

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

NEWSLETTER

2 MAR. 2015

This week's edition includes:

If you need older URLs contact George at ghh@att.net.

Please Note: This newsletter contains articles that offer differing points of view regarding climate change, energy and other environmental issues. Any opinions expressed in this publication are the responses of the editor alone and do not represent the positions of the Environmental Engineering Division or the ASME.

George Holliday

This week's edition includes:

ENVIRONMENT: A. BLM DECISION OPENS DOOR FOR FIRST OIL PRODUCTION IN NATION'S LARGEST RESERVE

ALEX DEMARBAN FEBRUARY 13, 2015

<https://www.adn.com/article/20150213/blm-decision-opens-door-first-oil-production-nations-largest-reserve>

Roger Zygmunt

B. CARS IN OIL TRAIN DERAILMENT, EXPLOSION WERE NEWER

TRAIN ACCIDENT SHIFTS FOCUS TO MAINTENANCE AND TRACK CONDITION

Strengthening tank cars is "focusing only on part of the problem," said Brigham McCown, the former head of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

"The issue is keeping trains from derailing" in the first place, McCown said, "because if a train doesn't come off the tracks, we don't have to worry about how robust and resilient the package is."

Editor's Note: US rail weight is 87 lb/ft; Mexico rail weight is 112 lb/ft. GHH

C. CANADA: CLIMATE EXTREMISTS A CREDIBLE THREAT

Guardian / leaked Canadian Government memo Story submission by Eric Worrall

The Guardian has published excerpts of what it claims is an internal Canadian government memo, which suggests that the Canadian government is far more worried about Climate extremists, than Climate Change. According to the Guardian; "The US security establishment views climate change as real..."

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/20/canada-climate-extremists-a-credible-threat/>

D. NUTRITION PANEL URGES AMERICANS TO EAT GREEN



[Liz Szabo](#), USA TODAY 6:07 p.m. EST February 19, 2015

Americans should consider the health of the planet along with the health of their hearts when deciding what to eat, according to an expert panel that advises the federal government on nutrition.

It is the first time the advisory committee, which updates its recommendations in a report every five years, has considered the environmental impact of food choices.

Also for the first time, the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee singled out "added sugars" -- those not naturally found in foods such as fruit --encouraging Americans to sharply cut back.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/02/19/diet-panel-recommendations/23632955/>

Editor's note: This is an interesting recommendation: First the Government tries to reduce CO2 in the atmosphere, which will reduce our ability to grow enough vegetables to feed a growing population,\. Now, the Government recommends eating more vegetables. These requests appear in conflict. –GHH

E. ELECTRIC CARS AREN'T SO GREEN AFTER ALL

[36 Comments](#)

BY [JOHN MERLINE](#)

02/19/2015 10:28 AM ET

"It is time to stop our green worship of the electric car."

That's how climate specialist Bjorn Lomborg begins his op-ed in USA Today.

After that, he goes on to explode various myths peddled by the electric car crowd, [noting that](#) a plug-in "costs us a fortune, cuts little CO2 and surprisingly kills almost twice the number of people compared with regular gasoline car."

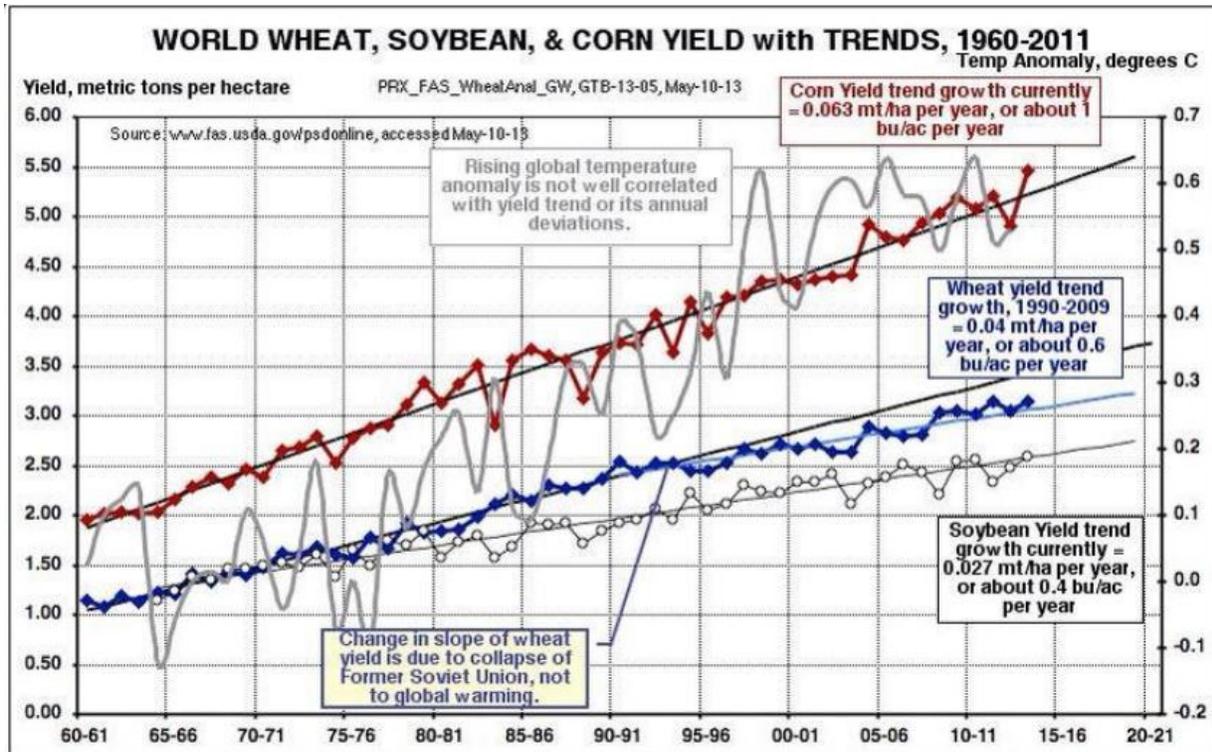
The first two claims are familiar to anyone who has looked at the [end-to-end cost and benefits of electric cars](#).

