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2012-12-29

**EPA's Lisa Jackson to Step Down**

Ms. Jackson, who as administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency began her four-year tenure with high hopes of sweeping action to address climate change and other environmental ills through regulation, has announced that she will be leaving the agency. After the Republicans won control of the House in 2010, Ms. Jackson became their favored target for her "job-killing regulations." On her watch the EPA issued a finding that CO<sub>2</sub> contributes to global warming and thus meets the definition of a pollutant under the *Clean Air Act*.

In the *Washington Examiner*, Joseph D'Aleo summarizes the legal status of the EPA's CO<sub>2</sub> regulatory efforts and argues that its finding is not based on sound science. *Watts Up With That* has an essay, signed by the 13 authors, challenging the EPA regulation.

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/28/science/earth/lisa-p-jackson-of-epa-to-step-down.html?smid=tw-nytimes&seid=auto&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/28/science/earth/lisa-p-jackson-of-epa-to-step-down.html?smid=tw-nytimes&seid=auto&_r=0)>

<<http://washingtonexaminer.com/op-ed-epas-carbon-regs-not-based-on-sound-science/article/2516956-UN3tWqW0Ldk>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/28/an-open-letter-challenging-the-epa-on-co2-regulation/>>

**John Kerry Nominated for Secretary of State**

Senator Kerry, set to become the next US Secretary of State, is on record as declaring his intention to treat man-made global warming as a national security threat. *Climate Depot* has compiled some of his statements on the issue. According to Tom Nelson's blog, Sen. Kerry and spouse own five luxury homes, a 76-foot yacht, SUV and private jet.

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/18895/Sen-John-Kerry-as-Sec-Of-State-Be-Afraid-Kerrys-Poor-Understanding-of-Climate-Science-Poses-Threat-to-US-National-Security>>

<<http://tomnelson.blogspot.ca/2012/12/five-luxury-homes-76-foot-yacht-suv-and.html>>

<<http://www.examiner.com/article/be-wary-of-green-sen-kerry-at-state>>

**Green Energy Costs May Accelerate Europe's Decline**

As its energy-intensive industries like steel and chemicals, faced with the high costs of green energy, relocate to the US, these costs are emerging as an issue in Europe – particularly in Spain and the UK. The expansion in renewables will probably ensure that Europe will meet its target of reducing greenhouse gases 20% below 1990 levels by 2020. However, the effect is that Europe has exported its emissions to places like China. Europeans cannot help noticing that the US has managed to reduce its gas prices through the shale gas boom and its emissions to a 20-year low.

A related story tells how up to 70,000 UK jobs in the mineral industries are at risk from the EU's climate change law.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-energy-costs-accelerate-europes-decline/>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-madness-70000-uk-jobs-at-risk-eu-climate-change-law/>>

**Carbon Taxes in Ireland**

The *New York Times* writes approvingly how carbon taxes reduce Ireland's staggering deficit and, of course, make it "greener." For this, the Irish pay the equivalent of \$8/gallon for gasoline, high heating

fuel costs, as well as steep taxes on vehicles and charges for garbage based on weight. These disproportionately affect the poor. The NYT speculates how carbon tax legislation would fare in the US, noting that the coalition government that introduced carbon taxes to Ireland lost the following election.

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/28/science/earth/in-ireland-carbon-taxes-pay-off.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/28/science/earth/in-ireland-carbon-taxes-pay-off.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)>

### **Why It's the End of the Line for Wind Power**

For the US wind power industry, it's the end of the world as they know it. On January 1, the federal production tax credit on wind investments, which offsets 30% of the cost of building wind turbines expires. Most wind projects have been able to patch into existing grid connections, but future ones in remote locations will require more infrastructure to reach the grid. The American Tradition Institute has compiled a report finding that the true cost of wind electricity is twice what has been officially reported, once hidden costs and subsidies are taken into account.

An opinion piece in the *Washington Times* calls for the elimination of the production tax credit because the 39,000 "eco friendly" wind turbines kill an estimated 13 to 39 million birds and bats in the US every year. The Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service let the industry operate with immunity.

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2012/12/21/why-its-the-end-of-the-line-for-wind-power/>>

<<http://www.atinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Hidden-Cost.pdf>>

<<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/dec/22/big-wind-tax-credit-exterminates-endangered-specie/>>

### **Silicon Valley's Green Energy Mistake**

A recent survey by the *Wall Street Journal's* corporate cousins at Dow Jones and National Venture Capital Association found that "clean technology" is inspiring pessimism among venture capitalists. Fully 61% expect less such investment in 2013 compared to 2012. To the WSJ, this represents a healthy shift in Silicon Valley attitudes. When the Valley committed to meeting market needs, it enriched the world with Intel, Google, Apple and Cisco. When investors tried to profit from political agendas, they saddled the taxpayers with Abound Solar, Range Fuels and Solyndra. Even Al Gore got burned.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323401904578159660625274422.html>>

### **This is Called Cheating**

The IPCC claims that it conducts no research on its own, but relies on surveys of the existing scientific literature. In her blog *No Frakking Consensus*, Donna Laframboise describes how lead authors for chapters of the forthcoming AR5 – who wish to include certain information in the report – manufacture made-to-order articles in journals.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/12/20/this-is-called-cheating-part-1/>>

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/12/22/this-is-called-cheating-part-2/>>

### **Beyond Bizarre: University of Graz Music Professor Calls for Death Sentences for Skeptics**

Though the university has taken Prof. Richard Parncutt's ugly essay off its website, the Web Citation

archive preserves it. In this essay the professor, who opposes the death penalty even for mass murderers like Anders Behring Breivik, thinks “global warming deniers” fall into a completely different category, as he considers them guilty of causing the deaths of hundreds (or billions) of future people.

Prof. Parncutt proposes an international court, publication of a legal change giving GW deniers a chance to change their ways and escape punishment. For those that don't, there would be arrest and then trial before a jury of suitably qualified scientists, who would estimate the accused's probability (say 95%) of causing more than 1 million future deaths. This would be followed by a death sentence, which could be commuted to life imprisonment if the guilty admitted their mistake.

In the blog *No Tricks Zone*, Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt holds the media, through sloppily researched and non-objective articles, as partly responsible for Prof. Parncutt's outburst. In the last WUWT link, the University of Graz responds to his essay.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/23/beyond-bizarre-university-of-graz-music-professor-calls-for-skeptic-death-sentences/>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/12/death-threats-anyone-austrian-prof-global-warming-deniers-should-be-sentenced-to-death/>>

<<http://www.webcitation.org/6D8yy8NUJ>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/27/germanaustrian-academia-descends-into-madness-reaction-to-parncutts-death-penalty-calls-for-free-speechers/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/27/university-of-graz-responds-to-parncutts-calls-for-death-to-deniers/>>

## 2012-12-22

### Unleashed: Monckton Releases His AR5 Reviewer Comments

Because the IPCC's draft AR5 report is now leaked into the public domain [FoS Extracts – 2012-12-15], Christopher Monckton has released his AR5 review comments. Lord Monckton works from the premise that the IPCC's credibility could theoretically be rescued and provides some 450 peer-reviewed papers that the team of hundreds of experts had missed. JoNova's blog lists the top 11 comments, out of the 104 that he prepared. The second link below will download the complete list.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/12/unleashed-monckton-releases-his-ar5-reviewer-comments/>>

<[http://o.b5z.net/i/u/10152887/f/AR5\\_Expert\\_Review\\_Lord\\_Monckton\\_Foundation\\_20121216.pdf](http://o.b5z.net/i/u/10152887/f/AR5_Expert_Review_Lord_Monckton_Foundation_20121216.pdf)>

### Monckton on What Happened when He Took the Floor at Doha

In this 7:19 video on *Sun TV*, Lord Monckton admitted that he broke the rules when he spoke for 40 seconds. However, there was no other way of communicating that there is no climate problem; if there were it would be cheaper to adapt than to try preventing it; and there should be a scientific reexamination of the UN climate process. This was something the delegates and mainstream media didn't want to hear, and he was howled down. He points out that China will soon be emitting more CO<sub>2</sub> than the entire Western world – because it cannot afford not to provide its people with the fossil-fuel power that they need. Therefore, what the West does in terms of emissions reductions will become irrelevant, but this fact cannot be allowed in the UN conferences.

For another video of Doha, watch YouTube as the President of the Doha conference gavel through the five final decisions in less than four minutes to close the conference, not giving anyone a chance to voice objections.



<<http://www.cfact.org/2012/12/14/lord-monckton-on-crashing-cop18-meeting/>>  
 <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elgXUk56LuE&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elgXUk56LuE&feature=player_embedded)>

### **Second Order Draft of AR5 – Figure 1.4**

Figure 1.4 in the leaked draft of the IPCC's AR5 compares observed global surface temperature anomalies for 1990-2012 to the projections contained in the first four IPCC reports. The graph is clear enough, as it shows observed temperatures well below the projected trends. Here Dr. Whitehouse comments on is the use of selective and incomplete quoting by the IPCC authors, particularly when dealing with the temperature standstill of the past 16 years. They try to sweep it under the carpet using cherry-picked data and timescales.

The second link has an animated version of the figure. The third discusses media reaction. The fourth contains Terence Corcoran's comments on how the leaked report has spawned a needed science debate, rather than a dumped consensus.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/18/dr-david-whitehouse-on-the-ar5-figure-1-4/>>  
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/19/an-animated-analysis-of-the-ipcc-ar5-graph-shows-ipcc-analysis-methodology-and-computer-models-are-seriously-flawed/>>  
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/20/climate-sensitivity-low-alarmist-sensitivity-high/>>  
 <<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/12/21/terence-corcoran-climate-science-freakout/>>

### **Labeling People “Climate Change Deniers” Merely Reveals Attacker’s Ignorance**

Tim Ball's post begins with a discussion of a common fallback position when losing an argument: to attack your adversary personally, the *ad hominem*. Thus people who challenge the claims of the IPCC are often labeled “global warming skeptics.” However, skeptics do not deny that global warming has occurred in modern times, but question its cause. When “global warming” proved a problem for the IPCC's supporters, they changed the term to “climate change” and started labeling their opponents “climate change deniers,” something that informed observers would come to see as conclusive proof that the abuser knows nothing about climate or the scientific method.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/18/labeling-people-climate-change-deniers-merely-reveals-the-attackers-ignorance/>>

### **Cooling Down the Fears of Climate Change**

Writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, with a complementary article by Nic Lewis in *Watts Up With That*, Matt Ridley explains the central issue of anthropogenic global warming: climate sensitivity (how much warming will a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> actually produce.) Based on observations over the last 100-150 years, we can now estimate a sensitivity of 1.6°C-1.7°C. The big question is whether the forthcoming AR5 will acknowledge that the best observational evidence no longer supports the IPCC's existing 2°C-4.5°C “likely” range for climate sensitivity. Given the organization's record of replacing evidence-based policy-making with policy-based evidence-making, Mr. Ridley believes that the IPCC will continue to rely on their complex unverifiable computer models.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323981504578179291222227104.html>>  
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/19/why-doesnt-the-ar5-sods-climate-sensitivity-range-reflect-its-new-aerosol-estimates/>>

### **More Bad News for Alarmists – No Trend in Global Hurricane Landfalls**

*What's Up With That* reports on a new paper by Roger Pielke Jr. and colleagues that analyzed a dataset of landfalls of global tropical cyclones for the period 1970-2012. WUWT lists 11 factoids summarizing the data and refuting the argument that the world is experiencing a “new normal” with respect to tropical cyclones. In fact, the US is currently in the midst of the longest recorded streak without an intense (Category 3-5) hurricane landfall.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/17/more-bad-news-for-alarmists-no-trend-in-global-hurricane-landfalls/>>

### **IEA Warns that Coal Renaissance Threatens Climate Crisis**

The International Energy Agency is worried that, without urgent policy action to deliver a high carbon price or bring on new unconventional gas reserves, coal will displace oil as the global economy's dominant energy source. This will occur in every region over the next five years, except the shale gas-blessed US. The policy that the IEA recommends is emulating the US experience in shale gas and deployment of currently-stalled carbon capture and storage technologies.

[http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2232798/iea-warns-coal-renaissance-threatens-climate-crisis?WT.rss\\_f=Home&WT.rss\\_a=IEA+warns+coal+renaissance+threatens+climate+crisis](http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2232798/iea-warns-coal-renaissance-threatens-climate-crisis?WT.rss_f=Home&WT.rss_a=IEA+warns+coal+renaissance+threatens+climate+crisis)>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/9754444/Asias-insatiable-demand-for-coal-plays-havoc-with-climate-goals.html>>

### **Wear and Tear Hits Wind Farm Output and Economic Timeline**

The Renewable Energy Foundation has published a report *The Performance of Wind Farms in the United Kingdom and Denmark* showing that the economic life of wind turbines is 10-15 years, not the 20-25 years forecast by the wind industry and used in UK government projections. (The REF describes itself as “a registered charity promoting sustainable development for the benefit of the public by means of energy conservation and the use of renewable energy”.)

The average “load factor” (the percentage of rated power produced over the course of a year) of wind farms declines substantially as they get older, probably due to wear and tear. By 10 years of age the contribution of an average UK wind farm to meeting electricity demand has declined by a third (from 24% load factor to 15%, see page 11, Fig. 1 of the report.) After 15 years, the performance is down to 11%. This means that many wind farms will have to be “repowered” (turbines replaced) after 10-15 years of operation.

The author of the report, Prof. Gordon Hughes, concludes gloomily, “Whatever the reasons, the deterioration in initial performance means that the expected returns from the expansion in wind capacity, both for investors and in terms of the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, have been falling without a concomitant decrease in the private and social costs that are borne by customers and the general public. Clearly this is unsatisfactory at best and it suggests that the benefits claimed for current policies cannot be taken at face value.”

<http://www.thegwpf.org/wear-tear-hits-wind-farm-output-economic-lifetime/>>  
<http://www.ref.org.uk/attachments/article/280/ref.hughes.19.12.12.pdf>>

2012-12-15

**Green Activists Close to Despair as Doha Climate Conference Ends in Disgrace**

*Watts Up With That* has Benny Peiser's compilation of post mortems of the Doha conference from *The Spectator*, *Inter Press Service*, *Reuters*, *The American Interest*, the *Telegraph* and the *Financial Post*. As Reuters puts it, "At the end of another lavishly-funded UN conference that yielded no progress on curbing greenhouse emissions, many of those most concerned about climate change are close to despair." According to Walter Russell Mead, "The only real winners here were the bureaucrats in the diplomacy industry for whom endless rounds of carbon spewing conferences with no agreement year after year mean jobs, jobs, jobs."

In the blog *No Tricks Zone*, the German media report that only a totally lame climate treaty compromise was reached in Doha. For those calling for rapid reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the result in Doha can only be described as an utter disaster.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/10/doha-post-mortem-some-green-activists-close-to-despair/>>  
<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/08/doha-fails-utterly-only-37-countries-agree-to-extend-old-kyoto-treaty-lots-of-declarations-of-intent/>>

**Doha Agreement Unraveling as Belarus and Others Consider Kyoto Exit**

In the frantic final moments of the Doha conference, delegations from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine discovered that an annex to the Kyoto Protocol extension contained a complicated provision that capped their countries' emissions at the 2008-2010 levels – at the height of the financial crisis when emissions had slowed. They also objected to not being allowed to carry forward their unused emissions allowances from Kyoto 1. A group of 40 small island states and the EU had inserted the provision. The conference chairman gavelled through the final text over the objections of the three countries, which are now considering leaving the protocol.

<<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/12/10/us-climate-talks-kyoto-idUKBRE8B90ZY20121210>>  
<<http://www.thegwpf.org/ukraine-join-russia-shun-kyoto-protocol/>>

**German Experts Call for End to Climate Mega Summits**

Top climate academics and government officials in Germany, disenchanted the UN process that has produced only a series of agreements to reach an agreement, say that the dream of a global deal is over. Rather than focusing on a 2°C target and greenhouse gases, it is time to move on to deal with the consequences of climate change.

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/top-researchers-call-for-an-end-to-united-nations-climate-summits-a-872992.html>>

**How UN Climate Change Negotiations Threaten Economic Growth**

In this essay Ronald Bailey, science correspondent at *Reason* magazine, summarizes the outcomes of the Doha conference. Even though Friends of the Earth called the Doha deal "as empty as a desert mirage," Mr. Bailey argues that even mirages can mislead people into danger. In 2009 at Copenhagen, a \$100 billion/year Green Climate Fund was hastily cobbled together by President Obama to avoid a public relations disaster of a total collapse. The two subsequent conferences endorsed it and set up the fund's charter and board of directors. At Doha the UN upped the ante with the addition of "loss and damage"

compensation to poor countries, again at \$100 billion/year – an example of creeping UN incrementalism in action.

<<http://reason.com/archives/2012/12/11/un-climate-change-negotiations-to-grind>>

### **Ontario Government Continues to Prove that the *Green Energy Act* is Misguided Policy**

Last June the Ontario Energy Ministry announced the Industrial Electricity Incentive, which is to go into effect on January 1, 2013. The program offers discounts of up to 2/3 for major companies looking to establish operations in the province and for those already present that expand operations. However, the government has recently been soft-pedaling the initiative, probably so as not to make any new problems for Premier Dalton McGuinty's successor. Even the candidates for his job seem to be backing away from the GEA and acknowledging that Ontario now has more power than it needs.

<<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/12/13/scott-stinson-ontario-green-energy-act/>>

### **Obama's Energy Dilemma: Back Energy-Fueled Growth or Please the Green Lobby**

To Joel Kotkin, executive director of *NewGeography.com*, more important than the fiscal cliff will be how the Obama administration deals with a potential growth-inducing energy boom. The president is in a dilemma: To please his core constituency – environmentalists, Hollywood, media and software industries – he can strangle an incipient energy-led boom in its cradle through the dictates of federal regulators. On the other hand, he can choose to take credit for an economic expansion that improves the lives of millions of middle and working class Americans, ensuring his party's political domination for a generation.

<<http://www.joelkotkin.com/content/00671-obama's-energy-dilemma-back-energy-fueled-growth-or-please-green-lobby>>

### **Renewable Energy Index Plummets 90% in Four Years**

The Renewable Energy Industrial Index (RENIXX) was established in 2006 and includes the world's 30 largest renewable energy companies. Of the 30 companies, 10 are headquartered in China, 10 in Europe, and 7 in the US. During the heydays of 2007 and 2008, when Al Gore's book and documentary were hits, and governments poured money into renewable energy, the RENIXX was on a roll. But after the subsidies, first in Spain and then in Germany, started to dry up, together with failure to reach a binding global climate pact in 2009, the index tumbled. In November 2012 it was 90% below its December 2007 peak.

The following URL is a Google translation from an article in Dutch by *Dagelijkse Standaard*. In case it doesn't work the second URL points to the original article.

<[http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dagelijksestandaard.nl%2F2012%2F12%2Fbeursindex-duurzame-energie-is-met-90-gekelderde%3Futm\\_source=Dagelijkse+Standaard+List%26utm\\_campaign=edaecb7c1b](http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dagelijksestandaard.nl%2F2012%2F12%2Fbeursindex-duurzame-energie-is-met-90-gekelderde%3Futm_source=Dagelijkse+Standaard+List%26utm_campaign=edaecb7c1b)>  
<[http://www.dagelijksestandaard.nl/2012/12/beursindex-duurzame-energie-is-met-90-gekelderde?utm\\_source=Dagelijkse+Standaard+List&utm\\_campaign=edaecb7c1b-nb&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.dagelijksestandaard.nl/2012/12/beursindex-duurzame-energie-is-met-90-gekelderde?utm_source=Dagelijkse+Standaard+List&utm_campaign=edaecb7c1b-nb&utm_medium=email)>

**Green Mafia: 500 Police Raid Deutsche Bank over Carbon Fraud**

Around 500 police and tax inspectors raided Deutsche Bank, arresting five staff in a probe linked to a tax scam involving the trading of carbon permits. Prosecutors said they were investigating 25 bank staff on suspicion of severe tax evasion, money laundering and obstruction of justice, and searched the headquarters and private residences in Berlin, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-mafia-500-police-raid-deutsche-bank-carbon-fraud/>>

<<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/12/12/uk-deutschebank-prosecutors-idUKBRE8BB0NA20121212>>

**Draft of IPCC AR5 Leaked: Contains Admission of Solar Forcing**

*Watts Up With That* has links to all 14 chapters, together with the Summary of Policymakers and Technical Summary for the Second Order Draft of the IPCC's AR5, Working Group I (the physical science), which is due for official release in late 2013. The WUWT link contains links to reactions to the link, with even the *New York Times*' Andrew Revkin semi endorsing the leak. The IPCC, despite its stated commitment to a transparent process, immediately released a statement regretting the leak and stating that AR5 is a work in progress, with the cut-off date for published literature still in the future (March 15, 2013.)

Alec Rawls, an expert reviewer for AR5 and the leaker, describes why he did it and his comments on the report. Chapter 7 of AR5 (Clouds and Aerosols) contains text about empirical evidence for enhanced solar forcing beyond total solar irradiance, which undercuts what's in Chapter 8 (Anthropogenic and Natural Forcing). Chapter 8 claims with a very high confidence that natural forcing is a small fraction of the anthropogenic forcing. Mr. Rawls contends that the acknowledgement of strong evidence for enhanced solar forcing should upend the entire IPCC agenda.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/13/ipcc-ar5-draft-leaked-contains-game-changing-admission-of-enhanced-solar-forcing/>>

<[http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/statement/Statement\\_WGI\\_AR5\\_SOD.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/statement/Statement_WGI_AR5_SOD.pdf)>

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/12/14/the-ipcc-leak-this-is-what-transparency-looks-like/>>

**Our Chaotic Climate System**

Roy Spencer's short essay discusses how chaos theory limits the predictability of weather forecasts to ten days or so and then goes on to describe the ocean as a similar nonlinear dynamical system acting on climate over much longer periods. He believes that most climate variability and even climate change could simply be the result of chaos in the climate system – in particular the little-understood influence of clouds. He ends by endorsing the need for natural climate change research, something the US government has almost zero interest in funding.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/12/our-chaotic-climate-system/>>

2012-12-08

**Doha Conference Concludes**

The climate summit ended a day late on Saturday, December 8, with the conference chairman announcing the Doha Climate Gateway. The major outcome was a symbolic extension of the Kyoto Protocol, including only the EU, Australia, Switzerland and eight other industrialized nations, representing 15% of global emissions, which signed up for binding emissions cuts for the period 2013-2020.

The summit established for the first time that rich nations should move towards compensating poor nations for losses due to climate change. However, the US delegates – after initially opposing the concept – made certain that terms implying compensation and legal liability were excluded. Instead the “loss and damage” money will be judged as aid. Details of the scheme will be worked out at next year’s climate conference.

Parties agreed to spend the next three years negotiating a new climate treaty, as agreed last year in Durban. This one will require all countries, developed and developing, to cut their emissions.

Environmentalists were bitterly disappointed in the Doha outcome. A Friends of the Earth International spokesperson said, “The Doha deal is as empty as a desert mirage. Despite the official spin, these talks delivered nothing – no real progress on cutting greenhouse gases and only an insulting gesture at climate finance.” The leader of WWF’s Global Climate and Energy Initiative, said, “Some developed countries have made a mockery of the negotiations by backing away from their past commitments and refusing to take on new ones. And to make matters worse, it was only a handful of countries – such as Poland, Russia, Canada, the U.S. and Japan – who held the negotiations to ransom.”

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-20653018>>

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/dec/08/doha-climate-change-deal-nations>>

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/9732226/Doha-climate-change-talks-end-with-compensation-deal-for-poor-nations-that-could-cost-billions.html>>

<<http://nz.news.yahoo.com/a/-/mp/15582227/un-climate-package-passed-in-doha/>>

<<http://ens-newswire.com/2012/12/08/doha-outcome-kyoto-protocol-lives-global-climate-deal-by-2015/>>

### **Christopher Monckton Crashes Doha Talks**

As Lord Monckton put it: “I have been a bad boy.” What he did was sit down at the vacant desk of the Myanmar delegation, push the microphone button, get recognized by the chairman, and in one and a half minutes (until the chairman realized his mistake and cut off the microphone), utter three inconvenient truths:

- There has been no global warming for 16-18 years;
- It is ten times more cost effective to adapt to global warming when it happens than trying to mitigate it today;
- There should be an independent scientific inquiry to establish whether the UN’s climate conferences have still heading in the right direction.

The *Watts Up With That* link includes a video of Lord Monckton’s performance

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/07/monckton-on-his-smashing-u-n-wall-of-silence-on-lack-of-warming-and-censure/#more-75426>>

### **Lord Stern: Developing Countries Must Make Deeper Emissions Cuts**

Lord Stern is the author of the 2006 Stern Review on the economics of climate change, which concluded that the benefits of acting on climate change far outweigh the costs of not acting. In this *Guardian* article he says that even if developed countries cut their emissions to zero, emissions from rapidly-industrializing nations are now so high that runaway climate change will continue – what he calls the “brutal arithmetic” of the matter.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon didn't appreciate the arithmetic, saying that the industrialized world caused climate change and should bear most of the responsibility.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/dec/04/lord-stern-developing-countries-deeper-emissions-cuts>>

<<http://news.yahoo.com/ap-interview-un-chief-blames-rich-warming-085524684--finance.html>>

### **Up in Smoke: It's All Over for Europe's Carbon Capture and Storage Dreams**

ULCOS (Ultra-Low Carbon-Dioxide Steelmaking) is a consortium of 46 European companies and other organizations working to develop ways to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for steel production. Its first project was to be at an ArcelorMittal plant at Florange in Northern France, supported by €1.5 billion in special EU funding. However, ArcelorMittal announced that it would not proceed with the project, meaning that not one single CCS scheme in Europe is set to proceed.

In November, the Desertec Industrial Initiative, a €400 billion venture to build solar thermal plants in North Africa and transmit the electricity into Europe via Spain, stalled. The industrial backers bailed when political backing for the project evaporated.

<<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/arcelormittal-buries-europes-car-news-516506>>

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/the-desertec-solar-energy-project-has-run-into-trouble-a-867077.html>>

### **US Carbon Tax: Climatically Useless**

Using IPCC projections of 21<sup>st</sup> century warming and a downloadable desktop model developed by NCAR, Chip Knappenberger of the blog *MasterResource*, calculates the effect of a US carbon tax of \$15-\$25/tonne. It would "save" 0.06°C to 0.11°C by 2100, while the IPCC estimates that the earth's average temperature will increase from 1.1°C to 6.4°C. In other words, according to the models, the US plays only a minor role in AGW, and a carbon tax would mean paying a lot and getting little in return.

<<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/12/carbon-tax-climatically-useless/>>

### **Extreme Weather 2012: Latest Peer-Reviewed Studies and Analyses Undermine the Case that Current Weather is "Unprecedented" or "Abnormal"**

On December 6 *Climate Depot* presented a 35-page report that addresses the man-made global warming movement's shift from warming to weather fears. The latest peer-reviewed studies, data and analyses undermine the case that the weather is more "extreme" or "unprecedented."

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/18723/New-Report-Extreme-Weather-Report-2012-Latest-peerreviewed-studies-data--analyses-undermine-the-case-that-current-weather-is-unprecedented-or-a-new-normal>>

<<http://www.cfact.org/pdf/ClimateDepot-ExtremeWeatherReport2012.pdf>>

### **Washington Post Retracts False Claims about Heartland Institute**

On November 24 the *Washington Post* published a story about the Heartland Institute claiming that the latter received \$7.3 million from ExxonMobil and nearly \$14.4 million from the Koch brothers. These figures were out by a factor of 10 for ExxonMobil and a factor of 400 in the case of the Kochs. After

being contacted by Heartland President Joseph Bast, and after the story had been picked up by other mainstream media publications, the *Post* corrected its story in printed Mr. Bast's letter to the editor.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/05/wapos-juliet-eilperin-retracts-false-heartland-claims/#more-75295>>

### **Marc Morano Debates Bill Nye the Science Guy**

This 10:46 CNN video with transcript has Mr. Morano debating both Mr. Nye and the host Piers Morgan. Mr. Morano comes across well armed with facts, with the other two arguing that, with global population and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growing – with anecdotal references to weather events, AGW is justified.

*DeSmogBlog* was not impressed by the debate, accusing CNN of falling into the same balance trap as PBS [FoS Extracts – 2012—09-20] by giving a microphone to a “serial climate misinformer.” According to the blog, there are not two sides to the climate change “debate.”

<<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2012/12/04/climate-realist-marc-morano-debates-bill-nye-science-guy-global-warmi>>

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/2012/12/05/cnn-lends-credence-serial-climate-misinformer-marc-morano>>

### **Marc Morano: Climate Sensationalism**

In the 7:16 video Mr. Morano is interviewed about the letter to the UN signed by 129 scientists [FoS Extracts – 2012-12-01], the 16 years of no global warming and his censored debate on the BBC with Michael Mann.

<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/climate-sensationalism/2008603859001>>

### **Scientists Agree: Global Warming Affects Winters, whether They're Mild or Cold**

In the December issue of *Scientific American*, Charles Green, professor of earth and atmospheric sciences at Cornell University, argues that loss of Arctic sea ice is stacking the deck in favor of harsh winters in the US and Europe. Last winter was mild, with little snow in the US, but that was blamed on global warming by Kevin Trenberth at NCAR. Vladimir Petoukhov of the Potsdam Institute claimed: “Recent severe winters like last year's [2009-10] or the one of 2005-2006 do not conflict with the global warming picture, but rather supplement it.”

<<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2012/12/03/97-of-scientists-agree-how-global-warming-affects-winters/>>

**2012-12-01**

### **Mandating Cars that People Don't Want**

Just before leaving for the Doha climate conference, Canada's environment minister Peter Kent announced what he called “good news”: the government would be forcing the auto industry to make cars that consumers might not want, but could save them \$900 per year in fuel. He quoted a precise fuel consumption of 54.5 miles per US gallon by 2025. The additional cost of this will be an estimated \$10,000. Though the resulting reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will have not the slightest impact on the climate, Mr. Kent put it as “the right thing to do.” Then he added the government's real reason: to



keep aligned with the US.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/11/29/peter-foster-mandating-cars-people-dont-want/>>

### **Open Climate Letter to UN Secretary-General: 129 Scientists Say Current Knowledge Does Not Substantiate S-G's Assertion on Weather and Climate**

On November 29, 129 climate scientists signed a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon refuting his recent statement that extreme weather due to climate change is the new normal, and that we should waste no more time debating the climate issue. The letter notes that the UK Met Office's data shows no statistically-significant warming for 16 years, despite a 9% rise in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>; the incidence and severity of extreme weather has not increased, and there is no need for the costly and restrictive public policy decisions proposed at Doha. The letter chastises the S-G for exploiting the misery of victims of Hurricane Sandy.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/11/29/open-climate-letter-to-un-secretary-general-current-scientific-knowledge-does-not-substantiate-ban-ki-moon-assertions-on-weather-and-climate-say-125-scientists/>>

### **US to Green NGOs at Doha: We Pay for your Presence at Global Summits**

The *Times of India* caught the US chief climate change negotiator telling green NGOs in a closed session at the Doha summit to remember that the US is one of their funders. Jonathan Pershing also told the NGOs to shift focus from demanding greater commitment from the developed world to reduce emissions. He said, "I am struck in some fashion that the news that a lot of your attention and a lot of global attention isn't on the actual implementation. The question that people are by is: what's the new commitment: the next new thing."

In another story the same paper obtained a transcript in which Mr. Pershing told NGOs that there is no chance of the US signing a climate deal requiring it to make substantial cuts in emissions. Proposals to divide up quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions "equitably" would leave the US having to commit economic suicide.

<<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/environment/global-warming/us-to-green-ngos-who-pays-for-your-presence-at-global-summits/articleshow/17417399.cms>>  
<<http://www.rtcc.org/doha-usa-negotiator-says-emission-cuts-depend-on-public-support/>>

### **Three Downbeat Reports from the Climate Conference**

At Doha China teamed up with envoys from the EU and a bloc of 48 least-developed countries to reduce expectations regarding pledges by rich countries, as well as developing ones, to reduce emissions. Instead the Chinese delegation leader called upon the rich to boost climate aid.

Halfway through the conference, the UN climate chief Christiana Figueres said that there's no support for a tough deal. She said that she didn't see "much public interest, support, for governments to take on more ambitious and more courageous decisions."

According to the Times of India, the host Qatar is trying to set up a ministerial, closed-door meeting next week outside the formal schedule, similarly to what Denmark did three years ago in Copenhagen. Developing countries are upset at being left outside the process.

<<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-11-28/china-joins-eu-to-scale-back-outlook-for-un-climate->

[talks>](#)

<<http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2012/11/30/un-climate-boss-no-support-for-tough-climate-deal>>

<<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/environment/developmental-issues/qatar-plan-threatens-to-kill-climate-talks/articleshow/17435094.cms>>

### **IPCC Chairman Promises that Next Report Will Show Stronger Evidence of Man-made Climate Change**

Speaking on the sidelines of the Doha conference, Rajendra Pachauri said that the evidence for man-made global warming is getting stronger. In its 2007 assessment report the IPCC said that the probability was at least 90%. Mr. Pachauri expects this figure to increase in the next one. According to the Brisbane Times, he supported extending the Kyoto Protocol, “the only show in town.”

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/29/us-climate-talks-science-idUSBRE8AS0G120121129>>

<<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/global-warming-evidence-strengthens-un-official-says-20121130-2akj4.html>>

### **UN Bureaucrats Wield Science for Undemocratic Purposes**

As Donna Laframboise puts it: “UN officials say we should listen to science. Don’t be fooled. It’s a rhetorical ploy, a cover for their own agenda.” For example the head of the UN Environmental Program said that, despite the slow pace of progress, there is still a chance for the world to “obey” scientific advice. Christina Figueres, the head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held that governments have decided that they need to “listen to the science.” The head of the IPCC said that science must drive ambition in Doha. In all three statements, the implication is that science is a god we must obey.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/11/22/un-bureaucrats-wield-science-for-undemocratic-purposes/>>

### **Green Madness: Half of Europe’s “Renewable Energy” Comes from Wood**

According to Eurostat statistics, on average 49% of the renewable energy in the EU’s 27 states came from wood and wood wastes in 2010. Because wood is cheap, easily accessible and considered “carbon neutral” it is a popular choice to meet renewables obligations, particularly in the northern countries. However, if living wood – as opposed to wood at the end of its life cycle – is burned, there is a net loss to the carbon sink for a period of decades until compensated for by fully-grown replacement trees. This phenomenon is known as “carbon debt.”

<[http://www.euractiv.com/specialreport-energising-tomorro/half-europe-renewable-energy-com-news-516365?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS&utm\\_campaign=EurActivRSS](http://www.euractiv.com/specialreport-energising-tomorro/half-europe-renewable-energy-com-news-516365?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=EurActivRSS)>

### **Northern Hemisphere Seized by Record Cold**

The UK’s Telegraph reports that local councils are gearing up for what could be Britain’s coldest winter in 100 years as sub-zero temperatures and snow follow days of devastating downpours. Cold and snow are forecast to hit Scandinavia and Central Europe. Alaska has been experiencing unusually cold November weather, and the Arctic sea ice has recovered a record of almost six million square kilometres since October 1.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/11/29/globe-seized-by-bitter-cold-arctic-sees-record-refreeze-uk-faces->

[100-year-winter-snow-in-new-zealand/>](#)

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2012-11-22

### **FoS Publicity from *What's Up With That***

Anthony Watts has reproduced on his website the ten common misconceptions about global warming as posted on the Friends of Science site. The WUWT article has attracted over 140 comments, including three from FoS Director Ken Gregory, the author of the ten misconceptions.

[<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/20/myths-and-facts-about-global-warming/>](http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/20/myths-and-facts-about-global-warming/)

### **Kent: Climate Change a “Real and Present Danger”**

In the run-up to the Doha climate summit, Canadian Environment Minister Peter Kent said that recent extreme weather events are forcing politicians in Canada and the US to focus on the issue of climate change, a “real and present danger.” He noted that while scientists regularly tell the government that they can’t connect individual incidents of extreme weather to climate change, he thinks that it’s clear that there are increased incidents of extreme weather tied to climate change.

[<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2012/11/19/pol-peter-kent-weather-climate.html>](http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2012/11/19/pol-peter-kent-weather-climate.html)

### **WTO Rules against Ontario in Green Energy Dispute**

Following complaints by Japan and the EU against the local content rules in Ontario’s *Green Energy Act*, the World Trade Organization upheld the complaints. The decision may be appealed by the federal government on behalf of the province, which would delay its effect. However, Ontario’s renewable energy sector is more likely at risk due to near-term political changes in the province.

[<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/wto-rules-against-ontario-in-green-energy-dispute/article5461941/>](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/wto-rules-against-ontario-in-green-energy-dispute/article5461941/)

[<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/story/2012/11/19/wto-green-energy.html?cmp=rss>](http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/story/2012/11/19/wto-green-energy.html?cmp=rss)

[<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1290559--wto-likely-to-rule-against-ontario>](http://www.thestar.com/business/article/1290559--wto-likely-to-rule-against-ontario)

### **Washington Ponders Disarming UNFCCC**

According to a report from Europe, the US is considering moving substantive elements of the Doha climate summit away from the UN framework and into the more informal Major Economies Forum, the members of which account for 85% of global emissions. The MEF includes Brazil, Canada, China, the EU, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, the UK and the US. Despite the report, Christiana Figueres, secretary-general of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is adamant that all formal negotiations and decisions should take place at the UNFCCC.

[<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/washington-weighs-moving-climate-news-516077>](http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/washington-weighs-moving-climate-news-516077)

[<http://www.majoreconomiesforum.org/>](http://www.majoreconomiesforum.org/)

### **Renewing the Kyoto Protocol at Doha**

Brazil’s lead negotiator said that delegates at the Doha climate summit should concentrate on an extension to the Kyoto Protocol and the rules for a longer-term agreement, rather than be distracted by the contentious issue of emissions reductions. Ambassador Luiz Alberto Figueiredo said that Brazil would

like the Kyoto extension to last until 2020, when a new internationally-binding protocol is supposed to come into effect. Environmental NGOs are unhappy about any talk of delay in commitments to emissions reductions.

*Reuters* market analyst Gerard Wynn has two reasons why a second round of the Kyoto accord has scant prospects of success at Doha. (1) It wouldn't include the four biggest emitters (China, the US, India and Russia.) This leaves only Europe, Australia, Ukraine and a handful of industrialized countries, accounting for 14% of global greenhouse gases, to make pledges to cut their emissions. (2) Countries with a surplus of emissions allowances (totaling 13 billion tonnes) from the first round want to carry them forward into the second – as allowed under the existing protocol – undermining any future deals.

In its briefing document for COP 18, the UNFCCC has set out four key objectives: (1) Seamless continuation of the Kyoto Protocol; (2) Planning work under the Durban Platform towards adopting a new, universal climate-change agreement by 2015; (3) Completing the Bali Action Plan, covering mitigation, adaption, finance, technology and capacity-building; (4) Completing infrastructure and charting the way forward on climate finance (Green Climate Fund).

