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2013-12-21

For Global Warming Campaigners, 2013 Was The Year From Hell

As Lawrence Solomon puts it: “2013 marks the 17th year of no warming on the planet. Almost everything that could go wrong did go wrong for the cause of global warming.” These include ice growth in both polar regions, as well as colder weather between the poles. The *Economist*, *Reuters* and the *Telegraph* admitted that the science was not settled, with the *Economist* mocking the scientists’ models by putting them on “negative watch.”

Businesses banking on global warming (solar panel and wind turbine manufacturers) faced layoffs and bankruptcies, Germany fired up the first of ten new coal plants, of which 1200 are in the works worldwide. But the fossil-fuel darling is shale oil and gas, with the UK and China deciding to join the shale revolution.

Politically, January 1, 2013 marked the start of Phase 2 of the Kyoto Protocol, but with the departure of Canada and Russia, the protocol covers only 15% of global emissions. In a referendum on climate change, Australia elected a climate-skeptic government, whose first order of business was to repeal the country’s carbon tax.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/12/19/lawrence-solomon-for-global-warming-believers-2013-was-the-year-from-hell/>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/lawrence-solomon-global-warming-campaigners-2013-year-hell/>>

Ontario Tilts against Wind Turbines as Costs Soar

This *Star* article looks at a report by global consulting firm IHS-CERA titled *Too Much, Too Fast — The Pace of Greening the Ontario Power System*. Over the past decade the Ontario government rapidly signed contracts for 10,000 MW of wind and solar power, far exceeding the coal capacity it was intended to replace, and people believed that renewable power was a direct substitute for conventional power. But, as the report states: “... wind conditions tend to produce power *least* when consumers want power *most*.”

“Lessons from the Ontario power system provide valuable insights,” the consultants write. “Trying to do too much too fast will inevitably result in cost escalation that . . . drives monthly power bills beyond politically acceptable levels. The unintended consequence is political backlash.”

<http://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2013/12/10/ontario_tilts_against_wind_turbines_as_costs_spiral_cohn.html>

Environmentalists for a Foreign Agenda

Lawrence Solomon points out an asymmetry in how US and Canadian foundations participate in each other country’s political process. Multi-billion dollar activist foundations in the US, built of fortunes from the Fords and Rockefellers, the Hewletts and Packards, dwarf anything that exists in Canada. They act in concert, deciding among themselves what the priorities for the US and beyond should be, which includes routinely trying to influence Canadian policy. On the other hand, Canadian foundations attempting to do the same would run afoul of the *Foreign Agents Registration Act*, designed to ensure that Americans are informed about the source of information and the identity of persons attempting to influence US public opinion, policy and laws.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/12/12/lawrence-solomon-environmentalists-for-a-foreign-agenda/>>

An Amazing Fraud by an Architect of the US Government's Climate Change Policies

EPA employee John Beale bilked taxpayers out of almost \$900,000 by pretending to be a CIA agent, and thus was paid for absences while on imaginary missions for "Langley." Mr. Beale was one of the EPA's most highly-paid officials, employed in the agency's Office of Air and Radiation, which develops policies and regulations related to air pollution and climate change. The previous head of OAR was Gina McCarthy, now the EPA's Administrator, who supervised and, in staff bulletins, praised Mr. Beale while he was pulling off his fraud. After pleading guilty, Mr. Beale was sentenced to 32 months in federal prison.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/john-beales-epa-amazing-fraud-architect-government-climate-policies/>>
>
<<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303773704579266022892025230>>

National Renewable Energy Standard: Why Raise Electricity Prices?

Two representatives have introduced the *National Renewable Electricity Act of 2013* into the US House of Representative. It mandates that all US retail electrical suppliers buy an increasing amount (6% in 2014, rising to 25% by 2025) of electricity from renewable energy sources, or pay fines for the shortfall. The sponsors claim that their act: "... will help create good middle class jobs, cut pollution and reduce our dependence on foreign oil—all while saving consumers money on their utilities."

As this article points out, forcing customers to buy more expensive renewable energy does not realize any savings. For example, the recently completed California Valley Solar Ranch in San Luis Obispo County covers a 1,500 acres, more than 100 times the area of a typical natural gas-fired power plant, but produces an average output of only about 55 MW, less than one-tenth the output of a typical gas-fired plant. The cost for that renewable energy production is an exorbitant \$1.6 billion. The plant's customers will pay 15-18¢/kWh, four times the current California wholesale price.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/19/national-renewable-electricity-standard-why-raise-electricity-prices/>>
<<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/dec/18/national-renewable-electricity-standard-why-raise-/>>

UK Parliament: IPCC 5th Assessment Review

The UK House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee has invited submissions to an inquiry on the IPCC 5th Assessment with a deadline of December 10 [FoS Extracts 2013-11-02.] Judith Curry's blog includes a list of the inquiry's questions and a link to the 41 submissions received by the deadline. One of these (3945) was submitted by Friends of Science and another (4949) was by FoS Director Neil Hutton.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/12/18/uk-parliament-ipcc-5th-assessment-review/>>
< <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/WrittenEvidence.svc/EvidenceHtml/3945> >
<<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/WrittenEvidence.svc/EvidenceHtml/4249> >

EPA, Climatology and the Courts: The Issue Is Corrupted, Not the Courts

Tim Ball explains why challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's attempts to control CO₂ emissions before the US Supreme Court raises serious problems. (The present appeal deals with whether the EPA can apply its regulation of vehicle emissions to stationary sources.) First, courts find it difficult to make judgements on scientific issues, and tend to defer to consensus,

especially when “experts” present contradictory evidence. Secondly, in an earlier case the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA must control CO₂ as a harmful substance using administrative law.

Dr. Balls’ advice on the best way to pursue the present case is not to argue the science, but to show that the IPCC, on which the EPA relies, has become corrupted by its political agenda.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/19/epa-climatology-and-the-courts-the-issue-is-corrupted-not-poor-science/>>

Fraser Institute: The Science of Global Warming

The November-December issue of the *Fraser Forum* has an article on page 20, *The “science” of global warming, part 1*, by Kenneth Green. In it he analyzes the IPCC’s latest climate assessment, AR5, in particular the Summary for Policymakers (SPM), with its claim of 95% confidence that humans are responsible for more than half the warming since 1950. But as AR5 itself states: “Each key finding is based on an author team’s evaluation of associated evidence and agreement.”

As Mr. Green puts it: “The media treats the claims in the SPM as though they were the results of rigorous studies subject to statistical testing, rather than bother readers with the reality that this is really just a large, highly selective literature review in which subjective evaluations by a government-picked group of climate experts rule the day.”

<<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/fraserforum-november-december-2013.pdf>>

Der Spiegel: Renewable Energy Has Not Reduced Emissions in Europe by a Single Gram

According to this article, “All of the wind turbines, rooftop solar panels, hydroelectric and biogas plants in Germany have not reduced CO₂ emissions in Europe by a single gram. On the contrary, they have helped lower the price of emissions allowances on the European carbon market - much to the delight of Europe’s dirtiest industries.” This is because with each new solar panel and each additional wind turbine, more coal is automatically burned.

<<http://www.epaw.org/documents.php?lang=en&article=in25>>
<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/commentary-why-germany-is-waging-its-green-revolution-wrong-a-929693.html>>

China’s Renewables Industry Headed for Collapse

As governments in the West cut many of the subsidies that made solar power attractive, China’s massively overbuilt solar panel sector has crashed. There, producers are suffering from negative profit margins, soaring debt levels and idle factories. To save the renewables industry, and to save face, China’s central planners have switched from subsidizing suppliers by subsidizing demand by mandating local power producers to meet green targets in the domestic market. Thus Chinese consumers will pay the price in more expensive and less reliable power.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/chinas-renewables-industry-headed-collapse/>>
<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/12/09/why-chinas-renewables-industry-is-headed-for-collapse/>>

Carbon Copy

The *Economist* notes that, while Europe's emissions trading system - the world's largest - collapsed last April and the Australian government is killing off that country's fledgling market, large US companies use "internal carbon prices" for planning purposes. Prices range from \$6-7/tonne at Microsoft to \$60/tonne at ExxonMobil. The price range reflects the productive life of assets that may be affected by green policies resulting from future legislation.

<<http://www.economist.com/news/business/21591601-some-firms-are-preparing-carbon-price-would-make-big-difference-carbon-copy>>

Marc Morano's Interview at COP19

At the Warsaw climate conference, *Climate Depot's* Mr. Morano had a 10-minute interview in the UN's "Climate Change Studio." His answers to a series of probing questions were articulate and well reasoned, dealing with, among other things, the UN's political processes, the alleged consensus of scientists, attempts to exploit Typhoon Haiyan's devastations of the Philippines and "what if you're wrong."

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/2013/12/19/watch-now-climate-depot-debates-global-warming-on-un-tv-at-un-summit-un-host-to-morano-there-is-no-need-to-shout-morano-the-un-ipcc-is-first-and-foremost-a-political-process-not-scientif/>>

Wind Turbine Noise: The 1234ever Lament

If you've ever wondered what it's like to live with the constant noise and flicker from an industrial wind turbine, this 3-minute video, produced by residents of Ontario's Prince Edward County shows you. "The 1234ever Lament" asks why Ontario continues to use wind turbines that generate electricity that is not needed, and that have a negative impact on rural neighbourhoods while causing electricity bills to increase for everyone.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/12/16/wind-turbine-noise-the-1234ever-lament/>>

Green Energy Kills Eagles

The new official policy of the US Interior Department is that it has to kill eagles in order to save them. On December 6 the department announced that it would grant some wind energy companies permits that will allow them to kill or injure bald and golden eagles for up to 30 years without penalty. This is something the industry had been lobbying for, and the American Wind Energy Association declared that it is "not a program to kill eagles" but rather "about conservation." The AWEA's press release repeated Big Wind's Big Lie, calling wind energy "one of the cheapest, fastest and most readily scalable ways available now to address climate change."

Avian environmental groups are outraged, but there is silence from the WWF and Greenpeace.

<<http://www.nationalreview.com/nro-energy/365800/green-energy-kills-eagles-robert-bryce>>
<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/12/ok-to-kill-endangered-birds-yes-if-you-are-a-windfarm-greens-seem-to-be-fine-with-that/>>

IPCC Spin Translated

A first order draft of the IPCC's Synthesis Report has been leaked, part of which deals with the plateau, pause or hiatus in warming, which the IPCC can no longer ignore. The report uses keyword phrases that are technically correct, while not stating the obvious. Joanne Nova provides helpful translations of the IPCC-speak into plain English.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/12/ipcc-spin-translated-between-the-lines-in-their-leaked-synopsis-97-of-models-fail/>>

2013-12-08

Ontario Wind Turbine Makers Ponder Future without Domestic Content

Wind Power Monthly has a downbeat article on the fallout from the recent WTO ruling against the domestic content provisions of Ontario's *Green Energy Act*. A number of manufacturers were lured by the prospects of a captive market into setting up shop in the province. Siemens (blades), CS Wind (towers), Enercon (converters and control panels), Repower Systems (blades) moved into Ontario, created manufacturing facilities and now face uncertain times. However, wind project developers and lenders, no longer having to spend hours on the meticulous details of domestic content requirements, welcome the WTO decision.

<<http://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1222606/ontario-ponders-future-without-local-content>>

Ontario Government's Long-term Energy Plan: Rates Up 45% over Five Years

The Ontario government announced its new long-term energy plan, one that shows the average monthly residential bill rising from \$125/month now to \$178/month in five years, a 45% increase. The energy minister blamed the previous government, which left office in 2003, for an "energy deficit." This deficit, he claimed, forced the present government to spend \$32 billion on new "cleaner" generation, as well as on transmission and distribution networks.

Ontario expects to have half of its energy generated by renewable sources, such as wind and solar, by 2025 but will phase them in over a longer period than anticipated in its 2010 plan.

<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/politics/archives/2013/12/20131202-135927.html>>
 <<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/straighttalk/archives/2013/12/20131202-194426.html>>
 <<http://www.nationalpost.com/m/wp/blog.html?b=fullcomment.nationalpost.com%2F2013%2F12%2F03%2Fkelly-mcparland-mike-harris-is-responsible-for-everything-bad-that-happens-to-ontarios-energy-minister>>
 <<http://www.theobserver.ca/2013/12/03/no-surprise-in-higher-electricity-rates>>

An Ill Wind: Windfarm Victims Are Talking

In this seven-minute trailer of a proposal for a one-hour television documentary, family physician Nina Pierpont interviews people living next to wind turbines about their symptoms. These include lack of sleep, pressure in their ears, pulsation and vibration in their internal organs or chest, migraines. These symptoms abate promptly when the victims go away or the turbines are still. In their houses people, and in the fields cattle are affected by stray voltage from the underground power lines from the turbines.

<<http://www.epaw.org/multimedia.php?lang=en&article=a iw>>

US Funding for War on Canadian Oil

Vivian Krause reports that, for more than a decade the Tar Sands Campaign, funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Oak Foundation, the Sea Change Foundation, the Tides Foundation and other charitable foundations, most of which

are based in California, have provided at least \$75 million to thwart the development and export of Canadian oil.

Between June and October of this year, Gary D. Schwarz, the interim CEO of Tides USA, sent covering letters for 70 payments, totalling \$3.2 million, to 45 organizations in Canada, the US and Europe, which Ms. Krause unearthed using Google. She describes selected recipients and the purposes for which the payments were to be used: to oppose pipelines and “tar sands” development.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/11/29/vivian-krause-new-u-s-funding-for-the-war-on-canadian-oil/>>

David Suzuki: Environmentalism Has Failed

That’s the title of a *Maclean’s* article on Dr. Suzuki, describing how he lost faith in a movement he helped create. As Tim Ball points out in this article, the age of eco-bullying is ending, and Dr. Suzuki is blaming those who are not listening to him for damage to the environment and the climate. For example, he called for politicians who resisted his demands for action on climate change to be jailed. Dr. Suzuki set up the David Suzuki Foundation to campaign on environmental issues in deceptive or incomplete ways, and through which *DeSmogBlog* was set up. Despite his attacks on global warming, Dr. Suzuki’s refusal to debate or even answer questions is legendary.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/07/the-effects-of-environmentalist-and-climate-alarmist-crying-wolf-begin-to-appear/>>

Blaming the Developed World for the Forces of Nature

Tom Harris and Madhav Khandekar describe how bad science is used to put rich nations on the hook for trillions in climate liabilities. In Warsaw, delegates at the UN climate conference agreed to divert \$100 billion/year into the Green Climate Fund, to help developing nations “take action on climate change,” starting in 2014. In addition they agreed to establishment of a mechanism to required rich countries to compensate developing countries for the impact of weather events that are supposedly the fault of the rich countries.

As the authors point out, even the IPCC agrees that there is no convincing relationship between warming over the past 100 years and increases in extreme events. At the forthcoming UN negotiations they suggest our negotiators introduce the findings of real science. Otherwise we could be responsible for trillions of dollars in compensation for natural phenomena that impact rich and poor nations alike.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/04/harris-and-khandekar-blaming-the-developed-world-for-the-forces-of-nature/>>

World Coal: UN Climate Chief “Ignoring Reality”

During the Warsaw climate summit, UNFCCC chief Christina Figueres gave a speech to a high-level coal industry event in the same city. In the speech she told the audience: “coal must change rapidly and dramatically for everyone’s sake,” and called for the closure of all low-efficiency subcritical plants, a roll out of carbon capture and storage technology and a collective decision to leave most coal reserves in the ground.

The head of the World Coal Association equated Ms. Figueres’ call for the closure of older coal power stations to telling her home country of Costa Rica it could no longer have access to

electricity, saying “to suggest that you can close all subcritical [coal-fired] plants tomorrow totally ignores reality.”

Donna Laframboise covered the coal speech. In her opinion Ms. Figueres, the UN bureaucrat, is a “hyper-privileged” individual who demands that one-third of the world’s electrical capacity be mothballed because it doesn’t meet her pie-in-the-sky standards. Ms. Laframboise also refers to a *National Post* article in which she argues that the extreme anti-coal stance of UN officials and green activists harms both people and the environment.

<<http://www.rtcc.org/2013/12/02/world-coal-un-climate-chief-christiana-figueres-totally-ignores-reality/>>

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/11/27/that-silly-coal-speech/>>

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/12/04/that-silly-coal-speech-part-2/>>

German Scientists Predict Global Cooling this Century

Two teams of German scientists have published separate papers contending that two natural cycles will combine to lower global temperatures throughout the 21st Century. The first is an approximate 200-year solar cycle, and the second an approximate 65-year cycle of the Atlantic/Pacific oscillation (AMO/PDO). The 200-year solar cycle has just passed its maximum and will decline during the 21st Century. It was partly responsible for the warming of the late 20th Century. The AMO/PDO cycle is now beginning its cool phase and will reach a minimum in 2035.

<<http://tucsoncitizen.com/wryheat/2013/12/04/german-scientists-predict-global-temperature-will-decline-throughout-this-century/>>

Selection Bias in Climate Model Simulations

Judith Curry notes that selection biases in information processing occur when expectations affect behaviour in a manner that makes those expectations come true. She then provides quotes from a new paper, *Emerging selection bias in large-scale climate change simulations*. The paper states that climate simulations are so complex the application of subjective criteria is inevitable. It finds that there is danger of a selection bias, which manifests itself between generations of these simulations. The current generation shows a marked reduction in the spread among models, suggesting convergence towards some common solution. While the models agree more with each other, there is a widening discrepancy between them and reality.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/12/06/selection-bias-in-climate-model-simulations/>>

2013-12-01

Warsaw Loss and Damage Mechanism: A Climate for Corruption?

Judith Curry takes a look at the new “Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage” agreed to by the UNFCCC COP in Warsaw last week, and its potential for breeding a climate of corruption. After quoting articles published by *The Hindu* and *Business Green* on the mechanism, Dr. Curry identifies two big problems with response strategies targeted at assumed AGW-enhanced extreme events. (1) They lead to ineffective adaptation strategies that potentially increase vulnerability; (2) They invite “cooking” the data to make a country more deserving of aid.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/24/warsaw-loss-and-damage-mechanism-a-climate-for-corruption/>>

UN Carbon Market to Remain “in a Coma” for Years after Warsaw

The UN’s carbon offset market is likely to remain "in a coma" for years, project developers said, after countries failed to agree on measures to encourage demand at last week's climate talks in Warsaw. Investment under the UN’s \$315 billion Clean Development Mechanism has ground to a halt as the value of the credits they generate has plunged 95% in five years to around €0.30, crushing profits that investors count on to set up carbon-cutting schemes in the developing world.

The text agreed to in Warsaw “expressed concern” over the state of the CDM market, but measures that could have helped prop up the scheme were removed as developing nations insisted richer nations set emission targets first.

<<http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/11/29/us-un-carbon-idINBRE9AS0H520131129>>

Germany Plans to Curb Green Energy Transition

Talks between Chancellor Angela Merkel and her coalition partners plan to curtail the development of renewable energies. The coalition agreement will limit renewables to a maximum of 40-45% by 2025 and 55-60% by 2035. Without this limit (called a “corridor of development”), they would rise from today’s 25% to more than 45% by 2020. Environmental groups consider the coalition agreement a “frontal attack against the energy switchover.”

<<http://www.dw.de/germany-plans-to-curb-energy-transition/a-17263482>>

Atmosphere of Resignation Sweeps through Germany’s Climate Movement

One of Germany’s leading flagship national dailies, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (FAZ) has written a blistering criticism of the WBGU and climate activists’ efforts to impose a green authoritarian society over the rest of the world. The WBGU’s (Advisory Council on Climate Change) task is to advise policymakers in Germany and worldwide on how society should proceed in the face of dangerous climate change. In 2011 the WBGU released a 446-page “master plan” to put global society on a fast track to almost carbon-free “sustainability” by 2050 and calling for policies to water down democracy.

The FAZ article asks: “Has democracy failed the test to check if it’s adequate for the future?” and answers: “Not at all. It appears much more so that the attempt by some climate-political advisors to the government to trick their way past democracy has failed.” At the end of the article the FAZ describes a mood of resignation that is sweeping across Europe’s climate movement.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/30/europe-climate-policy-blows-engine-huge-failure-scientists-failed-tricking-their-way-past-democracy-mood-of-resignation/>>

<<http://www.wbgu.de/en/flagship-reports/fr-2011-a-social-contract/>>

Developer Pulls Plug on Huge Offshore Windfarm

Developer RWE Innogy has cancelled its Atlantic Array project to construct 240 wind turbines, each 220 m tall, and covering an area of 200 km² off the Devon coast. RWE blamed technological challenges and market conditions for its decision. BBC sources blame “anti-green ideology” within the British government. Joanne Nova quotes from various stories about the cancellation, concluding that the government’s confusing message on subsidies may be getting through.

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-25095868>>
 <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-25104093>>
 <<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/11/there-goes-a-massive-windfarm-4bn-uk-project-kaput-before-it-began/>>

Latest Grandstanding from *The Guardian*: Polar Bears

On November 27 *The Guardian* published a story claiming that polar bear numbers in Hudson's Bay are on the verge of collapse due to global warming. The next day *Polar Bear Science* issued a rebuttal stating that "The latest polar bear propaganda emanating from *The Guardian* is unscientific nonsense fed to them by activist Canadian polar bear researchers."

<<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/27/polar-bears-climate-change-canada-hudson-bay>>
 <<http://polarbearsience.com/2013/11/28/polar-bear-researchers-still-withholding-hudson-bay-data/>>

Shell Lobbies World Bank to Stop Funding Coal Plants

Gas "super majors" like Shell love wind turbines. That's because the wind farms are fickle, and coal can't ramp up and down quickly to fill the gaps, but gas can. Thus each new wind turbine is a gas burner in disguise. Shell formed an advocacy department, the sole purpose of which is to convince governments and government-funded bodies to encourage gas as a power source over more polluting forms of energy, such as coal. The department actively lobbied the World Bank to stop funding coal plants.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/11/big-oil-big-gas-lobby-against-coal-shell-leans-on-world-bank-to-nobble-the-competition/>>

New Report Concludes that Extreme Weather Events Are Not Increasing

In this report, *The Global Warming-Extreme Weather Link: A Review Of The State Of Science*, Madhav Khandekar, a former meteorologist from Environment Canada, and Brian Pratt from the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Geological Sciences, examine several recent extreme weather events and discuss them in the context of the ongoing climate debate. The authors begin with an overview of global warming science, then discuss extreme weather, including recent events, and end with the possible impact of the Earth's climate on present and future extreme weather events.

Such events have always occurred, as part of large scale atmospheric-oceanic circulation patterns and their complex interaction with local weather. While the IPCC focuses on hot weather extremes, it makes no mention of increasing cold weather events. The authors of this paper examine both, concluding that hurricanes and tropical storms do not show increasing trends in frequency or intensity. The best way to cope with extreme weather events is to develop improved seasonal climate forecasting capability, so as to minimize the effects.

<<http://www.thegwpc.org/extreme-weather-not-linked-climate-change/>>
 <<http://www.thegwpc.org/content/uploads/2013/11/Khandekar-Extreme-Weather.pdf>>

2013-11-24

COP19: The Conclusion

As reported by the *Guardian* and *Watt Up With That*, the G77 and China bloc of 132 countries walked out of the conference in the early morning of November 20, when Australia, the EU, the US and other developed countries insisted that the issue of compensation for climate-caused “loss and damage” be put off until after 2015. Unfortunately, the walkout lasted only three hours.

What the bloc wants is a new institution, run by the UNFCCC and funded by rich countries, to provide automatic compensation for severe weather events around the world. Even the EU’s climate commissioner balked at that one.

Then on November 23, after the conference had run a full day over schedule, it ended with agreement on five major items as summarized by the *Global Post*: Road to Paris (no differentiation between rich and poor countries in a new climate deal for 2015 in Paris); Finance (developed countries urged to increase contributions to the Green Climate Fund); Loss and Damage (negotiators will meet to discuss setting up something called the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage - IMLD); Forests (enhanced funding of REDD+ for poor country projects to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation); Adaption Fund (received pledges of \$100 million.)

Regarding IMLD, according to *ABC News*: “The wording was vague enough to make rich countries feel comfortable that they weren’t going to be held liable for climate catastrophes in the developing world.” Also, the rich countries resisted demands for firm commitments on pledges for climate financing to developing countries of \$100 billion/year by 2020.

Writing in *Forbes*, Patrick Michaels notes that, over the 19 years of these conferences, there is no shred of evidence that they done anything about global temperature - because the temperature itself hasn’t done much. But, the real business of these conferences is not temperature, but “... a two-week hectoring platform for poor countries to euchre the developed world for money to adapt to the supposed climate horrors we are raining down on them.” As for poor countries afflicted by weather events, even modest development helps a great deal to prevent disaster.

<<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/nov/20/climate-talks-walk-out-compensation-un-warsaw>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/20/newsbytes-the-climate-reparations-game-poor-countries-walk-out-of-un-climate-summit/>>

<<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131124/key-points-the-warsaw-consensus>>

<<http://www.dw.de/warsaw-climate-talks-end-with-compromise/a-17248371>>

<<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/climate-talks-stalled-finance-carbon-cuts-20988705>>

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickmichaels/2013/11/24/global-warming-activism-another-year-another-u-n-flop/>>

Poland Sacks Environment Minister during COP19

While Polish environment minister Marcin Korolec was hosting the Warsaw climate conference on November 20, his boss, Donald Tusk, dismissed him from his post because the government plans a “radical acceleration of shale gas operations.” EU and green sources claim the sacking was in order to stall the conference and prevent decisions being taken on further climate action. Mr. Korolec will continue to act as his country’s climate envoy until the COP20 summit next year in Peru.

<<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/polish-climate-minister-sacking-news-531850>>
<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/11/20/poland-fires-president-of-un-climate-summmit-for-being-too-green/>>

Corporate Engagement, UN-Style

At Warsaw the UN released a new report, *Guide for Responsible Corporate Engagement in Climate Policy*, urging active business participation in the UN climate crusade- in particular, lobbying governments to support a “global legal agreement on climate change.” The report was produced for the UN by leading environmental groups, including the World Resources Institute, the Carbon Disclosure Project, the WWF, Ceres, and The Climate Group. All of these organizations receive major funding from companies that strive to be “responsible corporate citizens.”

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/19/united-nations-climate-conference-tells-business-support-us-on-climate-change/>>

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/Environment/climate/Guide_Responsible_Corporate_Engagement_Climate_Policy.pdf>

White House Revisits “Social Cost of Carbon”

According to the Obama administration, the social cost of carbon is “... an estimate of the monetized damages associated with an incremental increase in carbon emissions in a given year. It is intended to include (but is not limited to) changes in net agricultural productivity, human health, property damages from increased flood risk, and the value of ecosystem services due to climate change.” SCC is calculated using a series of computer models that produce wildly varying estimates. In 2010 the SCC estimates for 2020 (in 2007\$) were \$7, \$26, \$42 and \$81, and the latest numbers are \$12, \$43, \$65 and \$129.

The White House is seeking public comment in its latest SCC estimates, and Judith Curry has compiled some viewpoints in this issue. According to her, SCC is being established as a surrogate for a national carbon tax. In light of its importance to US climate/energy policy, it needs more attention.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/21/social-cost-of-carbon/>>

First of Its Kind: Wind Energy Company Pays \$1 Million for Eagle Deaths

The US government has finally enforced environmental laws protecting birds against wind energy facilities. Duke Energy Renewables agreed to settle for \$1 million after pleading guilty to killing 14 eagles and 149 birds at two Wyoming wind farms. Until this announcement, not a single wind energy company had been prosecuted for a death of an eagle or other protected bird — even though each death is a violation of federal law, unless a company has a federal permit. Not a single wind energy facility has obtained a permit.

As part of the agreement, Duke will continue to use field biologists to identify eagles and shut down turbines when they get too close. It will install new radar technology, similar to what is used in Afghanistan to track missiles. And it will continue to voluntarily report all eagle and bird deaths to the government. The company will also have to apply for an eagle take permit, and draft a plan to reduce eagle and bird deaths at its four wind farms in Wyoming.

<<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/wind-energy-company-pay-1-million-eagle-deaths-220858472.html>>

Roger Pielke Jr.: How to Act on Scientific Advice that's Politically Inconvenient

In this short essay Dr. Pielke lays partial responsibility for the current debate over historical climate reparations on President Obama, who used his 2013 State of the Union address to blame heat waves, droughts, wildfires, floods and Hurricane Sandy on AGW. With the president, despite lack of scientific evidence, implying US responsibility for weather disasters, it's no surprise that developing nations are taking him at his word and are asking for compensation.

Dr. Pielke notes that two recent IPCC reports, including AR5, were unable to attribute extreme weather events to climate change. He uses this to argue that political leaders should rely on "institutions of scientific advice" for evidence, rather than on political campaigners or error-strewn news reports.

<<http://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2013/nov/19/typhoon-haiyan-scientific-advice-extreme-weather>>

Al Gore Coming to Toronto to Help Ontario Government's Green Agenda

On November 21 Mr. Gore will be coming to Toronto to join Premier Kathleen Wynne to help celebrate the government's shutting down of the coal plants, and funding wind and solar, thereby doubling electricity rates. Ontario's emissions have gone down, not as a result of wind and solar, but because of the return to operation of seven nuclear plants (4,250 MW) undergoing refurbishment.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/11/20/al-gore-coming-to-toronto-to-help-kathleen-wynne-lie-about-ontarios-green-energy-record/>>

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/11/21/al-gore-coming-to-toronto-to-help-kathleen-wynne-lie-about-ontarios-green-energy-record/>>

Poland Builds Electronic Wall to Keep Out German Renewables

Green Tech Media complains that Poland, host of COP19, is going to extreme lengths to protect its coal-fired industry by installing phase shifters on its links with Germany to block excess renewable power from entering the country. Green organizations in Poland claim that the move is designed to protect the income of incumbent coal generators. However, as the *Atlantic Sentinel* pointed out last January, the switches are needed to protect the Polish grid from fluctuating energy from Germany being dumped across the border.

<<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/poland-builds-electronic-wall-to-keep-out-german-renewables>>

<<http://atlanticsentinel.com/2013/01/czechs-poles-to-keep-german-green-energy-out/>>

Germany to Open 10 New Coal-fired Power Stations

Steag GmbH started Germany's first new power plant fueled by hard coal in eight years, allowing the generator and energy trader to take advantage of near record-low coal prices that have widened profit margins. This marks the start of a program to install ten hard-coal power stations with a total output of 7,985 MW. In Germany, generating electricity from coal makes a profit of €9.16/MWh, compared with a loss of €19.31/MWh from gas.

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-11-15/steag-starts-germany-s-first-coal-fired-power-plant-in-8-years.html>>

Coalition Government May End German Green Energy Shift

In a draft agreement between the CDU/CSU and the Social Democrats over forming a coalition government, there is one key sentence: “We will examine whether large producers of electricity from renewable sources must guarantee a base load portion of their maximum feed in order to contribute to supply security.” What this means is that wind and solar operators must take out a form of insurance to guarantee the supply of energy usually provided by their systems, regardless of the weather.

The only way the producers would furnish such a guarantee is by power from conventional power plants. But that would destroy their business model as they would have to pay the coal or gas plant operators a standby fee of several cents for every kWh of renewable energy they feed into the grid.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/coalition-agreement-germanys-green-energy-shift/>>

2013-11-17

The Warsaw Climate Conference: Half-Way

This year’s event is not going well for the climate activists. On opening day as 50,000 Poles gathered to celebrate National Independence Day, Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT) President David Rothbard was invited to the stage to deliver an impassioned address celebrating freedom and warning against the dangerous and oppressive climate agenda of the UN. He said that he was honoured to stand with the Poles in a “new battle for freedom against those who would use environmental and climate alarmism to steal away our liberties and give international bureaucrats control over our energy sources, our daily lives, our prosperity, and our national sovereignty.”

Japan stunned the summit by announcing that it is revising its 2020 target from 20% below 1990 levels to 3% above - understandable since the country shut down its nuclear power plants after the Fukushima reactors were wrecked by a tsunami last year. Japan's decision added to gloom at the Warsaw talks, where no major countries have announced more ambitious goals to cut emissions.

A 130-nation group (the G77) led by Brazil and China proposed using emission levels dating back to 1850 as the basis for setting limits on future emissions. The US, EU, Australia and Canada blocked the proposal.

Negotiators from the Least Developed Countries are calling on the UNFCCC to urgently establish a rescue fund to save the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism from collapse. The CDM has registered over 7,400 emission-reduction projects in developing countries since 2004 thereby creating over 1.2 billion Certified Emission Reductions. Not surprisingly, the price of a CER has fallen from \$15 in 2011 to 40¢ now.

The second week of the conference will be the high-level segment, dealing with finance, loss-and-damage, and the hoped-for 2015 climate treaty.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/12/50000-at-rally-against-climate-agenda-in-poland/>>
 <<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/15/us-climate-japan-idUSBRE9AE00P20131115>>
 <<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-11-14/rich-nations-block-push-to-count-past-pollution-at-warming-talks>>
 <<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/11/developing-world-pushes-for-rescue-of-u-n-carbon-credit-fund/>>

<<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/13473-un-climate-top-official-finance-key-issue-in-warsaw.html>>

Why Global Warming Should Not Be Blamed for the Disaster in the Philippines

The news of the disaster afflicting the Philippines from Typhoon Haiyan overshadowed the opening of the Warsaw climate conference, and climate campaigners were quick to blame global warming. However, empirical observations published in scientific journals show that, despite the moderate warming of the late 20th century, the number of tropical cyclones making landfall in the Philippines has remained unchanged for more than 100 years. Even the IPCC's latest assessment states that there are no identifiable long term trends in tropical cyclones.

<<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/2013/11/global-warming-isnt-to-blame-for-the-disaster-in-the-philippines/>>

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/studies-point-to-causes-other-than-climate-change-of-haiyan-typhoon-a-933226.html>>

<<http://ipccreport.wordpress.com/2013/11/12/cyclones-typhoons-and-cherry-picking/>>

Canada Supports Australian PM in Repeal of Carbon Tax

This is something that was overlooked by the Canadian media. The Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a statement - on behalf of the Canadian Government - applauding Australian PM Tony Abbot for repealing his country's carbon tax. This upset the pro-AGW *Guardian*, which wrote: "Canada has dropped any remaining pretence of supporting global action on climate change by urging other countries to follow Australia's example in gutting its climate plan."

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/11/tide-shifts-canada-comes-out-and-applauds-australian-pm-for-repeal-bill-of-carbon-tax/>>

<<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/13/canada-climate-australia-carbon-tax>>

New German Government Set to Further Cut Renewables Subsidies

According to a working paper authored by Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats and their coalition partner Social Democrats, Germany is set to further cut subsidies for renewable energies. Under a draft agreement, subsidies for onshore wind farms will fall, while expansion plans for offshore wind will be scaled back. Germany alone this year is expected to spend around €20 billion on subsidies for renewable energies, which meet around one quarter of the country's electricity consumption.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20131111-707201.html>>

Court Cases May Deflate Wind Energy in the US

Last June, Judge Richard Posner of the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit Court wrote that Michigan's in-state renewable energy mandate violates the Commerce Clause and is therefore unconstitutional. While Judge Posner's statement did not have the weight of law because the issue wasn't directly before him, it is being cited in a Colorado case where the Energy & Environmental Legal Institute is arguing that the state's 30% renewable mandate violates the Commerce Clause. According to E&G Legal's lawyer: "A state may not tell an electric company outside its borders how to make electricity or how to make renewable energy credits."

Similar cases are underway in Minnesota and North Dakota.

<<http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/19373>>

Ontario Court of Appeal Allows Offshore Wind Claim to Proceed

In February 2011 Ontario cancelled all offshore wind projects “while further scientific research [was] conducted” [FoS Extracts - 2011-02-13, 2011-10-07]. Trillium Power Wind Corporation’s (TPWC) proposed project was caught by this cancellation, and TPWC sued the province seeking over \$2 billion in damages for, among other things, breach of contract, unjust enrichment, negligent misrepresentation and negligence, misfeasance in public office, and intentional infliction of economic harm.

An Ontario Superior Court struck down the claim last year, and TPWC appealed. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal on the narrow grounds that that Ontario’s conduct was specifically targeted to injure TPWC.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/11/16/court-of-appeal-allows-offshore-wind-claim-to-proceed-on-narrow-grounds/>>

<<http://www.canadianenergylaw.com/2013/11/articles/renewable-energy/court-of-appeal-allows-offshore-wind-claim-to-proceed-on-narrow-grounds/>>

Ethanol Investigation: The Secret, Dirty Cost of Obama’s Green Power Push

This one’s from the *Huff Post Green*. Since the US ethanol era began in December 2007, it has proven far more damaging to the environment than politicians promised, resulting in millions of acres of lost conservation land, destroyed habitat and polluted water supplies.

In 2009 the biofuel-friendly Obama administration overruled EPA models that predicted that the program would be an economic disaster. When regulations took effect in July 2010, corn prices had already surpassed the EPA’s estimate of \$3.22/bu., and are now \$7/bu. Five million acres of land specifically set aside for conservation have been converted to growing corn. As even environmental allies call the program a disaster, the ethanol policy cruises on autopilot - the program is too lucrative for too many influential people.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/12/ethanol-investigation_n_4258796.html>

Fossil Fuels Beat Wind and Solar on Environmental, as well as Economic Grounds

Lawrence Solomon points out that, prior to the industrial revolution, the world depended almost exclusively on renewable energy - with poverty and subsistence being the rule. The subsequent rise in mass affluence and improved living conditions became possible thanks to the highly concentrated energy of fossil fuels. The environment improved with the curtailing of forest destruction to produce charcoal and firewood.

Wind and solar meet a picayune portion of the world’s energy (less than 0.1% in North America) and require backup, usually in the form of fossil fuels. They also require vast areas of land. Industrial wind farms kill birds and bats (900,000 of the latter in 2012 according to the US Geological Survey, costing the agricultural industry \$23 billion/year.) Mining rare earths for turbine magnets and the manufacture of solar panel, both in China, leave an ecological trail of destruction.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/11/14/lawrence-solomon-fossil-fuels-now-beat-wind-and->

[solar-on-environmental-as-well-as-economic-grounds/>](#)

Warmists Can't Stop Themselves

According to the *Quadrant Online*, to activists the idea of AGW is the mother of all eco-threats. Businesses saw huge profits to be made, while bureaucrats recognized the potential for massive increases in power and control. For politicians it was a no-brainer, with strong popularity on one side and only denigration on the other. In late 2009 everything was on track for a glorious triumph by AGW forces at the Copenhagen summit – until the wheels started to come off following the Climategate emails and failure of the summit itself.

With the exposure of widespread systematic scientific misconduct in climate research, the failure of dire predictions about warming temperatures and related catastrophes, the alarmists are finding it difficult to explain why their most certain hopes have not materialized. If alarmists were as certain as they profess to be, the best thing to do now would be to shut up and wait for reality to prove them right. But they can't.

Even Greenpeace agrees, as its UK branch published an insightful article about the failure of the greens' "enemy" narrative in the climate debate, as this narrative can be used both ways.