<http://news.investors.com/blogs-capital-hill/021915-739949-electric-cars-high-costs-little-benefits.htm>

Dob Shaw

F. FROM KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, WHERE THEY APPARENTLY DON'T LOOK AT CROP REPORTS LIKE THIS ONE:

Vara Prasad, professor of crop ecophysiology and director of the USAID Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab at Kansas State University, is part of a collaborative team that found wheat yields are projected to decrease by 6 percent for each degree Celsius the temperature rises if no measures to adapt to extreme weather fluctuations are taken. Based on the 2012-2013 wheat harvest of 701 million tons worldwide, the resulting temperature increase would result in 42 million tons less produced wheat — or a loss of nearly one-quarter of the current wheat production.



MANHATTAN, Kansas — A recent study involving Kansas State University researchers finds that in the coming decades at least one-quarter of the world’s wheat production will be lost to extreme weather from climate change if no adaptive measures are taken.

Vara Prasad, professor of crop ecophysiology and director of the USAID Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab at Kansas State University, is part of a collaborative team that found wheat yields are projected to decrease by 6 percent for each degree Celsius the temperature rises if no measures to adapt to extreme weather fluctuations are taken. Based on the 2012-2013 wheat harvest of 701 million tons worldwide, the resulting temperature increase would result in 42 million tons less produced wheat — or a loss of nearly one-quarter of the current wheat production.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/19/eye-roller-study-finds-climate-change-induced-severe-weather-may-dramatically-reduce-wheat-production/>

Don Shaw

B. COMMENTS

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-02-21 (FEB. 21, 2015)

By Ken Haapala, President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

Sea Level Change: The threat of global warming is no longer intensely promoted by governments. No significant temperature rise for over a decade has had its effects. The threat of climate change is apparently wearing thin with the public. Perhaps the public realizes that the climate has been changing for hundreds of millions of years, long before humanity existed. It appears that some governments, including the US Administration, are using the threat of significant sea level rise to compel the public to do their bidding.

As with carbon dioxide-caused global warming, the threat of sea level rise has an element of truth, which is then greatly exaggerated. Sea levels have risen about 400 feet (120 meters) since the maximum extent of the last glaciation, about 18,000 to 20,000 years ago. Prior to 5,000 years ago, sea level rise was rapid as the massive ice sheets covering much of North America and Eurasia melted. Since then, the rise has moderated, with only two massive ice land-grounded sheets remaining – Greenland and Antarctica. [The melting of floating ice does not contribute to sea level rise.] Ever-enterprising groups, usually funded by governments, often focus on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, which is partially grounded, ignoring the bulk of the continent and the East Antarctic Ice Sheet, which contribute little to current sea level rise, if anything.

The October 4, 2014, TWTW discussed a significant study on sea level rise for coastal management policy by the independent, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC). Although the report is focused on sea level rise for New South Wales, AU, the general principles apply world-wide.

“World-wide, sea-level rise varies significantly by location and time frame. No effective coastal management plan can rest upon speculative computer projections of idealized future sea levels, such as those used by the IPCC.” If the computer modelers have not bothered to validate their models, there is no reason to assume they are valid.

“Coastal management must instead rest upon accurate knowledge of local geological, meteorological and oceanographic conditions, including, amongst other things, changes in local relative sea level.”

The three general guidelines provided are: 1) abandon global sea-level rise policy, 2) recognize the local or regional nature of coastal hazards, and 3) use planning controls that are flexible and adaptive.

On July 5, 2014 the Global Warming Policy Foundation (GWPF) issued a report titled: “Sea-Level Change: Living with Uncertainty” by Willem de Lange and Robert M. Carter with a forward by Vincent Courtillot. [Note that Robert Carter was a principal author in both reports.] Although more general, the GWPF report reaches similar conclusions as the NIPCC report. Sea level rise is chiefly a local and regional issue with a global component. Due to plate tectonics, in parts of the world, local sea levels are falling (Scandinavia with rebound from the melting ice sheets) in other parts of the world local sea levels are rising.

The global influences include: 1) changes in the ocean basin volume (tectonic and sedimentary); 2) changes in seawater density (variation in ocean temperature or salinity); and 3) changes in volume of water (melting or freezing of land-based ice).

Ocean basin volume changes occur too slowly to be significant over human lifetimes and it is therefore the other two mechanisms that drive contemporary concerns about sea-level rise.

Warming temperature in itself is only a minor factor contributing to global sea-level rise, because seawater has a relatively small coefficient of expansion and because, over the timescales of interest, any warming is largely confined to the upper few hundred metres of the ocean surface.

The melting of land ice – including both mountain glaciers and the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica – is a more significant driver of global sea-level rise. (p.11 of GWPF report)

...tide-gauge measurements indicate that global sea-level has been rising at a rate of about 1.8 mm/y for the last 100 years, whereas the shorter satellite record suggests a rise of more than 3

mm/y. However, a recent reanalysis of the satellite data, alongside the possible contributions from recent warming and ice-melt estimates, has given a rise of 1.3 ± 0.9 mm/y for 2005–2011, which is more consistent with the tide-gauge measurements (Leuliette, 2012). (p. 12)
... the influence of major ocean circulation systems that redistribute heat and mass through the oceans. The upshot of these processes is that at any location around or within the oceans, the observed sea-level behavior can differ significantly from the smoothed global average. Furthermore, when attempts are made to estimate global sea-level from studies at specific locations, it is found to constantly vary through time. (p. 12).