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/nov/15/doha-carbon-cuts-climate-change?intcmp=122>>  
 <<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/16/column-wynn-kyoto-aau-idUSL5E8MEAH820121116>>  
 <[http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/pr\\_20121121\\_pre\\_cop18.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/pr_20121121_pre_cop18.pdf)>

### **Shocker from UEA: Consensus-based Decision Making “Stifles Progress”**

Just before the Doha conference, the University of East Anglia, home to Phil Jones and “hide the decline,” announced a study published in *Nature Climate Change*, finding that the UNFCCC’s “antiquated” consensus-based decision making stifles progress and contributes to negotiating deadlocks. The researchers found that delegate numbers grew from 757 (from 170 countries) at COP 1 in 1995 to 10,591 (from 194 countries) – plus 13,500 delegates from 937 NGOs – at COP 15 in 2009. They recommend capping delegation numbers and shifting to majority-based voting, which would be opposed by developing countries.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/19/shocker-from-uea-consensus-based-decision-stifles-progress/>>  
 <<http://www.uea.ac.uk/mac/comm/media/press/2012/November/climate-negotiations-united-nations>>  
 <<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/18/us-climate-talks-idUSBRE8AH0EK20121118>>

### **IPCC ~~Not~~ Invited to COP 18 in Doha**

In a November 17 report, IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri told the *Gulf Times*: “For the first time in the 18 years of COP, the IPCC will not be attending, because we have not been invited.” He did not know why the IPCC was overlooked, noting that at every COP he attended, the chairman of the IPCC addressed the opening session.

The apparent snub was quickly rectified, when on November 19 the IPCC issued a media advisory stating the Dr. Pachauri will indeed address the conference on November 28. In addition the IPCC will be holding two side events on extreme events and renewable energy. In addition it will give background briefings to the media on its upcoming AR5.

<[http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=544308&version=1&template\\_id=36&parent\\_id=16](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=544308&version=1&template_id=36&parent_id=16)>

<[http://www.ipcc.ch/news\\_and\\_events/docs/COP18/COP18\\_Doha\\_advisory.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/docs/COP18/COP18_Doha_advisory.pdf)>

### **World Bank Terrified by Prospect of 4°C Global Warming**

Also just in time for the Doha conference, the World Bank released a report that it commissioned the Potsdam Institute to produce, one that the bank's president, in the forward, hopes "shocks us into action." The forward includes the premises, also built into the report, that "The science is unequivocal that humans are the cause of global warming ..." and that even current emissions pledges will result in a 3.5°C - 4°C warmer world by 2100. As the report relies heavily on the IPCC's AR4 and its modelling scenarios, the Potsdam Institute did not have to conduct much original research. What terrifies the bank are the direct and indirect consequences of such a warming (sea-level rise, drought, ocean acidification, extreme weather events and threats to large-scale ecosystems), in particular the greater impacts on poorer countries.

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/11/19/were-on-pace-for-4c-of-global-warming-heres-why-the-world-bank-is-terrified/>>

<[http://climatechange.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/Turn\\_Down\\_the\\_heat\\_Why\\_a\\_4\\_degree\\_centigrade\\_warmer\\_world\\_must\\_be\\_avoided.pdf](http://climatechange.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/Turn_Down_the_heat_Why_a_4_degree_centigrade_warmer_world_must_be_avoided.pdf)>

### **Congress Demands EPA's Secret Email Accounts**

The House Science Committee has launched an investigation into whether EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson used an email alias to hide correspondence from open-government requests and her own agency's internal watchdog. Author Christopher Horner uncovered the existence of secret emails while researching a book, *The Liberal War on Transparency*. Some EPA employees have been setting up private Gmail accounts in violation of Federal open-records laws designed to make information available to the public now, and posterity at the National Archives.

*Watt's Up With That* pursued the story and got an explanation from the EPA: Ms. Jackson has a separate email account, named after a former family dog, for internal use within the EPA, though no explanation about the agency's reluctance to make the internal emails public as required by law.

<<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/nov/17/congress-demands-epas-secret-email-accounts/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/20/is-the-epa-running-a-black-ops-program/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/20/chris-horner-responds-to-the-epa-statement-today-on-the-question-of-them-running-a-black-ops-program/#more-74579>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/21/epa-email-dogs-and-all-that/>>

### **China's Great Green Energy Disaster**

Following Spain and Germany, China is just the latest country to discover that modern industrial power grids cannot tolerate the moment-to-moment fluctuations of intermittent, unreliable energy sources such as big wind and big solar. As the unreliaables approach 20% of power capacity to the grid, the violent and unpredictable intermittency of big wind in particular leads to power failures [see FoS Extracts – 2012-10-11, *Why Wind Won't Work*.] One-quarter of China's wind farms are not connected to a power grid - a reflection of poor planning, insufficient transmission lines, and technical concerns by regional utilities.

Responding to a perceived market for green energy in Europe and North America, the country engaged in a massive production build up of wind turbines and solar panels. China's \$30 billion solar power industry is overbuilt and heavily in debt, and the wind-turbine manufacturers, responsible for 40% of the world's output, are squeezed by stalled demand at home and abroad.

<<http://alfin2300.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/chinas-great-green-bubble-of-overbuilt.html>>

### **IPCC Wrong Again: New Study Shows that Drought Benchmark Is Flawed**

Developed in the 1960s to allocate aid to stricken US farmers, the Palmer Drought Severity Index was used in the IPCC's 4<sup>th</sup> assessment report to conclude that it was likely that "more intense and longer droughts" had been observed "over wider areas" since the 1970s. However, a team led by Princeton University environmental scientist Justin Sheffield, the PDSI is a blunt instrument that should be tossed out. They found that there is little evidence to support claims that drought has increased globally over the last 60 years.

<<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iE3mCoxedy53IGTaYLiCWTFIYtBw?docId=CNG.5f5d4d61e54889235995304ae07eb89d.6a1>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/11/nature-paper-global-droughts-unchanged-in-60-years/>>

<<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.ca/2012/11/little-change-in-drought-over-60-years.html>>

<<http://washington.cbslocal.com/2012/11/19/study-drought-trends-estimates-possibly-overstated-due-to-inaccurate-science/>>

**2012-11-15**

### **EU Freezes Aviation Emissions Scheme**

Brussels announced that it will freeze its carbon regulations on flights to and from (though not within) the EU for a year, giving the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization 12 months to deliver a global deal on greenhouse gas emissions from that sector. The EU's climate commissioner, Connie Hedegaard, said that the EU would immediately re-activate its current plans if the ICAO fails to deliver an ambitious package of measures for curbing emissions next year. Some non-EU airlines that bought allowances they now no longer need will have to sell them, possibly at a loss.

<<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2224125/breaking-eu-halts-aviation-carbon-trading-plan>>

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-20299388>>

<<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/nov/13/eu-backs-down-airline-carbon-tax/>>

### **Obama's Carbon Tax?**

In *The Hill*, a White House official is quoted as saying that President Obama has no plans to propose a tax on carbon emissions. This follows a report from HSBC that the administration might pursue such a tax [FoS Extracts – 2012-11-08.] As reported by *Politico* and the *Washington Post*, at his first post-election press conference, the president said "I am a firm believer that climate change is real and that it is impacted by human behavior and carbon emissions." However, his first priority will be to focus on the economy, and then have a "conversation" on climate change. The *Washington Examiner* reports that the Competitive Enterprise Institute is filing a suit to make Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner release 7,300 internal emails about a carbon tax proposal.

<<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/267075-white-house-obama-isnt-planning-carbon-tax-proposal>>

<<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83865.html>>

<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/obama-wants-national-conversation-on-climate-change-no-legislation-proposed/2012/11/14/abfb8e66-2e97-11e2-b631-2aad9d9c73ac\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/obama-wants-national-conversation-on-climate-change-no-legislation-proposed/2012/11/14/abfb8e66-2e97-11e2-b631-2aad9d9c73ac_story.html)>



<[http://washingtonexaminer.com/think-tank-to-sue-treasury-to-make-carbon-tax-proposal-emails-public/article/2513288?utm\\_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2011/13/2012&utm](http://washingtonexaminer.com/think-tank-to-sue-treasury-to-make-carbon-tax-proposal-emails-public/article/2513288?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2011/13/2012&utm)>

### **New Zealand Won't Sign "Kyoto 2" Treaty, but Australia Will**

On November 9 the New Zealand government angered environmentalists by announcing that it would not sign on for a second stage of the Kyoto Protocol. The country's climate change minister said that it would be better to join the US, China and others in a non-binding climate pledge under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In a related story, Australia announced that it will sign on for Kyoto 2.

<<http://news.yahoo.com/zealand-wont-sign-kyoto-2-climate-treaty-070407501.html>>

<[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=10846305](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=10846305)>

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-08/australia-ready-to-join-europe-in-extended-kyoto-climate-pledge.html>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/11/kyoto-australia-in-new-zealand-out/>>

### **Dutch Government Agencies Start Real Climate Dialog**

The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), together with the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) and science journalist Marcel Crok, have launched their joint website *ClimateDialog.org* – an international blog, funded by the Dutch government, where invited scientists discuss controversial subjects in climate science. The aim of *ClimateDialogue.org* is to establish what the contributors agree on, where disagreements remain, and what are the possible or likely reasons behind these disagreements.

The initial discussion deals with the decline in Arctic sea ice, with participation by Walt Meier (research scientist at US National Snow and Ice Data Center), Judith Curry (chair of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology) and Ron Lindsay (climatologist at the Polar Science Center Applied Physics Laboratory of the University of Washington.) Both Dr. Meier and Dr. Lindsay attribute the ice melt to GHG-induced global warming – based on climate model simulations. Dr. Curry points out that reliable data on Arctic ice prior to 1979 is lacking, and attributes the recent melting to a 50-50 split (+/- 20%) between natural variability and CO<sub>2</sub> forcing.

Future topics in the coming months will include climate sensitivity to CO<sub>2</sub>, sea level rise, reliability of temperature measurements, the reliability and usefulness of climate models, and the extent to which oceans can store heat.

<<http://www.pbl.nl/en/news/newsitems/2012/pbl-knmi-and-crok-launch-climate-discussion-platform-climatedialogueorg>>

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

### **Of Buffalo and Biofuel –Tales of Environmentalism in Alberta**

The blog *Ecofascism.com* has four articles about environmentalism in Alberta, of which the second, *Fighting Global Warming from a Freezing Oil Field*, deals with climate change. It describes the activities, and finances, of seven, little-known entities: Climate Change Central (C3), Carbon Management Corporation, Alberta Innovates, the provincial government's carbon offsets program, Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation, Alberta Energy's bioenergy operations and Alberta Energy's carbon capture and storage operations.

<<http://www.ecofascism.com/article27.html>>

### **Catch \$25: How Mandatory Carbon Offsets in BC Are Undermining their Intended Effect**

The Centre for Civic Governance, which "...works to support community leadership meeting today's social and environmental challenges: global warming, Canada's increasing equity gap, the impact of technology and changing social trends," has uncovered how British Columbia's carbon-neutral measures are forcing school districts to pay for carbon offsets that don't reduce emissions and drain funds from education operating budgets. The school districts are legislated to reach carbon neutrality without being given funds to make the necessary infrastructure changes. They are then forced to buy carbon offsets at \$25/tonne from their budgets.

<<http://www.civicgovernance.ca/publications/catch-25-how-mandatory-carbon-offsets-are-undermining-real-emissions-reductions-bc-scho>>

### **BBC Secret Exposed: 28 "Climate Experts" Decided Policy on Climate Coverage**

In January 2006 the BBC had a meeting with 28 climate experts, which led to the broadcaster abandoning any semblance of balance on the subject (contrary to the BBC's charter). Since mid-2007 blogger Tony Newbury has been trying to get the names of the people at the meeting, but BBC lawyers successfully beat back a freedom-of-information request. Now, thanks to the efforts of blogger Maurizio Morabito, who found the names legally, the participants at the 2006 meeting are public. Almost all of them came from the "we must support Kyoto" school of climate change activists.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/11/bbc-secret-exposed-greenpeace-activists-bp-decide-what-sciencebrits-see-hello-twentyeightgate/#more-25217>>  
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/12/breaking-the-secret-list-of-the-bbc-28-is-now-public/>>

### **Environmental Groups Claim Electricity from Burning Trees is Dirtier than Coal**

UK power stations are being encouraged to burn wood to cut carbon emissions. This doesn't sit well with groups like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, which report that burning wood from whole trees produces more CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of electricity than coal. The reason is that wood is wetter and less energy dense than coal, takes a lot more energy to harvest, transport (from as far as New Zealand), process and burn.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/9671911/Electricity-from-burning-trees-is-dirtier-than-coal.html>>

### **Whether the Arctic Loses Ice or the Antarctic Gains Ice, It's "Climate Change"**

In 2007 NASA concluded that wind patterns were a major factor in Arctic sea ice loss, pushing the mobile sea ice further south where it melted. Now the British Antarctic Survey and NASA have issued a press release explaining why Antarctic sea ice has increased in response to changing wind – caused by climate change. They neglected to mention any natural variation.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/12/bipolar-disorder-as-in-the-arctic-the-antarctic-sea-ice-extent-is-affected-by-wind-unless-of-course-its-climate-change/>>  
<[http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/press/press\\_releases/press\\_release.php?id=1967](http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/press/press_releases/press_release.php?id=1967)>



### **Geoscientist Explains why Man-made CO<sub>2</sub> Is Not the Driver of Global Warming**

Ole Humlum, Professor of Geosciences at the University of Oslo, has published a summary of and reply to comments on his paper demonstrating why man-made CO<sub>2</sub> is not a driver of global warming. His finding is based on two observations: (1) Temperature rise begins at sea level and spreads gradually to the land and the atmosphere months later, contrary to the IPCC models; (2) The geographical distribution of a CO<sub>2</sub> increase doesn't start at 30-50 degrees North latitude – the main region of fossil fuel industry and transport – but instead begins *south* of the equator.

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.ca/2012/11/geoscientist-explains-why-man-made-co2.html>>

### **Is There a Planetary Influence on Solar Activity?**

This is the title of a paper in *Astronomy and Astrophysics* that was published on October 22. The authors found excellent spectral agreement between planetary and tidal effects on the tachocline (the transition region between the radiative interior and the rotating outer convective zone of the Sun) and solar magnetic activity. This effect correlates with changes in the Earth's climate from 1425 to 1985.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/10/is-there-is-a-planetary-influence-on-solar-activity-it-seems-so-according-to-this-new-paper/>>

<<http://www.aanda.org/articles/aa/pdf/forth/aa19997-12.pdf>>

2012-11-08

### **Obama's Second Term: Speculation of a Carbon Tax and Harsher Energy Regulation**

*Bloomberg News* says that Barack Obama may consider a carbon tax of \$20/tonne, rising 6%/year, which could halve the fiscal deficit by 2022. *Fox Business* sees tightening of the rules regarding oil and gas exploration, continue its war on coal, and implement emissions regulations on industrial boilers used by chemical producers. However, according to *Forbes*, shale gas production is not likely to slow down. The *Globe and Mail* speculates that a revival of Mr. Obama's green agenda will have a major impact on Canada's environmental and energy policies, and therefore, its economy.

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-07/obama-may-levy-carbon-tax-to-cut-the-u-s-deficit-hsbc-says.html>>

<<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/11/07/harsher-energy-regulations-coming-in-obama-second-term/>>

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/peterdetwiler/2012/11/07/in-obamas-second-term-shale-gas-production-not-likely-to-slow-down/?partner=yahootix>>

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/canada-on-notice-as-obama-muses-about-climate-change/article5083837/>>

### **Carbon Dioxide Emissions Don't Cause More Severe Storms**

In a response to media stories blaming super storm Sandy on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions without any evidence, Friends of Science director Ken Gregory explains why this blame is false. He describes how Sandy morphed from a category 1 tropical hurricane to a conventional, but powerful, storm as it moved northward and encountered a south-bound cold front. A chart of the sea-surface temperatures along the storm's track since 1935 reveals no warming trend. Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration disclose no significant increase in the greenhouse effect in the atmosphere. Finally, observations from a variety of sources show that it was stormier in past, cooler, times.

Roger Pielke Jr., writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, compares Sandy to previous storms that ravaged the US since 1900, pointing out that the country is living in an extended period of relatively good fortune with respect to disasters.

<<http://www.friendsofscience.org/index.php?id=606>>

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204840504578089413659452702.html>>

### **New Zealand Carbon Scheme on Hold as Prices Collapse**

Just two years after expanding a scheme that was feted as the world's only emissions trading scheme outside of Europe, New Zealand has effectively put the scheme on hold, just as other nations step into the carbon trading arena. Parliament is expected to approve amendments to allow the unlimited flow of cheap (currently €0.71/tonne) UN-based carbon offsets. Not only that, emitters can submit one tonne of permits for every two tonnes of emissions. Thus, they can meet their obligations at a fraction of the cost of their competitors in Australia and Europe.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/02/newzealand-carbon-idUSL3E8LP1E220121102>>

### **Losing their Religion as Evidence Cools Off**

To Maurice Newman writing in *The Australian*, climate science is somewhat like the Christian missions of old. The missionaries promised an everlasting life in the hereafter, while the climate scientists propose pushing the rewards and the catastrophes far into the future, having faith that their prophecies will come true. Self-deluded by the 1980-1997 warming period and their confirmatory bias, the warming priesthood was overtaken by hubris and extravagant claims. Regrettably, the predictions have started to appear shaky when atmospheric temperatures stalled for 16 years [FoS Extracts – 2012-10-18 and 2012-10-25].

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/maurice-newman-losing-religion-evidence-cools/>>

### **Former UN Official: Next IPCC Report Will Shock Nations into Action**

Ivo De Boer, head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at the failed Copenhagen climate summit, says that the next IPCC report will “scare the wits out of everyone” and should provide the impetus needed for the world to sign an agreement to tackle global warming. However, recognizing that no agreement would be ratified by the US Senate, Mr. De Boer, now a special advisor on global climate change for KPMG, said nations should settle on targets that they write into their national laws.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/07/next-ipcc-report-will-scare-the-wits-out-of-everyone/#more-73895>>

<<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/former-un-official-says-climate-report-will-shock-nations-into-action-20121106-28w5c.html#ixzz2BV4aTj5R>>

### **PwC: Unprecedented World Carbon Emissions Cuts Needed by 2050**

Just in time for the Doha climate summit that starts on November 26, another accounting consultancy, PwC, has released a 13-page report: *Too late for two degrees? Low carbon economy index 2012*. This report examines the progress of developed and emerging countries towards reducing their “carbon intensity,” or emissions per unit of GDP. PwC says that carbon intensity will have to be cut by 5.1%/year from now to 2050, compared to 0.8%/year achieved from 2000 to 2011, in order to limit the temperature rise to 2°C.

<<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=unprecedented-world-carbon-emission>>  
 <<http://www.ukmediacentre.pwc.com/News-Releases/-Business-as-usual-is-not-an-option-as-current-rates-of-emissions-reduction-point-to-6oC-of-warming-PwC-Low-Carbon-Economy-Index-12e8.aspx>>  
 <<http://www.ukmediacentre.pwc.com/imagelibrary/downloadMedia.ashx?MediaDetailsID=2232>>

### **New Study: Wind Farms Do Harm Sleep and Health**

American and British researchers compared two groups of demographically- and socially-similar residents in Maine. One group lived within a mile of a wind farm and the other group did not. The researchers found major differences in the quality of the sleep the two groups enjoyed, with participants living near the turbines having worse sleep, as measured on two standard scientific scales.

The Global Warming Policy Foundation has an article taken from *The Australian*, describing the rural misery caused by wind farms. An environmental scientist and acoustics expert has submitted for peer review and publication the results of a scientific survey of people living near two Australian wind farms.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/windpower/9653429/Wind-farm-noise-does-harm-sleep-and-health-say-scientists.html>>  
 <<http://www.thegwpf.org/ill-wind-blows-headache/>>

### **The IPCC Weighs in on the Mann Nobel Dilemma and Throws Him under the Bus**

Apparently in response to some of the claims in Michael Mann's lawsuit (e.g., "defamation of a Nobel prize recipient"), the IPCC decided to issue a statement that the 2007 Nobel peace prize was awarded to the IPCC as an organization, stating "Thus it is incorrect to refer to any IPCC official, or scientist who worked on IPCC reports, as a Nobel laureate or Nobel Prize winner."

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/02/the-ipcc-weighs-in-on-the-mann-nobel-dilemma-and-throws-him-under-the-bus/>>

2012-11-01

### **Green Zombie**

Over the course of nine years, Ontario's electricity policies gradually transformed from a loose grab bag of good intentions into a green zombie. Energy consultant Tom Adams traces the transformation of the province's electricity system from one based on delivering power at the lowest sustainable cost to consumers. It began with a series of ad-hoc decisions to lift a rate freeze, use a combination of government-determined and regulated prices, phase out coal generation and create a new Ontario Power Authority to develop long-term plans. The first plan was abandoned with the advent of the *Green Energy Act*, when green carpetbaggers from around the world smelled the money and came running. Consumers were dumped from their position as the purpose of the power system, replaced by an infinitely-flexible set of "sustainability" objectives.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/10/31/green-zombie/>>  
 <<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/10/31/terence-corcoran-mcguintys-dark-secrets-revealed/>>

### **Hurricane Sandy: Frankenscience**

After a gloomy year for global-warming activists and their sympathizers in the media, Sandy was a good-news story as they jumped on the Frankenstorm bandwagon. Even the IPCC says that there is nothing to

back claims that man-made climate change is responsible for current weather events. The Frontier Centre for Public Policy has a five-point explanation by Tim Ball why Sandy caused unusual flooding and damage. Donna Laframboise and the *Telegraph* comment on the media frenzy over Sandy.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/10/29/terence-corcoran-frankenscience/>>  
 <<http://www.fcpp.org/blog/we-must-prepare-for-extreme-weather-events-not-vainly-try-to-stop-them/>>  
 <<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/10/30/the-screw-science-media-and-super-storm-sandy/>>  
 <<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/brendanoneill2/100187070/blaming-hurricane-sandy-on-the-greedy-and-industrious-is-just-as-mad-as-blaming-it-on-gays/>>

### **Gas Golden Age Darkens as Europe Prefers US Coal**

According to the International Energy Agency, global gas consumption may rise by 19% from 2010 to 2017 as demand surges in the Asia and the US, while Europe's usage drops by 1.6%. The reason: European power stations lose €11.25/MWh from burning gas, but make €14.22/MWh using US coal, or as an energy regulator puts it, "If you burn gas in a power plant, you burn money; if you burn coal, you make money." Europeans eschew drilling for shale gas in their own backyard, and rely on imported gas from Russia and offshore, with long-term contracts tied to the price of oil.

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-10-31/gas-golden-age-darkens-in-europe-on-u-s-coal-energy-markets.html>>

### **EU Split over Emissions Credits**

In preparation for the Doha climate summit, EU ministers met to decide what to do about 3 billion excess tonnes of UN emissions permits [FoS Extracts – 2012-10-11], known as Assigned Amount Units, disparagingly referred to as "hot air." The ministers were split over the issue, with Poland, supported by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia wanting the credits to be carried over. Opponents (just about everyone else) say it would render a second Kyoto commitment period meaningless, because central and eastern European countries were over-allocated allowances. The negotiations ended with a compromise that outraged green campaigners.

<<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-10-25/eu-to-consider-un-carbon-permit-limits-before-climate-summit>>  
 <<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/10/25/us-eu-environment-idUKBRE89O1BK20121025>>  
 <<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/2012/october/eu-fails-to-agree-kyoto-negotiating-position/75527.aspx>>

### **Europe Left Behind as Shale Shock Drives American Industrial Resurgence**

The shale gas bonanza has reversed the fortunes of the American chemical, plastics, aluminum, iron and steel, rubber, coated metals and glass industries – something that was unthinkable five years ago. By 2014 the US is poised to become the world's biggest producer of hydrocarbons, largely due to hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." Europe is going in the opposite direction – banning fracking to appease the greens, shutting down coal and nuclear power plants in the hope that wind and solar will provide, and relying on expensive imported gas.

<[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans\\_pritchard/9639192/Europe-left-behind-as-shale-shock-drives-Americas-industrial-resurgence.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans_pritchard/9639192/Europe-left-behind-as-shale-shock-drives-Americas-industrial-resurgence.html)>

### **Judith Curry: No Consensus on Consensus**

A paper, *Climate change: no consensus on consensus*, by Dr. Curry and P.J. Webster, both from the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Georgia Institute of Technology, has been accepted for publication by *CAB Reviews*. In her blog Dr. Curry gives a summary of, and a link to, the full paper. The “consensus” discussed in the paper is the one in the IPCC’s Summary for Policymakers from its latest report that says: “Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.”

The paper explores the history and consequences of the IPCC’s scientific consensus-building activities, in particular the adoption of a “speaking consensus to power” approach as a proxy for truth, an approach that sees uncertainty and dissent as problematic. This does not work for climate change, which is a “messy” problem. The IPCC’s manufactured consensus has acted to hyper-politicize the scientific and policy debates.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/10/28/climate-change-no-consensus-on-consensus/#more-10322>>

### **Teaching Kids to Hate Mom and Dad**

The *Future Children Project* has put out a video of spectral children hating mom and dad from a supposedly desolate future. They sing a song that includes the lyrics “the atmosphere is frying ... and we’re kinda blaming you.” The project’s message is that “Re-electing President Obama is a momentous decision that will require every single voter. What would the children of the future say if we let them down this November?”

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/27/teaching-kids-to-hate-mom-and-dad-the-atmosphere-is-frying-and-were-kind-blaming-you/#more-72661>>

### **IPCC Author Becomes BC Green Party Deputy Leader**

Climate modeler Andrew Weaver, a lead author for Chapter 12 (Long-term Climate Change Projections, Commitments and Irreversibility) of the IPCC’s upcoming AR5, has become deputy leader of British Columbia’s Green Party and a candidate in next year’s election. As Donna Laframboise points out in her blog, the InterAcademy Council recommended in 2010, a rigorous conflict-of-interest policy for authors of IPCC reports, but IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri made it clear that it doesn’t apply to AR5. Like Michael Mann (see story below), Dr. Weaver also claims a Nobel prize.

A key goal of the BC Green Party is to “Get the province off oil and gas.” The party’s Green Book 2013 talks about “environmental debt” and promises to help “... mitigate the impact of climate change on mental health and psychosocial well-being.” It predicts that British Columbia “... can become a beacon of leadership in an otherwise irresponsible world. We can shame other governments into action.”

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/10/26/ipcc-author-becomes-green-party-apparatchik/>>  
<[http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/ar5\\_authors\\_review\\_editors\\_updated.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/ar5_authors_review_editors_updated.pdf)>

### **Mann-Made Hockey Stick Disappears, Medieval Warm Period Restored**

A new tree-ring study in the journal *Holocene*, by two authors from the University of East Anglia and one from Stockholm University, makes Michael Mann’s hockey stick disappear and shows that 20<sup>th</sup> century warmth matches peaks on either side of the year 1,000. *WattsUpWithThat* speculates whether this paper will be called in Dr. Mann’s lawsuit (see next story.)

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/28/manns-hockey-stick-disappears-and-crus-briffa-helps-make-the-mwp-live-again-by-pointing-out-bias-in-the-data/>>

### **Nobel Cause Corruption?**

Michael Mann's suit against the *National Review* [FoS Extracts – 2012-10-25] claims, in paras 5 and 17, that he is a Nobel prize recipient, though the Nobel committee thinks otherwise. In response the editors of the *National Review* bought a wicked full-page ad in the Penn State student newspaper parodying Dr. Mann's claim.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/31/nobel-cause-corruption/>>

### **Climategate Revisited**

On October 31 BBC4 Radio broadcast an interview with parties from all sides of the climate issue (e.g., Gavin Schmidt, Glen Beck, Steve McIntyre, Michael Mann, Nigel Lawson, Andrew Montford, Connie Hedegaard, journalists and others) about the legacy of the Climategate emails release, three years after the event. *WattsUpWithThat* has a complete transcript of the program. Just about everyone, except Dr. Mann, agreed that Climategate has changed the debate, making it less one-sided.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/01/gavins-explanation-of-climategates-early-hours-then-and-now/#more-73548>>

2012-10-25

### **Friends of Science Media Consultant Responds to Old Critique**

Michelle Stirling-Anosh, responds to columnist Stephen Maher, who was upset by a humorous piece deriding British Columbians for their opposition to the Gateway pipeline. Ms. Stirling-Anosh takes Mr. Maher to task for using old news by bringing up an eight year-old controversy regarding the Friends of Science to make his point.

<<http://www2.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/theeditorialpage/story.html?id=6a3b577d-3bcf-41b5-90f3-78db3f96fd87>>

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/opinion/op-ed/Maher+Harper+Tories+aren+about+backing+oilsands/7073821/story.html>>

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Defining+consensus/7395476/story.html>>

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Carbon+phobia/7401556/story.html>>

### **Calgary Herald Columnist Calls for Carbon Tax**

Columnist Deborah Yedlin argues for a carbon tax, as advocated by the soon-to-disappear National Roundtable on Environment and the Economy, noting that the energy sector favours it over cap and trade, and the consumer directly feels the impact. To bolster its case, the NRTEE forecasts that spending on "low-carbon goods and services" in Canada could jump from \$8 billion in 2010 to \$36 billion by 2050, while climate policies to cut emissions by 65% could drive domestic spending of \$60 billion in 2050. Since the federal government is an unlikely champion for a carbon tax, Ms. Yedlin proposes that Alberta take it on.

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Yedlin+Carbon+proposal+makes+sense/7414334/story.html>>

<[http://nrtee-trnee.ca/?page\\_id=39738](http://nrtee-trnee.ca/?page_id=39738)>



### **PBS Broadcast *Climate of Doubt***

On October 23, with this 54-minute examination of the massive shift in US public and political opinion on climate change since the 2008 election, PBS atoned for its sin of giving Anthony Watts an un-rebutted, ten-minute interview [FoS Extracts – 2012-10-04 and 2012-09-20.]

The program begins with the premise that since 2008 a successful campaign to bring doubt to the issue has been waged – by groups such as the Heartland Institute, the Cooler Heads Coalition, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Cato Institute, the American Tradition Institute and Americans for Prosperity, aided by (an implied small number of) “contrarian” scientists. In questioning members of Congress about their views, the PBS reporter emphasizes the 97% “consensus” of climate scientists who support AGW. In the last 11 minutes the program turns to funding for the above groups, with fossil-fuel interests and tobacco-lobby tactics getting special mention. At the 50-minute mark, the voice-over intones: “Inaction [on climate change] has consequences” and “There is now no concerted response [in the political arena] to climate change.”

The Frontier Centre for Public Policy published an eloquent rebuttal to the consensus argument by Tom Harris [see also FoS Extracts – 2012-07-19.] On October 24 the Heartland Institute published its analysis of the program. Roy Spencer thinks that the program is just one more reason to defund PBS.

<<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/climate-of-doubt/>>

<<http://www.fcpp.org/blog/pbs-frontline-climate-change-special-cites-bogus-consensus/>>

<<http://heartland.org/press-releases/2012/10/23/heartland-institute-anticipates-unfair-treatment-tonights-pbs-frontline--0>>

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/10/climate-of-doubt-about-pbss-objectivity>>

### **Michael Mann Files Suit against the *National Review* and the Competitive Enterprise Institute**

Michael Mann has filed his threatened lawsuit against the *National Review* and the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and two of their journalists – Rand Simberg and Mark Steyn [see FoS Extracts 2012-09-20 and 2012-07-26]. Paragraph 16 of the complaint introduces Dr. Mann’s hockey stick graph, and 19 the Climategate emails, which should form the focus of the trial.

John O’Sullivan’s blog says that the Mann trial will be presided over by a judge “acknowledged to have the worst reputation for bias and abuse of process.”

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/23/breaking-mann-has-filed-suit-against-nro/>>

<<http://legaltimes.typepad.com/files/michael-mann-complaint.pdf>>

<<http://johnosullivan.wordpress.com/2012/10/24/michael-mann-gets-most-biased-judge-for-key-us-global-warming-trial/>>

### **Newly Declassified Document from Inspector General: US Climate Change Spending Abroad is a Mess**

An audit by the State Department’s Office of the Inspector General examined a branch of the department that supervises climate change spending, and found that it was “more concerned about spending money than in monitoring effectiveness.” In 2010 and 2011 the department gave away \$5.1 billion in climate change funding to developing countries.

In a related story, the UN chose South Korea as the home for its Green Climate Fund, subject to formal approval by environment ministers at the climate summit in Doha. The GCF is currently fund-less, and there is yet no decision on how to raise the \$100 billion/year it needs. South Korea won because it is still considered a developing nation under the UN climate convention.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/08/15/newly-declassified-document-from-inspector-general-u-s-climate-change-spending-abroad-is-a-mess/>>  
<<http://www.dw.de/south-korea-to-house-new-un-green-climate-fund/a-16320885>>

### ***Der Spiegel* Slams Munich Re for Distortions of Weather Extremes**

The newspaper's reporter, Axel Bojanowski, introduces his piece with "The Münchener Rückversicherung (Munich Re) claims to have found the first proof that man-made climate change is triggering more and more weather catastrophes in North America. Scientists are outraged." It turns out that the scientists are outraged at the outrageous claims being made by reinsurers like Munich Re. Roger Pielke Jr. and atmospheric scientist Clifford Moss questioned the lack of evidence for Munich Re's claim and said that it should have submitted the alleged discovery to a scientific magazine for review, rather than issuing a press release.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/10/18/spiegel-slams-munich-re-distortions-of-weather-extremes-are-suspicious-and-irresponsible-hype/>>  
<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/scientists-denounce-dubious-climate-study-by-insurer-munich-re-a-862857.html>>

### **More on the 16-year Stoppage in Global Warming**

Judith Curry dissects the *Guardian's* weak response to David Rose's *Daily Mail* article on the stoppage [FoS Extracts – 2012-10-18.] She also includes statements by establishment scientists Kevin Trenberth, Susan Solomon and James Hansen affirming that the climate models will eventually be proven right. *Sun News* has a 7-minute video interviewing Marc Morano. The *Daily Mail* responds to the reaction to its original story with a series of questions and answers on climate change.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/10/16/pause-discussion-thread-part-ii/>>  
<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/global-warming-stopped-16-years-ago/1902578289001/page/2>>  
<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2220722/Global-warming-The-Mail-Sunday-answers-world-warming-not.html>>

### **More Turmoil at the American Physical Society over its Statement on Global Warming**

Another fellow of the American Physical Society, Roger Cohen, is publicly airing his dissatisfaction with the APS' dogmatic position on AGW, by resigning from the society's "Topical Group on the Physics of Climate." Mr. Cohen fought the APS' 2007 policy statement on climate change, which was expanded in 2010, leading to some high-profile resignations. The resulting controversy led to the formation of the GPC, but the GPC's executive committee yielded to pressure "... to exclude discussion of science that does not conform to the doctrine of strong anthropogenic global warming." This was the final straw for Mr. Cohen.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/22/more-turmoil-at-the-american-physical-society-over-global-warming-issue/>>  
<[http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/07\\_1.cfm](http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/07_1.cfm)>



### **Climate Change and the Quiet Sun**

On October 8 NOAA's Solar Cycle Progression monthly update report came out. It shows that sunspot activity fell to its lowest point in over 100 years. With mounting evidence that the Sun is heading into a quiet phase, possibly lasting more than one solar cycle, the indications for a cooling climate are strong.

<<http://informthepundits.wordpress.com/2012/10/11/climate-change-and-the-quiet-sun/>>

**2012-10-18**

### **Donna Laframboise at Friends of Science Luncheon**

The *Calgary Herald's* Licia Corbella attended the FoS 9<sup>th</sup> annual luncheon on October 17 and reports on Ms. Laframboise's talk. Ms. Laframboise described how she came to write her book about the IPCC, *The Delinquent Teenager Who Was Mistaken for the World's Top Climate Expert*, and then explained why the IPCC is untrustworthy, in two parts. First, she demolished the myth that the IPCC is made up of the world's top scientists, but instead includes 20-something grad students and environmental activists. Second, the IPCC does not rely only on peer-reviewed research, and used less than 60% for 21 out of 44 chapters in its 2007 assessment.

Ms. Laframboise also gave a 17-minute interview with Rutherford on CHQR. Here, she discusses how governments created an IPCC bureaucracy, not a scientific body, the flawed climate change scares and wasted money.

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/Corbella+climate+change+body+worse+than+delinquent/7406060/story.html>>

<[http://media.lexi.net/raven/video2/fcpp/auto/Laframboise\\_CHQR\\_Sep26.mp3](http://media.lexi.net/raven/video2/fcpp/auto/Laframboise_CHQR_Sep26.mp3)>

### **Europe's Emissions Trading Crisis Deepens**

The EU's Emissions Trading Scheme is in crisis, placing Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard and her Director-General Jos Delbeke in an impossible position. They must reassure EU member states that there are no plans to permanently remove carbon allowances from the market – which would equate to tightening the overall emissions cap, a highly sensitive issue. Yet they must also reassure market players that the allowance surplus will be reduced so that low-carbon investments become worthwhile.

With the carbon price stubbornly stuck below €10/tonne, the European Commission estimates that there is a surplus of 1 billion tonnes of allowances in the Emissions Trading Scheme, which will likely double by the end of next year. The EC's Plan A is to delay ("backload") the sale of a number of allowances next year, followed by Plan B – reform the structure of the ETS. According to one analyst, even backloading 1.2 billion allowances would get the carbon price up to €18/tonne, whereas €50/tonne is needed to get electricity producers to switch from coal to gas.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/europes-emissions-trading-crisis-deepening/>>

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/16/us-eu-ets-idUSBRE89F15U20121016>>

### **Climate Scientist Loses Faith in the IPCC**

Kevin Trenberth, head of climate analysis at the US National Center for Atmospheric Research and a review editor for the next IPCC report, says that this report will be less successful and blander than the

last one. Too many researchers and too much “second tier” science are diluting the report’s quality. With more people, it’s more diffuse and harder to get a consensus.

According to Prof. Trenberth, the Climategate scandal had a big impact on public debates about climate science, and resulted in a 20% slashing of the climate-related research budget at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

<<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/climate-scientist-loses-faith-in-the-ipcc-20121011-27fk8.html#ixzz293IH1pI8>>

### **NCAR’s Coal-fired Supercomputer is Turned On**

The NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center, with a power requirement of 8 MW – 4-5 MW for computing and 3-4 MW for cooling – officially opened on October 15. Its primary use will be climate modelling. Appropriately, the facility was awarded a LEED gold certification for sustainable design, and it will get 10% of its energy from wind. What the press release doesn’t mention is that the other 90% will be coal-fired electricity. Wyoming is the largest coal-producing state in the US, accounting for 41% of the nation’s output. The center was located in Wyoming because electricity in that state costs less than in neighboring Colorado, where NCAR’s scientists were previously located.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/16/wyoming-experiences-that-giant-sucking-sound-as-new-coal-fired-climate-supercomputer-is-turned-on/#more-72472>>

### **UK Met Office: Global Warming Stopped 16 Years Ago**

In contrast to its figures from six months ago, which reinforced the case for global warming, the UK’s Met Office quietly released new data on global surface temperatures, compiled from more than 3,000 measuring points. These data show that the August 2012 temperature anomaly was the same as in 1997: 0.5°C. Prof. Phil Jones of Climategate fame said that a plateau of 15-16 years is too short a period from which to draw conclusions and remains convinced that the current decade will be warmer than the previous two. Judith Curry disagrees, saying that the new data confirm the existence of a pause in global warming.

