

# The Week That Was: 2011-07-23 (July 23, 2011)

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### The Science and Environmental Policy Project

PLEASE NOTE: The complete TWTW, including the articles, can be downloaded in an easily printable form at the SEPP web site: [www.sepp.org](http://www.sepp.org).

#### Quote of the Week:

*"From the household perspective, reductions in energy expenditures act like a tax cut for the Pennsylvania economy, increasing discretionary income."* Penn State report on natural gas from shale.

#### Number of the Week: 2.2 v. 1.3

#### THIS WEEK:

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

Videos from the Sixth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC) sponsored by Heartland Institute are available on the web. Go to: <http://climateconference.heartland.org/watch-live/>

**Solar-Cosmic Ray Climate Hypothesis:** Svensmark's solar-cosmic ray hypothesis states that cosmic rays, modulated by solar wind and magnetism, are important in the formation of low level clouds, thereby important in influencing climate change. It is being tested by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) with the Cosmic Leaving Outdoor Droplets (CLOUD) experiment. Reports are due out this summer. This week produced an interesting twist. The Director General of CERN, Rolf-Heuer, publicly stated that he told his colleagues to present the results clearly, but not interpret them.

One can interpret this statement in many ways. One, it is a refreshing change to the procedures of the IPCC and others which has been described as science by press release. The summary of the study is excitedly presented first, followed months later by the actual results that do not support some of the more extreme pronouncements in the summary.

A second interpretation of the statement is that, if the hypothesis withstands these rigorous tests, then the results will be severely scrutinized by the orthodoxy that claims carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is causing dangerous and unprecedented global warming. The orthodoxy includes the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), many governments, politicians, financial traders, and special interest groups that have spent billions of dollars on establishing and proclaiming the CO<sub>2</sub> is the cause of global warming. According to the General Accountability Office, the US government, alone, has spent over \$100 Billion as of October 2010. Those responsible for these expenditures will be furious if CO<sub>2</sub> is not the principal cause of climate change.

A third possible interpretation of the statement is that the results, the data, will be so boring that they will be quickly dismissed. However, this appears unlikely. Already, the hypothesis has withstood two tests, and the CLOUD experiment is by far the most rigorous. The challengers to the orthodoxy are increasing.

If the solar-cosmic ray hypothesis withstands the tests, it does not necessarily invalidate the hypothesis that CO<sub>2</sub> contributes to global warming. (The hypothesis that CO<sub>2</sub> is causing dangerous and unprecedented global warming has already failed testing.) It merely confirms that the role of CO<sub>2</sub> in warming has been greatly overestimated.

Similarly, a successful report does not invalidate the hypothesis that oscillations of the oceans, internal to the earth, cause climate change. Or that humans cause local or regional climate change by changing land use – irrigating deserts, draining swamps, building cities, etc. Each hypothesis must be properly tested

against the null hypothesis. Gradually, the significance of each influence may be understood. But we can only wait for the upcoming results. Please see articles referenced under “Science: Is the Sun Rising.”

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**Low Sensitivity to Change:** On his web site, Roy Spencer posted a further article describing the testing of his very simple climate model against observations of temperature trends of the oceans to a depth of 700 meters. In the model he uses a combination of the **NASA-GISS assumed** external forcings and an El Nino / La Nina internal forcing. Spencer intentionally excludes other influences such as the solar-cosmic ray influence.

The model tracks quite well with the observations from 1955 to 2010 using an **assumed climate sensitivity of only 1.1 deg C**. Using Hansen’s assumed forcings, Spencer’s model does better in explaining ocean temperatures than the elaborate IPCC models. Apparently, the so-called missing heat is not in the deep oceans but lost to outer space. This indicates that the climate system is not very sensitive to a doubling of CO2 as claimed by the IPCC and other alarmists. Please see Article # 1.

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**Misleading the Public:** Roger Pielke, Sr. continues to post on his web site announcements of briefings, meetings, etc. that he considers mislead the public. Also, these may be a misuse of public funds. The meetings focus on the use of IPCC general circulation models, modified to project regional changes. The general models have never been validated, thus are scientifically unreliable. The critical assumption that a modest warming from CO2 will be amplified by water vapor fails hypothesis testing. To project multi-decade changes at a regional level from non-validated global models with failed assumptions is pure speculation, not science.

