbon-reduction targets by subsidizing a plant that would have been built anyway.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jul/14/un-carbon-offset-coal-plants>

National Post Debate on Global-Warming Deniers

In the July 16 edition of the *National Post* Jonathan Kay wrote a piece claiming that global-warming deniers are a liability to the conservative cause. The basis for this conclusion is an article by a group of scholars published in the *Proceedings* of the National Academy of Sciences. Among other things, this group claimed that only 2% of the top 50 climate researchers, 3% of the top 100 and 2.5% of the top 200 were skeptical of the evidence of man-made global warming. Further, Mr. Kay notes that the skeptics tend to use militantly right-wing blogs populated by other deniers. Also on July 16, Lorne Gunter

The next day Terence Corcoran fired back with a column that examines the credentials of the four scholars who wrote the article for the NAS *Proceedings*. Only one of them qualifies as a science scholar (Stephen Schneider) and he is quoted as having said that scientists have to “... offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little mention of the doubts we might have.”

<http://www.nationalpost.com/opinion/columnists/science+Global+warming+deniers+liability+conservative+cause/3284292/story.html>
<http://www.financialpost.com/opinion/columnists/politics/3289103/story.html>

2010-07-14

Report Released: The Independent Climate Change Email Review

The Independent Review, headed by Sir Muir Russell to investigate “key allegations arising from the series of hacked emails from the Climate Research Unit” at the University of East Anglia released its report on July 7. Following the controversial release of the CRU's Climategate emails last November, the UEA announced the Independent Review on December 3. Among its findings, the report concluded that there was no doubt about the CRU scientists' rigour or honesty, nor did their behavior undermine the

conclusions of the IPCC assessments. However, they failed to display the proper degree of openness. Among the “broader issues” identified, the report recommends better handling of uncertainties and alternative viewpoints in future.

Comments on this report have appeared in The Telegraph, Climate Depot, the Global Warming Policy Foundation, the Economist and the Calgary Herald.

<http://www.cce-review.org/index.php>
<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/geraldwarner/100046524/climategate-reinstating-phil-jones-is-good-news-the-cru-brand-remains-toxic/>
<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/7248/Read-all-about-it-Climate-Depots-Round-up-of-Reactions-to-Muir-Russells-Sham-Climategate-Report->
<http://www.thegwpf.org/news/1205-russell-review-whats-it-mean-for-the-bloke-on-the-bus.html>
<http://www.thegwpf.org/best-of-blogs/1211-roger-pielke-jr-russell-review-and-the-ipcc.html>
http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displayStory.cfm?story_id=16537628&subjectID=348924&fsrc=nwl
<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Martinuk+Clouds+doubt+still+hang+over+climate+scientists/3253896/story.html>

Ontario Solar Program in Disarray

Ontario's program to subsidize home-owners' small-scale solar projects has proven too successful. Under the feed-in tariff, the Ontario Power Authority pays 80.2¢/kWh over the term of a 20-year contract (compared to a current market rate of 3.3¢/kWh.) The 80.2¢/kWh was intended to cover the expected project costs plus an annual rate of return of 10%. However, the cost of solar panels has dropped 40%, giving returns of 20% per annum. Also, landowners discovered that, under the microFIT program, the solar panels could be installed on the ground where they would operate more effectively, not just on rooftops. The OPA was inundated with 16,000 applications, 10,000 of which were for ground-based systems. Faced with an extra \$1 billion in project costs the province announced that new ground-based systems will get only 58.8¢/kWh. Project developers expressed disappointment with the new pricing.

<http://www.financialpost.com/Ontario+solar+program+disarray/3248466/story.html>

Austerity Green in the EU (except for the UK)

Writing in the blog MasterResource, Matthew Sinclair notes that Germany, Spain and Italy are cutting back on taxpayer/ratepayer-funded generosity toward politically-correct energy generation. In contrast, Britain is implementing feed-in tariffs to complement its Renewables Obligation which offers massive subsidies for new offshore wind plants. A Citigroup study for investors said that Britain would need to invest €161 billion by 2020 in order to meet its targets, more than the other three countries combined. Mr. Sinclair notes that anyone investing in renewable energy faces having their returns cut by government, following consumer backlash at the rising prices (see above story and the recent Spanish experience with retroactive cuts to solar energy tariffs.)

<http://www.masterresource.org/2010/07/austerity-green-renewables-eu/>

Green Blackout

Writing in the Financial Post, Tom Adams, a Toronto-based energy consultant blames careless environmental ideology as the root cause of the blackout that cut off power to tens of thousands of Toronto homes on July 5. The immediate cause was a transformer failure, but Mr. Adams points to a

group of environmental organizations working with Ontario government agencies to oppose a new high-voltage transmission line into Toronto. In 2007 Energy Minister Dwight Duncan agreed with them. A consequence is that all new transmission projects are designed primarily to serve wind and solar generators slated for development in remote areas.

<http://www.financialpost.com/Green+blackout/3248507/story.html>

Canadian Chamber of Commerce: Climate Bill Must Die

The Chamber, Canada's largest and most influential business organization, is asking its members to send a template letter complaining about the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, Bill C-311, that was adopted in the House of Commons, with the government being outvoted by the opposition. The bill is currently before the Senate. If enacted it would require the government to make regular reports that measure and review the effectiveness of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Chamber warns that a recommended target of reducing Canada's emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 would impose great costs on the Canadian economy.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/Climate+Bill+must+Chamber+Commerce/3255340/story.html>

2010-07-05

The Science

The EU's Solar Science Fiction

EU Energy Commissioner Günther Öttinger predicts that “hundreds of megawatts” of solar power generated in the Sahara will be available in Europe in five years. This power would be transmitted using underwater cables in a project known as the Desertec Industrial Initiative, costing some \$400 billion. The aim is to supply 15% of Europe's electricity using North African sun by 2050. The Energy Tribune article lists promises of other European “clean” energy initiatives that were delayed or broken.

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/4473/The-EUs-Solar-Science-Fiction>

Solar Influences

An article by the Global Warming Policy Foundation describes a 1990 paper by E. Friis-Christensen showing a correlation between the length of the sun's sunspot cycle and the global average temperature from the late 19th century, but the correlation appeared to fail post 1980. However, in the past decade the sun has been behaving differently than it did during the 20th century, as the current sunspot minimum has lasted longer than expected. This suggests that the sun may be entering something similar to the Dalton Minimum or the longer Maunder Minimum, which only time will tell.

<http://thegwpcf.org/the-observatory/1179-solar-influences.html>

Interview with John Christy

The Examiner interviewed Dr. John Christy regarding climate models, climate sensitivity to CO₂ doubling, government policy, a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences regarding the level of expertise in scientists who support the consensus position on climate change, and his view on the Earth's climate in the coming decades. Dr. Christy said that “I see neither the developing catastrophe nor the smoking gun proving that human activity is to blame for most of the warming that we see.”

<http://www.examiner.com/x-9111-Environmental-Policy-Examiner~y2010m7d1-Global-warming-Interview-with-John-ChristyModels-sensitivity-the-PNAS-paper-and-more>

The Cost

Solar Bankruptcy: Are Green Pensions Toast?

The Global Warming Policy Foundation reports that three Danish pension providers with assets totaling €30 billion, have written to the Spanish Government and the EU Climate Action Commissioner complaining about Spain retroactively changing the tariffs for its solar power industry. The three providers, with 700,000 members have been investing in the Spanish solar power sector for the past two years as part of their socially responsible investments.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/energy-news/1151-solar-bankruptcy-are-green-pensions-toast.html>

Price Rises as New Zealand Passes Emissions Trading Scheme

After the government pressed ahead with plans to slash the nation's carbon output back to 1990 levels, New Zealanders were hit with a 3¢ increase in the price of a litre of gasoline overnight and a 5% increase in gas and electricity prices. Under the emissions trading scheme, to be phased in over several years, industries that are net creators of carbon must buy carbon credits, known as New Zealand Units, from the government or from sellers whose businesses absorb carbon, such as tree planters. Eventually, costs of everyday items, such as bread, will be affected. New Zealand's contribution to the total global emissions: 0.2%.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/australiaandthepacific/newzealand/7865009/Prices-rise-as-New-Zealand-passes-emissions-trading-scheme.html>

Nigel Lawson: We Need to Get Off this Carbon-Cessation Hook

Lord Nigel Lawson has warned that it is “madness” for Britain to try to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, while emerging nations, such as India and China will never agree to cut theirs. While acknowledging that the world has warmed in the past 100 years and that man-made greenhouse gases played a part, he believes that the science is uncertain. Instead of cutting carbon Lord Lawson advocates monitoring and adapting to any changes that might occur. Nevertheless, the UK Energy and Climate Change Secretary insists that Europe must take a lead in securing an international climate agreement.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/greenpolitics/7860478/Lord-Lawson-We-need-to-get-off-this-carbon-cessation-hook.html>

2010-06-27

Delay and Obfuscation by the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency

According to the Washington Post, the Obama administration is to have the Senate pass a slimmed-down energy and climate bill next month which would be merged with the House Bill (Waxman-Markey) to be voted on by the lame-duck Congress after the November elections.

http://views.washingtonpost.com/climate-change/post-carbon/2010/06/the_white_houses_lame-duck_climate_strategy.html

A panel of federal judges in Washington has set aside 17 challenges that seek to force the EPA to review its scientific finding that greenhouse gases endanger human health and welfare. The judges' order freezes the motions for remand until two weeks after the agency makes a decision on numerous petitions to reconsider its finding, or until August 16, whichever comes first.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/06/18/18greenwire-court-freezes-bids-to-return-greenhouse-gas-en-15799.html>

UK Firms Paid to Shut Down Wind Farms when the Wind is Blowing

In the UK energy firms receive thousands of pounds per day per wind farm to turn off their turbines because the National Grid cannot use the power they are producing. On breezy summer nights these farms could cause a surge in the electricity supply for which there is no demand. In a recent test of wind farm shut down, Scottish Power received £180/MWh, whereas coal and gas stations are paid £15-20/MWh when they don't supply.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/windpower/7840035/Firms-paid-to-shut-down-wind-farms-when-the-wind-is-blowing.html>

Global Average Sea-Surface Temperatures Continue their Plunge

In his blog Roy Spencer reports that sea-surface temperatures measured by NASA's Aqua satellite continued their plunge as a predicted La Niña approaches. Dr. Spencer says that there was an unusually large increase in reflected sunlight in the past several months, probably due to an increase in low cloud cover. He suspects that the second half of 2010 could ruin the chances of getting a record high global temperature for the year.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2010/06/global-average-sea-surface-temperatures-continue-their-plunge>

Cap and No Trade

Environment Canada has announced that in early 2011 it will issue a directive ordering the shutdown of coal-fired generating plants when they reach the end of their economic lives (about 45 years.) This will mean closure of 33 plants from Alberta to Nova Scotia. In a National Post column, Terence Corcoran comments that this amounts to cap without any offsets, such as trade or credits. Also, in the National Post, Steve Snyder, CEO of TransAlta, Canada's largest coal-fired electricity generator, provides his views, which appear to include the belief that "Climate change is a global issue that requires decisive policy reform."

<http://www.financialpost.com/opinion/columnists/trade/3193860/story.html>

<http://www.financialpost.com/Coal+plan+needs+more+work/3193859/story.html>

2010-06-18

It's Time to take off the Glasses!

This week's collection of news reports concentrates on the costs of the so-called "remedies" for Global Warming that are currently operating or are proposed by various governments and agencies around the world. It's not a pretty story, one that will cost the taxpayer dearly, and will do nothing to resolve the situation. See for yourself!

In Ontario:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-takes-green-lead-with-record-8-billion-energy-investment/article1527080/>

Current Market Price for Electricity	3.4 ¢/kWh
20-year fixed price for Solar Power	80.2 ¢/kWh
20-year fixed price for Wind Power	13.5 ¢/kWh

In Spain:

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-16/spain-may-cut-income-30-for-operating-solar-plants-update1-.html>

As you know, the Spanish economy is in trouble. Part of the reason is the subsidy paid to solar-powered electricity producers. Apparently the government has seen the light and will reduce the subsidy paid by 30%, although the prices were guaranteed by law for 25 years. Legal actions to follow.

In the Netherlands, Colorado and Texas:

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/subsidizing_co2.pdf

Subsidizing CO₂ Emissions via Wind Power: The Ultimate Irony. Read it and weep!

In Denmark:

http://www.centerforinvestigativereporting.org/blogpost/20100615carboncarouseleuropeanmarketahavenf_ortaxfraud

Come ride the Carbon Carousel!

Denmark encouraged carbon brokerage firms to establish themselves in that country by skipping background checks, requiring only an email address. The Danish paper Ekstra Bladet and Europol report on a fraud known as a “tax carousel” in which Danish-registered companies buy carbon credits from brokers in other European countries, tax free. To avoid paying a Danish VAT of 25% most of the Danish-registered companies shut down and disappeared. The scheme has cost treasuries in Denmark and other European countries €5 billion and thrown into question the veracity of thousands of carbon trades. This scam highlights the vulnerability of a system based on trading an intangible asset, in effect a computer certificate that can be moved from account to account in endless loops.

In Britain:

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-16/u-k-to-cut-barriers-to-nuclear-power-minister-says-update1-.html>

Here comes the Carbon Tax you’ve all been waiting for.

Let’s close on a happier note

<http://www.businessgreen.com/business-green/news/2263995/un-climate-talks-face-cash-flow>

UN Climate Talks Running Out of Cash

Outgoing head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Yvo de Boer revealed that the secretariat does not have sufficient funds to host two additional meetings before the Cancun summit in November.

2010-06-15

More abuse of carbon trading schemes**Firms Abusing Kyoto Carbon Trading Scheme**

According to Reuters, CDM Watch, an initiative of non-governmental organizations, discovered that chemical plants have been abusing the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) by artificially inflating their greenhouse gas emissions to produce a potent gas called hydrofluorocarbon-23 for the sole purpose of destroying it and then claiming CDM offsets, called Certified Emissions Reductions, which they can sell.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE65C1FZ20100613>

Warming in the Last 50 Years Predicted by Natural Climate Cycles

Roy Spencer, in his blog, notes that the IPCC's 2007 report concluded that the warming over the last 50 years was most likely due to anthropogenic pollution, especially increasing atmospheric CO₂ from fossil fuel burning. However, a minority of climate researchers maintain that some or most of that warming could be due to natural causes, such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), the Atlantic Multi-Decadal Oscillation (AMO) and the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI). Dr. Spencer uses statistics of these three indices from the first half of the 20th century, and the temperature *change rate* to predict the strong warming of the second half, concluding that the climate is less sensitive to CO₂ than claimed by the IPCC.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2010/06/warming-in-last-50-years-predicted-by-natural-climate-cycles>

Europe: No Additional CO₂ Cuts This Decade

The Energy Tribune reports that a meeting of the EU's energy ministers swiftly put an end to growing calls to unilaterally increase the block's emission-cutting targets from 20% to 30% by 2020. Economic concerns are overshadowing climate change. With industrial output decreasing, greenhouse gas emissions plummeted 11% below 2008 levels in 2009, which also reduced the cost of CO₂ credits under the European Trading Scheme. Even the EU's Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard conceded that a unilateral target increase is not politically viable.

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/4288/Europe-No-Additional-CO2-Cuts-This-Decade>

UN's New Climate Chief: Final Deal Unlikely in Her Lifetime

Christiana Figueres from Costa Rica, who replaces Yvo de Boer as head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change next month, said that an all-encompassing deal is unlikely to happen in her lifetime. Instead governments should focus on incremental efforts to end global warming for the next 20 to 40 years. Ms Figueres was speaking at the latest two-week round of climate talks in Bonn, which wrapped up without agreement on a negotiating text (see second link.)

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-09/un-s-new-climate-chief-says-final-deal-unlikely-in-her-lifetime.html>

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-06/12/c_13346378.htm

Legal Verdict: Manmade Global Warming Science Doesn't Withstand Scrutiny

In the Financial Post Lawrence Solomon comments on a cross-examination of global warming science conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Law and Economics. This cross-examination found that “on virtually every major issue in climate change science, the [reports of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] and other summarizing work by leading climate establishment scientists have adopted various rhetorical strategies that seem to systematically conceal or minimize what appear to be fundamental scientific uncertainties or even disagreements.” The Financial Post comment includes a link to the 79-page document “which effectively eviscerates the case for man-made global warming.”

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2010/06/06/legal-verdict-manmade-global-warming-science-doesn%E2%80%99t-withstand-scrutiny/>

2010-05-20

Another refutation of the Global Warming Scenario

Geologist Declares “Global Warming is Over”

Geology professor emeritus at Western Washington University Don Easterbrook presented a paper to the 4th International Conference on Climate Change in Chicago. In this paper he refers to ten major short-lived warming and cooling cycles over the past 15,000 years and another 60 smaller climate changes over the past 5,000 years. Based on the Pacific Decadal Oscillation cycle, which switched from warm to cool in 1999, Dr. Easterbrook predicts that we can expect several decades of cooling. If so, there will be an adverse effect on food production, among others.

