



PO Box 61172 RPO Kensington
Calgary AB Canada T2N 4S6
E-mail: contact@friendsofscience.org

# December 2023

# Foss Membership Quarterly Newsletter No. 80

**Dedicated to Providing Insights into Climate Science and Policies** 

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, another year has flown by! And still the alarmist madness continues (and may I add appears to be coming more unhinged). But we are making progress. The general public is beginning to feel the pain and understand the realities of energy, food, financial, etc. security and their ties to "climate change". However, we still have a long way to go and with your continued support, we will get there.

The recent COP28 event in Dubai showed some of the cracks in the alarmist narrative. The COP28 president (Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber) was soundly chastised for his realistic statement 'there is no science out there, or no scenario out there, that says that the phase-out of fossil fuel is what's going to achieve 1.5 C'. 'He also said eliminating fossil fuels would take the world back into caves' (a line pulled from Joe Oliver's Financial Post article (COP28 – Futile Climate Theatrics), that is well worth the read). To start with, the COP28 Dubai setting is a strange



place to hold the annual alarmist "Climate Change" conference, since Dubai (a remarkable place) does not exist without the fossil fuels that built and maintain its existence. As usual, the conference itself was loaded with hypocrisy (or possibly hyCOPrisy), from the squadrons of carbon dioxide emitting iets. obligatory air conditioning and gourmet food consumption (no insect protein or vegetarian restrictions here). However, I will admit the sight of some of these jets, delayed (stuck on the runways) throughout Europe due to severe freezing conditions, provided some humorous relief.

Historically, the COP conferences have had no measurable impact on atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentrations and COP28 (despite its record attendance,  $\pm 100,000$  delegates) will continue that tradition. Interestingly, the attendee list this year has deviated a bit from past COPs. Many of the world's "leaders" (notably United States, China, India, Russia, Canada (to name a few)) chose to stay home. Some indication of the overall commitment level to the green agenda by some of the world's larger emitters? Maybe, there is no shortage of coal development happening in both the developed and undeveloped countries. This year has also seen an increase in delegates that are pushing back against the unrestricted, cost be damned implementation of the various green agendas. For Canada

specifically, having provincial delegations there pushing back against our ideologically focused federal activist position was refreshing. Ultimately, the conference ended with a sputter. The big push was a final statement that called for the expedited phase-out of all fossil fuels. The final result was a watered-down version that called for a transition away from fossil fuels with no specific timeline. Something that is already in progress and inevitable (just not possible on the time frame envisioned by the activist/alarmist community). Robert Lyman has recently penned an op-ed in the Financial Post (Opinion: Massive spending on clean energy has garnered only meagre gains) that looks at the "transition" and the current progress (well worth the read).



Back at home, the Friends of Science Society had a productive quarter. Our annual event (October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Red & White Club) was a great success. The event was sold out with a waiting list. We had two excellent speakers (Robert Lyman and Ian Clark) that were enthusiastically received. The presentations were recorded and are available on our website (<a href="https://friendsofscience.org">https://friendsofscience.org</a>). Notably, there was a younger presence in the crowd. Refreshing and important for the future of our society.

My individual contribution to this newsletter is my most recent post (<u>CSS-53 – CO<sub>2</sub>'s Moneyball Moment</u>). The post is a set of images that shows how insignificant CO<sub>2</sub>'s "Climate Change" contribution really amounts to and the limited role we can play in "Climate Change" even if we wanted/needed to. Ultimately, there is no scientific, technical, economical, or even environmental justifications for the current ideological "green" (CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction) initiatives being forced down our throats. <u>There is NO Climate Emergency</u>, there is no Climate Crisis (at least not from warming). However, there are many severe crises (food, energy, financial, etc.) being ignored here in Canada. So, why have we just committed to sending 5.3 billion dollars (we do not have) to the Philippines for climate finance?

In closing, I need to respectfully request your continued support, both financially and through direct participation (viewing and sharing our social media output, volunteering, etc.). We do get by on a small budget (±\$150,000/year), but our reserves are getting low and **we could really use your donations now**. Our future and yours is dependent on your generosity. May your Christmas be Merry and your New Year Happy and full of friendship, family, and opportunity!

Thank you.

Ron Davison, P.Eng. President, Friends of Science

## **How to Forward Our Newsletters**

We encourage everyone to share our newsletters and press releases. When you do forward any of our emails, please delete the "Manage Your Subscription" link at the bottom of the email. This will prevent a recipient from unsubscribing you. Alternatively, you can forward the link provided at the top of the email.

# POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

## COP28 - Some Takeaways

The 28th Conference of Parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai ran from

November 20 to December 13 (ending one day late). In July COP28's president, who is also CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, sent a <u>letter to parties</u> outlining his vision for the COP, which included:

- The <u>first global stocktake</u> under the Paris Agreement to see if the world is on track to limit global warming to 1.5°C. To achieve this, according to the IPCC's science, global greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025 and then decline 43% below 2019 levels by 2030. In September the UNFCCC published a <u>technical dialog</u> showing that emissions are not in line with this goal, with a gap of 20.3-23.9 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2030 (para 10).
- Fast-tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030.
- Delivering old promises and setting the framework for a new deal on finance.
- Putting nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action.
- Mobilizing for the most inclusive COP.

Reactions to COP28's outcomes from Benny Peiser, Robert Lyman and *The Guardian* follow.

## Benny Peiser: Energy Realism Eclipses Climate Alarmism

In a 26-minute <u>video</u> (with computer-generated transcript) Benny Peiser, director of the <u>Global Warming Policy Foundation</u>, assesses the results of COP28. The COP followed the usual ritual – the hopes, claims that time is running out, this is our last chance, a deadlock, then a breakthrough that everyone celebrates, but will in fact achieve little when reading the fine print. Before the COP some Western governments were adamant that this was the COP to **phase out** fossil fuels. However, one of the key paragraphs of the <u>COP28 decision document</u> (para 28(d)) proposes a "**transitioning away** from fossil fuels in **energy systems**, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science." Para 29 of the document recognizes the role of transitional fuels, while ensuring energy security. But the term "transitional fuel" can have different meanings, e.g., coal in the case of China which is transitioning away from it; gas for the Gulf states; oil for Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Peiser cites two stories from the BBC website where interviewees from Uganda and Iraq explain why their countries, like many other developing nations, are against phasing out fossil fuels. The transition won't be cheap, and they need all the income they can get from fossil fuels to facilitate the transition and to deal with the effects of climate change. In short, developing countries are not on board with the idea that they should give up on their own energy resources, which is nothing new and has been known since the 2009 Copenhagen COP15.

The renewables industry is in a deep cost crisis, resulting in cancelled projects. However, a bigger problem is the recognition that you cannot power a country with renewables alone and that trying to cover their intermittency by storing gigantic amounts of electricity is unfeasible. Governments are now beginning to realize that they would need two parallel energy systems – one a renewables system that generates enough electricity when the sun shines and the wind blows and another that supplies power when there's no sun and/or wind. As a result green energy stocks have suffered a decline this year, while conventional energy stocks have gained significantly.

At the beginning of the COP the US Energy Information Administration published a <u>25-year projection</u> of world energy demand, based on government plans, showing that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will increase up to 2050 because energy demand will grow due to growing populations, income and industrialization – trends which totally contradict demands by climate scientists to reduce emissions.

If renewables were as cost-efficient as we've been told for the past 30 years, countries around the world would be deploying them. In fact the global energy mix hasn't changed much in that time – it's still ~80% fossil fuels. Despite being promised billions to move off coal and pledging to do so, counties like South Africa and Indonesia have been reneging.

Electric vehicles have been adopted by people who are using them as a second or third vehicle, but EV demand is not going up as fast as expected. Governments are struggling with a public backlash against green energy,

particularly in Europe and the US as the costs have gone up while people are asked to give up their traditional heating and cars. Populist parties have been elected in Europe and Argentina (where the new president wants to accelerate the extraction of shale gas.) On top of this we have an economic crisis in Europe as rising energy costs force a lot of industries to move abroad.

The reality is that COP28 wasn't so much a climate summit, but rather one about energy and energy policy. The energy cost crisis is focusing minds as the UK government has watered down some net-zero policies; President Macron of France has called for a moratorium on new net-zero plans; the German government is in disarray about its climate policy, and there is a growing rebellion against the whole net-zero agenda. There will be about 13 European elections next year, and Dr. Peiser expects strong opposition to the net-zero agenda as populist parties make significant gains, which could severely undermine the climate agenda.

For the first time that he can remember, Dr. Peiser sees a political mood, in Europe at least, that the issues of energy policy and energy security, and the climate net-zero agenda, have become more important in the public domain than climate science. COP28 was not as usual about the science, but about which forms of energy are more important to our economies and security. His reading is that this situation will continue, due to the rising cost of energy and opposition to net-zero policies that will grow and be reflected in rebellious European elections next year. Governments are facing the reality that the net-zero agenda is technologically and economically utopian and impossible to achieve in the next few decades. The trend against net zero has been going on for 18 months, but COP28 has cemented the realization that the security and cost of energy is now dominating the conversations, negotiations and summits, while climate science is taking a back seat.