As the two models used in U.S.-National Assessment of Climate Change (2000) demonstrated, different models produce different results for the same region. For all eighteen regions covered by the models, the projections for rainfall varied significantly by model. For eight of the eighteen regions the signs were different, rainfall may increase or it may decrease, depending on the model. The most extreme example was the Souris-Red River basin in the Dakotas. (Due to the geology of the basin, area is subject to flooding, the most recent being the flooding of Minot, ND last month.) One model projected a decline in rainfall of over 80% which would result in a desert. The other model projected an increase in rainfall of over 80% which would result in a swamp.

Organizations involved in upcoming presentations include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the American Geophysical Union (AGU). The National Science Foundation (NSF) has ignored requests to justify funding such ventures. Please see referenced articles under “Models v. Observations” and Fig 18, p 15, NIPCC 2008, [http://www.sepp.org/publications/NIPCC\\_final.pdf](http://www.sepp.org/publications/NIPCC_final.pdf).

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**Quote of the Week:** This week’s quote from a Penn State study on gas from shale embodies an economic concept that seems to elude many leaders in a number of developed nations, including the US, England, Australia, etc. Energy costs relate directly and indirectly to the disposable income of households and to their standards of living. Decreasing energy costs increase disposable income and standards of living. It is similar to a tax cut. Increasing energy costs lower disposable income and standards of living. It is similar to a tax increase. Many politicians promote wind and other alternative energy as the path to prosperity, even though these methods significantly raise energy costs (either directly or through subsidies). The politicians are, in effect, declaring that prosperity can be achieved by lowering the disposable income and standards of living of the general public. Please see article referenced under “Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past.”

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**Buy High, Sell Low:** Ontario Province in Canada may be the most aggressive jurisdiction in the Americas mandating alternative energy, especially wind. In Ontario, wind blows mainly at night, especially in the spring and fall when electricity spot prices are low. A retired banker and a businessman,

upset by sharply increasing electricity bills, examined the electricity transactions of the province's grid operator and found economically absurd situations. The operator is obligated to buy electricity from wind farms and must dispose of excess electricity to other provinces or US states. In May, it was paying \$135 per MWh and receiving \$25 per MWh, or less, for the excess. Of course, such losses are passed on to the consumers, including households. Please see articles referenced under "Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy.

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**Australia:** Two weeks ago, Prime Minister Gillard of Australia announced a carbon tax (a complete misnomer) ostensibly to save the planet from global warming. This announcement may cost her the government. Opposition is furious and is mounting. The false claims of her bureaucratic scientists are being exposed. Please see articles referenced under "Challenging the Orthodoxy."

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**New York Times:** Last month, the *New York Times* featured a two part series by Ian Urbina questioning the economic viability of extracting natural gas from shale and suggesting the process raises significant environmental dangers. According to reports, Arthur Brisbane, the ombudsman of the NYT, has issued a sharp rebuke to the reporter. But the series has consequences because it gives ammunition to those who seek to stop the drilling for natural gas from shale. Among the reasons given for stopping such drilling is that it is sharply reducing the price of natural gas making the cost of generating electricity from wind and other alternative sources economically ridiculous. Please see articles referenced under "Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?"

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**Heat Wave:** Much of the US has been experiencing a heat wave. The Pacific Northwest, where the unusually long skiing season just ended, is an exception. With the heat comes a chorus of those who are chanting global warming. During cold winter periods, the same group chants it's just the weather.

Unfortunately, many weather commentators have been claiming that heat is the most significant killer among extreme weather events. Apparently, these claims are based on reports from the National Climatic Data Center. Yet, the mortality statistics compiled by the US Center on Disease Control show that in the US, extreme cold is by far the deadliest natural hazard. Please see articles referenced under "Changing Weather."

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**Number of the Week:** 2.2 v. 1.3. The first is the US death rate per million from extreme cold, 1993 to 2006. The second is the US death rate per million from extreme heat during the same period. Please see page 106 of the Indur Goklany article referenced under "Changing Weather."

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**Corrections and Amplifications:** Out of town travel resulted in less than desirable proofreading. A number of TWTW readers commented on several errors or omissions.

TWTW stated that "humanity and the environment do not face **eminent** [distinguished] destruction." The correct word is imminent [immediate].

TWTW stated laboratory experiments [and subsequent calculations] show that a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub>, absent of feedbacks, will increase temperatures by about 1.2 deg C. Several readers asked what experiments? Here we refer to the historical references of Working Group I of the main reports of the IPCC, which some may contest, but we do not.