The third link below is to the Heartland Institute, which is sponsoring the Chicago conference.

<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/6574/Geologist-Declares-global-warming-is-over--Warns-US-Climate-Conference-of-Looming-Threat-of-Global-Cooling>

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/05/19/global-cooling-scientists-warming/>

<http://www.globalwarmingheartland.org/>

Global warming proposals could experience rough seas in the UK

Leaked Document Shows Spain's “Green” Policies Are An Economic Disaster

According to the Global Warming Policy Foundation, Pajamas Media has received a leaked internal assessment produced by Spain's Zapatero administration. This assessment confirms the catastrophic economic failure of Spain's “green economy” initiatives. On eight occasions US President Obama has referred to these policies as being the model he envisions for America.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/international-news/974-leaked-document-shows-spains-green-policies-are-an-economic-disaster.html>

Cameron's Wasted Energies

An opinion in the Wall Street Journal comments on British PM David Cameron's promise to cut the UK government's carbon emissions by 10% in the next 12 months. During the election campaign both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats promised to reinvigorate British industry with hundreds of thousands of jobs in the “green economy.” The article points to the example of Spain where the government did indeed create thousands of “green jobs” with subsidies to the solar industry, most of which vanished when the fiscal crisis hit and Madrid slashed the subsidies.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304739104575153463890488760.html?mod=WSJ_latesheadlines

UK Government Will “Push EU on CO₂ Targets”

According to the BBC, the UK government will urge the EU to cut emissions by 30% from 1990 levels by 2020, rather than the current 20% target. Also the Government plans to get a higher portion of its revenues from environmental taxes. The UK would meet its share of the 30% target partly through scaling up of renewable energy.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8694327.stm>

Campaigners Fear that UK War on Climate Change will be Stymied

Environmentalists in the UK have expressed concern that the coalition agreement between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, while committing the Government to a range of green measures, fail to set explicit targets for reducing carbon emissions. Though Prime Minister David Cameron ordered all ministerial departments to cut carbon emissions by 10%, the new Transport Secretary declared that “We will end the war on the motorist.” Also, there are significant conflicts between the two parties' energy policies (e.g., offshore drilling, nuclear power and wind power.)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/campaigners-believe-war-on--climate-change-will-be-stymied-1974683.html>

2010-05-16

Look at what your Parliament (over the objections of the Conservatives) has done for you last week Bill C-311 (The *Climate Change Accountability Act*)

A small news item in the National Post of May 6 reported that the Canadian House of Commons had passed a new version of the climate change accountability legislation that had reached the Senate in 2008, but died on the order paper when an election was called. The new version, Bill C-311, a private member's bill, has now been passed by a 149-136 vote (with the combined Opposition MPs outvoting the Government) and sent to the Senate for review. The 12-page bill can be downloaded from the 2nd link below. The bill makes numerous references to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and sets greenhouse gas targets of 25% and 80% below the 1990 levels for 2020 and 2050, respectively. It requires the Minister of the Environment to set interim target plans at five year intervals, with the first one for 2015. Governor-in-Council (i.e, the Cabinet) may make regulations needed to meet the targets, including limiting the amount of GHGs released by each province (s.7 of the Act).

If the Senate approves Bill C-311 and it becomes law, the Harper Government will be faced with a dilemma. Likely it will try to avoid issuing the required regulations. This could result in opponents

appealing to the courts or having the House of Commons declare the Government in contempt of Parliament, leading to an election on the climate issue.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=2992092>
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Docid=3662654&file=4>

Researchers: Climate Change Could Make Half the World Uninhabitable

Researchers from the University of New South Wales and Purdue University have published a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (a firm believer in AGW) stating that global temperatures may rise up to 12°C by the year 2300. This would make half the currently-inhabited globe too hot for people to live there. The authors argue that the UN process has failed, and they urge the use of carbon tax revenue to develop technologies to supply clean energy to everyone and provide “human dignity.”

Roger Pielke Sr. comments on the study in his blog Climate Science. He says that the study did not properly assess the actual behavior of the atmosphere if such a warming occurred. In effect, the paper's predictions cannot be tested.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7710229/Climate-change-could-make-half-the-world-uninhabitable.html>
<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2010/05/13/comments-on-the-study-researchers-find-future-temperatures-could-exceed-livable-limits/>

The Hartwell Paper: A New Direction for Climate Policy After the Crash of 2009

In February 2010 the London School of Economics convened a meeting at Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire, England to consider the implications of climate policy following the climategate emails and the failure of the Copenhagen conference. As a result 14 co-authors from the UK, US, Germany, Japan, Finland and Canada have produced the 42-page Hartwell Paper that acknowledges that it is now not possible to have a climate policy with the goal of emissions reduction. Instead the goal should be “raising up of human dignity” through ensuring energy access to all, while managing climate risk. The paper calls for innovation in non-carbon energy supplies at unsubsidized costs less than those for fossil fuels.

While acknowledging that the temperature effects of rising CO₂ are uncertain (p. 21) the authors assert that the CO₂ trend line alone justifies action to reduce it. On p. 25 the authors use the steel industry as a case study in reducing energy intensity, and thus CO₂ emissions. Recent difficulties with government-mandated solar and wind power are noted on page 29. To pay for research and development of low-carbon energy supplies the authors (p. 32) call for a dedicated (or “hypothecated”) carbon tax, rather than setting Kyoto-style emissions targets.

In Climate Audit Stephen McIntyre has posted his comments on the Hartwell paper.

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/27939/1/HartwellPaper_English_version.pdf
<http://climateaudit.org/2010/05/11/the-hartwell-paper/>

US Climate Bill Unveiled

Senators Kerry and Lieberman introduced their climate bill on May 12. It includes provisions for nuclear power, offshore drilling and pollution permits for electric power utilities starting in 2013. Initially these

permits would be free, changing to full auctions by 2030. Utilities such as FPL Group, Duke Energy and Exelon, as well as General Electric have been lobbying alongside environmental groups for the climate bill.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1219978020100512?type=marketsNews>

How the Science of Global Warming was Compromised

Der Spiegel has done a seven-part series analyzing the revelations from the climategate emails to reveal how the war between climate researchers and skeptics broke out, the tricks used by both sides to outmaneuver each other and how the conflict could be resolved. The series comes down hard on both sides, both the “industrial lobby” and the climate researchers who plotted with environmental interest groups and then adopted entrenched scientific opinions. Der Spiegel concludes that, since it is impossible to provide conclusive proof in climate research, it's now up to scientists and society to learn to come to terms with this, and politicians should stop listening to scientists who promise simple answers.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,694484,00.html>

2010-05-11

BC Minister: Opportunities in the Green Economy

Responding to Terence Corcoran's opinion piece in the Financial Post (FoS Extracts - 2010-05-05 “Cap and Fade”), British Columbia's Minister of State for Climate Action, John Yap, states the province's stance on climate change: that the costs of inaction outweigh the costs of action (without providing any evidence.) He then insists that many economists support a carbon tax and cap-and-trade regime because they “are policies that reduce emissions and stimulate economic growth.” Apparently, he is unaware of the Spanish experiment, which cost 2.2 other jobs for each renewable energy job created (see FoS Extracts 2010-04-07 “Losing Jobs with Green Technology” and FoS Extracts 2010-05-05 “Spain Cuts Green Subsidies as Debt Crisis Deepens.”)

<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/05/05/fp-letters-opportunity-in-the-green-economy.aspx>

Alberta Leads Investment in Climate Change Effort

The announcement in the Calgary Herald last week reveals that the Alberta Government is forming yet another institution to either manage, or conduct technology related to, CO₂. Another quasi-government body, called Climate Change and Emissions Management Corp. states that “More than \$6 billion is expected to be spent on climate-friendly technology in Alberta over the next five years.” It is expected that industry and Government together will spend about \$10 billion or more. This does not include infrastructure costs for initiation of any projects that may be initiated as a result.

CCEMC, along with Carbon Management Canada and Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy at the University of Calgary, now number three organizations financed by Alberta taxpayers and located in Alberta, which all seemingly have the same objectives and have each received funding from Edmonton. There is not a need for even one of these institutions, let alone three of them.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Alberta+leads+investment+climate+change+effort/2992518/story.html>

Stephen McIntyre: Presentation on Climategate at University of Toronto

Mr. McIntyre, editor of the blog Climate Audit, critic of the temperature record for the past 1000 years and mentioned in some of the climategate emails, has posted notes of a presentation he gave in March called Climategate: A Battlefield Perspective. The presentation consists of 14 pages of the prepared text of his speech and slides. In it Mr. McIntyre describes the history of his involvement in climate science since 2002, the climategate emails, including an explanation of the famous “trick to hide the decline,” the IPCC's reaction, public perception of scientists and reaction to Phil Jones' testimony before the UK House of Commons committee.

<http://www.climateaudit.info/pdf/mcintyre-trinity.2010.pdf>

Team of Scientists Counter US Government Report

Scott Armstrong (US) and Kestern Green (Australia), both involved with forecasting at schools of business, have submitted comments in response to the US State Department's Climate Action Report 2010 (CAR 2010 - see 2nd link below). In their comments, Armstrong and Green assert that: there are no scientific forecasts supporting claims of dangerous global warming in the 21st Century; there are no forecasts supporting actions advocated by global warming scientists; the “precautionary principle” has been used to block a scientific approach to forecasting climate and making decisions; and using a new forecasting procedure known as structured analogies, Armstrong and Green forecast that the global warming movement will be shown to have raised a false alarm.

<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/6451/Team-of-Scientists-Counter-US-Govt-Report-Global-warming-alarm-will-prove-false--Climate-fears-based-on-faulty-forecasting-procedures>
<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/rpts/car5/index.htm>

Space and Science Research Center: Food and Ethanol Shortages Imminent as Earth Enters New Cold Climate Era

The SSRC is an independent scientific research facility in Orlando, Florida. It has become a leading research organization in the United States on the subject of the science of and planning for the next climate change to a long lasting cold era. In a press release the SSRC predicts that global temperatures will drop dramatically over the next 30 months as the current El Niño dissipates and the planet returns to a long-term temperature decline caused by the sun's ongoing solar hibernation. The expected temperature drop is 0.9°C to 1.1°C, which will affect northern grain crops, including those used to produce biofuels. The only caveat that the SSRC places on its forecast is the appearance of a stronger solar cycle.

<http://www.spaceandscience.net/id16.html>

2010-05-05

If there is any doubt in your mind about whether the Global warming movement is slowly but steadily dying, I hope you will be reassured by these four articles:

Spain Cuts Green Subsidies as Debt Crisis Deepens

After having its credit rating cut and trying to avoid a Greek-style debt spiral, the Spanish Government is negotiating reductions in subsidies for solar plants that are part of a €18 billion investment bubble in this type of energy. According to the story by Bloomberg.com, solar plant owners, including General Electric Co. earn about 12 times what's paid for fossil fuel power.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aW5YTcDgqGLc>

Bonn Meeting: International Negotiations Continuing at a Slower Pace

The Global Warming Policy Foundation has a translation of a Die Welt commentary on a meeting of leaders from 45 countries on the future of international climate policy. This meeting is a low key affair (the public is not allowed) and is being held near Bonn, where the UN Climate Secretariat is based. According to Die Welt, the agitation in the climate debate has given way to a more sober assessment regarding reasonable developments of renewable energy without the “obsession” of illusory CO₂ reduction targets. Nevertheless, standing in the way of common sense is an industry that relies on substantial green subsidies in the name of climate protection.

My EarthLink has a related story on the meeting, quoting outgoing UN climate chief Yvo de Boer as saying that the December climate conference in Cancún will not produce a climate treaty, though he hopes one will occur by 2012.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/opinion-pros-a-cons/908-climate-debate-running-out-of-steam-.html>
<http://my.earthlink.net/article/int?guid=20100503/dd089543-45ab-4376-a51d-9e0c1ecc2233>

Norway Delays Carbon Capture and Storage Project

A story in the Budapest Business Journal reports that the Norwegian Government has delayed a decision on financing a major CCS project until 2014. The project, developed by Statoil and one of the first to start full-scale operation, was proving too complex to accomplish on schedule. Environmentalists condemned the government's decision as a scandal.

<http://bbjonline.hu/?col=1000&id=52631>

Cap and Fade

Terence Corcoran's opinion piece in the Financial Post forecasts that “major game-changing” carbon taxes or cap-and-trade regimes are unlikely in North America. Mr. Corcoran refers to a Harvard study stating that the reduction in US growth would be less than 1% per year, assuming that all of the carbon tax money would be recycled to taxpayers in lower income taxes. Given the current US fiscal outlook, Mr. Corcoran considers this unlikely.

<http://www.financialpost.com/magazine/story.html?id=2982355>

Science versus political posturing coupled with Conflicts of Interest. Which will win?

Roy Spencer: CO₂ Has Almost Nothing To Do With Global Warming

James Delingpole of The Telegraph describes arguments against AGW contained in Dr. Spencer's latest book *The Great Global Warming Blunder*. In summary: climate change is almost entirely a natural process; human-produced quantities of CO₂ are so tiny that a doubling of them would still produce no dangerous AGW; that natural variations in cloud cover, not the alarmists' claim of “positive feedbacks” from CO₂ emissions, are helping to cause global warming. In effect, the alarmists have confused cause and effect.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100037784/whoops-co2-has-almost-nothing-to-do-with-global-warming-discovers-top-us-meteorologist/comment-page-1/#comment-100286845>

Climate Policies Based on Distorted Temperatures

Dr. Tim Ball, writing in Canada Free Press, describes his attendance at a conference on Global Climate Change: Forest Industry Impacts and Responses. Dr. Ball made a presentation regarding the bias in government claims on climate change. A speaker from Natural Resources Canada followed Dr. Ball's presentation with a classic example of government science: it is based on total acceptance of the IPCC's claim that warming is due to CO₂; and recent temperatures are the warmest on record. Dr. Ball provides a chart showing the decline in the number of Canadian weather stations, from 600 in 1975 to about 50 now, including only one north of 65° and describes the physical evidence of increasing sea ice.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/22728>

Review of UN Climate Panel Begins

According to The New York Times' Dot Earth blog, the InterAcademy Council has named 12 members to the committee that will assess the activities and approach of the IPCC, and will issue a report in October. The committee is led by Harold Shapiro, a past president of Princeton University and the University of Michigan. The author of the blog, Andrew Revkin, notes that, while the committee includes some scientific luminaries, it lacks specialists in the social sciences, history of science or science-based policy making. This is something that Mr. Revkin sees as a gap, given the issues concerning the interface between the IPCC's scientific assessments, the governments that have final say over the reports, and the wider audience.

The NY Times' Green Blog provides another view on the InterAcademy Council's committee.

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/05/03/review-of-u-n-climate-panel-begins/?emc=eta1>
<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/05/03/12-experts-to-review-u-n-climate-panels-work/>

Dr. Pachauri and the IPCC

The Science and Public Policy Institute has published a 37-page report on IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri by Dennis Ambler. The report is critical of Dr. Pachauri, in particular his denial of any business interests, his links to activist groups, membership on carbon trading exchanges, and his position that industrialized nations should de-industrialize and let developing nations (like India) industrialize. Mr. Ambler concludes that there is a prima facie case of conflict of interest between his activities in a wide range of energy fields and his role as Director of the IPCC. Moreover, he has shown that he is unqualified to discuss science.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/pachauri_and_the_ipcc_no_fossil_fool.pdf

2010-04-30

German Chancellor Abandons Aim of Binding Climate Agreement

Der Spiegel Online reports that, frustrated by outcome of the Copenhagen conference last December, Chancellor Angela Merkel is quietly moving away from her goal of a binding agreement limiting climate change to 2°C. She has also signaled at the EU level that she no longer supports Europe going it alone.

The Chancellor realizes the limits of Germany's influence after China and India refused to agree to curb their emissions. The Spiegel article contains some quotes from a heated, three-way argument in Copenhagen.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,691194,00.html>

Cash from EU Green Plan to Fund Coal Plants

Documents leaked to The Independent suggest that European countries will be able to use money from an EU emissions-reduction scheme to build new coal-fired power plants. This bizarre situation arises from concessions made to new and poorer EU states such as Poland when the EU was drawing up its “20-20-20” regime (cut emissions by 20% and secure 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.) After 2013, 100% of emissions permits across Europe will be sold, generating enormous revenues (e.g., £40 billion from the UK alone by 2020). According to the leaked papers, some of these funds could be used to provide up to 15% of the costs of “highly-efficient CCS-ready power plants.”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/green-living/cash-from-eu-green-plan-to-fund-dirty-coal-plants-1955125.html>

Australian Government Puts Emissions on Back Burner

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, the Rudd Government has put off indefinitely a Senate vote, which was due next month, on its emissions scheme. Last December the Senate rejected the trading scheme for a second time. The opposition and the Greens were combining to fight a third attempt. The latest delay means that the Government is running out of time to pass the scheme in time for its start date of July 1, 2011. A spokesman representing investment banks, including Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank, expressed disappointment over the postponement.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/emissions-put-on-back-burner-20100426-tnc6.html>

Oil Spill May Kill US Climate Bill's Chances

The blog Capital Hill reports the the oil spill oozing its way toward Louisiana is causing the White House and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to back away from their prior support for new off-shore drilling that was to have been part of the energy and climate bill being drafted in the Senate. Offshore drilling is key to the bill's chances in Congress. Without it the bill may not win over enough Republicans and moderate Democrats.