<<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2013/11/warmists-please-shut/>>

<<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/newsdesk/energy/news/story-how-greens-became-energy-enemy-number-one>>

Climate and Human Civilization over the Past 18,000 Years

The essay by petrophysicist Andy May explains a high-resolution poster depicting climate over the last 18,000 years (since just before the end of the last Ice Age) using data from multiple sources. The charts show five warm periods (Holocene Optimum, and the Minoan, Roman, Medieval and Modern Warm Periods), annotated with significant events of human civilization. Mr. May's conclusion: the best times were the warm periods.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/17/climate-and-human-civilization-over-the-last-18000-years/>>

2013-11-10

COP19 in Warsaw November 11-22

With little notice in the mainstream media, the 19th annual climate summit begins on November 11, but the green press (*Planet Ark*) sees little hope for progress on a binding climate treaty by 2015 as concern over economic growth eclipses scientists' warnings about rising temperatures and sea levels. The US is championing a flexible approach, which, to climate activists, risks having nations set their own weak goals.

The *Huffington Post* reports that climate activists are furious that the Polish government is also hosting a high-level coal industry event during the climate conference. Government officials point out that coal accounts for more than 80% of their country's electricity generation and won't go away anytime soon.

According to *Business Green*, the EU's climate commissioner is worried that Russia, Belarus and Ukraine will derail the summit in an attempt to deal with "serious procedural and legal flaws" revealed at last year's Doha meeting, when an agreement was rammed through in the final

minutes over those countries' objections.

According to the *Economic Times*, India's objective at the conference will be to put the onus on preventing climate change on developed countries. To this end public funds should have primacy over private ones.

The Australian government has decided to send just a diplomat to represent it in Warsaw, rather than a senior minister. The environment minister will be too busy attending to a repeal of the previous government's carbon tax. For good measure, the federal cabinet has ruled that Australia will not sign up to any contributions, taxes or charges at the summit.

<<http://planetark.org/wen/70295>>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/08/poland-un-climate-chage-coal-summit_n_4237742.html>

<<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2305164/hedegaard-warns-over-procedural-threat-to-derail-warsaw-climate-summit>>

<<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/et-cetera/india-to-put-onus-of-preventing-climate-change-on-industrialised-countries/articleshow/25342747.cms>>

<<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/australia-snubs-global-climate-talks-as-greg-hunt-stays-home-to-repeal-carbon-tax/story-e6frg6xf-1226754823154>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/australia-rules-climate-taxes-contributions-charges-climate-summit/>>

Fact-based Perspective on the *Green Energy Act*

Using data from the Independent Energy System Operator for Ontario's electricity generation for 1988-2012, this presentation has a simple and easy to understand message. A chart shows annual electricity production for six sources: nuclear, hydro, coal/fossil, purchase, gas/oil and wind. From 2000 to 2012 coal use was reduced from 42 TWh to about 4 TWh, a reduction of 38 TWh. However, wind grew from nothing in 2008 to 4 TWh in 2012. Since Ontario now burns only a small amount of coal, there's no coal for wind to displace, and adding more wind will only work toward replacing CO₂-free nuclear and hydro with natural gas - hence increased CO₂.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/10/31/fact-based-perspective-on-the-green-energy-act/#more-58755>>

Former Australian PM: Global Warming Battle "Has Become a Religion"

John Howard, Australia's prime minister from 1996 to 2007, delivered a lecture in London in which he accused some scientists of having a "nakedly political agenda" in their advice on global warming and said that attempts were being made to intimidate politicians by telling them to "follow the science". Mr Howard criticized the "sanctimonious tone" of many who advocate costly responses to what they see as irrefutable evidence of future climate catastrophe. "To them the cause has become a substitute religion," he said. He also said that the election of Tony Abbott, his Liberal Party colleague, as Prime Minister two months ago showed Australians had chosen a government with a "pragmatic attitude on global warming."

Judith Curry posts excerpts from Mr. Howard's lecture and agrees with his five conclusions regarding climate policy.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/global-warming-battle-has-religion/>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/07/john-howard-one-religion-is-enough/>>

Get Real, Vestas

With over 49,000 turbines installed in 70 countries, Vestas is becoming acutely aware that people living near their products are reacting to loss of property values, health problems and avian mortality. So, Vestas produced this 2-minute Act on Facts video that shows a young girl cycling through the countryside with soothing background music while the voice over attributes reactions against wind power to the power of negative emotions, flatly denies the claims against wind turbines, and claims that they can save the planet.

Anti-wind groups, including Ontario Wind Resistance, responded to Vestas' disingenuous message with an 8:48 effort "on behalf of wind turbine victims everywhere", that takes clips from the Vestas video, interjects "real facts" with quotes from wind turbine victims, unflattering photos of wind farms, medical effects of the wind turbine syndrome, animal deaths, 2,000 international anti-wind groups, stating that turbines are uneconomical and create more CO₂,

<<http://actonfacts.org/videos/act-on-facts/>>

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/11/07/get-real-vestas/>>

Water is Replacing Climate as the Next UN Environmental Resource Scare

In this essay Tim Ball argues that, since the IPCC's failure to prove human CO₂ is causing global warming, the UN Environmental Program needs a replacement, one that is a natural global resource, little understood by most so they can easily mislead, transcends national boundaries and quickly raises passions and concerns. Dr. Ball's candidate is water, which appears in the UN's Agenda 21 as a separate category. All the terminology (precautionary approach, lack of full scientific certainty, footprint, etc.) familiar to the CO₂ issue is now in use for water. As with CO₂ the agenda of UN agencies is political control with subjugation of individuals and their rights to a world government through the UN. Dr. Ball supports his claim with quotes from Maurice Strong and others.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/01/water-is-replacing-climate-as-the-next-un-environmental-resource-scare/#more-96618>>

Warmism: Credible Politics, Incredible Science

This guest essay begins with Wikipedia's simplified description of the greenhouse effect in terms of thermal radiation from a planet's surface being absorbed by atmospheric greenhouse gases, which re-radiate part of this radiation back towards the surface and lower atmosphere. The IPCC and related warmist calculations assume that there is a forcing multiplier that reacts to a small increase in CO₂ to force a big increase in atmospheric warming. However, every experimental effort to demonstrate that minor increases in atmospheric CO₂ lead to major changes in surface temperature has failed to show a repeatable effect in anything near the right range.

Where neither science nor history can explain warmism, politics can. As the author concludes, the "warmist politicization of the research process has to be seen as having destroyed the credibility of all involved, and thus as having greatly weakened the world's ability to recognize and respond to a real threat should one now materialize."

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/04/warmism-credible-politics-incredible-science/>>

Global Warming Pause May Last 20 More Years

According to a paper co-authored by Judith Curry in the journal *Climate Dynamics*, the current 17-year pause in global warming is likely to last into the 2030s, and the Arctic sea ice has already

started to recover. The paper's authors say they have identified a "stadium wave" - named after the wave formed in a stadium when the crowd stands and sits still so that a wave seems to circle the audience. For climate the wave consists of a number of cycles in the temperature of air and the oceans that take place across the Northern Hemisphere over decades.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2485772/Global-warming-pause-20-years-Arctic-sea-ice-started-recover.html>>

<<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00382-013-1950-2>>

2013-11-02

Blame Solar for Ontario's Sky-high Power Bills

Solar energy is one of the key pillars of Ontario's *Green Energy and Economy Act*, and it is casting a dark cloud over electricity bills. This year, solar projects caused bills to be about \$550 million higher than they would otherwise have been. By year end the province will have an estimated 1,100 MW of solar capacity installed, with another 900 MW to be added in 2014. This 900 MW will add another \$435 million to power bills.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/10/29/blame-solar-for-sky-high-ontario-power-bills/>>

World is Spending Nearly \$1 Billion a Day to Tackle Global Warming

A new report from the Climate Policy Initiative, *Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2013*, says that the climate industry takes in nearly \$1 billion a day, with taxpayer money being the "engine room." Even though the public contribution to climate finance is only 38%, it is essential to attracting private investment because the taxpayer subsidies reduce risk and costs to the investors. Or as Joanne Nova puts it: "Without government policies hoping to change the weather, the industry collapses."

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/10/nearly-1-billion-a-day-to-change-the-climate-the-invisible-vested-elephant-in-the-room/>>

<<http://climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/global-landscape-of-climate-finance-2013/>>

Germany's Defective Green Energy Game Plan

Despite the country's green revolution, or *Energiewende*, with rooftop solar and wind turbines everywhere, in 2013 coal consumption jumped 8%, and people are surprised. Structural flaws in the *Energiewende* ensure that renewable energy and the coal boom are causally linked. These flaws include the fluctuation/storage problem, requiring coal-fired backup; the brake on investments meaning that only cheap coal can compete on price; the and right to pollute provided by a surplus of cheap emissions allowances. Finally, Germany has created a bureaucracy monster, with 4,000 different subsidy categories for renewable energy, putting a brake on any innovation where no subsidies exist.

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/commentary-why-germany-is-waging-its-green-revolution-wrong-a-929693.html>>

Germany Sends Clear Signal that Industrial Jobs Are More Important than Green Energy

Part of Germany's SPD socialist party is coming to its economic and social senses on the issue of climate change and renewable energy. Hannelore Kraft, Minister President of Germany's most

populous state, North Rhine Westphalia and Germany's heavy industry heartland, has seriously upset the formidable green wing of her SPD party and companion Green Party in claiming that preserving heavy industry jobs in her state is more important than the rapid transition over to renewable energies.

Ms. Kraft's words send a clear signal that a new grand coalition government between Angela Merkel's CDU/CSU conservative parts and the SPD party are poised to abandon any plans for continuing the rapid transition to renewable energies like we've seen over the last years. This would be a massive blow to the climate alarmism movement and to renewable energies. Moreover with Germany's two major parties being in agreement on the issue, there would be very little political opposition to stop the major scale back.

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/10/26/germany-sends-clear-signal-that-it-will-slam-the-brakes-on-renewables-saving-industrial-jobs-more-important/>>

UK Parliamentary Inquiry: IPCC's AR5

The House of Commons' Energy and Climate Change Committee has initiated an inquiry into the IPCC's fifth assessment report, calling for submissions by December 10. Among the terms of reference: how robust is the report's conclusions; to what extent does it reflect a range of views among climate scientists; can any areas of science be considered settled as a result of AR5; does AR5 address the reliability of the climate models; does it strengthen or weaken the economic case for action to prevent dangerous climate change; to what extent did political interventions influence the conclusions of the AR5 summary.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/energy-and-climate-change-committee/news/ipcc---tor/>>

In the US Global Warming Gets Nearly Twice as much Taxpayer Money as on Border Security

The White House has reported that there are 18 federal agencies engaged in global warming activities in 2013, funding a wide range of programs involving scientific research, international climate change assistance, incentivizing renewable energy technology and subsidies to renewable energy producers at a cost of \$22.2 billion. In contrast the federal government will spend \$12 billion on customs and border enforcement this year.

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/10/28/global-warming-gets-nearly-twice-as-much-taxpayer-money-as-border-security/>>

Australia, UN Spar over Wildfires and Climate Change

Christian Figueres, head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, was quick to claim that the recent Australian bush fires are "absolutely" linked to climate change. Prime Minister Tony Abbot rejected this, accusing Ms. Figueres of talking through her hat. Joanne Nova's husband, David Evans, who used to do carbon accounting for the Australian government, argues that fuel loads, not climate change, are making bush fires more severe. In southeast Australia, historical fuel loads were 8 tonnes/ha; now they are typically 30 tonnes/ha.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/23/us-climate-australia-wildfires-idUSBRE99M0U920131023>>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2476502/New-Australian-PM-Tony-Abbott-dismisses-hogwash-claims-bushfires-caused-global-warming.html>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/10/man-made-climate-change-and-bushfires-in-southeast-australia/>>

Fixing California: The Green Gentry's Class Warfare

In California, the progressive green gentry have climate change as their agenda, which includes imposing mandates for renewable energy that have made the state's electricity prices among the highest in the nation. The biggest losers are ethnic minorities whose incomes declined in 2009-11. Opposition to the gentry's policies is weak, with the Chamber of Commerce a fading force, and the state's Republican party a political rump. California is becoming divided between a largely white and Asian affluent coast and a rapidly proletarianized, heavily Hispanic and African-American interior. For the gentry, the ideal green future is one of lower emissions, population growth and family formation, which allows those of wealth and privilege to place a higher priority on nature than humanity.

<<http://www.joelkotkin.com/content/00825-fixing-california-green-gentry's-class-warfare/>>

Epic Failure of the Canadian Climate Model

Friends of Science Director Ken Gregory prepared this essay on CanESM2, one of the 30 climate models used to prepare the IPCC's AR5. As it turns out, CanESM2 produces one of the most extreme warming projections of the 30. It fails to match surface and atmospheric temperature observations, both globally and regionally, as shown in six graphs. Dr. Gregory concludes his essay with the observation: "Canadian politicians and taxpayers need to ask why we continue to fund climate models that can't replicate the historical record and produce no useful information."

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/24/epic-failure-of-the-canadian-climate-model/>>

The IPCC: Looking 95% Foolish

In its recently-release AR5 assessment the IPCC claimed that it was "extremely likely" (meaning 95% certain) that human activity was responsible for much of the warming since 1950. However, as Donna Laframboise points out, even though the real world doesn't behave according to the IPCC's climate models, the IPCC clings to its position with a fervour that can only be described as religious.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/10/28/the-ipcc-looking-95-foolish/>>

Atlantic Hurricane Season Quietest in 45 Years

According to the *Insurance Journal*, "The 2013 Atlantic hurricane season looks set to go down as a big washout, marking the first time in 45 years that the strongest storm to form was just a minor Category 1 hurricane." The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has published a graph depicting extremes in landfalling tropical systems for 1911-2013 showing a remarkable decline over the past five years.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/26/atlantic-hurricane-season-quietest-in-45-years/>>

CO₂ Emissions in Last 50 Years Made Us \$3.5 Trillion Wealthier

A new report from the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, *The Positive Externalities of Carbon Dioxide: Estimating the Monetary Benefits of Rising Atmospheric CO₂ Concentrations on Global Food Production*, calculates the extra value that the rise in CO₂ has produced from 1961 to 2011. Cumulatively, this works out to \$3.5 trillion, or \$160 billion

annually. This benefit comes from increased food production, the result of improved plant productivity and growth.

The Cato Institute has published an article stating that President Obama's \$40/tonne "social cost of carbon" is at odds with science.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/10/co2-emissions-in-last-50-years-made-us-3-5-trillion-wealthier/>>
 <<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/10/the-social-benefit-of-carbon-3-5-trillion-in-agricultural-productivity/>>
 <<http://www.co2science.org/education/reports/co2benefits/MonetaryBenefitsofRisingCO2onGlobalFoodProduction.pdf>>
 <<http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/obamas-social-cost-carbon-odds-science>>

A Global Cooling Consensus

In this article Lawrence Solomon reminds us of the scientific consensus on global cooling of the 1960s and 1970s. Following the subsequent warming scare, the former cooling consensus is now returning. He quotes UK scientist Mike Lockwood, who says that solar activity is falling more rapidly than at any time during the past 10,000 years, raising the risk of a new Little Ice Age from 10% to 25-30%. Scientists at the Climate and Environmental Physics and Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of Berne in Switzerland back up theories that support the Sun's importance in determining the climate on Earth.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/10/31/lawrence-solomon-a-global-cooling-consensus/>>
 <<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn24512-solar-activity-heads-for-lowest-low-in-four-centuries.html?cmpid=RSS|NSNS|2012-GLOBAL|environment#.UnW6TpGI22x>>

Misinformation, Disinformation and Conflict

Judith Curry responds to being labelled a "serial climate disinformant" by Michael Mann. She begins by examining the meanings of the words information, disinformation and misinformation as they relate to science. In the case of Dr. Mann and his associates, what passes for "information" is really hypotheses or theories, and disagreement with those theories does not make one a misinformant, disinformant or denier. Those unconvinced by the IPCC assessments merely have to say the assessment is overconfident, there are large uncertainties, etc., coming back to the null hypothesis issue: that the burden of proof is on the IPCC.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/10/25/misinformation-disinformation-and-conflict/>>

NASA Announces New Record Growth of Antarctic Ice Sheet

In September Antarctic ice cover reached a total of 19.5 million km², the highest since measurements began in 1979. The NASA press release also notes that Arctic ice coverage avoided last year's record low. Scientists at Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute are puzzled by the paradox of global warming and record sea ice.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/22/nasa-announces-new-record-growth-of-antarctic-sea-ice-extent/>>
 <<http://notrickszone.com/2013/10/24/stunner-germanys-alfred-wegener-institute-confirms-antarctic-sea-ice-may-have-reached-record-volume/>>

2013-10-15

Who Really Sets Ontario's Energy Policies?

To answer this question, Parker Gallant did some digging and found out that it is a group of ENGOS. These include the Green Energy Alliance, the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association, the Ontario Clean Air Alliance, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, the Pembina Institute, the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance, Blue Green Canada (a labour union – environmental alliance) and Clean Energy Canada (an offshoot of Tides Canada.) The ENGOS have set past policies for the province's Energy Ministry and appear to have the current energy minister firmly under their control.

<<http://ep.probeinternational.org/2013/10/07/parker-gallant-who-really-sets-ontarios-energy-policies/>>

EPA To Be Challenged at US Supreme Court over Climate Change

The Court has agreed to hear a challenge to part of the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations aimed at tackling climate change. The question involves whether the EPA correctly determined that its decision to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles necessarily required it also to regulate emissions from stationary sources. Oral arguments are likely to be heard early in 2014, with a ruling issued by the end of June.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/15/epa-to-be-challenged-at-scotus-over-climate-change/>>
<<http://mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSBRE99E0GB20131015?irpc=932>>

The Return of King Coal

Despite efforts by governments around the world to reduce emissions, coal will surpass oil as the key fuel of the global economy by 2020. Key to this is rising demand in China and India, which rely on the comparatively cheaper fuel to power their economies. Coal demand in the US, Europe and rest of Asia will hold steady.

Europe's clean-energy industry is retrenching after subsidies were reduced from Germany to Spain. And if you don't frack and decide to shut down your nuclear plants as in Germany, you return to coal.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2458631/Coal-surpass-oil-key-fuel-global-economy-2020-despite-government-efforts-reduce-carbon-emissions.html>>
<<http://hotair.com/archives/2013/10/14/europe-cutting-back-on-green-energy-investments-while-coal-makes-a-comeback/>>
<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/10/15/bigger-coal/>>

How to Lose Half a Trillion Euros

On June 16 the wholesale price in Germany fell to minus €100/MWh – that is generating companies were paying grid managers to take their electricity. On that Sunday afternoon, demand was low, and solar and wind generators produced 28.9 GW out of a total of 51 GW of power flowing into a grid capable of handling only 45 GW. So prices went negative to encourage cutbacks by gas- and coal-fired power plants. This event is a microcosm of changes affecting places where renewable sources of energy are becoming more important as established utilities lose money on electricity generation.

Since 2008 peak hour prices for electricity have fallen from €80/MWh to €38/MWh, while residential consumers now pay €285/MWh, due to subsidies for renewables. In 2008 the

top 20 European utilities were worth €1 trillion; now they are worth half that. Utilities are supposed to be the generators of last resort, ensuring the lights stay on when renewables fail. But, with the grid becoming more unstable as the renewable portion grows, the utilities have neither the inclination nor the financial capacity to maintain their traditional role.

Supporting the *Economist* story, EurActiv points to a report that blames renewable energy for jeopardizing Europe's energy security for the coming winter.

<<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21587782-europes-electricity-providers-face-existential-threat-how-lose-half-trillion-euros>>

<<http://www.euractiv.com/sustainability/power-outages-threaten-europe-news-531032>>

ICAO Delays CO₂ Emissions Deal until 2020

The UN's International Civil Aviation Organization agreed to a weak roadmap deal with the EU to create a global, market-based emissions scheme by 2020. In November 2012, the EU agreed to "stop the clock" on its emissions law covering flights to and from Europe provided that, in 2013, the ICAO delivered an ambitious package to curb aviation emissions [see FoS Extracts – 2012-11-15.] Despite the US chief negotiator and the EU climate commissioner trying to sound optimistic, the deal covers only intra-EU flights until 2020, thus having achieved little. Intra-European carriers, facing a disadvantage compared to their intercontinental competitors, are furious.

<<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/04/us-aviation-climate-idUKBRE99302A20131004>>

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-04/first-global-emissions-market-for-airlines-wins-support.html>>

<<http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/69984>>

Climate Forecast: All's Well, Despite What the IPCC Says

Two forecasting experts, Kesten Green and J. Scott Armstrong, together with astrophysicist and geoscientist Willie Soon, produced a special for the *Financial Post* that debunks the IPCC's scenarios. The IPCC and its supporters promote these scenarios (i.e., stories constructed from a collection of assumptions) as if they were forecasts. The authors audited the procedures used to create the scenarios and found that they violated 72 of 89 relevant scientific forecasting principles.

The authors refer to their own paper in the *International Journal of Forecasting* in which they determined that, due to the complexity and uncertainty of long-range forecasting of global mean temperatures, the no-change model would be the proper one to use. Testing their model using the same data used by the IPCC, their no-trend forecast error was one-seventh that of the IPCC scenario temperatures.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/10/08/climate-forecast-alls-well-despite-what-the-ippc-says/>>

The 2047 Prediction: Big Caveat in *The New York Times*

A research paper predicting ecological and societal disruptions due to anthropogenic global warming by 2047 got prominent, and uncritical, mention in a lot of the mainstream media. *The New York Times* carried the story in a 20-paragraph piece, but with a remarkable (for the NYT) paragraph (emphasis added):

“The research comes with caveats. It is based on climate models, huge computer programs that attempt to reproduce the physics of the climate system and forecast the future response to greenhouse gases. Though they are the best tools available, **these models contain acknowledged problems, and no one is sure how accurate they will prove to be** at peering many decades ahead.”

You can download your own colorful label of this warning from Donna Laframboise’s *No Frakking Consensus* site.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/10/science/earth/by-2047-coldest-years-will-be-warmer-than-hottest-in-past.html?_r=2&>

<http://nofrakkingconsensus.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/climate_model_warning.jpg>

Six Questions the Media Should Be Asking the IPCC

Joanne Nova asked Bob Tisdale, author of the book *Climate Models Fail*, four questions he would have journalists put to the IPCC about the warming hiatus that was glossed over in AR5. These are:

Why did the IPCC simply glance over the well-known hiatus in their Summary for Policymakers? In Figure SPM.1, the IPCC shows that hiatus periods can last three to six decades. Why then is there no mention of that possibility in the future?

After decades of efforts, why can’t the climate models used by the IPCC simulate coupled ocean-atmosphere processes that cause multidecadal variations in sea surface temperatures and, in turn, land surface air temperatures?

Why aren’t the climate models used by the IPCC expected to simulate multidecadal variations in global surface temperatures?

Why has the IPCC chosen to hide the fact that climate models cannot simulate the hiatus in global warming?

Why is the IPCC defining the hiatus period with the start date of 1998, or with a 15-year period, when the surface temperatures of many parts of the global oceans have not warmed (or have actually cooled) for 20 years to more than 30 years? And why do the climate models used by the IPCC show warming in those ocean basins?

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/10/bob-tisdale-six-questions-the-media-should-be-asking-the-ipcc/>>

Nir Shaviv: First Impressions of AR5

Dr. Shaviv’s main conclusion is that AR5 is to a large extent a rehash of AR4, without any new evidence pointing to human-caused climate change and increasing gap between the climate models and reality. Over five reports, the IPCC’s estimate of equilibrium climate sensitivity (temperature change for a doubling of CO₂) has remained virtually unchanged (1.5 to 4.5°C). In fact, due to the current lack of temperature increase the IPCC had to reduce the lower bound from 2.0°C in AR4 to 1.5°C in AR5.

Dr. Shaviv’s second impression is that the IPCC did its best to avoid any evidence that the Sun has a large effect on climate, because admitting it would completely tear down the argument for manmade global warming of a very sensitive climate. In the blog *No Tricks Zone* Pierre Gosselin lists 123 peer-reviewed papers pointing to solar climate influence that the IPCC ignored.

<<http://www.sciencebits.com/AR5-FirstImpressions>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/10/11/gross-scientific-negligence-ipcc-ignored-huge-body-of-peer-reviewed-literature-showing-suns-clear-impact/>>

The Climate Brick Road

This catchy song pokes fun at the climate alarmists, the science, carbon taxes and the people making money from the AGW scare. The sad part is that the song's lyrics are all too true.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/10/the-climate-brick-road-song-surrender-your-neurology-to-the-church-of-climatology/>>

Climate Change is Dominated by the Water Cycle, Not CO₂

While climate scientists are obsessed with CO₂ as the dominant driver of climate change, Steve Goreham in the *Washington Times* explains how the water cycle dominates both the greenhouse effect and the redistribution of heat away from the tropics. During 1975-1998, when global temperatures were rising, the Pacific experienced more warm El Niño events than cool La Niña ones. Since 1998 the reverse is true, evidence of that the ocean and water cycle is stronger than the effects of CO₂.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/10/washington-times-climate-due-to-water-cycle-not-carbon-dioxide/>>

<<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/oct/7/climate-change-dominated-water-cycle-not-carbon-di/>>

2013-10-03

NIPCC Releases Climate Change Reconsidered II: The Physical Science

Just ahead of the IPCC's September 27 release of the Summary for Policymakers of its AR5 report on the physical science, the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change has released its *Climate Change Reconsidered II: The Physical Science*. CCR II consists of a IPCC-type *Summary for Policymakers* (20 pp.) and a main report (1023 pp.)

The SPM begins by challenging the IPCC's reliance on three lines of reasoning: computer models showing that CO₂ is responsible for most of the warming in the 20th century; a series of postulates that make a plausible case for its hypothesis; and circumstantial evidence that would be consistent with its hypothesis were it true. It then demolishes these postulates, concluding that, while human activities can have an effect on local climate, and the sum total could hypothetically result in an observable global signal, it would be small compared to the natural variability.

<<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/new-science-report-debunks-climate-scare-224093941.html>>

<<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/ccr-2013/>>

<<http://heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>>

<<http://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/CCR-II-Full.pdf>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/19/real-climate-science-the-ipcc-doesnt-want-you-to-see/>>

How Does the IPCC Arrive at 95% Confidence?

The headline finding from the Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC's AR5, Working Group 1 (the Physical Science) is the statement: "It is **extremely likely** that more than half of the observed increase in global average surface temperature from 1951 to 2010 was caused by the anthropogenic increase in greenhouse gas concentrations and other anthropogenic forcings together." In IPCC-speak "extremely likely" means at least 95% confidence.

Judith Curry attempts to explain how the IPCC determines its confidence levels. After trying to make sense of an obtuse definition from the IPCC's AR4 (when it was only 90% confident in AGW) she falls back on a response she gave to a reporter's question. Her response: "The 95% is basically expert judgment, it is a negotiated figure among the authors. The increase from 90 to 95% means that they are more certain. How they can justify this is beyond me."

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/27/95/>>

IPCC: Fixing the Facts

Steve McIntyre compares the original and the approved versions of Figure 1.4 in the IPCC's AR5. In the original (second order draft) Fig. 1.4 shows observed temperatures since 2007 that are clearly below the envelopes of projections from earlier IPCC assessment reports. In the approved version the IPCC covered the clean picture of the original with a spaghetti graph of model runs while shifting downwards the envelopes of projections relative to the observations so that the latter now lie within the envelopes. Mr. McIntyre notes that none of this portion of the assessment is drawn from peer-reviewed material.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/01/mcintyre-on-ipccs-switching-the-pea-under-the-thimble/>>

<<http://climateaudit.org/2013/09/30/ipcc-disappears-the-discrepancy/>>

Richard Lindzen: IPCC Findings "Hilarious incoherence"

Dr. Lindzen thinks that the latest IPCC report "has truly sunk to a level of hilarious incoherence." He bases this on the lack of correlation between past predictions and actual conditions. While the IPCC's excuse for the absence of warming over the past 17 years is that the heat is hiding in the deep ocean, it shows that the IPCC knows little about what is actually happening.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2438434/MIT-scientist-ridicules-IPCC-climate-change-report-calls-findings-hilarious-incoherence.html>>

You Don't Want to See Sausages or Climate Policy Being Made

Watts Up With That and Judith Curry describe some of the sausage-making details that went on as delegates argued over the wording of the Summary for Policymakers section of the IPCC's AR5. Saudi Arabia is prominently mentioned as attempting to make the SPM's language less alarmist, but being overruled. Allegations by skeptics of a global warming of a global warming slowdown in the popular media led to some time-consuming wordsmithing around the key findings.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/01/you-dont-want-to-see-sausage-or-climate-policy-being-made/>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/10/01/negotiating-the-ipcc-spm/>>

<<http://www.iisd.ca/vol12/enb12581e.html>>

Judith Curry: Kill the IPCC

Dr. Curry argues that, after several decades and expenditure of billions to fight global warming, the IPCC has not provided a convincing argument for how much warming in the 20th century was caused by humans. She gives a brief history the IPCC and how the issue of climate change rose to the top of the international agenda in 2006-2007. Since then there has been a realization that annual climate meetings accomplish little beyond agreeing to establish future meetings and that emissions reductions can't control the climate.

The focus on greenhouse gases and global consensus-seeking has stifled development of other policy options, causing paradigm paralysis that will likely continue as long as the IPCC remains in existence.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/09/30/ipcc-climate-global-warming/>>
<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/10/kill-the-ipcc-says-judith-curry-after-decades-and-billions-there-is-nothing-to-show-for-it/>>

UN Climate Official: World Leaders Are No Longer Listening to Us

Halldor Thorgeirsson, a senior director at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, appealed to the world's voters to pressure politicians into taking tougher action on greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Thorgeirsson is upset that world leaders are failing in their fight against global warming and fears that the 2015 climate summit in Paris will be a bust.

<<http://science.time.com/2013/09/17/u-n-official-world-failing-over-climate-change/>>
<<http://www.rtcc.org/2013/09/18/concrete-emissions-pledges-not-a-priority-for-2015-climate-deal-un-official/>>
<<http://www.thegwpf.org/world-heading-heart-attack-climate-expert-claims/>>

EU Climate Commissioner: Policy on Climate Change is Right even if the Science Is Wrong

The Commissioner, Connie Hedegaard, said: "Let's say that science, some decades from now, said 'we were wrong, it was not about climate', would it not in any case have been good to do many of things you have to do in order to combat climate change?" She also rejected complaints about increased electricity prices to subsidize renewable energy, claiming that increased competition for oil and gas resources will drive up prices anyway.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/10313261/EU-policy-on-climate-change-is-right-even-if-science-was-wrong-says-commissioner.html>>

2013-09-15

Leaked IPCC Report: Scientists Got the Global Warming Rate Wrong

A leaked copy of the IPCC's final draft of the Summary for Policymakers, to be published on September 27, says that the true figure of global warming since 1951 is not the 0.2°C/decade stated in previous reports, but 0.12°C/decade, lower than even the lowest computer prediction. The SPM also acknowledges that: the current warming "pause" is real, and the IPCC scientists cannot explain it; large parts of the world were as warm now as they were between 950 and 1250 AD; Antarctic sea ice has increased, contrary to what the models forecasted. Despite all this, the IPCC is more confident than ever (95% or "extremely likely", compared to 90% or "very likely" in 2007) that the world will continue to warm catastrophically unless there is drastic action to curb greenhouse gases.

Judith Curry suspects that someone in the IPCC leaked final draft SPM to "friendly" journalists, but it was David Rose at the unsympathetic *Mail Online* who broke the story. She also provides the complete text of her comments on the SPM sent to Mr. Rose. Among them, she says that the IPCC's confidence level should drop, rather than increase. Dr. Curry also reiterates her previous argument against the consensus-seeking processes used by the IPCC, preferring a more traditional review that presents arguments for and against.

Bjørn Lomborg predicts that the likely outcome of the SPM will be more of the same: scary

scenarios, followed by politicians promising huge carbon cuts and expensive policies that will have no impact on climate change.

In the *Online Wall Street Journal* Matt Ridley comments that even the new, lowered IPCC estimates of climate sensitivity may be too high and don't reflect recently-published papers on the subject.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2420783/Global-warming-just-HALF-said-Worlds-climate-scientists-admit-computers-got-effects-greenhouse-gases-wrong.html>>
<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/15/leaked-ipcc-report-discussed-in-the-msm/>>
<<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/realism-in-the-latest-ipcc-climate-report-by-bj-rr-lomborg>>
<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324549004579067532485712464.html>>

Study Finds that Climate Models Wildly Overestimated Global Warming

A new study in the journal *Nature Climate Change* compared 117 climate predictions in the 1990s to the actual amount of warming. Of these, three were roughly accurate and 114 overestimated the warming. On average the predictions forecasted twice as much warming as actually occurred. Melanie Fitzpatrick of the Union of Concerned Scientists is unconcerned, claiming that the models will likely be correct over long periods of time. John Christy blames the models' overestimation on the way they handle clouds: they assume that clouds shrink when there is CO₂ warming, whereas in the real world clouds aren't shrinking.

Watts Up With That has a 10:21 YouTube preview of Bob Tisdale's new book, *Climate Models Fail*, to be available in electronic form from Amazon in two weeks. Besides providing an overview of the models' failings, Mr. Tisdale throws in a few jabs at the IPCC. The models' failings include land and sea surface temperatures, precipitation, sea-ice area and El Niño-La Niña processes. The book contains more than 200 colour-coded maps and graphs.

<<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/09/12/climate-models-wildly-overestimated-global-warming-study-finds/>>
<[http://www.see.ed.ac.uk/~shs/Climate change/Climate model results/over estimate.pdf](http://www.see.ed.ac.uk/~shs/Climate%20change/Climate%20model%20results/over%20estimate.pdf)>
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/13/a-video-preview-of-climate-models-fail/>>

Donna Laframboise's New Book on the IPCC

Judith Curry reviews Ms. Laframboise's latest, *Into the Dustbin: Rajendra Pachauri, the Climate Report & the Nobel Peace Prize*. The new book is an anthology of her blog posts, and is timely given the imminent release of AR5. Ms. Curry's review concentrates on Dr. Pachauri and climate modeler Thomas Stocker of Switzerland, who is co-chair of Working Group 1. Since the other co-chair of WG1 comes from a developing country, Mr. Stocker is effectively in charge. He also has a clear political agenda, as evidenced by this quote about the upcoming UN climate summit: "... must clearly set down the reductions expected from industrialized countries, and at the same time define sanctions if these reduction targets are not met... then we need a clear plan for the way in which emissions allowances are traded."

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/09/laframboises-new-book-on-the-ipcc/>>

Australia Liberated from National Green Nightmare

Newly elected Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbot, who ran an election campaign with a promise to scrap the carbon tax, lost no time in starting to dismantle the country's carbon bureaucracy. Civil servants have been tasked with collapsing 33 climate-change schemes run by

seven departments and eight agencies into just three bodies run by two departments.

The *New Scientist* is upset by the landslide election results, claiming that it “seems to be bad news for the climate.”

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/09/coalition-starts-axing-australias-carbon-bureaucrat-machinery/>>
 <<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/election-2013/coalition-takes-axe-to-climate-programs/story-fn9qr68y-1226716471498>>
 <<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn24173-australia-rips-up-climatechange-policies.html-.UjUqFRZVtbx>>

In Ontario, Electricity Bills are Reason to Weep

In Ontario electricity bills contain an item called a “global adjustment,” which, among other things, covers the government’s cost of buying above-market-priced wind, solar, nuclear and gas-fired power from private operators. So far this year the Independent System Operator estimates that wholesale weighted price for electricity in Ontario is 2.8¢/kWh, but the global adjustment for September is a record 8.72¢/kWh. Ontario now pays about 11.5¢/kWh for wind power, and the amount of wind generating capacity is projected to triple to more than 5,000 MW by the end of 2014.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/09/12/in-ontario-electricity-bills-are-reason-to-weep/>>
 <<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/in-ontario-electricity-bills-are-reason-to-weep/article14270421/>>

Ontario Wind Power Generators To Be Paid for Not Generating Electricity

Claiming that it will be saving ratepayers money, the Ontario Government announced that it will start paying wind power generators not to produce electricity. The “saving” occurs because the generators will be paid at a lower rate than they would get for producing power surplus to the province’s needs that would then have to be sold or dumped into neighboring jurisdictions at a loss. Since 2006 Ontario has had a surplus of electricity. It has 1,500 MW of wind generation connected to the grid, and has contracted for another 4,300 MW. Presumably, the owners of this contracted capacity will also be paid not to produce, once they build their wind turbines and connect them to the grid.

In a *Financial Post* opinion piece, Parker Gallant writes a satirical letter to the Ontario Energy Minister offering to be paid not to produce electricity. He proposes to skip the tiresome process of getting a Renewable Energy Approval and then building wind turbines that would end up killing birds and bats. Ontario Wind Resistance has posted a 6:16 *Sun News* video comparing the government’s scheme to a Monty Python sketch.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/09/11/wind-power-generators-ontario-windmills_n_3904520.html>
 <<http://www.thesudburystar.com/2013/09/12/pov-paying-for-no-wind-energy-sounds-like-python-sketch>>
 <<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/09/09/ontarios-power-trip-dear-minister-heres-my-plan-to-not-produce-electricity/>>
 <<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/09/14/lib-blowing-in-the-wind/>>

EU Industrial Commissioner: “We face a systemic industrial massacre”

When Antonio Tajani said those words, he was warning that Europe’s quixotic dash for

renewables was pushing electricity costs to untenable levels, leaving European industry struggling to compete as America's shale revolution cuts US natural gas prices by 80%. Even the European President Herman van Rompuy noted, "Compared to US competitors, European industry pays today twice as much for electricity, and four times as much for gas. Our companies don't get the rewards for being more efficient." Europe's deepening energy crisis has for now replaced debt troubles as the region's top worry, pitting the EU's industry and environment directorates against each other.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financialcrisis/10295045/Brussels-fears-European-industrial-massacre-sparked-by-energy-costs.html>>

<<http://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/policy/germany-could-face-electricity-customer-revolt>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-energy-policy-threatens-eus-energy-security-utilities-warn/>>

IPCC Calls In Moral Philosopher as People Cool on Global Warming

Having had only a limited success in persuading us to care about climate change, the IPCC has called in the philosophers. John Broome, Professor of Moral Philosophy at Oxford University, is one of the lead authors of the IPCC's report on the mitigation of climate change, to be published next April. He argues that we should not be thinking simply on the impacts of our emissions on our grandchildren, but also on non-existing generations – both ones not yet born, and ones that would have been born, but for climate change.

The Global Warming Policy Foundation's Benny Peiser says the IPCC should be addressing questions of basic economic common sense, such as the best way of spending money on climate change, not philosophical questions.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/ipcc-calls-moral-philosopher-people-cool-global-warming/>>

A Science-based Rebuttal to Global Warming Alarmism

On September 23, the IPCC is scheduled to release the first portion of its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). AR5 will conclude once again that mankind is causing dangerous climate change. But one week prior, on September 17, the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) will release its second report, titled *Climate Change Reconsidered II* (CCR-II). The NIPCC was established in 2003 by Dr. Fred Singer, emeritus professor of physics at the University of Virginia, to give a second opinion on global warming.