In response to the *Daily Mail* article, the Met Office released a statement trying to downplay the significance of the results (see *Global Warming Policy Foundation* story.) In Germany, *NoTricksZone* reports silence from the mainstream media and the “climate community” regarding this news.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2217286/Global-warming-stopped-16-years-ago-reveals-Met-Office-report-quietly-released--chart-prove-it.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-mail-on-sunday-and-the-met-office/>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/10/16/luningvahrenholt-comment-on-hadcruts-16-years-of-no-warming-tough-times-ahead-for-climate-science/>>

### **Al Gore Thrived as Green Investor**

At a 2008 conference Al Gore said to industry leaders and scientists, “We can’t wait ... We have a planetary emergency ... Here are just a few of the investments that I personally think make sense.” These investments have done well, as Mr. Gore’s wealth soared from less than \$2 million when he left office in 2001 to \$100 million today. Fourteen of his green-tech firms have benefited from President Obama’s push to see renewable energy with public money. Pages 4 and 5 of this *Washington Post* story describe Mr. Gore’s involvement with the incoming Obama administration’s work on the climate file.

<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/decision2012/al-gore-has-thrived-as-green-tech-investor/2012/10/10/1dfaa5b0-0b11-11e2-bd1a-b868e65d57eb\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/decision2012/al-gore-has-thrived-as-green-tech-investor/2012/10/10/1dfaa5b0-0b11-11e2-bd1a-b868e65d57eb_story.html)>

### **Electric Car Crash**

On October 16, battery manufacturer A123 Systems Inc., another of the Obama Administration's favorites to build a US electric-car industry from scratch, went belly up. In a September 2010 congratulatory phone call to A123, Mr. Obama called it "the birth of an entire new industry in America." A123 got a \$249 million grant from the Energy Department, which also lent \$529 million to Fisker Automotive to develop and produce plug-in hybrid cars using A123's batteries. A123 struggled with quality-control problems, while Fisker dealt with reliability issues, car recalls and management changes, leading to the Energy Department's freezing of Fisker's credit line. This *Wall Street Journal* article points to this episode as a lesson in the folly of government industrial policy.

Ireland, a compact island with a suitable climate for batteries, was supposed to be the perfect test case for electric cars, and the government invested €4.4 million in grants to buyers and charging points. But instead of the expected 2,000 electric cars on Irish roads, there are only 192, and the future for the vehicles looks dim.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443675404578060882850041910.html>>  
 <<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/16/obama-backed-battery-maker-files-for-bankruptcy/>>  
 <<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/motors/2012/10/17/1224325325202.html>>

### **Two Papers Demonstrate Warmer Temperatures 1,000 and even 2,000 Years Ago**

The first paper, looking back 2,000 years, published in *Climate of the Past* by Danish and Swedish researchers, used a total of 91 temperature proxies to construct a two-millennia temperature graph. The conclusion: "The level of warmth during the peak of the MWP (Medieval Warm Period) in the second half of the 10th century, equaling or slightly exceeding the mid-20th century warming, is in agreement with the results from other more recent large-scale multi-proxy temperature reconstructions."

The second paper, published in the *Journal of Global and Planetary Change*, shows that not only were the summers of the MWP equal to or greater than our current warmth, but that the summers of the Roman Warm Period of 2,000 years ago, significantly warmer than today.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/17/new-paper-confirms-the-climate-was-warmer-1000-years-ago/>>  
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/18/yet-another-paper-demonstrates-warmer-temperatures-1000-years-ago-and-even-2000-years-ago/>>

### **Australian Hockey Stick Paper Withdrawn**

In May a badly-flawed paper was released, generating headlines such as "1,000 years of climate data confirms Australia's warming" and "Australia has hottest 60 years in a millennium, scientists find." Steven McIntyre and others were on it immediately, identifying problems with the data, such as an error margin (+/- 0.19 °C) greater than the result (0.09°C). In October the paper was quietly withdrawn from the *Journal of Climate*

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/10/gergis-hockey-stick-withdrawn-this-is-what-95-certainty-looks-like-in-climate-science/>>

2012-10-11

**Revenge of the Fossil Fuels: Setbacks Mount for Renewable Energy Sector**

As fossil fuels claw their way back into the public's good books, even the director of climate change for the Pembina Institute admits that the future of the renewable energy sector is "pretty bleak," though not yet a lost cause. What has turned the tide, at least in North America, is plentiful oil and abundant, cheap natural gas, together with their promise of high-paying jobs. The last particularly resonates with US voters in an election year. Even in Europe, where renewables have achieved the most, subsidies can't continue to be justified in the midst of massive budget cuts.

The UN Environmental Program fears that, in developed countries, hastily-made cuts in support may make a serious dent in investment during 2012-14, a "damaging blow" to the green industry, emissions and climate change.

<<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/10/04/revenge-of-the-fossil-fuels/>>

**Global Coalification**

There are two contradictory views of the world's coal industry: *Scientific American* and the *Wall Street Journal* predict its end, while *Business Week* and Bloomberg point to its growing use in Europe (especially Germany), and the World Resources Institute reports on 1,231 new coal plants being planned worldwide. According to the *BP Statistical Review*, global coal consumption rose by 5.4% last year. The real push seems to be coming from Europe and Asia, greenhouse gas emissions be damned. Only the US and Canada, at least officially, are attempting to shut down coal-fired power generation.

The above views in the *Financial Post* are supported by Nick Grealy's blog *NoHotAir*, which quotes an analyst from the AGW-friendly International Energy Agency as describing the current situation in Europe as the Golden Age of Coal and the Dark Ages of Gas.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/10/10/terence-corcoran-global-%C2%ADcoalification/>>  
<[http://www.nohotair.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2652:europa-s-golden-age-of-coal-and-dark-ages-of-gas&catid=168&Itemid=170](http://www.nohotair.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2652:europa-s-golden-age-of-coal-and-dark-ages-of-gas&catid=168&Itemid=170)>

**Why Wind Won't Work**

The Reason Foundation has published a 27-page report by William Korchinski, *The Limits of Wind Power*, that analyzes all aspects of wind power. These include greenhouse gas emissions, the "spinning reserves" needed as backup, reliability forecasting, wind dumping, storage and cost. Using empirical data from the US, the UK, Canada and Europe, Mr. Korchinski finds that storage, backup and idling costs become prohibitive as wind's share of the total generation exceeds 10-20%.

<<http://www.globalwarming.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Korchinski-Limits-of-Wind-Power.pdf>>

**UN Carbon Market "Close to Collapse"**

The UN now admits that prices on the world's only global carbon market, its own Clean Development Mechanism, have plunged to record lows [see also FoS Extracts – 2012-09-13]. To address this, the UN set up a high-level panel, which published a report titled *Climate Change, Carbon Markets and the CDM: A Call to Action*. The report begins with the premise that the world faces a triple threat from: the impacts of climate change, international action falling short of what's needed, and collapse of the global carbon

markets. Beginning on page 5, the panel lists 51 recommended actions across 12 areas, with responsible actors for each action. With so many recommendations and diverse groups of bureaucracies to implement them, failure is guaranteed.

On page 23 is an interesting chart plotting the supply-demand imbalance, with the price plunging as the number of permits, known as “certified emission reductions”, continued to grow, reaching a total of one billion to date. As supply expanded, demand for CERs failed to match forecasts, due to “lack of political will.”

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/un-carbon-market-close-to-collapse/>>

<<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/carbon-markets-on-a-verge-of-collapse-require-immediate-rescue-by-nations-suggests-un-panel>>

<<http://www.cdmpolicydialogue.org/report/rpt110912.pdf>>

### **EU Energy Commissioner Warns Against New Climate Targets**

The commissioner, Günther Oettinger, opposes a tightening of the EU’s climate targets, so that energy policy can focus more closely on the needs of European industry. He fears a decline of Europe, compared to the US and other parts of the world if energy prices continue to rise. Energy policy has long been climate policy he said, but in future it must be industrial policy.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/eu-energy-commissioner-warns-against-new-climate-targets/>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-end-of-green-eu-plans-re-industrialisation-of-europe/>>

### **Are the Days of Europe’s Biodiesel Industry Numbered?**

The EU has a goal of 10% renewable energy in transport by 2020, coupled with a 6% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in road transport. The obvious solution is biofuels, but there are two problems with biodiesel (2/3 of European transport runs on diesel): the food-vs-fuel dilemma as it appropriates increasing quantities of vegetable oils, and the displacement of forest by crops grown for fuel (known as “indirect land-use change” or ILUC). Including ILUC means that biofuels lead to a net rise in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

All of this caused the European Commission to propose a 5% cap on biofuels from food crops and support for “advanced biofuels” made from waste, aquatic material and forestry residue, which require more complex – and expensive – processing. The €10 billion/year, 450,000-job biodiesel industry is fighting back, by attacking the Commission’s work on ILUC and declaring the 2020 goals impossible to meet.

<[http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?email=garyalanyoung@comcast.net&id\\_mailing=315&toegang=ad13a2a07ca4b7642959dc0c4c740ab6&id=3878](http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?email=garyalanyoung@comcast.net&id_mailing=315&toegang=ad13a2a07ca4b7642959dc0c4c740ab6&id=3878)>

<<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3566>>

### **Merkel’s Blackout: Green Energy Transition in Crisis**

A three-page story in *Der Spiegel* summarizes all that’s going wrong with Germany’s green energy plan, for example:

- Broken promises that, with green energy, prices would remain stable, as Germans now pay second highest rates in Europe (after Denmark);
- A growing number of companies getting exemption from the green energy assessment;

- Infighting among federal ministers responsible for various portfolios of energy, the economy, planning and the environment, while the states are going their own ways;
- Billions spent on the unchecked expansion of solar energy, the least reliable source of power;
- Connection problems, particularly from wind farms 200 km off thinly-populated Baltic and North Sea coasts to southern Germany;
- Owners of old wind turbines, already paid for and now very profitable, resisting their replacement by bigger installations;
- Energy wasted in poorly-insulated buildings;
- Conventional power plants forced to lose money;
- Too little and too expensive energy storage.

All of this is neatly captured in a three-picture graphic on the first page.

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/energy-turnaround-in-germany-plagued-by-worrying-lack-of-progress-a-860481.html>>

### **How the World's Top Brands Greenwash the Public**

Though the corporate greenwashers are ostensibly on its side, even *DeSmogBlog* has had enough. The blog is promoting a book, *Greenwash: Big Brands and Carbon Scams*, which describes tricks that mainstream brands (e.g., Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Ford, McDonalds, Apple, Ford, GM, Boeing, Toyota, Panasonic, UPS, Walmart) use when they make claims that they're cutting their emissions. The author, Guy Pearse, also critiques environmental groups for allowing their brands or products to be aligned with emissions-intensive businesses, including coal and oil companies or their financiers.

Mr. Pearse's pick for the worst of the greenwashers? "Shell probably wins as the most prolific and shameless case ... there seems to be no limit to the fantasies woven into their climate-friendly advertising pitch ..."

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/2012/10/04/kermit-coal-book-reveals-how-world-s-top-brands-greenwash-public>>

### **Warmist Writer Blames Record Antarctic Sea Ice on Global Warming**

AP writer and chief apologist for the global warming industry, Seth Borenstein, has an explanation for the record Antarctic sea ice this year [FoS Extracts – 2012-09-20.] Despite what the climate models, James Hansen and Al Gore predicted, Mr. Borenstein published a story on October 10 titled *Experts: Global Warming Means More Antarctic Ice*. *Climate Depot* and Joanne Nova jumped all over it.

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/17914/APs-Seth-Borenstein-at-it-again-Claims-global-warming-means-more-Antarctic-ice--Meet-the-new-consensus-the-opposite-of-the-old-consensus>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/10/antarctic-consensus-flips-warmer-water-means-more-sea-ice/>>

### **German Meteorologist on Temperature Models: "So far they are wrong for all atmospheric layers"**

According to the IPCC's CO<sub>2</sub> hypothesis, the atmosphere from the ground level to the upper troposphere (10 km) is supposed to warm up, while the stratosphere (10 km to 50 km) cools. However, meteorological measurements show that just the opposite is happening. In its 2007 report the IPCC projected a surface warming of 0.2°C/decade, yet there hasn't been any global warming in 14 years. According to the climate models, the upper troposphere is supposed to show a "hot spot" that weather balloons have been unable to



detect. In the stratosphere over the last 20 years, temperatures have remained steady, despite the cooling predicted by the models.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/10/05/german-meteorologist-on-temperature-models-so-far-they-are-wrong-for-all-atmospheric-layers/>>

2012-10-04

### **Bald-Faced Climate Policy**

Peter Foster discusses a debate between the Canadian government and the official opposition over cap and trade, which he describes as involving the "... buying and selling of a phantasmagorical non-commodity created by bureaucratic fiat, and thus open to infinite corruption and abuse." While he praises the government for pulling out of the Kyoto Protocol last December, Mr. Foster notes that it hasn't challenged the scientific basis of the climate issue. Despite three successive failures to reach a new global climate accord, governments everywhere claim to be committed to bringing down emissions, even as the International Energy Agency predicts that they will soar. The Harper government, while being accused of hypocrisy or inconsistency on the climate file, has been consistent in not pursuing policies that would damage the Canadian economy.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/09/27/peter-foster-bald-faced-%c2%adclimate-policy/>>

### **Bjørn Lomborg and Peter Foster: How the Media Were Fooled**

On September 26, an organization called DARA published the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of its *Climate Vulnerability Monitor: A Guide to the Cold Calculus of a Hot Planet*, in which it predicts both large numbers of deaths and huge economic impacts from climate change. According to Bjørn Lomborg (writing in *Foreign Policy*), this report was a media heyday for climate alarmism. Peter Foster of the *Financial Post* remarks that the report was produced under the aegis of a group of 20 countries, whose goal is to get some of the \$100 billion/year of climate funding promised by rich nations.

Drilling down into the study, it turns out that 1.4 million and 3.1 million of predicted deaths (out of 5 million total) would be caused by outdoor and indoor pollution, respectively, not global warming. The economic costs in the study contradict the findings of peer-reviewed literature and focus on assumed loss in productivity due to heat.

Commenting on the DARA report in the blog *No Tricks Zone*, *Die Welt's* veteran journalist Ulli Kulke writes that Germans have seen reports of too many end-of-the-world studies over the past few years, each one more dubious than the other. As a result there is a "... high level of wearout that scenarios and visions of horror are having with the public."

<<http://daraint.org/climate-vulnerability-monitor/climate-vulnerability-monitor-2012/>>

<[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/09/28/not\\_so\\_hot](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/09/28/not_so_hot)>

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/10/01/peter-foster-climate-hype-via-hogwarts-lab/>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/09/28/veteran-german-journalist-interest-in-end-of-the-world-rapidly-waning-high-level-of-public-wearout/>>

### **German Government Pulling Plug on 2020 Electric Car Target**

Germany's transport and economy ministers have ruled out subsidies to encourage car buyers to switch to electric vehicles. In 2008 the country set a target of having 1 million electric cars on the road by 2020. At

the beginning of 2012 there were only 4,500 of them, out of a total fleet of 43 million registered cars. Even car manufacturers are giving up on pure electric vehicles, due to customer concerns over low range, massive battery weight and lack of infrastructure for charging them.

<<http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,16275247,00.html>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/09/29/no-future-in-sight-for-electric-cars-says-toyota-german-auto-economics-professor/>>

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-press-review-on-disappointing-sales-of-electric-cars-a-859172.html>>

### **Kyoto: The Last Rites**

Author and international associate editor for *Energy Tribune*, Peter Glover, considers it appropriate that November's UN Climate Summit – the last before the Kyoto Protocol expires on December 31 – will take place in Doha, the capital of the world's highest per-capita greenhouse gas emitter. Apart from lack of empirical science behind the protocol, what really did it in was that the price of “saving the planet” became more than we could afford. At the last summit in Durban, even the IPCC admitted that there was unlikely to be any earth warming for the next 20 to 30 years, due to natural variations overwhelming the climate change signals, and Donna Laframboise exposed the IPCC “in all its inept, politicized, incoherent, and outright corrupt glory.”

<[http://www.thecommentator.com/article/1727/kyoto\\_the\\_last\\_rites](http://www.thecommentator.com/article/1727/kyoto_the_last_rites)>

### **Time to Rethink the Green Jobs Policies**

This essay by Dianna Furthgott-Roch, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, points out that green jobs are not only considered more virtuous than, and morally superior to, other jobs, but they are sometimes eligible for government subsidies. Governments in the UK, the US, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, as well as international organizations, have rushed to produce varying – and dubious – definitions of green jobs. However, the push for green jobs means nothing if China and India, with 37% of the world population, don't follow along. They won't because renewable energy is not cost effective. In supporting green jobs we are consenting to live in a poorer world with slower economic growth – for little gain.

<<http://furchtgottroth.dailymail.co.uk/2012/10/the-futility-of-green-jobs-policies.html>>

### **Man-Made Global Warming Disproved**

This short, but extensively referenced, essay by Joanne Nova and Anthony Cox states that, while the climate models are predicting a global disaster, the empirical evidence disagrees. Studies involving weather balloons, satellite recordings, ocean buoys and 1,000 years of temperature proxies suggest that the climate models overestimate positive feedback and are based on poor assumptions. Observations suggest lower values for climate sensitivity (the warming produced by a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> levels) as the models have exaggerated the effects of human emissions by a factor of 3 to 7.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/10/man-made-global-warming-disproved/>>

### **The Anti-Free-Speech Brigade**

In late September, 18,000 people apparently signed a petition to the ombudsman of PBS demanding an investigation of the “... Newshour segment featuring climate change denier and conspiracy theorist



Anthony Watts for violations of PBS standards on accuracy, integrity and transparency, and recommend corrective action to ensure that such reporting never again occurs on PBS” [see FoS Extracts – 2012-09-20]. Donna Laframboise asks what purpose is served by labeling Mr. Watts as a “climate change denier and conspiracy theorist.” By demanding that PBS “never again” report views like Mr. Watts’, the anti-free speech proponents don’t want the American public to hear any views on climate change but their own.

These people are going to be really upset when skeptics again get airtime on PBS October 23, as *Frontline* explores the massive shift in public opinion on climate change. The name of the program: *Climate of Doubt*.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/09/28/the-anti-free-speech-brigade/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/10/03/climate-skeptics-to-once-again-get-airtime-on-pbs/#more-71904>>

<<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/climate-of-doubt/>>

### **Your Future, Courtesy of Climate Activists**

The *Guardian* newspaper is currently highlighting the view of prominent climate activists, who paint a stark picture of the sacrifices we’re all expected to make. For example, Kevin Anderson, the head of climate research at the UK’s Tyndall Centre, wants to coerce “those already living high-carbon lifestyles ...” (does he include Al Gore?) “... into a radical transition to a low-carbon future.” Even though he hasn’t flown in eight years, done without a refrigerator for 12 and cut back on washing and showering, Mr. Anderson says that even these measures are not enough.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/10/02/your-future-courtesy-of-climate-activists/>>

### **Avoiding Carbon Myopia: Three Considerations for Policymakers Concerning Anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>**

A paper in the *Ecology Law Quarterly*, by astrophysicist Willie Soon and professor David Legates of the University of Delaware’s College of Earth, Ocean and Environment, discusses three considerations for policymakers promoting a global regulatory emissions trading scheme. These are: (1) Humanity’s inability to control global and regional climate change (there are serious flaws in the IPCC’s narrative blaming greenhouse gases); (2) Weighing the potential benefits and costs of a changing climate (especially the mistake of turning scientifically-inaccurate definitions into laws and regulations, and focusing only on the alleged dangers of CO<sub>2</sub>, but not its benefits); (3) Carbon trading schemes that may not lead to a reduction in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (apart from the recent experience of collapsing carbon markets, there are too many opportunities to cheat and get away with it.)

The authors ask if we want a future based on a grievous misunderstanding of engendered by “carbon myopia” and whether we can ignore the real harm caused by adhering to the fallacies about carbon.

<<http://elq.typepad.com/currents/2010/02/currents37-0-soonlegates-2010-0226.html>>

### **What Does this Temperature Graph Tell Us?**

A paper titled *The influence of climatic change on the Late Bronze Age Collapse and the Greek Dark Ages*, and published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, recounts how most of the Greek palatial centres of the Late Bronze Age were either destroyed or abandoned between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE. This collapse coincided with a cooling climate, as shown on a 5,000-year temperature graph produced from the Greenland Ice Sheet Project. This graph depicts the Roman and Medieval Warm

Periods, showing temperature swings greater than 3°C. During the first 4,800 years of the graph, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> was stable – between 275 and 285 ppm – while over the past 200 years it rose by more than 100 ppm, but the temperature increased by less than a degree C. Also of interest is the declining temperature trend over the 3,200 years since the LBA.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/what-does-this-temperature-graph-tell-us/>>  
<<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305440312000416>>

2012-09-27

### **Donna Laframboise: Calgary Here I Come**

For Ms. Laframboise, who has addressed audiences in Munich, London and four Australian cities, her talk at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual *Friends of Science* luncheon on October 17 will be the first one given on Canadian soil. Here, in her blog she discusses proper the role of science and how scientists have become involved in active advocacy, particularly within the IPCC. She calls for people to loudly and publicly defend the scientific method

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/09/26/calgary-here-i-come/>>

### **John Christy's Testimony Demolishes Alarmists' "Extreme Events" Claims**

On September 20, Dr. Christy was one of seven witnesses testifying before the US House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Committee – Subcommittee on Energy and Power. The subcommittee was hearing testimony focusing on a bill that would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing any standards of performance for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from existing or new power plants until carbon capture and storage is found to be technically and economically feasible. Dr. Christy's testimony focused on (1) Extreme Events; (2) Recent Climate Model Simulations, (3) New Studies on Surface Temperature Processes, (4) Consensus Science, and (5) Impact of Emission Control Measures.

Regarding the extreme events, they can be used to bolster a claim about any type of climate change (warming or cooling), thereby setting up the classic "non-falsifiable hypothesis." Such a hypothesis is not science.

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/17597/Climatologist-Dr-John-Christy-demolishes-warmists-claims-in-testimony-to-Congress-Extreme-events-like-the-recent-US-drought-will-continue-to-occur-with-or-without-human-causation>>  
<<http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/american-energy-initiative-focus-hr-6172>>

### **NASA Admits that Arctic Cyclone Played Key Role in Ice Reduction**

In a September 18 video posted by NASA on its website, the agency admits that an Arctic cyclone that began on August 5, "wreaked havoc on the Arctic ice sea cover" by breaking up sea ice.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/09/24/nasa-on-arctic-sea-ice-record-low-storm-wreaked-havoc-on-the-arctic-sea-ice-cover/>>

### **Al Gore's 'dirty weather' Timing is Impeccable – NOAA's 2012 Tornado Count Dropping like a House in Oz**

On November 14-15 Al Gore's advocacy group Climate Reality Project will present its second multimedia *24 Hours of Reality* event [see FoS Extracts – 2011-09-27], which will bear the title "The Dirty Weather." NOAA's Storm Prediction Center has published a spoiler for Mr. Gore, in the form of a chart showing only 757 confirmed tornadoes in the US for 2012 to September 21. This compares to 1,692 for the first nine months of 2011 and an annual average of 1300.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/09/25/al-gores-dirty-weather-timing-is-impeccable-noaa-just-released-data-showing-2012-tornado-count-dropping-like-a-house-in-oz/>>

### **Senate Votes to Shield US Airlines from EU's Carbon Scheme**

On September 22 the US Senate unanimously passed a bill to prevent US airlines from paying for their carbon emissions on European flights. The House of Representatives has already passed a similar measure, and could either work out differences with the Senate's version or accept the Senate bill when Congress returns for a post-election session. If the bill becomes law it will put pressure on the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization to devise a global alternative to the EU law.

<<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/09/22/us-usa-carbon-airlines-idUKBRE88L06C20120922>>

### **Wind Power Woes**

At its peak in 2008-2009 the American wind industry employed 85,000, but lost 10,000 jobs due weak electricity demand and competition from natural gas and Chinese manufacturers. Now the industry is facing the December 31 expiry of a federal tax break, which subsidizes wind power by 2.2 ¢/kWh and is worth more than \$1 billion/year. An extension of the tax credit is caught up in deep differences over spending in Congress and the pending election.

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/21/business/energy-environment/as-a-tax-credit-wanes-jobs-vanish-in-wind-power-industry.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/21/business/energy-environment/as-a-tax-credit-wanes-jobs-vanish-in-wind-power-industry.html?_r=1)>

<[http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/national\\_world&id=8815187](http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/national_world&id=8815187)>

### **EU Officials Alarmed at Prospect of Mitt Romney as US President**

EU officials are privately alarmed at the chilling effect that a Mitt Romney win in the US presidential election could have global climate talks. One of Mr. Romney's statements causing the concern: "My view is that we don't know what is causing climate change on this planet and the idea of spending trillions and trillions of dollars to try and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is not the right course for us." Also, public opinion in the US is not encouraging for the climate activists, as 61% of Americans in a poll were cautious, disengaged, doubtful, or dismissive about global warming.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/sep/25/mitt-romney-concerns-climate-talks?newsfeed=true>>

### **China's Solar Meltdown**

Even the *People's Daily* admits that China's solar energy enterprises are in trouble, due to anti-dumping measures already enacted by the US and threatened by Europe. For example, over 80% of the firms stopped production and 80% of their employees lost their jobs after action by the US. Consequences of an EU anti-dumping measure would be hard to contemplate.

<<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90778/7959284.html>>

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2012-09-20

### **How California Finances Wind Power in Alberta**

Capital Power is completing an 83-turbine, 150 MW wind farm near Halkirk, Alberta, the largest such project in the province. Since Alberta has a fully-deregulated electricity market and does not pay extra for wind or solar power, the wind farm would be uneconomical selling just to the local market. However, a major California utility bought green-energy credits from Capital Power, which will provide about half the revenue for the project.

<<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/technology/Alberta+largest+wind+project+ready+before+winter/7262234/story.html#ixzz26vpl9pR9>>

### **Ten Lessons of the Solyndra Failure**

The US House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Committee has issued ten lessons from its investigation into the failure of solar panel manufacturer Solyndra, despite a \$535 million loan guarantee from the Department of Energy. Among the lessons: the White House ignored its own experts' warnings and rushed approval for a scheduled press conference; the DOE failed to monitor Solyndra's financial condition; Solyndra's backers had close political connections to the White House, and President Obama said he had no regrets over Solyndra's failure.

<<http://energycommerce.house.gov/blog/ten-lessons-solyndra-failure>>

### **Russia Will Not Cut Emissions under an Extended Kyoto Protocol**

After signaling earlier this month that no decision had been made, the Russian foreign ministry confirmed that it will not making cuts to greenhouse gas emissions from 2013 under an extended Kyoto Protocol. The likely list of "Kyoto 2" participants accounts for only 15-17% of global emissions, while countries which participated in the first round produced about 30%.

<<http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/66544>>

### **Climategate Star Michael Mann Courts Legal Disaster**

This Forbes article discusses Dr. Mann's threatened libel suit against *National Review* editor Rich Lowry [FoS Extracts – 2012-07-26], who welcomes the action and promises to use the discovery process "...to unearth every last jot and tittle of deception by Mann and his partners in fraud." The story goes on to describe Climategate emails depicting the fraud and the subsequent whitewash investigations by Penn State, the University of East Anglia and the UK parliamentary inquiry.

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/09/18/climategate-star-michael-mann-courts-legal-disaster/>>

### **Anthony Watts' Interview on PBS Newshour**

Mr. Watts, the author of the blog *Watts Up With That*, was interviewed by PBS, which has published a video and a transcript of the conversation. In it Mr. Watts explains "noble cause corruption," the focusing on a goal like saving the planet, while overlooking evidence to the contrary. He notes that global warming

has become a business in its own right and discusses problems with temperature measurements and the politicization of the global warming issue.

*DeSmogBlog* is furious with PBS for falling into the “balance trap” by giving Mr. Watts “... close to ten minutes of uncontested air time to spout his disinformation about climate change, without any retorts from climate scientists.” In a second piece *DeSmogBlog* says the Watts interview goes beyond a single bad story by Newshour, and reveals details of funding of the “Petroleum Broadcasting System” by Chevron, Koch Industries, ExxonMobil, et al.

*NewsBusters* discusses other attacks on PBS over the interview, resulting in an apologetic message from PBS host Spencer Michels.

<<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2012/09/why-the-global-warming-crowd-oversells-its-message.html>>

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/2012/09/17/pbs-falls-fair-and-balanced-trap-airs-one-sided-interview-climate-skeptic>>

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/2012/09/18/petroleum-broadcasting-system-s-newshour-and-merchants-climate-doubt>>

<<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2012/09/19/pbs-under-attack-allowing-global-warming-skeptic-speak#ixzz26vIP17GC>>

### **Why Electric Cars Don't Have a Future**

General Motors apparently loses about \$49,000 on every Chevy Volt it sells. During the summer it offered leases as low as \$199/month to push sales of a vehicle that costs as much as \$89,000 to produce. Electric cars face a bleak future because the lithium-ion chemistry in today's cars is reaching maturity, and only incremental improvements in energy density and cost will be made from now on.

<<http://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Fuel-Cells/Why-Electric-Cars-Dont-have-a-Future.html>>

### **Why Not to Emulate China**

In his State of the Union address last January, President Obama declared, “I will not cede the wind or solar or battery industry to China ... because we refuse the same commitment here.” China may not be the right model for the US to emulate. Patrick Chovanec, a professor at Tsinghua University's School of Economics and Management in Beijing, shows why. He has published an op-ed piece in the *Wall Street Journal* about China's Solyndra economy, where government subsidies to green energy manufacturers and high-speed rail have led to mounting losses and costly bailouts.

<<https://chovanec.wordpress.com/2012/09/13/wsj-chinas-solyndra-economy/>>

### **Solar Eclipsed?**

This essay by Peter Glover examines the real cost of “free” solar power. The industry is facing a global crisis, which it blames on national subsidy cuts and over productivity. Government incentive schemes around the world have created a glut of suppliers that the free market would never have sanctioned. The eclipse of Europe's solar industry is in truth down to simple economic realities hitting home, as commercial-scale solar power is simply too expensive a proposition to attract serious private sector investment and end massive public subsidies. The sun is setting even on China's solar industry.

<<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/11672/Solar-Eclipsed?>>

### **Antarctic Sea Ice Trends at Record High**

While stories of the Arctic's record fall in sea ice have been all over world news reports, it's almost as if the Southern Hemisphere didn't exist. Based on ~30 years of satellite records, Antarctic sea ice in September 2012 reached record highs.

The blog *Hockey Schtick* reports on a recent paper in the *Journal of Climate* that finds that most climate models erroneously predicted that Antarctic sea ice extent would have decreased over the past 30 years, which "differs markedly from that observed." The authors lament, "The negative [Antarctic sea ice] trends in most of the model runs over 1979 - 2005 are a continuation of an earlier decline, suggesting that the processes responsible for the observed increase over the last 30 years are not being simulated correctly."

The blog *Resilient Earth* notes the wave of triumphal announcements by climate change proponents over current Arctic ice data and makes the case for alternating Arctic-Antarctic ice cycles.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/09/antarctic-sea-ice-trends-at-record-highs-fears-for-shrinking-southern-ocean-right/>>

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.ca/2012/09/antarctic-sea-ice-reaches-record-high.html>>

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/case-alternating-ice-sheets>>

**2012-09-13**

### **Ontario Couple Seeks Injunction to Stop Wind Farm Expansion**

A rural Ontario couple is heading to court to halt development of a large wind farm near the shores of Lake Huron – at least until Health Canada completes a new two-year study on the potential risks of living next to industrial wind turbines. Shawn and Trish Drennan argue that, in light of Health Canada's announcement in July to study the health of 2,000 residents across Canada who live near wind farms [see FoS Extracts 2012-07-12], all construction should be stopped on the 140 turbines being built by Alberta-based Capital Power near the Drennans' farm.

Though Ontario ministers have long maintained that there is no scientific evidence that wind turbines cause ill health, *CBC News* has documented scores of people who reported ringing in their ears, vertigo, sleeplessness and other stress-related ailments they attribute to living downwind from turbines.

<<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2012/09/10/wind-farm-injunction-ontario-couple.html>>

<<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/09/21/wind-turbines.html>>

### **Shell Canada Urges Canadian Carbon Price**

Less than one week after her company announced the go-ahead of its \$1.35 billion Quest carbon capture and storage project – financed with \$865 million contributed by Alberta and federal taxpayers [FoS Extracts – 2012-09-06] – the president of Royal Dutch Shell PLC's Canadian division, Lorraine Mitchelmore, urged the federal and provincial governments to put a price on CO<sub>2</sub>. Ms. Mitchelmore said that CCS needs "a real significant price" on CO<sub>2</sub> in order to be widely adopted. The *Globe and Mail* report does not say if she pointed out that Shell's Quest project would be one of the biggest beneficiaries of a price on carbon.

In the second *Globe and Mail* story, Shell objects to Alberta's new limits on air and water pollutants in the oil sands. To Shell, government action on one form of pollution is more welcome than on others.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/president-of-royal-dutch-shell-canadian-division-urges-carbon-price/article4534929/>>

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/shell-warns-about-albertas-emission-rules/article4537725/>>

### **IEA: Shale Glut May Kill Green Subsidies**

The International Energy Agency fears that a new “golden age of gas” could derail global efforts to fight climate change as indebted governments switch to the cheaper fuel. Currently government subsidies for renewable energy amount to \$70 billion/year. IEA chief economist Fatih Birol said that any reduction in investment in renewable energy would increase the risk of an increase in global temperatures by 6°C this century, describing the current trend as “catastrophic.”

<<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/09/13/energy-iea-gas-idUKL5E8KD4ZJ20120913>>

### **Global Carbon Trading System Has “Essentially Collapsed”**

The *Guardian* gloomily reports that the UN’s clean development mechanism, set up under the Kyoto Protocol, and “The world’s only global system of carbon trading, designed to give poor countries access to new green technologies,” has “essentially collapsed.” While billions of dollars have been raised over the past seven years to set up wind and solar projects in poor nations, governments have failed to guarantee to continue with the system beyond 2012. Causes include recession in rich countries, the Eurozone crisis and collapse in the price of the UN credits, from a high of \$20 before the financial crisis to \$3 currently. Most importantly, the Kyoto Protocol may expire at year-end (see *IPS News* story.)

*EurActiv* says that a high-level UN panel has proposed a hard-hitting package to reform CDM. Among the proposals, strengthening emission-reduction pledges, setting up a fund to buy and cancel surplus carbon credits, and phasing out of credits for controversial gases such as HCFC-23 [FoS Extracts – 2012-08-09.] Hopes for the scheme’s future now hinge on an anticipated ad-hoc alliance between the EU’s ETS with planned carbon markets in California, Australia, Quebec, China, South Korea and Japan.

According to *Business Green*, the Kyoto carbon credit surplus amounts to 16 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and may never recede. Hence, the urgency to increase emission reductions and get reluctant nations to sign on to a Kyoto 2.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/sep/10/global-carbon-trading-system>>

<<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/09/kyoto-protocol-may-end-with-the-year/>>

<<http://drugi.euractiv.com/climate-environment/un-panel-flags-kyoto-carbon-mark-news-514702>>

<<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2205023/kyoto-carbon-credit-glut-is-far-larger-than-expected-warn-analysts>>

### **Europe Mulls Suspending Airline Emissions Charge**

On September 10 European officials signaled that they may recommend suspension of the EU’s carbon emissions fees for airlines to avert a trade war with the US, China and India. The latter two countries have prohibited their airlines from participating in the European Trading System, and the US Senate is considering legislation that would ban US airlines from complying with the EU law. The trigger for the European change of heart was apparently threats of serious economic consequences for Airbus.



According to the second *Businessweek* article, EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard denies that some members of the EU are seeking a suspension.

<<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-09-11/europe-mulls-suspending-airline-emissions-charge>>  
<<http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/66508>>  
<<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-09-12/eu-nations-uphold-support-for-co2-aviation-curbs-hedegaard-says>>

### **Reality Bites EU's €17 billion Biofuels Industry**

Draft legislation seen by *Reuters* will impose a limit on crop-based biofuels over fears that they are less climate friendly than initially thought and compete with food production. The subsidized biofuels are currently worth €17 billion/year, but scientific studies have cast doubt on the emissions savings from crop-based fuels. As well, a poor harvest in grain-growing regions has pushed up prices and revived fears of grain shortages.

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development reports that Argentina has filed a complaint against the EU at the World Trade Organization over alleged discrimination against imports of biodiesel. Apparently, Europe hates green energy when it's from other countries.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/10/us-eu-biofuels-idUSBRE8890SJ20120910>>  
<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/09/there-goes-the-biofuels-21-billion-dollar-industry-reality-bites-in-eu-draft/#more-23918>>  
<<http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/144610/>>

### **German Academy of Sciences and Engineering Calls off Climate Catastrophe – Coping Will Not Be a Problem**

In a study commissioned by the German Federal Government, the German Academy of Sciences and Engineering concluded: “No climate conditions are going to occur here that already do not exist on the globe elsewhere and that we cannot cope with.” Worse for the climate alarmists, the report goes on to say that warming will even bring benefits along with it, such as longer growing seasons and reduced wintertime heating costs – which in Germany can mean eight months of the year.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/09/10/german-academy-of-sciences-and-engineering-calls-off-climate-catastrophe-coping-will-not-be-a-problem/>>

### **Climate Depot Responds to Obama's Declaration to American Voters to “do something about” Extreme Weather**

In his speech to the Democratic National Convention, President Obama said “And yes, my plan will continue to reduce the carbon pollution that is heating our planet – because climate change is not a hoax. More droughts and floods and wildfires are not a joke. They're a threat to our children's future. And in this election, you can do something about it.”

*Climate Depot* reminds voters that acts of the US Congress and the EPA cannot control the weather. It backs this up with other reactions to the statement and a sampling of scientific studies and analyses on man-made global warming claims and extreme weather.

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/17370/Obama-goes-full-witchcraft-by-telling-voters-they-can-do-something-about-droughts-and-floods-and-wildfires--Climate-Depot-Responds>>



### **Yes, He Did – Mission Accomplished for Obama**

At his inauguration in 2009 President Obama promised that, "... generations from now we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and the planet began to heal." Graphs of change in global sea level, US CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and global average temperature indeed show distinct declines since Mr. Obama took office. Unfortunately for the president, all of these downward trends were well underway before his inauguration.

<<http://www.appinsys.com/GlobalWarming/MissionAccomplished.htm>>

2012-09-06

### **Shell Launches First Canadian Oil Sands CCS Project**

At a special event attended by cabinet ministers from Alberta and Ottawa, the Canadian division of Royal Dutch Shell plc announced that the "flagship" \$1.35 billion Quest carbon capture and storage project will start operating in 2015. Alberta is contributing \$745 million, the federal government \$120 million, and Shell with partners Chevron Corp and Marathon Oil Corp. the remaining \$485 million. But the last number will be reduced by a two-for-one credit of the \$15/tonne charge on large CO<sub>2</sub> emitters to as little as \$155 million over ten years. This could be less if the Alberta government enacts a contemplated increase in its carbon charge to \$30/tonne.

Over a 25-year period Quest will cost \$72/tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> stored. A Harvard professor, David Keith calls Quest a "relatively cheap" method, compared to \$100/tonne for wind turbines in Alberta. In a *Financial Post* opinion piece, Peter Foster calls the scheme "Taxpayer Capture and Storage," noting that it's not about commercial sense or changing the climate, but political posturing, particularly with the US.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/shell-launches-first-canadian-oil-sands-carbon-capture-project/article4520968/>>

<<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/09/05/shell-to-build-carbon-capture-project-for-oil-sands-emissions/>>

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/09/06/peter-foster-taxpayer-%c2%adcapture-and-storage/>>

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Shell+partners+approve+carbon+capture+storage+project/7194713/story.html>>

### **Ottawa to Unveil Weakened Emissions Rules for Coal-fired Power**

After negotiations with power companies and the provinces, Environment Minister Peter Kent will announce a weaker version of the draft regulations released a year ago. Instead of a limit of 375 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>/GWh of electricity, the standard for new coal plants will be 420 tonnes/GWh. Also, the lifetime for old plants to meet the standard will be 50 years, instead of 45.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ottawa-to-unveil-weakened-emissions-rules-for-coal-fired-power/article4519655/>>

### **UK Government Signals End of Green Obsession**

A ministerial reshuffle on September 4 marked a departure from Prime Minister Cameron's pledge to run Britain's greenest government ever. Owen Paterson, a proponent of the potential economic benefits of shale gas, was appointed Environment Minister. The new Energy Minister is John Hayes, a vocal

opponent of wind farms. According to the first BBC report, the previous energy minister was popular with the renewables industry, but his views proved too green for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the second BBC article, green groups have expressed concern over Mr. Paterson' calling for an end to all energy subsidies.