<http://blogs.investors.com/capitalhill/index.php/home/35-politicsinvesting/1724-oil-spill-may-kill-climate-bills-chances->

Virginia Attorney General Targets UVA Papers Related to Climategate

The blog The Hook has a story reporting that Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli has asked the University of Virginia - where Michael Mann worked between 1999 and 2005 - to produce documents related to Dr. Mann's receipt of nearly half a million dollars in state grants. These grants were to fund climate research. A spokesman for the UVA said that the school will fulfill its legal obligation. The Attorney General has the right to demand the documents under the *Fraud Against Taxpayers Act*.

<http://www.readthehook.com/blog/index.php/2010/04/29/oh-mann-cuccinelli-targets-uva-papers-in-climategate-salvo>

2010-04-26

Senate Sponsors Scramble to Save Climate Bill

The New York Times describes the defection over the weekend of Lindsey Graham, the Republican Senator who was working with Sens. Kerry and Lieberman on the climate bill that was supposed to be unveiled on April 26 at a news conference. Sen. Graham withdrew his support after the Democratic leadership, some of whom are facing tough re-election battles in November, decided to give higher priority to an immigration bill. According to Politico, environmental advocates are not the only ones disappointed by the apparent unraveling of the climate bill; three major oil companies and the Edison Electric Institute were expected to support the bill.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/04/26/26climatewire-senate-sponsors-scramble-to-save-climate-bill-40498.html?pagewanted=1>
<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0410/36324.html>

Medieval Warm Period as Warm as Today

The Global Warming Policy Foundation reports that the MWP (c. AD800-1300) and the Little Ice Age (c.1300-1900) are the subject of a paper to be presented at the European Geosciences Conference next month. The researchers, led by Fredrik Ljunqvist of Stockholm University, mapped the spacial and temporal temperature pattern between the 9th and the 20th centuries using temperature proxies including tree-rings, ice cores, sediments and speleotherms. (cave deposits). They obtained data from Europe, North America, Siberia, North Africa and the Middle East, then concluded that the MWP was as warm as now. The GWPF article refers to this and three related papers as evidence that the scientific literature is pointing to a consensus that the current warm climate is not unprecedented.

RealClimate, the online commentary by mainstream working climate scientists (e.g., Gavin Schmidt, Michael Mann), continues to disparage the MWP and the LIA, referring to “numerous myths ... in the literature” describing conditions during those times.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/852-medieval-warm-period-as-warm-as-today-and-global.html>
<http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2004/11/medieval-warm-period-mwp/>

The Stern Review Scandal

The Stern Review is a 700-page report prepared by Nicholas Stern for the British Government on the economics of climate change, and was released in October 2006. Among its conclusions is that 1% of global GDP per annum could avoid the worst effects of climate change. According to the GWPF, the IPCC broke three of its rules in citing the Stern Review 25 times in its 2007 Assessment Report (AR4). The three rules are (1) the Stern Review was not peer-reviewed; (2) it violated the published before January 2006 rule; (3) the related AR4 text was not subjected to the required two rounds of expert review.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/ipcc-news/867-the-stern-review-scandal.html>

Richard Lindzen: Climategate and the Crisis of Climate Alarmism

Dr. Lindzen is professor of meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In this Wall Street Journal article repeated in GWPF, he

summarizes the approach of the official scientific community in the UK and the US to the climategate emails: to conduct whitewash investigations of individuals such as Michael Mann and Phil Jones, then reassert the message that climate catastrophe must be fought with carbon control. However, the IPCC's claim that it is 90% confident that human emissions are causing global warming is purely subjective. In fact, this conclusion assumes that the IPCC's climate models accurately include alternative sources of warming and positive feedbacks. In contrast to the US and UK, in France the highest scientific bodies are not taking sides in the debate. Dr. Lindzen hopes the the climate alarmists will lose so that scientists can go back to dealing with real problems, such as assuring clean air and water.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/climategate/854-climategate-and-the-crisis-of-climate-alarmism.html>

Industrial Wind and the Wall Street Cap-and-Trade Fraud

The Science and Public Policy Institute has published a seven-page essay by James Hall that begins by noting that cap-and-trade is a scheme to leverage risk and cheat the public, and industrial wind swindle is just the latest ploy. The essay is a compendium of excerpts from over 20 other sources (with links to them) describing how uneconomic and unnecessary wind projects get established with government subsidies, loans and tax credits. For Wall Street, cap-and-trade is the hidden motive behind wind turbine developments. Mr. Hall concludes that the state is conducting privileged cronyism for friends of the financial ruling class and rewarding developers of useless projects that do not generate usable electricity, but sell credits for energy that is never produced.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/ind_wind_wallst.pdf

2010-04-23

I am issuing this extra edition of FoS Extracts to inform you of the following event that may be the big opportunity to have the issue of AGW litigated in court, unless the National Post settles.

Andrew Weaver Sues National Post

Dr. Weaver is a climate modeler at the University of Victoria and IPCC lead author who was mentioned in four opinion pieces published by the National Post recently. James Hoggan's DeSmogBlog reports that Dr. Weaver has filed a libel suit against the National Post, its publisher, editor and three writers. Mr. Hoggan is Chair of the David Suzuki Foundation, and his views on the limits of free speech (particularly when it involves climate change) are made clear in the sidebar on the right of DeSmogBlog's web pages.

The DeSmogBlog link below contains links to a news release about Dr. Weaver's suit and to the full 48-page, 2.03 MB Statement of Claim, which was scanned from a paper copy and saved in pdf format. This document is worth reading. In summary the offending opinion pieces were:

- The National Post published a pair of articles titled Weaver's Web and Weaver's Web II by Peter Foster and Terence Corcoran on December 9 and 10 (2nd and 3rd links below. If any these links don't work, please let me know and I'll send you pdf versions of the web pages.). These articles suggested, among other things, that Dr. Weaver had blamed break-ins and hack attacks at UVic on the fossil fuel industry, that he had been leading the warmist counterattack after climategate, that he had been corrupted by government money, that he had cherry-picked 1998 as a significant year for global warming, and that Steve McIntyre had debunked Michael Mann's hockey stick.
- 4th link below: On January 26 Terence Corcoran wrote a piece (Heat wave closes on the IPCC) stating that Dr. Weaver was getting out of the IPCC and was one of the authors an IPCC-related piece of agit-prop called the Copenhagen Diagnosis.

- 5th link below: On February 2, Kevin Libin wrote an article (So much for pure science) stating that Dr. Weaver had implied that the email hackers at the University of East Anglia were agents of Big Oil, that his career success depends on the momentum of a global-warming panic and that alarmists were smearing critical scientists such as Richard Lindzen.

Among other things, the Statement of Claim:

- Denies allegations that Dr. Weaver fingered the fossil fuel industry (para 22a to d).
- States that Dr. Weaver did not cherry-pick 1998 as a significant year, and Michael Mann's hockey stick has not been debunked (para 22 h).
- States that the climate models were not falling apart last December (para 22i).
- Denies that Dr. Weaver fabricated the story about the break-ins and hack attacks (para 23).
- Denies that Dr. Weaver implied a connection between his stolen computer and the climategate email scandal (para 30d).
- Denies that Steve McIntyre was “the man who broke Mr. Weaver's hockey stick” (para 30e).
- Denies that Dr. Weaver is exiting the IPCC and calling for its reform and made TV appearances linking current weather to global warming (para 39).
- Denies that the Copenhagen Diagnosis is IPCC-related agit-prop (para 39g).
- Includes some of the comments posted by readers, which Dr. Weaver considers defamatory (paras 24, 32 and 41).
- Denies smearing Richard Lindzen (para 49d).
- Lists about 52 websites world-wide where the National Post articles were republished (para 56).
- Claims that the defendants have engaged in a campaign of malicious attacks on Dr. Weaver, in order to harm him and expose him to ridicule, hatred and contempt (paras 61 and 63).
- Seeks general, aggravated, exemplary and special damages (para 72a-d).
- Seeks removal of the offending publications from all accessible electronic databases, including those of third parties (para 72f and j).

As DeSmogBlog notes, the last item is unprecedented in that Dr. Weaver seeks a court order requiring the National Post to track down and remove defamatory National Post articles from many other Internet sites where they have been re-posted.

<http://www.desmogblog.com/climate-scientist-sues-national-post>

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2009/12/08/peter-foster-weaver-s-web.aspx>

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2009/12/09/terence-corcoran-weaver-s-web-ii.aspx>

<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/01/26/terence-corcoran-heat-wave-closes-in-on-the-ipcc.aspx>

<http://www.nationalpost.com/related/topics/story.html?id=2513619>

2010-04-22

Earth Day's Kick in the Ash

In the National Post, columnist Peter Foster traces the history of Earth Day from its beginning in 1970, when doomster Paul Erhlich forecast that in ten years all important animal life in the sea would be extinct. During the 1970s and 1980s as a result of eco-activism, costly environmental legislation was imposed on industry. Then in the 1990s global warming emerged at the Mother of all environmental issues. In Mr. Foster's view, radical environmentalism is a religious faith rooted in the anti-capitalism that has been

accumulating since the Industrial Revolution. He concludes by noting the the public no longer buys the catastrophe story, but wants a clean environment with balanced priorities and reasonable costs.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/04/20/peter-foster-earth-day-s-kick-in-the-ash.aspx>

The Myth and the Cost of the “Green” Electric Car

Globe and Mail columnist Neil Reynolds refers to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's announcement last year that his government would pay people up to \$10,000 to buy electric cars, on the basis that it would be environmentally smart and industrially expedient. In fact, these cars would be only as green as the power that drives them, and the jobs will mostly go to China, which plans to produce 500,000 electric cars next year. Now the US and Canadian governments have recognized that electric cars will be as dirty as the power used to charge their batteries. Mr. Reynolds includes quotes from the Dog & Lemon Guide, which published a report titled *The Emperor's New Car*.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/the-myth-and-cost-of-a-green-electric-car/article1541449/>
<http://dogandlemon.com/site/2010/03/28/electric-cars-a-major-environmental-threat/>

“Paltry” Copenhagen Carbon Pledges Point to 3°C World

The BBC reports on a study in the journal Nature in which analysts at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impacts Research say that a temperature rise of at least 3°C by 2100 is likely. This is the result of pledges by more than 120 countries that associated themselves with the Copenhagen Accord. The Potsdam team concluded that many of the pledges are nowhere near as ambitious as their proponents would claim.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8635765.stm>

Rajendra Pachauri: Despite Attacks from Critics, Climate Science Will Prevail

Writing in the Yale publication Environment 360, IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri acknowledges that his organization has gone through a rough time recently, but insists that global warming is real and intensifying. Despite the controversy and misinformation that may have weakened the support for climate science, Dr. Pachauri believes that this weakening will be short lived. He refers to the 2007 Assessment Report's determination that the cost of “stringent mitigation” would be quite modest at 3% of global GDP in 2030 in order to stabilize the global temperature rise to 2.0 to 2.4°C.

<http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2264>

Michael Mann Threatens Lawsuit Over Spoof Video

Dr. Mann, one of the central figures in the Climategate scandal, threatened legal action against Minnesotans for Global Warming (M4GW) over the group's satirical YouTube video *Hide the Decline*. M4GW removed the video from YouTube, but the No Cap-and-Trade Coalition has posted both the original video and its own version on its website (second link below), and invited Dr. Mann to sue. The videos use humor to illustrate the absurdity of AGW fears.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/04/20/prominent-climategate-figure-threatens-lawsuit-over-spoof-video-no-cap-and-trade-coalition-says-%e2%80%9cbring-it-on%e2%80%9d/>
<http://www.nocapandtrade.com/michael-mann-controversy/>

2010-04-18

Climategate Whitewash

The April 16 edition of the Financial Post included two opinion pieces, by Peter Foster and Lawrence Solomon, panning the Oxburgh report into the Climatic Research Institute. They point out that outcome of the the inquiry was fixed from the start with the choice of its head, Lord Oxburgh, who also chairs a wind farm multi-national and a carbon capture and storage lobby group.

In his Climate Audit blog, Stephen McIntyre comments on the fact that the Oxburgh committee examined only 11 CRU publications.. These were selected on the advice of the Royal Society, an organization that strongly believes in AGW.

<http://www.financialpost.com/opinion/story.html?id=2913220>
<http://www.financialpost.com/opinion/story.html?id=2913224>
<http://climateaudit.org/2010/04/15/a-fair-sample/>

Climategate: A Scandal That Won't Go Away

In The Telegraph, Christopher Booker notes that the UK Government says that its Climate Change Act will cost £18 billion/year until 2050, but the science supporting this cost is doubtful. He reviews the recent scandals associated with the IPCC and the CRU, as well as the failure by the House of Commons and the Lord Oxburgh committees to address the abuse of the principles of science. Mr. Booker concludes that, as with Watergate, it is not the original act itself that leads to nemesis, but later attempts to “trammel up the consequences.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/7601929/Climategate-a-scandal-that-wont-go-away.html>

The True Nature of Sceptics

In an article published in The Australian, sociology professor Frank Furedi examines attacks climate sceptics by, not only true believers, but also scientists, policy makers, journalists and campaigners. Climate sceptics, who question the consensus, have been threatened with mob violence (by Greenpeace), they have been compared with 19th century anti-slavery reactionaries and faced calls for Nuremberg-style trials. Prof. Furedi concludes with his liberal view on the proper nature of scepticism, including the observation that there can be no freedom of thought without the right to be sceptical.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/the-true-nature-of-sceptics/story-e6frg6zo-1225854421380>

Illusion of a Sensitive Climate System

In his blog, Roy Spencer of the University of Alabama at Huntsville, provides a simple, “stove-top” demonstration of why the earth's climate exhibits low sensitivity to energy imbalances, such as that caused by increases in CO₂. The models used by mainstream climate researchers assume a high sensitivity, which Dr. Spencer calls an illusion. The reason for the illusion is the false assumption that different temperature states on earth correspond to a change from energy disequilibrium at one temperature to equilibrium at the subsequent temperature. Dr. Spencer argues that climate system is never

in a state of equilibrium. He and colleagues will address this issue in a paper which has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Geophysical Research.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2010/04/the-illusion-of-a-sensitive-climate-system-a-stovetop-demonstration/>

Senators Will Unveil Climate Bill April 26

The Washington Post reports that, according to its sources, Senators Kerry, Graham and Lieberman will reveal their compromise climate bill on April 26. The Obama Administration is working with the senators. Meanwhile a group of ten Democratic senators led by Sherrod Brown from Ohio have outlined in a letter what they want in the bill to aid the manufacturing sector. The Post includes the full text of the “rust belt” senators' letter, which includes aid of various kinds to manufacturers, leveling the playing field to prevent carbon leakage (with border measures if necessary), clarifying federal and state greenhouse gas standards and promoting meaningful international action.

<http://views.washingtonpost.com/climate-change/post-carbon/>

2010-04-14

Oxburgh Report Released

After three weeks of work, the international panel headed by Lord Oxburgh to examine the research at the Climatic Research Unit submitted its five-page report to the University of East Anglia on April 12. Among its conclusions, the panel found no evidence of deliberate scientific malpractice at the CRU, but was surprised by lack of involvement by professional statisticians in an area (temperature data) that depends so heavily on statistical methods. In the second link Stephen McIntyre critiques the Oxburgh report calling it “flimsy and embarrassing,” and in the third the Vice-Chancellor of the UEA calls the report “a great relief.” The fourth link describes the views of Prof. David Hand, a member of the panel and head of the Royal Statistical Society, on the hockey stick graph.

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/mac/comm/media/press/CRUstatements/Report+of+the+Science+Assessment+Panel>

<http://www.thegwpf.org/opinion-pros-a-cons/815-stephen-mcintyre-oxburghs-trick-to-hide-the-trick.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7589715/Climategate-scientists-criticised-for-not-using-best-statistical-tools.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7589897/Hockey-stick-graph-was-exaggerated.html>

IPCC Criticism

The first website below contains lists, with links, of “errors, distortions and exaggerations” in each of the three IPCC Working Group reports that comprised AR4. Most of the links are for WGI (The Physical Science Basis) since this is the most important report and serves as justification for the other two (Impacts and Mitigation). This site is probably the most comprehensive of its kind.