<<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/sep/10/science-based-rebuttal-global-warming-alarmism/>>

<<http://nipccreport.com>>

Atlantic Hurricane Season: A Record-breaking Dud?

The 2013 Atlantic hurricane season, which forecasters had predicted would be more active than normal, has turned out to be something of a dud so far as an unusual calm hangs over the tropics. As the season heads into the historic peak for activity, it may even enter the record books as marking the quietest start to any Atlantic hurricane season in decades.

<<http://www.trust.org/item/20130907115311-xxdl8/>>

Big Green in Denial

Judith Curry comments on a provocative post by left-wing author Naomi Klein arguing that

environmentalists are more damaging to their cause than “climate change deniers.” Ms. Klein points out the track record of the Kyoto Protocol, the UN Clean Development Mechanism and the EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme: emissions are up, and no end of scams to point to, “... which gives fodder to the right.” She acknowledges that cap-and-trade is handouts to corporations and doesn’t work – just as the right predicted. Ms. Klein accuses green groups of having become too entrenched in the partnership model with corporations, rich donors and foundations, while refusing to listen to their members.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/07/big-green-in-denial/>>
<http://www.salon.com/2013/09/05/naomi_klein_big_green_groups_are_crippling_the_environmental_movement_partner/singleton/>

Arctic Ice Rebounds

A chilly Arctic summer has left 920,000 square miles more ice than at the same time as last year – an increase of 60%. August satellite photos from 2012 and 2013 show the dramatic change. More than 20 yachts that had planned to traverse the Northwest Passage this summer are left ice-bound.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2415191/Global-cooling-Arctic-ice-caps-grows-60-global-warming-predictions.html>>
<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/10294082/Global-warming-No-actually-were-cooling-claim-scientists.html>>

2013-09-05

US and EU Seek More Clarity on Slowdown in Next IPCC Report

Officials from the US and EU, worried that skeptics will cite the recent slowdown in global warming as a reason not to “panic,” have asked for more details on the warming hiatus to be included in the Summary for Policymakers (SPM). On September 23-36, representatives from the world’s environment ministries are to meet in Stockholm to wordsmith the final draft of the SPM, a 22-page condensation of the 2,200-page WG1 (physical science) portion of the IPCC’s AR5. The SPM is to be used by ministers working to devise a global treaty on climate change by the end of 2015.

As *Watts Up With That* reports, the issue of the SPM has been sidelined by the publication of peer-reviewed papers since the March 15, 2013 cut-off date for WG1; these deal with climate sensitivity and the hiatus, and should “devastate the IPCC orthodoxy that current and future global temperatures are driven mostly by greenhouse gas emissions and will reach dangerous levels later this century.”

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-29/global-warming-slowdown-data-sought-in-un-climate-report.html>>
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/31/can-the-ipcc-do-revolutionary-science/>>

IPCC Scientists Call for Overhaul of “Blockbuster” Climate Reports

Ahead of the release of AR5, some of the scientists working on it are calling for an overhaul of the IPCC’s practice of issuing “blockbuster” climate reports. Rather than doing a major assessment every 5-6 years, they want more frequent, targeted assessments. Governments are also pushing for change, and the future of the IPCC will be discussed at a meeting in Batumi, Georgia in October. For this meeting 29 governments have submitted comments (second link).

<<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/sep/04/scientists-overhaul-un-climate-report-ipcc>>
<http://www.ipcc.ch/apps/eventmanager/documents/5/030920131000-INF_1_p37.pdf>

UN Ruling Puts Future of Wind Farms in Britain in Jeopardy

A UN legal tribunal ruled that the UK Government acted illegally by denying the public decision-making powers over their approval and the “necessary information” over their benefits or adverse effects. Specifically, the UN Economic Commission for Europe has declared that the UK flouted Article 7 of the Aarhus Convention, which requires full and effective public participation on all environmental issues and demands that citizens are given the right to participate in the process. This means that consents and permissions for further wind-farm developments in Scotland and the UK are liable to challenge on the grounds that the public has been denied a chance to consider and contribute to the National Renewable Energy Action Plan.

<<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/exclusive-un-ruling-puts-future-of-wind-farms-in-britain-in-jeopardy-8786831.html>>
<<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/compliance/compliancecommittee/68tableeuuk.html>>

Germany’s Energy Poverty: How Electricity Became a Luxury Good

As German consumers face a 20% increase in the renewable energy surcharge on their electricity bills, their Environment Minister exhorts them to avoid preheating their ovens and to dim their TV sets. Already these consumers pay the highest electricity rates in Europe – the result of paying €20 billion for power from wind, solar and biomass with a market price of just over €3 billion. Meanwhile, diesel power is used to keep wind turbines in the North Sea turning because they’re not yet connected to the grid.

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/high-costs-and-errors-of-german-transition-to-renewable-energy-a-920288.html>>

US Republicans: Critical Thinking on Climate Change

Republicans on the US Senate Committee on Energy and Public Works have issued a minority report called *Critical Thinking on Climate Change*. Among the topics in the 21-page report that caught Judith Curry’s attention: climate models and the 15-year hiatus in warming; sea-level rise measured in millimeters, not feet; and extreme weather. From these she develops 11 questions for critical thinking.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/05/u-s-republicans-critical-thinking-on-climate-change/>>
<http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=f4ace657-9490-4f4c-86f3-25d367e2085c>

Consensus? What Consensus?

In this 6-page report, the Global Warming Policy Foundation’s Andrew Montford examines the consensus behind the recent Cook et al paper concluding that 97% of published scientific papers support man-made global warming. Apparently the paper was written for the express purpose of getting the amount of media attention that it did. Mr. Montford explains the shallow definitions used by the volunteers working on the Cook paper to mis-categorize the work of known skeptics.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/content/uploads/2013/09/Montford-Consensus.pdf>>

The “Hottest” Temperature Game

Tim Ball explains how proponents of CAGW mislead the public with the “9th (or 10th) hottest” temperature claim in order to divert attention from the bad news about the global warming stall. Dr. Ball also examines the correlation between reported global temperatures and the numbers of ground-based temperature stations.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/27/the-hottest-temperature-game/>>

New Paper Finds Cloud Assumptions in Climate Models Could Be Incorrect by Factor of Two

A new paper published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* finds that models must take into account not only the presence or absence of clouds but also how clouds are stacked vertically. The authors find that changes in vertical stacking of clouds can change radiative forcing assumptions by a factor of two [100%]. However, state of the art climate models do not take vertical stacking into consideration, and most global datasets of cloudiness also do not contain this information. "Clouds, which can absorb or reflect incoming radiation and affect the amount of radiation escaping from Earth's atmosphere, remain the greatest source of uncertainty in global climate modeling," and according to this paper, that uncertainty has just doubled from what was previously thought.

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/new-paper-finds-cloud-assumptions-in.html>>

2013-08-26

Germany’s Energy Chaos: Government May Have to Rescue Nuclear Plants

Due to overcapacity in the electricity market, caused by subsidized green energy, wholesale prices of electricity has been cut in half over the past four years. This has made operation of the remaining nine nuclear plants uneconomic, and operators want to shut them down before the fixed dates between 2015 and 2022. An advanced decommissioning of the plants before this schedule for economic reasons would threaten the stability of the power system, especially in southern Germany. This would put the Federal Government in the embarrassing situation of having to ban the decommissioning of nuclear power plants.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/germanys-energy-chaos-government-rescue-nuclear-power-plants/>>

Leaked Draft of IPCC Report: Experts Surer of Manmade Global Warming, but Predictions and Cause of Warming Pause Elusive

Reuters got a leaked draft of the next IPCC report (Vol. 1, The Physical Science), which is due for release in October. According to this draft the IPCC experts are “at least 95% certain” (a confidence judgment, not a scientific measurement) that burning of fossil fuels is the main cause of global warming since the 1950s. (This is up from 90% in the 2007 report, 66% in 2001 and 50% in 1995.) Frustratingly for government planners, the experts cannot pinpoint local impacts in the coming decades. The experts also struggle to explain the lack of warming since 1998, despite the buildup of atmospheric CO₂, stating that it could be due to volcanic ash, declining heat from the Sun, more heat being stored in the deep oceans, or even lower climate sensitivity to CO₂.

Watts Up With That skewers the 95% argument by comparing two similar temperature graphs, 1895-1946 and 1957-2008, and asking how the IPCC can be 95% certain that in one the warming is human caused and in the other not. A second WUWT article contains an animated graph

showing the failure of the IPCC's global warming predictions from 1990 to 2012.

Writing in the *American Interest*, Walter Russell Mead comments that the IPCC's greater uncertainty about local effects of warming will make it harder for the global green set to secure the dramatic action they tried and failed to secure in the past.

<<http://www.trust.org/item/20130816133815-ao2wt/?source=hptop>>
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/20/when-somebody-hits-you-with-that-new-ipcc-is-95-certain-talking-point-show-them-this/>>
 <<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/08/19/yes-humans-are-causing-warming-no-we-dont-know-what-that-means/>>

RSS Temperatures Flat for 200 Months Now

The Remote Sensing Systems' satellite-based temperature data set has been flat for the past 16 years and 8 months (December 2006 to July 2013.) The author of this *Watts Up With That* post, Werner Brozek, has plotted the monthly temperature anomalies, showing a flat trend line over the whole period, a higher, but still flat line for January 2000 – December 2010, and slightly downward sloping line for the latest 120 months to the present. He also compares the RSS data to other temperature datasets.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/25/rss-flat-for-200-months-now-includes-july-data/>>

2013 a Record Low for US Tornadoes

While many climate alarmists still try to tell us that global warming will increase tornadoes, we are in the middle of a tornado drought, and well below normal. Normally we'd see 1221 tornadoes in the US, so far for 2013, only 716 have been reported. So far, we are about 200 tornadoes below this time last year, and last year was also a low event year.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/19/2013-is-a-record-low-year-for-u-s-tornadoes/>>

Model Mockery

MIT Economics Professor Robert S. Pindyck published a paper: *Climate Change Policy: What Do the Models Tell Us?* In this paper he investigated integrated assessment models that are used to estimate the social cost of carbon and evaluate alternative assessment policies. He found that the models "have crucial flaws that make them close to useless as tools for policy analysis ... [these] analyses of climate policy create a perception of knowledge and precision, but that perception is illusory and misleading."

The reason they're useless: the "modeler has a great deal of freedom in choosing [his inputs]. Thus these models can be used to obtain almost any result one desires." Two of these freedoms are the climate sensitivity (the temperature increase from a doubling of CO₂ in the atmosphere) and the damage function (how much damage higher temperatures might do.)

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/08/22/lawrence-solomon-model-mockery/>>
 <<http://www.thegwpf.org/lawrence-solomon-model-mockery/>>
 <<http://www.nber.org/papers/w19244>>

Stalking the Rogue Hotspot

Kevin Trenberth is a mainstream climate scientist, best known for inadvertently telling the world the truth about the parlous state of climate science itself. In the Climategate emails published in 2009, it was revealed that in private he had said: "The fact is that we can't account for the lack of

warming at the moment and it is a travesty that we can't.”

Now Dr. Trenberth has found the missing warming, stating recently: “We can confidently say that the risk of drought and heat waves has gone up and the odds of a hot spot somewhere on the planet have increased but the hotspot moves around and the location is not very predictable.” He is very careful not to claim that droughts, heatwaves and “hotspots” have actually increased, only that their *risk* has gone up. Willis Eschenbach finds some comfort in one of the intellectual leaders of the climate alarmism movement resorting to unscientific scare stories.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/21/stalking-the-rogue-hotspot/>>

Global Warming May Be an Artifact of Clean Air Wars

A new paper from researchers at the National University of Ireland suggests that clean air laws put in place during the 1970s and 1980s have resulted in an increase in sunlight reaching the Earth's surface, thereby increasing surface temperatures. The authors used in-situ particulate matter measurements to show that reducing aerosol pollution drives insolation.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/19/shocker-global-warming-may-simply-be-an-artifact-of-clean-air-laws/>>

2013-08-14

Europe Pulls Plug on Its Green Future

Slowly but gradually, Europe is awakening to a green energy crisis, an economic and political debacle that is entirely self-inflicted. Even the mainstream media are exposing the pitfalls of the green energy gamble and opening their pages for analysis and debate. EU members states have spent about €600 billion on renewable energy projects since 2005, according to *Bloomberg New Energy Finance*. These hundreds of billions are being paid by ordinary families and small and medium-sized businesses in what is undoubtedly one of the biggest wealth transfers from poor to rich in modern European history.

The Czech government has decided to end all subsidies for new renewable projects, and Spain has curtailed its subsidies retrospectively. Germany has the most expensive electricity in Europe (€0.268/kWh) and its chancellor has warned about the weakening of the country's competitive advantage and has reduced the feed-in tariffs for solar power.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/benny-peiser-europe-pulls-plug-green-future/>>

Denmark Gets a Dose of Global Cooling in Major Newspaper

The August 7 edition of *Jyllands-Posten* featured a major, two-page article bearing the headline: *The behavior of the Sun may trigger a new little ice age*, followed by the sub-headline: *Defying all predictions, the globe may be on the road towards a new little ice age with much colder winters*. JP starts by reminding readers that it was just over 100 years ago that the world had clawed itself out of the little ice age, which extended from 1400 to 1900, a time when the Thames River often froze over. All paths in determining the cause of the little ice age all seem to converge to a single factor: solar activity.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/08/09/major-danish-daily-warns-globe-may-be-on-path-to-little-ice-age-much-colder-winters-dramatic-consequences/>>

Wind Farm Pulls Out in Face of Local Resistance

In July, the council for Dawn-Euphemia Township in Lambton County joined the list of Ontario municipalities declaring itself not a willing host to wind turbine projects. Citing this as one of its reasons, wind power developer rpGlobal informed the township that it is not moving ahead with plans for the 32-turbine windfarm in the municipality.

<<http://www.theobserver.ca/2013/08/06/developer-tells-dawn-euphemia-township-its-not-proceeding-with-wind-farm>>

Environmentalists Split on Green Energy Projects

In the war over renewable energy, environmentalists once stood together, united against opponents who didn't believe in climate change or the value of cutting greenhouse gases to address it. But recently, a raft of wind and solar farms proposed for ecologically sensitive areas has created a schism among their ranks. This occurred when wind projects, with concomitant destruction of old trees and bird habitat were proposed for the Oak Ridges Moraine, southern Ontario's "rain barrel." The leader of Ontario's Green Party blamed these green-on-green conflicts on the province's putting commercial interests before local environmental concerns.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2013/08/05/environmentalists_split_on_green_energy_projects.html>

Esther Wrightman: Eagles, Activism and NextEra

In this 16-minute video, Ms. Wrightman, the target of a lawsuit by wind energy company NextEra [FoS Extracts – 2013-06-09] gives a presentation in Sarnia, Ontario. She starts with the premise that people give up power by thinking they don't have any. She describes how she took over the running of two anti-wind websites, her use of video to keep council meetings transparent, videoing the destruction of an eagle's nest – a metaphor for habitat (wildlife and human.) The eagle's nest video prompted the Ontario government to pass a regulation giving renewable energy companies carte blanche to destroy nests and eggs without getting prior approval.

Ms. Wrightman then discusses the lawsuit against her. She had been using the NexTerror logo for months in her campaign, but it didn't bother NextEra until the eagle's nest video went viral, and the company sent Ms. Wrightman a cease-and-desist order to remove the video. When this didn't work, NextEra filed its SLAPP suit.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/08/08/esther-wrightman-eagles-activism-and-nextera/>>

The Economics of Ontario's *Green Energy Act*

At the same event in Sarnia as Ms. Wrightman, Ross McKittrick gave a 22-minute talk on the environmental and economic consequences of Ontario's *Green Energy Act*. He poses and responds to three questions: (1) will the GEA improve environmental quality; (2) is it cost-effective in accomplishing its goals; (3) are the economic effects on households and leading economic sectors likely to be positive. The answers to all three questions are negative.

Throughout his talk he stresses that a retrofit of two existing coal-fired plants would have achieved the same results as the GEA, at about 1/10 the costs to date. If the province goes ahead with its planned level of replacing 4800 MW of generating capacity on a year-round basis, it will cost 73 times the retrofit option – for no increased environmental benefit. Even worse, most of the wind power is bought at off-peak times at 13.5 ¢/kWh and sold on the export market at 4 ¢/kWh. In many North America jurisdictions, electricity prices are going down, due to shale gas. In

Ontario, power rates are doomed to increase for the foreseeable future.

Mr. McKittrick also discusses tort lawsuits being brought against wind operators. In one case the Ontario Superior Court accepted, that if a wind project were approved went ahead, there would be property value losses and negative health consequences for people living in the vicinity.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/08/07/ross-mckittrick-environmental-economic-consequences-of-the-green-energy-act/>>

Global Warming = Climate Change

In this 20-page essay, Ed Hoskins questions the actions to combat Global Warming / Climate Change from several points of view: the temperature context, man-made CO₂ emissions 1965-2012; the significance and influence of CO₂; and decarbonization context and consequences. During the past 10,000+ years of the Holocene interglacial, mankind has thrived. The most recent millennium (1000 – 2000 AD) is the coolest of the epoch, and the current interglacial may be drawing to a close.

Central England temperature records, maintained since 1659, show more correlation with sunspot activity than with atmospheric CO₂. Mr. Hoskins shows how developing countries are not joining in with the West's emission reduction schemes and have no intention of doing so. He then discusses CO₂ in the context of plant survival and diminishing greenhouse temperature effect. Any decarbonization efforts by industrialized nations would result in temperature reductions of only a few thousandths of hundredths of a degree.

<http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/equals_climate_change.pdf>

An Illustration why CO₂ Won't Roast the Earth

With a heavily-referenced graph, Anthony Watts shows atmospheric CO₂ concentration for 13 geologic time periods back to the Cambrian (485-500 million years ago), plus the "Anthropocene," with the latter showing the second lowest value of them all. In three of the periods, concentrations were ten times or more the current value of 400 ppm, and the Earth never reached a runaway tipping point.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/08/an-illustration-that-co2-wont-roast-the-earth-in-a-runaway-tipping-point/>>

Climate Models Cannot Explain why Global Warming Has Slowed

A new, three-page paper by Hans van Storch and others, *Can climate models explain the recent stagnation in global warming*, suggests three ways the models could be failing. These are: underestimation of internal natural climate variability on decadal time scales; influence of unaccounted external forcing factors, or overestimation of the model sensitivity to elevated greenhouse gas concentrations. A chart shows that a 10-year warming pause passes the 5% test for statistical significance, at 13 years the pause is so long that only 2% of the simulations could be said to agree with reality. At 16 and 20 years, only 1% and 0%, respectively will match reality.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/08/climate-models-cannot-explain-why-global-warming-has-slowed/>>

<<http://www.academia.edu/4210419/>

<[Can climate models explain the recent stagnation in global warming](#)>

2013-08-05

Media “Green Wars” Break Out

While it is the business of the media to be skeptical, the mainstream media has been asleep when it comes to Big Green and the amount of government largesse it receives. A twin-pronged attack by the *Guardian* and US media watchdog *Media Matters* on other Western news media suggests that things are changing. The *Guardian* ran a piece, *Don't underestimate rightwing desperation in media attacks on greens*, that complained about “a sustained attack on environmentalism” and targeting *The Times*, the *Telegraph* and the *Financial Times*. *Media Matters for America* found a 48% decline in climate-change coverage at *Reuters* over a six-month period after a new managing editor joined the agency.

<<http://www.trendingcentral.com/media-green-wars-break-out/>>

<<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/jul/26/rightwing-desperation-media-attacks-greens>>

<<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/jul/26/reuters-climate-change-scepticism-coverage>>

<<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2013/07/media-notes-climate-campaign-in-a-snit.php>>

Mafia Cashes In on Renewable Subsidies

A new Europol report cites an “emerging trend” of Mafia involvement in the wind and renewable energy industry across Europe, the Americas and Australia. The attraction is clear: huge subsidies, guaranteed markets and prices – and a serious opportunity for money laundering. The report *Threat Assessment: Italian Organized Crime*, describes the activities of a variety of Mafia organized crime groups (OCGs) as both a “clear and present threat to the European Union.” One industry singled out above others as being targeted is the “alternative or green energy market, for example investments in wind energy farms.”

<<http://www.trendingcentral.com/wind-energy-the-greenfellas-connection/>>

The Age of Hyperbole: How Normal Weather Became “Extreme”

On July 16, in an attempt to sensationalize warm, but normal summer weather, the *New York Times* published a story, *Summer's Beast is Loose*. The story claimed that we are altering the climate to add “... a more or less steady, more or less linear change ...” This claim is refuted by a NOAA graph of New York State temperatures from 1900 showing no meaningful trend, warming or cooling.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/31/the-age-of-hyperbole-how-normal-weather-became-extreme/>>

<<http://pjmedia.com/blog/the-age-of-hyperbole/?singlepage=true>>

Three Appeals of the Ostrander Point ERT Decision

On July 3 the Environmental Review Tribunal overturned the approval of the Ostrander Point windfarm in Prince Edward County, Ontario, because of its impact on Blandings turtles [FoS Extracts – 2013-07-08]. Right on the August 2 deadline, three appeals were filed against the ERT ruling. Two of these were by the proponent, Gilead Power (which had expended considerable time and resources on the project) and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (which must have had the blessing of the provincial cabinet.) The third was by the Alliance to Protect Prince Edward County, which is appealing the ERT’s dismissal of the APPEC’s claim that wind turbines cause serious harm to human health.

<<http://ccsage.wordpress.com/2013/08/04/three-appeals-of-the-ostrander-point-ert-decision/>>

Wind Turbine Video: Too Close

In this 4:53 video, Ontario rural residents describe what it's like living next to industrial wind turbines. They complain of sleeplessness, feeling the vibrations/pulses through the walls, impacted quality of life, disappearance of wildlife,

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/08/01/wind-turbine-video-too-close/>>

Wind Wars Playing Out in Rural Ontario

Lawsuits, marches and public meetings — these are the new signs of summer in rural Ontario as energy companies advance their plans for hundreds of wind turbines across the province. Opponents of large-scale wind farms gathered for a public meeting in the 600-seat Imperial Theatre in Sarnia on July 24, designed to “bring what everyone thinks is a rural issue to the city,” said organizer Ingrid Willemsen. “In the city people don’t think this affects them, but everyone in Ontario will be paying double on their energy bills soon,” she said, predicting inefficiencies in wind power production.

While wind opponents try to mobilize urbanites, other activists and municipal politicians are searching their wallets and bank accounts to defend themselves against legal challenges from wind energy developers.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/07/31/wind_farm_wars_playing_out_in_rural_ontario.html>

AGU Statement on Climate Change

The American Geophysical Union has released its revised position statement on climate change. It begins with the declaration that “humanity is the major influence on the global climate change observed over the past 50 years” and continues from there. Roger Pielke Sr. wrote a strong dissenting essay in response to the AGU statement, including his own more balanced statement on the issue, in which he discusses its complexity and uncertainties.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/08/05/agu-statement-on-climate-change/>>
<http://www.agu.org/news/press/pr_archives/2013/2013-38.shtml>

Green Energy Disaster Sinks Siemens CEO

German engineering giant Siemens has confirmed that it is completely winding down its solar business. The involvement ended in a disaster, costing Siemens about €1 billion. Plans to sell off its solar business had come to nothing. As a result, CEO Peter Löscher, the architect of the expansion into green energy and expensive acquisitions, has been ousted.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-energy-disaster-sinks-siemens-ceo/>>
<<http://www.dw.de/germanys-siemens-completely-winds-down-solar-business/a-16886900>>

Study of Climate Wars Met with Fierce Criticism

A study published in the prestigious journal *Science*, *Quantifying the Influence of Climate on Human Conflict*, found “... strong causal evidence linking climatic events across a range of spatial and temporal time scales ...” Anticipating that the study would be controversial, *Science*

accompanied the paper with a background article stating that the authors had ignored certain data and cherry-picked that which gave the strongest effect. Other critics accused the authors of confusing weather with climate and underestimating the ability of mankind to adapt to weather and climate events.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/study-climate-wars-met-fierce-criticism-2/>>
<<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2013/07/31/science.1235367>>

Using a Different Computer Could Change the Climate Catastrophe

When the same climate model code with the same data is run in a different computing environment (hardware, operating system, compiler, libraries, optimizer), the results can differ significantly. So even if reviewers or critics obtained a climate model, they could not replicate the results without knowing exactly what computing environment the model was originally run in. This came out in a paper, *An Evaluation of the Software System Dependency of a Global Atmospheric Model* that was published by the American Meteorological Society's journal. According to Joanne Nova, this undermines our confidence in climate models even further.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/oops-same-climate-models-produce-different-results-on-different-computers/>>
<<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/MWR-D-12-00352.1?af=R>>

2013-07-28

Germany Went “Rogue” to Freeze Green Cars Law

Germany is quite happy to go along with EU policy on “green” electricity, but won't tolerate any interference from Brussels that affects its automobile industry. In this case, it was a proposed directive aimed at limiting car emissions to 95 grams of CO₂ per km by 2020. Diplomats from several EU states have accused Germany of using threats, intimidation and blackmail to get other EU states to back down. Among the threats: no more bailout funds for Ireland; German car plant closures in the Netherlands; withdrawal of planned BMW investments in another country. The UK agreed to support the German position in return for quiescence to stymieing of a planned vote on the UK's budgetary rebate.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/germany-rogue-freeze-green-cars-law-diplomats/>>

Merkel's Aid Clash with EU Raises Risk for Big Energy Users

Exxon Mobil Corp., Bayer AG and Linde AG are among companies at risk of having to repay billions of euros in German aid as Chancellor Angela Merkel clashes with Europe's antitrust regulator over rebates to companies that use the most energy. A total of 1,691 companies or units are benefiting from power fee waivers worth about €4 billion this year, according to data from German authorities. While the European Commission is examining whether the waivers constitute illegal state aid, Ms. Merkel said they're key to safeguarding the competitiveness of Europe's biggest economy. (If that's the case, then why build all that expensive wind and solar power?)

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-16/merkel-to-press-eu-to-allow-industry-energy-intensive-waivers.html>>

Paul Ehrlich Wrong Again: World Cereal Production to Reach Record High

There's a surging current of alarm that we're headed for a food doomsday by 2050—that the world's food-producing capacity will crash before population peaks at 10 billion. However, world total cereal production is forecast to increase by about 7% in 2013 compared to last year, helping to replenish global inventories and raise expectations for more stable markets in 2013/14, according to the latest issue of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's quarterly Crop Prospects and Food Situation report.

Humans may never have to worry about the supply of fresh water again. The University of Texas at Austin reports that some of the university's scientists have found a new way to desalinate sea water, potentially easing concerns over one of the crises facing human civilization we've been told is just around the bend.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/22/paul-ehrich-wrong-again-world-cereal-production-set-to-reach-historic-high/>>

The Smoking Gun: Wind Turbines Are a Health Risk

According to the *Telegraph's* James Delingpole, the wind industry “has known for at least 25 years about the potentially damaging impact on human health of the impulsive infrasound (inaudible intermittent noise) produced by wind turbines. Yet instead of dealing with the problem it has, on the most generous interpretation, swept the issue under the carpet – or worse, been involved in a concerted cover-up operation.”

A 1987 research paper for the US Department of Energy demonstrated real annoyance to nearby residents, who became increasingly sensitive to the infrasound over time. This contradicts claims by the industry that there is no evidence for the Wind Turbine Syndrome and accusations of wind farms emitting infrasound are “unscientific.” Mr. Delingpole describes how recommendations on infrasound were publicized at the Windpower 87 Conference & Exposition in San Francisco. Rather than respond to the concerns, the industry and its government friends have continued to ignore the infrasound issue.

<<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100227983/wind-turbines-are-a-human-health-hazard-the-smoking-gun/>>

<<https://www.wind-watch.org/documents/proposed-metric-for-assessing-the-potential-of-community-annoyance-from-wind-turbine-low-frequency-noise-emissions/>>

Wind Turbine Flight Risk

Despite being warned by Transport Canada against installing wind turbines around the periphery of the Chatham airport, developer EdF-Suez, with the support of the Ontario government, went ahead and built them anyway. Transport Canada ordered removal of eight of them on June 14, but the company has so far refused to do so. Unwilling to deal with an embarrassment to its *Greed Energy Act*, the province has washed its hands of the affair, stating that the safety issue is a matter between Transport Canada and the company.

<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/canada/archives/2013/07/20130723-081212.html>>

<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/turbine-flight-risk/2564079194001>>

Rebellion against Wind Farms Gains Momentum in Denmark

Iconic Danish wind turbine manufacturer Vestas Wind Systems has launched a campaign against what it describes as “a small but well-organized and influential minority that has succeeded in launching outrageous claims about wind power.” One of Vestas' claims is that the noise 400 m

from a wind turbine is less than that of an average refrigerator in a kitchen. Three experts from Aalborg University counter-claimed that wind turbines are noisier by 10 dB, which is a lot. Vestas backpedalled, stating that that its claim originated in Australia, where wind turbines have to be 800 m from residences. The experts replied that a 3 MW wind turbine is still 6-7 dB higher than a refrigerator at 800 m.

As Denmark's leading newspaper, Jyllands-Posten puts it in an editorial: "And wind turbine owners: because in their pursuit of tax credits and state-guaranteed minimum prices, they have ignored the interests of the people who - unlike most of themselves - have suffered a greatly reduced quality of life because of the imposition of wind turbines near their homes."

<<http://www.epaw.org/documents.php?lang=en&article=ns57>>

The Real Free Market Is Making the Fake Carbon Markets Pointless

A new study by three researchers from Norway and the US, *Climate policy and dependence on traded carbon*, brings out a home truth: humans want cheap energy; the free market is powered by human creativity and mass demand and will always find ways to circumvent national policies that try to force people to use more expensive energy. The study finds that global trade in energy-intensive goods is growing faster than global trade in carbon credits. As some countries slow production and reduce their emissions, they are simply buying those goods from other countries with less regulation of carbon emissions.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/the-real-free-market-is-making-the-fake-carbon-markets-pointless/>>

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/8/3/034011/pdf/1748-9326_8_3_034011.pdf>

DeSmogBlog Betrayed by *The Economist* and Google

DeSmogBlog used to count *The Economist* and Google on the side of the angels, but no more. According to the blog, the "once-authoritative" news magazine "has set fire to its credibility" by: running a major story on the 15-year warming pause; reporting that the next IPCC assessment will conclude that climate sensitivity is less than previously thought; and worst, allowing one of its columnists to argue that, in view of the slowdown in global warming, perhaps policies to deal with climate change can be put on hold for a decade or two. Google's sin was giving money to US Senator James Inhofe and the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/2013/07/25/countertrend-google-economist-flee-climate-reality>>

Raptures of the Deep

The title refers to three briefing papers on the recent pause in global surface temperature, released by the UK Met Office. The overall message (reached with the considerable help of hindsight for no one predicted it) is that the current standstill in global surface temperature is nothing unusual, can be explained quite simply by climate models, has its explanation in the heat uptake by the deep oceans, and ultimately doesn't make much difference. After many years of denying that the standstill existed the Met Office now seeks to explain it, and bring it into the fold.

Or, as Walter Russell Mead puts it, we really don't understand our climate. Judith Curry provides excerpts from the three papers, with her comments.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/raptures-deep/>>

<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/07/23/we-really-dont-understand-our-climate/>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/23/uk-met-office-on-the-pause/>>

2013-07-21

Germany's Looming Energy Disaster

Germany's *Energiewende* (energy transition) aims to boost the share of electricity generated from wind, solar and other renewables to 50% by 2030, and 80% by the middle of the century, but it is not going well. The Global Warming Policy Foundation has a translation of a *Reuters* story about German operators of coal and gas power plants threatening to shut down unprofitable plants unable to compete against subsidized "green" power. *The Telegraph* reports on a complaint to the EU by a German association of small and medium-sized companies about exemptions from the country's renewable energy law for large energy-intensive industries. According to *Spiegel International*, Germany's plans to build 60,000 new wind turbines are finding resistance from the people forced to live with them. Even Green Party activists are upset over the impacts of wind turbines on forests and birds.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/german-energy-companies-threaten-shutdown-power-plants/>>
 <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10178866/Berlin-facing-EC-bias-claim-over-energy-subsidies.html>>
 <<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/wind-energy-encounters-problems-and-resistance-in-germany-a-910816.html>>

Spain's Green Energy Requiem

The Spanish government has concluded that the pain in Spain cannot be sustained. Thus it is slashing its subsidies for wind power and other renewable energy as part of a deficit-fighting move. Power companies say that elimination of the subsidies will cost them \$3.5 billion. All in all, a sad end for a program hailed as a model by the Obama administration for its own renewables initiative.

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/lorenstefny/2013/07/15/requiem-for-spanish-wind/>>
 <<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-17/spain-clean-energy-subsidy-cuts-raise-bankruptcy-risk.html>>

EU Renewables Program: Unlawful?

The anti-wind group European Platform Against Windfarms won a first victory when the EU Court of Justice accepted to hear its petition against windfarms. The petition claims that the European Commission failed to conduct technical studies on how many tonnes of fossil fuels will really be saved by the hundreds of thousands of wind turbines it wants to force on rural populations and on avian and marine life. EPAW accuses the Commission of parroting the claims of the wind industry without verifying them. Moreover, it claims that, with the additional fossil fuel standby power needed to stabilize power production, there are no net savings in CO₂ emissions. The court ruling is expected in 12-18 months.

<http://www.epaw.org/press/EPAW_release_ECJ_recourse_accepted.pdf>

The Dirty Secret of Britain's Power Madness: Backup Diesel Generators

According to the *Daily Mail*, thousands of diesel generators are being secretly prepared all over Britain to provide emergency backup to prevent the National Grid from collapsing when wind power fails. The Grid will pay up to 12 times the normal wholesale market rate for the electricity

they generate. The scheme is expected to cost British consumers £1 billion a year by 2015, adding 5% to their energy bills.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2362762/The-dirty-secret-Britains-power-madness-Polluting-diesel-generators-built-secret-foreign-companies-kick-theres-wind-turbines--insane-true-eco-scandals.html>>

Australia Ditches Carbon Tax for Trading Scheme

The country's new prime minister, Kevin Rudd, scrapped his predecessor's carbon tax in favour of a trading scheme. The move from a fixed to a floating price for carbon will bring an effective 75% cut in the price. The floating price will be based on the EU's Emissions Trading System. Joanne Nova says the result is that the Australian economy will now be partially dependent on decisions made by the EU. She prefers a carbon tax that can be removed without hurting anyone, to a trading scheme with middlemen making money and holding property rights. A trading scheme can't be unwound without paying compensation.

<<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/billions-in-savings-fund-shift-on-carbon-tax/story-e6frg6xf-1226679320817>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/the-start-of-the-end-rudd-ditches-carbon-tax-for-a-trading-scheme-eurocrats-now-dictate-what-we-pay/>>

IPCC Draft Lowers Climate Sensitivity

With two months to go before the IPCC releases its fifth assessment report, *The Economist* says that it will be less scary than the 2007 version. The latter predicted that CO₂ concentrations of 445 to 490 ppm would raise temperatures 2.0-2.4°C above pre-industrial levels. The new report forecasts 1.3-1.7°C higher temperatures by 2100 for CO₂ concentrations of 425 to 485 ppm – implying a lower climate sensitivity.

<<http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21581979-peek-inside-next-ipcc-assessment-sensitive-information>>

US Senate Hearing, *Climate Change: It's Happening Now*

On July 18 the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee held a hearing on the subject, with two panels of five witnesses each. The warmists asked: "Can any witnesses say they agree with Obama's statement that warming has accelerated during the past 10 years?" There was silence. A video link and links to each person's testimony are contained in the *Watts Up With That* story. Judith Curry's blog comments on or provides excerpts from the testimony of each witness.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/19/watch-yesterdays-blockbuster-performance-by-dr-roger-pielke-jr-and-dr-roy-spencer-at-senate-climate-hearing/>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/18/u-s-senate-hearing-climate-change-its-happening-now/>>

Reuters Downgrades Climate Change Coverage

A perceptible shift in *Reuters*' approach to the global climate change story has attracted international attention. Scientists and climatologists as well as non-governmental and international environment bodies have detected a move from the agency's straight coverage towards skepticism on the view held by a vast majority of scientists that climate change is the result of human pollution of the atmosphere and environment. They see generally fewer stories on the issue. Some say they have been taken aback by *Reuters*' new direction and are concerned that this could contribute to a change in government and public perceptions of climate change.

<<http://www.thebaron.info/news/files/a24cc2de4ab115e4c0cf607673ed2323-875.php>>

Global Warming = Climate Change

This short essay by Ed Hoskins questions the actions to combat Global Warming / Climate Change from three points of view:

- The temperature context
- Man-made CO₂ emissions 1965-2012
- The significance in influence of CO₂.

Using temperature records for the Holocene (the current epoch since the end of the last Ice Age about 11,700 years ago), Mr. Hoskins points out that the 1,000 – 2,000 AD millennium is the coolest of the entire epoch. He also examines the Central England Temperature record since 1659 and finds that it better correlates with solar activity than with atmospheric CO₂.

Mr. Hoskins then points out how the futility of various efforts by developed countries to reduce their CO₂ emissions and contradicts the statements by politicians that the gas is a pollutant. He ends by describing the consequences of de-carbonization.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/17/global-warming-climate-change/>>

2013-07-14

Reality Check: Obama Administration Forecasts Bright Future For Fossil Fuels

During his 2012 election campaign, President Obama frequently promoted renewable energy sources as the “future,” deriding fossil fuels as “energy sources of the past.” But according to projections from his own Department of Energy, the reality is much different — fossil fuels will continue be America’s dominant source of energy for at least the next quarter century, while renewables, even with taxpayer life support, will continue to play a relatively minor role as an energy source for the US. The department is not expecting a lot of progress for renewable energies as a fuel source for America, even after almost 100 years of efforts from politicians like Mr. Obama and billions of taxpayer dollars.

<<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2013/07/despite-obamas-claims-department-of-energy-forecasts-suggest-that-fossil-fuels-are-the-energy-sources-of-the-future/>>

Carbon Markets Collapse, World Bank Cancels Report

For seven years the World Bank has published *The State and Trends of the Carbon Market* in May or June with great fanfare and press releases. It was the definitive guide telling the world how many dollars are turning over in the global carbon markets. The 2012 report said that the carbon markets turned over a record \$176 billion in 2011. Rather than risking releasing a report that might generate headlines like “carbon market collapses,” the bank has replaced its previous state-and-trends series with something called *Mapping Carbon Pricing Initiatives 2013*, which contains nothing about volumes traded.