<<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/09/05/uk-britain-shale-minister-idUKBRE8840I320120905>>

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-19494797>>

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-19476970>>

### **Greens against Green Energy: Big Solar Gets the Big Oil Treatment**

On August 13 the Wall Street Journal (behind paywall) reported that the US Department of the Interior approved construction of solar farms on 285,000 acres of public land in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah, and invited solar firms to petition for approximately 19 million acres. Now three environmental groups have filed a complaint alleging:

- Failure to analyze the “numerous impacts of solar energy plant development ...”
- “No scientific evidence has been presented to support the claim that these projects reduce greenhouse emissions.”
- The environmental impacts of the solar panels are long term, and threaten the habitat of endangered species.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443792604577573643555714390.html>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/greens-against-green-energy/>>

### **Wind Farms – 96% Useless and Cost 150 Times What’s Needed for What They Do**

As Joanne Nova’s blog puts it, the point of a wind farm is not so much to produce electricity, but to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, in Australia they’re not good at that either. In the State of Victoria, Windfarms have saved virtually no coal from being burned, and in South Australia they have saved 4% of their rated capacity at a cost of A\$1,484/tonne. This is 150 times the cost of purchasing carbon credits from the EU.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/09/wind-farms-are-96-useless-and-cost-150-times-more-than-necessary-for-what-they-do/>>

### **Stern Review “Not Fit for Purpose”**

A member of the UK Parliament, MP Peter Lilley, has written a scathing rebuttal study of the 2006 *Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change* which has been used as the basis for UK government climate policy. The Lilley study takes the IPCC’s view of the science of global warming as a given, but points out that Stern’s economic conclusions contradict the views of most of the world’s leading environmental economists and even the economic conclusions of the IPCC itself. The study also catalogues a series of errors and distortions in the Stern Review “any one of which would have caused it to fail peer review”.

<<http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/2397/stern-climate-change-review-not-fit-for-purpose-says-tory-mp>>

<[http://www.thegwpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Lilley-Stern\\_Rebuttal.pdf](http://www.thegwpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Lilley-Stern_Rebuttal.pdf)>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/peter-lilley-costly-decarbonisation-of-the-economy-is-based-on-flawed-stern-review/>>

<[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/09/04/beyond\\_stern\\_climate\\_morality/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/09/04/beyond_stern_climate_morality/)>

### **Bangkok Climate Talks End**

The week-long “informal” Bangkok meetings, which ended September 5, were meant to prepare the ground for the annual climate change summit in Doha, Qatar at the end of the year. The UN Climate Change Secretariat issued a press release claiming “concrete progress on key issues ... setting a firmer base for decisions that will be made ... in Doha.” However, there, was little concrete information in the rest of the press release. The RTCC and *Business Green* reports provide a less optimistic assessment of the meetings.

<[http://unfccc.int/files/press/press\\_releases\\_advisories/application/pdf/20120905\\_pr\\_awg-bkk\\_close.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/press_releases_advisories/application/pdf/20120905_pr_awg-bkk_close.pdf)>  
 <<http://www.rtcc.org/policy/bangkok-2012-un-climate-talks-close-with-unofficial-draft-on-kyoto-protocol-2nd-period/>>  
 <<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2203025/bangkok-climate-talks-prep-the-ground-for-doha>>

### **The Green War on the Poor**

In this *National Review Online* article, Robert Zubrin responds to an op-ed article by Cornell professor Robert H. Frank in the *New York Times*. Prof. Frank recommends stopping global warming, and fixing the US federal deficit, with a tax of \$300/tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is equivalent to \$1.21/kg of carbon. The US economy uses about 2.3 trillion kg of carbon per year, so the tax would raise \$2.78 trillion, compared to the \$2.3 trillion the federal government collects through the current tax system.

Under the current system, the top 5% of income earners pay 59% of federal income taxes, the next 49% pay 39%, and the bottom 46% pay next to nothing. Divided evenly among 300 million Americans, the carbon tax would be a burden of \$9,270 on every one. While this would be a pittance to the most affluent, it would take away 40% of the total income for a family of four with two wage earners making the average US salary of \$45,000 each. A “green” tax that taxes carbon, rather than income, would be regressive and impoverish society overall.

<<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/315369/green-war-poor-robert-zubrin>>

### **2012 Arctic Ice Melt Claims Distorted and Inaccurate. It's the Wind Stupid**

Tim Ball describes why, even with the 32-year satellite record, it's difficult to accurately measure the Arctic ice extent in late summer. There are no 100% ice areas, and polar easterly winds drive the pack ice in a constant movement around the pole. Satellites are fooled by meltwater on top of the ice and by vast areas of broken and slush ice. Current ice conditions are due more to changing wind patterns than temperature.

Veteran German journalist Ulli Kulke rejects claims of the ice melt reaching “unprecedented levels.” Over the years scientists are finding out there's a lot more to the Arctic than temperature alone. It involves ocean currents, drifting, precipitation, freezing and thawing cycles.

<<http://drtimball.com/2012/2012-arctic-ice-melt-claims-distorted-and-inaccurate-its-the-wind-stupid/>>  
 <<http://notrickszone.com/2012/09/01/veteran-german-journalist-calls-claims-of-unprecedented-arctic-ice-melt-gross-nonsense/>>

2012-08-30

**UN Ruling: EU Must Reassess Renewables' Policy**

The Aarhus Convention (officially the UN Economic Commission for Europe's *Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters*) was signed by the EU and 40 European and Central Asian countries. In October 2010, Irish chemical engineer Pat Swords filed a complaint under the Convention, alleging that the EU failed to comply with the Convention in relation to Ireland's renewable, especially wind, energy policy. On June 29 the Compliance Committee of the UNECE ruled in Mr. Swords' favour. The *Turn 180* link contains a statement by Mr. Swords and a 19-minute video of him eloquently describing his experience and the rationale for his complaint. One of Mr. Swords' contentions is that wind power produces little CO<sub>2</sub> savings at enormous cost and impact to the countryside.

As reported by the *Global Warming Policy Foundation*, the Compliance Committee's decision states that, if the EU wants to be in compliance with the Convention, it must have its 27 member states reassess their National Renewable Energy Action Plans and submit them to popular consultation. As the EU currently has 60,000 wind turbines and related infrastructure installed at a cost of €180 billion, this is no small matter. The *European Platform against Windfarms* has posted a copy of the UNECE's one-page letter to the EU and Mr. Swords, together with its 16-page findings and recommendations.

The EPAW has also posted a study, *Facts about the Savings of Fossil Fuel by Wind Turbines in the Netherlands*, by another engineer C. (Kees) le Pair. His conclusion: fossil fuel savings amount to only about 4% of the currently-installed wind turbine capacity in the Netherlands. If installed capacity increases such that the grid can't always absorb the wind power, this figure reduces and can even become negative (i.e., wind power increases fossil fuel consumption.)

<<http://www.turn180.ie/?p=570>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/un-ruling-eu-must-reassess-renewables-policy/>>

<<http://www.epaw.org/documents.php?lang=en&article=c3>>

<<http://www.epaw.org/documents.php?lang=en&article=backup14>>

**Merkel's Green Shift: Germany Burns More Coal and Hits Brakes on Renewable Energy**

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government says that RWE AG's new, 2,200 MW power plant near Cologne aids her plan to exit nuclear energy and switch to cleaner forms of generation. The plant's fired with lignite, a soft coal that's sourced from domestic strip mines and emits 29% more CO<sub>2</sub> than hard coal. Germany's coal consumption has risen by 4.9% since the Fukushima disaster and the government's decision to start shutting nuclear plants. The German "clean-dark spread," a measure of profit from selling coal-generated power after accounting for carbon-emission permits, was about €9.86/MWh. Utilities lose about €10/MWh from burning gas.

A *Spiegel Online* article reports that the renewables' share of Germany's power mix has shot up so high that the electricity grid and subsidy framework can't keep up. The German *Renewable Energy Act* requires power companies to buy wind and solar energy from producers at high fixed prices, while industrial users pay only 0.3% of the extra costs of the mandated feed-in tariffs. German consumers pay the rest. The power grid can't absorb all the electricity produced by the offshore wind parks in the North and Baltic Seas. As a result the energy minister hopes to change the REA so as to put the brakes on the current rush to renewables. German newspaper comments from across the political spectrum agree that the government has a problem with its energy policy.

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-08-19/merkel-s-green-shift-forces-germany-to-burn-more-coal-energy.html>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/08/28/germanys-new-renewable-energy-policy/#more-70077>>

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/germany-addresses-problems-with-renewable-energy-subsidy-system-a-852549.html>>

### **The Burst Pipe-Dream of Energy Saving**

This translated article from *Die Welt* punctures the German (and other) policy-makers' dream that legislating efficiency by banning light bulbs, increasing home insulation and driving fuel-efficient cars will necessarily lead to reduced energy consumption. Researchers from Rhine-Westphalia University found that there is a "rebound effect." As people install LED lights they use more lighting; air-tight insulation and triple-glazed windows require opening the windows more to prevent mould; lower gas mileage leads to more driving. The researchers calculated that the rebound effect was 60-100%.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-burst-pipe-dream-of-energy-saving/>>

### **UN Climate Talks Resume**

After months of delays, the 24-member board of the UN's Green Climate Fund held its first meeting August 23-25 in Geneva. The first task was to elect two co-chairs, from South Africa and Australia. The next meeting, October 18-20 in South Korea, will determine where the fund will be based, with Namibia, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, South Korea and Mexico vying for the honour. Ways to extract new aid from the anemic economies of rich countries will be left for later meetings.

During August 30-September 5 in Bangkok the UN's Climate Change Secretariat will hold additional sessions for ad-hoc working groups on the Kyoto Protocol commitments, Long-term Cooperative Action and the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. These sessions became necessary due to the lack of progress at last May's round of talks in Bonn, and they will be informal because of the Secretariat's limited budget. The RTCC blog predicts divisions over: the agenda, continuation (or not) of the Kyoto Protocol, finance, whether or not keep the warming goal of 2°C, and expectations for the year-end climate conference in Qatar.

<<http://www.news24.com/SciTech/News/UN-green-climate-fund-holds-talks-20120823>>

<<http://www.rtcc.org/policy/green-climate-fund-continues-to-make-slow-but-steady-progress/>>

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

<<http://www.rtcc.org/policy/unfccc-parties-hope-bangkok%E2%80%99s-summer-sun-can-thaw-deep-divisions-sown-in-bonn/>>

### **Controversy over "Record Low" Arctic Ice Data**

The National Snow & Ice Data Center announced on August 27 that Arctic sea ice extent broke the 2007 record low. In a two-part blog *WattsUpWithThat* analyzes the NSIDC announcement, predicting that the phenomenon will be blamed on man-made emissions of greenhouse gases and noting that other sources show no record low Arctic ice extent. *Climate Depot* argues that, based on multiple peer-review studies and experts, the current Arctic ice shifts are not proof of AGW or cause for alarm. It also provides a sample of previous Arctic ice scares going back to 1922.

<<http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/2012/08/arctic-sea-ice-breaks-2007-record-extent/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/08/27/sea-ice-news-volume-3-number-10-part-1-new-arctic-extent-record/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/08/27/sea-ice-news-volume-3-number-11-part-2-other-sources-show-no-record-low/>>  
<<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/17239/Dont-Panic-Arctic-Ice-Hits-Record-Low-Climate-Depot-Explains--Arctic-melting-hype>>

### **New AMS Statement on Climate Change**

On August 27 the American Meteorological Society, a long-time advocate of AGW, issued an updated Statement on Climate Change, replacing the 2007 version that was in effect. The new Statement extols climate models and concludes that there is “unequivocal” evidence of global warming, sea level rising, sea ice shrinking, etc., with the dominant cause since the 1950s being human activities.

Judith Curry provides some excerpts from the AMS statement and says that it’s worse than the previous version. As the CMIP5 climate model simulations [FoS Extracts 2012-07-26] show a broader range of uncertainty than the simulations used in the IPCC’s AR4, she questions the basis for the AMS’ more confident statement of attribution than was made in AR4.

Roger Pielke Sr. discusses various contradictory statements in the new AMS Statement and takes aim at its assertion that “... climate models have demonstrated skill in reproducing past climates.” He praises Dr. Curry’s observation that “... consensus statements get parroted without any intellectual examination ...”

<<http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/2012climatechange.html>>  
<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/08/27/ams-statement-on-climate-change/#more-9511>>  
<<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/08/27/contradictory-statements-by-the-american-meteorological-society-comments-on-the-new-statement-titled-climate-change/>>

### **New Paper Finds that Man-Made CO<sub>2</sub> Is Not the Driver of Global Warming**

A paper published in *Global and Planetary Change* by three Norwegian researchers finds that changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> lag behind global air surface temperature changes and that CO<sub>2</sub> released from fossil fuels has “... little influence on the observed changes in the amount of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.”

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.ca/2012/08/new-blockbuster-paper-finds-man-made.html>>

2012-08-23

### **Good News for Polar Bears Is Bad News for Global-Warming Alarmists**

Susan Crockford is a zoologist and evolutionary biologist at the University of Victoria. She has found that polar bears have successfully adapted to severe climate change many times in the past and will likely adapt to future climate change, as well. On August 14 Dr. Crockford gave a lecture on polar bear resilience at the University of Toronto, for which the Frontier Centre for Public Policy issued a press release.

Last June Michael Mann gave a talk in Orange County, CA where he concluded his presentation with a slide predicting, among other things, that polar bears “will be the stuff of myth.”

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2012/08/15/good-news-for-polar-bears-is-bad-news-for-global-warming-alarmists/>>  
<<http://www.fcpp.org/publication.php/4281>>



<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2012/06/27/michael-manns-hissy-fit-shows-why-global-warming-alarmists-fear-debate/>>

### **Debate on Ontario's *Green Energy Act***

This 36-minute debate on TV Ontario, among representatives from the Pembina Institute, the Community Power Fund, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, and University of Guelph economist Ross McKittrick, took place on April 19. The subject of the debate: Rising electricity bills, declining feed-in tariff rates and a big deficit; three years later, should we consider the Green Energy Act experiment to be a failure?

Dr. McKittrick points out that the GEA has had no effect on air quality, which had been improved due to previous measures. When the debate moves to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, he said that the Ontario government could have achieved the same reduction as the GEA, but much more cheaply, by purchasing offset (carbon) credits. The OSPA representative noted that problems with the grid will force nuclear plants to back off in spring and fall to accommodate wind, which will also entail more gas-fired generation and thus more CO<sub>2</sub>. After the preliminaries, the debate progressed into the Pembina and Community Power representatives supporting the GEA, while Dr. McKittrick and the OSPE representative arguing against it. At the 23-minute mark the moderator introduced the Solyndra bankruptcy as a cautionary tale.

<http://ww3.tvo.org/video/176506/getting-current-green-energy-act>>

### **California's Overheated Climate Rhetoric**

Governor Jerry Brown recently launched a website (one page of which is titled *The Deniers*) to scare Californians into embracing the global warming hype. The state is about to launch a cap-and-trade scheme that potentially will raise billions of dollars for the government, ostensibly to fight global warming. According to an editorial in the *Orange County Register* this money will be a disguised tax to finance overblown government operations.

*WattsUpWithThat* slams Gov. Brown's new "climate denier page," noting that it can't even get the temperature graph right.

<http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/brown-368900-government-warming.html>>

[http://www.opr.ca.gov/s\\_denier.php](http://www.opr.ca.gov/s_denier.php)>

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/08/19/climate-fail-moonbeam-browns-denier-page-cant-even-get-the-temperature-graph-right/#more-69581>>

### **Big Green Machine: GE Generates \$25 Billion/year in "Clean Energy"**

General Electric's other product lines are shrinking, but its green revenue stream is growing twice as fast as the rest. In this article Joanne Nova points out how dependent GE has become on governments' anti-carbon policies, its sponsorship to help both the planet and its bottom line, helping spend taxpayers' money while paying no taxes itself.

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/08/big-green-machine-ge-makes-21-billion-a-year-on-clean-energy/>>

### **Renewable Energy: A \$250 Billion Industry Making about 3% of Our Electricity**

In June the UN Environmental Program issued a report announcing that \$257 billion (52% or \$147 in solar alone) was invested in global renewable energy last year. Joanne Nova's blog describes five tricks

the report uses to disguise the fact that the huge investment produces little MWh of energy and fossil fuel substitution.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/08/renewable-energy-is-a-257-billion-dollar-industry-that-makes-only-3-of-our-electricity/#more-23360>>

<<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=2688&ArticleID=9163>>

### **Václav Klaus: The Manmade Contribution to Ongoing Global Warming Is Not a Planetary Emergency**

Mr. Klaus addressed the World Federation of Scientists on August 20. (The first link below contains an extract of his speech, the second the complete text.) He begins by listing eight articles of faith for the Global Warming Doctrine. While the world has not warmed for the past 15 years, this is not enough to shatter the carefully-built edifice of GWD. Mr. Klaus examines the GWD argument from an economist's point of view, particularly the cost-benefit of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, the use of low discount rates, and his own experiences with central planning. He concludes that the economic losses associated any global warming would be far less than the "completely useless fight against global warming."

<<http://newnostradamusofthenorth.blogspot.ca/2012/08/vaclav-klaus-arrogance-of-global.html>>

<<http://www.klaus.cz/clanky/3165>>

### **Climate Change and Freedom: How the Regulating Class is Using Claims about Climate Change to Entrench their Economic Privileges and Political Control**

This is the title of an eight-page essay by David Evans, who argues that climate change is also a freedom issue. He examines the regulating class (the UN/IPCC, western governments, major banks and finance houses, totalitarian leftists, government-funded scientists, renewables corporations, and the mainstream news media). According to Dr. Evans, "The regulating class promotes the dual beliefs that the 'problem' of global warming is very scary and that it is caused by human emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. The only solution they offer just happens to be complete regulation of the whole world's economy by ... the regulating class."

<[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/climate\\_change\\_and\\_freedom.pdf](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/climate_change_and_freedom.pdf)>

2012-08-17

### **Ottawa Bows to Alberta on Emission Rules**

Ottawa will allow Alberta to use its own greenhouse gas rules, rather than federal regulations being drafted, to control CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the oil sands. Industry and government sources say that these regulations will essentially mimic parts of Alberta's regulations, which place limits on the emissions from each barrel of oil, but not on the sector. Under the principle of "equivalency" the federal government will allow Alberta and other provinces to replace federal regulations with their own rules if they would achieve the same level of emissions reductions.

A second *Globe and Mail* article reports that Alberta, in response to international criticism of the oil sands, is moving to toughen its standards. This could include doubling the \$15/tonne penalty that companies pay into a technology fund. A spokesman for the Environment Minister said "we're looking at strengthening our climate change strategy."

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/ottawa-bows-to-alberta-on-emission-rules/article4470544/>>



<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/alberta-eyes-tougher-carbon-rules/article4477836/>>

### **US Ethanol vs the World**

The *Wall Street Journal* says that the world may be facing a spike in food prices, driven by the worst drought in the Midwest farm belt in 50 years. US corn accounts for 60% of global exports and is also “... a key ingredient in the combine of political power and corporate welfare that is US alternative energy policy.” The director of the UN’s Food and Agriculture organization called for a temporary suspension of the ethanol mandate “to allow more of the [corn] crop to be channeled to food and feed uses.” The Environmental Protection Agency has the power, in the event of extreme economic harm, to override the ethanol mandate. The WSJ is betting that the EPA will decide that the drought doesn’t qualify.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443404004577581140907497810.html>>

### **Food Crisis Strengthens EU Biofuel Critics**

The EU is also saddled with an inflexible biofuel mandate, which is putting pressure on the European Commission to forge a deal this year to ensure that EU biofuels do not clash with food production or the environment. According to the campaign group Transport and Environment, 65% of the EU’s vegetable oils are converted into biodiesel. In addition, it claims that biodiesel can be worse for the climate than conventional oil, due to indirect land use change.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/15/eu-biofuel-idUSL6E8JAD7B20120815>>

### **Coalition Seeks to Reset New England Emissions Goal**

In 2009 Massachusetts and nine other Northeast states came up with a plan to reduce the region’s power plant emissions, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Driven by the region’s growing dependence on natural gas, these emissions are now 36% below the RGGI cap. This has had the perverse effect of undermining the RGGI because, with emissions below the cap, there are fewer financial incentives for power companies to invest in cleaner technologies. A coalition of 300 businesses, academics, environmental and health groups has sent a letter to the states to reset the cap to 20% below today’s emissions in eight years.

<<http://bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/health-wellness/2012/08/09/coalition-calls-for-stricter-northeast-climate-pact/kNwpcg54kVYXaO5RTNcVFN/story.html>>

### **DeSmogBlog Claims Media Fails to Link Climate Change to “Massive Heat Waves”**

*DeSmogBlog* is upset that, with North America having just witnessed “the hottest month in the history of record keeping,” major media outlets “almost completely ignored the role that man-made climate change played in our severe weather.” It opines that poor media coverage could be the main reason why only 21% of Americans think combating climate change is important to them.

It then smugly refers to a poll claiming to show that only 2% of Canadians believe that climate change is a hoax. Actually the link in its website points to a story about Generation X being unconcerned about climate change. Presumably *DeSmogBlog* intended to link to the MSN coverage of a CBC-Calgary article that says, while 2% of Canadians don’t believe climate change is happening, 32% of them believe climate change is occurring due to human activity, and 54% think that it’s a combination of human activity and natural variation.

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/media-fails-again-climate-change-coverage-during-massive-heat-waves>>  
<<http://news.ca.msn.com/local/calgary/only-2percent-of-canadians-deny-climate-change-suggests-poll-3#sctid>>

### **Guardian Says Global Warming Induced Cold Is the New Normal**

While alarmists point to North America's summer as a result of man-made global warming, the *Guardian* attributes Britain's dull and damp summer conditions to the same cause. It notes that five of the last six years have recorded below-average sunshine from June to August and suggests that this could be the shape of summers to come.

Steven Goddard recalls that in 2004 the same *Guardian* ran an article blaming greenhouse gases for record-breaking hot temperatures in Europe. He adds "alarmists are allowed to change their mind about the symptoms as many times as they like."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2012/aug/08/shape-of-british-summer-to-come?INTCMP=SRCH>>  
<<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2012/08/10/guardian-says-global-warming-induced-cold-is-the-new-normal/>>

### **Reaction to Hansen's New PNAS Paper**

A paper by James Hansen et al, *Perception of climate change*, was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*. The paper, summarized by Dr. Hansen in the *Washington Post*, claims that mankind's use of fossil fuels has caused even more warming and resulting weather extremes than he forecast in his famous 1988 testimony to the US Senate.

Lorne Gunter in the *Edmonton Sun* argues that Dr. Hansen and his colleagues cherry-picked the past years they compared to today, by ignoring the warm 1930s in favour the cooler 1950s-1980s. He quotes Martin Hoerling, a climate researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as saying that Dr. Hansen's paper isn't a serious scientific paper, but one about perception.

John Christy replies in two articles titled "Fun with summer statistics" on Roy Spencer's website. In the first he reviews US temperatures since 1985 to put this summer's temperatures in proper perspective. In the second he responds to Dr. Hansen's paper to conclude that its analysis is "based on assumptions designed to confirm a specific bias about climate change and then, like a legal brief, advocates for public acceptance of that bias to motivate the adoption of certain policies." (In the *Washington Post* article Dr. Hansen says "We can solve the challenge of climate change with a gradually rising fee on carbon collected from fossil-fuel companies ...")

<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/climate-change-is-here--and-worse-than-we-thought/2012/08/03/6ae604c2-dd90-11e1-8e43-4a3c4375504a\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/climate-change-is-here--and-worse-than-we-thought/2012/08/03/6ae604c2-dd90-11e1-8e43-4a3c4375504a_story.html)>  
<<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2012/08/10/more-climate-alarmism>>  
<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/08/fun-with-summer-statistics-part-i-usa/>>  
<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/08/fun-with-summer-statistics-part-2-the-northern-hemisphere-land/>>

2012-08-09

**US Says 2°C Guarantee Should Be Dropped from Global Climate Deal**

The US Special Envoy for Climate Change, Todd Stern, said that the 2°C target, which all countries signed up to at the Copenhagen climate conference, should be dropped. Instead, he said: “It is more important to start now with a regime that can get us going in the right direction and that is built in a way maximally conducive to raising ambition, spurring innovation and building political will.” He prefers a “flexible” agreement beginning with countries submitting their own targets to the UN.

After receiving criticism from the EU and the Alliance of Small Island States (see BBC story), Mr. Stern issued a clarification (*Reuters* story) that said “My view is that a more flexible approach will give us a better chance to actually conclude an effective new agreement and meet the goal we all share.”

<<http://www.rtcc.org/policy/us-says-two-degree-guarantee-should-be-dropped-by-global-climate-change-deal/>>

<<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2196956/us-signals-desire-to-axe-global-two-degree-climate-goal>>

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-19161799>>

<<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/08/08/us-climate-usa-idINBRE8770AS20120808>>

**Nevada: \$1.3 Billion in “clean energy” Subsidies Produces 288 Permanent Jobs and Quadruples Cost of Electricity**

Since 2009, \$1.3 billion in federal funds has been funneled into geothermal, solar and wind projects in Nevada, with a projected yield of 288 permanent jobs, or \$4.6 million each. Despite this, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid continues to hype Nevada as the “Saudi Arabia of renewable energy” even as it costs the state’s publicly-regulated utility company four times as much as energy from natural gas. Three weeks ago, solar manufacturer Amonix, recipient of \$20 million in federal tax credits and grants failed.

Sen. Reid was keynote speaker at the National Clean Energy Summit on August 7 in Las Vegas. The title of his speech: *Time To Stop Acting Like Climate Change Deniers Have A Valid Point Of View – They Don't*. *WattsUpWithThat* critiques the cherry-picked facts in Sen. Reid’s talk.

<<http://nevadajournal.com/2012/08/06/13-billion-clean-energy-subsidies-produce-288-permanent-jobs-quadruple-cost-electricity-nevada/>>

<[http://www.reid.senate.gov/newsroom/pr\\_080712\\_stop-climate-deniers.cfm](http://www.reid.senate.gov/newsroom/pr_080712_stop-climate-deniers.cfm)>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/08/08/quote-of-the-week-harry-reids-cherry-blossom-picking-fail/#more-68799>>

**Australian Magazine Article: Victory of the Denialists**

The appearance in the *Monthly* of a 7,000-word essay, *Victory of the Denialists: How Climate Science Was Vanquished*, by Robert Manne, a political professor at Australia’s La Trobe University, got noticed by Joanne Nova and *DeSmogBlog*. According to Ms. Nova, Prof. Manne’s argument appears to be that “science” is what “official climate scientists” – those anointed by government funding say, because they have access to the Truth. *DeSmogBlog* includes excerpts from an interview with Prof. Manne wherein he bases his conclusion largely on the combination of the failure of the 2009 Copenhagen conference and the impact of the Climategate emails.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/08/victory-of-the-denialists-says-robert-manne-in-the-monthly-as-his-gods-of-science-fail/>>

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/victory-declared-climate-science-denialists>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/08/evans-denialist-victory-manne/>>

### **First Meeting of UN Climate Fund Board Set for August 23**

Five months later than planned, due to disagreements over who should sit on its governing panel, the first meeting of the UN Climate Fund will take place August 23-25 in Geneva. However, the fund, designed to channel up to \$100 billion/year in climate finance to developing countries, is an empty shell. Last year's climate talks failed to make progress on sources of finance, and the global economic crisis has left rich nations reluctant to commit cash.

<[http://news.yahoo.com/first-u-n-climate-fund-board-meeting-set-105834559--sector.html?\\_esi=1](http://news.yahoo.com/first-u-n-climate-fund-board-meeting-set-105834559--sector.html?_esi=1)>

### **Profits on Carbon Credits Drive Output of a Harmful Gas**

The UN's Clean Development Mechanism of carbon credits rates various gases on their power to warm the atmosphere. For example, CO<sub>2</sub>=1, but HCFC-23, a waste gas produced in making the world's most common coolant (HCFC-22), is rated at 11,700. Canny manufacturers with 19 plants in Argentina, China, India, Mexico and South Korea have profited from churning out more HCFC-22 coolant so they could destroy the HCFC-23 byproduct and sell carbon credits. Since the CDM program began in 2005 these 19 coolant factories have been awarded 46% of all credits.

The HCFC-22 coolant itself is both a potent greenhouse gas and damaging to the ozone layer. Yet its incentivized production is keeping the price low, discouraging use of more benign coolants. Disgusted with this perverse subsidy, the EU announced that next year it will no longer accept so-called waste gas credits in its trading system. Some Chinese producers said if the payments end they would just vent the waste gas skyward, which is still legal in China and India.

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/09/world/asia/incentive-to-slow-climate-change-drives-output-of-harmful-gases.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/09/world/asia/incentive-to-slow-climate-change-drives-output-of-harmful-gases.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all)>

### **European Oil Companies Seek Support for CCS as Carbon Price Too Low**

Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Total SA are among a group asking the EU to boost support for carbon capture and storage projects because low carbon prices deter investment in the technology. A senior adviser on CO<sub>2</sub> to Shell said that Europe's Emissions Trading Scheme must be "recalibrated" to strengthen the carbon price in order get three or four demonstration CCS projects operating by the end of this decade.

<<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-08-02/shell-total-look-eu-support-for-carbon-capture-as-price-too-low>>

### **New Study: Melting Predictions of Greenland Ice Sheet Flawed**

A team headed by Kurt Kjaer of the University of Copenhagen used a combination of old aerial photos from the 1980s and recent satellite data to gain an overview of the thinning of the Greenland ice sheet over the last 30 years. The team's work, published in *Science*, revealed that two dynamic ice-loss events occurred from 1985 to 1993 and from 2005 to 2010. These events were short-lived, and the finding challenges predictions about the future response of the Greenland Ice Sheet to increasing global temperatures.

<[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/08/03/greenland\\_ice\\_sheet\\_not\\_about\\_to\\_disappear/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/08/03/greenland_ice_sheet_not_about_to_disappear/)>  
 <<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/greenland-ice-said-more-robust-to-climate-change-than-feared>>

### **Soil Moisture Illustrates Why IPCC Computer Models Fail**

Tim Ball uses the role of moisture (sweating) in cooling the human body as an analogy to evaporation of water from soil in controlling the Earth's temperature. NASA acknowledges that soil moisture is a key variable in the development of weather patterns and precipitation. In their assessment reports the IPCC acknowledges that surface heat and water fluxes are not well observed and, for the climate models to simulate accurately, they must simulate evapotranspiration on a global scale. Yet, the IPCC confidently concludes that "most of the observed increase in global averaged temperatures since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations," where "most" and "very likely" are defined at greater than 90% certainty.

<<http://drtimball.com/2012/soil-moisture-illustrates-why-ipcc-computer-models-fail/>>

**2012-08-02**

### **Canada Nearly Half Way to Meeting 2020 Emissions Target**

According to news sources, when Environment Canada releases its greenhouse gas emission trends in August, the report will show that Canada is almost 50% of the way to meeting its 2020 goal. This goal is 607 megatonnes, or 17% below 2005 levels. The August report will show that existing government measures will make emissions fall to 720 Mt in 2020.

<<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canada-nearly-half-way-to-meeting-2020-emissions-target-sources-1.894484>>

### **US Ups the Pressure on European Union in Airline Row**

On July 31 the Senate's Commerce Committee passed a bipartisan bill authorizing the Transportation Secretary to bar US airlines from complying with the EU law on carbon emissions for flights to and from Europe. Simultaneously the US State Department and the Department of Transportation held a meeting with 17 non-EU nations opposed to the law. At this meeting (see *Chicago Tribune* link) the parties agreed to try and broker a solution through the International Civil Aviation Organization.

<[http://news.yahoo.com/u-ups-pressure-european-union-airline-row-180036952--finance.html?\\_esi=1](http://news.yahoo.com/u-ups-pressure-european-union-airline-row-180036952--finance.html?_esi=1)>  
 <<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/07/31/us-aviation-co-idUKBRE86U00320120731>>  
 <<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-rt-us-aviation-eu-etsbre8701v7-20120801,0,7183617.story>>

### **Judith Curry on John Christy**

Dr. Curry comments on John Christy's testimony to the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Dr. Christy's main points:

1. It is popular again to claim extreme events, such as the current central US drought as evidence of human-caused climate change.
2. The average warming rate of the 34 CMIP5 models [see FoS Extracts – 2012-07-26] is greater than observations, suggesting that the models are too sensitive to CO<sub>2</sub>.

3. New discoveries explain part of the warming found in traditional surface temperature datasets.
4. Widely publicized consensus reports by “thousands” of scientists are misrepresentative of climate science.
5. More atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> means more food for all.

Dr. Curry agrees that the IPCC’s heavy reliance on the CMIP5 simulations seems less justified than it was for the CMIP3 simulations, where she was one of the people fooled by the agreement between 20<sup>th</sup> century simulations and observed global temperature anomalies. Regarding extreme events, she favours more of the type of regional analyses that Dr. Christy has done. *WattsUpWithThat* has a link to a 7:05 video of Dr. Christy’s oral testimony.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/08/01/john-christys-epw-testimony/>>  
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/08/01/video-john-christys-stellar-testimony-today-the-recent-anomalous-weather-cant-be-blamed-on-carbon-dioxide/>>

### **IPCC Lead Author Misleads Congress**

This is Roger Pielke Jr.’s opinion on the testimony to the US Senate by Christopher Field, the lead author of IPCC’s Working Group II on climate impacts. He discusses five points from Dr. Field’s testimony (economic costs of disasters, US droughts, NOAA’s billion dollar disasters, attributing tornados and hurricanes to climate change, and attributing billion dollar disasters to climate change.) In each case the testimony misrepresents the IPCC findings.

<<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.ca/2012/08/ipcc-lead-author-misleads-us-congress.html>>

### **Wild Speculation on Climate and Polar Bears**

The *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* is unique for its practice of “pal review,” whereby National Academy members can submit articles that have been peer-reviewed by a couple of their friends. As a result papers with rather speculative conclusions are regularly found in the PNAS. An example is a recent one that used cutting-edge genetic analysis to establish the evolutionary tree of the polar bear as a separate species for 4-5 million years. Despite the species having survived repeated warm interglacial periods over that time, the authors used creative interpretation of the data to conclude that modern polar bears are even more vulnerable to future climatic and other environmental disturbances.

<<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2012/07/26/wild-speculation-on-climate-and-polar-bears/>>

### **Massive Human CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Still Unable to Reverse Nature’s Global Cooling over Last 15 Years**

The HadCRUT global temperature dataset for June 2012 has just been released, showing a 15-year (180-month) trend of steady to slight global cooling as CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere climbed. Yet over this period the IPCC’s climate models told us that human CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would cause global warming to accelerate to new dangerous levels. They have been proven absolutely and spectacularly wrong.

<<http://www.c3headlines.com/2012/07/contrary-to-ipcc-climate-models-massive-human-co2-emissions-still-unable-to-reverse-natures-global-c.html>>



### Climate Scientists' Theories, Flawed as They Are, Ignore Some Fundamental Data

For the first time the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, have published an op-ed piece by David Evans, a mathematician and engineer who consulted full-time for the Australian Greenhouse Office (now the Department of Climate Change) from 1999 to 2005 before he became a skeptic. In this article Dr. Evans disputes the theory that the direct effects of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases are amplified threefold by cloud and water vapour changes. There is no observational evidence for this amplification, which is nonetheless built into the climate models. NASA satellite data measuring both temperatures and outgoing radiation, together with 3,000 ARGO buoys roaming the oceans, suggest that the amplification assumed in the models does not occur in reality.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/08/david-evans-climate-change-science-is-a-load-of-hot-air-and-warmists-are-wrong/#more-23099>>

### US Temperature Trends Show a Spurious Doubling Due to Station Siting and Measurement Adjustments

A pre-publication draft paper titled *An area and distance weighted analysis of the impacts of station exposure on the U.S. Historical Climatology Network temperatures and temperature trends*, co-authored by Anthony Watts, Evan Jones, Stephen McIntyre and John Christy, is to be submitted for publication. The pre-release of this paper follows a practice embraced by Richard Muller of the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature project (see next story).

The Watts et al paper covers a re-analysis of US surface station temperatures using the siting classification system recently approved by the World Meteorological Organization. The new analysis demonstrates that reported 1979-2008 US temperature trends are spuriously doubled, with 92% of the over-estimation resulting from erroneous upward adjustments of well-sited stations by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The *WattsUpWithThat* link contains links to the paper and a PowerPoint presentation of the findings and additional figures. Favorable comments to the paper came from Roger Pielke Sr., Germany (via *NoTricksZone*) and Joanne Nova.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/29/press-release-2/>>

<<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/07/29/comments-on-the-game-changer-new-paper-an-area-and-distance-weighted-analysis-of-the-impacts-of-station-exposure-on-the-u-s-historical-climatology-network-temperatures-and-temperature-trends-by-w/>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/07/30/reaction-from-germany-on-wattss-press-release-shocking-development-could-have-global-relevance/>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/07/blockbuster-anthony-watts-squewers-muller-best-and-the-surface-record-all-in-one-paper/>>

### A New Release from Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature

On July 29 the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature project released a major update to its temperature data, which claims that global land temperatures have increased by 1.5°C over the past 250 years and 0.9°C over the past 50 years. The paper also states that many of the changes in land-surface temperatures can be explained by a combination of volcanoes and human greenhouse gas emissions. Solar variation does not appear to impact the temperature trend.

Immediately after the BEST release it attracted comments (see Roger Pielke's in the above link.) Judith Curry's blog had a critical analysis by two participants in BEST who questioned the update's relevance

(surface vs oceanic temperatures), sub-optimal methods, using subsets of station data and adjusting the data, and political considerations. Dr. Curry thinks that the attribution of observed warming to greenhouse gas emissions is over simplistic. Joanne Nova skewers Richard Muller, head of the BEST team as a pretend converted skeptic, who makes three claims, only one of which is half right. In *The Register*, Andrew Orlowski considers that the “non-partisan” BEST group has abandoned pretense of neutrality.

<<http://berkeleyearth.org/results-summary/>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/07/29/a-new-release-from-berkeley-earth-surface-temperature/>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/07/muller-the-pretend-skeptic-makes-three-claims-hes-half-right-on-one/>>

<[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/07/31/best\\_barnum/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/07/31/best_barnum/)>

### **New Paper Shows Antarctic Temperatures Haven't Increased over Past 500 Years**

A paper published in *Climate of the Past* shows no increase in temperature of the Ross Ice Shelf over the 536 year period from 1470 to 2006. The paper, based on a temperature proxy from stable isotopes of deuterium in ice cores, finds that the Little Ice Age to 1850 was about 1.6°C cooler than the last 150 years. Smoothed proxy temperatures at the beginning of the record in 1470 indicate slightly higher temperatures than in 2006. Climate alarmists claim that the poles are the “canaries in the coal mine” and warm the fastest. However, this paper shows that Antarctica, home to 90% of the world’s ice, has not warmed over the past 500+ years.