In addition to the position of the coastline to the sea, local influences include rise or fall of land, supply of sediment, weather and climate, oceans (waves, tides, storms, and tsunamis). In some areas such as the mid-Atlantic states of the US, ground water extraction may be an important issue.

Because they do not represent a worldwide average, the tide-gauge nor the satellite estimates of global sea-level have any useful application per se to coastal management in specific locations. (p. 12).

In summary, the use of general sea level models to predict local sea level rise or fall, without validation from long-term local observations, is no more based on empirical science than the use of general climate models, which have not been validated, to predict local or regional climate change. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy – NIPCC and Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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Quote of the Week: “In climate research and modeling, we should recognize that we are dealing with a coupled-nonlinear chaotic system, and therefore that long-term prediction of future climate states is not possible.” IPCC Third Assessment Report (2001), Section 14.2.2.2, page 774 [H/t Christopher Essex.]

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Number of the Week: 8%

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Going Personal Too Little, Too Late? There seems to be an effort to reduce the rhetoric that is polarizing what should be scientific issues about global warming/climate change. One of the latest appeared in the US edition of *The Conversation*, pleading for a toning down of labels such as deniers and alarmists. TWTW tries to avoid such labels, and to focus on the science. However, it does link to articles that use such labels, even in the titles, if the articles contain a useful discussion of scientific or policy issues. Also, it is difficult to ignore the decades-long attacks against those daring to question the science rigor in the reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) and similar entities such as the US Climate Change Research Program (USCCRP). Many of the scientific criticisms against the IPCC are bearing out. It is becoming increasingly evident that the models relied on by the IPCC are failing, and the IPCC’s assertions of what causes changes in climate are fallacious.

All too frequently, those leading such attacks without producing the physical evidence, such as Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway in *Merchants of Doubt*, have been honored by once respected scientific institutions. One cannot take this history back. The issue is the integrity of empirical science and its actors, as we move on. Will the general press be condemned by both sides for accompanying an article on carbon dioxide, or global warming/climate change, with a photo of a coal-fired power plant emitting condensing steam appearing to blacken the sky? [These are often taken under special lighting conditions or using special lenses, giving the false impression that carbon dioxide, which is invisible, is dark.] Will the authors of the article condemn the current

attack on Willie Soon, who is co-author of a paper suggesting that a simple model outperforms the government-funded, complex climate models in predicting current temperature trends? See links under Seeking a Common Ground, Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague? and Lowering Standards, and in the Feb 14, TWTW, Models v. Observations, and Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Evidence-Free? In light of the prior comments to avoid labels and the comments on sea level rise, it is difficult to succinctly describe the 2015 report by the New York City Panel on Climate Change. This panel includes climate researchers who are involved with the IPCC and the USCCRP. A major finding is that the city may experience a sea level rise of up to 6 feet (2 meters) by the end of the century. This is a greater rate of rise that has been documented during the melting of the great ice sheets after the maximum extent of the last ice age. Other findings have a similar tone. There is no empirical evidence given for such findings.

In the past, one could call the report alarmist. But in order to tone down the labels, TWTW will describe it as Evidence-Free Assertions. See links under Un-Science or Non-Science?

Litigation Change? Based on SEPP’s experience with litigating against the EPA’s finding that human emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly CO₂, endangers human health (Endangerment Finding (EF)), one of the characteristics of the Federal Courts of Appeal is that they will defer to the findings of the EPA or other government agencies. In effect, they will not tolerate challenges to what these agencies claim are science. The Supreme Court had a similar attitude.

A group of attorneys have suggested that an alternative approach would be to litigate under the Information Quality Act, also known as the Data Quality Act. This approach may put such litigation under the guidelines of the Office of Management and Budget rather than the Clean Air Act. SEPP is not qualified to comment on these legal technicalities.

However, in the EPA EF there are two deficiencies that clearly stand out and, if properly presented, should be understood by judges. One deficiency is the lack of a pronounced “hot spot” centered over the tropics at about 33,000 feet (10 km). EPA falsely claimed it is a human fingerprint, but it would occur no matter what the cause of the warming. The second deficiency is the failure of the climate models to predict the current trend of no warming. See links under Litigation Issues.

Restoring Rigor in Government Science? Several commentators are suggesting that the new Congress will begin making demands on the EPA, NASA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to substantiate certain parts of the science used for press releases and reports. One such demand may be to substantiate the data manipulation in the historic temperature network, particularly that for the US. No doubt, those who have participated in the manipulation will have slick answers, and the effort may get bogged down.

An alternative approach may be to ask for proof of the “hot spot”, which no one can empirically find. A second alternative approach may be to demonstrate how the climate models have been validated, which they have not. In SEPP’s view, and the view of many others, models that have not been validated should not be used to justify long-term policy. The EPA anti-coal campaign is long-term policy. See links under The Political Games Continue and EPA and other Regulators on the March

Computers v. Climate: The quote of the week comes from a presentation by mathematician Christopher Essex who asserts that computer models cannot reproduce the physics of the climate and the mathematics for predicting future climate have not been solved. He explains his views in a presentation to the Global Warming Policy Foundation. Resolution is one of the many problems. For example, thunderstorms transfer a great deal of energy from the surface to the atmosphere. Yet, they do not show up in the models. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Circular Reasoning: On the Watts Up With That web site (WUWT), Bob Tisdale discusses a report by the Australia Academy of Science. The discussion illustrates why SEPP considers the IPCC's proof of human cause of global warming to be circular. See link under Lowering Standards.