## **Robert Lyman: Just the Facts**

Mr. Lyman's <u>summary</u> of the COP's outcome lists eight "calls on the parties" to voluntarily do things like tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030 (previously <u>agreed to</u> by the US, China and the G20 countries), phasing down unabated coal power, accelerating efforts towards net-zero energy systems by mid-century, transitioning away from (instead of phasing down or out) fossil fuels, reducing methane emissions, accelerating emissions reductions from transport, and phasing out "inefficient" fossil fuel subsidies.

Mr. Lyman also focuses on various financial promises to the developing world. The main one was agreement to "operationalize" the Loss and Damages Fund that was <u>approved in principle</u> at COP27. However, instead of the hoped-for hundreds of billions, pledges to the LDF at COP28 amounted to only <u>\$400 million</u>, of which the US promised \$17.5 million and Canada \$11.8 million. There was no agreement on which countries should pay (and how much) and which ones qualify to receive LDF payments. Para 68 of the COP28 decision document states that developing countries need \$215-387 billion/year in adaptation finance to 2030. But, given that para 80 of the decision document notes "with deep regret" the failure of developed countries to jointly mobilize even \$100 billion/year (first promised at COP15 in Copenhagen) in 2021, the prospects of getting the sums envisioned for the LDF are dim.

COP29 will take place in Azerbaijan (another <u>petrostate</u>) November 11-22, 2024 and COP30 will be held in Brazil (gearing up to become the world's <u>fourth largest</u> oil producer) November 10-21, 2025.

## The Guardian: Failure on Fossil-fuel Phase Out and "So What Now?"

One *Guardian* story <u>supports</u> Dr. Peiser's observation about climate science taking a back seat at COP28. It quotes Michael Mann, who calls the lack of agreement to phase out fossil fuels "devastating." Rather than ending the COP process, Dr. Mann wants to reform the rules by allowing super majorities to overcome objections by petrostates and barring oil executives from presiding over future summits. The story includes disapproving comments from a *Nature* <u>editorial</u> ("the science is clear"), a former UK chief scientific advisor, a climatologist at Imperial College London, as well as scientists from the University of Exeter, Lancaster University, and Bournemouth University.

In a "So what now?" editorial *The Guardian* sees an existential fight between the fossil fuel industry and the rest of civilization – and only one can prosper. Since the industry can't reform itself, the newspaper proposes to end its "hegemony over the planet's life support systems" by regulations like carbon border taxes; blocking imports of gas produced with excessive methane leaks; forming climate clubs of nations acting together; taxation of fossil fuels, international aviation and shipping; and ending fossil fuel subsidies. Given the locations for the next two COPs, the petroleum industry's presence at climate summits will continue, though it's unlikely that either host country will have the chief executive of its national oil company preside over the summit.

lan Cameron Director, Friends of Science

# **SCIENCE NEWS**

# **Levelized Full System Costs of Electricity**

Different electricity generating technologies are often compared by using the Levelized Costs of Electricity (LCOE), which is calculated as the present value of the total costs of construction and operating cost over an assumed lifetime of the generating asset divided by the total amount of electricity generated. This cost metric has been criticized for ignoring the effects of intermittency and non-dispatchability which mostly applies to wind and solar power. This article (abstract and introduction only) introduces the Levelized Full System Costs of Electricity (LFSCOE), a new cost evaluation metric that compares the costs of serving the entire market using just one source plus storage. The preprint version is <a href="here">here</a>. The input requirements are capital costs of the generating facility, the cost of a distribution system, maintenance and operating costs, the cost of capital, capacity factors, ramping up and down times, and the annual electricity demand by hour in the target market. The author wrote "Economically, the fact that intermittent generation has no obligation to meet the demand can be seen as a hidden subsidy. One can even go one step further and argue that intermittent generation is of zero value if it cannot be made available to consumers who demand a steady electricity flow."

The paper calculates the LFSCOE for two markets; Germany and the region of the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas, and several generating technologies with storage. For each generating technology, the installed capacity and the amount of storage are optimized to minimize the total system costs while meeting electricity demand throughout the year. The calculations assume zero storage losses and are averaged over 7 years. The storage can store 3 MWh of energy per installed MW of generating capacity, which is equivalent to current residential battery storage.

Neither wind nor solar nor the wind & solar mix are economically competitive to the dispatchable sources. In Germany and Texas, the wind & solar mix is 13 times and 6 times more expensive than natural gas combined cycle technology, respectively.

The paper also presents costs under the assumption that the given source of electricity plus storage must provide only 95% of the market with the lowest cost source providing 5% of the market. The results of using 100% and 95% of each of four technologies and a wind & solar mix are shown below.