The second website is an “IPCC report card,” compiled by 40 citizen-auditors, that ranks the 44 chapters of AR4 from all three Working Groups according to the percentages of references that were **not** peer-reviewed. There were 5587 of these, including press releases, newspaper and magazine articles, discussion papers, academic theses, working papers and advocacy literature published by environmental groups.

<http://sites.google.com/site/globalwarmingquestions/ipcc>
<http://www.noconsensus.org/ipcc-audit/IPCC-report-card.php>

Hardline US Climate Talk Strategy

A document accidentally left on a European hotel computer and passed to the Guardian reveals the US Government's strategy at the UN climate talks. It outlines the key messages that the Obama Administration wants to convey to its critics and to the world media in the run-up to the UN conference at Cancun. The document listed five strategic objectives regarding the perceptions of US engagement, managing expectations for Cancun, the importance of “operationalising” all elements of the Copenhagen Accord, getting outside support for the administration's commitments to meeting climate and energy challenges, and getting the developing world to accept that advanced developing countries must take responsibilities under a legally-binding treaty.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/apr/12/us-document-strategy-climate-talks>

The Fight against Eco-imperialism

In the Guardian, columnist Andrew Chambers uses the recent dispute over a World Bank loan of £2.4 billion to build a coal-fired power plant in South Africa to expose the conflict between two international goals of alleviating poverty and preventing global warming. Despite lobbying by environmentalists and abstentions by the US, the UK and the Netherlands, the loan approval went through. According to Mr. Chambers, the green movement has acquired ever-greater prominence in international development and favors policies that seek to reinforce the rural status quo in Africa as a means of limiting carbon emissions that benefit the developed world. While Africa continues to suffer, India and China have lifted 125 million of their people out of slum poverty since 1990.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2010/apr/11/eco-imperialism-climate-change-carbon>

2010-04-11

Ontario Takes Green Lead with Record \$8 Billion Energy Investment

The Globe and Mail has published two stories regarding Ontario's race with British Columbia for leadership in green-energy investments. They describe \$8 billion in projects to dozens of companies with the first contracts under the feed-in-tariff program. Under FIT the companies will receive fixed prices for 20 years: 13.5 ¢/kWh for on-shore wind farms and 80.2 ¢/kWh for solar power, compared to the current market price of 3.44 ¢/kWh. More than half a million homes in Ontario are to be powered by 2500 MW of renewable energy. This \$8 billion investment is in addition to the \$7 billion agreement between the Ontario Government and the Samsung Group that was signed in January.

In the third article columnist Margaret Wentz, using cautionary tales of European experience with similar green-energy initiatives, provides a more realistic picture than the Ontario Government of who will be the real winners and losers.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-takes-green-lead-with-record-8-billion-energy-investment/article1527080/>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/half-a-million-ontario-homes-to-get-solar-wind-power/article1527805/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/welcome-to-the-wacky-world-of-green-power/article1529760/>

UCSB Geologist Discovers Pattern Linking Changes in Earth's Orbit to Climate Record

A geologist at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Lorraine Lisiecki, has published a paper in the journal *Nature Geoscience* that links the regular changes in the earth's orbital cycle to changes in the climate. The evidence for this is the result of examining ocean sediment cores from 57 locations around the world, going back 1.2 million years. Glaciation occurs every 100,000 years, which coincides with the eccentricity orbital cycle. A related cycle is the 41,000-year tilt of the earth's axis. Dr. Lisiecki also found that the largest glacial cycles occurred during the weakest changes in eccentricity, and vice versa.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-04/uoc--ugd040610.php
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/04/06/sediments-show-pattern-in-earths-long-term-climate-record/>

Richard Lindzen: The Earth is Never in Equilibrium

Dr. Lindzen is a professor of atmospheric science at MIT and was a lead author for Chapter 7 (Physical Climate Processes and Feedbacks) of the IPCC's 2001 assessment report. In this article he addresses the question: Is climate change real? Dr. Lindzen writes that the earth has had ice ages and warmer periods than the present, though the reasons for the advance and retreat of the glaciers are not fully understood. Small changes in the global mean temperature need no external cause because the earth is never in equilibrium, as evidenced by heat movements (oscillations) in the oceans. A doubling of CO₂ in the atmosphere would produce about 2°F of warming, absent any feedbacks. However, current climate models predict 3.6°F to 9°F due to assumed positive feedback through water vapor and clouds. Dr. Lindzen notes that the models fail to account for the lack of statistically significant warming over the past 14 years, and the evidence suggests that anthropogenic warming has been exaggerated. He argues in favor of prudence, rather than wasting resources fighting ever-present climate change.

<http://gazettextra.com/news/2010/apr/08/con-earth-never-equilibrium/>

British Campaigner Urges UN to Accept “Ecocide” as International Crime

British lawyer Polly Higgins has launched a campaign to have the UN accept “ecocide” as a “fifth crime against peace,” which could be tried at the International Criminal Court. Ecocide is defined as “the extensive destruction, damage to or loss of ecosystem(s) of a given territory, whether by human agency or by other causes, to such an extent that peaceful enjoyment by the inhabitants of that territory has been severely diminished.” As the ecocide website makes clear, ecocide would be, among other things, a crime of consequence, e.g., where a company procures its energy by extracting fossil fuel, instead of from renewable energy. Ms. Higgins hopes that at the UN her proposal will get the necessary 2/3 majority from the 197 member countries, overriding objections from some nations and vested business interests.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/apr/09/ecocide-crime-genocide-un-environmental-damage>
<http://www.thisiseccide.com/>

UN Climate Change Meeting in Bonn

Reporting from the climate change meeting of 170 countries in Bonn, The Telegraph quotes Yvo de Boer, head of the UNFCCC, as saying that small progress was made on technical issues. Three more meetings are planned before the next big conference in Cancun at the end of the year. Mr. de Boer said that, after Copenhagen, “we cannot afford another failure in Cancun.” At Bonn the conflict continued between

developing countries resisting “bullying” by rich ones, and the latter refusing to move unless countries like China cut emissions. A related story in the Guardian claims that developing countries were threatened with aid cuts unless they signed the Copenhagen Accord.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7578966/UN-process-in-danger-unless-world-agrees-on-climate-change.html>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/apr/11/climate-aid-threats-copenhagen-accord>

2010-04-07

Losing Jobs with Green Technology

Dennis Avery notes that President Obama has allocated \$4 billion in stimulus funds to help advance the smart grid. Much of this will be spent on manufacturing and installing 20 million new smart meters, which will create 2,000 green jobs for five years. Since the smart meters report to the power companies, 28,000 meter readers will lose their permanent jobs. The \$4 billion won't replace existing investments in coal- and gas-fired power plants, as the world leader in wind power, Denmark, discovered.

Europe has been supporting green jobs since 1997, an experience which is now spreading to the US. A study (2nd & 3rd links below) by Gabriel Calzada found that every renewable-energy job in Spain destroyed 2.2 other energy-related jobs.

<http://www.cfact.org/a/1705/Losing-jobs-with-green-technology>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a2PHwqAs7BS0>

<http://www.juandemariana.org/pdf/090327-employment-public-aid-renewable.pdf>

Is Gordon Brown Proposing to Print Climate Money?

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Ethiopian PM Meles Zenawi co-chaired a meeting of the Advocacy Group on Climate Change Financing in London. Also at the meeting were financier George Soros, President Obama's economic adviser Larry Summers and other economists and finance ministers. Afterward Mr. Meles told Ethiopian media that the meeting assessed ways of getting financing through marine and air transport, new taxes and the right of the International Monetary Fund to print money. The Advocacy Group is submit a report to the UN Secretary-General before the next conference of parties to the UNFCCC in Mexico in December.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/news/766-is-gordon-brown-proposing-to-print-climate-money.html>

Atmospheric Aerosols: Another Major IPCC Omission

Aerosols are minute particles suspended in the atmosphere, and they modify transparency to incoming and outgoing radiation. In this Canada Free Press article Tim Ball reports that NASA scientist Mian Chan says that aerosols haven't been adequately accounted for in computer climate predictions. To explain the cooling from 1940 to 1970, despite rising CO₂ emissions, NASA's James Hansen said that it was due to human addition of sulfate aerosols. However, it is impossible to attribute the cause to humans, when the amount from natural sources (volcanic dust, soil particles and salt particles) is not known.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/21674>

NASA's James Hansen: Climate Change the “Predominant Moral Issue of This Century”

Dr. Hansen has been head of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies since 1981. In this Huffington Post article, he considers the climate change issue comparable to facing Nazism in the 20th century and slavery in the 19th. Rather than “ineffectual legislation larded with giveaways to special interests” like the Waxman-Markey bill, Dr. Hansen favours a rising carbon price with 100% redistribution of collected fees to the public. Starting with \$15/ton in the first year and increasing by \$10/ton each year thereafter, carbon emissions would decline 30% by 2020.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-james-hansen/obamas-second-chance-on-c_b_525567.html

A Climate of Denial

Before the Climategate emails became public, the December 2009 edition of the Victoria magazine Focus had an article (on pages 26 to 31) by Briony Penn describing the decline in public support, in both Canada and the US, for action on climate change. The article mentions the Friends of Science radio ads that ran last year stating that scientists, celebrities and politicians refuse to debate the science. Dr. Penn asserts that any such debate would not be about the science, but would serve to create “uncertainty about climate change in the collective mind of the public” - in other words, the science is settled. Nevertheless, by describing the debate in the media she acknowledges that there is doubt about the science.

http://www.focusonline.ca/downloads/Focus_2009-12_December.pdf

Global Warming's Unscientific Message

An editorial in the Washington Times describes Ross McKittrick's efforts to publish a scientific paper that documents a fundamental error in the IPCC's 2007 report. This error involved adjusting global surface temperature readings to get a higher temperature change. However, Dr. McKittrick's efforts to have the paper published by the journals Science, Nature and the the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society were rejected. However, the paper will appear in a forthcoming edition of Statistics, Politics and Policy.

Dr. McKittrick's story about his publication difficulties is enclosed.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/apr/07/global-warmings-unscientific-method/>

2010-04-04

Germany: A Superstorm for Global Warming Research

In Spiegel Online International, Marco Evers, Olaf Stampf and Gerald Traufetter have produced a well-researched eight-part essay: (1) A Superstorm for Global Warming Research, (2) Politically Charged Science, (3) A Climate Rebel Takes on the Establishment, (4) The Smoking Gun of Climatology, (5) The Reality of Rising Sea Levels, (6) The Myth of the Monster Storm, (7) Climate Change's Winners and Losers, and (8) The Invention of the Two-Degree Target. Each part of the essay is approximately one page in length.

The Telegraph's James Delingpole writes that when the Germans give up on AGW you really know it's over.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,686697,00.html>

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100032460/when-the-germans-give-up-on-agw-you-really-do-know-its-all-over/>

France to Hold Official Debate on Climate Change

Lawrence Solomon (author of *The Deniers*) writes that France's Science Minister, Valérie Pécresse has asked the National Academy of Sciences to hold an official debate on climate change. This follows two months of heated debate on radio and television, with Claude Allègre (see second link below) prominent among the skeptics. The Academy does not take sides on this issue, and its website reports views of scientists on both sides. The debate will take place in October, with the participants yet to be determined.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/04/03/lawrence-solomon-france-to-hold-official-debate-on-climate-change.aspx>
<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/04/french-researchers-ask-science-m.html>

UK Carbon Inspectors Will Force Companies to Reduce Emissions

The Times and The Telegraph report that inspectors from the UK's Environment Agency will have powers to visit an estimated 5000 British companies, view documents and impose stiff fines on any that understate their emissions or fail to comply with the rules. As of April 1 these companies have six months to declare their annual emissions to the agency. Starting in 2011 they will have to buy permits to cover them, and from 2013 these emissions will be capped. The government's goal is to cut emissions by 20% by 2020.

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/article7083623.ece
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/7550164/Climate-Change-Act-has-the-biggest-ever-bill.html>

Climate-Change Research in Canada Waning

In a CTV News report, climate scientists are frustrated that the 2010 federal budget had no new funding for the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, the main source of federal funding. In the five minute video accompanying the text report, atmospheric physicist Ted Shepherd of the University of Toronto states that, even though CFCAS' funding runs until March 2011, it takes months to get research proposals approved and many researchers may have to leave the country even if funding is restored later.

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20100401/climate_funding_100403/20100403?hub=TopStoriesV2

Food Production in a Warming World

Dennis Avery, an environmental economist and co-author of *Unstoppable Global Warming Every 1500 Years*, counters the alarmists' message that global warming will cause crop yields to fall. For example, during the Medieval Warming, most of the world's grain belts enjoyed longer growing seasons, and surplus food production enabled building of Europe's castles and cathedrals and the 10,000 temples at Angkor Watt in Cambodia. Increased CO₂ in the atmosphere stimulates plant growth and increases plants' water use efficiency. We can expect to eat well during the current Modern Warming - unless governments tax away our energy sources needed for sustainable food production.

<http://www.cfact.org/a/1709/Food-production-in-a-warming-world>

2010-03-31

Results of the Climategate Parliamentary Inquiry in the UK

Today the Science and Technology Committee released its 63-page report on its inquiry into the disclosure of climate data from the Climatic Research Unit. Pdf page 7 contains a one-page summary of the report. The Committee sympathized with CRU Director Phil Jones "... who must have found it frustrating to handle requests for data that he knew—or perceived—were motivated by a desire simply to undermine his work." Since "it is not standard practice in climate science to publish the raw data and the computer code in academic papers," Prof. Jones' actions were found to be in line with this common practice. Nevertheless, the Committee stated that climate scientists should make available all their data. Also, there was *prima facie* evidence that the CRU resisted disclosure of data under the Freedom of Information Act.

<http://wattsupwiththat.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/hc-387-i-uea-final-embargoed-v2.pdf>
<http://climateaudit.org/2010/03/31/tricking-the-committee/>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7538446/University-of-East-Anglia-refused-to-share-information-on-global-warming.html>

IPCC/CRU Self-Deception Through Groupthink

Tim Ball writes how the IPCC and the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia engaged in classic example of groupthink (i.e., unanimity at the expense of quality decisions) to prove their claim that humans were causing global warming. He lists ten symptoms of groupthink and explains, with examples from emails of how the IPCC/CRU behavior fits each.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/21463>

James Lovelock on the Value of Sceptics and Why Copenhagen was Doomed

Green guru James Lovelock was born in 1919, is the author of approximately 200 scientific papers dealing with medicine, biology, instrument science and geophysiology, is a Fellow of the Royal Society and the originator of the Gaia Theory. In this article from the Guardian's Environmental Blog, Leo Hickman provides quotes from his recent interview of Dr. Lovelock. He discusses, among other things, the climategate emails, over-reliance on computer modeling, climate sceptics (some of whom he admires), the Copenhagen summit, the IPCC, vested interests and tackling climate change (favoring nuclear power over wind turbines, but requiring a "more authoritative world".)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2010/mar/29/james-lovelock>

Bringing Light, Health and Prosperity to Africa

An article in the magazine Townhall.com recalls President Obama's visit to Ghana last year, where he saw Africa as a "... partner with America on behalf of the future we want for all of our children." He proposed that Africa increase access to power by using its "bountiful" wind, solar, geothermal and biofuels energy. Three months later the President signed an executive order requiring that all federal agencies reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with their projects by 30% over ten years. As a result Ghana's efforts to build a 130 MW gas-fired power plant can't get financing. Blessed with abundant supplies of coal, South Africa's attempts to get a World Bank Loan for a 4,800 MW power plant at Medupi, is being opposed by radical groups that claim to champion justice and better health for Africa.

Meanwhile rapidly-developing nations like China and India are building power plants at the rate of one per week.

For a South African perspective on the Medupi power plant, and a commentary on IPCC-WWF politics, please see the enclosed memo by Will Alexander.

http://townhall.com/columnists/RoyInnis/2010/03/25/bringing_light_health_and_prosperity_to_africa?page=full&comments=true

Skating on the Other Side of the Ice

Willis Eschenbach presents a scary graph showing loss of Arctic sea ice to 2007 (based on satellite measurements) exceeding even the IPCC models. However, as Dr. Eschenbach points out, the earth has two poles, and for reasons not well understood, when one pole warms the other cools. Looking at the global sea ice area from 1982 through 2009, there has been barely any change at all.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/03/28/skating-on-the-other-side-of-the-ice/#more-17856>

Senator Graham and the Emissions Bill

US Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), a believer in global warming and regulating carbon, and does not want the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. He and Democratic Senators Kerry and Lieberman are working on a bill, to be introduced in late April, which will provide more flexibility while helping the nation's economy. This bill would require oil companies that produce carbon to pay a fee, with the proceeds going to retire the national debt or for low income people to deal with their energy needs. There would be a limited cap on utilities' emissions of CO₂.