BP Report: BP has released its Energy Outlook, which has been long respected in the industry. Not surprisingly, BP expects that for the next 20 years, world-wide economic growth will place increasing demand (more consumption) on fossil fuels. In spite of unsubstantiated claims from their promoters, solar, wind, and bio-fuels are failing, when compared with inexpensive, reliable coal, oil, and natural gas. See links under Energy Issues – Non-US.

Asthma: Last week TWTW stated that it does not know what conditions are needed to diagnose asthma. Reader Dennis Ambler wrote that it may be over diagnosed in a number of countries and provided examples: “Although it is true that some people may receive treatment for asthma when they currently don't have symptoms, this does not necessarily mean that they don't have asthma.” From Asthma, UK <http://www.nhs.uk/news/2015/02February/Pages/Is-asthma-being-over-diagnosed.aspx>

“In 2010 a Canadian study had already claimed similar over-diagnosis: Over the past three decades there has been a dramatic increase in the incidence and prevalence of asthma in North America. However, it unclear if the increased incidence of new asthma diagnoses in developed countries is appropriate, or if asthma is being over diagnosed in developed countries due to an increased awareness of asthma amongst health care providers and patients.

“We concluded that 30% of patients with a previous physician diagnosis of asthma did not have asthma when objectively assessed.”

<http://www.ersj.org.uk/content/early/2010/01/14/09031936.00165109.full.pdf>

On July 22, 2010, then-EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson stated to the Congressional Black Caucus in a White House Briefing: “The important thing to know about the Clean Air Act is that bar none, it is the most cost effective environmental statute in the country. It's 13 to 1 is usually the number used, health benefits to cost. Think to your mind, **13 times benefits for children who are going to emergency rooms to get healthcare for asthma.**” (Boldface added).

Chris Horner of CEI gave SEPP a copy one of the communications to Lisa Jackson he obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. The email was addressed to a Richard Windsor, an alias used by Jackson to avoid the Freedom of Information Act. The subject was Strategic Communications and was dated March 18, 2009 – early in the Administration.

Unfortunately, climate change in the abstract is an increasingly – and consistently – unpersuasive argument to make. However, if we shift from making this about the polar caps and about our neighbor with respiratory illness, we can potentially bring this issue home to many Americans ...

...By revitalizing our own Children's Health Office, leading the global charge on this issue, and highlighting the children's health dimension to all our major initiatives – we will also make this issue real for many American who otherwise would oppose many of our regulatory actions.

Additions and Corrections: The first paragraph of the last TWTW was poorly written, for which Ken Haapala is responsible. With no operating staff, and limited time-frames, sometimes errors get by the proof-readers, who volunteer their time. We try to avoid such errors to the extent possible.

Number of the Week: 8% The *BP Energy Outlook 2015* projects that in 2035 only 8% of the total world's energy will come from renewables, including bio-fuels, but excluding hydro (in tonne oil equivalents). H/t P Gosselin. See links under Energy Issues – Non-US.

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<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%202-21-15.pdf>

B. THE ALARMING THING ABOUT CLIMATE ALARMISM

Exaggerated, worst-case claims result in bad policy and they ignore a wealth of encouraging data.

By Bjorn Lomborg

Feb. 1, 2015 6:14 p.m. ET WSJ

It is an indisputable fact that carbon emissions are rising—and faster than most scientists predicted. But many climate-change alarmists seem to claim that all climate change is worse than expected. This ignores that much of the data are actually encouraging. The latest [study](#) from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that in the previous 15 years temperatures had risen 0.09 degrees Fahrenheit. The average of all models expected 0.8 degrees. So we're seeing about 90% less temperature rise than expected.

Facts like this are important because a one-sided focus on worst-case stories is a poor foundation for sound policies. Yes, Arctic sea ice is melting faster than the models expected. But models also predicted that Antarctic sea ice would decrease, yet it is increasing. Yes, sea levels are rising, but the rise is not accelerating—if anything, two recent papers, one by Chinese scientists published in the January 2014 issue of [Global and Planetary Change](#), and the other by U.S. scientists published in the May 2013 issue of [Coastal Engineering](#), have shown a small decline in the rate of sea-level increase.

We are often being told that we're seeing more and more droughts, but a [study](#) published last March in the journal *Nature* actually shows a decrease in the world's surface that has been afflicted by droughts since 1982.

Hurricanes are likewise used as an example of the “ever worse” trope. If we look at the U.S., where we have the best statistics, damage costs from hurricanes are increasing—but only because there are more people, with more-expensive property, living near coastlines. If we adjust for population and wealth, hurricane damage during the period 1900-2013 decreased slightly.

At the U.N. climate conference in Lima, Peru, in December, attendees were told that their countries should cut carbon emissions to avoid future damage from storms like typhoon Hagupit, which hit the Philippines during the conference, killing at least 21 people and forcing more than a million into shelters. Yet the trend for landfalling typhoons around the Philippines has actually declined since 1950, according to a [study](#) published in 2012 by the American Meteorological

Society's Journal of Climate. Again, we're told that things are worse than ever, but the facts don't support this.

This is important because if we want to help the poor people who are most threatened by natural disasters, we have to recognize that it is less about cutting carbon emissions than it is about pulling them out of poverty.

The best way to see this is to look at the world's deaths from natural disasters over time. In the Oxford University database for death rates from floods, extreme temperatures, droughts and storms, the average in the first part of last century was more than 13 dead every year per 100,000 people. Since then the death rates have dropped 97% to a new low in the 2010s of 0.38 per 100,000 people.

The dramatic decline is mostly due to economic development that helps nations withstand catastrophes. If you're rich like Florida, a major hurricane might cause plenty of damage to expensive buildings, but it kills few people and causes a temporary dent in economic output. If a similar hurricane hits a poorer country like the Philippines or Guatemala, it kills many more and can devastate the economy.