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2012/07/new-paper-shows-antarctic-temperatures.html>>

### **UAH Global Temperature Update for July 2012: +0.28°C**

The global average lower tropospheric temperature anomaly for July was +0.28°C, down from June’s figure of +0.37°C.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/08/uah-global-temperature-update-for-july-2012-0-28-deg-c/>>

**2012-07-26**

### **Biofuels Disaster: Soaring Corn Stirs Up Calls to Curb Ethanol**

Each year roughly 40% of the US corn crop, or 5 billion bushels, goes into making fuel for cars and animal feed. This, combined with fears over the current drought in the US, has pushed prices over \$8/bushel for the first time. While this has caused some refineries to temporarily close ethanol refineries, demand is essentially guaranteed by the *Renewable Fuel Standard*, the Congressional mandate that requires more than 13 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol be used in transport this year. Not only does the ethanol mandate make no economic sense, but the high prices it causes pushes up the cost of staples for the world’s poor. As Joanne Nova points out, sugar-cane ethanol is not much better, producing 10 times the pollution as gasoline and diesel.

<<http://thegwpf.org/international-news/6219-biofuels-disaster-soaring-corn-stirs-up-calls-to-curb-ethanol.html>>

<<http://www.globalwarming.org/2012/07/20/when-drought-strikes-should-u-s-policy-endanger-hungry-people/>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/07/sugar-cane-ethanol-biofuel-produces-10-times-the-pollution-of-gasoline-and-diesel/>>



### **Green Jobs Gone Bust**

On November 1, 2008 candidate Obama promised: “We’ll invest \$15 billion a year over the next decade in renewable energy, creating five million green jobs that pay well, can’t be outsourced, and help end our dependence on foreign oil.” Three years and eight month later the Department of Energy’s website reports that its “clean energy” initiatives loaned \$34.7 billion to create 60,000 jobs, or \$578,333 each. Team Obama picked at least ten clean energy losers that went under, costing \$3.4 billion in taxpayer funds and commitments.

<<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/309936/green-jobs-gone-bust-deroy-murdock>>

### **Norfolk Police Close Climategate Investigation**

The Norfolk Constabulary has closed its investigation into the November 2009 release of the Climategate emails from the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia. Due to a statute of limitations, criminal proceedings would have had to be brought by this fall. While the police were able to establish that there was a highly sophisticated internet attack on a backup server to obtain the files, there was no physical access to the server and no evidence of involvement by anyone working at the university.

*Watts Up With That* published two stories on the closing of the investigation, including media questions and answers. *DeSmogBlog* excoriates the police for their “botched investigation.”

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/19/more-info-on-the-ueacru-climategate-investigation-by-norfolk-police/#more-67776>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/19/media-questions-and-answers-from-the-norfolk-police-regarding-the-closing-of-climategate/#more-67825>>

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/uk-police-cease-botched-investigation-stolen-uea-climate-scientists-emails>>

### **The Unreality of Carbon Pricing as UN and EU Schemes Create Arbitrage Opportunity**

According to *Reuters*, a massive supply of UN-backed certified emissions reductions has built up, while a slowing world economy has reduced demand, causing a price drop of over 70% in the past 12 months. The price crash has been hard on project developers, particularly those that have contracted to buy carbon credits at prices much higher than current levels.

Meanwhile *Bloomberg* reports that CER project developers are bitter that “polluting factories in Europe” (among them ThyssenKrupp AG and Tata Steel Ltd.) have been selling EU permits – given to them for free – for €3.88/tonne and replacing them with the cheaper UN credits, making a profit of €0.91/tonne.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/19/un-carbon-price-idUSL6E8IJFUT20120719>>

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-19/greenhouse-projects-watch-as-eu-polluters-profit-lobby.html>>

### **European Commission Presents Plan to Boost Carbon Market**

The EC presented its promised plan to bolster the Emissions Trading System by dealing with the oversupply of allowances [see FoS Extracts – 2012-07-12 & 2012-06-28]. To tackle the surplus the Commission proposes to delay auctioning of 400 million to 1.2 billion new allowances over the first three years of the market’s next phase. This will require approval by all the EU states. Carbon-intensive Poland is expected to oppose, and the position of Germany is unknown.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/25/eu-ets-idUSL6E8IPCLZ20120725>>

### **Michael Mann's Legal Action: Will the Hockey Stick Be Litigated in a Court of Law?**

The *National Review* published an article by Mark Steyn titled *Football and Hockey* that compared Penn State's investigation of Michael Mann's hockey-stick graph and related Climategate emails to the university's cover up of abuse of minors by a football coach. Dr. Mann's lawyers promptly sent a letter to the *National Review* threatening legal action unless there is a retraction and an apology.

Much of the letter focuses on the various investigations into Climategate as evidence that there was no wrongdoing. If this matter ever comes to court, the investigations themselves, as well as the emails, will come under close scrutiny.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/24/fighting-the-mann/>>

<<http://www.australianclimatemadness.com/2012/07/michael-mann-threatens-legal-action-over-steyn-comment/>>

<<http://tomnelson.blogspot.ca/2012/07/rand-simberg-he-really-want-to-litigate.html>>

### **Greenland Ice Melt Every 150 Years Is 'right on time'**

This month, nearly all of Greenland's massive ice sheet suddenly started to melt, as the melting surface area went from 40% to 97% in four days. According to Goddard glaciologist Lora Koenig, this type of event happens every 150 years on average, with the last one occurring in 1889. The news caused some media hype, and comments thereon by Roger Pielke Sr.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/sudden-massive-melt-of-greenland-ice-sheet-surprises-scientists/article4439698/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/24/greenland-ice-melt-every-150-years-is-right-on-time/>>

<<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/07/25/news-report-nasa-sudden-massive-melt-in-greenland-my-comments-on-this-media-hype/>>

### **Climate Model Runs – A Scientifically Flawed Approach**

Roger Pielke Sr. comments on lack of scientific value of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Report No. 5. This model comparison is intended to “evaluate how realistic the models are in simulating the recent past” and thus their use to project (predict) “future climate change on two time scales (out to about 2035) and long term (out the 2100 and beyond).” CMIP5 climate model predictions for coming decades will be an integral part of the upcoming IPCC assessment. Dr. Pielke provides quotes from peer-reviewed studies that show large problems with hindcast simulations.

Judith Curry comments on a recent *Nature* article *Climate Models at Their Limit?* She says this provides a realistic assessment of model capabilities and uncertainties, and the dilemma of growing uncertainties as the models improve and become more complex. The increasing uncertainty is bad news for the politics of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation.

PhysOrg reports on a talk by Richard Lindzen, who told 70 researchers at Sandia National Laboratories that too much is being made of climate change by researchers seeking government funding. He noted that climate modelers have used aerosols as a kind of fudge factor to make their models come out right.

<<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/07/20/cmip5-climate-model-runs-a-scientifically-flawed-approach/>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/07/18/climate-models-at-their-limit/#more-9104>>

<<http://phys.org/news/2012-07-climate-flawed-speaker-sandia.html>>

### **New Research in Antarctica Shows CO<sub>2</sub> Follows Temperature “by a few hundred years at most”**

Research by the University of Copenhagen appears to settle the issue of which comes first, the temperature or the CO<sub>2</sub> rise. Antarctic ice cores shows that the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere follows a rise in Antarctic temperatures very closely and is staggered by a few hundred years at most. The time period examined was 19,000 to 11,000 years before the present.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/23/new-research-in-antarctica-shows-co2-follows-temperature-by-a-few-hundred-years-at-most/>>

**2012-07-19**

### **Ontario Solar Firm Seeks Damages of \$100 Million over Green Energy Rejig**

Skypower Ltd. has served the Ontario government with a legal notice seeking to reverse changes to the *Green Energy Act* that wiped out years of work and cost the company millions of dollars. It is asking for damages in excess of \$100 million. Skypower asserts that the Ontario Power Authority did not process its applications quickly enough before the Minister of Energy directed the OPA to change the rules. Last March the feed-in tariffs for wind and solar energy were reduced and the requirements for local input were increased. A hearing on Skypower’s suit has been set for July 24.

<<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/07/13/solar-firm-seeks-100m-over-mcguintys-green-energy-rejig/>>

### **In the Darkness, Ontario’s Solar Industry Sees Some Light**

Two years ago, solar energy, both globally and in Ontario and BC, was basking in exponential growth and surging investment. Since then a spectacular downward spiral at solar product manufacturers has left a trail of destruction as Chinese factories created a glut on world markets and financing dried up. Still, some industry participants predict a massive amount of consolidation will leave a few large manufacturers which can benefit from economies of scale and eventually reach grid parity with other sources of energy. (Presumably, “grid parity” does not include the cost of backup generators and additional grid infrastructure needed to make solar power feasible.) Currently, in Ontario roof-top solar gets 55¢/kWh, about five times the cost of most other forms of electricity.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/in-the-darkness-solar-industry-sees-some-light/article4416338/?page=all>>

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/windsor-struggles-to-cash-in-on-ontarios-solar-program/article4416361/>>

### **Federal Court Backs Canadian Government over Kyoto Pullout**

Last January, a group led by former Bloc Québécois MP Daniel Turp took Ottawa’s withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol to Federal Court [FoS Extracts – 2012-01-17.] On July 17 the Court ruled that the pullout was legal, and the government was not obliged to consult Parliament before doing so. The Court said that the cabinet’s royal prerogative – the power to make decisions on foreign affairs and international relations

– had not been abolished or limited by the law that brought the Kyoto Protocol into force in Canada. Anyway, the recently-passed omnibus budget bill repealed the *Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act*.

<<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2012/07/17/pol-kyoto-pull-out-valid.html>>

### **German Chancellor Urges New Climate Treaty as Energy-Source Overhaul Stumbles**

The third Petersburg Climate Dialog, attended by ministers from 35 countries, took place in Berlin during July 16-17. Chancellor Merkel delivered the keynote speech in which she called for an outcome of this year's dialog leading to roadmap for a new climate treaty by 2015, with clear goals on the reduction of carbon emissions. She was quoted as saying "I emphatically believe in climate change."

However, *Bloomberg* reports that the German government is struggling to shift the country away from nuclear power by 2022 in favour of solar and wind, and cut power consumption 10% by 2020. Chancellor Merkel, facing elections in 2013, said that overhauling the energy mix, while making sure it remains secure, affordable and environmentally friendly "is not an easy path."

<<http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,16101430,00.html>>

<<http://www.rtcc.org/policy/petersberg-dialogue-iii-environment-ministers-meet-in-berlin-to-thrash-out-climate-position-ahead-of-doha-talks/>>

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-17/germany-may-scrap-energy-source-goal-as-overhaul-stumbles.html>>

### **"Green" Energy Bias Killing California**

While California is home to five of the US' twelve largest oil fields and has energy reserves equal to those of Nigeria, the high-paying energy jobs are swelling the payrolls of the Great Plains, the Intermountain West and parts of the Gulf. The Golden State faces double digit unemployment, a collapsed inland economy and a series of bankrupt municipalities. While inattention to California's resources in favour of green energy is popular in Silicon Valley, San Francisco and west Los Angeles, the traditional manufacturing communities in Oakland, east Los Angeles, San Bernadino and Stockton are in deep distress.

<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/07/14/green-energy-bias-killing-california/>>

### **Finding the Billions Needed for Climate Change Finance in Doha**

Over July 9-11 in Bonn diplomats, business leaders and civil society representatives attended a workshop on the \$100 billion of climate finance that is supposed to be flowing by 2020 into emissions reduction and climate mitigation projects for developing countries. The Bonn meeting featured awkward moments of miscommunication between the haves and the have nots (donors and recipients in UN speak.) Next December at Doha the goal will be to set up the Green Climate Fund, to be housed in a futuristic building. Germany, Namibia, Poland, South Korea, Mexico and Switzerland are vying to host the new institution.

<<http://www.rtcc.org/policy/will-the-billions-needed-for-climate-change-finance-be-found-in-doha/>>

<<http://www.rtcc.org/policy/paying-for-climate-change-visible-urgency-on-final-day-of-unfccc-finance-talks/>>

### About the Overwhelming 97% of Scientists Who Say There Is a Climate Consensus

This consensus figure comes from a survey published in *EOS, Transactions American Geophysical Union*. In 2009, a two-question climate science survey was sent to 10,257 earth scientists, of whom 3,146 bothered to return the poll. The first question asked if the respondent thought that global temperatures had changed since the pre-1800s. The second asked whether human activity is a significant factor in changing mean global temperatures. Of the 3,146 respondents, the researchers selected a small subset of 77 who had been successful in getting more than half their papers recently accepted by peer-reviewed climate science journals. Of these, 75, or 97.4%, answered “yes” to the second question.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/18/about-that-overwhelming-98-number-of-scientists-consensus/#more-67663>>

### New Paper Blames about Half of Global Warming on Weather Station Data Homogenization

In homogenization of weather station results, the data from a station are weighted against its neighbours within a radius. A paper presented at a meeting of the European Geosciences Union found that, after taking homogenization errors into account, global warming over the past century was only about one-half (0.42°C) of that claimed by the IPCC (0.7-0.8°C). In 2/3 of the stations examined the homogenization procedure increased positive temperature trends, decreased negative trends or changed positive trends to negative.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/17/new-paper-blames-about-half-of-global-warming-on-weather-station-data-homgenization/#more-67591>>

<<http://itia.ntua.gr/en/docinfo/1212/>>

### New Paper Shows IPCC Models Exaggerate Warming from Water Vapour

The theory of global warming claims that a trivial increase in CO<sub>2</sub> levels will result in more water vapour in the atmosphere and an alleged runaway greenhouse effect. This is refuted by satellite observations published in a paper showing that global water vapour has instead declined over the past 12 years, despite steadily increasing concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>. These observations provide further support that the positive water vapour feedback in IPCC models is overstated and therefore claims of future warming are greatly exaggerated.

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2012/07/new-paper-shows-ipcc-models-exaggerate.html>>

2012-07-12

### Desperate Climate Scientists Blame Bad Weather On Global Warming

As Doug L. Hoffman's blog in *The Resilient Earth* puts it: “After decades of debunking and statements by responsible scientists that climate is not weather and individual anomalies are not an indication of climate change, the government funded IPCC lackeys at the UK's Met Office and America's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have publicly attributed recent bad weather events to man-made climate change. These irresponsible boffins' shrill claims illustrate the desperation in the anthropogenic global warming (AGW) camp in the face of declining public concern over climate change. While admitting that it is impossible to blame a single event on global warming, climate alarmists are claiming attribution is possible as long as it is framed in terms of probability. They have gone from lies to damn lies and now, finally to statistics.”

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/desperate-climate-scientists-blame-bad-weather-global-warming>>

### ***The Guardian: Man-made Climate Change Causes Extreme Weather Events in Summer, but not in Winter***

The *Guardian* says that “climate change researchers” attribute the UK’s wet and cold spring and summer this year, a record warm November last year and a heat wave in Texas to human-caused climate change. In contrast, the researchers claim that the extremely cold British winter of 2010-11 was due to variations in the systems of ocean and air circulation.

A second *Guardian* article expresses hope for a global inventory of climate change impacts from extreme weather events, after which there would be the question of compensation. Rather than billing countries with high emissions, the *Guardian* proposes the fossil fuel industry, “The only institution in the world that could deal with the cost of climate change without missing a beat...”

<[http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jul/10/extreme-weather-manmade-climate-change?CMP=twi\\_fd](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jul/10/extreme-weather-manmade-climate-change?CMP=twi_fd)>

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jul/11/climate-change-debate-weather>>

### **“Extreme weather is an integral part of the Earth’s climate”**

Retired Environment Canada scientist Madhav Khandekar makes the above quote in response to an article by a vice-president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada warning of “the new climate reality of more extreme weather.” Dr. Khandekar notes that extreme weather events have occurred somewhere throughout the recorded history of the Earth’s climate and are caused by large-scale atmosphere ocean flow patterns. North America experienced recurring droughts and heat waves on the prairies during the 1920s and 1930s. The prairies experienced some extreme winters in the 1910s and 1920s, as did all of Canada in the 1950s and 1960s.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/10/extreme-weather-is-an-integral-part-of-the-earths-climate/#more-67199>>

<<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/opinion/Extreme+weather+becoming+norm/6852501/story.html>>

### **Ottawa Wades into the Health Debate over Ontario’s Wind Energy**

On July 10 Health Canada announced that it will conduct a study, in conjunction with Statistics Canada, to look at the connection between wind turbine noise and health effects on people living nearby. The study will focus on 2,000 homes, ranging from 500 m to as far as 5 km from the turbines. It is to be completed in 2014.

While the wind industry has always claimed that there is no evidence of direct health impacts from turbines, anti-wind advocates say that there are ample anecdotal reports proving that people are suffering from a range of symptoms because of the installations. The Prime Minister’s Office telephoned at least one anti-wind group, Wind Concerns Ontario, to alert them that the study was going to be announced.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/government-to-study-health-effects-of-wind-turbine-noise/article4403276/>>

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-takes-new-interest-in-the-health-effects-of-wind-energy/article4409322/>>

### **Carbon Price Increases Would Intensify Crisis, Poland Says**

Poland's environment minister said that the EU should avoid measures to prop up carbon market prices because they would lead to higher energy costs and could aggravate the economic crisis. In his view the EU's emissions trading system is delivering on its target to reduced greenhouse gas emissions at the lowest possible cost. However, the slump in carbon allowances (€8.07/tonne on July 6, down 22% from a year earlier), has prompted investors, such as Royal Dutch Shell to call for a curb on the oversupply of allowances [see FoS Extracts – 2012-06-28.]

*Scientific American* reports that EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard and her team are working “very, very hard” to publish a review of the ETS before the Brussels August break, a step towards bolstering carbon prices that is impatiently awaited by the market.

<<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-08/eu-carbon-price-increases-would-intensify-crisis-poland-says>>

<<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=eus-hedegaard-still-plans-ets-revie>>

### **US Breaks Ranks, Moots Global Carbon Tax System for Airlines**

The US appears to be softening its opposition to the EU carbon tax on airlines [see FoS Extracts 2012-04-19 and 2012-01-04]. It is stepping away from India and China on this issue by suggesting a resolution by the International Civil Aviation Organization pushing for a global annual average fuel efficiency improvement of 2% until 2020 and an aspirational global fuel efficiency improvement rate of 2% per annum from 2021 to 2050. This would escalate flying costs across the world, and not just to and from the EU. The US has asked for a meeting on this issue in Washington at the end of July.

<<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/developmental-issues/US-breaks-ranks-moots-global-carbon-tax-system/articleshow/14786169.cms>>

### **The Energy Revolution and Its Biggest Losers**

In an essay for the *American Interest*, Walter Russell Mead posits that a new age of abundance for fossil fuels is upon us and that the centre of gravity of the global energy picture is shifting from the Middle East to North America – thanks to oil sands, shale oil, natural gas and coal. The biggest losers from this shift will be the Gulf petro-states and Russia, in particular the latter because of its high production costs.

A related story by the Manhattan Institute supports the new-found hydrocarbon abundance of North America with numbers and graphs.

<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/07/08/the-energy-revolution-part-one-the-biggest-losers/>>

<[http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/pgi\\_01.htm](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/pgi_01.htm)>

### **New Study: Climate Was Hotter in Roman and Medieval Times**

As reported in *Nature Climate Change*, a study by a large team of scientists found that global temperatures have been on a falling trend for the past 2,000 years (-0.3°C/millennium.) This counters the IPCC view that the well-documented Roman and Medieval Warm Periods weren't very warm or only happened in limited regions. The new study used tree-ring data to reconstruct pre-instrumental temperatures and attributes the temperature decline to solar insolation changes resulting from long-term oscillations of orbital configurations.



<<http://thegwpf.org/science-news/6142-global-cooling-climate-was-hotter-in-roman-medieval-times-than-now-new-study-shows.html>>

<<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn22040-tree-rings-suggest-roman-world-was-warmer-than-thought.html>>

<<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1589.html>>

2012-07-06

### **Alarmists Claim that this US Summer Is “what global warming looks like”**

Associated Press’ science writer Seth Borenstein is quick to blame recent US weather – wildfires, heat waves, droughts, floods and a powerful wind storm called a derecho – on global warming. Anthony Watts of *Watts Up With That* notes that this story contains essentially the same comments made about the Russian heat wave of 2010. Later peer-reviewed literature found that the heat wave was caused by a natural variation, a blocking high-pressure pattern.

Mr. Watts says something similar is happening in the US, a persistent quasi-stationary weather pattern, part of the normal natural variation. Roy Spencer recalls that on July 4, 1977, when global cooling was the big climate concern, there were widespread blowdowns of trees in relatively unpopulated areas of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Judith Curry has posted her responses to Mr. Borenstein’s questions on this topic (which did not blame the weather on global warming and were not included in his article) and has provided a synopsis of historical US heat waves. JC’s comment: “Well, this is what the 1930’s and 1950’s looked like.”

<[http://news.yahoo.com/us-summer-global-warming-looks-064915370.html;\\_ylt=A2KLOzE\\_ovJPOHAAGwbQtDMD](http://news.yahoo.com/us-summer-global-warming-looks-064915370.html;_ylt=A2KLOzE_ovJPOHAAGwbQtDMD)>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/03/the-kevin-trenberth-seth-borenstein-aided-fact-free-folly-on-the-usa-heat-wave/>>

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/07/35-years-ago-today-global-cooling-caused-severe-wind-damage/>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/07/03/what-global-warming-looks-like/#more-9002>>

### **Putting Piers Corbyn to the Test**

Weather prognosticator Piers Corbyn [see FoS Extracts – 2011-01-10] has put out a solar-based forecast predicting that the US will experience even worse weather in July 2012 – waves of major thunderstorms, tornadoes, searing heat and out-of-control forest fires. Despite his misgivings about the gaudy style of Mr. Corbyn’s forecasts, Anthony Watts has decided to publish this one and then revisit it at the end of the month.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/05/putting-piers-corbyn-to-the-test/#more-66829>>

### **Solar Mass Extinction Continues**

Abound Solar of Loveland, Colorado, which received a \$400 million loan guarantee from the Department of Energy, spent \$70 million of it and then became the third clean-energy company to file for bankruptcy after receiving DOE-backed loans. A DOE spokesman called Abound’s failure disappointing, but said that it would not deter the Obama administration from continuing to push clean energy. The *Science2.0.com* article comments on the “fantasy island” of progressives when it comes to science: if they can simply mandate and subsidize something they like, international competitors and the free market will



do the dumbest thing possible to make sure the flawed plan works. In a 4:04 video on You Tube, Marc Morano points out that, despite all the mandates and subsidies, solar is less than 1% of the US energy.

<<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-06-28/solar-firm-that-got-doe-loan-to-declare-bankruptcy>>

<[http://www.science20.com/science\\_20/blog/about\\_solar\\_saves\\_taxpayers\\_330\\_million\\_declaring\\_bankruptcy-91610](http://www.science20.com/science_20/blog/about_solar_saves_taxpayers_330_million_declaring_bankruptcy-91610)>

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-aKpbhgK8I&feature=youtu.be>>

### **California's Green Suicide**

The California Manufacturers and Technology Association released a new report last week that suggests costs associated with AB 32 (*California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006*) may be a lot higher than previously estimated. The CMTA report found that the average California family will end up paying an additional \$2,500 annually by 2020, when AB 32 is fully implemented. In addition, the state is expected to lose an additional 262,000 jobs, 5.6 percent of the gross state product, and a whopping \$7.4 billion through decreased annual state and local tax revenues as a result.

<<http://ivn.us/2012/07/04/new-study-on-ca-global-warming-law-indicates-higher-costs/>>

### **Germany's €300 Billion Green Energy Disaster**

In a closed-door meeting, Germany's powerful solar lobby convinced the new environment minister to divert the largest share of renewable energy subsidies to the most expensive technology – photovoltaic, even though it is the one least suitable for the German climate. As a result an additional 25 GW of PV power will be installed, nearly doubling the present capacity. A study done at Berlin's Technical University calculated that the latest subsidies for renewable energy, including changes to the power grid, will cost €300 billion between now and 2030.

Even environmentalists question why solar should get 50% of the subsidies when it produces only 20% of the subsidized energy. Greenpeace fears that the solar subsidy will cause power costs to skyrocket unnecessarily, putting all renewable energy at risk.

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-solar-subsidies-to-remain-high-with-consumers-paying-the-price-a-842595.html>>

### **Europe Burns Coal Fastest since 2006 in a Boost for US Suppliers**

According to a BP report, demand for coal for electricity generation in Europe grew 3.3% last year, while sales of gas fell 2.1%. Even though gas-fired power plants need half the carbon permits of coal burners, European utilities can make a profit of €16.3/MWh from burning coal, while only breaking even with gas. US coal producers, being pushed out of their home market by domestic shale gas, are expanding their marketing efforts in Europe.

<<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-02/europe-burns-coal-fastest-since-2006-in-boost-for-u-s-energy>>

### **Nobel Prize Winner Ivar Giaever — “Climate change is pseudoscience”**

Dr. Giaever won the Nobel Prize in 1972 for his work on tunneling in semiconductors. He resigned from the American Physical Society over its position that the evidence of global warming and greenhouse gas emissions is “incontrovertible” – in his view a religious statement.

In a 33-minute speech (*The Strange Case of Global Warming*) given at the 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Nobel Laureates Dr. Giaever criticizes the Nobel committee for awarding the Peace Prize to Al Gore and the IPCC. He points out that the measured 0.8°C temperature rise (likely inaccurate) over the last 150 years as small enough not to matter and claims that climate change is a pseudoscience. In pseudoscience, you begin with a hypothesis that is appealing emotionally, and then look for items which appear to support it.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/07/nobel-prize-winner-ivar-giaever-climate-change-is-pseudoscience/#more-22556>>

<<http://www.mediatheque.lindau-nobel.org/#/Video?id=1410>>

### **IPCC Turns Political Activist: Pachauri Calls On Green Campaigners**

IPCC head Rajendra Pachauri says that governments' reluctance to tackle the causes of climate change means they should be bypassed in favour of global "people power." He noted that the experience of the recent Rio+20 summit proves that the political will to take action simply isn't there. Climate change was marginalized at the Rio+20 talks in an apparent attempt by the Brazilian hosts to make coming to a final agreement as straight forward as possible – mindful of how controversial the topic has become.

<<http://www.rtcc.org/policy/dr-rajendra-pachauri-time-to-forget-governments-and-use-people-power-to-fight-climate-change/>>

### **CO<sub>2</sub> Is Greening the Planet: Savannas Soon To Be Covered by Forests**

A new study published in *Nature* by authors from the Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre and the Goethe University Frankfurt suggests that large parts of Africa's savannas may well be forests by 2100. The study suggests that fertilization by atmospheric carbon dioxide is forcing increases in tree cover throughout Africa. A switch from savanna to forest occurs once a critical threshold of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is exceeded, yet each site has its own critical threshold. The implication is that each savanna will switch at different points in time, thereby reducing the risk that a synchronous shock to the earth system will emanate from savannas.

<<http://thegwpf.org/science-news/6086-co2-is-greening-the-planet-savannahs-soon-to-be-covered-by-forests.html>>

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2166470/Africas-savannahs-change-forests-turn-century-excess-CO2-atmosphere.html>>

### **UAH Global Temperature Update for June, 2012: +0.37°C**

The global average lower tropospheric temperature anomaly for June (+0.37 °C) was up from May 2012 (+0.29°C).

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/07/uah-global-temperature-update-for-june-2012-0-37-deg-c/>>

2012-06-28

### **US Appeals Court Upholds EPA's Greenhouse Gas Rules for Autos – Lacks Jurisdiction on Stationary Sources like Power Plants**

On June 26 the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upheld the Environmental Protection Agency's finding that CO<sub>2</sub> is a public danger and the agency's decision to set limits for emissions from

cars and light trucks was “neither arbitrary nor capricious.” The Court also said that it lacked the jurisdiction to review the timing or scope of greenhouse gas rules for stationary sources like power plants. The unanimous decision covered dozens of suits by various states and industries that were bundled together. At least one of the petitioners, the attorney general for Virginia, promised to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

The decision (starting at the bottom of page 26 of the pdf document) rejects the petitioners’ argument that the EPA had improperly relied on the climate science assessments by the IPCC and two US research groups. The Court found that the EPA did not “delegate” its judgement to these groups, but “...sought out and reviewed existing scientific evidence to determine whether a particular finding was warranted.” On page 30, the Court endorsed the EPA’s reliance on climate models, which have been able to “...replicate the observed warming by including anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in the simulations.”

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/26/us-usa-co2-ruling-idUSBRE85P10920120626>>

<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/dc-appeals-court-upholds-epa-regulations-to-fight-global-warming/2012/06/26/gJQAcZHX5V\\_story.html?wprss=rss\\_national](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/dc-appeals-court-upholds-epa-regulations-to-fight-global-warming/2012/06/26/gJQAcZHX5V_story.html?wprss=rss_national)>

<[http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/52AC9DC9471D374685257A290052ACF6/\\$file/09-1322-1380690.pdf](http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/52AC9DC9471D374685257A290052ACF6/$file/09-1322-1380690.pdf)>

### **Canadian Environment Minister Happy to Embrace “Green Economy” at Rio+20**

Following the close of the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development, Environment Minister Peter Kent said that the Canadian government is “very happy” that countries agreed that the world needed to transition to a “green economy.” He dismissed criticism about the absence of binding commitments in the conference’s 49-page final declaration (see pdf link.) Mr. Kent said “What we don't have in this document are some of the sweeping generalities which some countries, in good faith I'm sure, brought forward to try and make policy on the fly. With regards to the oceans, (this rejected commitment) would have infringed (upon and) would have caused complications, not just for Canada, but for many countries around the world.”

<<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Environment+Minister+Peter+Kent+happy+countries+embrace+green+economy/6827949/story.html>>

<<http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727THE%20FUTURE%20WE%20WANT%20-%20FINAL%20DOCUMENT.pdf>>

### **Godfather of Global Green Thinking Steps Out of the Shadows at Rio+20**

Maurice Strong, the godfather of the global environmental movement and organizer of the UN’s 1992 Rio Earth Summit, left his low-profile life in Beijing to return to Rio at UN expense. At Rio+20 Mr. Strong attended a meeting, *Importance of Informal Mechanism Beyond Rio—A Commitment From China’s Civil Society*, at which he praised China as the model-state for the rest of the world to emulate in regards to environmental matters. In China, he said, sustainable development has become a “people’s movement guided by the people’s government.”

In a video embedded in the *Fox News* article, Mr. Strong spoke at the Corporate Sustainability Forum, which he praises for being created by the UN, but outside of its political control and bureaucratic constraints. He said that achieving the “Future We Want” has to be led by the business community.

<<http://www.infowars.com/maurice-strong-lauds-chinese-model-at-2012-earth-summit/>>

<<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/06/20/godfather-global-green-thinking-steps-out-shadows-at-rio-20/>>

### **Post Rio+20 Sustainable Development: RIP?**

Terence Corcoran comments on the grim assessment of the Rio+20 conference by the Europe division of the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Among the key points:

- Intergovernmental structures are beyond reform.
- The corporate sector is more innovative.
- The governance of sustainable development is overlapping, inefficient and unresponsive.
- Event like the Rio+20 conference are a massive waste of money.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/25/terence-corcoran-post-rio20-sustainable-development-rip/>>  
<<http://www.scribd.com/doc/98226829/Com-Life-After-Rio-2>>

### **Terence Corcoran: The Truth Rolls In on Green Charities in Canada**

The CEO of Tides Canada, the US-backed anti-oil sands charity, made a speech to the Economic Club of Toronto defending the role of green charities in Canada. He claimed that without tax-backed philanthropy, the truth about the environment, the economy and the climate would never come to light. In this piece Mr. Corcoran argues that the existence of Tides Canada and other environmental charities is not threatened by withdrawal of their charitable status, as they could still collect money from Canadians who share their values.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/27/terence-corcoran-the-truth-rolls-in-on-green-charities/>>

### **Energy Giants Urge Removal of 1.4 Billion EU Carbon Permits**

Major companies, including Royal Dutch Shell and Statoil have written to all 27 EU commissioners calling for the urgent withdrawal of 1.4 billion carbon permits to support the market and green investment. A huge surplus of permits has depressed their price, currently around €8/tonne, well below the €20/tonne needed to spur low-carbon investment.

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/energy-resources/Major+firms+urge+removal+carbon+permits/6848505/story.html>>

### **IPCC Gives Up On Science, Makes Grey Literature Official**

The IPCC suffered some embarrassment over the use of “grey” (non peer-reviewed) literature used to erroneously document disappearance of the Himalayan glaciers in its 2007 report [FoS Extracts – 2010-02-02]. Nevertheless, it has voted to increase the use of grey literature in its future assessments, as long as it has been put online so that reviewers can assess its quality. The IPCC has also decided to impose gender and geographical quotas on its membership. Thus, IPCC-based science can no longer claim to be a meritocracy.

In the *Irish Times* article, the IPCC responded to criticism of charges that it put politics before science, stating: “This is because the IPCC wants its assessments to reflect a range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views and expertise, and not to be subject to any one perspective. There has never been any question, nor is there now, of imposing geographical or gender quotas.”

<[http://www.science20.com/science\\_20/ipcc\\_gives\\_science\\_makes\\_grey\\_literature\\_official-91262](http://www.science20.com/science_20/ipcc_gives_science_makes_grey_literature_official-91262)>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/22/the-ipcc-cant-learn-from-past-mistakes-wants-more-grey-literature/>>

<<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn21940-climate-panel-adopts-controversial-grey-evidence.html>>

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/06/26/ipcc-admits-it-isnt-a-gold-standard-body/>>

<<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2012/0625/1224318624533.html>>

### **Science Held Hostage in Climate Debate**

Judith Curry comments on an essay by retired Australian atmospheric physicist Garth Paltridge that discusses “post-modern science.” This “...envisages a sort of political nirvana in which scientific theory and results can be consciously and legitimately manipulated to suit either the dictates of political correctness or the policies of the government of the day.” The Climategate emails provide an example of post-modern science. As well, it is more difficult to publish results in climate research journals if they run against the tide of politically-correct opinion.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/06/22/science-held-hostage-in-climate-debate/#more-8895>>

**2012-06-21**

### **Canada Awarded “Fossil of the Day” in Rio**

As tens of thousands of government delegates and NGOs gathered in Rio in preparation for the Rio+20 conference, activists gave Canada the second “Fossil of the Day” award (the US got the first one.) Among the reasons for Canada’s award:

- In the negotiations for the conference outcome document, Canada deleted wording for funding developing countries, weakened language on fossil fuel subsidies and caused confusion on policies related to oceans and fisheries.
- The government’s omnibus budget bill streamlines environmental assessments and changes protections for fisheries.

Environment Minister Peter Kent said the awards are politically motivated, and don't reflect Canada's commitment to promoting sustainable development at a global level. He agreed, however, that Canada does not want to discuss funding for a green economy, because the Rio meeting could degenerate into a pledging conference around a concept – the green economy – that has never been succinctly defined.

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Canada+awarded+dubious+distinction+talks+sustainable/6789106/story.html>>

### **Clash of Titans: Canada Battles Powerful Green Lobby**

*Environmentalism is Fascism* has published this article praising the recently passed and controversial Bill C-38, *The Jobs, Growth and Long-term Prosperity Act*. The article summarizes the act’s changes for environmental assessments. It then describes the 11 main environmental groups active in the country, the people making up Canada’s environmental vanguard and Canada’s green academic establishment. It finishes by presenting two opposing constituencies in a clash of titans: the resource extraction entrepreneurs seeking less fettered access to the treasures of Western and Northern Canada, and the rentiers of Central and Eastern Canada, who are aligned with their counterparts in Western Europe and the US Northeast.

<<http://www.ecofascism.com/article25.html>>

### **Another Skeptical University Professor Fired – Related to CARB’s PM2.5 Air Pollution Regulation Scandal**

The University of California, Los Angeles terminated James Enstrom, a research professor for 35 years after he blew the whistle on “junk environmental science and scientific misconduct” at the university. Prof. Enstrom has filed suit in federal court in Los Angeles. His difficulties started after his peer-reviewed inhalation toxicology report titled *Fine Particulate Air Pollution and total Mortality Among Elderly Californians 1973-2002*, the claim explains. That study “found no relationship between PM2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 micrometres or less in diameter) and total mortality in California.” Prof. Enstrom’s research contradicted the opinions of several senior faculty members and exposed the fraudulent credentials of a California Air Resources Board scientist.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/16/another-skeptical-university-professor-fired-related-to-carbs-pm2-5-air-pollution-regulation-scandal/>>

### **Going Nowhere: Poland Blocks EU Green Targets (Again)**

On June 15 Poland vetoed the unanimous endorsement by the 27 EU countries of a strategy aimed at setting a goal to reduce CO2 emissions by as much as 95% from 1990 levels. Poland’s Economy Minister Waldemar Pawlak stated the obvious in saying: “Unilateral limits will lead to movement of energy-hungry industries outside the European Union to third countries, a phenomenon called carbon leakage.” In March Poland vetoed another strategy document that included a reference to general CO2 reduction targets for the next decades. [See FoS Extracts 2012-03-20.]

<<http://thegwpf.org/international-news/5982-going-nowhere-poland-blocks-eu-climate-targets-again.html>>

### **Global Warming: Second Thoughts of an Environmentalist**

Though scientists on the IPCC are quite certain that use of fossil fuels is currently destroying the climate and our future, Fritz Vahrenholt, one of Germany's earliest green energy investors, is not convinced that humanity is causing catastrophic global warming. Prof. Vahrenholt was an active supporter of the IPCC and its CO2 theory until February 2010. That was when, acting as a reviewer, he realized that an IPCC report on renewable energy was littered with errors and a member of Greenpeace edited the final version.

While solar activity, CO2 and temperature rose since 1850, the IPCC’s climate models consider solar forcing as negligible. Since CO2 alone, without feedbacks, cannot explain the warming, the IPCC assumes strong amplification processes as a foundation to predict a temperature rise of up to 4.5°C for a doubling of CO2 (see IPCC link below.) Prof. Vahrenholt refers to the recent drop in the solar magnetic field to a 150-year low and calls for comprehensive research into understanding natural climate drivers. To him the choice is no longer between global warming catastrophe and economic growth, but between economic catastrophe and climate sense.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/9338939/Global-warming-second-thoughts-of-an-environmentalist.html>>  
<[http://www.ipcc-data.org/ddc\\_scen\\_selection.html](http://www.ipcc-data.org/ddc_scen_selection.html)>



### **Money Corrupts Peer Review Process**

The IPCC's mantra is "we only use peer-reviewed information." In this article Bob Carter explains how the peer review process is supposed to work, as a technique of editorial quality control. It is no guarantee that the science portrayed in any paper is correct. Nearly all papers require later correction in the light of new discoveries or understanding.

In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century governments started directing large amounts of money into favored scientific fields, among them, global warming research. This has had a corrupting influence as many scientific journals are captured by insider groups of leading researchers. Researchers acting as journal editors select peer reviewers from within the closed circle of scientists who work in the same field and share similar views. The Climategate emails revealed how this works in climate science.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/14/money-corrupts-peer-review-process/>>

### **Bank of America to Fund "Green Economy"**

One month after five green activists climbed the Bank of America stadium on Charlotte NC, the bank outdid its peers (Wells Fargo and JP Morgan Chase) in pledging \$50 billion in loans for renewal energy projects over the next ten years.