Reader Ken Gregory noted that TWTW erred in stating that a popular email, falsely associated with Ian Plimer, claimed that the volcano in Iceland, Eyjafjallajökull, emits more CO<sub>2</sub> in four days than the human race has ever emitted. The correct statement is that the email falsely claims that the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption, in the Philippines, emitted more CO<sub>2</sub> than human race has ever emitted. Emissions from human

activity are far greater than those of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. Gregory also gave additional detailed calculations, etc. of emissions from these volcanoes as compared with human emissions.

All corrections and amplifications are greatly appreciated.

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## **ARTICLES:**

For the numbered articles below please see: [www.sepp.org](http://www.sepp.org).

### **1. Oh, the Insensitivity! More on Ocean Warming 1955-2010**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, July 21st, 2011

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/>

The evidence for anthropogenic global warming being a false alarm does not get much more convincing than this, folks.

### **2. Nantucket's Wind Power Rip-off**

Vastly cheaper forms of green energy are available.

By Robert F. Kennedy Jr, WSJ, Jul 18, 2011 [H/t George Nicholas]

[http://professional.wsj.com/article\\_email/SB10001424052702304521304576447541604359376-IMyQjAxMTAxMDEwODExNDgyWj.html](http://professional.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052702304521304576447541604359376-IMyQjAxMTAxMDEwODExNDgyWj.html)

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## **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

### ***Science: Is the Sun Rising?***

#### **CERN chief forbids “interpretation” of CLOUD results**

By Nigel Calder, Calder’s Updates, Jul 17, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

<http://calderup.wordpress.com/2011/07/17/%E2%80%9Cno-you-mustnt-say-what-it-means%E2%80%9D/>

#### **News Flash: CERN Orders 'Blackout' of "The Cloud" Cosmic-Ray Project News**

By Staff Writers, Daily Galaxy, Jul 19, 2011 [H/t Best of the Web]

[http://www.dailygalaxy.com/my\\_weblog/2011/07/news-flash-cerns-orders-blackout-of-cosmic-ray-project-news.html](http://www.dailygalaxy.com/my_weblog/2011/07/news-flash-cerns-orders-blackout-of-cosmic-ray-project-news.html)

#### **The next climate debate bombshell**

By Dennis Avery, Canada Free Press, Jul 19, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/38627>

[SEPP Comment: An optimistic view of what CERN may produce.]

### ***Climategate Continued***

#### **East Anglia’s Toxic Reputation Manager**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jul 20, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/>

[SEPP Comment: The more they dig, the deeper they get.]

### ***Challenging the Orthodoxy***

#### **Why Hasn’t the Earth Warmed In Nearly 15 Years?**

By Patrick Michaels, Forbes, Jul 15, 2011

<http://blogs.forbes.com/patrickmichaels/2011/07/15/why-hasnt-the-earth-warmed-in-nearly-15-years/>

*[SEPP Comment: A test of the hypothesis that sulfur dioxide emissions from China are hiding global warming – rejected in favor of the null.]*

### **This is why they want to stop skeptics speaking – Monckton swings 9%**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 23, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/>

### **The Monckton Debate at the National Press Club (AU) that ABC Lost**

Posted by Jo Nova, Jul 20, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/>

The Debate:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ma6cnPLcrtA>

### **Australia Institute loses debate**

By John Izzard, Quadrant, AU, July 20, 2011

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/07/australia-institute-loses-debate>

### **The Five Point Plan to Kill the Australian Economy with High Cost Electricity**

By Viv Forbes, Carbon Sense, Jul 23, 2011

<http://carbon-sense.com/2011/07/22/five-point-plan/>

### **Spending billions? Why not do a due diligence study? Nah, who needs it?**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 18, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/07/spending-billions-why-not-do-a-due-diligence-study/#more-16026>

*[SEPP Comment: IPCC reports fail to meet the standards expected in a financial due diligence report on a major investment.]*

### **Carbon price battle is lost, say experts**

Dan Nancarrow, Brisbane Times, July 20, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/carbon-price-battle-is-lost-say-experts-20110719-1hn01.html>

### **Some Common Global Warming Fallacies**

By William Briggs, GWPF, Jul 18, 2011

<http://www.thegwgf.org/best-of-blogs/3470-some-common-global-warming-fallacies.html>

### ***Defenders of the Orthodoxy***

#### **Act now on climate, no need to wait: top UN scientist**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 19, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Act\\_now\\_on\\_climate\\_no\\_need\\_to\\_wait\\_top\\_UN\\_scientist\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Act_now_on_climate_no_need_to_wait_top_UN_scientist_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Is desperation setting in?]*