In short, climate change is not worse than we thought. Some indicators are worse, but some are better. That doesn't mean global warming is not a reality or not a problem. It definitely is. But the narrative that the world's climate is changing from bad to worse is unhelpful alarmism, which prevents us from focusing on smart solutions.

A well-meaning environmentalist might argue that, because climate change is a reality, why not ramp up the rhetoric and focus on the bad news to make sure the public understands its importance. But isn't that what has been done for the past 20 years? The public has been bombarded with dramatic headlines and apocalyptic photos of climate change and its consequences. Yet despite endless successions of climate summits, carbon emissions continue to rise, especially in rapidly developing countries like India, China and many African nations. Alarmism has encouraged the pursuit of a one-sided climate policy of trying to cut carbon emissions by subsidizing wind farms and solar panels. Yet today, according to the International Energy Agency, only about 0.4% of global energy consumption comes from solar photovoltaics and windmills. And even with exceptionally optimistic assumptions about future deployment of wind and solar, the IEA expects that these energy forms will provide a minuscule 2.2% of the world's energy by 2040.

In other words, for at least the next two decades, solar and wind energy are simply expensive, feel-good measures that will have an imperceptible climate impact. Instead, we should focus on investing in research and development of green energy, including new battery technology to better store and discharge solar and wind energy and lower its costs. We also need to invest in and promote growth in the world's poorest nations, which suffer the most from natural disasters. Climate-change doomsayers notwithstanding, we urgently need balance if we are to make sensible choices and pick the right climate policy that can help humanity slow, and inevitably adapt to, climate change.

C. CLIMATE CHANGE: THE FACTS

[Anthony Watts / 4 hours ago February 14, 2015](#)

From Steynonline: ... Climate Change: The Facts has been put together by our friends at the Institute of Public Affairs in Australia, edited by Alan Moran, and features 22 essays on the science, politics and economics of "climate change". [It features Mark Steyn on the Mann Hockey Stick debacle,] Joanne Nova on the climate-change gravy...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/14/a-new-book-in-which-i-have-a-chapter-climate-change-the-facts/>

D. THE ALARMING THING ABOUT CLIMATE ALARMISM

Climate Propaganda from the Australian Academy of Science

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale The Australia Academy of Science has recently published a Q&A about human-induced global warming titled The science of climate change. Their press release is here. Examples from around the blogosphere: Andrew Montford discussed it briefly in his post The Oz guide to climate change at BishopHill. The Australian published the article...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/16/climate-propaganda-from-the-australian-academy-of-science/>

E. TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE – The Heartland Institute

Thursday & Friday

June 11-12, 2015

The Washington Court Hotel

525 New Jersey Avenue N.W. Washington, DC 20001

[\(register now open\)](#)

F. DIVESTMENT ETHICS AND REALITIES

Eliminating fossil fuels from investment portfolios hurts colleges, workers and poor families

Guest essay by Paul Driessen College students who support divestment of fossil fuel stocks are passionate about their cause. Just look at their word choices. Though they could never function even one week without hydrocarbon energy, they call fossil-fuel companies “rogue entities,” assert...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/16/divestment-ethics-and-realities/>

G. JANUARY 2015 GLOBAL SURFACE (LAND+OCEAN) AND LOWER TROPOSPHERE TEMPERATURE ANOMALY & MODEL-DATA DIFFERENCE UPDATE

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale This post provides an update of the data for the three primary suppliers of global land+ocean surface temperature data—GISS through January 2015 and HADCRUT4 and NCDC through December 2014—and of the two suppliers of satellite-based lower troposphere temperature data (RSS and UAH) through January 2015. INITIAL NOTES: For discussions of...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/16/january-2015-global-surface-landocean-and-lower-troposphere-temperature-anomaly-model-data-difference-update/>

H. SOLAR CYCLE 24 UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2015

Solar cycle 24 continues to be lower than the vast majority of predictions that came out during the waning years of solar cycle 23. David Archibald gives an update on the current progress of solar cycle 24, showing that it remains quite low, and underperforms almost all of the “official” predictions based on models and other...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/15/solar-cycle-24-update-for-february-2015/>

I. ADVANCES IN RESEARCH OF ELECTRIC CAR BATTERIES PRESENTED AT #AAAS

A number of interesting things have occurred at the AAAS meeting in San Jose the last few days; here is one that caught my eye. As many readers know, I have an electric car (seen above), which runs on 12 volt Lead-acid batteries which are so heavy that most of the energy to the motor...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/15/advances-in-research-of-electric-car-batteries-presented-at-aaas/>

J. NEW PAPER CONFIRMS THE HIATUS IS NOT OCCURRING AT THE POLES, UNDERMINING THE EFFORTS OF COWTAN AND WAY

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale Pierre Gosselin of NoTrickZone reports on a paper that confirms the slowdown in global surface warming has not been occurring at the poles. See Pierre's post German Experts: New Paper By Gleisner Shows 2013 Cowtan And Way Arctic Data Hole Paper Was A Lemon. You'll recall that Cowtan and Way...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/16/new-paper-confirms-the-hiatus-is-not-occurring-at-the-poles-undermining-the-efforts-of-cowtan-and-way/>

K. STRANGE ALLIES IN THE WAR ON CARBON FUELS

[Guest Blogger](#) / [6 hours ago](#)

Guest opinion by Viv Forbes –

What great cause could unite Prince Charles, President Obama, the Pope, the Arab Oil sheiks, the United Nations, the European Union, the Russians, the Chinese, Pacific Island Nations, most undeveloped countries, the glitterati of Hollywood, left-wing politicians, unrepentant reds, government media, the climate research industry, Big Oil, Big Gas and the Green Blob. It must be something posing a clear and urgent danger to all humanity?