<<http://news.investors.com/article/614942/201206141907/militant-environmentalists-dictating-bank-investing-decisions.htm>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/06/how-green-is-your-bankster-bank-of-america-spends-50-billion-to-save-the-world/>>

### **James Hansen's Climate Forecast of 1988: A Whopping 150% Wrong**

In 1988 James Hansen and colleagues published a prediction of global climate change in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, which showed forecasts to 2023 under three scenarios: 1.5%/year CO<sub>2</sub> increase, constant CO<sub>2</sub> increase, and stagnant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 2000 onward. The first (1.5%/year CO<sub>2</sub> increase) predicted that the global temperature anomaly would rise by 1.5°C. In fact, the actual rate of CO<sub>2</sub> increase was 2.5%, but the observed increase in the temperature anomaly (rolling five-year average) to 2012 was only 0.6°C, for an error of 150%. In fact, the observed temperature in 2012 is below the prediction of Dr. Hansen's third scenario (stagnant emissions from 2000 onward.)

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/15/james-hansens-climate-forecast-of-1988-a-whopping-150-wrong/#more-65704>>

### **Nature and "Climate Change Deniers"**

On June 17 *Nature Climate Change* published a letter *Promoting Pro-environmental Action in Climate Change Deniers*. The letter notes that a growing proportion of the public in Western democracies deny the existence of anthropogenic climate change. It posits that attempting to convince "deniers" to act pro-environmentally using scientific evidence is likely to fail. Instead, it proposes identifying outcomes of mitigation efforts that the deniers find important. The word "denier" appears 41 times in the letter.

Anthony Watts of *Watts Up With That* notes that "... there's an underlying, sometimes overt display of hatred towards climate skeptics. However, it generally never made it into science publications." Mr. Watts, Lord Leach of Fairford and Joanne Nova have written letters to the editor of *Nature Climate Change* expressing surprise that a reputable journal would publish an article containing such offensive language. In his letter Lord Leach offers several definitions for "denier", in terms of the science.

<<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1532.html#/affil-auth>>  
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/20/lord-leach-of-fairford-weighs-in-on-natures-denier-gaffe/>>

### **The UN Defines “Climate Change” as Being Man-Made**

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in 1992, agreed on the following definition:

Climate change is defined by the Convention as “change of climate which is attributed **directly or indirectly to human activity** that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”

As Joanne Nova puts it, there is no “climate change” without humans because there cannot be, and by extension, the climate did not change, could not have, for the 4.5 billion years before 1880 when the first coal powered electricity station was fired up. Roger Pielke Sr. deplores the misuse of the term “climate change” and proposes a more precise definition.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/06/the-un-defines-climate-change-as-being-man-made-orwell-could-not-have-done-it-better/>>  
<<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/06/15/the-need-for-precise-definitions-in-climate-science-the-misuse-of-the-terminology-climate-change/>>

### **The *Economist* Provides Readers with Erroneous Information about Arctic Sea Ice**

In a June 16 article titled *The Vanishing North*, the *Economist* asserts that the Arctic icecap has been shrinking since the 1970s, which it calls “... a stunning illustration of global warming, the cause of the melt.” However, atmospheric temperatures are just one of the causes. The largest influences on Arctic sea ice appear to be wind and atmospheric oscillations, for which *Watts Up With That* cites 11 papers and articles. The *Economist*’s over-simplifications, poor reporting and overt alarmism are indicative of the sad state of formerly respected information source.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/16/the-economist-provides-readers-with-erroneous-information-about-arctic-sea-ice/>>  
<<http://www.economist.com/node/21556921?scode=3d26b0b17065c2cf29c06c010184c684>>

2012-06-14

### **Teens Take Global Warming to Court – And Lose**

Eighteen year-old Alec Lorz founded and leads Kids vs Global Warming, which, together with Wildearth Guardians and five young citizens, sued the US government (specifically EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and five cabinet secretaries) in August 2011. The plaintiffs allege that the atmosphere is a shared public resource, and the defendants have a duty to protect it under the public trust doctrine. They sought an order directing the six federal agencies to “take all necessary actions to enable carbon dioxide emissions to peak by 2012 and decline by at least six percent per year beginning in 2013.”

In April 2012 the National Association of Manufacturers and other industrial associations won intervenor-defendant status and, with the defendants, filed motions to dismiss the suit, stating that the plaintiffs were asking the courts “to take control over legislative and executive authority involving extraordinarily complex scientific and policy issues.” The NAM et al also noted that the Supreme Court had previously ruled that the public trust doctrine is a matter of state law.



On May 31 the US District Court for District of Columbia found that the dispute was more about the fundamental nature of the American government and constitutional system than about emissions, the atmosphere or the climate. The Court dismissed the suit “with prejudice,” ruling that the public trust is a matter of state, not federal, law. Even if it were under federal law, the *Clean Air Act* supersedes any common-law claim regarding CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. (See pdf link for the full text of the decision. See also FoS Extracts 2011-06-23 regarding the US Supreme Court’s dismissal of a global warming suit brought by several states against power companies.)

The Court’s decision is subject to appeal, and it avoided dealing with any technical issues related to the case (e.g., unsafe amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere to 350 ppm, agencies compelled to take action to control CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.)

<<http://thenewamerican.com/tech/environment/item/11345-teens-sue-government-for-global-warming>>

<<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2012/05/an-inconvenient-lawsuit-teenagers-take-global-warming-to-the-courts/256903/>>

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/young-americans-sue-government-stop-global-warming-polluter-interests-granted-intervention-defend>>

<<http://citizenactionmonitor.wordpress.com/2012/06/05/kids-vs-global-warming-lawsuit-dismissed-by-u-s-district-court-for-washington-d-c/>>

<[www.eenews.net/assets/2012/06/01/document\\_gw\\_03.pdf](http://www.eenews.net/assets/2012/06/01/document_gw_03.pdf)>

### **Climate-Catastrophe Skeptics – If You Can't Beat 'Em, Shrink 'Em!**

For nearly three decades, certain US, UK and UN activists like NASA’s James Hansen have tried to sell governments on draconian centralized economics policies supposed to save the planet. Anyone disagreeing – regardless of credentials and reasoning – becomes the target of rhetorical terrorism. But the skeptical resistance is so strong and growing so rapidly – not just in the public, but also among scientists – that the alarmists increasingly show signs of both despair and loss of self-control. Some of them call on the US government to fund massive intervention by the mental health community (FoS Extracts 2012-04-05), government-funded psychological experts to break down denial and bring “rational thinking into decision making,” and treatment of disagreement on the cause of climate change as aberrant sociological behavior.

Meteorologist Charles Clough reminds us in this *American Thinker* article of President Eisenhower’s famous 1961 speech about the military-industrial complex. In that speech Ike also warned, “The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present and is gravely to be regarded. ... We must also be alert...that *public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific-technological elite.*”

<[http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/06/climate-catastrophe\\_skeptics\\_-\\_if\\_you\\_cant\\_beat\\_em\\_shrink\\_em.html#ixzz1wpKHApq9](http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/06/climate-catastrophe_skeptics_-_if_you_cant_beat_em_shrink_em.html#ixzz1wpKHApq9)>

### **The Rio+20 Farce**

The conference takes place June 20-23, and a number of stories have appeared recently. As Peter Foster in the *Financial Post* puts it, “The grand UN-based system conceived to co-ordinate the activities of all mankind has proved utterly unsustainable, a dysfunctional mess that generates nothing but endless meetings, agendas and reports.” In the *Guardian*, a leak of the latest draft text (“The Future We Want”) that 180 governments are expected to sign at the end of the summit is still the subject of bickering.

*Watts Up with That* reports that the marked-up draft of the text could cost an American family of four \$1,325/year for UN taxes in “a future we dread.” The *Washington Post* warns that scientists and environmentalists are sending a message to the conference that the planet is in dire straits from production and consumption of natural resources (see next story.)

< <http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/07/peter-foster-no-bravo-for-rio20/>>  
 <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jun/08/rio-earth-summit-draft-text-leaked>>  
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/12/from-rio-20-the-future-we-dread/#more-65566>>  
 <[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/rio-earth-summit-nears-as-scientists-warn-planet-faces-grave-threats/2012/06/06/gJQAkr0wIV\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/rio-earth-summit-nears-as-scientists-warn-planet-faces-grave-threats/2012/06/06/gJQAkr0wIV_story.html)>

### **The World as We Know It Is About to End, Say Some Really Frightened Scientists**

A new study, *Approaching a state shift in Earth's biosphere*, published in *Nature* by 22 biologists and ecologists has found that environmental changes on our planet are reaching a point of no return that leads to mass extinctions and harms human welfare. The situation, said one of the authors, “scares the hell out of me.” The authors argue that although many warning signs are emerging, no one knows how close Earth is to a global tipping point, or if it is inevitable. The scientists urge focused research to identify early warning signs of a global transition and an acceleration of efforts to address the root causes.

Judith Curry doesn't like the fuzziness between possible and plausible and the final paragraph of the paper that makes sweeping policy recommendations.

<<http://www.theatlanticwire.com/global/2012/06/scariest-thing-you-will-read-about-future-earth-today/53280/>>  
 <<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v486/n7401/full/nature11018.html>>  
 <<http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2012/06/06/scientists-uncover-evidence-of-impending-tipping-point-for-earth/>>  
 <<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2012/06/09/forty-year-cycle-of-scientific-psychosis-discovered/>>  
 <<http://judithcurry.com/2012/06/12/state-shift-in-earths-biosphere-2/#more-8808>>

### **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Wants Immunities against Charges of Conflict of Interest, Exceeding Mandate and Others**

The UNFCCC is the organization in charge of the international climate conferences and responsible for managing the global cap-and-trade system and the Green Climate Fund. According to documents obtained by *Fox News*, the UNFCCC wants diplomatic and legal immunity for its top officials from:

- possible conflicts of interest in their duties;
- breaches of confidentiality in their work;
- violations of due process rights of those affected by UNFCCC actions;
- making decisions or actions that are beyond the legal mandate of the organization or its subsidiaries.

According to the UNFCCC, UN-style legal immunity is necessary to “ensure the effective implementation of the Kyoto Protocol without interference from the national courts” and “to provide effective protection for all individuals elected [or] selected to carry out official functions under the Kyoto protocol.”

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/06/12/un-climate-organization-wants-immunities-against-charges-conflict-interest/>>

### **Blind Faith Won't Make Gaps in Climate Science Go Away**

Canada's two-decade, half-hearted and contradictory response to global warming mirrors the uncertainty about the predictive ability of climate science. According to reporter Peter Den Tandt the uncertain response reflects genuine confusion among ordinary people and policymakers in the federal cabinet about what Canada can and should do about climate change. Last month Abacus Data released a poll showing that 55% of Canadians are worried about water pollution and soil contamination by toxic waste. But only 1/3 of those surveyed were concerned about climate change. As Alberta's Wildrose leader Danielle Smith found out, publicly mentioning scientific doubts about climate change is fraught with peril.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Tandt+Blind+faith+make+gaps+climate+science+away/6744624/story.html>>

<http://abacusdata.ca/2012/05/23/pollution-of-water-soil-and-air-worry-canadians-the-most/>>

### **Climate Models Fail the Reality Test**

According to Ross McKittrick climate models embed one theory about our understanding of the climate, one based on a relatively high sensitivity to greenhouse gases and strong amplifying effects from a positive water-vapour feedback. They fail at predicting spatial patterns of warming over land, something about which the IPCC says almost nothing. In a 2010 paper Dr. McKittrick and a co-author found that socio-economic patterns were better at predicting temperature trends over land than the 23 climate models used in the 2007 IPCC report.

The IPCC averages the results of its climate models, something with which Dr. McKittrick disagrees. He and another co-author will shortly publish the results of a study examining the models one by one in every possible combination, with and without socio-economic data.

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/13/junk-science-week-climate-models-fail-reality-test/>>

### **American Meteorological Society Withdraws Hockey-Stick Paper after Skeptics Find Fatal Flaws**

Another hockey-stick paper, *Evidence of unusual late 20th century warming from an Australasian temperature reconstruction spanning the last millennium*, passed peer review and was published in the AMS' *Journal of Climate*. The paper, in another "man is at fault" pitch, says "The average reconstructed temperature anomaly in Australasia during A.D. 1238–1267, the warmest 30-year pre-instrumental period, is 0.09°C (±0.19°C) below 1961–1990 levels."

Fortunately the paper's authors provided documentation and data, which Steve McIntyre and others checked. They found that the authors relied on preselection of data, were unable to justify the preselection, and the results could not be replicated. After criticism of the paper started appearing in the blogs, the AMS quietly took the paper down from its website.

As Joanne Nova reports, the study cost A\$300,000 and, when the paper came out, it got big coverage in the uncritical Australian news media (e.g., "Australasia has hottest 60 years in a millennium, scientists find.")

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/08/american-meteorological-society-disappears-gergis-et-al-paper-on-proxy-temperature-reconstruction-after-post-peer-review-finds-fatal-flaws/>>

<<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2012/6/7/another-hockey-stick-broken.html>>  
 <<http://climateaudit.org/2012/06/06/gergis-significance/>>  
 <<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/06/300000-dollars-and-three-years-to-produce-a-paper-that-lived-three-weeks-gergis/>>

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2012-06-07

### **Global Carbon Market Hits \$176 billion in 2011**

According to the World Bank, global carbon market trading climbed to \$176 billion last year – about the same as global wheat production. The average price in 2011 was \$18.80/tonne, though it has fallen to less than half than in 2012. The EU is 80% of the total market, accounting for \$148 billion. As Joanne Nova puts it, “Remember that someone somewhere is paying this money that is poured into a trading scheme we don’t need to solve a problem for which there is no supporting evidence. The voluntary market is one three hundredth of the total. Without forced legislation this market would vanish.”

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/06/global-carbon-market-hits-176-billion-in-2011/#more-21940>>

### **Hansen/GISS Team Paper Argues that Recent Rapid Warming Was Driven by Non-CO<sub>2</sub> Greenhouse Gases**

A paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences by James Hansen and the GISS team argues that the rapid warming in recent decades has been driven by chlorofluorocarbons, methane and nitrogen oxide, and not by the products of fossil fuel burning, CO<sub>2</sub> and aerosols. What Hansen et al are saying is that we should focus on air pollution and some CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, but not exclusively on CO<sub>2</sub> alone.

The shocker: this paper was published in 2000. Since then Dr. Hansen has made statements that CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere should be no more than 350 ppm (currently it is 390 ppm) and that coal trains are factories of death.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/03/shocker-the-hansengiss-team-paper-that-says-we-argue-that-rapid-warming-in-recent-decades-has-been-driven-mainly-by-non-co2-greenhouse-gases/#more-64899>>  
 <<http://www.pnas.org/content/97/18/9875.long>>

### **NOAA Data Show Stagnant Temperatures – Even With “Accelerating Pace of Emissions”**

In Germany the news from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that the Barrow, Alaska station has recorded a CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at 400 ppm “for the first time” is sweeping through the media – along with fresh warnings of impending climate doom. However, according to *Spiegel Online* the data have not shown any warming for 13 years, and the strength of any CO<sub>2</sub>-induced warming depends on how much water evaporates.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/06/02/noaa-data-shows-stagnant-temperatures-even-with-accelerating-pace-of-emissions/>>

### **Poverty Pollutes: Lomborg on the Rio+20 Conference**

In a *Newsweek* article Bjørn Lomborg writes to the organizers of the Rio+20 conference pointing out that over the past 40 years the UN’s concern for “green” issues has moved ever closer to the fashionable concerns of rich Westerners and away from the legitimate concerns of the overwhelming majority of the

Earth's people. While the UN and its supporters mull green initiatives, 900 million people remain malnourished, 1 billion lack clean drinking water, 2.6 billion lack adequate sanitation and 1.6 billion are without electricity.

<<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/05/27/bjorn-lomborg-on-the-rio-green-summit-poverty-pollutes.html>>

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/06/04/poverty-pollutes-lomborg-on-the-rio20-conference/>>

### **Green Illusions: The Dirty Secrets of Clean Energy**

According to a new environmental book *Green Illusions: the Dirty Secrets of Clean Energy and the Future of Environmentalism*, solar cells do not offset greenhouse gases or curb fossil fuel use in the US. *Green Illusions* explains how the solar industry has grown to become one of the leading emitters of hexafluoroethane (C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>), nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). These three potent greenhouse gases, used by solar cell fabricators, make carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) seem harmless. C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub> has a global warming potential 12,000 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>, NF<sub>3</sub> 17,000 times and SF<sub>6</sub> 23,000 times.

The book also claims that there is no evidence that solar cells offset fossil fuel use in the American context. Alternative energy subsidies keep retail electricity costs incrementally lower, which spurs demand, thereby requiring more fossil fuel plants.

<<http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/738098>>

### **New Paper Find that Climate Warmed Three Times as Fast from 1862-1961**

Another blow to the alarmist fallacy that the current warming period is “unprecedented” or “unusual” is a paper published in the journal *Climate of the Past*. This paper finds that winter temperatures in China warmed at a rate almost three times as fast over the 100-year period from 1861 to 1961 (1.89°C/century) than over the 100 years from 1901 to 2000 (0.66°C/century). Moreover, the reconstructed temperature anomaly at the beginning of the study period in 1736 (during the Little Ice Age) was about the same as in 2007.

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/new-paper-finds-climate-warmed-3-times.html>>

<<http://www.clim-past.net/8/1023/2012/cp-8-1023-2012.pdf>>

### **UAH Global Temperature Update for May 2012: +0.29°C**

The global average lower tropospheric temperature anomaly for May 2012 (+0.29 °C) changed little from April (+0.30 °C), with some warming to near-average temperatures in the tropics being balanced by a little cooling in the Southern Hemisphere.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/06/uah-global-temperature-update-for-may-2012-0-29176c/>>

2012-06-01

### **Climate Talks Wrap Up in Bonn**

The two weeks of climate talks ended as scheduled on May 25. According to four different news reports, there was much angry argument over process and little actual progress. Delegates spent 11 days debating a provisional agenda and selecting chairs for the new ADP (Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action). For 2012 the co-chairs of the ADP will come from India and Norway; in

2013-14 the co-chairmanships will be held by Trinidad & Tobago and a developed nation to be named; in 2015 an African will co-chair with someone from a developed country.

The ADP's goal is to bring about a new climate treaty by 2015, which would be ratified and go into effect by 2020. However, attempts to include pre-2020 emissions targets in the ADP's agenda drew objections from China and other like-minded countries.

The UNFCCC published a list of participants at the conference. Despite recent announcements of environmental cutbacks and keeping a low profile at the conference, Canada was well represented with 23 delegates.

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18210642>>

<<http://news.yahoo.com/climate-pact-process-stumbles-countries-bicker-110635274.html>>

<<http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15978278,00.html?maca=en-rss-en-all-1573-rdf>>

<<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/5/28/focus/11369823&sec=focus>>

<<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sb/eng/inf01.pdf>>

### **Rio+20: Haggling over Green Grab Bag**

This UN conference starts in three weeks, but the intended five-page summary of goals is instead a grab bag of demands for planetary regulation and assertions that industrialized countries, led by the US, should pay for an expensive transfer of technology and funds to the developing world. At one point the text climbed to 171 pages before being cut back by executive fiat to 86, only to start climbing again.

The messy document owes much to the huge, varied and often antagonistic interests that the UN decided to bring into the negotiation process, which includes not only national governments but also “civil society” groups ranging from business interests to native peoples to such undefined classes as “women.”

<<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/06/01/rio-20-conference-negotiators-producing-mammoth-messy-and-expensive-grab-bag/>>

### **Gas Rebranded as Green Energy by EU**

The *Guardian* sourly reports that the “deep-pocketed fossil fuel industry” has successfully lobbied the EU to rebrand gas-fired power plants as low carbon, and therefore “green.” Thus, they become eligible for funding under the bloc's “Horizon2020”, an €80 billion program for R&D into renewable energy such as solar and wind. Green groups fear that relying on gas would raise energy prices, though the International Energy Agency predicts a “golden age for gas” due to increasing production from shale. This golden age could also end support for renewables.

The IEA is often referenced as an authority by the UN and has among its objectives: “Promote sustainable energy policies that spur economic growth and environmental protection in a global context – particularly in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.”

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/may/29/gas-rebranded-green-energy-eu?newsfeed=true>>

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/may/29/gas-boom-renewables-agency-warns?newsfeed=true>>

<<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/goldenrules/#d.en.27023>>



### **The More Science You Know, the Less You Worry about the Climate**

A US government-funded survey published by *Nature Climate Change* has found that Americans with higher levels of scientific and mathematical knowledge are more skeptical regarding the dangers of climate change than their more poorly-educated fellow citizens. This was not the result expected by the researchers, who believe in the “scientific consensus” regarding global warming.

According to the study, left-wing people are always concerned about climate change and become slightly more so as they acquire more science and numeracy. Right-wingers are concerned about the climate when ignorant, but if they have a mathematical or technical education they become skeptical. Sadly for the researchers, scientific and mathematical knowledge is more common among the latter.

Accordingly, the researchers recommend that the US government fund a communication strategy on climate change that is *not* focused on sound scientific information. Instead, it would use “culturally diverse communicators, whose affinity with different communities enhances their credibility, and information-framing techniques that invest policy solutions with resonances congenial to diverse groups.” This is part the push in psychology, sociology and other soft-science departments for a “new science of communicating science,” to galvanize electorates around the world into demanding serious action against carbon emissions and acceptance of the resulting sacrifices.

<[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/05/29/science\\_and\\_maths\\_knowledge\\_makes\\_you\\_sceptical/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/05/29/science_and_maths_knowledge_makes_you_sceptical/)>  
<<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1547.html#f1>>

### **Thickest Polar Ice in More Than A Decade May Delay Arctic Oil Drilling**

Shell Alaska reports that the heaviest polar ice in more than a decade could postpone the start of offshore oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean until the beginning of August, a delay of two weeks. Shell has pledged to end its first season of exploratory drilling in the Beaufort Sea by October 31 and 38 days earlier in the more remote Chukchi Sea. This year, a high-pressure zone over the coast of Alaska and ocean currents have combined to bring unusually large amounts of ice to Alaska’s north coast.

<<http://phys.org/news/2012-05-heavy-ice-shell-alaska-arctic.html>>

### **Der Spiegel Skewers the WWF**

The German newsmagazine *Der Spiegel* ran an investigative feature on the World Wildlife Fund claiming that the WWF helps industry more than the environment. The organization is active in more than 100 countries, takes in about €500 million/year and enjoys connections with the rich and the powerful. However, the WWF is quite happy to hire troops to displace powerless small farmers and tribesmen in order to create conservation zones and palm oil plantations. Rich Europeans and Americans are allowed to hunt big game in these zones as if the colonial period had never ended.

<<http://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2012/05/30/der-spiegel-skewers-the-world-wildlife-fund/>>  
<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/wwf-helps-industry-more-than-environment-a-835712.html>>

### **The IPCC: Going Where No Scientist Should Go**

The next IPCC report will include a chapter that, rather than providing the IPCC’s goal of “rigorous scientific information,” will discuss gender inequality, marginalized populations and traditional knowledge. This *Human Security* chapter is being led by Neil Adger, a professor of environmental economics at the University of East Anglia. In 2007 he co-authored a paper that declared “... climate

change increasingly undermines human security in the present day, and will increasingly do so in the future ...” In a 2009 blog post he declared “... we urgently need to decarbonize the global economy ...”

When the IPCC starts writing about gender equality, marginalized populations, and traditional knowledge, it provides ordinary people with one more reason not to take its science seriously

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/05/29/the-ipcc-going-where-no-scientist-should/>>  
<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/05/31/more-on-ipcc-chapter-head-neil-adger-stephen-schnedier/>>

### **Nicola Scafetta: The Theory Is Very Simple**

Dr. Scafetta is a scientist at Duke University and is associated with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He claims that “at least 60% of the warming of the Earth observed since 1970 appears to be induced by natural cycles which are present in the solar system.” In this interview he explains his solar system cycles theory, the physical mechanism, his global temperature forecasts, reaction from other scientists and whether a rational debate is possible.

<<http://thegwpc.org/the-observatory/5835-nicola-scafetta-the-theory-is-very-simpl.html>>

### **New Climate Models Fall Short**

The world’s climate modelers have been racing to incorporate into the next IPCC climate report the effects of aerosols, soot and other airborne particulates, hitherto given scant attention. Aerosols affect temperature directly and also have indirect effects on cloud properties. However, these interactions take place on too fine a scale to simulate properly in a global climate model, requiring statistical guesswork instead. The reconfigured models (from the Hadley Centre, National Center for Atmospheric Research, NOAA’s Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory) provide different results, and confusion reigns.

This article in the *Resilient Earth* also explains how uncertainties about the carbon cycle are not captured in the climate models and discusses bias in climate science.

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/new-climate-models-fall-short>>

2012-05-24

### **Bob Carter: Deal with Climate Reality as It Unfolds**

Prof. Carter is a paleoclimatologist at James Cook University, Australia. He begins this article by noting that policymakers in Canada, the US and Japan have quietly abandoned the illusory goal of preventing global warming by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Instead, an alternative view has emerged regarding how to most cost-effectively deal with the hazards of climate change.

Historical temperature measurements are inadequate to reconstruct the average global temperature statistic. The only reliable measures are from radiosondes (since 1958) and satellites (since 1979). These indicate no significant warming trend since 1958, apart from a 0.2°C step change across the 1998 El Niño. Over the last 15 years, lack of warming despite at 10% increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and the recently quiet Sun, indicate that the alarmist global warming hypothesis is wrong.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/05/23/deal-with-climate-reality-as-it-unfolds/>>



**Heartland Institute Conference: Text of Václav Klaus' Remarks**

The Czech Republic's President, Václav Klaus, in Chicago for the NATO summit, addressed the Heartland Institute's annual conference. He noted that, in Europe, the global warming debate has suddenly ceased to be fashionable. While weakening the position of the warming fundamentalists, this also makes it harder for skeptics to motivate people about the issue. Politicians, political activists, bureaucrats and subsidized industries continue to push the warming issue because it is in their interest. President Klaus reminded his audience about the subtitle of his five-year old book: "What is Endangered: Climate or Freedom?" It is the latter.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/05/23/text-of-vaclav-klaus-heartland-institute-conference-speech/>>

**Lawrence Solomon: Green Power Failure – Except in the US**

While in Canada (i.e., Ontario), the UK, Spain, Denmark and Germany, electricity customers are impoverished by climate mania, those in the US escape because their leaders have paid only lip service to global warming. The Ontario government shut down its fleet of coal plants and induced developers to build uneconomic, green energy facilities. As a result power prices have risen 50% since 2005, and the government estimates another 46% over the next five years.

Denmark requires its households to pay the world's highest power prices: 40¢/kWh, followed by Germany. There, up to 15% of the populace is believed to be in "fuel poverty" (spending more than 10% of household income on electricity and gas.) In the UK, 12 million are in fuel poverty as the country enters a double-dip recession.

However, in the US, the Energy Information Administration forecasts power rates dropping by 22% by the end of the decade, and then staying flat to 2035. The reason: reliance on fossil fuels, especially natural gas, which is expected to account for 60% of all new generating capacity.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/05/11/lawrence-solomon-green-power-failure/>>

**The "Well Funded" Climate Business – Follow the Money**

Consensus climate scientists like Michael Mann sometimes complain that they're "opposed by a well-funded, highly-organized disinformation effort that aims to confuse the public about the nature of our scientific understanding." However, the Congressional Research Service estimates that, since 2008, the US government has spent \$68.4 billion on "climate change activities." Joanne Nova's website has a table showing annual climate change expenditures by agency for this period.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/05/19/the-well-funded-climate-business-follow-the-money/#more-63915>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/05/us-government-only-spent-70-billion-on-climate-since-2008/>>

**Calgary Solar Panel Program Saves Homeowners Nothing in Electricity Bills: Analysis**

Calgary-owned utility Enmax offers homeowners a lease program for solar panels. For no money down, the customer can rent solar panels for \$60/month at an interest rate of 6.11%; with \$3,500 down, the monthly bill drops to \$16.99 with an interest rate of 0.0029%. At the end of the term the customer can pay \$350 to keep the panels or \$950 to have the company remove them. Unlike Ontario, Enmax is not offering to purchase the surplus energy from the homeowner.

In his blog, Andrew Leach has published an analysis showing that the lifetime cost of festooning one's house with the environmental status symbols would save no money on electricity bills. In fact they would cost more than \$4,300.

<<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/05/21/calgary-solar-panel-program-saves-homeowners-nothing-in-electricity-bills-analysis/>>

<<http://andrewleach.ca/climate-change/enmax-has-a-different-definition-of-affordable-than-i-do/#more-1192>>

### **Copenhagen Consensus 2012**

Bjørn Lomborg's Copenhagen Consensus, involving more than 65 researchers including Nobel Laureate economists, has ranked the 30 most important humanitarian projects. They examined: armed conflict, biodiversity, chronic disease, climate change, education, hunger and malnutrition, infectious disease, natural disasters, population growth, water and sanitation. In ranking the projects only two climate change projects appear: geo-engineering R&D (No. 12) and increased funding for green energy R&D (No. 17). Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions did not make the list.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/05/20/copenhagen-consensus-2012/#more-8446>>

<<http://copenhagenconsensus.com/Default.aspx?ID=1637>>

### **UN Climate Talks: The Never-Ending Story Continues**

The talks in Bonn, which end on May 25, are partly to discuss ways of raising the level of ambition on emissions cuts, but the worsening euro zone crisis and battered global economy have increased reluctance to commit to more financially onerous cuts by the end of the decade. Delegates wasted four days arguing over the agenda to organize the work this year and appoint a chair to steer the process.

Money is another issue, as the UNFCCC's Climate Change Secretariat doesn't know how to raise €5 million needed for its next climate conference. Also, countries cannot agree on the composition of the Board of Directors for the Green Climate Fund, let alone where its funding is going to come from.

Extending the Kyoto Protocol has proved contentious, with delegates unable to agree whether the second commitment period should be five or eight years. The EU favours the latter, while small developing countries want five years so that there is a greater chance of limiting global warming.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/21/us-un-climate-idUSBRE84K0WZ20120521>>

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/22/us-un-climate-idUSBRE84L0S520120522>>

<<http://thegwpf.org/international-news/5800-drought-warning-un-climate-talks-running-dry.html>>

<<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/05/23/us-un-climate-idUKBRE84M16L20120523>>

### **G8: Leaders Ignore CO<sub>2</sub> and Focus on “Short-term Climate Pollutants”**

Virtually unnoticed at the recent G8 summit, world leaders have taken a step to tackle climate change that has nothing to do with CO<sub>2</sub>. Instead, the Camp David Declaration supports “comprehensive actions” to reduce “short-lived climate pollutants.” These include black carbon (soot), methane, ground-level ozone and hydrofluorocarbons. The leaders also reaffirmed their commitments to limiting the increase in the world's temperature to less than two degrees centigrade over pre-industrial levels and phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels – and welcomed December's Durban climate summit as “a significant breakthrough” towards reaching international agreements on cutting carbon dioxide by 2015.

<<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/geoffreylean/100159272/g8-leaders-open-up-vital-new-front-in-the-battle-to-control-global-warming/>>

<<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/05/19/camp-david-declaration>>

### **Models Get the Core Assumptions Wrong – The Hot Spot Is Missing**

It is not well known that even the IPCC agrees that direct effects of CO<sub>2</sub> will only increase world temperatures by 1.2°C. All the projections above that (3.3°C, 6°C, etc.) come from model projections based on assumptions of what water vapour and clouds will do (i.e., the feedbacks.) If the IPCC models are right about the feedbacks, we would see a hot spot 10 km above the tropics.

The theory is that with more heat, more water will evaporate and rise, keeping relative humidity constant at all heights in the troposphere. This point has been conclusively tested by 28 million weather balloons since 1959, and no hot spot was found.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/05/models-get-the-core-assumptions-wrong-the-hot-spot-is-missing/>>

2012-05-19

### **James Hansen’s “Game Over for Climate”**

In an opinion piece for the New York Times, NASA’s James Hansen claims that exploiting Canada’s oil sands would mean “game over for the climate.” Specifically, he forecasts, in the long term, sea levels 50 feet higher than now, intolerable global temperatures, 20% to 50% of the planet’s species driven to extinction and civilization at risk. In the short term – the next several decades – Dr. Hansen predicts semi-permanent drought in the Western US.

In the *Dot Earth* blog Andrew Revkin provides a critique from Martin Hoerling of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and another critique of both pieces by Kerry Emmanuel of MIT.

*Friends of Science* has posted a response to James Hansen’s piece on its website.

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/10/opinion/game-over-for-the-climate.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/10/opinion/game-over-for-the-climate.html?_r=1)>

<<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/11/another-view-on-extreme-weather-in-a-warming-climate/#more-44281>>

<<http://www.friendsofscience.org/index.php?id=574>>

### **Germany’s Eco- Minister Fired**

On May 15 Chancellor Angela Merkel fired her environment minister Norbert Röttgen, the public face of Germany’s green energy transition. He had allied himself with a goal that can be stated politically, but cannot be reached technically. While Mr. Röttgen was convinced about the need and the possibility of achieving the goal by ignoring rising energy costs, to the chancellor it was a policy to neutralize her opponents. When the policy proved unworkable, she characteristically corrected her mistake.

A related story comments on Germany’s efforts to reach its climate targets, exit from nuclear energy, avoid goal and build a lot of gas power plants. However, with carbon prices below €7/tonne on the European emissions trading scheme, it is far cheaper to produce power from old coal plants than new gas ones. To make new gas-fired generation more economical than coal the carbon price would have to be €35/tonne.

<<http://thegwpf.org/the-climate-record/5742-what-is-behind-the-fall-of-germanys-eco-minister.html>>  
<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/18/us-energy-summit-power-gas-idUSBRE84H0C020120518>>

### **How the Harper Government Stopped Talking about Climate Change**

Ottawa Citizen columnist Dan Gardner recaps the history of the Harper government's record on climate change – basically saying nothing until it became an issue in 2007. When the global economy melted down in 2008, public concern about climate change plunged, as did government communications on the subject. At Copenhagen in 2009 Canada pledged to cut emissions by 17% from 2005 levels. In 2011, after winning a majority, there was no mention of climate change in either the Throne Speech or the subsequent budget.

Perhaps the most likely explanation for the Harper government's actions is in a quote from Carleton University professor Michael Hart: "By not directly confronting an inherited policy that he [Harper] found distasteful, he has been able to manage it to a conclusion that has alienated fewer and satisfied more Canadians. In the years to come, as the international climate change file gradually fades into obscurity, similar to many other such utopian initiatives, he can look back with satisfaction at a job well done."

<<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/technology/stopped+talking+about+climate+change/6625856/story.html>>

### **Next Round of Climate Talks Opens**

On May 14 two weeks of climate talks began in Bonn, the first since the Durban summit of last December. The European Union is attempting to lead a "rainbow coalition" of least developed countries and alliance of small island states (AOSIS) pressing for a new global deal that would restrict all nations' emissions. However, the EU's partners want the union to increase its emissions reductions by 2020 from 20% to 30% below 1990 levels, something which was recently vetoed by Poland. Also the EU's partners are worried about lack of any commitment for climate aid after 2012.

Another bone of contention for the LDCs and AOSIS is the EU's insistence on a eight-year term (instead of five) for "Kyoto 2". They fear that this would allow the US, China, India, Russia and Japan to drag their heels in negotiating a wider global agreement.

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18043201>>  
<<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/05/14/climate-talks-un-kyoto-idINDEE84D0GR20120514>>

### **Only Global Poverty Can Save the Planet, Insists the WWF, Supported by the ESA**

The World Wildlife Fund, endorsed by the European Space Agency, has issued a report, *Living Planet Report for 2012*, stating that economic growth should be abandoned, the citizens of the world's wealthy nations should prepare for poverty and that all the human race's energy should be produced as renewable electricity by 2050. While seeking to set policy on economics and energy, the report doesn't give figures expressed in units of energy or currency. Instead the WWF activists use indices such as a "living planet index", footprints and bio-resources in hectares, and human development index.

<[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/05/16/wwf\\_living\\_planet\\_report/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/05/16/wwf_living_planet_report/)>

**UAH Global Temperature Update for April 2012: +0.30°C**

The global average lower tropospheric temperature anomaly increased again last month to +0.30°C. There was warming in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, but slightly cool conditions persisted in the tropics. In his commentary Roy Spencer reminds that the most common reason for large month-to-month swings in the global average temperature is small fluctuations in the rate of convective overturning of the atmosphere.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/05/uah-global-temperature-update-for-april-2012-0-30c/>>

2012-04-26

**The Royal Society's Report on Population and Consumption**

The Royal Society has released a 134-page report *People and the Planet* that makes nine recommendations, the first of which is that the international community must bring the 1.3 billion people living on less than \$1.25/day out of absolute poverty. The second is that developed and emerging countries must stabilize and then reduce consumption levels. Others include population, urbanization, environment, education and measurement of wealth (i.e., something other than GDP.)

In the *Telegraph* Tim Worstall, a senior fellow at the Adam Smith Institute in London, slams the Royal Society for a number of basic factual and logical errors, and asks the RS to withdraw the report and fix the errors "before trying to tell the rest of us how to live our lives." In *Climate-Resistance.org* Ben Pile notes that the RS, by taking on inequality, poverty, reproductive rights and the issue of what levels of material wealth people should be entitled to, is taking a step away from science. Science has nothing to say about the rights and wrongs of inequality, the rights of women, and the material entitlements of people.

<[http://royalsociety.org/uploadedFiles/Royal\\_Society\\_Content/policy/projects/people-planet/2012-04-25-PeoplePlanet.pdf](http://royalsociety.org/uploadedFiles/Royal_Society_Content/policy/projects/people-planet/2012-04-25-PeoplePlanet.pdf)>

<<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/finance/timworstall/100016684/the-royal-societys-appallingly-bad-report-on-population-and-consumption/>>

<<http://www.climate-resistance.org/2012/04/the-royal-society-takes-another-step-away-from-science.html>>

**US Poll: Many Link Weather Extremes to Climate Change**

The *New York Times* is pleased to report that, even if scientists hesitate to link extreme weather events to global warming, a poll of 1,008 Americans conducted in late March by Yale University showed that 69% of the respondents agreed with the statement that "global warming is affecting the weather in the United States."

In his blog, Roger Pielke Jr. notes that the NY Times cheers the public misunderstanding and speculates on its political usefulness as the end justifying the means. He notes that research such as the IPCC's recent SREX report [FoS Extracts 2012-03-29] stated that even the IPCC could not agree that the weather is becoming more extreme. Roy Spencer explains the record warm March weather in the US (2% of the Earth's surface) on the basis of "mass continuity."

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/18/science/earth/americans-link-global-warming-to-extreme-weather-poll-says.html>>

<<http://environment.yale.edu/climate/files/Extreme-Weather-Climate-Preparedness.pdf>>

<<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.ca/2012/04/who-cares-what-science-says.html>>  
<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/04/new-evidence-our-record-warm-march-was-not-from-global-warming/>>

### **The Tab for the UN's Rio Summit: Trillions per Year in Taxes, Transfers and Price Hikes**

For the much-touted, Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, scheduled to be held in Brazil from June 20-23, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has issued challenges to be addressed, among them:

- More than \$2.1 trillion in wealth transfers from rich countries to poorer ones to foster “green infrastructure,” “climate adaptation” and other “green economy” measures;
- New carbon taxes on industrialized countries costing \$250 billion a year;
- Unspecified price hikes that extend beyond fossil fuels to anything derived from agriculture, fisheries, forestry, or other kinds of land and water use;
- More social benefits for those displaced by the green economy.