In its explanation for the change, the bank says: “Unlike in previous years, the report does not provide a quantitative, transaction-based analysis of the international carbon market **as current market conditions invalidate any attempt and interest to undertake such analysis.**”

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/state-of-the-carbon-market-in-2013-is-so-sick-the-world->

[bank-cancelled-the-report/>](#)

Wasting Money on Trying to Fight Climate Change Instead of Adapting to It

Whether or not you think global warming causes killer weather events, spending billions chasing carbon emission reductions represents a hijacking of the policy agenda. Instead, Terrance Corcoran argues that we should spend money making cities less vulnerable to floods, heat waves and other events. No matter how many windmills are built, fossil fuels — oil, gas, coal — are going to be the dominant source of energy around the world for decades to come.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/terence-corcoran-stop-wasting-money-stop-adapt-climate-change/>>

Media Bias: US Networks Ignore Global Warming Standstill

Recent years' slowdown in global warming completely ignored by networks 92 climate change stories in 2013. Stories citing experts or the latest studies promoting alarmism get covered more than eight times as often as critical experts and studies. One ABC report was typical, warning: "Many cities had record warmth, including Washington, D.C. where a lack of action on manmade climate change is likely to mean 2012 is just a glimpse into an unpleasant future, according to many scientists." Just since January 1, 2013, ABC, CBS and NBC morning and evening news programs have aired 92 stories about "climate change" or "global warming." Not a single one of those stories mentioned the "warming plateau" reported even by *The New York Times*.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324425204578599743078256264.html>>

WWF Says its Mission Now is “to Save Life on Earth”

When the World Wildlife Fund began 50 years ago, it aspired to merely to ensure the well being of particular species of animals. Since that time this organization has grown so large, wealthy, fat, and powerful it now imagines that life itself would vanish without it. This came out in a job posting for a project run by the WWF, and funded by the US taxpayer. The posting ends with the exhortation: “Please join us in our mission to save life on Earth.”

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/07/10/some-kind-of-narcissism-wwf-says-its-saving-life-itself/>>

Trees Using Water More Efficiently as Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Rises

A study by scientists with the US Forest Service, Harvard University and partners suggests that trees are responding to higher atmospheric carbon dioxide levels by becoming more efficient at using water. The study, *Increase in forest water-use efficiency as atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations rise*, was published on-line in the journal *Nature*.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/11/another-benefit-of-increased-co2-trees-use-water-more-efficiently/>>

Sunspot Double Peak Over?

The Royal Observatory of Belgium, official keeper of sunspot records, has published the June sunspot number (the average number of daily sunspots over the month): 52.5. May-June was supposed to be the second of the double peak of Solar Cycle 24. In a normal solar cycle the number peaks at 119. It looks as if the current cycle is starting to wind down and the next one, SC25 that should peak about 2022, is forecast to be the weakest in 300 years (i.e., back to the Maunder Minimum – the coldest part of the Little Ice Age.)

<<http://informthepundits.wordpress.com/2013/07/09/sunspot-double-peak-over/>>
 <http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/331320/description/Next_solar_cycle_could_be_a_no-show_>>
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/11/the-solar-cycle-is-still-slumping/>>
 <<http://www.irishtimes.com/sun-s-bizarre-activity-may-trigger-another-ice-age-1.1460937>>

Climate Model Tuning

Arguably the most poorly documented aspect of climate models is how they are calibrated, or “tuned,” something that has concerned Judith Curry in previous blog posts. Here, she presents a German-authored paper on the subject, *Tuning the climate of a global model*, commenting how it highlights the failure of climate modeling groups to adequately document their tuning/calibration and to adequately confront the issues of introducing subjective bias into the models through the tuning process.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/09/climate-model-tuning/>>

2013-07-08

Turtles Halt Ontario Wind Farm

A group of naturalists opposing a proposed wind farm at Ostrander Point in Prince Edward County won a victory when an environmental review tribunal blocked the project. The tribunal concluded that needed access roads would open up a secluded area to vehicles, poachers and predators causing “serious and irreversible harm” to some Blandings turtles, which is listed as a threatened species. Previously, the Ontario environment ministry had granted approval for the wind farm. The developer, Gilead Power, has 30 days to appeal the ERT’s decision to the courts on matters of law.

The third link points to the full 140-page decision by the ERT. The appeal required 40 hearing days between March and June. Besides the impact on turtles and other environmental effects, the hearing dealt with medical evidence on the effects of industrial wind turbines on human health, including testimony by persons affected by IWTs and expert medical opinion from both sides. The ERT ruled that it could not rely on the subjective testimony of people affected by IWTs and sided with the experts from the province and the developer, stating that adverse health effects of IWTs is “a work in progress” and the opponents had not established that the alleged health effects were caused by wind turbine noise (pp. 30-31).

If the ERT had ruled that IWTs harm human health, it would have set a nasty precedent, possibly stopping all future wind projects in Ontario. Fortunately for the people that would have been affected by the Ostrander Point project, there was the Blandings turtle.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/07/04/blandings-turtles-halt-wind-farm-at-ostrander-point/-more-56786>>
 <http://www.thestar.com/business/2013/07/04/blandings_turtles_halt_wind_farm_at_ostrander_point.html>
 <<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/07/03/full-ostrander-point-wind-project-environmental-review-tribunal-decision/>>

Rare Bird Slaughtered by Wind Turbine

It has been 22 years since a white-throated needletail has been seen in the UK. On June 24, two birdwatchers spotted one on the Isle of Harris, which is part of an island chain known as the Outer Hebrides. Word spread and soon dozens of enthusiasts, reportedly from all over the country, hit the road, eager to witness this natural marvel with their own eyes. On June 26, however, in the presence of approximately 40 bird watchers, the needletail flew into a wind turbine and was killed instantly.

Ironically the wind industry funds the charity Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The RSPB has convinced itself that the biggest threat to the bird population isn't the thousands of wind turbines in the here and now, but speculative climate change decades hence. When birds die accidentally on oil company property, the company gets fined \$7,000 per fatality, but it looks like no one will be held accountable for the demise of the rare needletail.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/06/29/rare-bird-slaughtered-by-wind-turbine/>>

President Obama's Climate Action Plan – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Anthony Watts comments on the president's plan, announced on June 25, to "cut carbon pollution." The good parts include no carbon tax, infrastructure improvements to mitigate effects of extreme weather, investment in a range of energy technologies including fossil fuels, and an open climate data initiative. The bad include more money for the bloated climate science culture, more regulations on existing power plants, pie in the sky savings, hitting the trucking industry, fast tracking green energy, and no comprehensive nuclear power plan. Among the ugly are multiple citations of the idea that CO₂ is "carbon pollution" equating it with mercury and arsenic and elevating a fake crisis using manipulated data.

Donna Laframboise and CFACT's Larry Bell comment on the president's action plan. In a separate CFACT article, Marita Noon writes that the action plan, particularly the "war on coal," is a millstone around America's neck. Bonner Cohen calls it a green elitist assault on ordinary citizens.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/25/the-presidents-climate-action-plan-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/>>

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/06/25/obama-dresses-co2-in-a-big-bad-wolf-costume/>>

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/07/02/mr-president-please-read-the-handwriting-on-the-wall/>>

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/07/01/obamas-climate-action-plan-a-millstone-around-americas-neck/>>

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/06/26/obamas-climate-initiative-a-green-elitist-assault-on-ordinary-citizens/>>

Dutch Government Criticizes IPCC and Calls for Reforms

Governments around the world have been asked by IPCC to think about the future of the IPCC. The Netherlands government has posted its submission online. It states that limiting the IPCC's scope to human-induced climate change is undesirable, because natural climate change is a crucial part of the total understanding the climate system. Furthermore, the IPCC should stop producing "comprehensive" assessments, instead producing reports on topics that are new and controversial. The assessments should be web based and kept up to date.

<<http://www.staatvanhetklimaat.nl/2013/07/05/dutch-advise-to-ipcc-limiting-the-scope-to-human-induced-climate-change-is-undesirable/>>

An Evidence-Based Approach to Pricing CO₂ Emissions

In a new paper Ross McKittrick proposes to link the level of a tax on CO₂ emissions to temperatures in the tropical troposphere, and to create a 30-year futures market for tax-exemption certificates. Investors would then have long-term certainty about the carbon price, and the future tax rates would incorporate all known evidence of the likely path of global warming. According to Prof. McKittrick, “If the climate models are correct, the carbon tax will rise significantly as CO₂ levels rise; but if the temperatures remain stagnant or low, then the tax and its economic cost will remain low too.”

The proposal attracted critical comments, which Prof. McKittrick responds to in this *Watts Up With That* article.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/04/an-evidence-based-approach-to-pricing-co2-emissions/>>
<http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/07/04/mckittrick_climate_tax_hitch_actual_climate_genius/>
<<http://www.trust.org/item/20130704154806-i2pwb/?source=dpagehead>>

The WMO’s Extreme Report

The World Meteorological Organization (sponsor of the IPCC) has issued a report, *The Global Climate 2001-2010: A Decade Of Climate Extremes*, that, in the opinion of the Global Warming Policy Foundation’s David Whitehouse is “one of the most muddled and inaccurate reports I have ever read from an international organization.” While the WMO states that ten years is the minimum time required to detect decadal effects, that is effects that the WMO wants to see, but it ignores the current 16-year temperature plateau. Furthermore, the choice of 2001-2010 appears to be convenient cherry picking, to get a year ending in zero, when there were two more years of data available to the WMO.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/wmos-extreme-report/>>
<http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_976_en.html>

2013-06-09

Wind Energy Company Sues Anti-Wind Activist

Esther Wrightman runs the blog *Ontario Wind Resistance*, and one of its targets is Florida-based NextEra Energy, which is constructing wind farms near where Ms. Wrightman lives. Fed up with the satire and parody directed at it by OWR, NextEra hired three lawyers from an upscale law firm to hit Ms. Wrightman with a SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation). The suit claims that, in using the terms on her website “NexTerror” and “NextError” Ms. Wrightman is violating the company’s trade mark for her own commercial interest (a legal defense fund to fight the company’s turbines.) She is also cited for uploading to YouTube a video of NextEra destroying a bald eagle nest.

Ms. Wrightman refuses to be SLAPPED and on May 27 filed a 22-page, well-researched statement of defense (third link) rejecting any injunction restraining her from fair comment on what she sees happening in her neighbourhood. Her statement describes how NextEra earned its “NextError” “NexTerror” sobriquets through a series of blunders and bringing about a state of fear, terror of invasion, worry and destruction to her community.

<<http://www.lfpress.com/2013/06/03/head-on-with-giant>>
<<http://www.theobserver.ca/2013/06/06/legislation-aimed-at-curbing-legal-action-used-to-limit-expression>>
<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/06/03/so-they-did-it-nextera-energy-sued-me/>>

<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/search/all/source/the-source/taking-on-turbine-towers/2434478593001>>
<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/big-wind-bullies/2437029606001>>

First Green Energy Trade War: EU-China Fight over Solar Panels

Chinese firms have captured 80% of the European market for solar panels, raising claims of dumping. And so, the European Commission imposed a supplementary tariff of 11.8% on Chinese-made solar panels as of June 6, increasing it to 47.6% in August if no deal is reached. The EC insists that its move is not protectionism, but rather ensuring that the trade rules apply to Chinese companies.

Beijing reacted by announcing an anti-dumping and anti-subsidy probe into European wine – at the request of Chinese wineries. Immediately France, which accounts for 71% of wine imports into China, demanded an emergency EU summit and warned of an escalating trade war (*Telegraph* article.) Writing in *The American Interest*, Walter Russell Mead suggests that Beijing's reaction is more than just a desire to support the domestic solar industry or its contempt for Europe's fine wines; it also shows that China doesn't take the EU seriously as an economic powerhouse. In a second article Mr. Mead points out what happened when the US slapped tariffs on Chinese solar panels: other cheap Asian manufacturers jumped in.

<<http://www.euractiv.com/energy/eu-china-solar-trade-spat-escala-news-528314>>
<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22771687>>
<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/globalbusiness/10101317/France-demands-emergency-EU-summit-over-Chinas-wine-tax-threat.html>>
<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/06/05/china-holds-eu-wine-industry-hostage-in-trade-war/>>
<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/06/03/the-green-jobs-chimera/>>

Green Investors Face Bankruptcy as Spain Cuts Subsidies

Spain's government plans to reduce subsidies to renewable-energy producers by 10% to 20%. The move could drive tens of thousands of struggling solar-energy companies and individual investors into default. Spain began offering large subsidies and other incentives in the late 2000s to promote the growth of solar-energy projects. In addition, banks loaned the renewable-energy companies an estimated €30 billion. As a result, the amount of solar-power capacity installed in Spain far surpassed official government targets, increasing the tariff deficit.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-investors-face-bankruptcy-spain-cuts-subsidies/>>

UK House Votes Down Decarbonization Target

By 290 votes to 267, the House of Commons voted against a motion calling for a decarbonization target that would have ensured that almost all electricity was generated from carbon-free sources like wind and nuclear by 2030. While the UK has legally binding targets for greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and 2050, it has nothing for 2030.

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22764955>>
<<http://www.thegwpf.org/energy-bill-decarbonisation-vote-reaction/>>

Climate Aid: The \$39 billion Industry, Mostly Used to Slow Developing Countries

Developed countries have paid \$35.9 billion into the UN aid program called FastStart, which was set up in the aftermath of the 2009 Copenhagen climate convention. Another \$3 billion in private

finance has been added as well. According to *Bloomberg*, 71% of this finance went to emission-reduction ventures, rather than adaption projects like water conservation or flood defense. As CO₂ emissions are strongly linked to per-capita GDP (see graph in the article), this is more evidence that reducing them will keep poor people poor.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/climate-aid-the-39-bn-industry-mostly-used-to-slow-developing-countries/>>

Offshore Wind: The Enormously Expensive Energy Alternative

As part of President Obama's "all of the above" energy strategy, the US Department of the Interior announced plans for a July auction of 164,750 acres off the southern coasts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts for commercial wind farms. While hailed by a chorus of governors, this offshore wind will be enormously expensive. For example, the proposed Cape Wind project off Massachusetts will deliver electricity at 18.7¢/kWh, escalating at 3.5%/year over 15 years, which is triple the wholesale cost of electricity in New England.

The consumer pays twice for offshore wind. First, consumer taxes fund wind energy subsidies and tax breaks. Second, states like Massachusetts force utilities to buy high-cost offshore wind electricity, which then increase electricity rates so the consumer pays again.

<<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/jun/7/offshore-wind-enormously-expensive-energy-alternat/>>

Judith Curry Asks What Are We Debating

Republican Rep. Lamar Smith wrote an op-ed in the *Washington Post* titled *Overheated rhetoric on climate change doesn't make for good policies*, and critics responded with ... overheated rhetoric. This led Judith Curry to think that a lot of the anger is driven less by substantive differences than by knee-jerk responses. She has posted a background paper by Benny Peiser outlining the key areas of agreement and disagreement between his Global Warming Policy Foundation and the "consensus." The paper lists these in three categories:

- Matters where both sides agree and can quantify the outcome.
- Matters where both sides agree, but cannot quantify the outcome.
- Matters where skeptics think the evidence doesn't support the scientific consensus.

The GWPF is in the process of arranging a debate with the pro-consensus Royal Society; something, which Dr. Curry hopes, will be about science and policy, not about funding sources for each side. She also describes a 10-member panel discussion in West Virginia, for which Climate Depot has posted links.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/05/31/rep-lamar-smith-on-climate-change/>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/06/01/what-exactly-are-we-debating/>>

Submission of Legal Brief to the US Supreme Court

On May 23, Tim Ball and ten other scientists filed an amicus brief with the Court asking it to consider their scientific argument that the Environmental Protection Agency's CO₂ Endangerment Finding be dropped because of scientific and legal errors. The case involves an appeal by the Southeastern Legal Foundation et al against a split decision by the DC Circuit Court in favour of the EPA.

The amicus brief states that no scientists have devised an empirically validated theory proving that higher atmospheric CO₂ levels will lead to higher global average surface temperatures. Without this underpinning, the EPA's causal assertions of sea-level increases, more frequent and

severe storms, floods and droughts are disproved.

<<http://drtimball.com/2013/submission-of-legal-brief-to-the-us-supreme-court/>>
<<http://drtimball.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/EPA-Brief.pdf>>

Global Warming Theory Has Failed All Tests, So Alarmists Return to “97% Consensus” Hoax

In this guest essay by Joseph D’Aleo of Weatherbell Analytics, he lists 25 failures of global warming science. Given these failures, the most disreputable alarmists like Oreskes, Cook and Trenberth have tried to convince the uninformed by using the consensus argument. *Forbes* has an article describing how John Cook’s recent paper on the consensus relied on misclassifying papers of the world’s most prominent global warming skeptics.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/05/global-warming-theory-has-failed-all-tests-so-alarmists-return-to-the-97-consensus-hoax/>>
<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2013/05/30/global-warming-alarmists-caught-doctoring-97-percent-consensus-claims/>>

Epic Fail: 73 Climate Models vs. Observations for Tropical Tropospheric Temperature

Roy Spencer and John Christy have plotted observed temperatures and calculated ones for 73 climate models for 1979-2012. Rather than the usual spaghetti plots of the models’ individual years, they just plotted the linear trends. All 73 model plots exceed the observations. Dr. Spencer suspects that the models’ feedbacks (increased water vapour) are too strong.

After receiving complaints about his use of linear trends, Dr. Spencer posted a graph of running five-year averages, with all trend lines intersecting in 1979. Based on these results he doesn’t see how the IPCC can keep claiming that the models are “not inconsistent with” the observations.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/06/epic-fail-73-climate-models-vs-observations-for-tropical-tropospheric-temperature/>>
<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/06/still-epic-fail-73-climate-models-vs-measurements-running-5-year-means/>>
<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/even-with-the-best-models-warmest-decades-most-co2-models-are-proven-failures/>>

2013-06-02

Ontario Government to Revamp Wind and Solar Approvals

The approval process for locating large wind and solar projects has pitted communities and neighbours against each other across the province, with many municipalities declaring themselves “unwilling hosts” for industrial wind turbines (see Ontario Wind Resistance site.) So the government has announced cancellation of the feed-in-tariff program for major renewable projects. A competitive procurement process that will require developers to work with municipalities before seeking Ontario Power Authority (OPA) approval will replace it.

The FIT program will continue for "micro and small" renewable projects, and priority points will be awarded to renewable projects that are led by or partnered with municipalities. Nevertheless, the number of wind turbines in Ontario is forecast to triple to 5,000 over the next 18 months.

<<http://www.torontosun.com/2013/05/30/wynne-liberals-to-revamp-wind-solar-power-project->

[approvals](#)>

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org>>

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/06/02/ontario-wind-turbines-to-triple/>>

Ontario to Change *Green Energy Act* after WTO Ruling

Following loss of Canada's trade appeal before the World Trade Organization over Ontario's GEA [FoS Extracts – 2013-05-12], the Ontario Government announced that it will change a provision in the GEA requiring local content in wind and solar farms. The legislation to comply with the WTO ruling will be in place by early next year.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/05/29/ontario-to-change-green-energy-law-after-wto-ruling/>>

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/ontario-to-change-green-energy-law-after-wto-ruling/article12236781/>>

President Obama Calls Out the Climate Change Deniers in Congress

The President's web page of climate change deniers lists 87 Representatives (20% of the total) and 23 Senators (23% of the total), together with a brief quote for each citing evidence of their "denialism." Judith Curry has examined this list and found that only a fraction of these are denying either that climate has been changing or that humans do not contribute to atmospheric CO₂ or that CO₂ does not influence climate. She calls the President's labeling of these individuals as deniers only serves to polarize the situation. If he and the consensus scientists focused more on these factors, rather than continued efforts to convince that there is an overwhelming consensus and labeling anyone who disagrees as a "denier," then maybe some sanity could emerge on energy and climate policy.

The Hill reports that the President said that he doesn't "have much patience for people who deny climate change," and vowed to take new executive actions if Congress doesn't move ahead with a major climate bill.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/05/27/president-obama-calls-out-the-climate-change-deniers-in-congress/>>

<<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/302537-obama-has-no-patience-for-climate-skeptics>>

Carbon Capture and Storage: Greens Turn on their own Green Energy Project

President Obama wants the US to lead the world in green power, with his energy regulators imposing a moratorium on new coal plants and grinding down the ones still operating. But when the supposedly environmentally friendly replacements do appear, they face the familiar obstacle of ... environmentalists.

The project in question is a \$4.3 billion experiment in "clean coal" in Mississippi, one of the few commercial demonstrations of CCS. It would convert low-grade lignite coal to gas for power generation and then strip out most of the carbon dioxide to be sold as a byproduct for unconventional oil drilling. Pressure groups led by the Sierra Club have filed a barrage of lawsuits to stop the plant and are also lobbying the state utility regulator, the Mississippi Public Service Commission, to revoke approval.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/ccs-greens-turn-green-energy-project/>>

James Hansen Calls for New Political Party to Combat Climate Change

Fed up with failure of a dysfunctional two-party system to address “climate, energy and economic challenges,” Dr. Hansen issued a manifesto calling for a “centrist, with 100% of a rising carbon tax collected from fossil fuel companies and then distributed uniformly to all legal residents.

Dr. Hansen would also have government-sponsored energy research, development and demonstration (ERD&D). His favored power sources are solar, wind and nuclear. While” third party, the American Party. Its main policy would be a “fee-and-dividend” approach pointing to Germany as the biggest success story for wind and solar, he is disconcerted to note that the country is building new lignite-fired power plants [FoS Extracts – 2013-04-27.]

Dr. Hansen’s main support is the Citizens Climate Lobby, an organization that prepares citizens to educate politicians and the public about the need for a revenue-neutral carbon fee via op-eds, letters to the editor, and meetings with editorial boards.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/05/30/climate-craziness-of-the-week-james-hansen-calls-for-new-political-party-to-combat-climate-change/>>

<<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/2013-international-conference>>

Another Electric Car Company Goes Belly-up

The company, Better Place, started out as a source of pride and a symbol of Israel’s status as a global high-tech power, but it suffered from a local brand of hubris and overreach. On May 26, it announced plans to liquidate after burning through almost a billion dollars and failing to sell its silent fleet of French-made sedans to a skeptical public.

For the most part, electric cars have not enjoyed their expected success anywhere. The battery alone in an electric car costs as much as a new gasoline-powered car, and electric vehicles are not selling nearly as fast as once projected. General Motors expected to sell 60,000 Chevy Volts globally last year, but sold just half that many. Sales of Nissan's all-electric Leaf grew 22% around the world last year to 26,000, short of Nissan's projected 50% growth.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/05/28/another-electric-car-company-goes-belly-up/>>

<<http://www.ecnmag.com/news/2013/05/trailblazing-israeli-electric-car-company-close>>

How Government Scientists Plunder the Till in the Name of Science

Patrick Michaels, who directs the Center for Study of Science at the Cato Institute, relates the perils of science-by-government-funded-committee. As he puts it, “In Big Science, money is power. Money is publications. Money is promotion and tenure, television time, awards, rewards and a permanent ticket out of coach. There’s simply no incentive for scientists to do anything but perpetuate their issues.” It’s not just the scientists themselves, but also the universities that are hopelessly addicted to the 50% overhead they charge on science grants.

<<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/may/28/my-scientists-made-me-shrink-your-car/?page=all - pagebreak>>

Chris de Freitas: Science Proves Alarmist Global Warming Claims Nothing but Hot Air

Chris de Freitas, a teacher and researcher in the School of Environment at the University of Auckland, replies to an earlier op-ed article in *The New Zealand Herald* by pointing out misleading arguments used by climate alarmists. Among these: output from computer models is not evidence unless model performance has been validated; alarmists rarely mention the ever-decreasing effect of more CO₂ on global temperature; for more CO₂ to cause significant global

warming a positive feedback mechanism is required, and scientific evidence to date suggests that the feedback is negative, i.e., stabilizing.

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=10886282>

Is It a Failure to Communicate, or Faulty Climate Science?

In this essay Steve Goreham, Executive Director of the Climate Science Coalition of America, compares the claimed 97% of scientific papers over the last decade that “endorsed the consensus” [FoS Extracts 2013-05-26 and 2013-05-19] to the much lower public acceptance of human-caused global warming. He wonders if it is a failure to communicate the science to the public, or a case of bad science. Mr. Goreham comes down firmly in favour of rotten science, pointing to Michael Mann’s faulty hockey-stick graph, the Climategate emails, faulty IPCC temperature predictions and the lack of abnormal weather.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/05/29/is-it-a-failure-to-communicate-or-faulty-climate-science/>>

<<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/may/29/it-failure-communicate-or-faulty-climate-science/>>

The Madness of 97% 98% Consensus Herds

Anthony Watts quotes from Charles Mackay’s 1841 book, *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*, as an apt description for the process that Cook et al used to claim that 97% of the papers published over the last decade endorsed the consensus. In fact, using Cook et al’s calculations the figure should have been 98%, but apparently they wanted to match the 97% number that had become a popular meme in the media.

Referring to a critique by Richard Tol of the Cook et al paper, Mr. Watts says their use of a group of volunteers to classify the ~12,000 abstracts was a crowd evaluating a crowd. Further, it appears that the volunteers were not neutral, but rather insiders of Mr. Cook’s Skeptical Science website. For example, of the 34.6% of papers that should have been rated as neutral, 99.4% were rated as endorsing AGW.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/02/the-madness-of-97-98-consensus-herds/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/01/tol-statistically-deconstructs-the-97-consensus/>>

British Climate Scientist: Why We’re Wasting Billions on Global Warming

Myles Allen is head of the Climate Dynamics group at the University of Oxford’s Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics Department. He and a group of academics have published a paper arguing that 90% of the measures adopted in Britain and elsewhere since the 1997 Kyoto agreement are a waste of time and money. Since Kyoto, emissions have risen 40%.

Judith Curry comments on the refreshing “heresy” of Dr. Allen’s essay, something that is rare in the community of climate scientists.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2331057/Why-I-think-wasting-billions-global-warming-British-climate-scientist.html>>

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/05/26/myles-allen-why-were-wasting-billions-on-global-warming/>>

Arid Regions of World Are 11% Greener, Mostly Thanks to CO₂

From satellite data we know that the world has “greened up” since 1980, but we were not sure

how much of that was due to the fertilizing effect of CO₂. A group headed by Randall Donohue of Australia developed a mathematical model to predict the CO₂ fertilization effect. They then tested it, after eliminating other factors such as precipitation, air temperature, amount of light and land-use changes. While the team's model predicted a 5-10% increase in foliage due to atmospheric CO₂ increase over the study period (1982-2010), the satellite data showed an 11% increase in foliage.

These findings have been accepted for publication in *Geophysical Research Letters*, a journal of the American Geophysical Union.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/arid-regions-of-the-world-are-11-greener-thanks-to-co2/>>

2013-05-26

Some EU Leaders Back Shale Revolution

On May 22, leaders of the EU member-nations held a one-day energy summit to face up to the challenge posed by the shale oil and gas revolution that has slashed US energy prices and undercut Europe's competitive edge. According to European Council President Herman van Rompuy, "Industry finds it hard to compete with foreign firms who pay half the price for electricity, like in the United States."

Since not all countries favour developing shale energy (e.g., Britain, Hungary, Poland and Spain in favour, France against), there is unlikely to be a coordinated effort to develop shale, and extraction will get done only in parts of Europe.

<<http://www.france24.com/en/20130522-eu-leaders-face-shale-challenge>>

<<http://euobserver.com/news/120202>>

<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/05/23/europe-wants-backsies-on-green-energy-policies/>>

Hope Fading For International Aviation Emissions Deal

Hope is fading for a global deal to regulate the airline industry's greenhouse gas emissions ahead of a fall deadline, even though failure could push the industry back to the brink of a trade war over the EU's emissions trading system. Last November the EU suspended its scheme to force all airlines to buy carbon credits for any flight into or out of EU airspace, in order to give the International Civil Aviation Organization time to come up with a global regulatory regime.

But there is still disagreement at the ICAO on how to charge for emissions from flights that cross borders; how to deal fairly with developing countries; and whether airlines, states or both should be subject to regulation. Even as aviation industry leaders urge ICAO to hammer out a deal, talks at a high-profile ICAO committee have effectively broken down.

The ICAO has quietly set standards and rules on everything from cargo safety to air traffic control since 1944, reaching deals between countries that may agree on very little, aside from the value of keeping planes in the sky. But on climate change, the diplomats posted to Montreal are part of a fraught and complex geopolitical conflict that has little to do with planes.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/05/19/uk-airlines-climate-icao-idUKBRE94I07G20130519?feedType=RSS&feedName=GCA-GoogleNewsUK&google_editors_picks=true>

US Senator Barbara Boxer Blames Oklahoma Tornado on Global Warming, IPCC Head Disagrees

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif. – Chair of Senate Environment & Public Works Committee) took to the Senate floor and invoked the Oklahoma tornadoes in her speech on global warming. “This is climate change,” she said. She also plugged her own bill that would put a tax on carbon.

In Geneva, commenting on the same tornadoes IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri said, “...one really cannot relate an event of this nature to human-induced climate change. It's just not possible. Scientifically, that's not valid.”

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/2013/05/21/dem-sen-boxer-blames-tornadoes-on-global-warming-plugs-her-carbon-tax-bill-to-fix-bad-weather-this-is-climate-change-we-were-warned-about-extreme-weather-we-need-to-protect-our/>>
<<http://english.astroawani.com/news/show/dont-pin-us-tornado-on-climate-change-un-panel-head-14684>>

Spinning the Climate: The IPCC

This essay by a reviewer of all five IPCC reports, Vincent Gray, explains how dubious observations and some genuine science have been distorted and “spun” to support a global campaign to limit human emissions of certain greenhouse gases, which has no scientific basis and no proven capacity to forecast future climate. In doing so Dr. Gray describes the lead-up to the IPCC since the early 1970s, its formation in 1992 and the production and editing of its series of reports since then. He also relates his personal history as a reviewer, concluding that the disappearance of the IPCC is not only desirable, but inevitable as its “predictions” don’t happen.

<http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/spinning_the_climate.pdf>

The Collapsing “Consensus”

Christopher Monckton’s essay critiques “the latest anti-scientific propaganda paper by John Cook” on the 97% consensus [FoS Extracts – 2013-05-19]. He lists eight solecisms “that should have led any competent editor or reviewer to reject the paper” and then provides a little history of the consensus story, beginning with Naomi Oreskes’ 2004 essay on the subject. He concludes that, as the planet fails to warm at anything like the rate predicted, it will become apparent to all that the science was not and will never be done by mere headcount.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/05/22/the-collapsing-consensus/>>

The Zero-Emission Vehicle Myth

Auto enthusiasts were thrilled last week as green automaker Tesla made it into the black, earning \$11 million profit on revenue of \$562 million in the first quarter of 2013. A closer inspection of the numbers, however, reveals that the Palo Alto-based carmaker made its profit by selling \$68 million in carbon credits to other automakers. Under a mandate that 15 percent of sales be zero-emission vehicles by 2025, California requires that automakers make a certain number of electric vehicles (EVs) or be penalized. And since Tesla makes only the athletic, \$70,000 electric Model S, it has credits by the trunkload — while full-line automakers like GM pay a penalty.

But the greater con is the fiction that electric cars are zero-emission vehicles. According to a comprehensive engineering study published in the February 2013 Journal of Industrial Ecology, greenhouse gas emissions for an EV’s full life cycle — from production through road use — are not much greener than a comparable gas-powered auto, and no more planet-friendly than a diesel

car. Indeed, when you factor in the toxicity of materials used in battery production, it's hard to make the case that EVs are a green alternative.

<<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130521/OPINION03/305210002>>

Certified Carbon-free Sugar

In case you thought green advertising couldn't get any more stupid, Domino Sugar claims that its cane sugar (molecular formula: C₆H₁₂O₆) is "carbon free." Domino says that its Florida farms became certified as carbon neutral by virtue of their eco-friendly generation of renewable power.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/05/domino-makes-carbon-free-cane-sugar-its-certified/>>

On Academics, Abstraction, and Model addiction

Judith Curry reviews an essay: *Too many academics are driven to abstraction by their addition models*, by Gregory Melleuish. The author argues that climate change has largely been pushed by academics and their allies in the media. Firstly, the reason is naked self-interest. They can claim that government needs to fund them so they can find ways of overcoming the effects of climate change. The more that is done on climate change, the more that needs to be done.

Secondly, is the academic desire to reduce the world to a series of models that can be manipulated to predict the future – a delusion. Thirdly, academics have a high opinion of themselves and their rightness, so they and their government allies seek to delegitimize anyone not an expert in the field.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/05/19/on-academics-abstraction-and-model-addiction/>>

Ocean Temperatures – Is that Warming Statistically Significant?

The oceans as measured by ARGO buoys are warming, but that warming is not only far less than the models predicted, it is far less even than the instrument error. Since 90% of the energy in the Earth's climate system is stored in the oceans, this is a crucial point. Climate models say the Earth's energy balance is out of whack, and therefore 90% of the extra energy trapped by increasing greenhouse gases is stored in the oceans – not just in the top 700 m, but also in the 700 m – 2,000 m region.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/05/ocean-temperatures-is-that-warming-statistically-significant/>>

2013-05-19

To Eat or Heat? That's the EU's Question

The *Calgary Herald's* Licia Corbella attended the 10th annual Friends of Science luncheon on May 14, at which the Global Warming Policy Foundation's Benny Peiser laid out in graphic terms how the EU's climate policies have failed. In some cases the resulting high energy prices drive people into poverty. Dr. Peiser said that the climate policies have resulted in the biggest wealth transfer in the history of modern Europe as ordinary families, in their energy bills, subsidize the investments of green do-gooders.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/licia-corbella-eat-heat-eus-question/>>

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Corbella+heat+That+question/8388644/story.html>>

The EU Green Hell

Benny Peiser describes how the EU's utopian scheme of transforming itself into a green energy powerhouse is faltering as the fantasy plan collides with reality. The green folly was founded on two apocalyptic fears: firstly, that global warming was an urgent threat that needed to be prevented at all cost, and secondly, that the world was running out of fossil fuels, which meant that oil and gas would inexorably become ever more expensive.

Both conjectures, however, turned out to be bogus. First, the arrest of the global warming trend since 1997 made it clear that the IPCC's climate models inflated the immediacy of any climate risk. Then the sudden arrival of enormous amount of shale gas and oil ended the peak oil hysteria. As a result, Europe's manufacturers are rapidly losing ground to international competition and have announced plans to move to the US.

According to Austria's energy regulator, European consumers have subsidized renewable energy investors by a staggering €600 billion since 2004. Germany's green transition alone may cost energy consumers up to €1 trillion by 2020. Public protest against the growing cost of going green are forcing law-makers to renounce support for costly policies that are hurting ordinary families. The rapid decline in competitiveness has alarmed governments. For the first time, many are no longer willing to prioritize the green agenda, which is publishing the green lobby back to the periphery.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/benny-peiser-eu-green-hell/>>

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/05/13/the-eu-green-hell/>>

EU Businesses Urge Governments to Abandon Costly Green Regulations

According to BusinessEurope president Jürgen Thumann, European companies' competitiveness is hampered by unnecessary burdensome legislative instruments in climate, energy and environment and policymakers must rebalance industrial strategies towards manufacturing. He said that European companies are carrying the burden of global regulation, when Europe's share of total global greenhouse gas emissions is just 10% to 11%, adding that costly EU climate policies and unilateral approach have not led to the success of the "leadership by example" role that the European Commission had promised.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that business leaders met on May 16 to discuss a proposal for the European Commission to "reindustrialize Europe." However, some view the real challenge as preventing further deindustrialization of the continent.

<<http://www.euractiv.com/specialreport-ebs/business-summit-calls-energy-pol-news-519725>>

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323398204578486910790220942.html>>

Another 97% Consensus

The Guardian reports on a study, led by University of Queensland's John Cook, that surveyed 11,994 academic papers, selected some 4,000 of them, and found that 97.1% of the latter agreed that climate change is caused by human activity.

However, Joanne Nova argues that the new paper confounds climate research with financial forces, is based on the wrong assumptions, uses fallacious reasoning, wasn't independent, and confuses a consensus of climate scientists for a scientific consensus. She then describes 12 clues that good science journalists ought to notice. Among them: not one of the thousands of papers

endorsing AGW found any evidence that matters; 66% of the 11,994 did not endorse AGW; the number of papers is a proxy for funding; use of argument from authority; most of the consensus papers assumed the theory is correct, but never checked it.

The blog rankexports.com describes how John Cook's blog, *Skeptical Science*, invited people to use its interactive rating system to scan the 11,994 abstracts and "measure the consensus" themselves. Rankexports.com found that, by using a criterion that human activity is the dominant (> 50%) influence, only 65 of the 11,994 abstracts met the requirement.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/may/16/climate-research-nearly-unanimous-humans-causes?CMP=twf_fd>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/05/cooks-fallacy-97-consensus-study-is-a-marketing-ploy-some-journalists-will-fall-for/>>

<<http://rankexploits.com/musings/2013/on-the-consensus/>>

Paris Projected as Pivotal Climate Point

Paris is going to be the venue for the 2015 climate conference, at which organizers hope that all 195 nation-members of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will agree to a new, legally binding climate treaty. The last attempt, at Copenhagen in 2009, failed miserably, and subsequent conferences (Cancún, Durban and Doha) were marked by smaller numbers of participants.

Among the people with stakes in a new treaty, Ted Neeff, a recognized carbon market and climate change professional, has studied participation at the 18 annual climate conferences so far. Based on the ups and downs of meeting attendance, Mr. Neeff estimates that COP (Conference of Parties) 21 in 2015 may match Copenhagen's attendance record of 28,000. However, if there's no agreement in Paris, he doubts that the COP process will survive.

<<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/columnist/vergano/2013/05/11/climate-paris/2149167/>>

<<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901113000774>>

The Perils of Energy Technocracy

The technocracy movement that arose in the early part of twentieth century advocated turning over the reins of governmental decision-making to scientists, engineers and other "technocrats". It was argued that the expertise of technocrats would result in better decisions than those made by private companies. The same concept was embedded in the central planning of the Soviet Union.

After waning in the 1930s, the technocracy movement is making a comeback in the area of energy, marked by increasing government intervention in the markets, particularly by the Obama administration. Then Solyndra (\$535 million government loan), Fisker Automotive (\$529 million loan), and Tesla (\$465 million loan), went bankrupt, or are selling products at a loss.

Finally, there is no evidence that government scientists and engineers are better at forecasting the future or know how the future will play out better than the scientists and engineers in private companies. Technocrats ignore the fact that private companies also hire scientists and engineers, (not to mention MBA's and economists) and make investments based on their outlook for the future.

<<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/05/the-perils-of-energy-technocracy/>>

Climate Models Getting Worse than We Thought

A paper published May 17 in *Geophysical Research Letters* finds that the latest climate models are performing even worse than the earlier generations of climate models in predicting "...both the mean surface air temperature as well as the frequency of extreme monthly mean temperature events due to climate warming."

The author hypothesizes the reasons for this are that attempts in the latest generation of models to reproduce observed changes in Arctic sea ice are causing "significant and widening discrepancy between the modeled and observed warming rates outside of the Arctic," i.e. they have improved Arctic simulation at the expense of poorly simulating the rest of the globe. The paper adds to hundreds of other peer-reviewed papers demonstrating the abject failure of climate models.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/05/16/climate-models-getting-worse-than-we-thought/>>
<<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/grl.50562/abstract?systemMessage=Wiley+Online+Library+will+be+disrupted+on+18+May+from+10%3A00-12%3A00+BST+%2805%3A00-07%3A00+EDT%29+for+essential+maintenance>>

2013-05-12

Al Gore's Gutter Gospel

In this five-minute video, *SunNews*' Ezra Levant and *Climate Depot*'s Marc Morano discuss Al Gore's comment that the Keystone pipeline would be an "open sewer" to the atmosphere. According to Mr. Morano, now that Canadian Energy Minister Joe Oliver has made enemies of both James Hansen and Al Gore, he must be doing something right.