	Germany (USD/MWh)		Texas (USD/MWh)	
Technology	100%	95%	100%	95%
Natural Gas CC	35	31	40	32
Nuclear	106	90	122	96
Solar	1548	849	413	177
Wind	504	279	291	131
Wind & Solar	454	220	225	97

Note: For natural gas, CC means combined cycle

The cost of solar only in Germany is 44 times that of natural gas CC. Combining solar with wind makes the cost of the wind & solar mix less than the cost of either individual source. In the 100% usage case, the wind & solar mix cost is 13 times greater than the natural gas cost. Reducing the load responsibility of the wind & solar mix from 100% to 95% reduces the costs by 52% in Germany, 57% in Texas. However, the cost of the wind & solar mix in Germany is still over 7 times the cost of natural gas CC.

# Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions at Record High in 2023

The *Global Carbon Project* issued a <u>press release</u> that estimates carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuels will increase by 1.1% in 2023 over 2022 levels. Emissions from land-use change (such as deforestation) are projected to decrease slightly. Emissions in 2023 are projected to increase in India by 8.2% and China by 4.0%, and decline in the EU by -7.4%, the USA by -3.0% and the rest of the world by -0.4%. About half of all CO<sub>2</sub> emitted continues to be absorbed by land and ocean sinks, with the rest remaining in the atmosphere.

# **Climate Attribution Method Overstates "Fingerprints" of External Forcing**

Dr. Ross McKitrick <u>published</u> his third paper on biases in the "optimal fingerprinting" method which climate scientists use to attribute climatic changes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. McKitrick wrote "Climate scientists use a statistical technique called Total Least Squares (TLS) in their fingerprinting models to fix a problem in ordinary least squares regression (OLS) methods that can lead to the influence of external forcings being understated. My new paper argues that in typical fingerprinting settings TLS overcorrects and imparts large upward biases, thus overstating the impact of GHG forcing." He had previously shown that TLS is biased upward by overstating the effects of GHG when explanatory variables related to natural climate change are omitted. The new paper shows that climate model generated natural and GHG forcings are always negatively correlated and in this case the TLS estimated GHG forcings are usually too large, even if no explanatory variables have been omitted from the calculations. This has led the IPCC to falsely conclude that natural climate change has very little effect on climate.

McKitrick set up an artificial fingerprinting experiment in which he knows the correct answer in advance, and he measured the biases when using TLS and OLS regression methods. McKitrick concludes "For more than 20 years climate scientists—virtually alone among scientific disciplines—have used TLS to estimate anthropogenic GHG signal coefficients despite its tendency to be unreliable unless some strong assumptions hold that in practice are unlikely to be true."

Ken Gregory, P. Eng. Director, Friends of Science

# **MEMBERSHIPS**

Thank you to our members for your support and helping your society spread the truth about climate change. Most of our funding comes from our membership; comprised of donations and the modest membership fee.

Without your support, our outreach through our many social media platforms would not be continuing to grow and potentially reach millions of people. Since you are a member and you are reading this, we make the leap that you believe in what we do and like how we do it. Our call to action for you is to please <u>pledge</u> an amount then <u>circulate</u> <u>this newsletter to many of your friends</u> requesting they match your donation or sign up for a membership.

It is critical that we grow FoSS's ability to get our message out. Times are hard everywhere. We need your help to keep going. Please, help us solve our ongoing funding challenge. If you have constructive comments or ideas which would improve the ability of your society to advance its mandate, we would truly love to hear from you.

# **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: DONATIONS**

We are truly thankful for all our faithful and generous members and financial supporters. Your consistent support of our organization has made it possible for us to reach, and teach, the public and policymakers about the implications of climate policies. "Going green" sounds good and simple to do; our many reports, videos and newsletters have shown people 'it's complicated' and very expensive, with little scientific rationale. With this being our 21st year of providing insights on climate and related energy policies, we find that more and more people finally understand and appreciate our efforts.

We thank all of you who generously responded to our requests for continued support and donations. We clearly can't continue to do this without your help. Your contributions will allow us to continue our ongoing passion and responsibility to communicate the truth.

The world which you leave to your children and grandchildren is in your hands; please be generous to them and the truth. Please join the battle in any way you can.

As you can see our fuel gauge shows operational budget funding that will now take us through March 2024.

## We need you to help us find more members and donors!

We recognize these are tough times. Even an e-Transfer of \$21 to celebrate our years of operation is helpful!

e-Transfer to: contact@friendsofscience.org

Be our voice. We need you to reach out to your friends, tell them the value you receive from our messaging and encourage them to join.