The UN Preparatory Committee, which is negotiating a final plan of action for the summit, is deadlocked on the matter. The document should be reduced to 5-10 pages, but with so many participants this has proved impossible (see third link.)

<<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/04/20/tab-for-uns-rio-summit-trillions-per-year-in-taxes-transfers-and-price-hikes/>>  
<<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=107496>>  
<<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=144>>

### **Rio Earth Summit: African Nations Fear Europe's Green Agenda**

The EU is heading to the summit hoping to make a green economy based on sustainable growth one of its pillars, while also seeking to give the UN Environment Program, and possibly other UN agencies, more power to oversee and enforce treaties. However, African leaders have expressed concern about European efforts to seek binding targets on sustainable development at the Rio+20 summit, fearing brakes would be applied to their economies by rich countries.

<<http://www.euractiv.com/sustainability/eu-plays-expectations-rio-earth-summit-news-512344>>

### **“Gaia” scientist James Lovelock: I was “alarmist” about climate change**

James Lovelock, the 92-year-old guru to the environmental movement with his “Gaia” theory of the Earth as a single organism, has admitted to being “alarmist” about climate change and says other environmental commentators, such as Al Gore, were too. In 2006 he forecasted that “before this century is out billions of us will die and the few breeding pairs of people that survive will be in the Arctic, where the climate remains tolerable.” He now says that “The problem is we don’t know what the climate is doing. We thought we knew 20 years ago. That led to some alarmist books—mine included—because it looked clear-cut, but it hasn’t happened.”

<<http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/04/23/11144098-gaia-scientist-james-lovelock-i-was-alarmist-about-climate-change>>  
<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/04/25/gaia-scientist-and-hero-of-the-greens-admits-he-was-alarmist/>>

### **A Tennessee Fireman's Solution to Climate Change**

Two articles in *Forbes* take opposite sides on the issue. In the first Steve Zwick attacks the “active denialists,” whose propaganda he claims “... has already set us back two decades.” To them he wants to apply the logic of the “Tennessee firemen’s solution” (letting the houses of owners who refuse to pay burn down): they broke the climate; why should the rest of us pay for it?

In the second article Warren Myer responds to Mr. Zwick pointing out that the proponents of manmade catastrophic warming stopped debating skeptics in public a number of years ago, preferring ad hominem attacks to a rational discussion of the science. He then compares the evidence offered by Mr. Zwick with recent observations on climate behavior. In the poor parts of the world, people need to burn every fossil fuel they can get, not be forced to use rich people’s toys like wind and solar.

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevezwick/2012/04/19/a-tennessee-firemans-solution-to-climate-change/>>  
<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/warrenmeyer/2012/04/19/a-vivid-reminder-of-how-the-climate-debate-is-broken/>>

### **Suzuki's Funding**

David Suzuki dismisses the focus on US funding of his foundation as “twisted logic” and “a conspiracy theory.” However, Vivian Krause’s research, from tax returns, shows that at least 17% of the David Suzuki Foundation’s revenue over the past decade came from US foundations. Of 30 US grants totaling \$9 million, 29 were earmarked for British Columbia, where US economic interests are involved. In its annual reports the Suzuki Foundation was vague about the sources of its funding.

On April 25, the Suzuki Foundation became the target of a complaint to the Canada Revenue Agency after *EthicalOil.org* sent a letter to the agency asking it to investigate whether rules relating to partisan political activity were broken.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/04/19/vivian-krause-suzukis-funding/>>  
<<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/04/25/david-suzuki-foundation/>>

### **The Highest Authority in Science is the Data**

David Evans and Joanne Nova respond to the oft-stated quote “97 percent of climate experts say man-made global warming is a major threat” with “So? The satellites, ocean buoys and weather balloons disagree.” In other words, science differs from religion in that there are no infallible experts; the highest authority is the measurements and observations.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/04/the-highest-authority-in-science-is-the-data/>>

### **Christopher Monckton: The Illogic of Climate Hysteria**

In the first of a pair of articles Viscount Monckton describes a dozen logical fallacies in argumentation that climate alarmists use to buttress their case. Among them are the “consensus,” appeal-to-authority, argument from ignorance, false cause, and the famous ad hominem attack.

In the second article, he describes the fundamental equation of climate sensitivity at equilibrium (how much warming may occur from a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub>) used by the IPCC. This equation contains a “radiative forcing” term, a zero-feedback climate-sensitivity parameter, and a feedback term of five parameters.



Since all seven parameters in the equation are unknown and unknowable, the IPCC is incorrect in stating how much global warming a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration will cause.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/20/the-illogic-of-climate-hysteria/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/23/why-there-cannot-be-a-global-warming-consensus/#more-61886>>

2012-04-19

### **Signs that Europe May Be Bending on Airline Tax**

The EU is heading towards a trade war over imposition of its toll on greenhouse gas emissions from all airlines using EU airspace. With more than 20 non-European countries, led by India and China, opposing the toll (and the latter suspending \$14 billion worth of orders from Airbus), the message appears to have reached over the European commissioners to the ultimate authorities: heads of government. Prime Minister François Fillon of France (where most of Airbus' manufacturing is based) called on the EC to defuse the crisis. EC President José Manuel Barroso replied that the EU may be prepared to drop the new rules if there is an agreement on emissions through the International Civil Aviation Commission.

<<http://rendezvous.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/12/signs-europe-bending-on-making-airlines-pay-carbon-charge/>>

<<http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/131083/>>

### **Fate of EU Carbon Market Hangs in the Balance**

The EU's debate on a new climate and energy package for 2030 is threatened by a collapse in its carbon market (officially the EU Emission Trading Scheme) as the price of allowances falls to €6/tonne. The ETS was created (1) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (through a declining cap on emissions) and (2) to set a price signal for low-carbon investments. While the first objective is being met, helped by subsidies for renewable power generation and the ongoing recession, an oversupply of allowances has thwarted the second, as €6/tonne is too low to send any sort of price signal. If the ETS had worked as planned the price would now be closer to €40/tonne.

There are two types of industry under the ETS: the power sector (which can't relocate out of the EU and doesn't compete on the global market and which must buy all its allowances from 2013 onward); and more mobile, energy-intensive companies, which are given free allowances, to lower the risk of "carbon leakage" or "outsourcing" of carbon emissions (see *Guardian* article.) A favored quick-and-dirty fix is to withhold from auction ("set aside") up to 1.4 billion allowances. This would cause conflict between the two types of industry, as well as set a precedent for political interference in the market, which upsets investors. The latter (see *Business Green* article), represented by the Investors Group on Climate Change, are calling for ministers to reform the ETS and force up the price of carbon.

Joanne Nova comments that the ETS is not a "free market" solution to an environmental problem, but rather an unholy coalition of banks and big-government interests. The paradox of this market is that the more it succeeds, the less it's worth.

<[http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id\\_mailing=267&toegang=eda80a3d5b344bc40f3bc04f65b7a357&id=3642](http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=267&toegang=eda80a3d5b344bc40f3bc04f65b7a357&id=3642)>

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/apr/18/britain-outsourcing-carbon-emissions-china?newsfeed=true>>

<<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2168748/investment-giants-urge-eu-save-emissions-trading-scheme>>  
<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/04/when-is-a-free-market-solution-not-the-answer-when-it-isnt-free/#more-21284>>

### **Shale Quake Shakes Up Britain's Energy Policy**

The UK government has decided to allow shale gas exploration to proceed, despite Cuadrilla Resources' operations causing earth tremors in the north of England. The renewable energy industry fears a repeat of what happened in the US: a boom in low-cost shale gas making other forms of energy uncompetitive, even coal and nuclear, and the end to subsidies for renewables. Comments in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Economist* predict fights, both within the UK between supporters of shale gas and the environmental left, and between the UK and European regulators that would like to put environmental hurdles in the way of British shale gas exploitation.

<<http://www.cityam.com/forum/it-s-true-there-s-real-danger-fracking-will-cause-major-boom>>  
<<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2012/04/17/shale-gas-ruling-sets-stage-for-u-k-energy-disarray/>>  
<<http://www.economist.com/blogs/bagehot/2012/04/british-energy-security>>

### **Gallup Poll: Americans Worry Most about Water Contamination, Least about Global Warming**

Gallup polled Americans about whether they worried over seven environmental issues (pollution of drinking water; air pollution; pollution of rivers, lakes and reservoirs; contamination of soil and water by toxic waste; loss of tropical rain forests; global warming; and extinction of plant and animal species.) Compared to 2000, the percentage that worried "a great deal" about these issues in 2012 was lower by 9 to 24 percentage points. When ranking the issues, global warming came dead last.

Gallup attributes the drop in environmental concern to a higher priority for economic growth.

<<http://www.gallup.com/poll/153875/Worry-Water-Air-Pollution-Historical-Lows.aspx>>

### **Bright Lights of Qatar Disturb EU Climate Commissioner**

Qatar will be the first member of OPEC to host the annual two-week climate summit, the next of which starts November 26 in the capital city of Doha. The country is also, embarrassingly, the world's largest per capita emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>. This became apparent to the EU's commissioner for climate action, Connie Hedegaard, during a recent visit to Qatar. She remarked on skyscrapers lit up with free energy and called upon the Qatari environment minister to pursue a greener, climate-friendly kind of growth.

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-12/qatari-bright-lights-prompt-eu-s-hedegaard-to-urge-climate-plan.html>>

### **The WWF's Soulless Climate Campaign**

The World Wildlife Fund has been pressuring Mexico to become the second country, after the UK, to pass extreme climate legislation. When that country's House of Representatives passed such a law, the WWF issued a press release that, while acknowledging that 40% of Mexico's population lives in poverty, praises it for becoming the second member of "an elite global club." The press release asks if Mexico is doing this, why not the US and Canada.

According to Donna Laframboise, to the WWF ordinary Mexicans are just pawns in an international chess game. It has no problem saddling a poor country whose shaky institutions are crippled by drug violence with an unusually strict climate law – if that law can be used to berate other nations.

<<http://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2012/04/15/the-wwfs-soulless-climate-campaign/>>

### **Max Planck Institute Director Confirms: “Climate Models Inconsistent with Observations”**

More cracks are appearing in Germany’s climate alarmism as the director of the warmist Max Planck Institute for Meteorology admits that none of the climate models can simulate the current 15-year plateau in global temperatures.

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/04/17/max-planck-institute-director-admits-physical-causes-unclear-models-inconsistent-with-observations/>

2012-04-12

### **Forlorn *New York Times* Asks: Fuel to Burn – Now What?**

The reversal of fortune in US energy supplies in recent years could have profound effects on what people drive, domestic manufacturing and American foreign policy. The new fuel produced in North America (primarily domestic shale oil and gas, Canadian oil sands and deepwater production from the Gulf of Mexico) could reduce shipping and manufacturing costs, trim heating and cooling bills, improve the auto market and provide tens of thousands of new jobs. Cheaper energy costs — particularly for natural gas — would benefit a variety of domestic industries, like chemicals, pharmaceuticals and fertilizers. An energy analyst with research firm Wood Mackenzie forecasts that by 2030 the US could be exporting 500 million tons/year of coal, 3.2 billion cubic feet/day of natural gas and 2.5 million barrels/day of oil products.

For the *NY Times*, the dark side of this abundance is the damping of enthusiasm for “clean” energy and derailing of efforts to wean the nation from its wasteful energy habits.

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/11/business/energy-environment/energy-boom-in-us-upends-expectations.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/11/business/energy-environment/energy-boom-in-us-upends-expectations.html?_r=2)>

### **James Hansen: Climate Change Is a Moral Issue on a Par with Slavery**

According to the *Guardian*, James Hansen, head of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, will use a lecture at the Edinburgh Science Festival to call for a worldwide tax on all carbon emissions. He describes this as an intergenerational issue on a par with ending slavery. In a *Telegraph* story the same Dr. Hansen admits that green campaigners and climate scientists are losing the public debate over global warming. He blames skeptics who are opposed to major social and economic changes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for employing “tremendous resources” to undermine the scientific evidence.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/apr/06/nasa-scientist-climate-change>>

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/9192494/Climate-scientists-are-losing-the-public-debate-on-global-warming.html>>

### Climate Rebellion Rocks NASA

On March 28, 49 former NASA scientists and astronauts sent a letter to NASA Administrator Charles Bolden admonishing the agency for its role in advocating a high degree of certainty that man-made CO<sub>2</sub> is a major cause of climate change, while neglecting empirical evidence that calls the theory into question. Some excerpts from the letter:

- “The unbridled advocacy of CO<sub>2</sub> being the major cause of climate change is unbecoming of NASA’s history of making an objective assessment of all available scientific data prior to making decisions or public statements.”
- “We believe the claims by NASA and GISS, that man-made carbon dioxide is having a catastrophic impact on global climate change are not substantiated.”
- “We request that NASA refrain from including unproven and unsupported remarks in its future releases and websites on this subject.”

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/10/hansen-and-schmidt-of-nasa-giss-under-fire-engineers-scientists-astronauts-ask-nasa-administration-to-look-at-empirical-evidence-rather-than-climate-models/>>

<<http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/washington-secrets/2012/04/astronauts-condemn-nasa%E2%80%99s-global-warming-endorsement/469366>>

<<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/04/11/49-former-nasa-scientists-go-ballistic-over-agencys-bias-over-climate-change/>>

<<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/295765/moon-landing-deniers-express-global-warming-skepticism-charles-c-w-cooke>>

<<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10321/Climate-Dissent-Launches-at-NASA>>

### Climate Coup: The Science and the Politics

David Evans, who consulted for the Australian Greenhouse Office (now the Department of Climate Change) 1999-2005 and 1998-2010, and was a believer in AGW until the evidence supporting the idea that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were the main cause of global warming reversed itself in 1998 to 2006, when he became a skeptic. Dr. Evans has written two companion articles: *Climate Coup – The Science* (16 pages) and *Climate Coup – The Politics* (18 pages).

In the science article Dr. Evans compares predictions of global temperature by James Hansen and the IPCC to reality: satellite data for atmospheric temperatures and Argo buoys for ocean temperatures. On pages 11 and 12 he focuses on the structural flaw in the climate models – their assumed 3x amplification of the direct effect of CO<sub>2</sub>, when the data indicate a 0.5x damping effect.

The politics article describes a “regulating class” of believers, consisting of the UN, western governments, major banks and finance houses, NGOs and greenies, totalitarian leftists, government-funded scientists, academia, renewables corporations and the mainstream news media. Against them are the doubters: independently-funded scientists, private-sector middle class, and amateurs. The regulating class does not try to hide its belief that it is cleverer and morally superior. Their solution is regulation of the whole world’s economy by themselves, which was the object at the failed Copenhagen climate conference. On climate change, the regulating class has won over the leadership of most professional and business organizations by lobbying and pressure.

<<http://jonova.s3.amazonaws.com/guest/evans-david/climate-coup-science.pdf>>

<[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/climate\\_coup.pdf](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/climate_coup.pdf)>

### **Climategate Heads to Court**

University of Virginia climate scientist Fred Singer describes two legal proceedings involving Michael Mann. The first is a freedom-of-information action by the Attorney General of Virginia and then the American Tradition Institute to obtain emails by Dr. Mann and others from the university. The university has admitted that 12,000 messages exist and has released them to Dr. Mann, but is resisting giving them to climate skeptics. In the second proceeding Dr. Mann has sued Canadian climatologist Tim Ball for libel. However, this leaves Dr. Mann open for the pre-trial discovery process. Dr. Singer hopes that the process will focus on the controversial post 1978 data that was suppressed in creating Dr. Mann's famous hockey stick graph.

<[http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/04/climategate\\_heads\\_to\\_court.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/04/climategate_heads_to_court.html)>

### **Global Warming Debate in Oregon**

Three articles in *OregonLive.com* describe the issue from both sides. This year the Oregon chapter of the American Meteorological Society has sponsored two debates on global warming. On January 25 more than 400 people heard a panel of three skeptics, and by a show of hands, more than 90% of the crowd agreed that human activities are not the main cause of global warming. Between the two debates *OregonLive.com* ran a story on the current "hiatus" helping to spur skepticism. On April 10 three mainstream climate scientists from the U. of Oregon made their case that increases in manmade greenhouse gases are driving climate change.

<[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/01/presentation\\_by\\_global\\_warming.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/01/presentation_by_global_warming.html)>

<[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/04/global\\_warming\\_hiatus\\_in\\_recen.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/04/global_warming_hiatus_in_recen.html)>

<[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/04/oregon\\_climate\\_scientists\\_get.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/04/oregon_climate_scientists_get.html)>

### **The Incredible Power of Clouds**

A joint post by Tony Cox and Joanne Nova succinctly describes the role of clouds in climate change. They cover 65% of the planet and are responsible for about half the sunlight that is reflected back to space. The IPCC, in its last assessment report, admits that cloud feedbacks are the largest source of uncertainty in its climate models. Using satellite measurements of the whole globe, Roy Spencer et al have shown that in the short term clouds moderate temperature movement in either direction. The IPCC models assume that clouds change in response to temperature, whereas there is evidence that other factors affect clouds, e.g., cloud seeding particles formed by cosmic rays. Papers by Spencer & Braswell demonstrate that clouds can be both a forcing factor and a feedback, and that it's difficult to find definitive feedback signals in the dynamic system that is never at equilibrium.

Ms. Nova recommends Ken Gregory's description of Roy Spencer's work: *Clouds Have Made Fools of the Climate Modelers*.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/04/the-incredible-power-of-clouds-and-roy-spencers-work/>>

<[http://www.friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/Clouds\\_Climate.pdf](http://www.friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/Clouds_Climate.pdf)>

2012-04-05

### **Solar Woes in Italy, Germany and the US**

Italy is the latest to reduce taxpayer subsidies to the renewable energy sector. Specifically, the government, alarmed at "excessive" investments in the sector, promises to "realign" the level of its

incentives to those of other European countries. Last year 9 GW of solar capacity were added to Italy's grid, nearly quadrupling its total solar capacity, and bypassing Germany as Europe's leader.

According to *Spiegel Online* the German solar industry is on the ropes as the bankruptcy of Q-Cells, valued at close to €8 billion in late 2007 and now worth only €35 million as its shares sank to 9 cents. Q-Cells' demise is the fourth major bankruptcy of German solar firms unable to compete with China, where all costs are lower and the government provides low-interest loans. Ironically, the German government once subsidized Chinese companies to the tune of €100 million as part of an effort to promote China's green industries.

Solar Trust of America LLC, which holds the rights for the 1 GW Blythe Solar Power Project in the Southern California desert, filed for bankruptcy protection in a Delaware court after its majority owner, Solar Millennium AG began insolvency proceedings in Germany. The Blythe project also won \$2.1 billion in conditional loan guarantees from the US Department of Energy.

<<http://www.power-eng.com/news/2012/04/03/italy-to-cut-renewable-energy-subsidies.html>>  
 <<http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/0,1518,825490,00.html>>  
 <<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/04/02/us-solartrust-bankruptcy-idINBRE8310ZV20120402>>  
 <<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303302504577323514124004048.html>>

### **Carbon Trading 'Like Titanic' Sinking On EU Permit Glut**

Prices in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme have plunged to a record low of just over €6/tonne, representing a fall of 60% in the past year. Slow economic recovery, increased electricity generation from renewables and mild weather meant that actual emissions fell short of expectation. There are 12,000+ facilities registered with the ETS. Last year they emitted 1.7 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, 2.45% less than 2010. Combined with surpluses from prior years and over-allocation, there is currently a surplus of 365 million permits, prompting fears that the price may fall to as low as €3/tonne.

To deal with this crisis, EU ministers of the environment are to meet April 19. The European Commission wants to withhold, or "set aside" permits from the market, but this is opposed by Poland, which is heavily dependent on coal energy and believes that changing the legislation would undermine investor confidence in its stability.

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-03-30/carbon-like-titanic-sinking-on-eu-permit-glut.html>>  
 <[http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2165450/eu-carbon-price-plumbs-depths-weak-emissions?WT.rss\\_f=Home&WT.rss\\_a=EU+carbon+price+plumbs+new+depths+on+weak+emissions+data](http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2165450/eu-carbon-price-plumbs-depths-weak-emissions?WT.rss_f=Home&WT.rss_a=EU+carbon+price+plumbs+new+depths+on+weak+emissions+data)>  
 <<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-04-03/eu-ministers-to-discuss-co2-market-future-after-price-slump>>  
 <<http://www.eaem.co.uk/news/european-climate-policy-disarray-carbon-crashes>>  
 <<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-04-04/eu-nations-oppose-co2-permit-set-aside-in-energy-law>>

### **Ontario's Power Trip: The Great Electricity Bill Cover Up**

In a March 22 announcement, the Ontario Minister of Energy claimed that green energy accounts for only 5% of the increase in electricity bills. However, an electricity price-increase forecast filed with the Ontario Energy Board shows wind and solar to add \$3.05 billion to annual provincial energy bills by 2016; adding \$850 million to integrate these sources to the power grid brings the total to \$3.9 billion, meaning an average of 3.17¢/kWh for residents, or 54% of the increase by 2016. Due to the construction



of 7 GW of natural gas power generation to back up the wind and solar, as well as replace coal generation, there is excess generating capacity in the province. Ontario is exporting excess electricity at market rates of 2-3¢/kWh while paying 13.5¢/kWh for wind power and 44.3¢/kWh for solar.

Wind and solar power were supposed to produce 50,000 jobs/year over 20 years (50,000 x 20 = 1,000,000 person-years of employment.) During the 2009-28 period, according to the wind and solar trade associations, only 158,000 person-years of green jobs will occur. Once the gold rush ends in 2018, the ongoing employment will amount to only 2,100 jobs.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/04/04/ontarios-power-trip-the-great-electricity-bill-cover-up/>>

### **Healthy Polar Bear Count Confounds Doomsayers.**

A recent aerial survey of Western Hudson Bay shows that the polar bear population of over 1,000 animals. This is 66% higher than estimates by other researchers who forecasted that their numbers would fall as warming temperatures melted the ice and ruined the bears' ability to hunt.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/healthy-polar-bear-count-confounds-doomsayers/article2392523/>>

<<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2012/04/04/north-nunavut-polar-bears.html>>

### **Canada Cuts Environmental Budget, Kills Environmental Advisory Board**

In Canada's latest budget Environment Canada will lose \$13.3 million from its \$1.1 billion budget this year, \$31.5 million next year and \$53.8 million the following two years. The budget also eliminates funds for the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy [see FoS Extracts 2011-10-07], an advisory board.

The International Climate Science Coalition (see *WattsUpWithThat* link) praised the budget for not including the misleading language of previous years about clean air and climate change, and particularly for the elimination of NTREE, which used to focus on warming and CO<sub>2</sub>. Supporters of NTREE (see [embassymag.ca](http://embassymag.ca)) had bitter comments.

<<http://www.nature.com/news/canadian-budget-hits-basic-science-1.10366>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/29/canada-yanks-some-climate-change-programs-from-budget/#more-60369>>

<<http://www.embassymag.ca/page/view/echo-04-04-2012>>

### **Is Climate Change a Mental Health Emergency?**

A high-powered panel of psychiatrists, psychologists and public-health and climate experts who collaborated on a report, *The Psychological Effects of Global Warming on the United States and Why the U.S. Mental Health System is Not Adequately Prepared*, certainly thinks so. Some of the language in the report is heartrending, for example in the preface (emphasis in the original):

If we continue the adolescent-like disregard for the dangers we are being warned of, driving green house gasses up with only casual concern, there will be consequences. As our world begins to unravel and our role is undeniable, all eyes will be on us. Questions beg to be asked:

- What will the rest of the world think of us?
- Where will we be safe?
- How *will we feel* about ourselves?



The report predicts a rise in depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, suicide and violence, affecting not only vulnerable civilians, but also members of the US military – in all, 200 million Americans. The \$300 billion the US currently spends on mental health services will be inadequate to cope with “the ... psychological effects of global warming.” The report recommends, among other things, that “the American mental health community needs to become a strong public voice for protecting the public from climate change.”

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidferris/2012/03/31/is-climate-change-a-mental-health-emergency/>>  
<[http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Global-Warming/Reports/Psych\\_Effects\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Full\\_3\\_23.ashx](http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Global-Warming/Reports/Psych_Effects_Climate_Change_Full_3_23.ashx)>

### **Resistance to Warmism Must Be “Treated”**

The old Soviet trick of defining political opposition as a mental illness is back, this time at the University of Oregon. In late March there was the *Planet under Pressure* conference in London, with a group of speakers led by Kari Marie Norgaard, professor of sociology and environmental studies at the university. Her message to the conference: “Resistance at individual and societal levels must be recognized and treated before real action can be taken to effectively address threats facing the planet from human-caused contributions to climate change.”

After the maelstrom of embarrassment and public ridicule created by Prof. Norgaard’s remarks became too much for the university to bear, it quietly deleted the words “and treated” from its website press release (see the *WattsUpWithThat* link.) Although the professor’s name still appears on the sociology faculty page’s listing, that link is dead (though other faculty members on the same page still have working links.) In true Stalinist fashion the professor has been “disappeared” by the U. of Oregon.

<[http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2012/03/resistance\\_to\\_warmism\\_must\\_be\\_treated.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2012/03/resistance_to_warmism_must_be_treated.html)>  
<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2123260/If-dont-believe-climate-change-sick-Oregon-professor-likens-skepticism-racism.html>>  
<<http://cnsnews.com/blog/marc-morano/if-only-we-all-had-liberal-brains-wed-all-believe-man-made-global-warming>>  
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/02/rewriting-history-treatment-of-sceptics-disappears-from-university-of-oregon-press-statement/>>

### **No Global Warming for 15 Years**

The UK Met Office has just released the HadCRUT4 global temperature database, which shows that there has been no global warming in the past 15 years (1997 to 2011). In its 2001 and 2007 assessment reports, the IPCC estimated that, due to greenhouse gas forcing, the world would warm at a rate of 0.2°C/decade. While the Met Office has been able to produce global warming simulations with “standstills” of a decade or so about once in every eight decades, these simulations have not been able to reproduce a 15-year standstill.

In one of his Climategate emails from 2009, Professor Phil Jones of the University of East Anglia’s Climatic Research Institute warned: “Bottom line – the no upward trend has to continue for 15 years before we get worried.”

<<http://thegwpmf.org/press-releases/5360-no-global-warming-for-15-years.html>>

**UAH Global Temperature Update for March 2012: +0.11°C**

The University of Alabama Huntsville's satellite measurement of the lower tropospheric temperature jumped to +0.11°C last month (compared to -0.11°C in February) as La Niña conditions in the Pacific abated.

Roy Spencer provides an explanation for such large month-to-month swings in the global average temperature: intra-seasonal oscillations in rainfall activity, particularly over the Pacific Ocean. Increased winds of 1 to 2 knots over the tropical ocean cause faster surface evaporation, more water vapor in the troposphere and more convective rainfall activity. This rainfall causes tropospheric heating as the condensing water vapour releases its latent heat. When there is less surface wind, there is a decrease in evaporation, rainfall and temperature.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/04/uah-global-temperature-update-for-march-2012-0-11-deg-c/>>

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/03/what-causes-the-large-swings-in-global-satellite-temperatures/>>

2012-03-29

**US Environmental Protection Agency to Propose First Climate Limits on Power Plants**

The EPA has proposed to issue its first limits on greenhouse gas emissions from new power plants. These will require any new power plant to emit no more than 1,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per MWh. All natural gas-fired plants produce less than this amount, whereas coal-fired ones exceed it, thus dooming any new coal plant that doesn't have carbon capture and storage. The rule won't apply to existing plants, which disappoints environmentalists.

The proposed rule results from a 2007 directive from the Supreme Court instructing the EPA to decide whether CO<sub>2</sub> is a pollutant under the *Clean Air Act* – which it did. This “endangerment finding” is being challenged in court on the grounds that the EPA improperly relied on the IPCC's bogus claims that CO<sub>2</sub> is causing dangerous global warming. Oral arguments before a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals took place at the end of February.

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/28/science/earth/epa-sets-greenhouse-emission-limits-on-new-power-plants.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/28/science/earth/epa-sets-greenhouse-emission-limits-on-new-power-plants.html?_r=2)>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/28/new-epa-rule-will-block-all-new-coal-electric-generation/>>

**IPCC: We Do Not Know if the Climate Is Becoming More Extreme**

The IPCC has released a special, 592-page report *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaption* (SREX). Similarly to the main IPCC assessment reports, the SREX includes a *Summary for Policymakers*, which was approved by consensus on a line-by-line basis by delegates from over 100 countries last November (p. ix). On page 5 the IPCC lists anthropogenic changes in the atmosphere as the third cause of climate change, after natural internal processes and external forcings. Chapter 4 (Changes in Impacts of Climate Extremes: Human Systems and Ecosystems) is the main one.

Among the SREX findings:

- Low confidence in increases in tropical cyclone activity over 40+ years (p. 8).
- High confidence that trends in exposure and vulnerability are drivers of changes in disaster risk (p. 10).

- Is the Climate Becoming More Extreme? [...]None of the above instruments has yet been developed sufficiently as to allow us to confidently answer the question posed here. Thus we are restricted to questions about whether specific extremes are becoming more or less common, and our confidence in the answers to such questions, including the direction and magnitude of changes in specific extremes, depends on the type of extreme, as well as on the region and season, linked with the level of understanding of the underlying processes and the reliability of their simulation in models (p. 124).
- There is medium evidence and high agreement that long-term trends in normalized losses have not been attributed to natural or anthropogenic climate change (p.268).
- Some authors suggest that a (natural or anthropogenic) climate change signal can be found in the records of disaster losses (e.g., Mills, 2005; Höppe and Grimm, 2009), but their work is in the nature of reviews and commentary rather than empirical research (p. 268).
- The statement about the absence of trends in impacts attributable to natural or anthropogenic climate change holds for tropical and extratropical storms and tornadoes (p. 269).
- The absence of an attributable climate change signal in losses also holds for flood losses (p. 269).

Roger Pielke Jr.'s blog commends the IPCC for a report that accurately reflects academic literature on the topic. Nevertheless, alarmist publications like the *Guardian* and the *Detroit Free Press* use the report to warn of climate-related disasters ahead.

<[http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/images/uploads/SREX-All\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/images/uploads/SREX-All_FINAL.pdf)>

<<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.co.uk/2012/03/handy-bullshit-button-on-disasters-and.html>>

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/mar/28/climate-change-global-warming-storms-floods>>

<<http://www.freep.com/article/20120329/NEWS07/203290470/Get-ready-for-more-weather-disasters-climate-panel-says>>

### ***DeSmogBlog* Upset over “Climate Change Denial” Bill in Tennessee**

The State of Tennessee has become the fourth jurisdiction to pass to pass what *DeSmogBlog* terms “a legal mandate to incorporate climate change denial as part of the science curriculum...” The alarming portions of Tennessee bill are (*DeSmogBlog*'s emphases):

- **The teaching of some scientific subjects, including**, but not limited to, biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, **global warming**, and human cloning, **can cause controversy**.
- The state board of education, public elementary and secondary school governing authorities, directors of schools, school system administrators, and public elementary and secondary school principals and administrators shall endeavor to **create an environment within public elementary and secondary schools that encourages students to...respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion about controversial issues**.
- Neither the state board of education, nor any public elementary or secondary school governing authority, director of schools, school system administrator, or any public elementary or secondary school principal or administrator shall prohibit any teacher in a public school system of this state from **helping students understand, analyze, critique, and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in the course being taught**.

In *DeSmogBlog*'s opinion the bill was written by and for corporate polluters and “threatens to sow seeds of confusion about climate science among schoolchildren.”

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/alec-climate-change-denial-model-bill-passes-tennessee>>

### **Diminished Climate Alarmism: Lessons from L’Affair Heartland**

Robert Murphy, an economist who has done research on climate change policies, draws lessons learned from the Heartland affair. Back in February an anonymous “Heartland insider” emailed a cache of documents to various bloggers who promote government policies to combat climate change. One of the documents (the Climate Strategy Memo) was a clear fabrication that *DeSmogBlog* and other gullible climate bloggers jumped on as proof of the existence of a secret corporate-funded plan to teach children that climate change is a hoax. To Dr. Murphy the disturbing revelation of this affair is that some climate alarmists will stoop to outright deception and most of their peers will close ranks to defend them.

<<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/03/climate-alarmism-lessons-gleik/>>

### **Judith Curry and Climate Science as a Pseudoscience**

Dr. Curry presents reasons why climate science is not, as some claim, a pseudoscience. Any theories for climate change that rely solely on correlation without positing a physical mechanism may qualify as pseudoscience. While the mainstream climate scientists have posited some physical mechanisms (solar, volcanoes, anthropogenic greenhouse gases and aerosols), they have not tried hard enough to come up with other causal explanations. In particular they have ignored the natural variability of the coupled ocean/atmosphere system.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/03/20/pseudoscience/#more-7791>>

### **Could Arctic Sea Ice Decline Be Caused by the Arctic Oscillation?**

While the IPCC claims that recent Arctic sea ice declines are the result of human-caused warming, there is also convincing observational evidence that natural cycles in atmospheric circulation patterns might also be involved. A 2002 paper *Response of Sea Ice to the Arctic Oscillation* showed that changing wind patterns associated with the Arctic Oscillation contributed to Arctic sea ice declines from one decade to the next. A 1900-2011 graph of the Arctic Oscillation shows a decline from 1900-1940, then increasing to a peak in the 1970-90 period, then declining since 1990 to the present.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/03/could-arctic-sea-ice-decline-be-caused-by-the-arctic-oscillation/>>

### **More Evidence that the Medieval Warm Period Was Global**

When climate alarmists are confronted with the Medieval Warm Period, one of the standard responses is that the MWP occurred only in the Northern Hemisphere. However, a team of scientists from Rochester University has found that the MWP extended down to Antarctica. The team examined a rare mineral called ikaite ( $\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) that is stable only under cold conditions. The water that holds the structure together traps information about temperatures when the crystals were formed. The authors state that the “ikaite record qualitatively supports that both the Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age extended to the Antarctic Peninsula.”

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/22/more-evidence-the-medieval-warm-period-was-global/>>  
<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2012/03/23/if-the-mwp-was-global-what-does-that-tell-us-about-climate-change-now/>>

<<http://thegwpf.org/science-news/5306-the-whole-of-the-earth-heated-up-in-medieval-times-without-human-co2-emissions-says-new-study.html>>

<<http://news.investors.com/article/605815/201203271858/medieval-warming-period-is-no-myth.htm>>

2012-03-20

### **Ontario's Green Dream Was Just a Fantasy**

Across the countryside outside Toronto, wind turbines are spreading like the plague. They are being built over the objections of rural residents whose rights are being ignored by the Province of Ontario. They're chewing up birds and billions of taxpayer dollars in the name of a green dream that's nothing but a fantasy. In an effort to placate the voters, Premier Dalton McGuinty promises to trim the subsidies for solar and wind and to give rural communities more say.

However, these changes won't affect contracts already in place. That means projects already approved, but not built, will be eligible to get 13.5¢/kWh for wind and 64.2¢/kWh for solar, keeping the building boom going for the next three or four years.

Green energy was supposed to launch a vast new industry in Ontario with the export of products and expertise to the world. But the world is losing interest. Instead the next energy boom, and the resulting jobs, will be due to brown energy in the form of low-cost natural gas.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/margaret-wente/ontarios-green-dream-was-just-a-fantasy/article2369422/>>

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/adam-radwanski/mcguinty-powers-up-a-compromise-on-renewable-energy-plan/article2368524/>>

### **Green Woes in Europe: Poland Vetoes Low Carbon Scheme and Solar Faces Cuts**

The European Union's ambitious low carbon scheme collapsed when Poland vetoed plans to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions after 2020. Poland depends on indigenous coal for much of its energy production and will not accept any European carbon policy that undermines its drive to raise local living standards.

Sudden subsidy cuts to solar power in Europe have thrown the industry in crisis, just short of its ultimate goal to produce energy at a price no higher than from fossil fuel. Germany, Britain and Italy have announced cuts to subsidies, and Spain has abandoned them altogether.

<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/03/10/another-eu-greenfail-as-poland-vetoes-carbon-targets/>>

<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/solar-industry-faces-subsidy-cuts-in-europe/2012/03/10/gIQArkbXLS\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/solar-industry-faces-subsidy-cuts-in-europe/2012/03/10/gIQArkbXLS_story.html)>

### **Firm Sells Solar Panels to Itself and US Taxpayers Pay**

First Solar, an Arizona-based manufacturer of solar panels, has been subsidized by the Obama Administration and Ohio since 2010, for a total of \$17.3 million in grants and \$15 million in loans. In September 2011 the Export-Import Bank, which President Obama and Harry Reid are fighting to extend and expand, approved \$455.7 million in loan guarantees to subsidize the sale of solar panels to two solar

farms in Canada. It turns out that the Canadian buyer was First Solar's wholly-owned subsidiary, St. Clair Solar.

The Ex-Im Bank's purpose is to help US manufacturers beat foreign ones by having the US taxpayer backstop their financing. House Republicans are opening a new line of attack on \$1.6 billion of backing to First Solar and bankrupt Solyndra [FoS Extracts 2011-09-03].

<<http://campaign2012.washingtonexaminer.com/article/firm-sells-solar-panels-itself-taxpayers-pay/434251>>  
<[http://business.financialpost.com/2012/03/20/republicans-expand-complaints-of-energy-loans-beyond-solyndra/?\\_lsa=a5512434](http://business.financialpost.com/2012/03/20/republicans-expand-complaints-of-energy-loans-beyond-solyndra/?_lsa=a5512434)>

### **Wind Power: An Inconvenient Delusion that Spells Ruin for Scotland**

A report *Why Is Wind Power So Expensive – An Economic Analysis* by Gordon Hughes, economics professor at Edinburgh University, calculates that the Scottish bill for wind energy in 2020 will be £120 billion to generate power that could be produced from gas for £13 billion, while reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2.8% in the best case scenario. Already there are 900,000 Scottish households in fuel poverty (“heat or eat”) as a dozen landowners in the UK share £850 million in subsidies for wind turbines.

The 40-page Hughes report discusses comparisons of electric generating costs, matching supply and demand, renewable obligation, feed-in tariffs, contractual arrangements, cost comparisons, whether wind generation reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and alternative policies.

<<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/opinion/comment/gerald-warner-fuelling-an-inconvenient-delusion-that-spells-ruin-for-scotland-1-2165954>>  
<<http://thegwpf.org/images/stories/gwpf-reports/hughes-windpower.pdf>>

### **Fairy Tales on the Road to Rio**

Donna Laframboise reports on another save-the-world convention in London during the week of March 26 leading up to the Rio+20 Earth Summit next June. She describes each of the nine policy briefs for the London gathering, supposedly emanating from the “scientific community.” In reality they are largely the work of social science networks, political scientists, environmental organizations, UN employees and IPCC authors. Much of what is contained in the documents is not science, but advocacy of political choices.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/03/19/fairy-tales-on-the-road-to-rio/>>

### **From the Canadian Senate, Common Sense about Climate Change**

Senator Nancy Greene Raine, speaking about an income tax bill to give tax credits to companies investing in carbon offsets, clears up the common “CO<sub>2</sub> is carbon” mistake, which makes people view a benign gas as dirty. She points out that CO<sub>2</sub> is an essential ingredient in photosynthesis and that its atmospheric concentration throughout most of Earth's history has been higher than now. After noting doubts expressed by dissenting scientists against drastic actions on global warming, Sen. Greene Raine recommends the Senate doing a thorough study on the current state of climate change science and debunks the assertion that Canada can easily “fight climate change” by converting to low CO<sub>2</sub> power sources.