<http://www.thestate.com/2010/03/30/1222045/graham-criticizes-warming-rules.html>

Among Weathercasters, Doubt on Warming

According to the NY Times, the debate over global warming has created tensions between climate scientists and meteorologists. The former “almost universally endorse the view that the earth is warming and that humans have contributed to climate change.” The latter tend to be more skeptical and are more trusted by the public.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/30/science/earth/30warming.html>

2010-03-27

Trillion-Dollar Green Trough

In the National Post, columnist Peter Foster regrets missing the Globe Foundation's Vancouver conference on business and the environment (second link below). According to Mr. Foster, it is “the greatest show on Earth (or at least in North America) for green policy wonks, eco consultants, aggressively growth-oriented NGOs and corporate rent seekers (all delegates carbon-neutralized).” He notes that absent from the agenda are whether climate science was sound and whether the Kyoto commitments made any sense. After a 10-year boom the alternative energy industry is foundering because governments are all subsidizing the same dead-end techniques.

Mr. Foster devotes most of his column to panning a new report by the IMF (third link below) that describes a \$100 billion/year “Green Fund” for developing countries that was promised in the Copenhagen Accord. The IMF study proposes that the fund issue \$1 trillion in bonds over 30 years, underpinned by \$120 billion of equity endowment. In addition the fund's annual disbursements would be supported by \$60 billion in carbon taxes and expanded carbon-trading schemes in developed countries (see diagram on page 10 of the IMF report.)

<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/03/25/peter-foster-trillion-dollar-green-troughs.aspx>

<http://www.globe2010.com/>

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/spn/2010/spn1006.pdf>

London Science Museum to Rename Climate Exhibition

Due to the wave of public skepticism in recent months, the 100-year-old London Science Museum will revise its new climate science gallery. Rather than scaring visitors with apocalyptic predictions of rising sea levels, the museum's exhibit will be honest about conflicting views on the scale of possible changes to the climate.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article7073272.ece>

Cap-and-Trade Loses its Standing as Energy Policy of Choice

In The New York Times, John Broder reports how cap-and-trade, the policy of choice for tackling climate change a year ago, has fallen out of favour in Washington. President Obama's current budget omits all mention of the subject, and two of the Senators (Kerry and Graham) preparing the new climate change bill have disavowed it. Mr. Broder believes that cap-and-trade's demise was caused by the weak economy, the Wall Street meltdown, determined industry opposition and its own complexity.

Two other Senators (Cantwell, D-Washington and Collins, R-Maine) are proposing “cap and dividend” legislation, under which licenses to pollute would be auctioned to producers and wholesalers of fossil fuels, with three-quarters of the revenue being returned to consumers in monthly cheques.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/science/earth/26climate.html?src=me>

NASA Study Finds Atlantic “Conveyor Belt” Not Slowing

Using a new monitoring technique involving satellite and the Argo array of buoys, NASA measurements of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (which includes the Gulf Stream) show no significant slowing over the past 15 years. The latest climate models relied on in IPCC assessment reports predict that this circulation will slow down as greenhouse gases warm the planet and melting ice adds freshwater to the ocean.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/721-nasa-study-finds-atlantic-conveyor-belt-not-slowing.html>

Rajendra Pachauri: IPCC Will Adopt Neutral Advisory Role

The Chairman of the IPCC, in an interview with The Times, said that the IPCC will stop making statements demanding new taxes and other radical policies for cutting emissions. He also apologized for the organization's handling of complaints about errors in its report. In future the IPCC will focus on presenting the science of climate change, rather than advocating policies. Also, Dr. Pachauri wants

more power over the IPCC secretariat and an extra \$1 million/year to fund its work, on top of the \$5 million it gets now.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article7078140.ece#cid=OTC-RSS&attr=797093>

Germans Lose Fear of Climate Change

Leading German magazine Spiegel conducted a survey about climate change. It found that in the fall of 2006 62% were afraid of it; now the figure is 42%. Also the German Leibniz association calls for the IPCC's Rajendra Pachauri to step down. The first link below is to the original article in German, the second is a Google translation.

<http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/natur/0,1518,685946,00.html>
<http://translate.google.com/translate?js=y&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=1&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.spiegel.de%2Fwissenschaft%2Fnatur%2F0%2C1518%2C685946%2C00.html&sl=de&tl=en>

2010-03-24

WWF Hopes to Find \$60 Billion Growing on Trees

Christopher Booker, writing in The Telegraph, describes a carbon credits scheme which would make the WWF and its partners richer, but with no lowering of overall CO₂ emissions. The world's richest environmental campaigning group, the WWF, is leading a group to preserve and manage an area of the Amazonian rainforest twice the size of Switzerland. This would allow the WWF and its partners to sell carbon credits worth \$60 billion, based on 5.1 billion tons of CO₂ "saved" at \$12.50/ton. In order to achieve this, the WWF and its allies in the World Bank launched the Global Forest Alliance in 2007 to work on "avoided deforestation." That year the UNFCCC conference in Bali agreed to a scheme called REDD (reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries). Unfortunately for the WWF, its Amazonian project needed approval, under REDD at the UNFCCC's 2009 Copenhagen conference, as well as passage of a cap-and-trade bill by the US Congress, but these didn't happen. The price of carbon on the Chicago Climate Exchange has plummeted to its lowest-ever level, 10 cents a ton.

The WWF was a source for the claim in the IPCC's 2007 assessment report that 40% of the Amazonian rainforest is threatened by global warming.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/7488629/WWF-hopes-to-find-60-billion-growing-on-trees.html>

Chair Announced for CRU Scientific Assessment Panel

The CRU Scientific Assessment Panel has been set up to examine important elements of the published science of the Climatic Research Institute at the University of East Anglia, and its Chair is Lord Ron Oxburgh. The other six members of the panel come from Switzerland (1), the USA (2) and the UK (3). The Scientific Assessment Panel is separate from the one chaired by Sir Muir Russell, which is looking into methods and practices by scientists at the CRU.

Lord Oxburgh is a Fellow of the Royal Society, which recommended him for this panel. The Royal Society is a steadfast believer in AGW.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8579929.stm>

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/mac/comm/media/press/CRUstatements/SAPannounce>
<http://climateaudit.org/2010/03/23/another-tainted-inquiry/>
<http://royalsociety.org/Climate-Change/>

El Niño and IPCC Science

In Canada Free Press, Tim Ball writes that we are in the middle of an El Niño Southern Oscillation event, in which westerly winds produce cold water temperatures in the western Pacific and warm ones in the eastern Pacific. Some of the current ENSO's effects are warm temperatures and lack of snow for the Vancouver Olympics and heavy snowfall in the eastern US, which some have blamed on global warming. Dr. Ball explains how ENSO causes these effects and how the IPCC ignores ENSO events in its reports, instead claiming with 90% certainty that global warming is due to human CO₂.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/21244>

Nicolas Sarkozy under Fire after Carbon Tax Plan Shelved

Following his party's defeat in regional elections, French President Nicolas Sarkozy shelved his proposed carbon tax and was accused by his junior ecology minister of pandering to “eco-skepticism”. In future, any carbon tax in France would be implemented as part of a pan-European effort.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/mar/23/nicolas-sarkozy-carbon-tax-france>

2010-03-21

An Example of Why a Global Average Temperature Anomaly is Not an Effective Metric of Climate

Roy Spencer and John Christy of the University of Alabama at Huntsville have stated in their Global Temperature Report that February 2010 was the second warmest February in 32 years. Roger Pielke Sr., using a world map of the anomalies, explains how the global average was distorted by an unusually warm area centered over Greenland. Dr. Pielke notes that weather systems causing climate events, such as drought, floods, etc., are the result of regional temperature anomalies, not the global average.

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2010/03/19/an-example-of-why-a-global-average-temperature-anomaly-is-not-an-effective-metric-of-climate/>

The Economist Joins the Debate

The March 18 edition of the Economist includes three articles dealing with climate science. The first is an editorial, which argues that because the science is uncertain, action on climate change is justified. (This is an example of the “precautionary principle,” which Willis Eschenbach destroys; see fourth link below.)

In the second article the Economist considers the forthcoming climate legislation that US Senators Kerry, Lieberman and Graham are preparing. It accepts that this legislation will be less satisfactory than the Waxman-Markey bill passed by the House and hopes that the Republicans' need to attract support from young voters will encourage the GOP to cooperate. If the US Congress fails to pass a bill, the Economist forecasts that world climate action will turn from market-based approaches to command-and-control ones.

The third and longest article reviews the science of climate change. It summarizes the absorption and reflection of radiation by the earth and the role of greenhouse gases. Notably the Economist states that, based on laboratory measurements, temperature increases linearly with CO₂ concentration, and this effect

is amplified by water vapour, whereas the true effect of atmospheric greenhouse gases such as CO₂ is logarithmic. The Economist goes on to describe the debate over clouds, climate models and temperature logs. In the end the Economist relies on the IPCC's judgment of only a one-in-ten probability that a doubling of CO₂ would result in 1.5°C of temperature increase as reason for action. The Economist doesn't mention that the IPCC uses a political (voting), not a scientific, process to determine likelihoods for occurrences and predictions.

http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=15720419&fsrc=nlw
http://www.economist.com/world/united-states/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15721597
http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15719298
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/12/31/climate-caution-and-precaution/>

Rewriting the Decline

In Watts Up With That, Jo Nova compares a 1976 temperature graph of the northern hemisphere, showing a 0.5°C decline from 1945 to 1975, with one prepared by the Climatic Research Institute in 2006. The latter adjusted the temperatures after 1940 so that the decline by 1975 was only 0.15°C.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/03/16/rewriting-the-decline/>

European Emission Trading Rocked by Scandal over Recycled Carbon Permits

The Australian reports that, on March 17, two carbon exchanges in Europe, BlueNext in France and the Nordic NordPool, had to suspend trading in certificates of emission reduction when it emerged that some of them had been illegally reused. This caused the spot price of the certificates to fall from €12/tonne to less than €1/tonne. The recycled certificates originated when the Hungarian Government exploited a loophole to raise cash.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/news/european-emission-trading-rocked-by-scandal-over-recycled-carbon-permits/story-e6frg90o-1225842148852>

Meeting the UK's Climate Change Targets

The Telegraph quotes a report by the Royal Academy of Engineering on how the UK will meet its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. This will require every car on the road to be electric, solar panels on every home, 10,000 wind turbines onshore and 40 new nuclear power stations.

The Daily Mail reports that the Conservative opposition is promising to open a new nuclear plant every 18 months. According to The Times, a Conservative Government would impose a carbon tax on electricity generated from coal and gas-powered stations.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7405392/Electric-cars-and-40-new-nuclear-power-stations-to-meet-climate-change-targets.html>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1259045/Well-open-nuclear-power-station-18-months-say-Tories.html>
http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/utilities/article7068423.ece

2010-03-17

To all FOS Members,

Please watch the video below. More than any thing else we could mention, it illustrates the real and present threat that hangs over all of us if the global warming alarmists win out. This manufactured crisis is about money and power and the so-called science behind it has been manufactured out of lies, evasions and half truths all carefully tailored to meet the requirements of the power brokers who control the alarmist agenda. It cannot stand the rigorous examination that true science requires.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has announced that the first round of formal climate change negotiations this year will take place April 9-11 in Bonn. These negotiations are being held by two of the UNFCCC's ad-hoc working groups, one on further commitments for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the other on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA).

In a 2:40 minute video, Lord Christopher Monckton warns the American people that the UN, having failed at Copenhagen last December, is trying again to institute an unelected world government with supreme powers of taxation and economic/environmental intervention. The Bonn meetings are just the beginning of a series which will continue at Cancun in November-December. If the UN and its allies haven't succeeded by then, they will resume next year in South Africa, and in 2012 at Rio.

<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

<http://www.cfact.org/a/1703/Monckton-on-Bonn-climate-conference-theyre-at-it-again>

2010-03-15

The Money Trail

The Science and Public Policy Institute has published a five-page essay by Joanne Nova that compares the funding for climate skeptics with that for the climate industry. Over ten years Exxon paid \$23 million to skeptics, which has since stopped, but has spent \$700 million on carbon-friendly initiatives. The US government has spent \$79 billion on climate research and technology since 1989. According to the World Bank, carbon trading reached a turnover of \$126 billion in 2008. A commissioner from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission forecasts a \$2 trillion carbon market in five years.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/blogwatch/the_money_trail.pdf

Benny Peiser: The West's Policy Approach is Wrong

Interviewed in the Financial Chronicle of India, social anthropologist Benny Peiser lists the errors in the West's climate change policies. These result from the Copenhagen failure and the IPCC's problems, green taxes in Europe, and the effects of rising fuel prices on poor people and developing countries. Even if one accepts the IPCC's science, the worst case scenario resulting from climate change is that in 100 years the world will be only six times as rich as now, instead of seven.

<http://www.mydigitalfc.com/leisure-writing/west%E2%80%99s-policy-approach-wrong-392>

Carbon Tax Casts a Pall over UK Industry

According to The Journal, UK Energy Minister Lord Hunt admitted that the EU's emissions trading scheme could hit the North East's industrial heartland, with companies going bust or moving abroad. Nevertheless the minister considers it “entirely appropriate” that the UK be part of the European emissions trading system.

<http://www.nebusiness.co.uk/business-news/latest-business-news/2010/03/11/carbon-tax-casts-a-pall-over-industry-51140-26009566/>

New Technique Shows Roman Warm Period Warmer than Present Day

The Global Warming Policy Foundation and Watts Up With That describe a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science in which researchers used shells of bivalve mollusks in Iceland to determine proxies of temperatures from 360 BC to 1660 AD. Because the mollusks live only 2-9 years and their shell growths vary with temperature, it is possible to see finer changes than with tree rings. The paper shows that the Roman Warm Period was warmer than the Medieval Warm Period. Warm and cold periods within the MWP correspond with the rise and decline of Norse settlements in Iceland and Greenland.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/653-new-technique-shows-roman-warm-period-warmer-than-present-day.html>
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/03/10/paleo-clamatology/>

Green Energy Bubbles

Writing in the National Post, columnist Terence Corcoran notes that, while investment analysts are advising their clients to get out of solar power firms and are warning about the continuing risks in wind and bioenergy schemes, two provinces in Canada continue pumping money into alternative energy. Ontario's Green Energy Act includes a “feed-in tariff” that forces power distributors to pay 44 ¢/kWh for solar, 13.5 ¢/kWh for wind power and 80 ¢/kWh for power from solar power delivered from roof top systems. In B.C., Premier Gordon Campbell promises a new fast track for alternative energy projects.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/03/10/terence-corcoran-green-energy-bubbles.aspx>

2010-03-11

The Climate Funding Trough: The Canadian Example

In another of his articles published in Canada Free Press, Dr. Tim Ball reports that Prime Minister Harper is stopping funding government agencies used to promote biased and false climate science. In 2000 Environment Canada set up the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences with an initial grant of \$21 million. A former Assistant Deputy Minister of EC, Gordon McBean, became, and remains, Chairman of CFCAS. Dr. Ball describes how EC diverted funding from weather stations into climate research. According to the CFCAS website, its current support for research will cease in 2010. In the third link below, a story in the Globe and Mail confirms the end of the CFCAS funding.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/20819>
<http://www.cfcas.org/funde.htm>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/budget-deep-freeze-will-lead-to-end-of-climate-research-lab/article1495628/>

Released Emails Show Green Lobby Helped With White House PR

The Global Warming Policy Foundation describes how lobbyists from the wind industry and a think tank funded by George Soros helped the Obama Administration, the Department of Energy and the EPA respond to a damning study on the Spanish wind energy program. This contradicts President Obama's assertion that his administration would get politics out of science.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/climategate/644-released-emails-show-green-lobby-helped-with-white-house-pr.html>

New Book: "Climatism!: Science, Common Sense, and the 21st Century's Hottest Topic"

In the blog Climate Realists, Jay Lehr the science director of the Heartland Institute, reviews a book by Steve Goreham. According to Dr. Lehr this book summarizes everything everyone should know about the topic, including the science, modeling flaws, debunking of global warming disasters, exposure of the IPCC farce, underlying motives, information for realists and the big business of climatism.