No, the crusade that unites them all is the War on Carbon Fuels, focused mainly on that most vilified target, coal.

The biggest group and the generals in this war on carbon have no real interest in the facts or science of global climate change – they see climate alarmism as a great opportunity to achieve their goal of creating an unelected global government. They have even laid out their plans in a document called Agenda 21.

This group naturally includes the United Nations and all of its subsidiaries, the EU, and left wing politicians and media everywhere. At a news conference in Brussels recently, Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of U.N.'s Framework Convention on Climate Change, admitted that the goal of environmental activists is not to save the world from ecological calamity, but “to change the economic development model” ie destroy what is left of free enterprise and private property. See:

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/021015-738779-climate-change-scare-tool-to-destroy-capitalism.htm>

<http://www.breitbart.com/london/2014/10/10/shell-oil-lego-greenpeace-and-the-environmental->

[movement-s-war-on-capitalism/](#)

The next big group of carbon warriors is the anti-western failed states who see this as their big chance to enrich and entrench their ruling classes with “climate reparations”.

Then there are the enviro-entrepreneurs forever seeking new crusades to energize their supporters and get the donations rolling in – Greenpeace, WWF, Get Up etc...

In the dark corner are the anti-human Malthusians and the Deep Greens who want to get rid of most of us other people – personified by the rich and powerful such as Prince Charles and Maurice Strong. They know that carbon fuels support millions of people by cultivating, harvesting, transporting, processing and storing most of the food that supports the cities of the world. Killing the use of carbon fuels will certainly achieve their goal of reduced world population.

See:

<http://explosivereports.com/2013/01/12/prince-charles-openly-endorses-draconian-conclusions-of-new-population-study/>

Naturally, government media usually support a bigger role for government, and all media like a scare story. Truth or logic does not matter greatly for most of them – just so long as they can coax a looming disaster story from someone. The daily diet of natural calamities soon heightens climate anxiety, which then motivates politicians to be seen to be “doing something”.

And then there are those who see that fighting carbon fuels also suits their pockets. As someone said “When placing a bet, the best horse to back is the one called ‘Self-interest’ – at least you know he is trying”.

For example, Shell, with its massive gas interests, was caught campaigning against coal fired power, the main competitor of gas in electricity generation. See:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/innovationchallenge/shell-admits-campaigning-against-coal-fired-power-plants/story-fn9dkrp5-1226770855004>

Arab Oil interests were caught funding a film attacking their competitors – shale oil fracking in America. See:

<http://dailysignal.com/2012/09/28/matt-damons-anti-fracking-movie-financed-by-oil-rich-arab-nation/>

And a Russian oil company was exposed funding US anti-carbon green groups. See:

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/foreign-firm-funding-u-s-green-groups-tied-to-state-owned-russian-oil-company/>

The Chinese of course are great supporters of green energy as long as it is installed elsewhere – e.g., they supply the machines and solar panels and then welcome the factories forced from the host country by soaring electricity prices.

Gas, nuclear and hydro power will be the greatest long term beneficiaries of the war on coal.

Initially they will be needed to provide base load and back up for intermittent green power like wind and solar. Then as green subsidies are withdrawn to appease angry tax payers, the green play-toys will fail and grown-up generators will step easily into full time electricity production. Finally, the government bureaucracy and the research grants industry justify their existence by “solving community crises”. They love “The Climate Crisis” because it can be blamed for any weather event anytime, anywhere. It is unlikely to be solved, no matter how many dollars are thrown at it – a problem that does not exist can never be “solved”. And the sinister “Greenhouse Effect”, like any good ghost, is invisible, mysterious in operation, debatable, and allows anyone to produce their own scare story.

Opposing this coalition of climate alarmists and opportunists is a rag-tag army of stressed tax payers and electricity consumers and a scattering of skeptical scientists and media researchers. But the imposing alarmist empire has a hollow heart – the globe has refused to warm, the alarmist “science” is crumbling, their climate models are discredited, some researchers have been caught manipulating records and results, and the costs of green electricity are becoming obvious and onerous. The public is growing restive, governments can no longer afford the climate industry cuckoo in the public nest and the ranks of sceptics grow. Groups like UKIP in UK and the Tea Party in US have abandoned the war on carbon.

The climate revolt is spreading.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/17/strange-allies-in-the-war-on-carbon-fuels/>

Disclosure: Viv Forbes is a shareholder and non-executive director of a small Australian coal exploration company. His views are not shared or supported by most Big Coal CEO's.
Don Shaw

L. CAN WE STOP THE DOOM MONGERING?

A letter to the editor which appeared in the Norman, OK Transcript on Tuesday, February 17th, reprinted here with permission of the author, Dr. David Deming: I write in rebuttal to the Feb. 12 letter by Nancy Smart advising us to “listen” to climate scientists. According to Ms. Smart, climate science is “settled.” Instead of...