<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/gorersquos-gutter-gospel/2363613956001>>
<<http://www.climatedepot.com/2013/05/08/watch-now-climate-depots-morano-on-gores-comments-about-the-keystone-pipeline-being-an-open-sewer-to-the-atmosphere/>>

Canada Loses Trade Appeal over Ontario's Green Energy Act

Three years ago Japan and the EU brought a case to the World Trade Organization arguing that Ontario's local content requirements for wind and solar breached international trade law. A WTO adjudication panel upheld the complaint in December 2012. Canada appealed the finding, and the appeal was dismissed in a WTO decision released on May 6.

The ruling could have significant repercussions given that a number of countries are involved in WTO investigations relating to renewable energy subsidy schemes. The US, EU, China, India, and South Korea have all featured in a series of escalating trade spats in recent months centering on allegations that clean tech manufacturers and renewable energy projects are being unfairly subsidized in breach of WTO rules.

<<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2266297/canada-loses-appeal-over-protectionist-renewable-energy-subsidies>>

Carbon Pricing Doesn't Work

Canada 2020 is a think tank established "to identify progressive policy solutions and to help redefine federal government for a modern Canada." It recently launched a policy marketing initiative to "sell" Canadians on the purported merits of carbon pricing policies, with a background paper titled *Why would Canadians buy carbon pricing?*

The *Financial Post* article points out errors in the paper's conclusions regarding the supposed success BC's carbon tax, noting the correlation between job losses and greenhouse gas reductions. While Scandinavian and German households pay \$0.40/kWh for electricity, 40% to 50% of that power comes from burning coal, which begs the question why, with those prices, Europeans can't afford zero-emission electricity.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/05/07/carbon-pricing-doesnt-work/>>
<<http://canada2020.ca/publications/>>

Ontario's Green Energy Act Looms Behind Gas Plant Mess

The *Toronto Star*, normally a supporter of Ontario's Liberal government and left-of-centre policies in general, has allowed this opinion piece by a former senior advisor on electrical utilities for the province's energy ministry. The article blames the GEA, which overrode existing laws and regulations, including the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and stripped Ontarians of their right to appeal decisions concerning the location of energy facilities, for the mess behind the cancellation of two gas-fired power plants during the last election campaign. The cost of the cancellation is \$585 million.

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2013/05/10/power_plant_cancellations_green_energy_act_looms_behind_gas_plant_mess.html>

US Department of Energy Spent \$11 million per Job

Without much fanfare, the DOE recently updated the list of loan guarantee projects on its website. Unlike in 2008, when Barack Obama pledged to create 5 million jobs over 10 years by directing taxpayer funds toward renewable energy projects, there were no press conferences or stump speeches. But the data are nonetheless revealing: for the over \$26 billion spent since 2009, DOE Section 1703 and 1705 loan guarantees have created only 2,298 permanent jobs for a cost of over \$11.45 million per job.

<<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2013/05/08/does-11-million-jobs/>>

A Tale of Two Oil States

Texas and California have been competing for years as U.S. growth models, and one of the less discussed comparisons is on energy. The Golden State has long been one of America's big three oil producing states, along with Texas and Alaska, but last year North Dakota surpassed it. This isn't a matter of geological luck but of good and bad policy choices.

Barely unnoticed outside energy circles, Texas has doubled its oil output since 2005. Even with the surge in output in North Dakota's Bakken region, Texas produces as much oil as the four next largest producing states combined. The Lone Star State now pumps nearly two million barrels a day, and total production could double by 2016 and triple by the early 2020s. The entire U.S. now produces about seven million barrels a day.

A large part of the explanation for the Texas boom and the California bust is the political culture. Despite their cars, California voters have elected politicians who consider fossil fuels to be "dirty energy." California has also passed cap-and-trade legislation that adds substantially to the costs of conventional energy production and refining.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324695104578416871045535226.html>>

Reality Check: EU Reassessing Its Costly Green Energy Strategy

EU heads of state and government will meet May 22 at a competitiveness summit to seek ways to limit the impact of energy costs for European industry. The latter says it is disadvantaged compared to the US, where shale gas has drastically lowered costs. Options to be considered include developing the EU's own shale gas resources, analyzing energy prices and costs in member states, completion of an internal energy market and breaking up energy monopolies.

The draft guidelines for the summit conclusions prepared by Council President Herman van Rompuy say that high energy prices and costs hamper European competitiveness. The guidelines also mention using more recourse to "... indigenous sources of energy, both conventional and unconventional ...", i.e., shale gas.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/07/us-eu-energy-summit-idUSBRE9460G620130507>>
 <<http://www.euractiv.com/energy/eu-leaders-square-circle-cheap-en-news-519606>>
 <http://static.euractiv.com/sites/all/euractiv/files/22_May_Council_DRAFT_Conclusions_1.doc>
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/05/08/newsbytes-eu-turn-europe-may-roll-back-costly-green-agenda/>>

World's Largest PV Solar Seller Goes Bankrupt

China's Suntech ("Solar powering a green futureTM"), which in 2011 was the world's biggest seller of silicon-based photovoltaic modules and once valued at \$13 billion on the NY Stock Exchange, has been forced into bankruptcy. World manufacturing capacity for PV modules is 60 GW/year – most of it in China – but demand is only 35 GW/year, and so prices have plummeted. Most solar panel manufacturers in China are losing money, and some in the US and Germany have gone bankrupt. So far, no reorganization plan for Suntech has emerged, and the company's future remains dim.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/05/the-worlds-biggest-solar-pv-seller-was-worth-13bn-now-bankrupt/>>
 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/chinese-solar-panel-maker-flames-out/2013/05/03/9b7f29d6-ac2c-11e2-9493-2ff3bf26c4b4_print.html>

Harrison H. Schmitt and William Happer: In Defense of Carbon Dioxide

Mr. Schmidt, adjunct professor of engineering at the University of Wisconsin and former Apollo 17 astronaut, and Mr. Happer, professor of physics at Princeton University, discuss the "demonized chemical compound that is a boon to plant life and has little correlation with global temperature." While current levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere are approaching 400 ppm, they were 3,000 ppm or more until the Paleogene period (about 65 million years ago.)

The authors describe the role of atmospheric CO₂ in photosynthesis, plant growth and plant water use. They conclude, "The incredible list of supposed horrors that increasing carbon dioxide will bring the world is pure belief disguised as science."

The Schmidt-Happer article got emotional responses from climate modeler Gavin Schmidt and water scientist Peter Gleick, which *Watts Up With That* rebuts.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323528404578452483656067190.html>>
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/05/09/nasas-gavin-schmidt-climateofgavin-goes-full-emotional-rorts-himself-with-an-unsupportable-claim-gleick-plays-me-too/>>

The Declining Marginal Effectiveness of CO₂ as a Greenhouse Gas

As the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ approaches 400 ppm, there will be announcements from vested interests in AGW. In this essay Ed Hoskins describes an inconvenient fact that is well understood, but given little emphasis by the IPCC: the effectiveness of CO₂ as a greenhouse gas diminishes logarithmically with increasing concentration, as shown by the table below:

CO ₂ Concentration	Comment	Incremental (°C)	Cumulative (°C)
0 – 100 ppm		2.22	2.22
100 – 200 ppm	Plants die below this level	0.29	2.51
200 – 300 ppm	Preindustrial level	0.14	2.65
300 – 400 ppm	Current level, attributed to human activity	0.06	2.71
400 – 600 ppm	Business as usual to 2100	0.08	2.79

According to this table, it is impossible for human emissions to cause temperatures to reach the much-vaunted policy limit of 2.0°C over pre-industrial levels by 2100.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/05/08/the-effectiveness-of-co2-as-a-greenhouse-gas-becomes-ever-more-marginal-with-greater-concentration/>

Agenda 21: Climate Science as a Vehicle for Political Control

Tim Ball was interviewed by Luke Gillard in Austin, Texas for several hours as preparation for a larger documentary on the use of climate science to achieve a political agenda of wider government control. The 25-minute *YouTube* video deals with the UN's Agenda 21, a 21st Century plan for a global government based on sustainable development. Starting at 2:40 Dr. Ball, speaking to an audience, explains Agenda 21's history, founding philosophy and its leading figure: Maurice Strong. Realizing that he couldn't achieve his goal of deindustrializing society as a politician accountable to an electorate, Mr. Strong went to the UN, where he would not be accountable to anybody.

At 8:24 Dr. Ball explains Agenda 21's Principle 15, the "precautionary approach," to be applied by States "according to their capabilities," (i.e., the rich countries will pay for the poor ones.) At 13:00 he introduces John Holdren, co-author of a book called *Eco-Science* and now President Obama's science czar, who promoted eugenics – population control by sterilization. This led to the Club of Rome's searching for "a new enemy to unite us ... the threat of global warming ... would fit the bill." Using science, and especially computer models fit the bill well.

Agenda 21 has already been implemented at the local level in over 600 towns and cities in the US (16:45). Its goal is to divide the landmass into 50% wilderness, 25% buffer and 25% human settlement zones.

<http://drtimball.com/2013/climate-science-as-a-vehicle-for-political-control/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1UF3Bpqzog>

Acrimony among Anthropocene Agitators

A vocal group of misanthropic geologists and other guilt-wracked scientists are pushing to define

a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene, to mark the adverse affect humanity has had on Earth's environment. Normally, a geologic time period is marked by a distinct and recognizable global change in the stratigraphic record, that is, the easy-to-identify stuff found in layers of rock changes. The current officially recognized epoch, known as the Holocene, began about 11,500 years ago as a comfortably warm intermission between glaciations.

The crowd of Anthropocene agitators want to carve their new epoch out of the Holocene, but can't agree when it began – when fallout from nuclear bombs occurred, the dawning of the Industrial Revolution about 1750, or 9,000 years ago when agriculture started in China.

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/acrimony-among-anthropocene-agitators>>
<<http://anthropocenejournal.com>>

2013-05-03

To Heat or Eat: Europe's Failed Climate Policies

Dr. Benny Peiser of the UK Global Warming Policy Foundation reports that EU energy prices have skyrocketed, families have been forced into energy poverty; meanwhile the EU carbon market has collapsed with no evidence of healthier environment or 'abundant' green jobs, so European manufacturing is fleeing to places with cheaper energy prices in order to remain competitive. Dr. Peiser will be the guest luncheon speaker May 14, 2013 at the Met Centre in downtown Calgary, Alberta at the 10th Annual Friends of Science Luncheon – "To Heat or Eat: Europe's Failed Climate Policies." For tickets, please see the Friends of Science link below.

<<http://www.virtual-strategy.com/2013/05/02/european-green-movement-verge-collapse-due-failed-climate-change-and-global-warming-politic>>
<http://www.friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/FoS_Luncheon_2013.pdf>

Secret Climate Meetings

Donna Laframboise reports about a disturbing article in the *National Post* titled, *Federal politicians use non-partisan climate group to meet in 'safe space' behind closed doors*. To her this Canadian parliamentary caucus sounds like a group of climate activists meeting in secret. She calls for a public record of what is being said and done at the group's meetings.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/04/28/secret-climate-meetings/>>
<<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/04/27/federal-politicians-use-non-partisan-climate-group-to-meet-in-safe-space-behind-closed-doors/>>

Green Energy Act: Ontario Government Still Sees No Evil

Ross McKittrick and Kenneth Green co-authored this piece on the Ontario government's reaction to their Fraser Institute report on the economic consequences of the GEA [FoS Extracts – 2013-04-15.] In the legislature the energy minister dismissed the report, saying that it recommends going back to coal. The authors point out that Ontario has always used coal for some of its electricity, as do many other provinces, most US states, most of Europe, China and all jurisdictions Ontario's exporters compete against. Even Germany, Ontario's supposed model for green energy, is opening new coal-fired plants [FoS Extracts – 2013-04-27.] The source of the minister's annoyance seems to be that the authors of the report did something that the government should have done long ago – assess the costs and benefits of Ontario's radical, go-it-alone green energy scheme.

<<http://www.torontosun.com/2013/04/26/green-energy-act-ontario-government-still-sees-no-evil>>

The Minister vs the Scientist

According to Terence Corcoran, Canada's energy minister Joe Oliver is one of the rare politicians to stand up and take shots at a climate scientist (James Hansen) who is the darling of the global warming movement, and also to win the contest. In a Washington speech last week [FoS Extracts – 2013-04-27], Mr. Oliver took aim at Dr. Hansen's claims that development of the oil sands means "game over for the planet" and noted that coal-fired electricity in the US produces 30 times as much emissions. In a subsequent radio interview, when pressed on his "game over" claim, Dr. Hansen ducked the question.

Sun News Network's Ezra Levant captures both quotes and interviews Climate Depot's Marc Morano on Dr. Hansen.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/04/30/the-minister-vs-the-scientist/>>

<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/minister-joe-oliver-slams-green-activist/2338450624001>>

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/2013/04/30/watch-now-climate-depots-morano-on-canadian-tv-on-nasas-retired-ex-con-james-hansen-morano-hansen-saying-the-keystone-pipeline-means-game-over-for-climate-is-a-fancy-way-of-saying-its/>>

Suzuki Full of False Arguments

In a recent column David Suzuki asked whether turbine effects are merely the power of suggestion, adding, "...wind power installations are a necessary part of the shift from polluting fossil fuels to clean energy." This ignores the fact that additional fossil-fueled generation is needed to be kept running inefficiently as backup for fluctuating wind. Like the Ontario premier, Dr. Suzuki has suddenly become concerned for asthma sufferers. However, 40 TWh of coal generation has been shut down since 2003, against only 3 TWh of new wind generation. Ignoring extensive medical evidence to the contrary, Dr. Suzuki suggests that people's symptoms are triggered by "health scares ... by anti-wind farm groups." He has also been quiet about the impact of wind farm construction on endangered species' habitat and wind turbine bird kills.

The article posted by Ontario Wind Resistance features a delightful photo of Dr. Suzuki giving the finger.

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/04/30/suzuki-full-of-false-arguments/>>

Bonn Climate Talks

The Bonn climate change conference, formally known as the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2) is taking place from April 29 to May 3. With co-chairs from India and Norway, ADP 2 is intended to be a low-key affair to discuss two issues: how to substantially step-up the "level of ambition" by countries, companies, cities, and civil society; and how to ensure a strong international climate agreement by 2015.

At the talks (*Reuters* article) the US proposed letting all countries set their own goals for fighting climate change and got grudging support. *Bloomberg* reports that delegates are talking about pushing the 2020 goal for new emissions limits back to 2050.

<<http://insights.wri.org/news/2013/04/2-big-issues-watch-weeks-bonn-climate-talks>>

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/02/us-climate-talks-idUSBRE9410QA20130502>>

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-05-02/un-envoys-consider-2050-carbon-target-in-talks>>

[on-climate-deal.html](#)>

Russian Scientists: We Could Face Cooling Period for 200-250 Years

According to scientists from the Pulkovo Observatory in St. Petersburg, solar activity is waning, so the average yearly temperature will begin to decline as well. One of them, Yuri Nagovitsyn, said, "Evidently, solar activity is on the decrease. The 11-year cycle doesn't bring about considerable climate change – only 1-2%. The impact of the 200-year cycle is greater – up to 50%. In this respect, we could be in for a cooling period that lasts 200-250 years. The period of low solar activity could start in 2030-2040 but it won't be as pervasive as in the late 17th century".

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2013_04_22/Cooling-in-the-Arctic-what-to-expect/>

G8 Biofuel Use Driving Hunger among the Global Poor

According to a report, *Fueling Hunger*, by the charity Action Aid, a total of 441 million people could eat for a year on the food that G8 countries burn in their vehicles. Action Aid's database of European biofuel company activities in Africa confirms the significant impact European biofuel policies are having on the distribution of land and land rights in developing countries.

European policies to increase the share in the renewables in transport fuel (10% by 2020) are creating enormous demand for biofuel. The evidence is that current biofuel crops do nothing for the environment, often resulting in higher emissions as natural habitats are cleared to make room for them.

<<http://www.thegreencarwebsite.co.uk/blog/index.php/2013/04/29/g8-biofuel-use-driving-hunger-among-global-poor/>>

<http://www.actionaid.org.uk/doc_lib/fuelling_hunger.pdf>

Global Warming Alarm: Continued Cooling May Jeopardize Climate Science And Green Energy Funding

According to Larry Bell, writing in *Forbes*, the past 17 years of flat global temperatures must be causing cold sweats to the legions of climate scientists who have come to depend on taxpayer funding for studies that would have little demand without a big crisis for the public to worry about. However, that pales in comparison to the subsidies, lost tax revenues and inflated consumer costs for non-competitive "green energy" industries. Cooler temperatures also blow ill winds for government bureaucrats, crony-capitalist rent seekers and other hucksters whose ambitions depend on hot air. Mr. Bell quotes from a variety of recent sources to back up his assertions.

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/04/30/global-warming-alarm-continued-cooling-may-jeopardize-climate-science-and-green-energy-funding/>>

The Fanaticism of the Apocalypse

In a 35-minute video, French philosopher Pascal Bruckner gives a talk on his new book of the above title, with introduction and concluding remarks by the Global Warming Policy Foundation's Benny Peiser and Nigel Lawson, respectively. According to Prof. Bruckner, since the fall of the Berlin wall, the idea of progress has been replaced by that of catastrophe. Marxism's enemies of mankind used to be capitalism, the bourgeoisie and the West. In the past 20 years, with the appearance of the ecological movement, the new enemy is man himself – through hubris and desire to control mother earth, or Gaia. In 2010 the cold war doomsday clock was

revived and set to six minutes to 12. Mother earth has replaced all the former victims: slaves, the colonized, black people, Jews, women, the proletariat, and has become a divinity. Fear, that used to be a vile sentiment, is turning into a noble one – for example, fear of what we're leaving to our grandchildren. Our carbon footprint is nothing but a scientific reasoning for original sin. The new ideology of fear applies to every domain of our lives.

Today we have two paths: a regressive path of the downshifters who want de-growth of the economy, or a progressive way of combining economic growth for all while preserving nature.

<<http://www.thegwvf.org/pascal-bruckners-gwvf-talk-fanaticism-apocalypse/>>

Temperature: The Blinding Obsession. It's the Precipitation Stupid

Tim Ball argues that IPCC predictions of are all based on computer models that either downplay or lack adequate measures for the role of water in determining climate. He supports this with explanations and quotes from the IPCC's AR4.

<<http://drtimball.com/2013/temperature-the-blinding-obsession-its-the-precipitation-stupid/>>

Scientists Admit They Cannot Predict Drought

The threat of widespread and persistent drought, ruining crops and threatening water supplies, is constantly cited as an outcome of global warming – by media talking heads, climate scientist and the US president. However, results presented recently at the annual assembly of the European Geosciences Union in Vienna show that forecasting drought is still beyond the reach of current climate models. Models run against historical data have either predicted periods of drought at the wrong times or missed them all together. Yet climate alarmists continue to spread this pernicious lie, preaching damnation with the certitude of an Old Testament prophet.

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/scientists-admit-they-cannot-predict-drought>>

Periodic Climate Oscillations

Three German scientists have used Fourier analysis (breaking down of a repetitive waveform into a series of sine waves) to pick out the dominant cycles of one of the longest temperature records available for central Europe (back to 1780.) The dominant cycle appears to be about 250 years. There is also a cycle of about 60 years, corresponding to the Atlantic/Pacific decadal oscillations. Figure 2 of their paper shows a reconstruction from the Fourier analysis superimposed on the instrumental record, with the reconstruction predicting a temperature downturn after 2000.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/05/fourier-analysis-reveals-six-natural-cycles-no-man-made-effect-predicts-cooling/>>

Another Amplification Mechanism Discovered by which the Sun Affects Earth's Climate

A paper published April 30 in the *Journal of Climate* finds tiny variations in solar activity over 11-year solar cycles have greatly amplified effects upon climate via changes in the Arctic Oscillation, North Pacific sea surface temperatures & sea level pressure, and via changes in stratospheric ozone from solar UV. The authors find the Arctic Oscillation evolves from a negative mode a few years before solar maximums to a positive mode at and following solar maximums. The IPCC claims the tiny variations in solar activity during solar cycles cannot affect climate, but this paper and many others demonstrate solar activity has greatly amplified effects upon climate via ocean oscillations, atmospheric oscillations such as the Madden-Julian oscillation and Quasi-biennial oscillation, stratospheric ozone, and sunshine hours/clouds.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/04/30/another-amplification-mechanism-discovered-by-which-the-sun-affects-earths-climate/>>

2013-04-27

Canada's Environment Minister Calls Out James Hansen

Minister Joe Oliver made his fourth road-show trip to the US to sell the Keystone XL pipeline this week. He referred to a statement by James Hansen calling Canada's oil sands an environmental scourge, saying "It does not advance the debate when people make exaggerated comments that are not rooted in the facts. And [scientist James Hansen] should know that." Mr. Oliver also responded to a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency suggesting that US regulators work with Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stating that he sees no need for Canada to do things differently.

Donna Laframboise, in her blog, explains how news stories and their subsequent headlines get written, pointing out that the Hansen reference came during a Q&A session after Mr. Oliver's formal speech. She adds that, contrary to implication in the headlines that Mr. Oliver was attacking a scientist working in a lab somewhere, he was drawing attention to Dr. Hansen's political views. In the *Yahoo* story, Dr. Hansen hits back, calling the Canadian government "Neanderthal."

<<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/04/25/natural-resources-minister/>>

<<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2013/04/24/joe-oliver-keystone-pipeline-hassen.html>>

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/04/25/lab-coats-dont-make-you-infallible-oliver-vs-hansen/>>

<<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/ex-nasa-scientist-hits-back-neanderthal-conservatives-222654266.html>>

Obama Campaign Launches Plan to Shame Climate Change Skeptics in Congress

The campaign group Organizing for Action sent an email to its supporters saying it was time to call out members of Congress who deny the existence of climate change. The email was linked to a video featuring Republican members of the House of Representatives. The President also Tweeted "Climate deniers in Congress refuse to even debate the issue. Make sure they don't get away with it."

Climate Depot responded to the Obama campaign with a heavily referenced editorial.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/25/obama-for-america-shame-climate-sceptics>>

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/2013/04/25/obamas-democrats-mangle-climate-science-the-inconvenient-truth-is-obama-the-democrats-have-made-many-utterly-ignorant-often-times-comical-climate-science-claims/>>

UN Carbon Emission Credits Drop to Record 1 Cent as EU Ban Nears

Certified Emission Reductions, or CERs, for next-day delivery fell 86 percent to 1 Euro cent (\$0.01) a tonne on London's ICE Futures Europe exchange. The contracts have plunged from 19 cents at the start of the year amid a surplus of permits in Europe, where the region's recession has cut demand.

Offsets representing reductions of hydrofluorocarbon-23 and nitrous oxide, known as grey CERs, will become ineligible for compliance in the EU emissions trading system after April 30. The credits, which make up 54 percent of the 1.3 billion of offsets issued since the market started in 2005, will only be eligible for use by developed country governments meeting emissions targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-24/un-carbon-emission-credits-drop-to-record-1-cent-as-eu-ban-nears.html>>

Germany to Open Six More Coal Power Stations in 2013

Germany's dash for coal continues apace. Following on the opening of two new coal power stations in 2012, six more are due to open this year, with a combined capacity of 5,800 MW, enough to provide 7% of Germany's electricity needs. Including these plants there are 12 coal-fired stations due to open by 2020. None of these coal plants are being built with carbon capture and storage.

<<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2013/04/22/germany-to-open-six-more-coal-power-stations-in-2013/>>

EU Backloading Plan to Return for a Second Round

After the European Parliament voted down a proposal to raise the cost of emissions permits by restricting supply, or "backloading" [FoS Extracts 2013-04-20], EU environment ministers are discussing strategies for a second vote. This would require the Council of Ministers to approve the measure when it meets in June, but with Germany still on the fence, a majority vote is not assured.

<<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/backloading-amendment-return-sec-news-519285>>

UK's Pretensions to Cutting CO₂ Emissions Laid Bare

While UK ministers have claimed global leadership in reducing CO₂ emissions and urged other nations to follow suit, a report by their government's own Climate Change Commission says that the UK's total contribution has actually increased. The reason: while the UK has been cutting emissions at home (20% in the past two decades), it has been importing more goods from other countries, pushing up CO₂ emissions there. The result is that the overall trend is up 10%. The CCC notes (p.10) that, while "... policies already announced by the Government should be sufficient to address competitiveness risks for energy-intensive industries to 2020. These would continue to be manageable beyond 2020 in a carbon-constrained world where other countries commit to and deliver the emissions cuts required to achieve the climate objective. If other countries were to depart significantly from this course, an assessment of global ambition and therefore ambition in UK carbon budgets would be required ..."

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22267231>>

<http://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/CF-C_Summary-Rep_Bookpdf.pdf>

Washington Post: Europe Is Becoming a Green-energy Basket Case

The pro-CAGW WaPo looks down at European leaders who, while flaunting their unwavering commitment to fighting climate change, have chastised the US for lagging behind. With the decline of the EU's badly designed cap-and-trade system, the WaPo believes that it's now up to individual member states to take action. It slams Germany's plan to shut down its nuclear plants

and Spain for over-investing in renewables. In the WaPo's opinion the US should turn itself into a climate change world leader by profiting from Europe's dysfunction and implementing a carbon tax.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/europe-is-becoming-a-green-energy-basket-case/2013/04/21/4b1b81d0-a87e-11e2-b029-8fb7e977ef71_story.html>

Twelve States Ask US Supreme Court to Challenge EPA on Climate Regulation

Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina and South Dakota have filed a petition to have the Supreme Court review the DC Circuit's decision not to strike down the Environmental Protection Agency's climate regulations. The States argue that the Congress never intended for the *Clean Air Act* to regulate greenhouse gases. The CAA was designed in 1970 to fight smog.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/04/22/twelve-states-ask-scotus-to-challenge-epa-on-climate-regulation/>>

Lawsuit Challenges California's Cap-and-Trade Program

With the EU carbon trading market beginning a death spiral, like that of the Chicago Climate Exchange (which closed in 2010 when permits sank to 5¢) the California Air Resources Board is pushing ahead with the state's scheme. On April 16 the Pacific Legal Foundation filed a lawsuit challenging the CARB's auction process as an unconstitutional state tax, because two-thirds majorities in both chambers of the legislature must approve any new tax.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/04/21/lawsuit-challenges-california-cap-and-trade-program-only-way-to-capture-carbs-attention/>>

Rise in US Shale Gas Production Fuels Unexpected Plunge in CO₂ Emissions

Energy-related emissions of CO₂ for the US have fallen 12% between 2005 and 2011 and are at their lowest level since 1994 according to the Energy Information Administration. According to experts the switch from coal to natural gas for electricity generation has been the biggest factor. A chart embedded in the Wall Street Journal article compares the net change in annual emissions for nine regions. While China's went up by 3,252 million tonnes/year, the US declined by 509 million tonnes/year.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324763404578430751849503848.html>>

Ontario Court Allows Lawsuits against Wind Company and Landowners

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice has determined that residents of Clearview Township can sue wind companies and landowners who host wind turbines as soon as the projects receive approval. After reviewing the evidence of a property appraiser, the court stated, "... in summary, the plaintiffs' evidence shows that they have already suffered harm through a loss in property values and the corresponding interference with the use and enjoyment of their properties." The court also received evidence from Dr. Robert McMurtry, a medical doctor and internationally recognized and published author on the health effects of industrial wind turbines.

<<http://globalwindenergyimpact.com/2013/04/24/ontario-court-allows-lawsuits-against-wind-company-and-landowners-just-a-matter-of-time/>>
<http://www.thestar.com/business/2013/04/23/wind_turbines_have_reduced_property_values_court_says.html>

<<http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2013/04/25/more-claims-expected-to-be-filed-against-wind-companies>>

Do Scientific Assessments Need To Be Consensual To Be Authoritative?

In her blog Judith Curry has posted excerpts from an essay by Mike Hulme, who examines the public expectation of science that it speak authoritatively about the way the physical world works, as well as the physical consequences of human actions. He then presents arguments in favour of and against consensus. Dr. Hulme, who is professor of climate change at the University of East Anglia, comes down against consensus, stating that the single-minded drive for consensus led to Climategate and weakened public authority of climate science.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/04/22/do-scientific-assessments-need-to-be-consensual-to-be-authoritative/>>

Consensus and Controversy: The Debate on Man-made Global Warming

SINTEF is the largest independent research organization in Scandinavia and it has prepared a 68-page report (plus 14 pages of bibliography) with the above title. In its abstract the report states: "This report outlines the main positions and debates surrounding the literally hot topic of man-made global warming. Inspired by social studies of science and technology, the goal of the report is to document, describe and take stock of this potent scientific and public 'battlefield' that plays out arguably some of the more pressing issues of our time."

The report begins with describing four myths of climate change (where "myth" is used in the anthropological sense as revealed meanings and assumed truths, not as something untrue). These myths are called Lamenting Eden; Presaging Apocalypse, Constructing Babel, and Celebrating Jubilee. Then it discusses the background behind the scientific "consensus" (pp.15-25) and the hot debates over the hockey stick graph and Climategate (pp. 27-33 and 41). Pages 42-52 quote from some of the 1100 peer-reviewed papers on the *Popular Technology* website to illustrate the diversity of opinions on AGW. The paper concludes (p.65):

- The assertion that "doubt has been eliminated" on AGW is plainly false.
- The scientific debate is healthy, and any characterization of it as two-sided war with a 97-98% majority consensus and 2-3% group of skeptics or "deniers" is flawed.

<http://www.sintef.no/upload/Teknologi_og_samfunn/Teknologiledelse/SINTEF_Report_A24071_Consensus_and_Controversy.pdf>

Roman and Medieval Periods Warmer than Previously Thought

A paper published in *Nature Climate Change* finds prior temperature reconstructions from tree-rings "may underestimate pre-instrumental [pre-1850] temperatures including warmth during Medieval and Roman times." Many reconstructions show temperatures during the Medieval and Roman periods were warmer than the present, and this study suggests they were even warmer than previously thought.

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2013/04/paper-finds-temperatures-during-roman.html>>

2013-04-20

EU Climate Change Policy in Crisis after MEPs Vote Against High CO₂ Prices

The EU's climate change policy is in crisis after members of the European Parliament voted 334 to 315 on April 16 against a scheme to raise the cost of emissions permits. Following the vote the price of permits on the Emissions Trading System crashed to €2.63/tonne. The European Commission had proposed a measure known as "backloading", to artificially raise the price by restricting supply of new permits. The resulting vote pitted supporters of economic growth against defenders of climate change policies that punish manufacturing industry for producing CO₂.

According to *Environmental Leader* the UK's high carbon price floor of £16/tonne (€24/tonne) represents a threat to British companies and will cause "carbon leakage" as heavy energy users are driven out of the country. *The Economist* wonders if the scuppering of the ETS will lead to dismantling of the EU's climate policies more generally. The BBC points to a gloomy report from the International Energy Agency stating that progress towards carbon-free energy production has stalled. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that ministers from both Poland and Germany welcomed the vote's result. *Spiegel Online's* story laments the vote and its consequences for the future of emissions trading. In Australia, the government, which hopes to join the EU's trading scheme in 2015 and had counted on a price of \$A29/tonne, will have to revise down its expected carbon permit revenue.

The parliamentary debate provoked some fireworks as Geoffrey Bloom a UK MEP remarked on the 15-year pause in global temperatures, saying that the man-made global warming hypothesis is dead in the water and then pointed at EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, calling her a denier.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/9997868/EU-climate-change-policy-in-crisis-after-MEPs-vote-against-high-CO2-prices.html>>

<<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/04/16/eu-carbon-prices-plunge-to-record-lows/>>

<<http://www.economist.com/blogs/schumpeter/2013/04/carbon-trading>>

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22183232>>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324030704578426280702003120.html?mod=wsj_nview_latest>

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/european-parliament-rejects-reform-of-carbon-emissions-trade-a-894842.html>>

<<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/eu-carbon-collapse-deals-blow-to-australia/story-e6frg6xf-1226622388327>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/04/15/fireworks-in-the-eu-parliament-over-the-pause-in-global-warming/>>

Climate Scientists Struggle to Explain Global Warming Slowdown

The mainstream media notices the pause as *Reuter's* reports that climate scientists are struggling to explain a slowdown in climate change that has exposed gaps in their understanding. Theories for the pause include speculation that deep oceans have taken up more heat with the result that the surface is cooler than expected, that industrial pollution in Asia or clouds are blocking the sun, or that greenhouse gases trap less heat than previously believed. Also, there has been a decline in heat-trapping water vapour in the upper atmosphere. IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri said that the panel's next assessment report will seek to explain the pause.

Even *Nature* is forced to admit the existence of the pause, attributing it to more heat being stored in the deep ocean. Joanne Nova's blog has more on the changing attitude by the mainstream media.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/16/us-climate-slowdown-idUSBRE93F0AJ20130416>>
 <<http://junkscience.com/2013/04/07/nature-mag-forced-to-admit-warming-has-stopped-new-climate-deniers-say-the-ocean-ate-my-global-warming/>>
 <<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/04/is-the-media-waking-up-global-warming-time-to-rein-back-on-doom-and-gloom/>>

History Trumps Climate Scientists

According to Lawrence Solomon, a better explanation for the public's confusion over global warming lies in a widespread ignorance of history, not least by scientists. Examples are the Roman Warm Period at the Little Ice Age. A current article in *Nature Geoscience* claims that, based on a "reconstruction" using many assumptions, Antarctic temperatures are the hottest in 1,000 years. However, a historical look at Antarctica in the 1830s and 1940s would find that the climate would look a lot like today. Numerous expeditions to both polar regions show that they have often warmed, making a mockery of claims that recent warming is in any way extraordinary.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/04/18/lawrence-solomon/>>

Climate Changing for Global Warming Journalists

Larry Solomon writes that the overwhelming consensus on global warming among journalists may be cracking as *The Economist* [FoS Extracts 2013-03-31] backs off from its past alarmist position. Even the *Telegraph's* environmental correspondent Geoffrey Lean concurs, asking whether it is time to rein back the gloom and doom. As Mr. Solomon puts it, journalists without a scientific grounding need to understand only three facts:

- All the scary global warming scenarios are based on computer models.
- None of the models work.
- There is and has been no scientific consensus.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/04/12/lawrence-solomon-media-consensus-on-global-warming-cracking/>>

Renewable Power Just Too Costly

This is from Donald Dewees, an environmentalist and past Director of the Sierra Club of Ontario, who likes renewable power but doesn't want to pay too much for it. He thinks that CO₂ emissions should be priced at \$25-100/tonne, which according to his calculations works out to a total health and environmental saving (and thus a justifiable premium for clean electricity) of 1.1-4.5¢/kWh. He then calculates that Ontarians should pay a total of 6.9-10.9¢/kWh for wind power, much less than the current 11.5¢/kWh. For solar, Mr. Dewees estimates that the price should be 11.7-18.2¢/kWh, a fraction of the current solar prices of 35.5-54.9¢/kWh. He also slams the Ontario government for its talk about green jobs created by the *Green Energy Act*, while remaining silent on the jobs destroyed through excessive electricity rates.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/04/17/renewables-just-too-costly/>>

US, China Reach Deal on Climate Change

During a visit by US Secretary of State John Kerry, the two countries announced that they would accelerate action to reduce greenhouse gases by advancing cooperation on technology, research, conservation, and alternative and renewable energy. They also said that they "consider that the overwhelming scientific consensus regarding climate change constitutes a compelling call to

action crucial to having a global impact on climate change.”

The blog *Junk Science* has posted the full text of the announcement. It contains an escape clause for China with the phrase “nationally appropriate action” by each party.

<<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/04/14/united-stata-china-reach-critical-deal-on-climate-change/>>

<<http://junkscience.com/2013/04/15/john-kerry-gives-chinese-free-pass-in-new-us-china-climate-pact-china-only-to-do-what-is-nationally-appropriate/>>

In China, the True Cost of Green Wind: Pollution on a Disastrous Scale

Vast fortunes are being amassed in Inner Mongolia, the source for 90% of rare earth metals, specifically neodymium, needed to make wind turbine magnets. The reality is that as “green” companies profiting from the demand for wind turbines flaunt their environmental credentials, there is something they would prefer you know nothing about. Seven million tons/year of mined rare earth, doused with acids and chemicals, are being dumped into a five-mile wide tailing lake of poison that has killed farmland for miles around and made thousands of people ill.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/moslive/article-1350811/In-China-true-cost-Britains-clean-green-wind-power-experiment-Pollution-disastrous-scale.html>>

Die Zeit Shocks Readers, Now Casts Doubt on Global Warming

Die Zeit, the mother of German green weeklies has published a piece by Harald Martenstein, once a devout believer in the global warming religion, who has been struggling to reconcile the glaring differences between climate expectations and hard reality. Mr. Martenstein tells how he bought a house in northeastern Germany because scientists had been telling him that the German climate would become similar to the Mediterranean. Instead of getting warmer, winters became colder and colder, reaching -20°C for weeks. He also notices that Britain has just endured its coldest winter in 30 years, and concludes by saying that he’s not a climate skeptic, just disappointed.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/04/19/mother-of-german-green-weeklies-die-zeit-shocks-readers-now-casts-doubt-on-global-warming/>>

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/04/19/lawrence-solomon-german-newsmagazine-der-zeit-joins-list-of-climate-skeptics/>>

Antarctica Gaining Ice Mass

Using data from 800 years of ice cores, a paper published in *The Cryosphere* finds that Antarctica has been gaining surface ice and snow accumulation over the past 150+ years, with acceleration in some areas. The paper notes “... a clear increase in accumulation of more than 10% has occurred in high Surface Mass Balance coastal regions and over the highest part of the East Antarctic ice divide since the 1960s.”

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/04/antarctica-gaining-ice-mass-and-is-not-extraordinary-compared-to-800-years-of-data/>>

<<http://www.the-cryosphere.net/7/303/2013/tc-7-303-2013.html>>

Global Warming Slowdown: The View from Space

Roy Spencer presents a graph comparing the lower atmospheric temperatures predicted by 44 of the latest climate models with two sets of satellite observations. The graph shows increasing divergence since 1998, with the observed temperatures for 2012 below any of the models. Dr.

Spencer offers three possible reasons for the divergence: low climate sensitivity to increasing CO₂, extra heat being stored in the deep ocean, and man-made aerosols having a cooling influence.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/04/global-warming-slowdown-the-view-from-space/>>

Freeman Dyson: Climatologists “don’t understand the climate”

In the 1970s Princeton physicist Freeman Dyson got involved with early research on climate change at Oak Ridge, TN. Initially the researchers, from many disciplines, conducted experiments to study such questions as how atmospheric CO₂ interacts with plant life and the role of clouds in global warming. But that approach lost out to the computer modeling favored by climate scientists, and these models required a lot of fudge factors to represent effects such as clouds. Dr. Dyson says that there’s more solid evidence for the beneficial effects of CO₂ than the negative ones, but the public hears only one side because lazy journalists are content to repeat the mantra about the “consensus.”