<http://climaterealists.com/index.php?id=5317>

West Worries About Russia Turning to Coal

According to Western experts in Brussels, European efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions could be undermined by Russian plans to increase energy production from coal, in order to honor its gas export contracts. Coal is produced in 26 regions of Russia and is seen as a factor of stability.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/west-worries-about-russia-turning-coal-news-325434>

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Chairman Criticizes Climate Change Coverage

ABC Chairman Maurice Newman has attacked the media for being too willing to accept the conventional wisdom on climate change. He said that contrary views have not been tolerated and climate change was an example of "group think."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/03/10/2842322.htm>

BC Fuels Fight with Ontario over Bioenergy

After Ontario's new "feed-in tariff" policy for green power left it behind, British Columbia is to introduce a new Clean Energy Act to exploit the province's beetle-killed forests as a bioenergy alternative. Premier Gordon Campbell has appointed a new deputy minister to make clean energy "this century's greenfield of opportunity." While BC has lots of hydro power, it is not sufficient to meet the province's needs.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/bc-fuels-fight-with-ontario-over-bioenergy/article1495726/>

2010-03-08

In Denial: The Meltdown of the Climate Campaign

The Weekly Standard is running a long article by Steven Hayward that begins by stating that the Climategate emails have done for the climate change debate what the Pentagon Papers did for the Vietnam War debate 40 years ago. It then reviews the travails surrounding the IPCC and its Chairman. Serious divisions have opened in the formerly closed ranks of the climate campaign. John Christy, who tried to get the IPCC to correct the anomaly between satellite and ground temperature records, is proposing modifying the IPCC's process to allow alternative viewpoints. Meanwhile the hardcore warmists continue their invective against the skeptics. Mr. Hayward concludes by wondering if the collapse of the climate campaign is a sign of a broader collapse in public enthusiasm for environmentalism in general.

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/denial>

Wind Energy: The Case of Denmark

The Danish Centre for Political Studies (CEPOS) has completed a 39-page report on the state of the Danish wind energy program. Part 1 of the report describes the real state-of-play and its hidden costs. Though Denmark claims to derive 20% of its electricity from wind power, over a five year period it actually provided only 9.7% and required interties to Norway and Sweden for short-term load balancing. This required that about half of the wind power be exported to these countries, where it supplanted hydro-generated electricity, and was paid for by Danish consumers. In Part 2, CEPOS notes that, while the Danish wind industry employs 28,000, each job is subsidized by \$90,000 - \$140,000 per year.

http://www.cepos.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/Arkiv/PDF/Wind_energy_-_the_case_of_Denmark.pdf

Global Warming: Gore vs Gunter

The National Post published Al Gore's op-ed piece of February 27 from The NY Times with a rebuttal by Lorne Gunter. Mr. Gore dismisses the recent scandals IPCC and University of East Anglia - the latter caused by the onslaught of hostile, make-work demands from climate skeptics. He reaffirms his belief in man-made global warming (the "overwhelming consensus") as a growing crisis that can't be wished away. Mr. Gunter responds that the temperature trend over the last 12 years has been flat, and refers to Phil Jones' admission that there has been no statistically significant warming for 15 years. Mr. Gunter concludes that there is no consensus on climate science.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/opinion/28gore.html?scp=2&sq=al%20gore&st=cse>

<http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=2653334>

Tim Ball: Political Agendas Continue to Drive Climate Fiasco

Writing in the Canada Free Press, Dr. Tim Ball argues that the greatest scandal connected to global warming is the continued political exploitation, fraud and destruction of the economy. President Obama pursues green jobs and cap-and-trade policies that have failed elsewhere. Dr. Ball summarizes the cover up surrounding climategate and previous apocalyptic predictions of the past, e.g., the 1974 Club of Rome report.

In the second CFP article Dr. Ball examines the British Columbia example (the Climate Action Plan). In the third one he states that the IPCC science is designed for propaganda.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/20782>

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/20276>

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/19702>

New U.S. Study: Geologic Carbon Storage Can Never Work.

In the Canada Free Press, Peter Glover reviews a paper published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering. This paper found that for carbon sequestration to work for a power plant, it would be necessary to maintain CO₂ inflow for the life of the plant. All carbon capture and sequestration experiments have experienced significant leakage. In short, the prospects for geological sequestration anywhere in the world appear impossible. Nevertheless, the Obama Administration, the EU and the U.K. propose to fund CCS demonstration projects. Strangely, the UN has not added CCS projects to its Clean Development Mechanism list, citing the need to investigate seepage from storage sites.

<http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/20372>

2010-03-06

Green Fuels Cause More Harm than Fossil Fuels

A story by The Times' Environmental Editor describes a study by the U.K.'s Department of Transport regarding uses of green fuels. The study found that raising the level of biofuel in all fuel sold in Britain would result in millions of acres of forest being logged or burned down and converted to plantations. While biofuel should reduce emissions by 35% compared to fossil fuel, palm oil increases them by 31% because of carbon released when forest and grassland is converted into plantations. The European Commission is conducting its own research, but refuses to release the results, apparently because of concerns over jeopardizing the heavily-subsidized European biofuel industry.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article7044708.ece>

Henke Tennekes: Wind Power the Worst Kind of Mirage

Prof. Tennekes was director of research at the Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute. In an article for the Financial Post he describes wind power as an engineer's nightmare: because wind energy density is low, the turbines have to be huge; they function only within a limited wind speed range; conventional power plants are required as backups; servicing turbines in remote locations can be difficult; they can cause dangerous instabilities to high-voltage networks. In short, wind power is looks green to simple souls but is a technical nightmare.

The second link below points to videos of wind turbine failures.

<http://www.financialpost.com/opinion/story.html?id=2634813>

<http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=wind+turbine+failure&emb=0&aq=2&oq=wind+turbi#>

Coal-State Democrats Unveil Bills Stalling EPA Emission Curbs

As reported in the New York Times and Washington Post, four influential coal-state Democrats introduced companion bills in the House and Senate that would block the U.S. EPA from implementing any climate-related rules for stationary sources for two years. Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski has a resolution before the Senate, with 41 co-sponsors, that would overturn the EPA's "endangerment" finding.

Meanwhile, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson promised that the agency will issue rules regarding small polluters - those that emit less than 50,000 tons/year.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/03/04/04greenwire-coal-state-dems-unveil-bills-stalling-epa-emis-23084.html>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/04/AR2010030404715.html>

Thousands Stuck in Baltic Sea Freeze

The Swedish journal The Local reports that on March 4, there were 50 ships stuck in ice including a 1000-passenger ferry. Sweden has suffered an unusually harsh winter, with temperatures almost continually below freezing since December. The blog EUReferendum comments on this news.

<http://www.thelocal.se/25354/20100305/>

<http://eureferendum.blogspot.com/2010/03/ice-floes-of-reality.html>

James Delingpole vs George Monbiot on Climate Change

The BBC has, in a 7-1/2 minute video, hosted a debate between The Telegraph's James Delingpole, a skeptic, and climate change believer George Monbiot. Mr. Monbiot points to a coastal plain which is likely to be "knackered" by rising sea levels, states that the poorest people will be most affected by climate change, that most people (in the developed world) don't like the implications of dealing the problem. Both he and Mr. Delingpole agreed that small-scale windmill and solar power schemes in the U.K. won't work. Mr. Delingpoles uses the climategate emails and the revelations about the IPCC and its head, and the fact that climate science is really politics by another means, as a game changer in the public mind.

After the debate Mr. Delingpole wrote his column about it in The Telegraph.

<http://www.climategate.com/james-delingpole-versus-george-monbiot-on-climate-change>

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100028525/warmists-overwhelmed-by-fear-panic-and-deranged-hatred-as-their-science-collapses/>

EU Plans Fuel Levy

According to The Telegraph the European Union's new Commissioner for Taxation is planning "a minimum rate of tax on carbon." Under the Lisbon Treaty the EU now has the power to levy direct taxes, rather than relying just on contributions from national governments.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/7370614/EU-draws-up-plans-for-first-direct-tax-with-fuel-levy.html>

Fears of Emission Fines Grip U.K. Firms

Business 7 reports that over 5,000 companies in the U.K. have to comply with new rules that come into effect April 1, or risk handing the government £230million in penalties under the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. Firms that use at least 6,000 MWh of electricity or have an annual energy bill of £500,000 or more have to register and submit reports detailing their usage by to 2008. Then they will have to buy carbon allowance at £12 per tonne to offset their emissions and submit a roadmap of how they plan to cut them.

<http://www.business7.co.uk/business-news/2010/03/05/emission-fine-fears-grip-firms-97298-22086849/>

2010-03-04

U.K. Papers Comment on Testimony to House of Commons Committee

The Science and Technology Committee of the UK House of Commons convened on March 1, 2010 with several star witnesses such as Lord Lawson of Blaby, Benny Peiser, and Philip Jones, the embattled former head of the Hadley Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia. We have attached four newspaper columns covering the day's events. Mr Jones does not come out well.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1254763/Lord-Lawson-labelled-climate-alarmists.html>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/simon-carr/simon-carr-scientist-may-find-himself-a-convenient-sacrificial-lamb-1914296.html>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/mar/02/simon-hoggart-sketch-climate-scientist>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/greenpolitics/7347341/On-the-trail-of-the-lonesome-pine.html>

If you have the time, we have also attached a five-part video of Mr. Jones testimony.

<http://www.australianclimatemadness.com/?p=3334>

2010-03-01

U.K. Parliamentary Emails Inquiry

The Guardian's Environmental Blog provides "live coverage" of the inquiry by the House of Commons' Science and Technology Committee into disclosure of climate data by the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia. This report includes the committee's terms of reference and summaries of the testimonies by five groups of witnesses who appeared on March 1: (a) skeptics Lord Lawson and Penny Peiser of the Global Warming Policy Foundation; (b) Richard Thomas, former Information Commissioner; (c) Phil Jones, director of the CRU and Edward Acton, vice-chancellor of the UEA; (d) Sir Muir Russell, appointed by the UEA to head the independent review in to the emails; (e) and three government scientists.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2010/mar/01/parliamentary-climate-emails-inquiry>

Institute of Physics Submission to U.K. Parliamentary Inquiry

The Institute of Physics is a scientific charity devoted to increasing the practice, understanding and application of physics. It has a worldwide membership of over 36,000 and is a leading communicator of physics-related science to all audiences, from specialists through to government and the general public. The Institute has submitted a memorandum to the inquiry by the U.K. House of Commons' Science and Technology Committee. Its position is that the CRU emails provide *prima facie* evidence of determined and coordinated refusals to comply with honourable scientific traditions and freedom of information law. Moreover, the emails reveal doubts about the reliability of temperature reconstructions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmsctech/memo/climatedata/uc3902.htm>

Phil Jones Admits Hiding Data Because it was Standard Practice

Testifying at the inquiry by the U.K. House of Commons' Science and Technology Committee, Phil Jones, head of the CRU stated that it was not 'standard practice' in climate science to release data and methodology for scientific findings so that other scientists could check and challenge the research. He insisted that the scientific findings on climate change were robust and verifiable.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1254660/Climategate-expert-tells-MPs.html#ixzz0gxG8xpGB>

A Rational Look at Green Jobs, and Implications for the Power Sector

The Science and Public Policy Institute has published a nine-page essay by Kimball Rasmussen, President and CEO of Deseret Power, that examines the millions of green jobs promised by proponents of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (the Waxman-Markey bill.) Mr. Rasmussen takes issue with the “20 by 30” study by the the Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory that determined the feasibility of meeting 20% of U.S. electrical need through wind energy by 2030. It turns out that more the two-thirds of the green jobs will be what economists call indirect and induced jobs, i.e., ones that could come from building and operating fossil fuel-powered facilities. Moreover, the DOE-NREL study doesn't account for net job losses. In the case of the author's own company, Deseret's debt service would increase tenfold and its O&M would double.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/other/rational_job.pdf

Sun's Activity Linked to Largest Earthquakes and Volcanoes

The Space and Science Research Center in Florida has released its its preliminary findings of the incidence of major geophysical events including earthquakes and volcanoes tied to the Sun's activity and climate change. The SSRC found that, not only is the sun a driver of climate change, there is a strong link between what the sun is doing and large natural disasters. As part of a 206-year cycle, the sun has begun a period of reduced activity that brings on cold climates.

<http://www.spaceandscience.net/id16.html>

2010-02-27

Sea Level Basics

The blog [ItsRainMakingTime.com](http://itsrainmakingtime.com) introduces Dr. Nils-Axel Mörner, former President of the International Union for Quaternary Research and a worker on sea level problems for 40 years. Under his charge the INQUA Commission on Sea Level Changes and Coastal Evolution which found a possible sea level rise by 2100 of between 5 and 15 cm. The IPCC's 2007 Assessment Report (Summary for Policy Makers, Table SPM.3) forecasts 18 cm to 59 cm. In a 60-minute audio recording Dr. Mörner describes how his team conducted field research, not computer modeling, to arrive at its conclusions, providing anecdotal examples.

The Telegraph, in a March 2009 article, summarizes Dr. Mörner's qualifications and his work.

<http://itsrainmakingtime.com/2010/nilsaxelmorner/>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/5067351/Rise-of-sea-levels-is-the-greatest-lie-ever-told.html>

IPCC Chief Rajendra Pachauri to Face Independent Inquiry

According to the Telegraph, environment and climate ministers, sworn to secrecy while meeting in a closed session of the U.N. Environment Program's Governing Session in Bali, have insisted on an independent review of the IPCC. This follows the publicizing of mistakes in its last report and controversy over Dr. Pachauri's response to his critics. The IPCC's overseers, the UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization, will prepare the detailed scope and composition of this review independently of the IPCC. The review is to be completed in August, so that it can be assessed at the IPCC's annual assembly in Korea in October. However, the ministers regard the IPCC's mistakes as in no way undermining the basic science of global warming.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7316758/IPCC-chief-Rajendra-Pachauri-to-face-independent-inquiry.html>

U.N. Still Pushing for Global Environmental Control

According to Fox News a meeting in Bali of the U.N. Environmental Program's Governing Council is preparing for a World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, the 20th anniversary of the famous Earth Summit. That year is also when the Kyoto Protocol expires. Discussion papers being circulated at the meeting suggest that "business as usual," also disparagingly referred to as the "brown economy," should be replaced by something very different, a "green economy." The latter is described in nebulous and utopian terms, but includes reducing CO₂ emissions 50% by 2050. The Fox News article includes links to two of the discussion papers, one on the green economy and the other on international environmental governance.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,587426,00.html>

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Demands Climate Bill ASAP

The Washington Post reports that Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev) has instructed Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass) to produce a revamped climate bill, which Sen. Kerry plans to accomplish in two weeks. The article also mentions that utilities executives are pressing for passage of legislation that would put a price on carbon.

http://views.washingtonpost.com/climate-change/post-carbon/2010/02/reid_demands_climate_bill.html

IPCC: Push to Oversimplify

The Wall Street Journal reports that the IPCC is to roll out a strategy to restore its bruised reputation, followed hacked emails and other disclosures that revealed deep divisions among its scientists. Some consider that the IPCC has morphed from a scientific analyst to an advocacy organization that simplified the science for policymakers. The WSJ article describes some of the internal debate surrounding the IPCC's reports, in particular John Christy's dispute with Michael Mann over the hockey stick graph that was featured in the 2001 assessment.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704188104575083681319834978.html>

2010-02-24

Maxime Bernier Challenges Climate Science

The Harper Government has been widely criticized for its stance on climate change (see Carbon Fixated's quotes in the first link below.) Now, the Globe and Mail reports that ex-foreign minister Maxime Bernier

has written a letter to La Presse in which he describes criticism of the government's position by environmental groups and the debate that has broken out over the science of global warming. He goes on to note the lack of warming in the past decade, predictions of declining temperatures despite the IPCC's models and the irresponsibility of spending billions of dollars to solve an uncertain problem. Instead Canada should be cautious.

<http://carbonfixated.com/stephen-harper-on-climate-change/>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/blogs/spector-vision/maxime-bernier-challenges-climate-science/article1479289/>

EPA Lays Out Timetable for Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Washington Post reports that U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has written a letter to Senator Rockefeller (D-WV) stating the the EPA will require major emitters of CO₂ to face regulation as early as the start of 2011. Medium-sized emitters would be regulated in the second half of 2011 at the earliest, but small emitters would not come under the rules until 2016.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/22/AR2010022204829.html?hpid=sec-nation>

Senators Warn over CO₂ Regulation

According to the Wall Street Journal, eight Democratic Senators from coal and manufacturing states have warned the Obama Administration in a letter that the EPA's plans to regulate greenhouse gases could hurt the economy. The letter could boost Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski's proposal to prevent the EPA from regulating stationary GHG emitters.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704454304575081862918826870.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Britain's Weather Office Proposes to Reanalyze Surface Temperature Data

Fox News reports that, at a meeting of 150 climate scientists in Turkey, representatives of the U.K.'s Met Office proposed that the scientists produce a new, common record of global temperature data that is open to public scrutiny and rigorous peer review. A Met Office spokesman admitted that the climategate affair had an impact on this decision. The proposal would include an international effort to reanalyze the surface temperature data.

Watts Up With That comments on this story.