<[http://parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/411/Debates/060db\\_2012-03-13-e.htm](http://parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/411/Debates/060db_2012-03-13-e.htm)>

### **A Little Pollution Saves Lives**

Roy Spencer attacks the US Environmental Protection Agency's limitless power, and willingness to use it, to regulate pollution to arbitrarily low levels with no concern over the indirect cost to society. The EPA has decided the PM2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns) are unsafe at any level. Yet a satellite-derived map of the globe shows that the most "polluted" air by this standard is over the desert regions where wind blowing over bare soil causes dust particles.

The EPA has concluded that no level of pollution is safe, thus leading to diminishing returns at greatly increasing costs, and poverty kills. Operating outside real world constraints, the agency is an increasing threat to human health and welfare.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/03/a-little-pollution-saves-lives/>>

### **Climate Deniers Are Giving Skeptics a Bad Name**

Atmospheric physicist Fred Singer divides the universe of climate scientists into three: the "warmistas" (well represented in the IPCC) with fixed views on apocalyptic AGW, the "deniers" and the skeptics in the middle. As an IPCC Expert Reviewer who has reviewed part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, which uses essentially the same argument and evidence as AR4. Dr. Singer succinctly disposes of both. Next he turns to the deniers who claim the greenhouse effect violates the Second Law of Thermodynamics, or accept the effect but argue about the cause and effect of CO<sub>2</sub>. Dr. Singer concludes that little can be accomplished with convinced warmistas and deniers, so he and his fellow skeptics just have to carry on and hope that in time truth will out.

Roy Spencer comments on the Singer article with a simple, two-step explanation of the greenhouse effect.

<[http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/climate\\_deniers\\_are\\_giving\\_us\\_skeptics\\_a\\_bad\\_name.html#ixzz1nn0Sciyo](http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/climate_deniers_are_giving_us_skeptics_a_bad_name.html#ixzz1nn0Sciyo)>

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/03/slaying-the-slayers-with-the-alabama-two-step/>>

### **Review of Michael Mann's Latest Book**

Michael Mann recently published a book named *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars* in which he defends his two famous papers of the late 1990s and responds to the criticism of his hockey stick graph by Stephen McIntyre and Ross McKittrick as well as from the Wegman Report. In the first of these two critiques Brandon Shollenberger points out Dr. Mann's deceptions, contradictions, misrepresentations and fabrications. In the second he provides more in-depth technical detail.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/07/a-detailed-review-of-manns-book-the-hockey-stick-and-the-climate-wars-as-it-relates-to-the-wegman-report-to-congress/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/11/shollenbergers-technical-review-of-manns-recent-book/#more-58877>>

2012-03-08

### **Oil Sands, Green Groups Unlikely Allies in Push for Carbon Tax**

Oil sands producers and some environmental groups (Imperial Oil and the Pembina Institute are mentioned) oppose the Canadian government's sector-by-sector approach on regulating greenhouse gas emissions, favoring carbon pricing instead. This would be part of "full-cost pricing" on air contaminants,



water use and greenhouse gas emissions that is being pushed in a new paper being released by the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy. The head of the school says that a carbon tax would allow Ottawa to cut subsidies to all forms of energy and permit the market to function.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/oil-sands-green-groups-unlikely-allies-in-push-for-carbon-tax/article2362119/>>

### **Why the Environmental Movement Is Not Winning**

A report released in late February by the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy titled *Cultivating the Grassroots: A Winning Approach for Environment and Climate Funders*, says that the environmental movement is not winning and blames the failed policies of environmental funders. They favored top-down, elite strategies and neglected to support a robust grassroots infrastructure. Despite spending \$10 billion between 2000 and 2009, they achieved relatively little.

The report recommends spending 25% of grant dollars in grassroots action. It uses the Occupy Wall Street actions and protests against the Keystone pipeline as examples of grassroots actions that worked.

<[http://www.alternet.org/environment/154290/why\\_the\\_environmental\\_movement\\_is\\_not\\_winning](http://www.alternet.org/environment/154290/why_the_environmental_movement_is_not_winning)>  
<[http://www.ncrp.org/files/publications/Cultivating\\_the\\_grassroots\\_final\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.ncrp.org/files/publications/Cultivating_the_grassroots_final_lowres.pdf)>

### **Admissibility of Climate Models as Evidence in a Court of Law**

Roy Spencer discusses whether climate models, which are the ultimate source of “evidence” of AGW, could meet the stringent guidelines that judges use when deciding whether expert testimony should be allowed in court. He refers to the Daubert standard of admissibility that about half the U.S. states rely on. This comprises five tests: (1) Empirical testing: the theory or technique must be falsifiable, refutable, and testable; (2) Subjected to peer review and publication; (3) Known or potential error rate; (4) The existence and maintenance of standards and controls concerning its operation; (5) Degree to which the theory and technique is generally accepted by a relevant scientific community.

In Dr. Spencer's view climate models do not meet tests 1 and 3. He also points out that there is no obvious “fingerprint” of human-caused warming. Natural warming from a slight change in cloud cover would look the same. He yearns for the day when the “scientific consensus” defenders are cross-examined in court; they would not be allowed to get away with demanding that they be believed just because they are experts.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/02/daubert-and-the-admissibility-of-climate-models-as-evidence-in-a-court-of-law/>>

### **Concerned Scientists Reply to Trenberth on Global Warming**

Establishment climate scientists Kevin Trenberth et al responded [FoS Extracts 2012-02-11] to the *Wall Street Journal* article *No Need to Panic about Global Warming* [FoS Extracts 2012-01-30]. Here, the authors of the latter respond to their critics. Regarding Dr. Trenberth's medical expertise analogy, they note that the patient has a say in any decision on treatment, particularly its past success rate. In the case of climate models, the latest article shows a graphical comparison of the four IPCC temperature projections to reality. Rather than depending on pompous pronouncements of national scientific academies, they should follow the motto of the oldest one, the Royal Society – *nullius in verba* (take nobody's word for it.)

The establishment's blog *RealClimate* has published its own response to the latest WSJ piece.

<[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577213244084429540.html?mod=googlene\\_ws\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577213244084429540.html?mod=googlene_ws_wsj)>

<<http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2012/02/bickmore-on-the-wsj-response/#more-11066>>

### **Judith Curry Interview: The IPCC May Have Outlived Its Usefulness**

Dr. Curry is interviewed by the blog *OilPrice.com*. In response to the first question, she takes issue with the IPCC assertion that most (>50%) of the warming in the last century is very likely (>90%) due increased greenhouse gases. Dr. Curry is pleased that solar effects on climate are now receiving increased attention and funding.

<<http://oilprice.com/The-Environment/Global-Warming/The-IPCC-May-Have-Outlived-its-Usefulness-An-Interview-with-Judith-Curry.html>>

### **The Sun is still in a Funk: Sun Spot Numbers are Dropping when They Should Be Rising**

So far Solar Cycle 24 is significantly lower in SSN than the last three cycles in addition to having a delayed start. The *WattsUpWithThat* story includes a chart showing monthly sunspot numbers from June 1749 to February 2012.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/02/the-sun-is-still-in-a-funk-sunspot-numbers-are-dropping-when-they-should-be-rising/>>

### **UAH Temperature Update for February 2012: -0.12°C**

The global average lower tropospheric temperature anomaly cooled a little more in February, 2012, again not unexpected for the current La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific Ocean.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/03/uah-global-temperature-update-for-february-2012-0-12-deg-c/>>

2012-02-17

### **Washington Post Reveals Green Crony Capitalism in the White House**

During the 2008 campaign, the venture capital industry lined up behind Barack Obama as he vowed to spur clean-technology development. Over three years the US Energy Department has given \$2.4 billion to clean energy companies in which venture capitalist and Obama fundraiser Sanjay Wagle's firm Vantage Point Venture Partners had invested. E-mails released during a congressional probe of the administration's clean tech program show that staff and advisers with links to venture firms informally advocated for some of those companies.

<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/venture-capitalists-play-key-role-in-obamas-energy-department/2011/12/30/gIQA05raER\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/venture-capitalists-play-key-role-in-obamas-energy-department/2011/12/30/gIQA05raER_story.html)>

### **German skeptics Lüning and Vahrenholt Respond to Criticism**

Fritz Vahrenholt's and Sebastian Lüning's book, *The Cold Sun* [FoS Extracts – 2012-01-30] is causing uproar in the German green establishment. One of its members, Georg Feulner of the Potsdam Institute

for Climate Impact Research was interviewed by n-tv.de where he insisted that the climate is still getting warmer and that CO<sub>2</sub> contributes more to warming than any solar effects. [There's a link to a transcript of the interview in German, but pasting the URL into Microsoft's Bing translator produces a very intelligible English version.]

In Watts Up With That Drs. Vahrenholt and Lüning reply to Dr. Feulner pointing out various sources for the recent lack of warming and noting the lack of any solar amplification in his climate models. To explain the Maunder Minimum of the late 17th century, Dr. Feulner blames it on volcanic activity. He also ignores the 10,000-year correlation between cosmic rays and temperature presented in the book.

Another Watts Up With That article discusses a story in Germany's leading daily Bilt titled the CO<sub>2</sub> Lies. The WUWT piece also contains an English version of a story by energy expert Günter Keil claiming that Germany's policy of shifting from nuclear and fossil fuels to renewable has failed.

NoTricksZone reports on a story in Die Welt covering the Vahrenholt and Lüning controversy and claiming that the IPCC has ignored an entire field of science – the impact of the sun on climate through cosmic rays and cloud formation. There is a video of interviews with Henrik Svensmark and Nir Shaviv on this solar effect.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/02/13/german-skeptics-luning-and-vahrenholt-respond-to-criticism/>>  
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/02/06/germany-in-skeptical-turmoil-on-both-climate-and-windfarms/>>  
 <<http://notrickszone.com/2012/02/11/ipcc-ignored-an-entire-field-of-science-die-welt-reports-slams-intergovernmental-panel-on-co2/>>

### **Bjørn Lomborg: Germany's Sunshine Daydream**

Mr. Lomborg says that one of the world's biggest green-energy public-policy experiments is coming to a bitter end in Germany, with important lessons for policymakers elsewhere. He points out a fundamental problem with subsidizing inefficient green technology: it is affordable only if it is done in tiny, token amounts. Instead, Germans installed 7.5 GW of photovoltaic capacity last year, more than double what the government had deemed "acceptable." Now the government is vowing to cut the subsidies and phase out support over the next five years. In the meantime, Germans will have paid \$130 billion, or about \$1,000 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced. The current price for a tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> in Europe is \$8.

<<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/lomborg81/English>>

### **EU Carbon Levy Faces Global Opposition**

A group of 25 countries, including the US, Russia, China, India and Brazil, are meeting in Moscow February 21-22 to discuss responses and possible retaliation to the European Union's levies on airline emissions which came into effect on January 1 [FoS Extracts – 2012-01-04.] One effort to defuse the conflict, favored by the US and some other countries, involves a global approach to limiting airlines' greenhouse gas emissions through the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/international-news/5001-eu-carbon-levy-faces-global-opposition.html>>

### **"FakeGate" – DeSmogBlog's Claimed Insider Leaks from the Heartland Institute**

On February 14, DeSmogBlog published what it claimed were internal documents from the Heartland Institute that "expose the heart of the climate denial machine," stating that it relied on huge funding from

US businesses, including Microsoft, Koch Industries, the parent company of Phillip Morris, RJR Tobacco and more.

In two articles Joanne Nova points out that one of the supposed Heartland documents is fake and compares Heartland's \$7 million funding with the much greater budgets for Greenpeace, WWF, Pew Charitable Trust, Sierra Club and other government-supported entities. The first JoNova article includes the Heartland Institute's response, published on February 15.

<http://www.desmogblog.com/heartland-institute-exposed-internal-documents-unmask-heart-climate-denial-machine>>

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/02/update-heartland-documents-stolen-and-key-one-is-fake-no-insider-leak/>>

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/02/logic-gate-the-smog-blog-exposes-irrational-rage-innumeracy-and-heartlands-efficient-success/>>

### **UN Chief and Aides Plan “Green Economy” Agenda for Rio+20**

Fox News claims to have a copy of a confidential memo about a closed-door retreat last October where the UN Secretary General brainstormed how the UN could benefit from a “unique opportunity” to reshape the world starting with the Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development next June. The 29-member group at the retreat is known as the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). Among the ideas discussed was to create a new body, the UN Sustainable Development Council, or give additional responsibilities to the UN Environmental Program.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/02/09/un-chief-aides-plot-green-economy-agenda-upcoming-summit/>>

<http://www.foxnews.com/interactive/world/2012/02/09/minutes-closed-door-retreat-on-rio-20-ambitions/>>

**2012-02-11**

### **Wind Energy, Noise Pollution**

The American Wind Energy Association is desperate to convince Congress to pass a multi-year extension of the tax credit that supports the industry, claiming that 37,000 jobs would be lost without it. The *National Review Online* looks beyond the subsidies to reports from five states and four countries on the health effects of the low frequency (0 to 100 Hz) noise produced by the turbines. The AWEA and its Canadian counterpart commissioned a group of doctors to review the available literature on wind turbines and noise. While the two lobby groups claimed the doctors' study showed no adverse physiological effects, the study did list a number of symptoms caused by exposure to unwanted noise.

In Canada, Ontario has become the ground zero of the fight against the wind energy sector. The *National Review* author found it easy to contact people victimized by wind turbine noise.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/blogs/print/289920>>

<http://www.thegwpf.org/international-news/4887-wind-power-firms-on-edge-us-may-cut-green-subsidies.html>>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2011/09/21/seglins-windfarms.html>>

### **The Cost of Ethanol**

Two researchers have written a report, *Impact of Canadian Ethanol on Canada's Livestock and Meat Industry*, released by the George Morris Centre. Canadian federal and provincial governments have developed policies for biofuels as part of a green fuels strategy, which has quickly created an ethanol industry supported by subsidies. These increase the price of feed grains in eastern and western Canada by \$15-20/tonne and \$5-10/tonne, respectively. The resulting costs to Canadian livestock producers are about \$130 million/year. Mandating a 10% ethanol content in gasoline will cause a serious reduction in feed availability in eastern Canada.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/01/31/the-cost-of-ethanol/>>

<[http://georgemorris.org/GMC/Publications/\\_PublicationPage.aspx?IID=423](http://georgemorris.org/GMC/Publications/_PublicationPage.aspx?IID=423)>

### **Peter Foster: Political Science at the Academies**

Lord Robert May told a journalist "I am the president of the Royal Society, and I am telling you the debate on climate change is over." Presidents of national science academies are not meant to engage in ex cathedra statements, but to promote objective research. The Global Warming Policy Foundation has published a report *Nullius in Verba: The Royal Society and Climate Change* that traces the story of the RS' campaigns of radical advocacy and media manipulation. In 2001 the RS and the Royal Society of Canada backed the IPCC as the world's most reliable source on climate science and demanded action on the Kyoto Protocol.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/02/10/peter-foster-political-science-at-the-academies/>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/science-news/4945-donna-lamframboise-the-royal-societys-joyride.html>>

### **US Meteorologists Split on AGW**

In a 2011 survey, only 19% of US meteorologists saw human influences as the sole driver of climate change. The climate change controversy has split the American Meteorological Society, which in 2007 officially concluded that global warming is occurring, exacerbated by the burning of fossil fuels. The dissident members of the AMS are practicing weather forecasters, most of whom don't mention global warming in their weathercasts, but frequently blog about it.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/02/us-climate-weather-idUSTRE81120K20120202>>

<[http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20120202/us\\_nm/us\\_climate\\_weather](http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20120202/us_nm/us_climate_weather)>

### **Trenberth et al Comment on No Need to Panic about Global Warming**

Following the article signed by 16 scientists in the *Wall Street Journal's* opinion blog [FoS Extracts 2012-01-30] establishment climatologist Kevin Trenberth wrote a rebuttal, which was endorsed by 37 of his colleagues. Dr. Trenberth's piece is an appeal to authority (e.g., most of the authors on the other side have "no expertise in climate science") and reliance on the computer models, which calculate that the missing heat must be trapped in the deep ocean. In the last paragraph he repeats the claim that 97% of climate scientists agree on AGW. (For the origin of the 97%, which is based on a sample of 75 out of 77, see FoS Extracts 2010-12-16.)

Joanne Nova puts down Dr. Trenberth's arguments in a piece titled *8 Reasons to Dump That Cheating Doctor*. The blog *Voice of America* covers both sides of the debate.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204740904577193270727472662.html>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/02/8-reasons-to-dump-that-cheating-doctor-trenberth-et-al-are-wrong-in-the-wsj/>>  
<<http://blogs.voanews.com/science-world/2012/02/11/debate-over-global-warmingclimate-change-heats-up/>>

### **Skeptics are Winning: “The Carbon Market is Dead”**

Johannes Teyssen, chief executive of Germany’s EON urged EU policy makers in Brussels to make fixes in the market saying “Let’s talk real: the ETS is bust, it’s dead. I don’t know a single person in the world that would invest a dime based on ETS signals.” Analysts have downgraded the forecast price for a tonne of carbon credits from €12 to €9 for 2012 and to €8 for 2013.

Joanne Nova considers this to be the result of a four-point “perfect storm”: (1) internet bloggers have been hammering away on what the mainstream media won’t publish regarding skeptical science; (2) the weather is cold and wet; (3) the money ran out; and (4) shale gas.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/02/we-are-winning-eh-part-4-or-so/>>

### **Judith Curry: Climate Scenarios for 2015-2050**

With a quote from the *Daily Mail* (“Nature is about to carry out a very interesting experiment”) Dr. Curry discusses scenarios based on the four major forcings: solar (S), volcanic (V), anthropogenic (A) and natural internal variability (N). There are three possible scenarios for each forcing denoted as I, II and III. In its fourth assessment report the IPCC looked at only NI-VI-SI scenarios with variations in A. Scenarios with SIII, VII or NIII would all counteract A and contribute to cooling.

Based on lack of explanation for the 1910-40 warming and the 1940s-1970s cooling, Dr. Curry is not convinced by the IPCC argument that S and N are minor noise for 20th century attribution. With changes in N and S now underway, so is nature’s experiment.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2012/01/31/climate-scenarios-2015-2050/>>

### **UAH Global Temperature Update for January 2012: –0.09°C**

The global average lower tropospheric temperature anomaly plunged last month, which is expected for a La Niña January.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/02/uah-global-temperature-update-for-january-2012-0-09-deg-c/>>

**2012-01-30**

### **UN’s Rio+20 Summit Excludes Climate Change from the Agenda**

June 1992 marked the UN Conference on Environment and Development (also known as the Earth Summit), led by Maurice Strong and held in Rio de Janeiro. Out of that event came the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the IPCC, the Kyoto Protocol, etc. However, when delegates gather in Rio next June to celebrate the Earth Summit’s 20th anniversary, the climate will be missing from the agenda. Facing resistance from the US and China to curbs on greenhouse gas emissions, organizers are proposing to focus on sustainable development. Instead of trying to save the planet, world leaders and delegates will discuss jobs, energy, food, water and disasters.

<<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL5E8CO3E720120124?sp=true>>  
 <[http://www.nrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=75402:rio20-summit-shifts-from-climate-change-as-talks-open-in-new-york-&catid=25:property&Itemid=655](http://www.nrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75402:rio20-summit-shifts-from-climate-change-as-talks-open-in-new-york-&catid=25:property&Itemid=655)>  
 <[http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20120125/ap\\_on\\_bi\\_ge/un\\_un\\_rio\\_plus20](http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20120125/ap_on_bi_ge/un_un_rio_plus20)>

### **Pew Poll: Global Warming Fades Away**

This month the *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press* released a poll ranking 22 public priorities for Americans. The top four were the economy, jobs, terrorism and the deficit. Ranking dead last was global warming.

<<http://www.people-press.org/2012/01/23/public-priorities-deficit-rising-terrorism-slipping/?src=prc-headline>>

### **Ökowatch Interviews Donna Laframboise**

*Ökowatch* is a German blog that “strives to have environmental demands made by governments and non-governmental organizations viewed critically, free of ideology, in order to determine the impacts these requests would have on people, society and the environment.” Here, it interviews Donna Laframboise about her critique of the IPCC, *The Delinquent Teenager Who Was Mistaken for the World’s Top Climate Expert*. Notable quote from the interview: “First and foremost, therefore, the IPCC serves UN bureaucrats – bureaucrats who decided more than 20 years ago that emissions reduction was required.” A German translation of the book is coming out this year.

<<http://oekowatch.org/index.php/en/component/content/article/605-the-ippc-the-delinquent-teenager-who-was-mistaken-for-the-worlds-top-climate-expert-interview-with-donna-laframboise>>

### **Top German Environmentalist Turns Climate Skeptic**

Fritz Vahrenholt, one of the fathers of Germany’s environmental movement, no longer trusts the forecasts of the IPCC. His forthcoming book, *Die kalte Sonne* (The Cold Sun) has climbed to No. 4 on the Amazon-Germany bestseller list under the category of environment and ecology. The book is the latest summary of the state of climate science and cites more than 800 sources, many of them peer-reviewed papers that appeared after the IPCC’s 2007 report.

Prof. Vahrenholt says that doubt came two years ago when he was an expert reviewer for an IPCC report on renewable energy. He discovered numerous errors and was horrified by what he had found. Adding 10 years of stagnant temperatures, failed predictions, Climategate emails and discussions with other skeptical scientists convinced him that he “couldn’t take it any more” and he had to write the book.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/01/30/german-fear-of-warming-plummets-yet-to-be-published-skeptical-book-climbs-to-amazon-de-no-4/>>

### **Global Cooling Coming?**

David Archibald [see FoS Extracts 2011-03-23] author of *The Past and Future of Climate*, relies on solar cycles to make climate predictions. He argues that, as solar cycles lengthen and weaken, the world gets cooler. Normal cycles are 11 years, but the current one (No. 24, which began on January 10, 2008) may be as long as 17. Using historical data for the US, Mr. Archibald predicts a 2.1°C decline over Cycle 24 and a further 2.8°C over Cycle 25.



A map of Canada in the first article, extrapolating from conditions in the last cooling event 40 years ago, shows that a 1°C decrease would reduce the frost-free period for wheat by 15 days, and a 2°C reduction would not allow the wheat crop to ripen before first frost.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/01/global-cooling-coming-archibald-uses-solar-and-surface-data-to-predict-4-9c-fall/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/01/25/first-estimate-of-solar-cycle-25-amplitudesmallest-in-over-300-years/>>

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2093264/Forget-global-warming--Cycle-25-need-worry-NASA-scientists-right-Thames-freezing-again.html>>

### **No Need to Panic about Global Warming**

In a signed article appearing in the *Wall Street Journal's* opinion blog, 16 scientists say that there's no compelling scientific argument for drastic action to "decarbonize" the economy. The scientists point out the lack of warming for over 10 years and the smaller-than-predicted (by the IPCC's models) warming over the past 22 years. They recall how the climate establishment got Chris de Freitas, editor of Climate Research, fired in 2003 for publishing a paper with the politically-incorrect (but scientifically-correct) conclusion that the recent warming is not unusual.

<[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204301404577171531838421366.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204301404577171531838421366.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)>

**2012-01-22**

### **The Canadian Climate Paradox**

Donna Laframboise contrasts the federal government's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol and the Minister of Natural Resources' attack on green activists, with the government's entrenched idea that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are dangerous – because the IPCC says so. Even the Alberta government believes that the IPCC includes "more than 3,000 scientists from around the world," and accepts the panel's findings and the need to reduce emissions. As Ms. Laframboise notes from her book on the IPCC, for the 2007 report there were 450 lead authors and 800 contributing authors, but only a few dozen individuals wrote the particular chapter attributing climate change to human emissions. (Fifty-three authors and five reviewers explicitly endorsed Working Group 1, Chapter 9.)

<<http://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2012/01/16/the-canadian-climate-paradox/>>

<<http://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2010/06/11/how-many-ipcc-scientists-say-so/>>

### **Vivian Krause: Oil Sands Money Trail**

Ms. Krause has spent five years following the money and the science behind environmental campaigns. Her research is based on US tax returns because the US Internal Revenue Service requires greater disclosure from non-profits than does the Canada Revenue Agency. Since 2000, US foundations have given at least \$300 million to various environmental organizations and campaigns in Canada, especially in BC. In 2010 Tides USA made grants to 36 groups for something called the "Tar Sands Campaign." The top recipient from this was Corporate Ethics International, which runs Rethink Alberta, a campaign to pressure the Alberta government by disparaging Alberta tourism.

In a related story Lawrence Solomon describes how the environmental funders took the steering wheel away from the environmentalists, allowing the funders to set the agenda. The number one issue for the US funders is global warming.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/01/17/vivian-krause-oil-sands-money-trail/>>

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/01/20/lawrence-solomon-how-u-s-charities-fund-greens/>>

### **Climate Change Skepticism Seeps into Science Classrooms**

The *Los Angeles Times* is distressed to discover that the climate change issue has become so politicized that skepticism of the “broad scientific consensus” – including telling both sides of the story – has seeped into classrooms. The newspaper links skeptics to conservative Christians who attack evolution.

The blog *Resilient Earth* points to a recent editorial in *Nature* urging scientists to put 2011 behind them and to make the messages from the observations and the models as vivid as possible. *Science*, in an online article titled *Education Advocates Enter the Climate Tempest*, poses the question: “Is climate change education the new evolution, threatened in US school districts and state education standards by well-organized interest groups?”

<<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-climate-change-school-20120116,0,2808837.story>>

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/climate-skepticism-new-creationism>>

### **Global Lukewarming: A Great Intellectual Year in 2011**

In this article, Chip Knappenberger describes “lukewarmers” as scientists and others who believe the balance of evidence is between that of the climate alarmists and the ultraskeptics. Using the 1979-2011 period, during which both surface and lower atmospheric (from satellites) temperatures are available, he finds that world’s climate is warming at a rate that lies in the lower half of the IPCC’s projected rate for the 21st century. In fact over 30 years, the world has warmed only 2/3 as much as the IPCC’s models indicate it should have. Mr. Knappenberger concludes that, based on research published in two papers from 2011, the models are on the verge of failing to match reality. Two other papers from last year cast doubt on the IPCC’s estimate of climate sensitivity (how much the world’s temperature would increase from a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.)

The release of the Climategate 2.0 emails show that the deck is stacked against publication of research results critical of the established scientific consensus. Thus the ones that do make it through to publication and chink away at the icon of alarming climate change, are likely on to something.

<<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/01/lukewarmering2011/#more-18320>>

### **Germany's Solar Fiasco**

As *Der Spiegel* re-evaluates Germany’s blind faith in the sun, it notes that the only thing missing is the sunshine. For weeks the country’s 1.1 million solar power systems has generated almost no electricity, due to bad weather, short days and overcast skies. To avert power shortages Germany had to import large amounts of electricity from France and the Czech Republic. In 2011 solar farm operators and homeowners with solar roof panels collected €8 billion in subsidies.

In a related story *Business Week* reports that solar stocks plunged around the world after German Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen announced that he planned to reduce the feed-in tariffs for solar

power every month, rather than twice a year as now. He wants to curb an “unacceptable” surge in installations last year (7.5 GW of panels installed exceeded the 3 GW acceptable limit.)

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,809439,00.html>>

<<http://news.businessweek.com/article.asp?documentKey=1376-LY3AJ31A74E901-703SIP1EKP1CK27FVGL5LB0GP8>>

### **Environmentalism and the Leisure Class**

Author William Tucker calls President Obama’s rejection of the Keystone XL Pipeline crucial in protecting his environmental flank, which had drawn a line in the sand over the issue. This reveals an ugly little secret about environmentalism – it appeals to people already comfortable with the present state of affairs, and for whom the main danger is that too many other people will achieve what they already have. Only the truly affluent can be concerned about the environment to the exclusion of everything else.

Mr. Tucker points to an article in *Forbes*, which posits that Keystone is the dividing line between the “two Americas”: the knowledge-based elites of the East and West Coasts in their media, non-profit and academic homelands and the blue-collar workers in-between, laboring in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, power production and the exigencies of material life.

<<http://spectator.org/archives/2012/01/20/environmentalism-and-the-leisu>>

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/joelkotkin/2012/01/18/in-keystone-xl-rejection-we-see-two-americas-in-unnecessary-war-with-each-other/>>

2012-01-17

### **Ottawa Backtracks on Coal Emissions**

The federal government is offering the provinces a way to avoid tough new regulations that would eventually force power companies to shut down the country’s fleet of coal-fired power plants [see FoS Extracts 2011-09-03.] The regulations on coal-fired power plants were touted as evidence of the government’s seriousness about cutting greenhouse gas emissions. They would have prohibited the construction of new plants after 2015 unless they included carbon capture and storage. As well, they would have required closure of plants after 45 years of operation.

Following warnings about driving up power prices to consumers, the government is now willing to cede regulation of power-sector emissions to the provinces. The latter will be allowed to set overall emissions targets, rather than limits on each power facility.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/ottawa-backtracks-on-coal-emissions/article2293096/>>

### **Former MP Takes Canadian Government to Court for Leaving Kyoto Protocol**

A group led by a former Block Québécois MP Daniel Turp has presented a motion in Federal Court to contest the government’s decision to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol. The group, which includes university students and environmentalists, is asking the court to determine whether the withdrawal violates Canada’s international commitments.

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ex-bloc-mp-takes-tories-to-court-for-ditching-kyoto-climate-deal/article2302120/>>

<[http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20120116/wl\\_canada\\_nm/canada\\_us\\_point\\_carbon](http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20120116/wl_canada_nm/canada_us_point_carbon)>

### **Obama Discovers Natural Gas**

A *Wall Street Journal* editorial notes that, for the first time, the White House has issued a press release favorably mentioning the Marcellus Shale gas reservoir below Pennsylvania, West Virginia and other Northeastern states. This endorsement runs against every energy policy pursued by the Obama Administration for the past three years. The WSJ wonders if this new policy is a one-year wonder, and Mr. Obama will revert to form if he wins next November.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/opinion-pros-a-cons/4778-wsj-obama-discovers-natural-gas.html>>

### **Growing Doubts in Europe on Future of Carbon Storage**

Two carbon capture and storage projects in Germany and Britain were canceled in the last quarter, and many more of the remaining projects will probably share the same fate this year. The cause is a mix of regulatory objections, lack of money, public opposition to possible geological risks and broader uncertainty about strategies to slow climate change. By 2020 Europe will have a most six, and more probably four, of the 12 demonstration plants that were supposed to be running by 2015.

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/17/technology/17iht-rbog-ccs17.html?\\_r=1&src=busln](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/17/technology/17iht-rbog-ccs17.html?_r=1&src=busln)>

### **Global Warming to Save the Planet?**

An international team of scientists headed by Luke Skinner from Cambridge University has published a paper in *Nature Geoscience* that forecasts a new Ice Age beginning sometime in the next 1,500 years. However, the usual ice-age effects in the northern hemisphere won't happen this time because of rising levels of CO<sub>2</sub> offsetting the natural forces.

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-16439807>>

<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/01/09/global-warming-to-save-the-planet/>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/science-news/4714-human-co2-emissions-could-avert-the-next-ice-age-study-says.html>>

### **Scafetta: IPCC Warming Claim is “Erroneous...IPCC Projections for the 21st Century Cannot Be Trusted”**

A new paper in the *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar Terrestrial Physics* by Nicola Scafetta compares the performance of a recently-proposed empirical climate model based on astronomical harmonics against general circulation models used by the IPCC. According to the paper's abstract, "... the GCMs fail to reproduce the major decadal and multidecadal oscillations found in the global surface temperature record from 1850 to 2011. On the contrary, the proposed harmonic model (which uses cycles with 9.1, 10–10.5, 20–21, 60–62 years) is found to well reconstruct the observed climate oscillations from 1850 to 2011, and it is shown to be able to forecast the climate oscillations from 1950 to 2011 using the data covering the period 1850–1950, and vice versa.”

As a result, Dr. Scafetta concludes “Consequently, the IPCC projections for the 21st century cannot be trusted.”

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/01/05/scafetta-ipcc-warming-claim-is-erroneous-ipcc-projections-for-the-21st-century-cannot-be-trusted/>>

<[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/reprint/astronomical\\_harmonics\\_testing.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/reprint/astronomical_harmonics_testing.html)>

### **Blockbuster: Ocean Acidification Happens All the Time — Naturally**

According to the models, human emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are projected to acidify the world's oceans by 0.3 pH units over the next 90 years, which would be “catastrophic” for corals, clams and other creatures that make calcium carbonate skeletons and shells. A game-changing paper, *High-Frequency Dynamics of Ocean pH: A Multi-Ecosystem Comparison*, finds that, far from being stable, pH in 15 spots all over the world are constantly changing by 0.024 to 1.430 pH units/month. The authors draw two conclusions: (1) most non-open ocean sites vary a lot, and (2) and some spots vary so much they reach the “extreme” pHs forecast for the doomsday future scenarios on a daily basis. Open water areas in the Southern Ocean experience seasonal shifts of 0.3 to 0.5 pH units between austral summer and winter.

A recent experiment in the Mediterranean, reported in *Nature Climate Change*, reported that corals and mollusks transported to lower pH sites were able to calcify and grow at faster than normal rates when exposed to high CO<sub>2</sub> levels.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/01/scripps-blockbuster-ocean-acidification-happens-all-the-time-naturally/#more-19763>>

2012-01-04

### **Europe's Green Airline War**

Effective January 1 all flights, regardless of nationality, to and from Europe are subject to a new rule on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The rule allows airlines 85% of their 2010 greenhouse gas emissions, but forces them to buy credits for anything above that. Then they will be required to reduce emissions 3% after 2012 and 5% after 2013. Airlines that refuse to participate will be subject to fines of €100 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>. The US, Canada, Brazil, India, China and 21 other governments challenged the rule at the European Court of Justice, and were supported by the International Air Transport Association, but lost. Airlines argued that the EU plan will cost the industry roughly \$1.3 billion in 2012, increasing to \$5.2 billion by 2020.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill prohibiting US airlines from participating in the scheme, and the Secretary of State threatened “appropriate action.” Retaliatory talk is also coming from China, India and Russia.

<<http://business.financialpost.com/2011/12/21/europes-top-court-rejects-airline-emissions-challenge/>>

<<http://business.financialpost.com/2011/12/20/canada-vows-to-keep-up-air-emissions-battle/>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/international-news/4653-europes-green-airline-war.html>>

<<http://www.hindustantimes.com/News-Feed/SectorsAviation/EU-carbon-tax-stern-govt-summons-European-airlines/Article1-790253.aspx>>

<<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/business/article/eu-unyielding-on-airline-carbon-rules-despite-us-pressure/>>

<<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j1B1fEInvoGnuYNH355yqn3Jmngw?docId=CNG.a8635b15b68bf9aeb87b85f601aa964d.1c1>>

### **Solar Mass Extinction Accelerating**

BP, which once promised to move “beyond petroleum,” has axed its solar power business saying that it “can’t make any money” from selling panels, while spending \$20 billion annually on oil and gas

developments. The cause of BP Solar's demise is the plunging value of solar panels, the result of low-cost competition from China.

According to a Reuters article published by the *Global Warming Policy Foundation*, the global solar industry, which has seen annual growth of 30% over the past decade, is facing a brutal shakeout. A massive glut of panels and huge excess production capacity drove prices down by 40% last year (from \$1.60/watt to \$1.00/watt.) Nevertheless, a new breed of investors, such as Warren Buffet, Google Inc. and TransCanada Corp. are moving into solar power production.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/dec/21/bp-axe-solar-power-business>>  
 <<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2011/12/21/beyond-solar/>>  
 <<http://www.thegwpf.org/energy-news/4623-green-mass-extinction.html>>  
 <<http://nlpc.org/stories/2012/01/04/more-taxpayer-guaranteed-solar-job-losses-2011-closes>>

### **Criminalizing Canada: German Environmental Chief Wants Canada in the Dock**

Hubert Weiger, Chairman of the powerful German environmental group *Bund für Natur Deutschland*, wants the UN to start a breach-of-contract process against Canada for backing out of the Kyoto Protocol, and the German government to apply pressure. Against financial evidence to the contrary, Herr Weiger claims that “climate protection is a central innovation driver for the economy and creates considerably more jobs than it destroys.”

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/01/03/criminalizing-canada-german-environmental-chief-wants-canada-on-the-dock-and-germany-to-bully-the-world/>>

### ***Der Spiegel*: The Ground Zero of Climate Change is Becoming Green – Expanding Sahara is a Myth**

According to the “experts” in their air-conditioned offices, climate change because of man is causing more death and drought, especially in Africa. *Der Spiegel* interviewed Chris Reij of the University of Amsterdam who has been visiting and documenting “the greening of the Sahel Zone” for decades. The 2:48 video of the interview is in German, but the *NoTricksZone* article has translated the important conclusions.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2012/01/03/der-spiegel-the-ground-zero-of-climate-change-is-becoming-green-expanding-sahara-is-a-myth/>>

### **Dying Green Movement Faces Media Drought**

*The Daily Climate*, the mission of which is “... to increase public understanding of climate disruption, including its scope and scale, potential solutions and the political processes that impede or advance them,” reports that media coverage of climate change continued to fall in 2011, 20% down from 2010 and 42% below the peak of 2009. This decline occurred despite “bouts of extreme weather across the globe,” Australia's approval of a carbon tax, the US presidential election and a Congressional inquiry into the Solyndra collapse.

<<http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2012/01/climate-coverage-2011>>

### **Even the Warmists Don't Believe in Global Warming**

Writing in *Forbes*, Louis Woodhill attacks the Progressives' argument that ordinary people should surrender freedom by handing money and power to unelected and unaccountable "experts" like the people at the Durban climate conference. Mr. Woodhill agrees that the climate is changing, as it always has, and like all change it is both good and bad. The only proof that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the burning of fossil fuels cause climate change comes from computer models, which have been invalidated by events they did not accurately predict. Mr. Woodhill considers geoengineering a far more logical response to global warming than efforts to curb CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as (a) it could cool the Earth at much less cost, (b) would work regardless of what was really causing global temperatures to rise, and (c) does not require people of the world to surrender their personal and economic freedom. Despite all this the Progressives are going all out to oppose experiments in geoengineering. They would rather be given taxpayer money to hold lavish conferences in places like Durban.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/louiswoodhill/2011/12/28/even-the-warmists-dont-believe-in-global-warming/>

### **Roy Spencer Addresses Criticisms of the UAH Temperature Dataset at 1/3 Century**

The University of Alabama at Huntsville's satellite-based global temperature dataset has reached 1/3 of a century in length, which UAH marked with a press release. The latter noted that the Earth's atmosphere warmed by 0.45°C over the period 1978-2011, which is at the lower end of what the IPCC computer models said the atmosphere should have warmed. This resulted in a *Washington Post* article by the Capital Weather Gang critical of satellite measurements and claims in the press release.

In Dr. Spencer's blog, he and John Christy respond to the criticisms. They note that the UAH data show that upper atmospheric warming is less than the surface, something with which no model agrees (all models suggest that warming should be amplified with altitude.) They point out that problems discovered with the instruments have been published and the resulting data corrected. Also, it is not possible to identify the human contribution to global warming – many papers have claimed that the evidence is consistent with human-caused warming while neglecting to point out that it is also consistent with the naturally-occurring kind.

The UAH global temperature anomaly for December 2011 was +0.13°C, almost unchanged from November (+0.12°C.)

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2011/12/addressing-criticisms-of-the-uah-temperature-dataset-at-13-century/>

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/01/uah-global-temperature-update-for-dec-2011-0-13-deg-c/>

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