

December 07, 2007

**FOS MEMBERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
No. 16**

“FOS is dedicated to providing the public with insight into Climate Change”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

“Imagine basing a country’s energy and economic policy on an incomplete, unproven theory – a theory based entirely on computer models in which one minor variable is considered the sole driver for the entire global climate system.”

Tim Ball, Climate Scientist
Natural Resources Stewardship Project

Solar cycle 23 has ended. We await the appearance of a new cycle.

There is strong evidence that solar cycles drive climate change. Adherents of this theory are heartened by the signs of a robust winter season in both North America and Europe. Canada has experienced early snow storms and cold weather in all parts of its dominion. It was reported that Switzerland has not seen such a strong start to its winter ski season in over 50 years. The plunge of cold air has been felt across parts of France, Germany, and Spain, reaching as far south as the Balearics.

These are interesting times for the Friends of Science, who are committed to encouraging the debate and discussion as to the causes of climate change. Mother Nature’s apparent abrupt change in mood from warm to cold is intriguing and potentially diagnostic. It highlights the need for a better understanding of causes behind climate variations. Are they driven primarily by greenhouse gases, by solar cycles, by albedo changes, by oceanic changes in the Pacific or by some as yet unidentified forcing element? It is important that we know. Such knowledge can only be obtained through research, data analyses, and respectful debate. The Friends continue to encourage the search for understanding of climate variability.

- We have supported Professor Barry Cooper’s efforts to sponsor a meeting of scientists holding a spectrum of opinions as to the nature of climate change. (We were disappointed when the University of Calgary abruptly withdrew its support for his Ottawa conference which was scheduled for last September.)
- We have recently completed a second revision of our DVD entitled “Climate Catastrophe Cancelled: what you are not being told about climate change.” Our web master, Len Maier, continues to update and keep our web page current with unfolding news relating to climate change science.
- We have scheduled a public luncheon for Friday May 02, 2007 which will feature Patrick Michaels as speaker. Dr. Michaels is past president of the American Association of State Climatologists and author of many published peer reviewed papers on climatology.
- The Friends are actively planning to produce a radio blitz in early 2008 which will encourage the public to visit our web page (www.friendsofscience.org) for information relating to the science and facts of climate change.

- We are also cooperating with like minded institutions to introduce our DVD into high schools, colleges and universities. We feel that such a move is especially warranted in those academic and educational institutions where Al Gore's political documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" has been prominently presented. A rebuttal is required.

We believe that governments concerned with our environment must focus on pollution which can be successfully addressed with thoughtful policies and determination. We should not waste our resources in an effort to stop climate change. It has always changed and will always continue to do so.

Douglas Leahey PhD
President

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Brave Green World; Britons Face Rationing, Economic Slowdown and Job Losses

Britons face a future of green taxes, higher fuel prices and even flight rationing under anti-pollution laws unveiled yesterday. A Climate Change Bill would make the UK the only country with legally binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The five-yearly goals would cost the UK up to £12billion a year for the next 42 years.

The Government was warned that a switch to a low-carbon economy would trigger an economic slowdown and job losses while giving politicians the excuse for unpopular taxes, hike the cost of fuel and even bring in "personal carbon quotas".

David Derbyshire, The Daily Mail, 16 November 2007

What is the single most important issue in your choice for the Democratic candidate for president? (Results of a poll conducted November 19, by the Washington Post.)

Issue		Issue	
Iraq War	33	Abortion	1
Health Care	26	Family Values	1
Economy/Jobs	10	Budget Deficit	1
Ethics/Government	5	Social Security	1
Education	3	Global Warming	<1
Environment	2	Iran	<1
Foreign Policy	2	Agriculture	<1
Illegal Immigration	2	None	1
Energy/Ethanol	1	Other	8
National Security	1	No Opinion	3

SCIENCE NEWS

There are many recent items of interest from the scientific community amongst which the following items appear to be especially noteworthy.

Robinson A. R., Robinson N. E. and Soon W. (2007): “Environmental Effects of Increased Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide” *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* 12, 79-90

Abstract: A review of the research literature concerning the environmental consequences of increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide leads to the conclusion that increases during the 20th and early 21st centuries have produced no deleterious effects upon Earth’s weather and climate. Increased carbon dioxide has, however, markedly increased plant growth. Predictions of harmful climatic effects due to future increases in hydrocarbon use and minor greenhouse gases like CO₂ do not conform to current experimental knowledge. The environmental effects of rapid expansion of the nuclear and hydrocarbon industries are discussed.

Loehle C. (2007) “A 2000 – Year Global Temperature Reconstruction Based on Non-Treering Proxies” *Energy & Environment* 18, 1049-1058

Abstract: Historical data provide a baseline for judging how anomalous recent temperature changes are and for assessing the degree to which organisms are likely to be adversely affected by current or future warming. Climate histories are commonly reconstructed from a variety of sources, including ice cores, tree rings, and sediment. *Tree-ring data, being the most abundant for recent centuries, tend to dominate reconstruction. There are reasons to believe that ring data may not properly capture long-term climate changes. In this study, eighteen 2000-year long series were obtained that were not based on tree ring data.* Data in each series were smoothed with a 30-year running mean. All data were then converted to anomalies by subtracting the mean of each series from that series. The overall mean series was then computed by simple averaging. The mean series shows quite coherent structure. The mean series shows the Medieval Warm Period (MWP) and Little Ice Age (LIA) quite clearly, with the MWP being approximately 0.3^oC warmer than 20th century values at these eighteen sites.

DONATIONS

We are very proud of the work we've done so far, but we still have a long way to go in our efforts to impact public opinion on the climate change issue. Our concern is that public opinion has suffered from political manoeuvring and biased focus groups. We should not be wasting valuable resources on a hypothetical problem when we have many **real** problems that need addressing: better educational system, more money for health care, better infrastructure, better equipped military, etc.

We have developed plans for the upcoming year, to emphasize the fact that CO₂ and greenhouse gas emissions have only a minor influence on climate change. We are therefore asking our members for their financial support, which is badly needed to finance future programs.

Donations to Friends of Science

Donations made directly to Friends of Science will provide us with funds for administrative expenses which are sorely needed in order to back up our volunteer work force.

Friends of Science at P.O. Box 23167,
Connaught P.O.
Calgary AB T2S 3B1

E-mail contact@friendsofscience.org **Web** www.friendsofscience.org

Donations to The Calgary Foundation (TCF)

A donation made to TCF will provide FOS with funds for use in qualifying educational projects. Tax-deductible receipts will be issued by The Calgary Foundation. Please ensure that you reference the Science Education Fund on the cheque

TCF (Science Education Fund) at 700, 999 - 8 St SW
Calgary AB T2R 1J5