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/02/23/britains-weather-office-proposes-climategate/>
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/02/23/met-office-pushes-a-surface-temperature-data-do-over/>

U.K. Political Class: £60 Million Bill for CO₂

The Telegraph has discovered that the British Government, obsessed with cutting carbon emissions, has contracted to buy £60 million of carbon credits needed to keep its offices warm and lit. The largest beneficiaries of this are firms in China and India. But these firms aren't reducing their own CO₂ output. Instead they are permitted to keep producing, and selling, the refrigerant HCFC-22 until 2030 while destroying the by-product HCFC-23. The destruction of the HCFC-23, a powerful greenhouse gas, counts as carbon credits. In fact, destruction of CFCs accounted for more than half the credits issued last year.

The Telegraph fingers Maurice Strong, now living in exile in Beijing, as the architect of this bizarre scheme and one of its beneficiaries.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/7280348/60m-bill-for-the-CO2-of-our-political-class.html>

2010-02-22

Rex Murphy: Bed, Bath & Beyond Good Sense

The household goods chain Bed Bath & Beyond recently announced that they were rejecting “tar sands oil from their transportation fuel” because of its “nightmare environmental price tag.” Subsequently BBB “clarified” their position in a press release. Rex Murphy, with his inimitable prose, wickedly skewers BBB and the “carbon-footprint eco-priests” while defending the oil sands industry.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2010/02/20/rex-murphy-bed-bath-amp-beyond-good-sense.aspx>

Conning the Climate: Inside the Carbon-Trading Shell Game

In the February issue of Harper's writer Mark Shapiro describes how carbon trading is now the fastest growing commodities market, with carbon offsets through the U.N.'s Clean Development Mechanism. Carbon offsets are unlike any other security: in effect they are promises based on the lack of delivery of an invisible substance to no one. The U.N. has authorized 26 firms to participate in the lucrative business of validating these promises world-wide. Due to irregularities the U.N. temporarily suspended the two largest validators - Swiss-based SGS and the Norwegian DNV. However, any questionable carbon credits are never revoked, because that could destroy the market. Another potential market destroyer is carbon capture and sequestration, which is favored by countries with oil and coal industries, but opposed by countries with conventional offset projects, like Brazil.

The Telegraph, in an editorial, briefly summarizes and comments on the Harper's article.

<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/files/Conning-the-Climate.pdf>
<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/finance/jeremywarner/100003851/here-comes-the-next-bubble-carbon-trading/>

Global Warming Meltdown

KUSI-TV's veteran meteorologist John Coleman aired his latest program on global warming on February 18. The 51-minute program can be viewed in nine parts on YouTube. In Part 4 Mr. Coleman takes on the GW scientists' hypothesis of “radiative forcing” - that increased CO2 produces warming that increases water vapour causing even more warming, the proof of which is based on computer models. Part 8 includes an interview with John Christy who compared NASA-GISS data sets of surface temperatures to satellite measurements of the whole atmosphere and responds to the NASA claim that that last decade was the warmest in history.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/02/20/must-see-john-colemans-global-warming-special-2-now-online-at-youtube/>

Sixteen “Endangerment” Lawsuits Filed Against EPA before Deadline

The NY Times reports that 16 industry groups, lawmakers and states have filed court challenges to the U.S. EPA's “endangerment” finding for greenhouse gases before the February 16 deadline. The agency is planning to complete new greenhouse gas rules for automobiles and large stationary sources next month. An EPA spokeswoman said that the “EPA is confident that the finding will withstand legal challenge and allow the agency to protect the American people from the significant dangers posed by greenhouse gases and carbon pollution.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/02/17/17greenwire-16-endangerment-lawsuits-filed-against-epa-bef-74640.html>

Climate Scientists Withdraw Journal Claims of Rising Sea Levels

According to the Guardian a 2009 paper published by Mark Siddal et al in the journal Nature Geoscience used 22,000 years of modeling to predict that by 2100 sea levels would rise by 7 cm for a 1.1°C temperature increase to 82 cm for a 6.4°C temperature rise. That paper said that the prediction strengthened the IPCC's 2007 conclusion that the sea level rise would be 18 cm to 29 cm by 2100. On February 21 the authors retracted their paper, citing two oversights in their model. These oversights were a time-step sensitivity that led to overestimation of the sea rise in the 20th and 21st centuries, and uncertainty in the temperature reconstructions since the Medieval Climate Anomaly.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/feb/21/sea-level-geoscience-retract-siddal>

WCI: A Dying Initiative

Writing in the National Post, Lawrence Solomon (author of The Deniers) describes the unraveling of the Western Climate Initiative. The WCI includes seven U.S. states and four Canadian provinces which were working towards launch of a regional cap-and-trade system on January 1, 2012. On February 11 Arizona withdrew. The next day, following votes in its legislature, Utah indicated that it might follow suit. Only four of the jurisdictions (California, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec) have passed legislation to participate in the market. With President Obama's ascension to office pressure has built in western states to abandon a regional cap-and-trade plan, to harmonize with a federal one. Mr. Solomon speculates that by the end of the year the WCI would be left with only the Canadian provinces.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2010/02/17/lawrence-solomon-a-dying-initiative.aspx#ixzz0gFu9dDcz>

2010-02-20

Defections Shake Up Climate Coalition

The Wall Street Journal reports that three big companies (BP PLC, ConocoPhillips and Caterpillar Inc.) have pulled out of an influential lobby group focused on shaping climate change legislation, the U.S. Climate Action Partnership. BP and ConocoPhillips said that they still support legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but believe that they can accomplish more working outside of USCAP. A ConocoPhillips VP said that USCAP is trying to get a climate bill passed, whereas his company is concerned about the contents of the bill. More than 20 other large companies, including Royal Dutch Shell and General Electric, remain in USCAP.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704804204575069440096420212.html?ru=yahoo&mod=yahoo_hs

ABC News TV Debate: Climate Depot vs Center for American Progress

ABC News broadcast a debate on February 15 between Marc Morano, Executive Editor of Climate Depot and Daniel Weiss, Director for Climate Strategy and the Center for American Progress. Via the link below you can watch the 24-minute video and read excerpts from the “highly contentious debate shout-fest.”

<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/5420/Rare-ABC-News-TV-Debate-Climate-Depot-Vs-Center-For-Am-Progress--UN-IPCC-was-a-political-organization-masquerading-as-a-science-group-Its-been-exposed>

Why the EPA is Wrong about Recent Warming

Writing in the blog MasterResource Chip Knappenberger takes issue with the U.S. EPA's reliance, in its “endangerment finding”, on the IPCC's assertion in AR4 that “most of the observed temperature increase since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.” Here, the IPCC's “very likely” means 90 to 99% probability.

<http://www.masterresource.org/2010/02/why-the-epa-is-wrong-about-recent-warming>

U.N. Climate Chief Resigns

Yvo de Boer, who led the international negotiations on climate change for four years, has resigned effective July 1. Mr. de Boer was disappointed by the outcome of the Copenhagen summit. The NY Times article identifies two reasons why a legally-binding climate treaty appears unlikely: tensions between the U.S. and China over measurement and reporting of emissions, and the “steady attack in recent months” on the scientific underpinnings to address climate change. The Globe and Mail's story includes quotes from Canadian sources that Mr. de Boer's replacement will come from a major developing country and that it would be a mistake to push for a legally-binding agreement in Mexico.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/19/science/earth/19climate.html>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/resignation-of-top-un-climate-official-clouds-future-of-global-treaty-talks/article1473784/>

Whatevergate - RealClimate and the UK Media Frenzy

RealClimate is a website of the “working climate scientists” (e.g., Gavin Schmidt, Michael Mann and Ray Bradley, who were mentioned in the Climategate emails). In this article RealClimate recalls how, prior to the CRU emails, the climate debate generally avoided “global warming is a hoax” and the interviewed skeptics were more sensible. Since then, the UK media has opened wide the spectrum so that GW hoaxers “now suddenly find themselves well within the mainstream.” The article ends with the “almost certain” expectation that the various panels and reports on the CRU affair will conclude that there has been no fraud, fabrication or scientific misconduct.

<http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2010/02/whatevergate/#more-2806>

World May Not Be Warming, Say Scientists

New research by scientists, including former IPCC lead author John Christy, casts doubt on the IPCC's “unequivocal” claim that greenhouse gases have already caused 0.7°C of warming and could cause 5°C-6°C more by 2100. This research focuses on the thousands of weather stations used to collect world

temperatures over the past 150 years. The temperatures have been contaminated by surface effects from industrialization and data quality problems.

Dr. Christy has been invited to be the speaker at the Friends of Science annual luncheon, which will be held in May.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article7026317.ece>

2010-02-16

Please read the attached article by Willis Eschenbach, a frequent contributor to “Watts Up With That”, the best of the blogs on Climate Science. The article sets out in clear and straightforward language that the supposed global warming catastrophe is not happening. We have copied the text just as written, but have bolded some portions for emphasis. The article is three pages long in PDF format and you should be able to download it. We encourage you to do so, and to make copies for your friends and associates who may have concerns about Climate Change and the possible harm it might do.

BBC Interview with Phil Jones

Phil Jones is director of the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, who is on leave of absence pending investigation of the emails released from the CRU last November. In this written interview the BBC's environmental analyst Roger Harrabin puts a series of 23 tough questions to Prof. Jones dealing with the science of global warming, whether it is human caused, the credibility of the IPCC, and the emails. Regarding AGW, Prof. Jones (in responding to Questions D & E) says that natural influences on global warming is outside his area of expertise, but relies on Chapter 9 of the IPCC report (second link below) that global warming is anthropogenic. In response H he states that since warming from the 1950s can't be explained by solar or volcanic forcing, it must be man-made.

Nevertheless, the interview is significant in that Prof. Jones confirms what skeptics have suspected about the science and the IPCC reports. For an annotated version of the Q&A, please see the third link.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8511670.stm>

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch9.html

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/02/14/phil-jones-momentous-qa-with-bbc-reopens-the-science-is-settled-issues/#more-16418>

Former NASA Scientist Defends Theory Refuting Global Warming Doctrine

Ferenc Miskolczi is a former NASA researcher who quit when his employer objected to his work on a theory that there is a self-regulating mechanism in the earth's atmosphere to maintain a constant greenhouse effect: i.e., if CO₂ increases, water vapour (a much more potent greenhouse gas) decreases. In this Q&A led by [Examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com) Dr. Miskolczi explains in plain language how he used empirical radiosonde observations and simple mathematical equations (not elaborate computer models) to develop his theory.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-32936-Seminole-County-Environmental-News-Examiner-y2010m2d12-Former-NASA-scientist-defends-theory-refuting-global-warming-doctrine>

US, India Negotiators Pessimistic over UN Climate Talks

[Euractiv.com](http://www.euractiv.com) quotes U.S. deputy special envoy for climate change, Jonathan Pershing, as saying that there is a fundamental disagreement on whether the UN Framework Convention and Climate Change is about development and a global correction for that, or if there is a narrow environmental problem. At Copenhagen no action was taken because all action can't be taken at once. Nevertheless, the Copenhagen Accord, with its limit of a temperature rise by 2100 to 2°C, counts as a success. Mr. Pershing tried to alleviate EU concerns about being sidelined in the final Copenhagen negotiations.

Indian negotiator Surya Seti said that 80% of the world's population live in developing countries and that the poorly-organized COP15 was a failure. The Accord has little support in the developing world.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/negotiators-short-ways-forward-climate-after-copenhagen>

Controversial Choice for Climategate Committee

In a further setback to Sir Muir Russell's Committee (see FoS Extracts of February 12) the Scotsman reports, in two articles, that another member of the committee may not be impartial. Geoffrey Boulton, has expressed a predetermined view in favour of AGW and worked for 18 years at the University of East Anglia.

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/Controversial-choice-for-Climategate-committee.6069595.jp>
<http://news.scotsman.com/news/Senior-Scots-scientist-in-climate.6069702.jp>

Former IPCC Head Says that UN Must Investigate Warming “Bias”

Robert Watson served as Chairman of the IPCC from 1997 to 2002. In view of the number of errors that have emerged in the past month, he is calling for the IPCC to employ graduate science students to check the source of each claim made in the next report, due in 2013. Prof. Watson notes that the mistakes revealed in the 2007 report “all appear to have gone in the direction of making it seem like climate change is more serious by overstating the impact.”

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article7026932.ece>

Fueling Future Famines

Carbon Sense has published a 5-page newsletter by Vic Forbes that claims that Australia's ability to feed itself is threatened by green extremists, supported by foolish politicians. Some of the policies being promoted include subsidizing people to grow carbon forests, convert food-producing land to growing ethanol for cars and supplying “free” water to cities while denying it to food producers.

<http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/fuelling-future-famines.pdf>

2010-02-12

New Errors in IPCC Climate Change Report

The Sunday Telegraph reports new flaws on the IPCC's 2007 assessment report. These include: inaccurate data on wave power potential (provided by a commercial wave-energy company); claims based on press releases and newsletters; more statements based on unpublished student dissertations; and more claims based on reports from environmental pressure groups.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7177230/New-errors-in-IPCC-climate-change-report.html>

The True Cost and Low Value of Wind Electricity

The Science and Public Policy Institute has published a 22-page report by Glenn Schleede titled “The True Cost of Electricity from Wind is Always Underestimated and its Value is Always Overestimated.” The costs include tax breaks and subsidies provided by politicians with no understanding of their magnitude or cost. The value of wind electricity is lower than that produced by conventional generation because the output from wind turbines is available only when the wind is blowing in the right speed range and cannot be counted on to match peak demand.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/High_Cost_and_Low_Value_of_Electricity_from_Wind.pdf

The Global Warming Boys are Circling the Wagons

WWF Responds to the Globe and Mail's Margaret Wentz

In a Globe and Mail article in response to Ms. Wentz's column (FoS Extracts of February 6), Gerald Butts of the World Wildlife Fund attempts to refute recent stories surrounding the IPCC's research and the resulting media claims that the scientific consensus surrounding climate change and its causes has collapsed. He relies on the “consensus” and “overwhelming weight of evidence” arguments in favour of AGW. He objects to Ms. Wentz's description of the WWF as an “environmental pressure group” and insists that if the scientists sounded alarmist, it is because they are alarmed. Mr. Butts admonishes the media to submit criticisms and counterclaims of science-based climate-change policy to same level of scrutiny and scientific rigour to which the IPCC scientists are held.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/your-square-jawed-hero-is-in-fact-the-scientist/article1461995/>

India Supports a Toothless IPCC

The IPCC and its head have come in for a lot of criticism in India recently, particularly over the non-melting of the Himalayan glaciers. However, in an article for the Wall Street Journal, Barun Mitra director of the independent New Delhi think tank the Liberty Institute, writes that Indian PM Manmohan Singh has expressed support for the IPCC and its leader, Rajendra Pachauri. This is not rhetorical backing - it took place at Mr. Pachauri's The Energy and Resources Institute and included an offer to provide technical assistance through a newly-established glacier research centre.

Mr. Mitra's explanation for this support is that the Indian Government wants to “perpetuate a weak IPCC and a toothless Mr. Pachauri at its helm.” Then the IPCC could hardly lobby India for carbon concessions. In democratic India any elites who want to restrict energy use and economic growth stand no chance.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703427704575051130546785628.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

IPCC Admits Mistakes

A story in the Wall Street Journal quotes “some top officials” at the IPCC as acknowledging that the panel made mistakes and the need to tighten procedures. However, scientists and other experts involved with the IPCC, and the Obama administration's top international negotiator on climate change, stand by the IPCC's main conclusions that climate change is largely due to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704182004575055703697897576.html>

Muir Russell and the Team

Sir Muir Russell was appointed by the University of East Anglia to head an inquiry (called the Independent Climate Change Email Review) into the emails released from the Climatic Research Unit at the UEA. Climate Audit's Steve McIntyre has posted an article which contains links to the inquiry's work plan and issues paper. In the latter Sir Muir's committee refer to themselves as “the Team.” However, the Team will not consider the fundamental science of climate change. Instead the UEA has announced an independent reappraisal of the science in the CRU's key publications. The Royal Society, an enthusiast for AGW (see second link below), will assist in setting up this reappraisal by “identifying assessors with the requisite expertise, standing and independence.”

One bit of late-breaking good news (third link below): The impartiality of one of the Team's members, Phillip Campbell who is editor-in-chief of Nature, was questioned, and Dr. Campbell withdrew from the group.

<http://climateaudit.org/2010/02/11/a-muir-russell-avatar/>

<http://royalsociety.org/Climate-Change/>

http://www.channel4.com/news/articles/science_technology/aposclimategateapos+review+member+resigns/3536642

2010-02-09

The BBC's £8 Billion Eco-Bias

The Express notes the parallels between the BBC's coverage of the global warming debate and its pension fund's £8 billion investment in a consortium called Investors Group on Climate Change. The story quotes the Head of Accountability at BBC News as stating that the BBC's reporting needs to take into account “the scientific consensus that global warming is man-made.” In effect the BBC is risking its employees' pension funds by investing in climate change. Could there be a better way to ensure that the BBC will remain firmly on the side of the global warming alarmists?