<http://blog.nj.com/njv_paul_mulshine/2013/04/climatologists_are_no_einstein.html>

Paper Finds Another Amplification Mechanism by which the Sun Controls Climate

A 23-minute video lecture by Professor Hiroko Miyahara of the University of Tokyo provides additional support to the Svensmark theory of cosmoclimatology [FoS Extracts 2011-05-20], finding that both solar geomagnetic activity and the polarity of geomagnetic activity have significant effects upon cosmic rays and cloud formation. The polarity of solar geomagnetic activity flips over a 22-year cycle, with periods of negative activity (as now) having a greater influence on cosmic rays and cloud formation.

At the 7:35 mark is a chart showing possible mechanisms of solar influence on climate change. At 8:35 another chart shows good correlation between cosmic ray activity and low-altitude cloud cover for 1982 to 2005. At 14:23 Prof. Miyahara compares the modern 11-year sunspot cycle and galactic cosmic rays with the 14-year cycle experienced during the Maunder Minimum (1645-1715).

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.ca/2013/04/paper-finds-another-amplification.html>>

Numeracy in Climate Discussions: How Long to Get a 6°C Rise in Temperature?

In this essay Princeton physics professor William Happer debunks the claim of some climate activists, notably the International Energy Agency’s chief economist, that CO₂ emissions are in line to produce a temperature increase of 6°C by 2050. Assuming the IPCC’s value for climate sensitivity (temperature increase for a doubling of CO₂) of 3°C, the CO₂ concentration would have to increase from its current value of 400 ppm to 1600 ppm, but the present rate of increase is only about 2 ppm/year. Using a more realistic sensitivity of 1°C, the CO₂ concentration would have to be 25,600 ppm, which would take 12,800 years to reach at the current rate.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/04/18/numeracy-in-climate-discussions-how-long-ill-it-take-to-get-a-6c-rise-in-temperature/>>

2013-04-15

Don't Look for Justice in Ontario's "Debate" on Wind Turbines

When there's social injustice, you don't expect large corporations, the provincial government and a union like the Canadian Auto Workers to be climbing into bed together to ignore the problem. News outlets and publications usually lap up stories of social injustice. Not so in the case of the very real hardships, both health and financial, suffered by people afflicted by wind turbines in non-government ridings.

On one "side" of the wind-turbine debate are wealthy corporate behemoths supported by a government that removed the democratic rights of its citizens, without debate, to launch a misguided and ill-advised initiative that's going to cost taxpayers into the billions. On the other "side," you have vulnerable Ontario residents with limited financial resources who have had their democratic rights trampled and monster industrial monsters rammed down their throats.

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2013/04/09/dont_look_for_justice_in_ontarios_debate_on_wind_turbines.html>

Ross McKittrick: Environmental and Economic Consequences of Ontario's Green Energy Act

Dr. McKittrick authored this report for the Fraser Institute. It notes that 80% of Ontario's wind-generated electricity occurs at times and seasons so far out of phase with demand that the entire output is surplus and is exported at a substantial loss, costing the province \$200 million annually. These costs will climb with each new wind turbine installation. The report questions the government's claimed air quality benefits, which could have been achieved at 1/10 the cost of the GEA by retrofitting coal plants.

<<http://www.torontosun.com/2013/04/11/fraser-institutes-report-shows-green-energy-blows>>
<<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/environmental-and-economic-consequences-ontarios-green-energy-act.pdf>>

The Wynne Turbine's Spin

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne was twice asked in the Legislature about the above Fraser Institute report and ducked the questions by talking about the clean air benefits of shutting down the coal power plants, claiming \$4.4 billion in health and environmental benefits.

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dStJTYFeFxU>>

Alberta Premier's Support of Climate Alarmism a Threat to Canadian Prosperity

That's the title of a press release from the International Climate Science Coalition criticizing the efforts of Alberta Premier Alison Redford to win approval of the Keystone XL pipeline in Washington, including purchasing an advertisement in the *New York Times*. The ICSC wonders why Alberta is making common cause with the climate activists who are trying to terminate the use of hydrocarbon fuels. The 14-minute YouTube video narrated by Tom Harris deconstructs the fallacies contained in three points of the NYT ad. It says that, in effect the Alberta Government is feeding the fire that threatens to burn down its major source of wealth: fossil fuels. Mr. Harris offers examples of what the government should have said in the ad.

<http://www.climatescienceinternational.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=783>
<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXEanhiRtM0>>

Belgian Scientists: Double Standards in Climate Change

Four scientists recently presented their view on climate science at the Royal Academy of Belgium. No French or Belgium newspaper was willing to publish their assessment, as questioning the impact of mankind on climate change is evidently still a taboo in the French-speaking world. The Global Warming Policy Foundation article succinctly summarized the scientists' position in ten paragraphs.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/belgian-scientists-double-standards-climate-change/>>

Cold Feet: Obama Administration Delays CO₂ Limits for New Power Plants

A year ago the Environmental Protection Agency proposed that any new power plant would emit no more than 1,000 pounds of CO₂ per MWh of electricity produced. This drew objections from some utilities, complaining that even some natural gas plants will not be able to meet the new standard. On April 12, the EPA announced that it was still reviewing the more than 2 million comments on the proposal and would delay implementation of the new rules past the April 13 deadline.

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/04/12/its-official-epa-delays-climate-rule-for-new-power-plants/>>

Munich Re's Thunderstorm Claims

Last October Munich Re, one of the world's largest reinsurance companies, issued a press release in which they made a remarkable claim about a new study of normalized economic losses related to thunderstorms in the US:

In all likelihood, we have to regard this finding as an initial climate-change footprint in our US loss data from the last four decades.

However, to date no studies of economic losses associated with weather events have successfully identified a signal of human-caused climate change in loss data, a conclusion that the IPCC agreed with in its 2012 special report on extreme weather events [FoS Extracts – 2012-03-29.] Further, as Roger Pielke Jr. notes, the study Munich Re relied upon was finally published this year in the journal *Weather, Climate and Society*, and it turns out that the claims in Munich Re's press release cannot be supported by the research.

<<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.ca/2013/04/fool-me-once-munich-res-thunderstorm.html>>

The Fuel of the Future

In a story, sub-headlined *Environmental lunacy in Europe*, *The Economist* critiques Europe's key fuel for meeting its 2020 objective of 20% renewable energy by 2020: wood. While wood has advantages over wind and solar as an electricity source (e.g., no backup generation or changes to the grid required), it produces CO₂ twice over, once in the power station and once in the supply chain (e.g., producing wood pellets and shipping them.) With a subsidy of £45/MWh in the UK, it costs £225 to save one tonne of CO₂ by switching from gas to wood. Even if whole trees are used to produce energy, they increase CO₂ emissions compared to coal by 79% over 20 years and 49% over 40 years, taking 100 years to achieve a CO₂ reduction once the replacement trees have grown up.

<<http://www.economist.com/news/business/21575771-environmental-lunacy-europe-fuel-future>>

BBC Comes Down on Biofuels

The BBC's environmental correspondent calls the use of biofuels for transportation "irrational" and "worse than fossil fuels." He refers to a Chatham House report *The Trouble with Biofuels: Costs and Consequences of Expanded Biofuel Use in the United Kingdom*. Biofuel use will reach 5% in 2013-14, costing UK motorists £460 million per year, due to their higher cost and lower energy content. The biofuel mandate creates a perverse financial incentive to buy imported palm oil, cook some food with it and then sell it at a profit.

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22127123>>

<[http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/public/Research/Energy, Environment and Development/0413pp_biofuels.pdf](http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/public/Research/Energy_Environment_and_Development/0413pp_biofuels.pdf)>

Last Year's US Drought Wasn't Caused by Climate Change

According to a report discussed in the *MIT Technology Review*, it is difficult to link a single event, such as last summer's intense and prolonged drought in the US, to climate change. A study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concludes that "human-induced climate change" did not play a significant role in the drought. Instead, natural variations, including fewer than normal thunderstorms and a change in the movement of air that redirected moist air from the Gulf of Mexico away from the Midwest were the cause. Moreover, the climate models did not predict the drought.

A German journalist writing in *Die Welt* comments that the findings of the NOAA study, coming from US scientists, are embarrassing to the Obama administration.

<<http://www.technologyreview.com/view/513646/last-years-us-drought-wasnt-caused-by-climate-change/>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/04/14/german-journalist-writes-new-noaa-study-embarasses-the-obama-administration-kevin-trenberth/>>

2013-03-31

Bitter Cold Grips Europe

German news media are reporting on a "100-year winter" as record cold grips the northern part of the country. The UK is on track to suffer its coldest March in 50 years as the trend to colder winters continues.

The *Guardian* finds comfort from the cold by reporting that climate scientists have no problem linking the massive snowstorms and bitter spring weather to global warming. They blame the "dramatic loss" of Arctic sea ice for contributing to enhanced warming of the Arctic. This, in turn, diverts the jet stream southward, resulting in more snowfall, heat waves and flooding in North America and Europe. Yet, according to *Watts Up With That*, Arctic sea ice has made a stunning comeback, with February 2013 showing the greatest extent since 1980.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/03/22/berlin-freezes-in-100-year-winter-record-snow-blankets-germany-bitter-cold-grips-europe/>>

<<http://iceagenow.info/2013/03/coldest-uk-march-50-years/>>

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/mar/25/frozen-spring-arctic-sea-ice-loss?INTCMP=SRCH>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/12/sea-ice-news-volume-4-1-arctic-ice-gain-sets-a-new-record/>>

***The Economist* Is Puzzled by Global Non-Warming**

In any story dealing with the climate or greenhouse gas emissions *The Economist* has steadfastly supported the IPCC line. Thus its current story on climate science, *A sensitive matter*, is refreshing. The newspaper admits that the Earth's temperatures have been flat for 15 years while greenhouse gas emissions have soared, and it is puzzled why the climate is not behaving according to the predictions of the IPCC models. For this story *The Economist* consulted climate scientists ("serious" ones only – no heretics). The story discusses possible reasons for the stalled temperatures: low climate sensitivity (temperature change for a doubling of CO₂), problems with climate models, feedback loops, aerosols, whether the oceans are hiding the missing heat and transient climate response. Nowhere is there any mention of astronomical influences.

<<http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21574461-climate-may-be-heating-up-less-response-greenhouse-gas-emissions>>

It's Cold, Not Global Warming, That We Should Be Worried About

In Britain each year there's an official estimate made of the "excessive winter mortality" – the number of people dying of cold-related illnesses.

The winter of 2011-12 was relatively mild, but still 24,000 perished. The current winter's figure is 30,000 making it one of the biggest killers in the country. And no one seems upset. But the reaction to the 2003 heatwave was extraordinary, as it was blamed for 2,000 deaths. The UK government's then chief scientific officer declared that climate change was "more serious than the threat of terrorism" in terms of lives that could be lost. Such language is never used about the cold.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/elderhealth/9959856/Its-the-cold-not-global-warming-that-we-should-be-worried-about.html>>

Here Comes Team Obama's Carbon Tax

Christopher Horner of the Competitive Enterprise Institute sued the Treasury Department to produce emails and other records mentioning "carbon." Among the documents he received were a G20 report *Mobilizing Climate Finance*, an IMF report suggesting a \$25/tonne carbon tax to "raise revenue and put it to good use" and a World Bank document titled *Inclusive Green Growth: The Pathway to Sustainable Development* recommending a "redistributive" carbon tax. The World Bank paper advises Treasury how to sell the tax to the public, calling it an "offset" and downplaying the economic costs.

In CFACT, Paul Driessen, author of *Eco-Imperialism: Green Power – Black Death*, argues that a \$25/tonne CO₂ tax increasing by 5%/year would cost a family of four \$2,000/year and increase unemployment. With hydrocarbons providing over 83% of America's energy, a carbon tax would make the US increasingly less productive, less competitive and less able to provide opportunities for its children. This would be in addition to the \$353 billion/year burden imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

<<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/03/21/here-comes-team-obama-carbon-tax/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/22/foia-and-the-coming-us-carbon-tax-via-the-us-treasury/>>

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/02/21/carbon-tax-hallucinations/>>

Obama's Achilles Heel on Climate: Senate Democrats

In a weekend's series of votes, the first action on climate change by the new Congress, more than a dozen Senate Democrats sided with the Republicans on the Keystone XL pipeline and against any prospects for a carbon tax. However, Senate liberals haven't given up on forcing votes on climate issues. For example, Barbara Boxer hopes for a floor vote by this summer on legislation to put a price on carbon emissions, and another senator vows to attach climate amendments to various bills.

<<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/03/obamas-achilles-heel-on-climate-senate-democrats-89295.html>>

No Need to Panic About Global Warming

Sixteen scientists signed this *Wall Street Journal* article that argues there's no compelling scientific argument for drastic action to "decarbonize" the world's economy. The IPCC climate models have greatly exaggerated the amount of warming additional CO₂ can cause, and CO₂ itself is not a pollutant. Many young scientists have doubts about the global warming message, but are afraid to speak up for fear of not being promoted, or worse. Many of the proposed policy responses have a negative return on investment. For elected officials compelled to "do something" about climate, the signers recommend increasing the understanding about climate with better measurements and observations by satellite, in the oceans and on land.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204301404577171531838421366.html>>

EU Row over Proposal to Limit Some Biofuels

In October, due to concerns over the food-vs-fuel issue and conversion of forests to fuel crops (indirect land-use change or ILUC) the European Commission proposed a 5% cap on biofuels from food crops [FoS Extracts – 2012-10-11]. A block of Central European environment ministers are blocking this, expressing doubts about the science behind ILUC and fearing a collapse of the biofuel industry. They are opposed by the über-warmist climate commissioner Connie Hedegaard, who acknowledged that first-generation biofuels result in no CO₂ reductions once ILUC is included. She has support from the Netherlands, the UK, Belgium and Denmark and groups like Oxfam and Friends of the Earth.

<<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/ministers-block-eu-proposal-limi-news-518698?>>

Green Investing: So Much Promise, So Little Return

The *Wall Street Journal's* sixth annual crony capitalist conference "ECO:nomics – Creating Environmental Capital" was rather downbeat. The WSJ reports that large parts of green-tech investment look like the torched and salted fields left behind by Roman conquerors: barren, lifeless. Joseph Dear, investment chief for the California Public Employees' Retirement System complained that investing in clean energy has to be more than just "a noble way to lose money." He was referring to Calpers' fund "devoted to clean energy and technology," which started in 2007 with \$460 million and has an annualized return of minus 9.7% to date.

<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324103504578378653907957178.html>>
<<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/03/27/wall-street-journals-crony-capitalist-conference-turns-sour/>>

Job Offer: Students Wanted To Be IPCC Climate-Change Reviewers (No Experience Necessary)

The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency is advertising for PhD students who “have an affinity for climate change,” but no other related experience, to review the 30 chapters of the IPCC’s AR5. Each unpaid student will be expected to do a “thorough review” of 2,000 pages per month.

<<http://risk-monger.blogactiv.eu/2013/03/25/job-offer-students-wanted-to-be-ipcc-climate-change-reviewers/-UVh4N794ifR>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/03/unpaid-students-to-review-ar5-this-is-rigorous-expert-science-right/>>

<<http://www.pbl.nl/en/news/newsitems/2013/seeking-phd-students-to-review-the-next-ipcc-report>>

Dispelling Myths About Global Warming

This story in *Watts Up With That* provides quantitative explanations why changing atmospheric CO₂ could not have caused the two periods of rapid warming of the 20th century. These periods were 1917-1944 and 1976-2000, when temperatures increased by 0.174 and 0.176°C/decade, respectively. There was far too much warming in the first period to be caused by CO₂ changes, which even the IPCC modelers concede, and so natural forces must have been the main cause. Even though there was a higher rate of CO₂ growth in the second period, it was still 54 times too small to explain the actual temperature increase.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/25/dispelling-myths-about-global-warming/>>

American Physical Society Forms New Climate Group

Since 2007 the APS’ official position has been that the evidence linking global warming and greenhouse gas emissions is “incontrovertible,” which has led to some turmoil among the society’s membership [FoS Extracts 2012-07-06 and 2012-10-25]. This has led the APS to set up a new Topical Group on the Physics of Climate (GPC). The GPC’s mandate will include study of both anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic processes affecting climate.

Judith Curry is on the Executive Committee of the GPC, in the hope that the different “culture” at the APS will be more conducive to taking an unbiased look at climate science. Her advice to the APS: drop the 2007 statement on climate change, the timing and content of which is derivative of the IPCC’s 2007 Assessment Report.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/03/24/american-physical-society/>>

The Climate Mechanisms of the World’s Deserts and Limitations in Allan Savory’s Thesis

Tim Ball responds to Allan Savory’s proposal to use managed cattle grazing to stop desertification and climate change [FoS Extracts 2013-03-23]. He takes issue with Dr. Savory’s assumptions that the world is overpopulated, that all desertification and climate change is human-, not naturally caused. Dr. Ball explains how Hadley Cell circulation above and below the Equator causes high rainfall near the Equator and dry conditions (desertification) at low latitudes (15° to 30°). Also, past climate change, such as the end of the last Ice Age, has caused desertification. Dr. Savory’s method will only produce grasses in natural grassland regions; converting true desert would require more water than condensation could provide.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/25/the-climate-mechanisms-of-world-deserts-and-limitations-in-allan-savorys-thesis/>>

2013-03-23

Obama: US Must Shift Away from Cars that Run on Oil

Envisioning cars that can go “coast to coast without using a drop of oil,” President Barack Obama urged Congress to authorize spending \$2 billion over the next decade to expand research into electric cars and biofuels to wean automobiles off gasoline, thereby avoiding spiking gasoline prices. The initiative, with a proposed spending of \$200 million a year on research, would be paid for with revenue from federal oil and gas leases on offshore drilling and would not add to the deficit.

In *Watts Up With That*, Willis Eschenbach says the bad news is that the initiative would get past spiking gas prices by going to constant alternative energy prices, even higher than the spikes of today. The second WUWT link relates the woes of Fisher Automotive, awarded a \$529 million loan (now frozen) to develop electric cars, and the reality of electric vehicles.

<http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2013/03/obama_us_must_shift_away_from.html>
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/17/obama-by-passes-gas/>>
 <<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/19/bad-karma-obama-promotes-electric-cars-but-they-still-fall-short/>>

Another Phony “Green Jobs” Report

The second annual report by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment in Green Goods and Services*, is chock full of charts claiming that millions of new “green” jobs are being produced by President Obama’s efforts to heal the planet and lower the rising seas. The BLS defines green jobs as those that produce goods or services “that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources,” or jobs “in which workers’ duties involve making their establishment’s production processes more environmentally friendly or use fewer natural resources.”

However, under “Electric power generation,” the report shows a total of 3,246 jobs for wind and solar, compared to 3,278 under “coal and petroleum products mfg.” The bureau includes clothing stores, television and radio broadcasters, and office furniture manufacturers among the country’s green industries. Green jobs include bus drivers, trash collectors, movie producers and environmental lobbyists. The best news in the BLS report (see bls.gov link): as a result of sequestration, the Green Goods and Services Employment Data collection is going to be discontinued.

<<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/032113-648963-bls-releases-another-phony-green-jobs-report.htm>>
 <<http://www.thegwpf.org/americas-green-jobs-revelation/>>
 <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/green-jobs-havent-lived-up-to-obamas-promise-2013-03-22?link=home_carousel>
 <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ggqcew.nr0.htm>>

Bill McKibben: US Immigration Reform Can Reduce Global Warming

Mr. McKibben, founder of *350.org*, wrestles with the environmentalists’ dilemma of immigration to the US. He concludes that, while it’s true a typical person from a developing nation would produce more CO₂ upon adopting an American lifestyle, she would probably have less children. But, more importantly he points to polls showing that a greater percentage of Latino voters than the general population believes climate change is happening. As he puts it, “Election after

election, native-born and long-standing citizens pull the lever for climate deniers, for people who want to shut down the Environmental Protection Agency, for the politicians who take huge quantities of cash from the Koch brothers and other oil barons.”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-mckibben-immigration-environment-20130314_0,7147668,print.story>

<<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Journalism/2013/03/14/LAT-Increased-Immigration-Will-Reduce-Global-Warming>>

Bjørn Lomborg: The Whole Idea of Earth Hour Is Not Too Bright

One billion people are supposed to participate in Earth Hour by turning off their lights from 20:30 to 21:30 on March 23, as a demonstration of their desire to “do something” about global warming. As Mr. Lomborg points out, it actually increases CO₂ emissions. The UK’s National Grid operators found out that any reductions in emissions during Earth Hour will be offset by the surge from firing up coal and gas stations afterward.

<<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/03/22/bjorn-lomborg-the-whole-idea-of-earth-hour-is-not-too-bright/>>

Funding Shortfall: Germany Forced to Cancel Climate Programs

Spiegel has learned that the German Environment Ministry is set to cancel several flagship subsidy programs this month – programs that were to be key elements of the country’s transition from fossil fuels towards complete reliance on renewables. These include promotion of electric cars, funding research and development of storage technologies, and protecting forestlands. The reason: the 2014 budget includes €2 billion for the Energy and Climate Fund that was supposed to come from the sale and trade of CO₂ certificates, assuming a price of €17/tonne. Unfortunately, the certificates are now trading below €4/tonne.

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/germany-cancels-trio-of-climate-programs-amid-funding-shortfall-a-889483.html>>

Global Warming Was Never About Climate Change

Larry Bell, author of *Climate of Corruption: Politics and Power Behind the Global Warming Hoax*, dismisses the doomsday scenarios President Obama loves to cite and gets to the central issue: how many of those who stoke the global warming fires have real confidence in the “science.” Using their own words, he describes how climate alarmists advance international political agendas; how some key IPCC researchers view their science; some interesting Climategate email comments, and the costs of ideology masquerading as science.

In a second story Mr. Bell describes how IPCC scientists fit climate science to theory, in particular by ignoring the most important greenhouse gas of all – water vapour.

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/02/06/global-warming-was-never-about-climate-change/>>

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/03/19/fitting-the-science-to-the-theory-on-climate-change/>>

Von Storch/*Spiegel* Slam “Climate Science Hijacked by Politicians Who Claim Decisions Are Without Alternatives”

Axel Bojanowski has written a piece at the online *Spiegel* titled *Madness of the Do-Gooders* where he reviews Hans von Storch’s and Werner Krauss’s new book: *Die Klimafalle (The Climate Trap)*, which has harsh words for climate alarmism. Many of the harsh words are aimed, not

surprisingly, at Germany's notoriously alarmist and catastrophe-obsessed Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. Mr. Bojanowski quotes Profs. von Storch and Krauss concerning the politics and science: "Climate science has been kidnapped by politicians who claim their decisions are already prescribed by science and therefore are without alternatives." Prof. von Storch also calls the IPCC climate report a "joint production by science and politics."

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/03/18/von-storchspiegel-slam-climate-science-hijacked-by-politicians-who-claim-decisions-are-now-without-alternatives/>>

How to Green the Deserts and Reverse Climate Change

In this 22-minute video, grassland ecosystem pioneer Allan Savory explains how desertification is the cause of many ills, including climate change. He used to believe that overgrazing by domestic and wild animals caused desertification and that traditional remedies like burning grass averted the problem. He has since realized that *managed grazing* by large herds of domestic animals is the key to preventing and reversing desertification. As these herds finish grazing one area while urinating, dunging and creating mulch, they are moved to another, leaving the grassland to re-establish naturally. The re-established grassland retains rainwater and creates a cooler microclimate. On a large enough scale, the process can change the climate for whole regions of the globe.

<<http://www.wimp.com/greendeserts/>>

<http://www.ted.com/speakers/allan_savory.html>

Storm Trends Across North America

Among the highly publicized doom-and-gloom scenarios that climate alarmists allege to attend the ongoing rise in the air's CO₂ content are predicted increases in the frequency and severity of storms. As a result, and in an effort to determine if these predictions have any validity, many scientists are examining historical and proxy storm records for Canada and the US in an attempt to determine how temperature changes of the past millennium have impacted this aspect of Earth's climate. This summary concludes that, as the Earth has warmed over the past 150 years during its recovery from the Little Ice Age, there has been little or no significant increase in the frequency or intensity of stormy weather in North America. Similarly, there is no data-based reason to believe that storms anywhere will become more frequent or more intense if the world warms a bit more in the future.

<http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/storm_trends_north_america.pdf>

2013-03-16

Obama Will Use Nixon-Era Law to Fight Climate Change

President Barack Obama is preparing to tell all federal agencies for the first time that they should consider the impact on global warming before approving major projects, from pipelines to highways. Lawyers and lobbyists are now waiting for the White House's Council on Environmental Quality to issue the long bottled-up standards for how agencies should address climate change under the *National Environmental Policy Act*, signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1970. The White House is looking at requiring consideration of both the increase in greenhouse gases and a project's vulnerability to flooding, drought or other extreme weather that might result from global warming.

<<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-03-14/obama-will-use-nixon-era-law-to-fight-climate-change>>

US Congressmen Release Plan for Carbon Tax on Emissions

Almost exactly four years after unveiling his doomed cap-and-trade proposal to deal with global warming, Representative Henry Waxman, together with three fellow Democrats, released a new plan on May 12 to address climate change and federal budget woes: a tax on carbon emissions. The plan contains three potential per-ton prices for CO₂ emissions, \$15, \$25 or \$30, and a range of annual cost increases from 2% to 8% a year to ensure that greenhouse gas levels continue to decline over time.

<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/03/12/representatives-release-carbon-emissions-tax-plan/?partner=rss&emc=rss&utm_source=@freepress>
<<http://cleantechnica.com/2013/03/13/house-senate-democrats-introduce-carbon-tax-discussion-draft/>>

Cold Feet on Ontario's Green Energy Mania

Ontario's new premier is quietly backtracking on her predecessor's green-at-any-cost social and economic transformation of the province's power system. This transformation anticipated electricity rates for household consumers increasing up to 7.9%/year compounded for 2011-2015. Soon after the 2011 election, the government initiated a review of its program to buy wind and solar power on terms so generous that Ontario had become overnight a global magnet for developers (rent-seekers) looking to cash in on green energy mania. It also stopped signing fat long-term power purchase contracts and put a cap on the total capacity of new wind and solar contracts.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/03/12/cold-feet-on-ontarios-green-energy-mania/>>

Civil Society Wants Bigger Role in Green Climate Fund Planning

The new, 24-member board of the UN's Green Climate Fund met in Bonn during the week of March 11, but activist and watchdog groups around the world are expressing frustration over proposed rules they say are already significantly limiting civil society participation in the new initiative. A group of 73 civil society (NGO) organizations sent an open letter to the GCF's leadership decrying a lack of rules conducive to their "meaningful" participation.

When the fund was set up, developed countries promised \$30 billion as starter capital, but only \$7 billion of that has come in so far. To reach the \$100/year goal for the fund, *Responding to Climate Change* offers five steps: government money, carbon tax on shipping emissions, oil exporters' tax, tax on aviation emissions and a financial transactions tax.

<<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/civil-society-wants-bigger-role-in-green-climate-fund-planning/>>
<http://www.ips-dc.org/articles/civil_society_to_green_climate_fund_dont_shut_us_out_GCF>
<<http://www.rtcc.org/five-steps-to-fill-the-100bn-green-climate-fund/>>

Deranged Science, Perverse Policy: The Attempt to Impose Climate Servitude

Peter Foster reviews Rupert Darwall's new book *The Age of Global Warming: A History* (available from Amazon after April 15). The book records how global warming entered the political scene in 1988 when Margaret Thatcher addressed the Royal Society, James Hansen delivered his testimony to the US Congress and the IPCC was created at a climate conference in

Toronto. Four years later at the Rio Earth Summit, politics “settled” the science as 192 nations agreed that mankind was causing global warming and CO₂ emissions should be cut. Maurice Strong also features in the story for his efforts at the 1972 Stockholm conference and the Earth Summit. The bookend to the climate change derangement syndrome is the “Global Warming Policy Paradox” – that climate policies have brought about the very outcomes they were designed to avert: rising food prices, instability and reduced biodiversity.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/03/13/peter-foster-deranged-science-peverse-policy/>>

The Price of Green Energy: Is Germany Killing the Environment to Save It?

The German government is carrying out a rapid expansion of renewable energies like wind, solar and biogas, yet the process is taking a toll on nature conservation. The issue is causing a rift in the environmental movement, pitting "green energy" supporters against ecologists. Greenpeace is upset because old beech trees are being clear-cut to feed biomass power plants or wood-pellet heating systems. Grasslands and fields are being transformed into oceans of energy-producing corn that stretch beyond the horizon. And entire tracts of land are being put to industrial use – converted into enormous solar power plants, wind farms or highways of power lines, which will soon stretch from northern to southern Germany.

Germany’s Federal Agency for Nature Conservation is worried about the intensified corn monoculture harming plant and animal species, as well as the birds and bats being killed by wind turbines.

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-renewable-energy-policy-takes-toll-on-nature-conservation-a-888094.html>>

Matt Ridley: How Fossil Fuels Are Greening the Planet

In this 19-minute hi-res video Matt Ridley, author of *The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves*, talks about how the Earth is getting greener. He describes the research supporting this result and the causes. Satellite data measurement of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index over the past 30 years shows that vegetation over the planet has been increasing. Between 1982 and 2011, 20.5% of the world’s vegetated area got greener and 3% got browner, with the fastest greening occurring in the Amazon and the Sahel region of Africa. About half of the greening is due to increased rainfall as a result of warming and half from the increased atmospheric CO₂.

Over the past 50 years, we use 65% less land to produce the same amount of food as in 1960 – as result of nitrogen fertilizer produced from the air and fossil fuel. As a result surplus farmland is being released back to nature as reforestation. However, this benefit is being offset by diversion of land use for biofuels. Countries that rely on renewable energy (e.g., Haiti, which cuts down its forests for charcoal) are browner than ones that rely on fossil fuels (Dominican Republic.) Within five years the UK will be using on five times its wood production for “green” energy, with most of the wood being shipped from the US.

If the first link doesn’t work, try the second.

<http://network.coull.com/activatevideo?video_provider_id=2&pid=8165&website_id=9871&width=640&height=390&video_provider_url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fembed%2FS-nsU_DaIZE%3Fversion=3%26rel=1%26fs=1%26showsearch=0%26showinfo=1%26iv_load_policy=1%26wmod>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/14/a-must-watch-greening-the-planet-dr-matt-ridley/>>

Biofuels Boom Threatens to Disrupt Global Diversity

The rush around the world to plant crops used to produce biofuel has not only sparked a global food vs. fuel debate, but it's also putting biodiversity at risk. In the US, 200 scientists banded together to protest a government decision to allow two potentially invasive species of grass to be grown for biofuel. In Brazil there are plans to push ahead with elephant grass a strong weed (only elephants can eat it) that can produce 40 tonnes/acre of biomass, compared to 15-20 tonnes with sugar cane.

<<http://www.dw.de/biofuels-boom-threatens-to-disrupt-global-biodiversity/a-16665847>>

The Climategate Leaker

The anonymous leaker, who goes under the pseudonym Mr. FOIA and who brought to light the Climategate and Climategate II emails, has released to selected parties the password to all 220,000 emails. Mr. FOIA gives some clues to his identity: he acted alone, is from neither the UK nor the US and decided that he "... had to balance the interests of my own safety, privacy/career of a few scientists, and the well-being of billions of people living in the coming several decades, the first two weren't the decisive concern." The timing of the release of the first bunch of emails just before the start of the Copenhagen climate conference was deliberate.

<<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100206888/climategate-foia-the-man-who-saved-the-world/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/13/climategate-3-0-has-occurred-the-password-has-been-released/>>

The Global Warming Standstill Is Real

A new report by Dr. David Whitehouse of the Global Warming Policy Foundation concludes that there has been no statistically significant increase in annual global temperatures since 1997. After reviewing the scientific literature the report concludes that the standstill is an empirical fact and a reality that challenges current climate models. During the time that the Earth's global temperature has remained static, the atmospheric composition of CO₂ increased from 370 to 390 ppm. The report shows that the temperature standstill has been a much discussed topic in peer-reviewed scientific literature for years, but that this scientific debate has neither been followed by most of the media, nor acknowledged by climate campaigners, scientific societies and prominent scientists.

<http://www.thegwpf.org/content/uploads/2013/03/Whitehouse-GT_Standstill.pdf>

Look at the Graph to See Evidence of Global Warming

In Britain alone, paying for the *Climate Change Act* is officially due to cost its citizens £18 billion/year. It is driving the entire national energy policy, with ever more crippling bills, power blackouts and the countryside being covered with ever more giant wind factories. Yet the data from the UK Met Office and its Hadley Centre, shown as actual global temperature, depict a virtually flat line from 1997 through 2012. Yet the modest temperature rise in the 1980s and 1990s was responsible for the greatest and most expensive scare in history, with the terrifying political and economic consequences seen today.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/globalwarming/9919121/Look-at-the-graph-to-see-the-evidence-of-global-warming.html>>

2013-03-09

New Wind Power Rules in Ontario to Curb Unwanted Output

Ontario wind power companies have reached an agreement that will curb electricity output from wind turbines when there's surplus power on the grid. In return, the companies will get compensated for lost output, within certain limits. Controlling power output has become a pressing issue in Ontario as more and more intermittent renewable power connects to the grid. An additional 3,000 megawatts of wind power alone is due to come on stream in the next 18 months. According to the province's Independent Electricity System Operator, coping with Ontario's surplus power production will cost the power system up to \$200 million/year unless the rules change.

<http://www.thestar.com/business/2013/03/04/new_wind_power_rules_coming_in_ontario_to_curb_output.html>
 <<http://london.ctvnews.ca/ontario-will-soon-be-able-to-turn-off-wind-power-1.1182027>>
 <<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/03/06/liberal-government-approving-new-wind-projects-while-opa-pays-for-excess-wind-power/>>

Shell's Solar Scenario Fantasies

Royal Dutch Shell has been in the scenario business for 40 years has just released its *New Lenses Scenarios* that presents two different scenarios, "Mountains" and "Oceans." The former sees natural gas becoming the most important energy source by the 2030s — hardly a stretch given the global shale gas boom. The other sees solar power becoming the top source by about 2070. According to Shell the rise of solar dominance will be the result of "public pressure." Somehow consumers who are now hopping mad about having ultra-expensive solar "fed into" their electricity bills are going to be clamouring for more. Shell admits that consumers will have to pay for backup costs, but will learn to adapt, by evening out their daily electricity supply and demand.

In this article Peter Foster finds it strange that Shell had no scenario that suggested what might happen if the "climate crisis" proves to be non-existent, or the realization dawns that the cures are far worse than the disease.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/03/05/peter-foster-shells-solar-scenario-fantasies/>>
 <http://s03.static-shell.com/content/dam/shell-new/local/corporate/Scenarios/New_Lens_Scenarios_Low_Res.pdf>

The Climate and the US Constitution

On March 4 President Obama announced the appointments of Gina McCarthy to run the Environmental Protection Agency and Ernest J. Moniz to take charge of the Department of Energy. The president indicated that he is planning on using these two agencies and their leaders to pursue an aggressive climate change agenda in his second term. In this *Commentary* article Jonathan Tobin notes that the *Clean Air Act* and court decisions give the executive branch far-reaching powers to transform the American economy without congressional approval. However, he argues that, while the executive must be allowed a great deal of leeway in foreign policy, no president should be allowed to play autocrat when it comes to domestic matters.

<<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2013/03/05/the-climate-and-the-constitution-obama-global-warming/>>
 <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/05/us/politics/obama-names-2-to-fill-epa-and-energy-posts.html?ref=politics&_r=0>

<http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/03/obama_names_anti-coal_global_warming_advocate_to_head_epa.html>

Climate Change Dogma Enters US Classrooms

The *Next Generation Science Standards*, to be released this month, make the teaching of global warming part of the public school curriculum, potentially ending an era in which climate skepticism has been allowed to seep into American classrooms. The standards recommend that educators teach the evidence for man-made climate change starting as early as elementary school and incorporate it into all science classes, ranging from earth science to chemistry. By eighth grade, students should understand that “human activities, such as the release of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, are major factors in the current rise in Earth’s mean surface temperature (global warming).”

<<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130304/next-generation-science-standards-man-made-climate-change-consensus-global-warming-skeptics-heartland-institute>>
<<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2013/3/5/a-despotism-over-the-mind.html>>

As the US Scales Back, “King Coal” Reigns as Global Powerhouse

While President Obama has vowed to keep ratcheting up the regulation of coal-fired power plants in the US, forcing hundreds to close, nations from Europe to the Far East are hungry for coal, and their demand is only going to get stronger in the years ahead as more nations turn to coal as a primary source of power. Coal by 2030 will be the most widely used fuel worldwide as developing countries electrify burgeoning cities and rural areas where billions of people have had no or little access to power, according to the International Energy Agency. Norway alone has 3,000 billion tonnes of the stuff.

<<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/mar/4/king-coal-reigns-as-global-powerhouse/>>
<<http://chiefio.wordpress.com/2013/03/08/a-billion-tons-of-coal-a-year-for-3000-years-in-norway/>>

Eco Madness as UK’s Biggest Power Station Switches from Coal to Wood Chips

Every day the Drax power plant in Yorkshire burns 36,000 tons of coal brought to its site by 140 coal trains every week. Next month Drax will embark on a £700 million switch from burning coal to millions of tons of wood chips instead. Most of these wood chips will be shipped 3,000 miles from the US. Because the wood chips are officially known as “biomass” and therefore supposedly carbon-neutral, they qualify for the same nearly 100% renewable subsidy that owners of onshore wind farms get. If the Drax plant kept on burning cheaper coal, it would gradually be priced out of business by a new escalating carbon tax. The fact that Drax, the UK’s largest and most efficient power station is having to go through these contortions to stay in business is a perfect symbol of the catastrophic mess politicians of all parties have got into – all in the name of saving the planet by cutting down CO₂ emissions faster than any other country in the world.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2290444/Madness-How-pay-billions-electricity-bills-Britains-biggest-power-station-switch-coal-wood-chips--wont-help-planet-jot.html>>

The Green Energy Mirage Will Cost the Earth

Rupert Darwall, author of a new book *The Age of Global Warming: A History*, writes in this *Telegraph* article how the UK and other Western politicians duped their citizens into unsustainable carbon targets under the mirage of “green growth” – environmentalism without

tears. He says, “Environmentalism has taken the Marxist concept of the alienation of the working class and applied it to the rich man’s alienation from nature.”

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/greenpolitics/9910279/The-green-energy-mirage-will-cost-the-earth.html>>

The IPCC Invites In the Activists

IPCC Working Group 3 (mitigation of climate change) has posted an announcement on the website of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research calling for “expert reviewers” to provide feedback on WG 3’s draft report. The announcement includes the following statement: “The scientists who are organizing this process ask for voluntary contributions from **experts** across all sectors, from scholars to business people or **NGO representatives**.” [bold added]. This is despite the fact that the IPCC repeatedly assures the world that it is an objective and scientific body.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/03/06/ipcc-invites-in-the-activists/>>

Graph of the Day: Global Weather Disasters and GDP

A new paper in *Global Environmental Change*, titled *Normalizing Economic Loss from Natural Disasters: A Global Analysis*, uses data from Munich Re and the UN to show a graph of the ratio of global weather-related disaster losses to global GDP. For 1990 through 2012 this graph shows a declining trend. The authors conclude, “there is no evidence so far that climate change has increased the normalized economic loss from natural disasters

<<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/graph-of-day-global-disasters-and-gdp.html>>
<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/geographyAndEnvironment/whosWho/profiles/neumayer/pdf/Natdis_norm.pdf>

Our Real Man-made Climate Crisis

In response to US Secretary of State John Kerry’s illusory crises, “... rising seas, deadly superstorms, devastating droughts and the other hallmarks of a changing climate,” author Paul Driessen describes the four closely-related forms of the real crisis:

- Influence peddling by big foundations like Tides causing widespread pernicious and corrupting effects;
- Politicized science, markets and ethics that have feathered careers and taken billions out of the productive sectors of the economy;
- Climate eco-imperialism that impoverishes and kills, causing fuel poverty in Europe and Africa;
- Ready-made excuses for incompetence, such as Hurricane Sandy proving a handy excuse for ill-considered development decisions that increase storm and flood risk.