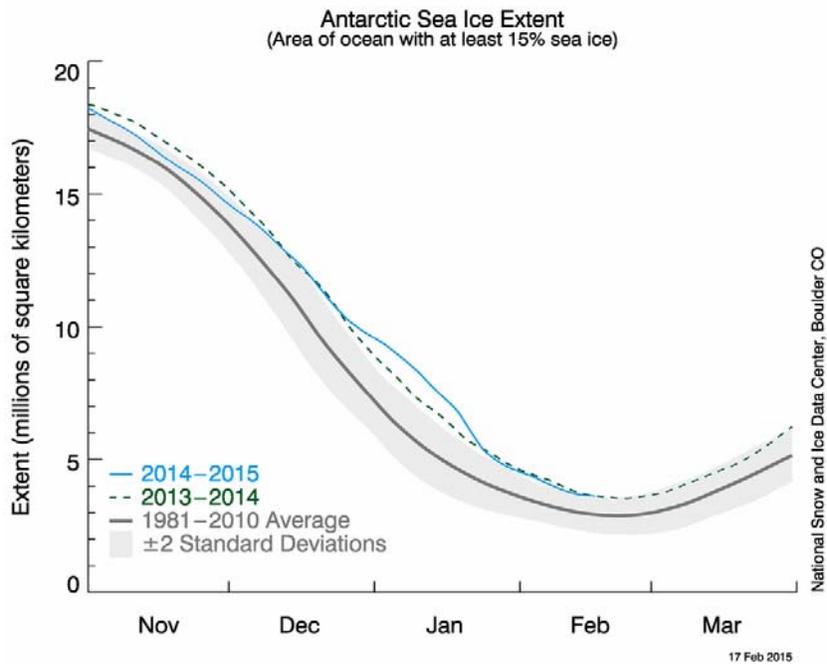
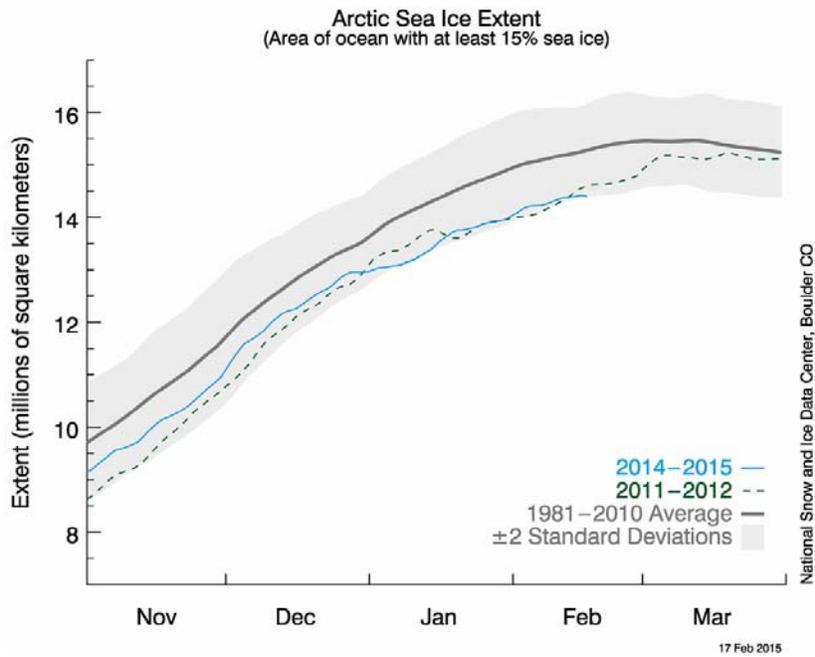
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/18/can-we-stop-the-doom-mongering/>

M. THE UN CLIMATE END GAME

Guest opinion by David Archibald “Everybody Wants “To Rule The World” was a 1985 song by Tears For Fears. Now in 2015, a number of parties are doing their best to that end – ISIS in the Middle East, Russia chewing up the Ukraine, China in the East and South China Seas and the UN...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/18/the-un-climate-end-game/>

N. ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC SEA ICE EXTENT BOTH WITHIN 2 STANDARD DEVIATIONS OF 1981 TO 2010 AVERAGE, ONE ABOVE AND ONE BELOW.



Don Shaw

O. AMERICAN ACADEME OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS



Your organization (ASME) has been especially successful in communicating complex and challenging issues to the public and other important audiences. Through your efforts, citizens, environmental conservation groups, town councils, state and national legislative bodies, private sector companies, and others have come to realize the value and importance of your projects, and their economic and public health benefits. If that sounds familiar to you, get the recognition you deserve by entering the AAEEES [Environmental Communications Award](#) competition. Winning entries are automatically qualified to enter the International Water Association's PIA Awards in the category of Marketing and Communications.

Here are the criteria for judging the Environmental Communications Award:

- **Innovative** approach to messaging or branding
- **Future value** to the water engineering profession
- **Creativity and clarity** in portraying and communicating the messages
- **Effectiveness** in delivery and achieving desired outcome
- **Integrated Design Approach** - Narrative and visual elements work together to achieve the communication objectives.

This Award is designed to recognize environmental communication efforts by industrial entities; municipal, state and federal governments; and consulting firms who work to convey the important environmental messages to their constituencies and other interested parties. **The deadline for entries is March 1, 2015.** The winners will be announced April 23, 2015, at the

AAEES Annual Awards Luncheon and Technical Conference, National Press Club, Washington, DC.

Entry guidelines, submission forms, and previous winning entries available at <http://www.aees.org>. Click on **Awards and Competitions**.

P. FAWLTY TOWERS AND IVORY TOWERS

Guest opinion by Charles Battig

John Cleese's 1970's "Fawlty Towers" of BBC fame provided a satirical view of an inept hotel manager in his dealings with potential guests, "who is tortured by 'that annoying section of the general public who insist on staying at hotels.'" Today, the torture is to that "annoying section of the...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/19/fawlty-towers-and-ivory-towers/>

Q. NATIONAL ACADEMY: GEOENGINEERING NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CARBON CUTS! DOING NOTHING IS PROBABLY BETTER - GHH

The idea of Geoengineering to reverse climate change has been around since the 1960s. The two-volume NAS report says cutting GHGs is the only solution.

[By Katherine Bagley, InsideClimate News](#)

Feb 10, 2015

Monsoon clouds/Credit: NASA

There's no quick fix for climate change and there won't be for decades to come. The world's only solution is to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions—and immediately.