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/156703/-8bn-BBC-eco-bias->

The Observer: Debate on Climate Change between Robin McKie and Benny Peiser

Mr. McKie is science and technology editor for the Observer. Dr. Peiser is a director of the Global Warming Policy Foundation and editor of CCNET. Both engaged in a three-round exchange of messages on the question “Has the science of climate change been undermined by the email leaks and the IPCC's glacier error?” that was published in the February 7 edition of the Observer. The blog Clamour of the Times provides its views on this “vitriolic” debate.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/feb/07/robin-mckie-benny-peiser-climate>

http://web.me.com/sinfonia1/Clamour_Of_The_Times/Clamour_Of_The_Times/Entries/2010/2/7_Why_The_Observer_is_Wrong.html

UK's Met Office Accused of Suppressing IPCC Information

The Mail on Sunday reports that the Met Office is refusing to disclose working papers and IPCC correspondence in response to requests filed under the Freedom of Information Act. These documents are the responsibility of Prof. John Mitchell the Met Office's Director of Climate Science. Prof. Mitchell shared responsibility for the headline in the 2007 IPCC report that the earth is now hotter than at any time in the past 1300 years.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1249035/How-Met-Office-blocked-questions-mans-role-hockey-stick-climate-row.html>

The Climate Establishment's Funds: The Alarmist Cause is Considerably Better Funded

Climate Resistance describes how the IPCC cited WWF frequently in its 2007 assessment report, while Greenpeace pursues ExxonMobil for funding the Competitive Enterprise Institute a total of \$2.2 million since 1998. However, the WWF received income of \$3.1 billion from 2002 to 2008. Greenpeace took in the equivalent of \$2.37 billion from 1994 to 2008.

<http://www.climate-resistance.org/2010/01/wwf-wtf.html>

2010-02-06

Breakfast Presentation in Calgary by Bruno Wiskel

The Frontier Centre for Public Policy is sponsoring a breakfast presentation by Bruno Wiskel, author of *The Sky if Not Falling - Putting Climate Change on Trial*. The presentation will be at the James Joyce Irish Pub & Restaurant at 114 - 8th Ave. SW in Calgary at 7:30 am on Friday, February 12, 2010. Price for a reserved seat is \$65. More information about Mr. Wiskel and how to register for the presentation can be found through the following link.

<http://www.fcpp.org/files/1/Bruno%20Wiskel%20Feb%2012%202010.pdf>

In addition the FCPP is providing an opportunity for members of the FoS to attend, as their guests, the Heartland Institute's 2010 International Conference on Climate Change. This will take place May 16-18 in Chicago. Please see the enclosed registration form.

India Forms Breakaway Climate Body

The Telegraph reports that, in a snub to the IPCC and its head, Indian scientist Rajendra Pachauri, India has set up its own climate change body. After disclosure of the IPCC's false claims that Himalayan glaciers would melt by 2035 and other "goof-ups", the Indian Government decided that it cannot depend only on the IPCC. The Indian Environment Minister said that one of the weaknesses of the IPCC is that it doesn't do original research.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7157590/India-forms-new-climate-change-body.html>

Satellite Temperatures: Warmest January in 32 Years

On February 4, Dr. Roy Spencer posted two entries on his blog regarding the satellite-measured average global temperature for the lower troposphere last month. The first entry (which appears second) reports that the UAH global temperature anomaly for January 2010 was +0.72°C, making it the warmest January in the 32-year satellite record. This seems surprising in view of the cold winter being experienced in many parts of the northern hemisphere. However, in the second entry (which appears first) Dr. Spencer notes that sea surface temperatures measured by NASA's Aqua satellite were unusually warm last month also. Since there appears to be a correlation between sea surface and tropospheric temperatures, the warm oceans may explain the UAH's record temperature for January.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/>

The Global Warming Guerrillas

In the Spectator columnist Matt Rudley salutes the bloggers who changed the climate debate. While most of Fleet Street kowtowed to the green lobby, online amateurs uncovered the spin and finally cracked the consensus.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/spectator/thisweek/5749853/the-global-warming-guerrillas.shtml>

It Seems that the Globe and Mail May be Starting to Get the Picture: Perhaps there's even hope for the CBC!

In The Great Global Warming Collapse columnist Margaret Wentz summarizes recent, unhappy events associated with the global warming industry. She quotes John Beddington, chief scientific advisor to the British Government and a believer in man-made climate change, who points out the complexity of climate science and the uncertainty of climate predictions. Ms. Wentz wonders how long the public will keep caring.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/the-great-global-warming-collapse/article1458206/>

2010-02-04

Penn State Report on Michael Mann - New Investigation to Convene

Michael Mann is a climatologist at Penn State University specializing in palaeoclimate. He was a lead author of Chapter 2 (Observed Climate Variability and Change) of the IPCC's third assessment report (TAR) of 2001 and is renowned as the creator of the discredited "hockey stick graph" (enclosed) that appeared prominently in the TAR. More recently Dr. Mann became known as one of the main correspondents in the Climategate emails, which led to investigation of his conduct by Penn State.

A committee of three university administrators considered four allegations against Dr. Mann and found that only one has merit. That is the question of whether he "engaged in, directly or indirectly, any actions that seriously deviated from accepted practices within the academic community for proposing, conducting or reporting research or other scholarly activities." This allegation will be investigated by a committee of five faculty members, none of whom are associated with climate science.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/02/03/penn-state-report-on-mann-new-investigation-to-convene/#more-16007>

Phishing Scam Cripples European Emissions Trading

Spiegel International reports that cyber-thieves used email “phishing” to fraudulently obtain European greenhouse gas emission allowances, which they then resold, making millions. The crime has hampered the registering of allowance trades in the European Union.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,675725,00.html>

Bill in U.S. House of Representatives to Block EPA Regulation of Greenhouse Gases

Three members of the House, two Democrats and one Republican, have introduced a bill to block the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate greenhouse gases. Besides preventing the EPA from regulating GHGs under the Clean Air Act, the bill would bar it from actions that would restrict use of biofuels such as ethanol. One of the bill's sponsors is Chairman of the Agricultural Committee.

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=944af85c-802a-23ad-46bb-2edcf0e98a59&Issue_id=

Interview of Dr. Tim Ball

Michael Corren, host of the CTS Television show Corren's Comment, interviews climatologist Tim Ball on climate change. Mr. Corren began by stating that he has no views on the subject. In the interview Dr. Ball discusses the current fad of reporting natural climate events as if they're unnatural, the incestuous “peer review” system revealed by Climategate, the political use of science to take control, the focus on only one aspect of climate (CO₂), the difference between weather and climate, the reliance on multi-decade computer models, misuse of statistics, the personal attacks on him, perversion of the science by computer modelers, how Tom Wigley took over the Climatic Research Unit at East Anglia, the Club of Rome's Limits to Growth and the origins of the global warming movement, Maurice Strong and the setting up of the IPCC, diversion of pollution-control funding into fighting climate change, the “consensus argument” used by the AGW movement, the “one-world government” cabal, how ice cores show that CO₂ follows temperature, and the corruption revealed by the Climategate emails.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16bxVS-UrTA&feature=related>

Lawrence Solomon - Keeping Canadian Students in the Dark on Climate

Mr. Solomon is executive director of Energy Probe and author of the book The Deniers. In this Financial Post column he was at a debate before university students and found them accepting of the prevailing orthodoxy, and none believed that climate change is natural. Mr. Solomon says that this is the result of Canada's education system, where climate change is taught as dogma.

<http://www.financialpost.com/opinion/story.html?id=2501924>

Mr. Solomon's article of January 30 provoked interesting comments from readers, some of which were reproduced in the Financial Post in its February 3 edition.

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/02/03/fp-letters-campus-climate-orthodoxy.aspx>

2010-02-02

IPCC Based Its Claims about Ice Disappearance on Student Dissertation and Magazine Article

The Telegraph and the National Post report the third revelation of 2010 about non-peer reviewed information appearing in the IPCC's fourth assessment report (AR4). The two other revelations were the IPCC's claims about the disappearance of the Himalayan glaciers and threats to the Amazonian rainforest.

IPCC's Working Group II report, Chapter 1, included Table 1.2 (Selected observed effects due to changes in the cryosphere produced by warming) a row attributing loss of ice climbs during 1900-2000 in the Andes, Alps and Africa to references by "Schwörer, 1997" and "Bowen, 2002." The former was a dissertation by a geography student at the University of Berne that quoted interviews with mountain guides in the Alps. The latter was an article that appeared in Climbing magazine, which quoted anecdotal evidence from climbers about retreating glaciers and loss of ice since the 1970s.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7111525/UN-climate-change-panel-based-claims-on-student-dissertation-and-magazine-article.html>

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/world/story.html?id=2507116>

Working Group II's reports can be found at:

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_ipcc_fourth_assessment_report_wg2_report_impacts_adaptation_and_vulnerability.htm

Climategate Necessary to Cover Incorrect Basics of IPCC

In a Canada Free Press article, Dr. Tim Ball, former climatologist at the University of Winnipeg, discusses how Climategate became necessary to achieve a political objective. The scientists and politicians who bought into that objective don't want to believe Climategate. Dr. Ball asserts that the scientists of the IPCC didn't understand or chose to ignore that the basic science was wrong from the start.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/19548>

Wheels Fall Off Global Warming Hysteria

In the Calgary Herald, columnist Lorne Gunter comments on Climategate, the IPCC's mistakes regarding the Himalayan glaciers and Amazonian rainforests, its reliance on environmental groups, and removal of cooler temperature monitoring stations by NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Mr. Gunter concludes that he believes global warming to be a hoax, or at least the science is far from settled.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Wheels+fall+global+warming+hysteria/2510927/story.html>

Carbon Management Canada

CMC, headquartered at the University of Calgary, is a national research network focused on carbon management in Canada's fossil energy sector. It is the first integrated, multi-partner, multi-disciplinary national network in Canada focused on accelerating research and development, training and commercialization of knowledge-technologies toward zero-carbon emissions fossil energy systems. Its research areas include coal, oil, natural gas, carbon storage, and design and assessment of carbon-efficient energy systems.

<http://www.carbonmanagement.ca/home.html>

Video - Global Warming Conspiracy Exposed

Climate Physics has posted a 39-minute video by former Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura that contains interviews and discussions about the global warming conspiracy and the people who stand to benefit financially from the carbon market. Mr. Ventura traces the origin of the conspiracy to its “godfather” Maurice Strong.

<http://www.climatephysics.com/index.html>

2010-01-30

IPCC Climate Models' 20th Century Temperature Reconstructions

The enclosed pdf report was created from the blog of Roy Spencer, a meteorologist and research scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville since 2001. Prior to then he worked at NASA on global temperature monitoring by satellites. In this report Dr. Spencer compares surface temperature observations for 1900-2000 to an average temperature reconstruction by 17 of the IPCC's climate models. While the models matched the observed warming of 0.64°C during the last century, they did not mimic the rapid warming prior to 1940, nor the lack of warming from the 1940s to the 1970s. Dr. Spencer's theory is that natural climate variability (due to oscillations in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans) explain what the models cannot mimic. The article concludes by critiquing the IPCC's assertion of high sensitivity of climate to small forcings, such as an increase in CO₂.

Dr. Spencer's blog can be found at <http://www.drroyspencer.com/>.

Temperatures and CO₂ Emissions

In 1975, when there was no political agenda on climate change, Newsweek published an article titled The Cooling World (http://denisdutton.com/newsweek_coolingworld.pdf). That article included a temperature graph extending from 1885 to 1970 which showed a warming trend from 1907 to 1943, followed by cooling from 1943 to 1970. The enclosed graph of CO₂ emissions and concentration shows that emissions grew from about 3.5 billion tonnes/year in 1907 to 4.0 billion tonnes/year in 1943 as the world warmed by 0.7°F (0.39°C) over those 36 years. However, as the world cooled by 0.55°F (0.31°C) in the 27 years from 1943 to 1970 CO₂ emissions grew from 4.0 billion tonnes/year in 1943 to over 18 billion tonnes/year in 1970. Cooling ended and warming began in 1975 when emissions reached 20 billion tonnes/year.

In the 23 years from 1975 to 1998 we had both: global warming and CO₂ emissions growing at record rates. Since 2002 the world has been cooling as CO₂ continued to increase (see enclosed graph of global temperatures and CO₂ concentrations). All of this demonstrates that there is no possible correlation of CO₂ emissions with global warming.

Water Vapour and the Recent Lack of Global Warming

There are reports by the Resilient Earth and the Global Warming Policy Foundation about an article in the journal Science by researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The NOAA researchers' theory is that measured decreases in water vapour in the stratosphere during 2000-2009 could account for the lack of global warming during that period. This is because increases in stratospheric water vapour tend to cool the stratosphere and warm the troposphere, while the opposite is true if stratospheric water vapour decreases. The Resilient Earth article contains the more detailed explanation of the science.

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/its-water-vapor-stupid>
<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/475-water-vapour-and-the-recent-global-temperature-hiatus.html>

Climategate Analysis

The Science and Public Policy Institute has published a 149-page analysis by Australian physicist, John Costella, of the “Climategate” affair - the release of the emails from the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia. Dr. Costella begins by explaining why Climategate is so distressing to scientists. He then introduces the main characters (Michael Mann, Phil Jones, Tom Wigley, Keith Biffa and Ben Santer) and conducts a chronological examination of the key emails, including excerpts and a link to each email quoted.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/climategate_analysis.pdf

Speech by British Member of the European Parliament

In this video from the EP's debate on the outcome of the Copenhagen summit, Godfrey Bloom of the UK Independence Party gives a pithy 90-second speech on the global warming scam.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/01/21/eu-mps-get-the-message/#more-15473>

New SEC Guidance on Climate Change

The Washington Post reports that on January 27 the Securities and Exchange Commission approved new guidance requiring publicly traded companies to disclose the effects of climate-related effects on business operations. These include impacts of both changing weather and pending legislation, such as cap-and-trade.

http://views.washingtonpost.com/climate-change/post-carbon/2010/01/sec_tells_companies_to_disclose_climate_risks.html?hpid=news-col-blog

Here is another interpretation of this news by the National Center for Public Policy.

http://www.nationalcenter.org/PR-SEC_Climate_Change_Disclosure_012910.html

2010-01-28

Starting in this issue we are trying a new format, consisting of about 5-6 items, each of which is briefly summarized herein, followed by link(s) to the full stories or an enclosed pdf file. The intent is that you should be able to scan the whole issue and quickly determine which stories to follow-up in more detail.

Chinese Climate Official: Next IPCC Report Should “Incorporate Skeptical Views”

Xie Zhenhua, Vice-Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, urged the UN panel to make the fifth assessment report comprehensive by also citing contrarian views. He said there is a view that climate change is caused by the cyclical element of nature itself. “Climate change concerns survival and development of people. We need to adopt an open attitude to scientific research and incorporate all views,” said Xie, while addressing a conference of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) countries.

Further, Mr. Xie stated that China has an “open mind” about the cause of climate change.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/basic-ministers-task-ipccneed-for-rigour-in-climate-reports/383602/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/7067505/China-has-open-mind-about-cause-of-climate-change.html>

After Copenhagen, Banks and Investors Pulling Out of Carbon Markets

Banks and investors are pulling out of the carbon market after the failure to make progress at Copenhagen on reaching new emissions targets after 2012. Carbon financiers have already begun leaving banks in London because of the lack of activity and the drop-off in investment demand. The Guardian has been told that backers have this month pulled out of a large planned clean-energy project in the developing world because of the expected fall in emissions credits after 2012.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jan/24/carbon-emissions-green-copenhagen-banks>

Roger Pielke Jr.: Stern Review Debunked

There is another important story in involving the Muir-Wood et al. 2006 paper that was misrepresented by the IPCC as showing a linkage between increasing temperatures and rising damages from extreme weather events. The Stern Review Report of the UK government also relied on that paper as the sole basis for its projections of increasing damage from extreme events. In fact as much as 40% of the Stern Review projections for the global costs of unmitigated climate change derive from its misuse of the Muir-Wood et al. paper.

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2010/01/what-tangled-web-we-weave.html>

IPCC Claim on Depletion of Amazon Forests Falls Flat

In a claim similar to the one on the disappearance of the Himalyan glaciers by 2035, the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report stated that “up to 40% of the Amazonian forests could react drastically to even a slight reduction in precipitation.” The source for this assertion appears to be a report prepared by a WWF coordinator and a freelance journalist.

<http://eureferendum.blogspot.com/2010/01/and-now-for-amazongate.html>

Surface Temperature Records: Policy Driven Deception?

This 111-page paper from the Science and Public Policy Institute examines how the three data centers collecting terrestrial temperatures (NASA, NOAA and the Hadley CRU) collaborated to reduce the number of climate measuring stations and manipulated data so as to overstate 20th century warming.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/surface_temp.pdf