Have you personally considered making monthly contributions to Friends of Science? Setting up your recurring donation only takes a few minutes. Please call us at 1 888 789 9597 Ext 2 to join a growing group of monthly donors.



Contributions can be made at <u>friendsofscience.org</u> by clicking on "*DONATE*" in the upper right of the home page. You can pay by credit card using Stripe or PayPal. Otherwise, if you prefer, you may phone us at 1-888-789-9597 Ext 2 to pay by credit card. Alternately, you can send an e-transfer to <u>contact@friendsofscience.org</u> or mail donations to Friends of Science, <u>using this form</u>, at the following address:

Friends of Science Society
PO Box 61172 RPO Kensington
Calgary AB T2N 4S6

# **VOLUNTEERING**

Do you want to make a difference? For our voice to continue being heard, we need much more support. We need you! Please email us at <a href="mailto:contact@friendsofscience.org">contact@friendsofscience.org</a>, put Volunteer in the subject and tell us what you would like to help with.

This debate matters, you are making a difference.

# **MICHELLE'S BREAKING NEWS!**

## YouTube

There are always new video clips on our YouTube channel. See the latest on housing and homelessness.

We did a series of explainers based on <u>COP28 comments from Robert Lyman</u>. These items are still targets for the #climateers, so the clips are still worth watching, even though the event itself is over.

Patrick Hunt, president of the Climate Realists of British Columbia did a <u>series of short interviews</u> with me while at our fall event. He actually lived and worked at 5,000ppm CO2 as a submariner, back in the day.

And we have one more <u>#KidFriendly #ClimateTale</u> to add to our collection. Something to enjoy with your little ones and spark a conversation about climate. We hope to calm the fears that so many children have.



## "A Climate Conversation" Co-Starring Ken Gregory, P. Eng. !!!

Just two days before Friends of Science Society's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Climate Science Event in Calgary, a new documentary was released in the US, starring our very own Ken Gregory! The video can be <u>screened on YouTube</u> or you can buy a <u>DVD or BluRay copy</u>.

## THANK YOU – for a great event!

We are so grateful to our sponsors, our wonderful guests, and our exhibitors who hosted tables with books, DVDs, merchandise and memberships at our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Climate Science Event. Big thanks to the Red and White Club catering, staff and security... and also to our event volunteer team, coordinated by our Event Producer, Julie!

Please share our event videos and interview clips everywhere!

And speaking personally...I want to thank you all for your many emails, comments, suggestions and participation on our social media channels. I often pop in to see what people are saying. I'm very grateful for the helpful and supportive comments so many of you offer me. It is kind of a tough 'battlefield' out there. Thank you for supporting me and for being a loyal Friends of Science Society member! – Michelle

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! https://youtu.be/EyWYgjQrlkM



Get Your Tickets Now for Jan 21, 2024 Grassroots Alberta event in Strathmore with Canadian Taxpayer's Federation



https://grassrootsalberta.org/road-to-change



Great news! Friends of Science has the gift of the GAB!

Many of our members have been encouraging us to 'get on Gab' - which is a social media platform, along the lines of X/Twitter, gab describes itself as "Gab is the home of free speech and the parallel economy." Check it out at: <a href="mailto:gab.com/friendsofscience">gab.com/friendsofscience</a>

Looking forward to gabbing with you!

# **Latest Blog Posts – A World of Insights**

There are a lot of new insights on our blog:

- Robert Lyman offers comments on <u>COP28</u>, Nova Scotia's <u>cancellation of offshore oil exploration</u>, the new <u>methane regulations</u>, the <u>carbon tax</u> and Europe's crazy '<u>flying blind' aviation rules</u>.
- Samuel Furfari offers a <u>retrospective to the 1970's oil embargo</u> a great lesson in history.
- We sent open letters to the <u>Bank of Canada</u> on carbon taxes and their misleading math, and to the <u>Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions</u> expressing our concerns that imminent changes to restrict financing of reliable conventional energy sources would put Canada at risk of energy insecurity.

## **Click here** to see all our great blog posts!

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## See our contributions to the Western Standard articles:

https://www.westernstandard.news/opinion/stirling-climate-hyperbole-from-mr-misinformation/50409

https://www.westernstandard.news/opinion/stirling-cop28-a-meeting-to-make-your-life-miserable/50490

https://www.westernstandard.news/opinion/stirling-foreign-funded-canadian-charity-pushing-fossil-fuel-phase-out-at-cop28/50585

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Why not subscribe? BTW Lee Harding and Shaun Polczer are doing excellent climate and energy coverage for WS.

## Our full list of social media and web platforms:

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Please continue to share our materials by email, social media or in any way you can.