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/03/06/our-real-manmade-climate-crisis/>>

2013-03-02

Low Gas Prices Sink Another Alberta CCS Project

Swan Hills Synfuels and Alberta announced that they would discontinue a \$285 million funding agreement that would have seen underground coal converted to gas and then burned to generate electricity. The carbon dioxide would have been stripped out and sold to nearby oilfields to boost

production. The reason for the cancellation is that it requires gas prices to be above \$5/GJ, and current prices have fluctuated around \$3/GJ.

Synfuels was one of four carbon capture and storage projects that the province was to fund out of a \$2 billion pot. One of the remaining two is Enhance Energy's \$600 million plan to transport CO₂ from refineries in Redwater to aging oilfields near Clive through the Alberta carbon trunk pipeline due to begin later this year. The other is the Shell Quest project, with \$865 million in provincial-federal subsidies, which is expected to start in 2015 [FoS Extracts – 2012-09-06.]

The two remaining CCS projects are to remove 2.76 million tonnes/year of CO₂. Originally, Alberta hoped to have five or six working projects by 2015 that would inject 10 million tonnes/year of CO₂ into the ground. Commenting on the Synfuels cancellation, Alberta premier Alison Redford downplayed it, noting that the province still had \$1.3 billion invested in other projects. In the *Financial Post*, columnist Peter Foster says the plant delay offers a chance not to pour \$285 million down the carbon drain.

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/prices+scuttle+Synfuels+carbon+capture+deal+with+Alberta/8013424/story.html>>

<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/politics/Alison+Redford+downplays+loss+carbon+capture+project/8015254/story.html>>

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/02/26/peter-foster-burying-carbon-doubts/>>

Canada's Environment Minister to the US: Your Greenhouse Gas Policy Is Our Greenhouse Gas Policy

Ottawa is following a “same here” policy on the environment as it seeks to provide President Barack Obama with political cover for his upcoming decision on the Keystone XL pipeline. On February 25, Environment Minister Peter Kent announced new regulations on fuel efficiency and emissions from on-road heavy-duty vehicles and engines, including mentioning in three different ways how Canada is aligning its GHG measures with those of the US.

<<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/02/25/peter-kent-to-the-u-s-your-greenhouse-gas-policy-is-our-greenhouse-gas-policy/>>

Environmentalists Outraged by Draft Environmental Assessment for KXL

DeSmogBlog is “live blogging” reaction to the US State Department's release of the draft EA for the Keystone XL pipeline, which concludes that the pipeline will have little impact on the climate or the environment. As CFACT notes, building the pipeline will create 42,000 jobs.

<<http://www.desmogblog.com/keystone-xl-pipeline-environmental-assessment-news>>

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/03/02/state-department-friday-release-keystone-xl-will-have-little-environmental-impact-but-create-42100-u-s-jobs/>>

It's Not Easy Being Green

It's been a series of disasters for the climate doomsayers: Arctic ice has made a comeback as temperatures nosedive; Antarctic ice coverage remains stubbornly above average; disasters such as floods and land falling major hurricanes are in decline; even the IPCC admits that the holy grail of proof to doomsayers, global temperature, refuses to climb in lockstep with increases in CO₂.

Perhaps cruelest of all, believers learned from a 17-year study over 33 countries by the National Opinion Research Center at Barack Obama's University of Chicago that the global warming issue

has not been the most consequential issue of our times.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/02/28/lawrence-solomon-not-easy-being-green/>>
<http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/02/27/17_years_of_surveys_people_dont_care_about_climate_change/>

Massachusetts Town To Consider Taking Down Wind Turbines

Since 2010 three wind turbines were installed in Falmouth, MA, where they have created angst and division in the community. Neighbors complained of noise and ailments, so the selectmen of Falmouth's council unanimously voted to remove the turbines. The matter will go to a town meeting in April and could end up on a ballot in May. The voters would have to decide whether to raise taxes to cover the estimated \$15 million removal costs. Town officials are pointing fingers at the state for pressing the community to accept the project. Currently the turbines are running on curtailment (only during daylight hours) which means they're operating at a loss.

Windwise Massachusetts has published a map of the state showing 21 locations where people have reported health problems. One of these is Fairhaven, as ABC6 News reports.

<<http://video.foxnews.com/v/2189054120001/>>
<<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/02/26/cape-cod-community-considers-taking-down-wind-turbines-after-illness-noise/?test=latestnews>>
<http://windwisema.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/health_complaints_map_ma.png>
<<http://www.abc6.com/story/21420343/wind-turbine-battle-erupts-again-in-fairhaven-ma?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=8512242-.UTJWJzH0h-s.facebook&autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=8512242>>

US Manufacturers Say that Carbon Tax Could Cut Factory Output

The National Association of Manufacturers warned that a potential tax on carbon emissions would raise energy prices, squeeze households and harm US competitiveness. The NAM report said a tax of \$20 per ton of carbon dioxide emissions could cut energy-intensive manufacturing output by as much as 15% by 2053. This month, Senators Barbara Boxer and Bernie Sanders proposed a bill to tax carbon emissions that would raise \$1.2 trillion over ten years.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/26/us-carbon-tax-us-idUSBRE91P14220130226?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2Fenvironment+%28News+%2F+US+%2F+Environment%29>

US Offers Airspace-based Emissions Regime

A high-level group of negotiators is trying to develop a global plan, under the International Civil Aviation Organization, to address aviation emissions. This is in response to the one-year suspension of an EU law that would have covered all international flights to and from EU countries [FoS Extracts – 2012-11-15]. At the ICAO meeting the US proposed excluding flying time over international waters, which environmental groups claim is a way of bullying the EU into backing down. Airlines for America, the US airlines lobby, continues to campaign against any market-based mechanism, such as a carbon market, for the rest of the decade, preferring an approach which focuses on improving “technology, operations and infrastructure.”

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/25/uk-eu-icao-climate-idUSLNE91O00K20130225>>

Defunding the IPCC

Forbes contributor Larry Bell applauds Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer's (R-MO) bill to prohibit US funding of the IPCC and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, calling them "... a scam devoted to redistributing American wealth in penance for our unfair capitalist free market prosperity." Under the Obama administration, the two organizations together have received a total average of \$10.25 million annually, which will be upped to \$13 million under a FY 13 budget request.

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/02/24/yes-we-should-defund-the-u-n-s-intergovernmental-panel-on-climate-change/>>

The 1970s Global Cooling Alarmism

Popular Technology.net has compiled links to over 60 stories from 1970 to 1979 dealing with fears of a coming ice age and its causes.

<<http://www.populartechnology.net/2013/02/the-1970s-global-cooling-alarmism.html>>

It's Time for the Person Who Leaked the CRU Emails to Step Forward

Tim Ball argues why it's important for the persons who leaked the emails from the Climatic Research Unit in November 2009 and 2010 to reveal themselves and release the remaining 200,000 emails. While the public are increasingly aware of the inaccurate science and failed projections of the IPCC, those promoting the false science are pushing even harder as they lose ground. Dr. Ball analyzes the possible identity of the leaker and concludes that it was somebody inside the CRU.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/27/its-time-for-the-person-who-leaked-the-cru-emails-to-step-forward/>>

Australian Academics: Democracy Should Be Replaced by "Elite Warrior Leadership" to Fight Global Warming

Few enviro-fundamentalist doomsday prophets paint as grim a picture of what is ahead for humanity as Australians David Shearman (professor emeritus of medicine) and Joseph Wayne Smith (philosopher and ecologist). These two openly attack the liberal democratic system, which they think should be replaced by an authoritarian "elite warrior leadership." In the forward to their book *The Climate Change Challenge and the Failure of Democracy*, the authors state, "... that democracy is inherently contradictory and leads naturally to authoritarianism ... that authoritarianism is the natural state of humanity, and it may be better to choose our elites rather than have them imposed ... The education and values of the new 'elite warrior leadership' who will battle for the future of the earth is described."

The authors do not – at least in the forward – say what will happen to the global warming "deniers" in their brave new world.

<<http://newnostradamusofthenorth.blogspot.se/2013/02/australian-academics-democracy-should.html>>

New Paper: Large Wind Farms Generate Far Less Energy than Thought

Activists love wind power the way they once loved ethanol and natural gas – it is good until scientists show them it is not. A paper on mesoscale atmospheric modeling in *Environmental Research Letters* found that each wind turbine creates behind it a "wind shadow" in which the air

has been slowed down by drag on the turbine's blades. The generating capacity of very large wind power installations (larger than 100 km²) may peak at between 0.5 and 1 W/m². Previous estimates, which ignored the turbines' slowing effect on the wind, had put that figure at between 2 and 7 W/m².

<http://www.science20.com/news_articles/rethinking_wind_power_latest_greatest_thing-104679>
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/25/rethinking-wind-power-harvard-study-shows-it-to-be-overestimated/>>
<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/03/wind-farms-turbines-break-like-match-sticks-in-medium-waves-and-their-capacity-is-overestimated/>>

2013-02-23

Climate Fear-Mongers' Blind Faith in Suspect and Shoddy Science

Writing in the *Washington Times*, Tom Harris of the International Climate Science Coalition notes that while activists like Bill McKibben of *350.org* call for environmental policy to be based on science, the fact is that we are in a period of "negative discovery" for climate science. The confidence expressed by Mr. McKibben, Al Gore and President Obama on mankind causing dangerous climate change is a consequence of what's called the "Doctrine of Certainty": a collection of now familiar assertions about climate that are to be accepted without question. In Mr. Harris' view, "It is time to listen to reputable experts who say that, while someday we may be able to meaningfully predict climate, it is not possible now. The science fiction of attempting to actually control global climate through impractical energy policies will simply leave us hungry and freezing in the dark."

<<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/feb/20/climate-fear-mongers-blind-faith-in-suspect-and-sh/>>

How Not to Fix Climate Change

New York Times' contributor Joe Nocera puts his finger on the faulty logic of James Hansen, Bill McKibben and other activists who think that choking off new oil supplies such as the Keystone XL pipeline will force the US, and maybe the rest of the world, to transition quickly to green energy. This is backwards thinking, because as long as the demand is there, energy producers are going to search for new supplies of fossil fuel. Instead, the emphasis should be on demand, because without it there would be no need for oil sands' product. James Hansen calls for oil companies to pay an annually rising fee based on carbon emissions, but that would only make the expensive oil sands even more viable.

In the *Calgary Herald*, Adam Legge, CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, makes a similar argument regarding demand, noting that few of the activist campaigns call on consumers to use less energy.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/19/opinion/nocera-how-not-to-fix-climate-change.html?_r=0>
<<http://www.calgaryherald.com/opinion/op-ed/Legge+Climate+change+activists+have+wrong/7998955/story.html>>

Global Wind Energy – The Human Impact of Industrial Wind Turbines

This is a new website, active since January, and devoted to the adverse health effects of industrial scale wind turbines. It includes reports, testimony, video, engineering reports, news items and

research. While it includes international stories, its focus is on Ontario, where opposition to windfarms appears to be growing. Two of the featured items are letters dated February 17, addressed to Prime Minister Harper and Health Minister Aglukkaq, from Ontario residents who suffered from living next to industrial wind farms. Also there is a public letter by a professional accountant addressed to the Ontario Municipal Property Assessment Corporation requesting a study on the impacts of industrial wind turbines on property values, in view of their documented health effects on nearby humans.

<<http://globalwindenergyimpact.com>>

<<http://globalwindenergyimpact.com/2013/02/17/letter-to-pm-stephen-harper-too-late-for-me-and-my-family/>>

<<http://globalwindenergyimpact.com/2013/02/17/wind-victim-statement-to-pm-stephen-harper-and-the-canadian-minister-of-health/>>

<<http://globalwindenergyimpact.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/mpac-dan-mathieson-february-18-2013-final.pdf>>

EU Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme in Freefall

The scheme's carbon price has collapsed, from a peak of €30/tonne in mid-2008 to €5.20/tonne in February 2013. There are three reasons: the economic recession has suppressed manufacturing; "generous" exemptions were handed out to energy-intensive industries; and emissions credits from worldwide cleantech projects under the Kyoto Protocol can be sold into the ETS. For example, in 2013, just over 50% of the 2.1 billion tonnes of allowances provided by the EU will be sold through auctions, with the remainder allocated for free. The low carbon price means that there is no incentive for firms to ditch fossil fuels. Experts say a price of between \$68 and \$135/tonne (€51 and €101/tonne) is needed. Yvo de Boer, special global adviser for climate change and sustainability for KPMG and former executive secretary for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is pushing for a much higher price of about \$200 per allowance.

To bump up the price, the European Commission has proposed to postpone ("backload") until 2019 or 2020 some 900 million allowances originally planned for 2013 to 2015. This is being resisted by a small group of countries led by Poland, the world's 10th largest consumer of coal. Also, some industries, such as chemicals, are happy with the current situation. On February 19, the European Parliament's environment committee threw a lifeline to the ETS by voting 38-25 in favour of the backloading plan. A plenary vote is scheduled for April.

On February 21, EU carbon permits dropped by as much as 9.4% after a sale by Germany failed a second time this year because bids didn't reach the unspecified reference price.

<<http://cen.acs.org/articles/91/i7/EU-Carbon-Emissions-Trading-Scheme.html>>

<<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/nations-seen-going-separate-ways-news-517850>>

<<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/meps-vote-carbon-market-future-b-news-517898>>

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-22/eu-carbon-plunges-after-german-permit-auction-fails-second-time.html>>

EPA and Greens Play a Hazy "Sue and Settle" Game

"Sue and Settle" practices, sometimes referred to as "friendly lawsuits", are cozy deals through which far-left radical environmental groups file lawsuits against federal agencies wherein court-ordered "consent decrees" are issued based upon a prearranged settlement agreement that they collaboratively craft together in advance behind closed doors. Then, rather than allowing the entire process to play out in public, the agency being sued settles the lawsuit by agreeing to move forward with the requested action that it and the litigants both want.

The US Chamber of Commerce has researched the practice and concluded that such Sue and Settle rulemaking is responsible for many of Environmental Protection Agency's "most controversial, economically significant regulations that have plagued the business community for the past few years." Included are regulations on power plants, refineries, mining operations, cement plants, chemical manufacturers, and a host of other industries.

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/02/17/epa-greens-play-a-hazy-sue-and-settle-game/>>

Congressional Testimony and Normative Science

According to a recent essay by Robert Lackey or Oregon State University (retired from the EPA), normative science is defined as "scientific information that is developed, presented or interpreted based on an assumed, usually unstated, preference for a particular policy choice." Judith Curry discusses this definition in the context of climate change testimony by three scientists before the US Senate Committee of Environment and Public Works on February 13. She found all three testimonies to be well written and effectively communicated, but wanting in terms of how uncertainties are acknowledged and their implicit acceptance of climate model attribution – even more so than the IPCC. She also includes critiques by Roger Pielke Jr.

<<http://judithcurry.com/2013/02/16/congressional-testimony-and-normative-science/>>

<<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.ca/2013/02/a-case-for-playing-it-straight.html>>

Retribution of the Warmists: Prof. Pielke Jr. Removed from Journal's Board after Critique of Paper

Roger Pielke Jr. critiqued a shoddy paper that appeared in the journal *Global Environmental Change*. Five days later he received a notice from the GEC editor-in-chief and executive editor asking him to step down from the journal's editorial board, in order "to give other scientists a chance to gain experience of editorial duties." Dr. Pielke observes, "...if my critique of a GEC paper is in any way related to my removal from the editorial board, then the message being sent to those other scientists is pretty chilling."

It turns out that the three GEC editors are all members of the Tyndall Centre and are, or were recently, at the University of East Anglia.

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/19776/Retribution-of-the-warmists-Prof-Pielke-Jr-asked-to-remove-himself-from-journal-board-after-strong-critique-of-shoddy-paper-by-Naomi-Oreskes--UN-IPCCs-Michael-Oppenheimer>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/tyndall-centre-centre-climate-scandal/>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/21/pielke-jr-gets-booted-from-journal-for-giving-an-unfavorable-peer-review-to-some-shoddy-science/>>

Meteorologist Turns Skeptical after Germany Sets Record Five Colder-than-Normal Winters

According to Dominik Jung, an often-quoted meteorology expert of the German media, Germany is set to experience its fifth consecutive colder-than-normal winter (December – February). According to Mr. Jung, "Just a few years ago climate experts prophesied that Germany would no longer experience winters with ice and snow in the future. In the 1990s there had been an entire series of milder and stormier winters. [...] However, this trend has not been observed over the last years. To the contrary: winters have again gotten considerably colder and the huge storms like those in the 1990s have more or less disappeared. [...]. Climate experts prophesied in the year 2000 that winters with snow and ice in Germany would cease to exist." He then presents data for

the last four winters and the current one, comparing them to the 1980-2010 mean, which was 0.8°C above the 1960-1990 mean. The results:

- 2008-09: 1.0°C cooler;
- 2009-10: 2.0°C cooler;
- 2010-11: 1.3°C cooler;
- 2011-12: 0.1°C cooler;
- 2012-13 (so far): 0.4°C cooler.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/02/17/meteorologist-dominik-jung-turns-skeptical-after-germany-sets-record-5-consecutive-colder-than-normal-winters/>>

Greenpeace and UNEP: Cozy under the Bedcovers

The United Nations Environment Program publishes a magazine called *Our Planet*. The February 2013 edition includes an article written by the head and the political director of Greenpeace International. In other reports, Greenpeace openly admits that environmentalism is a political movement and that its political vision is about strengthening the power of the most unaccountable political body on the planet – the United Nations.

According to the February article, Greenpeace believes fervently that governments must deliver “transformational change” and “urgent action” in order to “safeguard our planet’s future.” This involves “strengthening and upgrading” the UNEP. Specifically, Greenpeace wants the UNEP transformed into “a global authority for the environment, with greatly enhanced implementation, compliance and enforcement mechanisms.” The Greenpeace article disparages free markets and says that applying “strong controls” to such markets is “an integral part of the needed reform of global governance.”

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/02/21/greenpeace-unep-cozy-under-the-bedcovers/>>
<<http://www.unep.org/pdf/OP-FEB-EN-2013.pdf>>

IPCC Head Pachauri Acknowledges Global Warming Standstill

The UN’s climate change chief, Rajendra Pachauri, has acknowledged a 17-year pause in global temperature rise, confirmed recently by Britain’s Met Office, but said it would need to last “30 to 40 years at least” to break the long-term global warming trend. In Melbourne for a 24-hour visit to deliver a lecture, Dr. Pachauri said that people had the right to question the science, whatever their motivations. These views contrast with arguments in Australia that views outside the orthodox position of approved climate scientists should be left unreported.

As Joanne Nova puts it, Dr. Pachauri “... quietly blows the goalposts away, pretends to like skeptics. It’s all PR to keep the gravy train running.”

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/ipcc-head-pachauri-acknowledges-global-warming-standstill/>>
<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/02/pachauri-quietly-blows-goalposts-away-pretends-to-like-skeptics-its-all-pr-to-keep-the-gravy-train-running/>>
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/22/ipcc-railroad-engineer-pachauri-acknowledges-no-warming-for-17-years/>>

Green Anti-Humanism

On February 11, 2013, the *Denver Post* ran a guest commentary of great clinical interest. In the piece in question, Colorado State University philosophy professor Philip Cafaro advanced the argument that immigration needs to be sharply cut, because otherwise people from Third World nations will come to the United States and become prosperous, thereby adding to global warming.

In other words, the wretched of the earth must be kept poor wherever they reside. In this *National Review* article, Robert Zubin, president of Pioneer Energy and author of *Merchants of Despair: Radical Environmentalists, Criminal Pseudo-Scientists, and the Fatal Cult of Anti-Humanism*, uses Prof. Cafaro as an example of the use of fictitious necessity to rationalize human oppression. Mr. Zubin points out that the tenfold increase in the human use of carbon over the past century has driven a tenfold rise in global GDP per capita, with the escape of a large fraction of the world's population from horrific poverty.

<<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/341175/green-anti-humanism-robert-zubrin>>

New Paper: CO₂ Lags Global Temperature

Four Norwegian researchers have published a paper, *The phase relation between atmospheric carbon dioxide and global temperature*, which discusses the phase relation (leads/lags) between atmospheric CO₂ and global temperatures for the period January 1980 to December 2011. Ice cores show atmospheric CO₂ variations to lag behind atmospheric temperature changes on a century to millennium scale, but modern temperature is expected to lag changes in atmospheric CO₂, as the atmospheric temperature increase since about 1975 generally is assumed to be caused by the modern increase in CO₂. However, the researchers found that CO₂ lagged changes in temperature by 11-12 months.

<<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921818112001658>>

2013-02-16

Obama's 2013 State of the Union Address

Watts Up With That has posted the complete text with the paragraphs dealing with energy and climate change highlighted. Referring to "superstorm" Sandy and last summer's drought and belief in "the overwhelming judgment of science," the President warned that if Congress doesn't act, he will direct his cabinet to come up with executive actions "... to reduce pollution, prepare our communities for the consequences of climate change, and speed the transition to more sustainable sources of energy."

Climate Depot has prepared a point-by-point rebuttal of the climate change statements in the President's address.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/12/text-of-state-of-the-union-address/>>

<<http://www.climatedepot.com/a/19683/Obama-fails-climate-science-in-his-State-of-the-Union-address--Climate-Depots-pointbypoint-rebuttal-to-the-Presidents-global-warming-claims>>

Empowered Green Groups Gain Upper Hand in Pipeline Battle

Claudia Cattaneo introduces the US environmental activist groups that have wrecked havoc in Canada's oil sands industry by trashing its practices and stalling proposed pipelines such as Keystone XL. These include the Natural Resources Defense Council, 350.org, the Sierra Club, the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund and Friends of the Earth. To them the economic distresses caused by their actions are nothing to what they see as the impacts of future climate change. Even if the pipeline gets President Obama's approval, they plan to tie it up with litigation.

Kelly McParland predicts that Mr. Obama will approve the pipeline, since environmentalists will

vote Democratic no matter what, while perceived inaction on the economy was a key reason he lost control of the House of Representatives after two years in office. According to Terence Corcoran, the price of a Keystone approval may be a Canadian carbon tax.

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/02/11/empowered-green-groups-gain-upper-hand-in-pipeline-battle/?_lsa=12c3-0db6>
<<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/02/12/kelly-mcparland-obamas-keystone-quandary-is-whether-to-put-environment-ahead-of-economy>>
<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/02/11/terence-corcoran-the-price-of-keystone-may-be-a-carbon-tax/>>

Rockefellers Behind “Scruffy Little Outfit”

As author Vivian Krause reports, Bill McKibben’s 350.org has the look and feel of an amateur, grassroots operation, but in reality, it is a multi-million dollar campaign run by staff earning six-digit salaries. Her analysis of information from the US Foundation Center and the tax filings of American charitable foundations, Mr. McKibben’s campaigns have received more than 100 grants since 2005 for a total of \$10 million from 50 charitable foundations. Six of those grants were for roughly \$1 million each. More than half of the \$10 million came from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Rockefeller Family Fund and the Schumann Center for Media and Democracy, where Mr. McKibben, a trustee, was paid \$25,000 per year (2001-09). Since 2007, the Rockefellers have paid \$4 million towards 1Sky (another of Mr. McKibben’s campaigns) and 350.org, according to tax returns.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/02/14/rockefellers-behind-scruffy-little-outfit/>>
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/15/bill-mckibben-is-not-what-he-seems-to-be-i-catch-him-in-a-lie/>>

Stalled Out on the Electric Vehicle Highway

The *New York Times*’ John Broder test-drove a Tesla Model S electric car between Washington and Boston, thinking that two new ultrafast charging stations along I-95 would allow a fast trip. Unfortunately \$101,000 luxury car repeatedly ran out of juice because cold weather and running a heater reduced the battery’s range. According to Tesla’s chief technology officer, driving an EV “... takes more planning than a typical gasoline car.”

According to the *Washington Post*, in the past two years Americans have bought 71,000 plug-in hybrids or all-electrics in the past two years, a third of the amount that the Energy Department forecast in 2011. Federal billions cannot overcome the fact that electric vehicles and plug-in electric hybrids meet few, if any, of real consumers’ needs. The debacle is a case study in unchecked righteousness. The administration assumed the worthiness and urgency of its goals. Americans should want electric cars, and therefore they would, apparently.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/10/automobiles/stalled-on-the-ev-highway.html?_r=0>
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/charles-lane-obamas-electric-car-mistake/2013/02/11/441b39f6-7490-11e2-aa12-e6cfd31106b_story.html>

Walter Russell Mead: Drought Does US a Favor

The “favor” was the pressure that last year’s poor corn crop put on the ethanol industry’s supply chains. The Renewable Fuels Association, a trade group, provided data showing that of the nation’s 211 ethanol plants, 20 have ceased production over the past year, including five in January. Most remain open, with workers performing maintenance-type tasks. But ethanol production probably won’t resume until after 2013 corn crop is harvested in late August or

September.

<<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/02/11/drought-does-us-a-favor/>>

A Mere Breeze: Era of Fast Growth Ends for Wind Energy in Europe

In early February the European Wind Energy Association held its annual conference in Vienna, and the “s” word – subsidies – came up right away. The problem for the EWEA is that all its members’ recent growth came mostly from orders placed before the debt crisis that gripped Europe in 2010. Also governments, Germany and France in particular, are creating uncertainty for the industry with talk of capping subsidies. Even more worrying, there have been announcements of retroactive changes to the feed-in tariffs, with Spain being the worst example.

The *Spiegel* article prominently mentions an International Energy Agency statement that the global total for fossil fuel subsidies was \$523 billion in 2011, compared to a “paltry” \$88 billion for renewables. According to the executive summary of the IEA’s *2012 World Energy Outlook*, these fossil fuel subsidies were “... most prevalent in the Middle East and North Africa” – hardly relevant to a story about Europe.

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/era-of-fast-growth-ends-for-wind-energy-in-europe-a-882357.html>>

<<http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/English.pdf>>

Brussels Out of Control: €200 Billion for the Green Lobby

European heads of state and government have agreed to commit at least 20% of the entire EU budget over the next seven years to climate-related spending. The €960 billion budget for 2014-20 represents a reduction from the €976 billion for 2007-13, though some of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy’s funds will be “enhanced” through direct payments for agricultural practices that are beneficial to the climate. However, the European Environmental Bureau, a coalition of more than 140 NGOs called the new budget a “disgrace” because it allows EU member states freedom to interpret what is meant by a green CAP, opening the way “... to an unprecedented greenwashing operation.”

<<http://ens-newswire.com/2013/02/08/climate-gets-20-percent-of-seven-year-european-budget/>>

Renewable Energy Investments in Spain Go Up in Smoke

The Spanish Parliament approved a law on February 14 that cuts subsidies for alternative energy technologies, backtracking on its push for green power. That measure, along with other recent laws including a tax on power generation that hit green energy investments especially hard, will virtually wipe out profits for photovoltaic, solar thermal and wind plants, sector lobbyists say. Foreign investors in renewable energy projects in Spain have hired lawyers to prepare potential international legal action against the Spanish government over new rules they say break their contracts.

Foreign investors poured money into Spanish wind and solar projects, drawn to generous subsidies. However, rather than passing the costs of the subsidies to consumers, the Spanish government held down electricity prices, accumulating a €28 billion tariff deficit that it can no longer afford.

<<http://planetark.org/wen/67930>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/germany-spain-move-curb-green-energy-lobby/>>

Most Arctic Ice Gain Ever Recorded

With a few weeks of growth still to occur, the Arctic has blown away the previous record for ice gain this winter. This is only the third winter in history when more than 10 million km² of new ice has formed.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/12/sea-ice-news-volume-4-1-arctic-ice-gain-sets-a-new-record/>>

2013-02-09

The Stars Align behind Alberta Carbon Tax

According to the *National Post*'s Kelly McParland, a new or increased Alberta carbon tax is the message behind the following news items. The province is in a financial squeeze, which it blames on the "bitumen bubble." The Keystone XL pipeline, the delay of which is partly responsible for the bubble, still requires President Obama's approval, and he is under pressure from his fans in the environmental movement. An Alberta carbon tax might give him an excuse to approve the pipeline. Major oil companies operating in the oil sands have called for a carbon tax [FoS Extracts – 2013-02-02]. Alberta already has a \$15/tonne carbon tax imposed on industrial emissions that exceed set limits. With up to four years until the next election, the government could either increase it or apply it at the consumer level and be prepared to live down any blowback.

<<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/02/05/kelly-mcparland-the-stars-align-behind-alberta-carbon-tax/>>

Wind Rush: A Documentary on the Human Effects of Wind Turbines

This 45-minute documentary by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation critically examines the effects of wind turbines on people living next to them in Ontario, Alberta, Maine, Scotland and Denmark. Interviews with people directly affected by noise from the turbines and medical-technical professionals are unanimous about their adverse health effects. The only complementary statements are from Alberta ranchers (who don't live next to the turbines, but collect lucrative rents), wind industry executives and about offshore wind developments in Denmark.

<<http://www.cbc.ca/player/Shows/ID/2332887223/>>

US Court of Appeals Punctures Hole in EPA's Cellulosic Ethanol Balloon

Despite the fact that it is difficult to produce cellulosic ethanol in commercial quantities, US legislation mandates increasing annual targets for this fuel, reaching 36 billion gallons by 2022. Refiners that fail to meet the mandate have to purchase "waiver credits," in effect a fine that serves as a hidden tax on consumers. The absurdity of these credit purchases prompted the American Petroleum Institute to file a lawsuit last year challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's rulemaking on this issue. On January 25, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, in a unanimous decision, rejected the 8.65 million gallon cellulosic ethanol target, finding that the EPA was projecting far too much production of cellulosic ethanol for 2012.

However, the EPA didn't allow the decision to complicate its 2013 standards. On January 31 the agency issued 2013 requirements: 14 million gallons, 60% more than in 2012.

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/02/04/court-of-appeals-punctures-a-hole-in-epas-cellulosic-ethanol->

[balloon/>](#)

Report: US Falling Short on Obama’s Climate Target

A report by the World Resources Institute argues that despite recent figures showing that US emissions have fallen to their lowest level in almost 20 years, deeper cuts can only be achieved if President Obama pursues more ambitious climate policies – namely the 17% reduction by 2020, let alone 80% by 2050. The WRI recommends using existing federal and state laws, including enacting new standards for existing power plants.

<<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2242198/report-us-falling-short-on-obama-s-climate-targets>>

<<http://www.wri.org/publication/can-us-get-there-from-here>>

Blowing Hot and Cold: US Belief in Climate Change Shifts with the Weather

A University of British Columbia study of American attitudes toward climate change finds that local weather – temperature, in particular – is a major influence on public and media opinions on the reality of global warming. The study, published by the journal *Climatic Change*, finds a strong connection between US weather trends and public and media attitudes towards climate science over the past 20 years – with skepticism about global warming increasing during cold snaps and concern about climate change growing during hot spells.

On the subject of global warming, the author, Prof. Simon Donner, said, “We find that, unfortunately, a cold winter is enough to make some people, including many newspaper editors and opinion leaders, doubt the overwhelming scientific consensus on the issue.”

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/05/low-information-opinion-weather-rules-climate-drools/>>

<<http://www.cbc.ca/news/yourcommunity/2013/02/public-hot-and-cold-on-climate-change.html>>

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/02/07/lawrence-solomon-celsius-not-rising/>>

European Carbon Price “Inching ever closer to zero”

“Dramatic”, “enduring”, “meltdown” and “inching ever closer to zero” are terms used in *Point Carbon’s* new report on the global carbon markets. The EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme is overallocated all the way to 2020 and prices have hit record lows of under €3/tonne. The prices of certified emissions reduction offsets under the UN’s Clean Development Mechanism have dropped below €0.50/tonne. The only silver lining seen is the hope that new carbon trading schemes in Asia and the US will help the market recover. In the US, there are regional markets in California and a group of eastern states (the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.)

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/07/european-carbon-price-zero>>

University of Alberta Still in the Dark about Polar Bears

A University of Alberta professor, Andrew Derocher, along with eleven international researchers, are urging governments to start planning for rapid Arctic ecosystem change to deal with a climate change catastrophe for polar bears. Their paper, *Rapid ecosystem change and polar bear conservation*, was published online in the January 25 edition of *Conservation Letters*. Its conclusions are based on observations and modeling.

Prof. Derocher and his modelers were apparently unaware that people living with the bears see things differently. For example, *uphere.ca* published a story on January 13 about Inuit reports of polar bears invading Arctic villages, killing dogs and stalking children. On February 2, *National*

Public Radio's program, *The Inconvenient Truth about Polar Bears*, was broadcast. It reports how, Churchill, Manitoba, the "polar bear capital of the world," copes with its expanding bear population.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/04/a-note-to-the-university-of-alberta-timing-is-everything/>>
>
<<http://uphere.ca/node/850>>
<<http://www.npr.org/2013/02/02/170779528/the-inconvenient-truth-about-polar-bears?ft=1&f=1025>>
<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/04/npr-finally-gets-it-does-this-signal-an-end-to-the-polar-bear-as-poster-bear-for-global-warming/>>

Global Warming to Bring Colder/Warmer Winters

It seems that every time we get some snow, another "scientist" is wheeled out to explain that, no matter how cold it gets, it is all down to global warming. The International Arctic Research Centre announced a study by three Chinese scientists with the headline "Climate change brings colder winters to Europe and Asia." Then WWF Russia blamed the blizzards there on global warming. In the UK the Met Office believes that winters have been getting warmer, and that the cold winter of 2010/11 was caused by a natural event, the Arctic Oscillation, and, but for "human influences", would actually have been a fairly average winter. In the US, a 2010 article in *Phy.Org* is titled *Experts: Cold snap doesn't disprove global warming*.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/08/global-warming-to-bring-colderwarmer-winters/>>

CCS Dead and Buried?

Carbon capture and storage involves the injection of CO₂ captured from nasty coal-fired power plants and other high volume industrial sources into underground caverns, to stay there forever. However, a letter from researchers in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Liverpool and published in *Nature Geoscience* reports that CCS may not be as permanent as its proposers believe. The problem is that when CO₂ comes into contact with underground water it forms carbonic acid that eats into the caprock, possibly causing eventual leaks.

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/co2-buried-destined-rise-again>>

In Their Own Words: Climate Alarmists Debunk Their "Science"

Larry Bell in *Forbes* magazine has compiled some of his favorite quotes by climate alarmists. After quoting bureaucrats and politicians, Mr. Bell quotes IPCC officials and scientists, including some Climategate emails.

For example, Maurice Strong, the organizer of the 1992 Earth Climate Summit, said, "We may get to the point where the only way of saving the world will be for industrialized civilization to collapse."

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/02/05/in-their-own-words-climate-alarmists-debunk-their-science/>>

Top Swedish Climate Scientist Says Warming So Small, Not Noticeable without Meteorologists

One of Sweden's leading climate scientists, Lennart Bengtsson, was featured in an online daily

DN.se for his statements on global warming. One of them: “The warming we have had the last 100 years is so small that if we didn’t have had meteorologists and climatologists to measure it we wouldn’t have noticed it at all.” Apparently this is the first time that a real climate scientist, not an alarmist, has been interviewed by a major Swedish newspaper or TV/radio.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/02/03/top-swedish-climate-scientist-lennart-bengtsson-says-warming-not-noticeable-without-meteorologists/>>

New Paper Finds Greenland Surface Melt Was Due to Natural Variability

Last summer, the mainstream media breathlessly reported that a brief four-day surface melt over the Greenland ice sheet [FoS Extracts – 2012-07-26] represented evidence of man-made global warming. However, a paper published in *The Cryosphere* finds that "the recent warmer summers over [the Greenland ice sheet] cannot be considered as a long-term climate warming but are more a consequence of [the natural North Atlantic Oscillation] variability affecting atmospheric heat transport." In other words, the brief Greenland surface melt was related to natural variability rather than alleged man-made global warming.

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2013/02/new-paper-finds-brief-greenland-surface.html>>

2013-02-02

Expensive Power, Ruined Landscapes

On February 8, the Environmental Review Tribunal will consider an application to build nine large wind turbines on one of the most scenic points in one of Ontario’s most scenic places. This project is the first of many planned for Prince Edward County – a uniquely beautiful region of the province, which also happens to get a lot of wind. As David Frum, a county property owner, points out, newly installed wind power is priced at 11¢/kWh, compared to 7-8¢/kWh for natural gas power. If the province truly wanted the cheapest (and most reliable) form of renewable electricity, it could import hydropower from Manitoba and Quebec. But hydro would require heavily indebted Ontario to put up money for dams and power lines. Instead, it’s more convenient for the province to let the wind developers pick up the capital costs and bury the higher power costs in consumers’ bills.

<<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/01/26/david-frum-expensive-power-ruined-landscapes/>>

Why the Oil Sands Industry Wants a Carbon Tax

Business hates lack of clarity, and even a bad tax would be better than endless discussions. Thus, companies operating in Canada’s oil sands such as ExxonMobil, Total SA, Cenovus Energy, which are under foreign and domestic pressure, now see a greenhouse gas levy as helping them provide access to markets and more predictable costs. Already Alberta levies \$15/tonne for industrial emitters that exceed limits, and British Columbia charges \$30/tonne, which adds 6.7¢ to a litre of gasoline.

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/02/01/why-the-oil-sands-industry-wants-the-carbon-tax-harper-hates/?_lsa=12c3-0db6>

Canada Reaps Ontario’s Whirlwind

In 2011 and 2012 the World Trade Organization launched two dispute-settlement panels to

examine electricity tariff measures set in place under Ontario's *Green Energy Act*. The GEA includes local content requirements intended to foster green jobs and green technology expertise in the province – which prompted complaints at the WTO from Japan and the EU. Last December the WTO referee ruled that foreign producers should be able to sell green energy equipment into Ontario on par with Ontario producers. The federal government, which is charged with dealing with this international issue, quietly announced in December that it would appeal the referee's decision.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/01/31/canada-reaps-ontarios-whirlwind/>>

UK Wind Turbine Collapses in High (50 mph) Wind

In Bradford, Devon, a wind turbine installed three years ago was hit by gale force gusts of 50 mph and collapsed. The turbine was supposed to have a life of 25 years and was bitterly opposed by local residents and the parish council. According to the manufacturer, the turbine was supposed to survive a wind speed up to 116 mph.