That's the takeaway from a [new two-volume report out Feb. 10 from the National Research Council](#), the working arm of the National Academy of Sciences. The report examines whether governments could fight global warming through geoengineering, also known as climate engineering or climate intervention. The strategy involves removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or modifying clouds or other Earth systems to reflect incoming sunlight to alter the world's climate artificially.

"The top line message from the report is pretty clear: there's no climate engineering technology that would be a substitute for large-scale mitigation," said Simon Nicholson, co-director of American University's Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment who did not contribute to the report.

Scientists and policymakers have been contemplating the idea of geoengineering to reverse climate change since the 1960s, Nicholson said. For decades, it was considered a fringe scientific field, with the ideas more reminiscent of those one would read in a science fiction novel than a credible, peer reviewed scientific journal. The 2006 publication of an essay by Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul Crutzen proposing geoengineering as an "escape route" changed the conversation and threw the field and the accompanying technology out of obscurity and into the mainstream.

Proposed Geoengineering technologies vary from fertilizing the ocean with iron to increase its uptake of carbon dioxide to directly capturing the gas from the air as it passes through a machine of some sort. Despite the emergence of the field into popular science in recent years, the National Research Council found that carbon sequestration technology is still decades away from being effective. Attempts to alter clouds or other Earth systems so they reflect more sun and therefore

decrease global temperatures (also known as albedo-modification technologies) pose "poorly understood risks," according to the study.

"That scientists are even considering technological interventions should be a wake-up call that we need to do more now to reduce emissions," said Marcia McNutt, editor-in-chief of Science, former director of the U.S. Geological Survey and chair of the National Research Council committee that produced the report. "But the longer we wait, the more likely it will become that we will need to deploy some forms of carbon dioxide removal to avoid the worst impacts of climate change."

The National Research Council's findings aren't groundbreaking, Nicholson said. Like the reports from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is a summary of the latest research.

Its timing could be a boon to U.S. negotiators heading to Paris later this year to hash out a new global agreement on climate change. For decades, countries have continued business as usual often with the hope that they'd be able to engineer their way out a climate crisis later. The National Research Council's report appears to challenge that thinking.

The report didn't slam the door on these techniques entirely. It recommended that the governments increase their investments in researching and improving the technologies on a larger scale.

"There's absolutely no substitute for slashing fossil fuel emissions in order to prevent catastrophic disruption of the Earth's climate," said Rhea Suh, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "But it's prudent to do research into Geoengineering because, for instance, improved carbon dioxide-removal techniques could help reduce such dangerous pollution. We also need research because manipulating solar radiation is risky and we must increase our understanding of those risks."

R. BELIEVING IN SIX IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BEFORE BREAKFAST, AND CLIMATE MODELS

Dr. Chris Essex: Why Computers Cannot Reproduce The Climate, Never Mind Predicting Its Future A GWPF talk by Dr Christopher Essex – Chairman, Permanent Monitoring Panel on Climate, World Federation of Scientists, and Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Western Ontario (Canada) in London, 12 February 2015 Has the scientific problem...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/20/believing-in-six-impossible-things-before-breakfast-and-climate-models/>

Please see the interesting video, which is part of this presentation. It is long, but the time will be well spent.-GHH

S. U.N. CLIMATE DEAL SET TO RELY ON PERSUASION, NOT COERCION

Feb 13, 2015 0:31 IST

GENEVA (Reuters) - A U.N. deal to fight global warming due in 2015 is set to avoid tough penalties for nations that fail to keep their promises, relying instead on persuasion and peer pressure, delegates at climate talks said on Thursday.

The approach is a shift from the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which originally obliged about 40 developed nations to cut emissions and foresaw punishments for non-compliance. But those were never enforced -- Canada and Japan, for instance, simply dropped out.

Officials from almost 200 nations are meeting in at the U.N. conference Geneva from Feb. 8-13 to work on a deal due at a summit in Paris in December to curb global warming.

"We are moving towards a system of institutionalised peer pressure," said Elliot Diringer, executive vice president of the U.S. Center for Climate and Energy Solutions think-tank. "It's an approach that is not trying to impose penalties."

Some activists at the conference said governments needed to be held to account, but many acknowledged that a less confrontational approach was more likely to succeed.

A draft text of about 100 pages includes many options for compliance, including that it should be "non-confrontational and non-judicial" in following up plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions linked to heatwaves, floods and rising sea levels.

Bolivia's left-wing government this week added the idea of setting up an International Climate Justice Tribunal to judge violators. That idea is unacceptable to most.

Mary Ann Lucille Sering, Secretary of the Philippines Climate Change Commission, said "moral persuasion" was vague but better than threats. "Every time you say 'if you don't do this I will sue you' then I won't do it," she said.

Still, Christiana Figueres, the head of the U.N. Climate Change Secretariat, said developing countries needed assurances that the rich will keep promises for action, including rising financial aid.

But she noted that Paris deal will be built from nations' voluntary contributions to act. "This ... suggests to me that this (compliance system) will be less stringent than the Kyoto Protocol," she said.

French climate ambassador Laurence Tubiana said the Paris deal had to be built around a "rational expectation" of what was possible, rather than over-ambition.

But then there is a risk that some nations may simply offer to do too little to cut emissions.

"No one likes the idea of a total Wild West regime, where there no expectations, no rules, no standards," said Alden Meyer, of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

(Reporting By Alister Doyle; Editing by Andrew Heavens)

Judith Curry

T. THE INTERMITTENT LITTLE ICE AGE

Posted on [February 19, 2015](#) | [283 comments](#)

by Tony Brown

Is our popular understanding of the 'Little Ice Age' (LIA) correct, as being a predominantly cold era lasting 500 years, leavened by a few brief warm spells?

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/02/19/the-intermittent-little-ice-age/#more-17805>

Regards

George