Joanne Nova reports that another wind turbine, 18 miles away in Cornwall, also collapsed within a week of the one in Devon and wonders whether the cause was sabotage or failure.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/windpower/9837026/Wind-turbine-collapses-in-high-wind.html>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/30/oooops-at-least-they-didnt-name-it-robust/>>

<<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100200909/wind-turbines-not-just-hateful-but-ruddy-dangerous-too/>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/02/two-wind-turbines-down-in-a-week-in-the-uk-sabotage-or-failure/>>

Lovelock Recants

James Lovelock is a scientist and environmentalist, known as the originator of the Gaia theory and founder member of the Green. In a letter opposing a wind power project in Devon he states, "... I bow my head in shame at the thought that our original good intentions should have been so misunderstood and misapplied. We never intended a fundamentalist Green movement that rejected all energy sources other than renewable, nor did we expect the Greens to cast aside our priceless ecological heritage because of their failure to understand that the needs of the Earth are not separable from human needs. We need take care that the spinning windmills do not become like the statues on Easter Island, monuments of a failed civilisation."

In a 2010 interview for *The Guardian*, Mr. Lovelock said, "Humans are too stupid to prevent climate change." He proposed putting democracy on hold to deal with the issue.

<<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/1/25/lovelock-recants.html>>

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/storage/James_Lovelock_Letter.pdf>

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/mar/29/james-lovelock-climate-change>>

A Lukewarmer's Ten Tests

Matt Ridley, a scientist, journalist and businessman, who has written about climate change and energy policy for 25 years, has come to the conclusion that current energy and climate policy is probably more dangerous than climate change itself. In this seven-page essay he describes ten tests that would persuade him that the current climate policy makes sense.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/mett-ridley-lukewarmers-ten-tests/>>

Eight Reasons Why the Australian Heatwave Is Not “Climate Change”

Joanne Nova provides eight reasons why the current heat is a boring, overhyped example of weather being used for political purposes. Among them is “weather is not climate” (except when alarmists have a heatwave to milk.) Also, if a heatwave in Australia is proof of climate change, why not weeks or record breaking cold in Siberia?

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/eight-reasons-the-australian-heatwave-is-not-climate-change/>>
>

Poland – Besieged by Environmentalists

A news story published last month in *Spiegel Online*, exemplifies the current state of affairs regarding Poland. Titled ‘*Coal-aholics’: Poland Wages War on Efforts to Save the Climate*, it might as well have been written by an environmental activist. Environmentalists seem intent on heaping bad publicity on that country, on pushing it in directions that make no sense if they cared about real people who are struggling right now. Among the organizations are WWF, Greenpeace, Climate Action Network and Friends of the Earth – all of them upset that the Polish Government is putting its citizens’ interests ahead of the aims of the green activists.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/29/pity-poland/>>
<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/poland-stands-in-the-way-of-european-global-warming-efforts-a-874344.html>>

Two Views of China – Getting US Taxpayers to Clean Up Its Air, or “China Will Save the World”

Forbes contributor Gordon Chang wonders if, in light of President Obama’s second inaugural address [FoS Extracts – 2013-01-26] and the off-the-charts smog that blanketed northern China this month, that country may be willing to accept emissions caps in a global treaty, in exchange for money. Mr. Chang notes that the Doha climate change conference [FoS Extracts – 2012-12-08] established the “loss and damage” principle: that developed nations have a responsibility for compensating poorer ones for damage due to climate change. Since the Chinese central government is cash-strapped, and its industries don’t want to pay to clean up, President Obama may be able to coax China into accepting a global accord if American taxpayers subsidize Chinese industry.

Macleans has a different view on China, agreeing that it has a smog problem that will get worse before it gets better, but claiming that its “... carbon trading market could become a model for the rest of the world and will be critical to reducing global pollution.” (Obviously, *Macleans* knows nothing about the current travails of the European ETS.) This and the flocking to China of clean-tech companies from Europe and North America in the hopes of selling their technologies after seeing demand stagnate in their home countries, leads *Macleans* to predict that China is going to save the world.

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/gordonchang/2013/01/27/china-demands-u-s-taxpayers-clean-up-its-air/>>
<<http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/01/27/business/>>

New Book by Hans von Storch: Climate Scientists Took on Role of Prophets “... Completely in over their Heads”

Prof. von Storch is professor at the Meteorological Institute of the University of Hamburg. He

and cultural scientist Werner Krauss have authored a new book *die Klima Falle (the Climate Trap)* on the topic of climate change, society and policy. The authors claim that both sides in the debate are responsible for having driven the climate issue into the ground. They say that climate scientists took over the role of prophets, predicting an imminent end-of-the world unless society fundamentally changed soon.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/01/28/new-book-by-hans-von-storch-climate-scientists-took-on-role-of-prophets-completely-in-over-their-heads/>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/01/29/von-storchkrauss-new-book-global-society-doesnt-need-politicized-science-calling-for-a-2c-target/>>

Something the Climate Models May Have Missed: Forests Driving Wind and Bringing Rain

A new paper in *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* presents a new theory on how water vapour condensation influences atmospheric pressure and dynamics. Rather than assuming that forests grow where the rain falls, it would be more a case of rain falling where forests grow. Judith Curry agrees that the process described in the paper is physically correct, but the main question is its relative magnitude compared to other processes. She thinks it may explain why climate models don't get monsoons and hurricanes right.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/02/do-forests-drive-wind-and-bring-rain-is-there-a-major-man-made-climate-driver-the-models-miss/>>

<<http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/13/1039/2013/acp-13-1039-2013.html>>

Global Warming: Anthropogenic or Not?

Bob Carter explains how he and Katharine Hayhoe, both credible professional scientists and competent to assess the evidence regarding dangerous global warming that the IPCC alleges is being caused by industrial CO₂ emissions, arrive at diametrically opposing opinions on the matter. Both agree on five common issues, but disagree on three others: (1) the amount of net warming due to human-produced emissions; (2) whether any actual evidence exists for dangerous warming of human causation over the last 50 years; (3) whether the IPCC computer models can provide accurate climate predictions 100 years into the future. Dr. Hayhoe's answers would be *substantial, lots* and *yes*, whereas Dr. Carter's would be *insignificant, none* and *no*.

Dr. Carter then conducts tests of the dangerous AGW hypotheses and finds that all of them fail. He concludes that the IPCC's and green activists' one-size-fits-all global solution to deal with one aspect of future climate change fails entirely to deal with the real climate and related hazards to which we are exposed every day.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/30/global-warming-anthropogenic-or-not/>>

2013-01-26

Obama Brings God into the Climate-Change Fight

In his inaugural address US President Obama called for responding to climate change with more sustainable energy and related technology so that "... we will preserve our planet, commanded to our care by God." The *Washington Post* offers a more realistic view of what's possible in the president's second term. Among these are using the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce CO₂ emissions from power plants and crackdown on methane leaks, and ordering government agencies to engage in long-term planning to cut emissions 80% by 2050. Anything more would require approval by Congress. Only then could the US hope to revive international climate talks

with countries such as China and India.

In the *Financial Post*, Peter Foster uses the president's God reference to argue that climate change isn't as much about policy as religion. In a *Guardian* interview, James Hansen said that Barack Obama has only four years to save the world. And *Scientific American* ran a sympathetic article on Dr. Hansen, with emphasis on the Alberta oil sands and the Keystone XL pipeline.

<http://www.slate.com/blogs/future_tense/2013/01/21/obama_inauguration_speech_president_brings_god_into_climate_change_fight.html>
 <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/01/21/can-obama-tackle-climate-change-in-his-second-term/>>
 <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/01/21/obama-adds-climate-change-to-lengthy-to-do-list/>>
 <<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/01/22/peter-foster-keystone-vs-religion/>>
 <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jan/18/jim-hansen-obama>>
 <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=tar-sands-and-keystone-xl-pipeline-impact-on-global-warming&WT.mc_id=SA_emailfriend>

Terence Corcoran: Extreme Media Alert

According to Mr. Corcoran, the insurance industry is behind some of the recent hype about extreme weather, as evidenced by a recent report on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's feature *The Current*. The Canadian insurance industry operates a front group called the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, which is actively promoting extreme weather as a major vehicle for business and policy development. The institute's policy director has emerged as the chief public relations official for the idea that climate change is behind extreme weather and insurance events. He is featured in *The Current* episode.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/01/23/terence-corcoran-extreme-media-alert/>>
 <<http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2013/01/23/as-temperatures-rise-will-costs-follow/>>

Europe Today: Stealing Wood, Burning Wood

On a six-hour train trip to Berlin, Donna Laframboise noticed a great deal of firewood stacked next to houses and outbuildings. It turns out that some Europeans are so pinched by their heating bills for renewable energy that they're now stealing firewood, as *Spiegel Online* reports. Greeks are coping with rising prices and cold winters by felling trees in public parks for firewood. In the UK the amount of renewable energy in the national mix is pushing prices higher, resulting in 180,000 homes installing a wood stove in 2011.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/20/europe-today-stealing-wood-burning-wood/>>
 <<http://www.spiegel.de/international/zeitgeist/tree-theft-on-the-rise-in-germany-as-heating-costs-increase-a-878013.html>>
 <<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-europe-greeks-raid-forests-search-wood-heat-homes/>>
 <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2012/oct/19/wood-burning-stoves-bring-fuel-bills-down>>

EU Carbon Permits “Worthless” without a Change of Rules, UBS Says

EU allowances for delivery in December sank to a record €4.79/tonne, and low bids from factories and banks forced Germany to cancel a sale of permits for the first time. These events prompted Swiss bank UBS AG to say that permits in the EU's emissions trading system are “worthless” without a change in the rules to tighten the supply. According to a spokesman from the European Commission, “With the current emissions cap -- 1.74 percent reduction per year -- the ETS will be long each year until 2025 and it will take until 2045 before the current 1.5 billion

tons [sic] surplus inventory has been eliminated.” On January 24, *Watts Up With That* reported that carbon prices plunged 40% in one day, reaching a record low of €2.81/tonne before closing at €4.74/tonne.

Business Week reports that the European Parliament’s industry committee voted down by 42-18 a proposal by the European Commission to alleviate the glut by delaying future sales of permits. What *Spiegel Online* calls a “disastrous week for carbon trading” should be a wake-up call for a divided German government.

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-21/eu-carbon-permits-worthless-without-change-of-rules-ubs-says.html>>

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/24/eu-carbon-price-loses-40-of-its-value-in-one-day/>>

<<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-01-24/eu-carbon-plunges-40-percent-as-lawmakers-suggest-rejection-of-glut-fix>>

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/drop-in-carbon-price-underscores-disastrous-week-for-carbon-trading-a-879769.html>>

Greece Shows how Poverty Degrades the Environment

Its economic situation is making Greece retreat up the slope of the Environmental Kuznets Curve. The model underlying this curve theorizes that, as a civilization starts to use natural resources, it increases its impact on the environment until it reaches a stage where it becomes more efficient to reduce its impact. That’s why richest societies are generally the cleanest. Notably for the pro-AGW *Huffington Post*, this article concludes that affordable energy is important to the environment. (Though it omits any mention of climate and renewable energy.)

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/iain-murray/greece-energy-environment_b_2506754.html>

“Climate Crimes” – Green Policies that Are Killing Nature

Austrian filmmaker Ulrich Eichelmann, who was an active member of WWF for 17 years and worked in conservation for decades, has now prepared a documentary film, *Climate Crimes*. In this film he shows how many ecosystems, species, habitats and the cultural heritage too are threatened, “not by climate change, but by climate protection and the things done in its name.” It is predominantly hydropower and bioenergy projects that threaten to destroy precious areas of our planet’s nature. Mr. Eichelmann examines projects in Brazil, Iraq, Germany and Indonesia.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/climate-crimes-green-policies-killing-nature/>>

Are We Facing Global Cooling?

That’s a question occurring to London Mayor Boris Johnson as Britain endures its fifth winter in a row with an unusual amount of snow. Mr. Johnson wonders if astrophysicist Piers Corbyn [FoS Extracts – 2011-01-10], with his record of weather prediction based on solar activity, may be right in that we may be entering something like either the Maunder (1645-1715) or Dalton (1790-1830) minima.

Apparently, even NASA agrees that, with ongoing Solar Cycle 24 the weakest in 50 years, the Sun could be on the threshold of a mini Maunder event right now.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/borisjohnson/9814618/Its-snowing-and-it-really-feels-like-the-start-of-a-mini-ice-age.html>>

<http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2013/08jan_sunclimate/>

<<http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2013/01/nasa-we-may-be-on-the-verge-of-a-mini-maunder->

[minimum.html](#)>

Team of Ex-NASA Scientists Conclude No Imminent Threat from CO₂

A group of 20 ex-NASA scientists have concluded that the science used to support the man-made climate change hypothesis is not settled and no convincing physical evidence exists to support catastrophic climate change forecasts. This group calls itself The Right Climate Stuff and employs a disciplined approach of problem identification and root cause analysis learned from dealing with safety issues related to human space flight. *The Watts Up With That* link lists seven conclusions from the group's work on climate change.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/23/team-of-ex-nasa-scientists-concludes-no-imminent-threat-from-man-made-co2/>>

Donna Laframboise: The FoxNews Interview

FoxNews interviewed Ms. Laframboise about the recently-leaked draft reports for the IPCC's AR5 [FoS Extracts 2012-12-15 and 2013-01-12]. In her blog she provides the full text of the eight questions put to her and the responses. Questions 1-6 deal with the penetration of the IPCC by activist groups, and 7-9 on the assessment reports.

<<http://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2013/01/23/the-foxnews-interview/>>
<<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/01/23/leaked-un-climate-report-slammed-for-citing-wwf-greenpeace/?test=latestnews-ixzz2IrQDG4na>>

The UN's Global Warming War on Capitalism – A History Lesson

Writing in *Forbes*, contributor Larry Bell describes the history of the environmental/climate movement at the UN. It began in the 1970s and early 1980s as third world countries, by force of numbers and encouraged by European socialist and green parties, seized control of the UN and began calling for a new economic order. This led to the establishment of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its progeny the IPCC. At the 1992 UN-organized Earth Summit, Maurice Strong famously said, "We may get to the point where the only way of saving the world will be for industrialized civilization to collapse. Isn't it our responsibility to bring this about?"

Mr. Strong got firm support from US politicians and officials. Enron conducted a big lobbying effort with the Clinton administration in support of cap and trade and the Kyoto Protocol. As IPCC official Ottmar Edenhofer admitted in November 2010, "...one has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. Instead, climate change policy is about how we redistribute de facto the world's wealth..."

<<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/01/22/the-u-n-s-global-warming-war-on-capitalism-an-important-history-lesson-2/>>
<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/01/22/ushering-in-the-new-socialist-world-order-one-crisis-at-a-time/>>

Yet Another Study Shows Lower Climate Sensitivity

Policymakers are attempting to contain global warming at less than 2°C. However, new estimates from a Norwegian project on climate calculations indicate this target may be more attainable than many experts have feared. What sets this one apart from other global warming research is that it focuses on the post-2000 trend. While the IPCC estimates the climate sensitivity to a doubling in atmospheric CO₂ at 2°C to 4.5°C, the Norwegian study came up with a most likely estimate of

1.9°C.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/25/yet-another-study-shows-lower-climate-sensitivity/>>

Solar Activity at the End of the 20th Century Was the Highest in 9,000 Years

A 2012 paper published in *the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* reconstructs solar activity from isotopes in ice cores and tree rings, and finds solar activity at the end of the 20th century was at the highest levels of the past 9,000 years. The paper confirms other peer-reviewed publications indicating that the Sun was particularly active during the 20th century in comparison to the past several millennia.

<<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2013/01/paper-finds-solar-activity-at-end-of.html>>

2013-01-19

Ontario Close to Eliminating Coal-fired Power

As Premier Dalton McGuinty prepares to hand over to his successor, his office issued a statement trumpeting that, when Ontario shuts down the Lambton and Nanticoke generating stations this year, it will be left with just a small backup coal-fired station near Thunder Bay. A decade ago coal made up a quarter of the province's electricity generation. Now it accounts for 2.8%, exceeded by wind power at 3%. Not everyone is happy with this – wind farms are controversial, and the Power Workers Union bemoans the loss of jobs for its members, the elusiveness of green jobs and the unlikelihood of Ontario meeting its greenhouse gas targets. Indeed, the province's environmental watchdog agrees with the last, calling on the government to bring in carbon pricing.

In the *Financial Post* Parker Gallant adds up the costs of Mr. McGuinty's promise to get rid of coal-fired electricity (originally by 2007) - \$17.9 billion in capital costs for no new net power and \$7.35 billion in annual costs to the ratepayers, or \$2,055 annually for each ratepayer.

<<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/dailybrew/ontario-close-eliminating-coal-electric-power-source-first-231241695.html>>

<<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/environmental-watchdog-says-ontario-backing-away-climate-change-150527996--finance.html>>

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/01/17/ontarios-power-trip-mcguintys-legacy/>>

Jim Hoggan: Cleaning Up Canada's Polluted Public Square

Jim Hoggan, co-founder of *DeSmogBlog*, is frustrated by “misinformation, denial and bitter adversarial rhetoric” that is “... preventing us from confronting the reality of our destructive impact on the planet.” To him, it's a more urgent environmental threat than even climate change. What's particularly galling for Mr. Hoggan are statements from the Harper government about charitable groups laundering foreign money given to Canadian environmental organizations. He claims that these statements lead to fueling public apathy, drowning out dissent and smothering public discourse.

More likely, Mr. Hoggan's real concern is the fact that the Canada Revenue Agency is auditing the Tides Foundation, which is according to Terence Corcoran in the *Financial Post* “a major player in funding green activism in Canada.”

<<http://desmog.ca/2013/01/14/canada-s-polluted-public-square>>
<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/05/08/terence-corcoran-blackoutspeakout-but-first-whiteout/>>

MIT to Obama: It's Now or Never on Global Warming

In a bruising open letter to President Obama, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is urging the administration to give up its bungled, politically-driven green energy program to focus exclusively on new taxes and industries aimed at fixing global warming.

"You have the power and the opportunity to lay the groundwork for a new clean-energy policy that will help us avoid the worst consequences of climate change," said the letter, published in the *MIT Technology Review*. "It is quite possible that if this is not done over the next four years, it will be too late." The letter calls for "...immediate spending and economic sacrifice by present-day voters in order to achieve benefits that will be realized decades from now."

<<http://washingtonexaminer.com/mit-to-obama-only-4-years-left-to-stop-global-warming/article/2518251-.UPWrBqV4ifT>>

Michael Mann Gets SLAPPED

The defendants in Dr. Mann's suit against the Competitive Enterprise Institute and the *National Review* [FoS Extracts – 2012-10-25] have filed an anti-SLAPP (*Anti-Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation Act*) motion with the court. The motion alleges that the suit arises from the defendants' right to advocacy in issues of public interest (i.e., the blog post, commenting on the global warming debate and Dr. Mann's role in it), the statute applies and requires dismissal of the suit.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/16/michael-mann-gets-slapped/>>

Al Gore's Carbon Footprint

Now that Mr. Gore is on that take from "big oil" [FoS Extracts – 2013-01-05 re sale of TV network to Al Jazeera], here's a collection of satirical images and cartoons celebrating his new carbon footprint...

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/13/al-gores-carbon-footprint/>>

Not an Unusual Heat Wave in Australia

The media are in overdrive, making out that "the extreme heat is the new normal" in Australia. The Great Australian Heatwave of January 2013 didn't push the mercury above 50°C at any weather station in Australia, yet it's been 50°C (122°F) and hotter in many inland towns across Australia over the past century. Joanne Nova's web page includes a map of the country showing some of the highest recorded daily maximum temperatures.

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/australia-was-hot-and-is-hot-so-what-this-is-not-an-unusual-heat-wave/>>

No Global Warming for Almost Two Decades

Christopher Monckton explains the apparent inconsistency between reports that July 2012 was the warmest July since 1895 in the contiguous US and the news that the UK Met Office has cut its global warming forecast for the coming years. It turns out that the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration has been issuing alarming statements based on incomplete data from an outdated and inaccurate network of monitoring stations. The Met Office's new projection to 2017, while looking very different than the previous project to 2020, is within the measurement uncertainty, and therefore statistically indistinguishable from it.

<http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/two_decades_no_warming.pdf>

Puzzlement over the Global Warming Standstill

Spiegel Online carried a story (translation in the Global Warming Policy Foundation) about the NASA climate establishment's attempts to explain the unexpected 15-year standstill. The scientists' speculation on possible causes includes heat stored in the deep (>2,000 m) ocean; a dry stratosphere; aerosols from Asia; cold water in the Pacific; and even the poorly understood water cycle and science of cloud formation. Nevertheless, the NASA researchers have not lost faith in their long-term forecasts based on rising CO₂ and assumed climate sensitivity.

James Hansen has also been forced to address the inconvenient truth that nature has not been cooperating with his past predictions of soaring global temperatures. He engages in what Judith Curry calls "back of the envelope" reasoning to attribute the first half of the last decade to El Niño, and the second half to La Niña, conditions. Dr. Hansen also blames the 1940-75 standstill on greenhouse gas forcing being balanced by aerosol cooling – despite the absence of any aerosol measurements.

<<http://www.thegwvf.org/researchers-puzzled-global-warming-standstill/>>
 <<http://judithcurry.com/2013/01/16/hansen-on-the-standstill/>>
 <http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/2013/20130115_Temperature2012.pdf>
 <<http://www.thegwvf.org/hansen-admits-global-temperature-standstill-real/>>

UK Met Office Gets the Stratosphere Wrong

Time and again the proponents of catastrophic climate change use the mantra of "settled science" to shout down their critics. However, a report in the November 29 issue of *Nature* indicates that the accepted view of stratospheric climate change during the period 1979–2005 is strikingly wrong. The Met Office compiled the data for this period using the Stratospheric Sounding Unit aboard polar orbiting satellites, but the methodology used to process the data was never documented. When the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reprocessed the data, and published their methodology, they found that the Met Office results were likely wrong. What matters is that these data were used to tune the climate models, and the blunder renders past conclusions based on the models suspect. The episode is an egregious example of sloppy, not "settled" science.

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/science-gets-stratosphere-wrong>>

2013-01-12

Green Britain: Quarter of Families Forced to Turn Off Heat to Feed Children

Soaring energy bills are forcing one in four mothers to turn off their heating in the depths of winter in order to afford food for their children. Fuel bills have already soared by eight per cent this winter, but costs are expected to rise further in coming months. Experts have warned that the

number of households suffering fuel poverty, whereby heating bills account for more than a tenth of a family's income, will double to nine million by 2016.

<<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2257849/Quarter-mothers-forced-turn-heating-afford-food-children-Survey-warns-increase-fuel-poverty.html>>

Barack Obama “Seriously Considering” Hosting Climate Summit

The *Guardian*, quoting environmental groups, hopefully speculates that President Obama will intervene on climate change by hosting a summit at the White House early in his second term. This has to take place soon, as the political opportunity created by Hurricane Sandy is slipping away.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jan/09/barack-obama-climate-summit>>

Florida Wind Company Destroys Bald Eagle Nest in Ontario

A pair of off-camera women, disgusted by what they see, video the destruction of a bald eagle nest in Haldimand City, Ontario by Florida-based wind company Nextera Energy on January 5. Nextera got a permit to remove the nest the night before from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/01/10/a-florida-wind-energy-company-destroys-a-canadian-bald-eagle-nest/>>

<<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/01/07/mnr-bald-eagles-to-relocate-to-allow-wind-project-to-proceed-as-planned/>>

The Logical Case against Climate Panic

In this essay Lord Monckton covers the various warmest arguments – the consensus, the appeal to authority, the fallacy of the false cause, the fallacy of accident (e.g. Hurricane Sandy), the fallacy of converse accident, the argument from ignorance, and their favorite, the *ad hominem*. He then goes on to logically argue four questions related to global warming.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/06/the-logical-case-against-climate-panic/>>

UK Met Office Forecasts No Global Temperature Rise

The Met Office has revised its global temperature predictions as the result of a new version of its climate model and climate simulations using it. It now believes that the global temperatures up to 2017 will likely be 0.43°C above the 1971-2000 average, with an error of +/-0.15°C. In reality this is a forecast of no increase in global temperatures above current levels. The new prediction challenges the assertion that the underlying rate of change of global warming (0.2°C/decade) is unchanged. According to the IPCC and the Met Office this underlying rate of global warming should have resulted in a 0.4°C rise in global temperature between 1997-2017.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/met-office-forecasts-global-temperature-rise/>>

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/9787662/Global-warming-at-a-standstill-new-Met-Office-figures-show.html>>

<<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/01/08/global-warming-hasnt-stopped-but-it-has-stalled-says-new-prediction-from-british-national-weather-service/>>

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-20947224>>

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/climate-revisions-validate-sceptics/>>

Donna Laframboise's Secret Santa Leak

A week before Christmas, Ms. Laframboise came into possession of three data sticks containing 661 files. These files were created by the IPCC for its upcoming AR5 and were distributed to Working Group 2 personnel. WG2 deals with the impacts of climate change to the human and natural world. (See FoS 2012-12-15 about the leak of WG1 documents for AR5.) The WG2 files contain the first and second order drafts for 30 chapters, together with comments from “scientific expert reviewers.” As Ms. Laframboise discovered, many of these reviewers are members of environmental groups, most notably the WWF and Greenpeace, attempting to embed activist source material – and activist perspectives – into a scientific document. In effect, this is a repeat of what she revealed in her exposé of the IPCC’s work on AR4, *The Delinquent Teenager Who Was Mistaken for the World’s Top Climate Expert*.

In a second post Ms. Laframboise finds that one-third of the 66 review editors for the WG2 documents failed to submit their interim reports highlighting “main areas of concern” and identifying “contentious or controversial issues.”

The IPCC responded to Ms. Laframboise’s leak with a notice from its Legal and Liaison Officer stating that the released documents are “not for public distribution” and requesting their removal from her website. As Ms. Laframboise points out, thousands of copies are out there, and they can’t be recalled.

In her fourth post on the subject, Ms. Laframboise describes the bureaucratic nightmare faced by scientists writing chapters of IPCC reports. For example, chapter headings and sub-headings are determined at IPCC plenaries (where officials from the ~195 government-members of the IPCC meet). Scientists wanting to change even one word of the headings, or remove unneeded headings, are told they can’t – because the plenary would have to approve them. Review editors fret about getting the right geographical and gender balance among the contributing authors.

Ms. Laframboise’s fifth post has a search engine, with instructions, to help sift through the 1 gigabyte of data contained in the secret Santa leak.

<<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/08/the-secret-santa-leak/>>
 <<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/09/are-a-third-of-ipcc-review-editors-mia/>>
 <<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/09/ipcc-legal-notice/>>
 <<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/10/cogs-in-the-climate-machine/>>
 <<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/11/searchable-secret-santa/>>

Leading German Daily Announces: “Global Warming Takes a Break,” Questions IPCC Models

The German online daily *Hamburger Abendblatt* has a story titled *Global Warming Takes a Pause*, citing the leaked copy of the IPCC’s AR5. Among the article’s quotes, “The preliminary text is very clear that the global temperature increase does not follow the continuous rise of CO₂ emissions ...” and “Just how reliable are computer simulations that, although they correctly predicted the CO₂ increase of the last 15 years, were completely off with the temperature development?”

The second link points to the original article in German. Pasting the URL into Google Translate will produce a readable English version.

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/01/08/leading-german-daily-announces-global-warming-has-stopped-questions-ipcc-models/>>
 <<http://www.abendblatt.de/ratgeber/wissen/article112396213/Die-Erderwaermung-macht-erst->

[mal-Pause.html](#)>

***New York Times* Dismantles Its Climate Desk**

The *New York Times* will close its environment desk in the next few weeks and assign its seven reporters and two editors to other departments. No decision has been made about the fate of the *Green Blog*, which is edited from the environment desk. News that the NYT is closing its environmental desk comes just a week after *The Daily Climate* reported that worldwide coverage of climate change continued a three-year slide in 2012 — and that among the five largest US dailies, the NYT published the most stories and had the biggest increase in coverage.

On January 10 the NYT's environment desk ran a story blaming every sort of unusual weather event around the globe – a cold winter in China, Russia and northern Europe; bush fires in Australia; rain, snow and floods in the Middle East; record heat in the US, rain in Britain – as signs of climate change.

<<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130111/new-york-times-dismantles-environmental-desk-journalism-fracking-climate-change-science-global-warming-economy>>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/11/science/earth/extreme-weather-grows-in-frequency-and-intensity-around-world.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all&>

As Biofuel Demand Grows, So Do Guatemala's Hunger Pangs

In Guatemala the price of tortillas has doubled and eggs have tripled in the past four years as US and EU laws mandating the use of biofuels in cars have ripple effects. Land once devoted to producing food for humans is now used sometimes more profitably for churning out vehicle fuel. Guatemala imports nearly half its corn from the US, which is now using 40% of its own crop for biofuels. In a country where most families must spend about two thirds of their income on food, the average Guatemalan is now hungrier because of biofuel development.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/06/science/earth/in-fields-and-markets-guatemalans-feels-squeeze-of-biofuel-demand.html?_r=0>

Bloomberg: Worth of Carbon Market Plunged by Over a Third in 2012

The value of the world's carbon market fell by 36% last year, according to *Bloomberg New Energy Finance*, the first annual contraction to hit the CO₂ reduction mechanism since 2008. The worth of traded EU carbon allowances and UN emissions credits fell from €95 billion in 2011 to a reported €61 billion. Analysts blame the contraction on a near halving of the average price of carbon allowances from €11.2/tonne in 2011 to €6.4/tonne by the end of 2012.

In a second story Bloomberg examines the EU's carbon market. The European Trading System imposes caps on 12,000 installations, with the limits set before the euro area entered two recessions in four years. As a result there is an oversupply of allowances and various proposals about delaying ("backloading") the scheduled issuance of new ones. Any backloading will require 255 votes out of 345 from member states. The UK and Germany have 29 votes each, and their positions on backloading are undecided. Poland, with 27 votes, will be leading the opposition.

<<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/carbon-market-worth-plunged-thir-news-516881>>

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-09/eu-carbon-may-decline-to-record-as-glut-expands-energy-markets.html>>

Finally, One of Al Gore's Trained Presenters Debates a Climate Skeptic

Al Gore's Climate Reality Project squared off against The Heartland Institute in a global warming debate January 8 in Tallahassee, Florida. More than 260 people attended the hour-long debate, which resulted in standing room only at the Tallahassee Elks Club Lodge, which hosted the debate. Ray Bellamy, a Florida State University faculty member who gives public presentations on behalf of Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, argued humans are causing a global warming crisis. Heartland Institute Senior Fellow James Taylor countered that global warming activists have proven none of four important factors they need to show in order to demonstrate a human-induced global warming crisis.

The 59-minute video (apparently clandestinely recorded, so the view of the screen is often obscured) includes a five-minute introduction, each presenter making a 7:30 speech, followed by a question to each other and then questions from the audience. In general Mr. Taylor comes across as better prepared with facts. At the 57-minute mark Mr. Bellamy makes his concluding remarks with ad hominem attacks.

<[http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/12/finally-one-of-gores-trained-presenters-debates-a-climate-skeptic/ - more-77371](http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/12/finally-one-of-gores-trained-presenters-debates-a-climate-skeptic/-more-77371)>

2013-01-05

The Witches of Warming – Climate Change is a Scapegoat for Our Failures

“Superstorm” Sandy killed more than 100 people, destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, and left millions without food, water, electricity, sanitation or shelter for days or even weeks. Unfortunately, too many politicians continue to use the storm to advance agendas and deflect blame for bad decisions. In fact, Sandy was not “unprecedented” as reported – there were ten similar or worse storms that hit the New York City area in recorded history. Much of the damage and misery caused by Sandy was due to building in areas barely above sea level, putting generators and key infrastructure below sea level and doubling the width of lower Manhattan over the centuries, which narrowed the Hudson and East Rivers, exacerbating the storm surge.

For the politicians it was nice to have convenient scapegoats like “dangerous man-made global warming” and the insurance companies – today's equivalent of witches, whom our ancestors blamed for bad weather.

<<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/01/01/the-witches-of-warming/>>

***The Economist*: Europe's Dirty Secret**

Heading its story with the title *The Unwelcome Renaissance*, *The Economist* is distressed to discover that, while coal production and use is plummeting in America, Europe is undergoing a “golden age of coal.” In the US, due to shale production, gas is cheap and coal relatively expensive. In Europe, development of shale gas is years behind America, most gas is supplied under long-term contracts, and its price is high. Due to oversupply on the European Trading System, carbon permits are worth only €6 to €8/tonne, so burning coal doesn't cost much. Utilities in Germany lose €11.70/MWh burning gas but earn €14.22/MWh using coal.

In 2014 there will be a new European Commission and Parliament, so no one has much appetite now for making tough decisions about energy and fixing the ETS. For the next two years at least, Europe's emissions promise to “lead by example” is looking rather hollow.

<<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21569039-europes-energy-policy-delivers-worst-all-possible-worlds-unwelcome-renaissance>>

Poland and Czech Republic Ban Germany's Green Energy

Germany's "eco-miracle" simply used the power grids of neighboring countries, not only without asking for permission but also without paying for it. Now Poland and the Czech Republic have pulled the plug and are building a huge switch-off at their borders to block the uninvited import of green energy from Germany, which is destabilizing their grids and risking blackouts.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/poland-czech-republic-ban-germanys-green-energy/>>
<<http://atlanticsentinel.com/2013/01/czechs-poles-to-keep-german-green-energy-out/>>

Welcome to a Kyoto-Free World

The controversial and ineffective Kyoto Protocol's first stage came to an end on December 31, leaving the world with 58% more greenhouse gases than in 1990, as opposed to the 5% reduction that the protocol's signatories sought. The Jo Nova article includes a graph showing the big success story in reducing emissions that had nothing to do with nanny-state regulation. The US reduced its emissions by 4% in a single year by switching from coal to gas. In Ms. Nova's words, "To reduce CO₂, get fracking."

<<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2012/12/20/pol-kyoto-protocol-part-one-ends.html>>
<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/welcome-to-a-kyoto-free-world-best-use-was-to-show-how-bad-a-nanny-state-unfree-market-is/>>

How Fossil Fuels Have Greened the Planet

Satellites are now confirming that the amount of green vegetation on the planet has been increasing for three decades. This will be news to those accustomed to alarming tales about deforestation, overdevelopment and ecosystem destruction. What explains this trend? The inescapable if unfashionable conclusion is that the human use of fossil fuels has been causing the greening of the planet in three separate ways: first, by displacing firewood as a fuel; second, by warming the climate; and third, by raising carbon dioxide levels, which raise plant growth rates.

<<http://www.thegwpf.org/matt-ridley-fossil-fuels-greened-planet/>>

Fiscal Cliff Deal Extends US Wind Production Tax Credit for One Year

The fiscal cliff deal passed by the Senate and House includes extension of the wind energy production tax credit for one year.

<<http://www.cfact.org/2013/01/02/fiscal-cliff-deal-extends-wind-production-tax-credit-one-year/>>

Wind Farms vs. Wildlife

Wind turbines only last for "half as long as previously thought," according to a new study [FoS Extracts – 2012-12-22.] But even in their short lifespans, those turbines can devastate populations of rare birds and bats across the world, driving some to the point of extinction. In Spain alone, research by a conservation group found that wind farms kill 6-18 million birds and bats every year. This works out to 110-330 birds and 200-670 bats per turbine. Because wind farms tend to be built on uplands, where there are good thermals, they kill a lot of raptors.

Most environmentalists don't want to know this, because they're so desperate to believe in renewable energy and are in a state of denial. (The writer of the *Spectator* article is a lecturer in biological and human sciences at Oxford University who has worked as an environmental consultant.)

<<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/8807761/wind-farms-vs-wildlife/>>

<<http://notrickszone.com/2013/01/03/oxford-professor-greens-in-denial-desperate-to-believe-in-renewable-energy-obsessed-with-climate-change/>>

Some Chilling Thoughts

According to NOAA's National Snow Analyses page, most of the US is under a blanket of snow. Record cold temperatures are being set in the northern tier while tornadoes sweep across the south. While unusually high snowfall has disrupted the travel plans of millions of Americans, freezing temperatures have taken the lives of hundreds of people from Central Europe to South Asia. The BBC reports that in Poland, 49 people have died; in Ukraine, 83; in Russia, 88; and in India, at least 93. The majority of those dead are the elderly and the homeless.

Russia is in the icy grip of its coldest December on record. Temperatures in Russia have been 10 to 15 degrees below average. This has people in Europe recalling last winter's severe, snowy cold snap across central and eastern Europe in January that left at least 36 people dead, cut off power to towns, and snarled traffic. Even Alaska is coping with the coldest winter in two decades.

<<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/some-chilling-thoughts>>

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-20836979>>

<<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/forget-global-warming-alaska-headed-ice-age>>

California's Climate Change Experiment

Starting on January 1, California began America's most ambitious experiment yet in fighting climate change, and it is doing it more or less on its own. The state has established a cap-and-trade program designed similarly to what Congress considered but failed to pass in 2010. The most obvious problem with the plan is that it relies far too little on the market-based cap-and-trade system and far too much on other, expensive, command-and-control regulations. In fact, state officials expect to achieve only 23% of their planned emissions reductions through 2020 with carbon pricing.

A group of western states that were going to join California's carbon market have backed out, dulling the market's effectiveness. Affected companies could move out, and out-of-state generators could send their "green" energy to California and their dirtier stuff elsewhere. Finally the plan faces legal challenges over assertions that it affects interstate commerce – a domain reserved for the federal government.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/californias-climate-change-experiment/2012/12/30/942d4c40-4fb5-11e2-839d-d54cc6e49b63_story.html>

Al Gore Sells TV Network to Al Jazeera

Al Gore, who said, "We're borrowing money from China to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to burn it in ways that destroy the future of human civilization." has sold his share of the *Current TV* cable channel to Al Jazeera, which is primarily funded by the oil-producing country of Qatar. That country has the distinction of the world's highest per-capita CO₂ emissions. Mr. Gore's share of the proceeds will be \$100 million. He and his partners tried, but were unsuccessful in closing

the deal by December 31 to avoid a capital gains tax increase of \$8.8 million, which took effect on January 1.

<<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/timstanley/100196590/al-gore-is-accused-of-taking-money-from-big-oil-why-not-so-did-the-obama-campaign/>>

<<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/al-gore-gives-big-oil-government-a-tv-channel-and-gets-100m-in-oil-revenue/>>

Misunderstood Basic Concepts and the Greenhouse Effect

Roy Spencer explains six commonly misunderstood issues regarding the greenhouse effect of the Earth's atmosphere.

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/01/misunderstood-basic-concepts-and-the-greenhouse-effect/>>

UAH Global Temperature Record: 2012 Was 9th Warmest

The University of Alabama at Huntsville has been compiling global, satellite-measured temperatures since 1979 and has ranked all 34 years from warmest to coolest. Last year was 9th in the list. Despite the string of warmer-than-normal years since 2001, there has been no measurable warming trend since 1998. Roy Spencer's site shows a plot of the monthly temperature anomalies over the 34-year period.

<<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/03/uah-global-temperature-report-2012-was-9th-warmest/>>

<<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/01/uah-v5-5-global-temperature-update-for-december-2012-0-20-deg-c/>>