#### **Volcanic ash, soot helped slow recent warming, study shows**

By Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post, July 21 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/volcanic-ash-soot-helped-slow-recent-warming-study-shows/2011/07/20/gIOAg7k8RI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/volcanic-ash-soot-helped-slow-recent-warming-study-shows/2011/07/20/gIOAg7k8RI_story.html)

*[SEPP comment: Reaching for the bottom of the barrel. See article by Patrick Michaels referenced above.]*

### **UN Security Council to consider climate change peacekeeping**

Special meeting to discuss 'green helmets' force to intervene in conflicts caused by rising seas levels and shrinking resources

By Suzanne Goldenberg, Guardian, UK, Jul 20, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/20/un-climate-change-peacekeeping>

[SEPP Comment: *The first units will command the sun to stop changing.*]

### **Climate change 'threatens peace', UN official warns**

Climate change poses a major threat to future peace and security, a senior UN official has warned.

By Staff Writers, BBC News, Jul 21, 2011 [H/t Michael Schlesinger]

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-14229237>

### **U.S. Urged U.N. Security Council to Make 'Climate Change' A Priority**

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, July 21, 2011

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/us-urged-un-security-council-make-climat>

[SEPP Comment: *The US administration wants the UN to do things Congress will not permit.*]

### **Climate change sceptics should get less BBC coverage and be challenged 'more vigorously', says report on science output**

Broadcasters to give less airtime to critics of majority view

By Paul Revoir, Mail Online, Jul 21, 2011 [H/t Gordon Fulks]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2016299/Climate-change-sceptics-BBC-coverage-challenged-vigorously-corporation-body-rule.html>

### **'BBC's biased climate science reporting isn't biased enough' claims report**

By James Delingpole, Telegraph, UK, Jul 21, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100098066/bbcs-biased-climate-science-reporting-isnt-biased-enough-claims-report/>

### ***Expanding the Orthodoxy***

#### **Waxman calls for national climate-change-education push**

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jul 20, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/172479-top-house-democrat-calls-for-national-climate-change-education-campaign>

### ***Problems within the Orthodoxy***

#### **UK reforms for low-carbon investment**

By Staff Writers, WNN, 13 July 2011

[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE\\_UK\\_reforms\\_for\\_low\\_carbon\\_investment\\_1307111.html](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE_UK_reforms_for_low_carbon_investment_1307111.html)

[SEPP Comment: *No new coal plants without carbon capture and storage – an expensive, unproven technology.*]

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate?***

#### **Energy Department pushes efficient light bulbs in new ad campaign**

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jul 19, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/172281-energy-department-touts-efficient-light-bulbs-in-new-ad-campaign>

### ***Models v. Observations***

#### **Another Example of the Misuse of Climate Science**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jul 22, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/>

[SEPP Comment: Making regional projections from failed global models.]

### **My Comments On An AGU Meeting Announcement – Regional Climate Prediction at High Resolution**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jul 20, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/>

[SEPP Comment: More misleading conferences.]

### **Ignored Request For NSF To Respond On The Lack Of Value Of Regional Downscaling Of Climate Forecasts Decades From Now**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jul 19, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/>

### **Measurement Issues**

#### **NASA's Inconvenient Ruse: The Goddard Institute For Space Studies**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jul 19, 2011

<http://blogs.forbes.com/larrybell/2011/07/19/nasas-inconvenient-ruse-the-goddard-institute-for-space-studies/>

#### **80% of world climate data are not computerized**

Posted on July 20, 2011 by News Staff

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/07/20/80-of-world-climate-data-are-not-computerized/>

[SEPP Comment: So much for historic global surface temperature measurements.]

#### **Climate Scientists Request Protection From Somali Pirates**

By Rebecca Boyle, Popsci.com, 07.18.2011 [H/t Best of the Web]

<http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2011-07/climate-scientists-hoping-study-ocean-weather-need-protection-somali-pirates>

[SEPP Comment: A role for the UN green peace force?]

### **Changing Weather**

#### **Some Men See Things and Ask Why? I See Things and Say: WHAT???**

By Joe Bastardi, WeatherBell.com, Jul 20, 2011

<http://www.icecap.us/>

[SEPP Comment: Introduction by Joseph D'Aleo. See article by Cullen, below.]

Sizzle Factor for a Restless Climate

By Heidi Cullen, NYT, Jul 20, 2011

It's time to face the fact that weather isn't what it used to be.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/20/opinion/20cullen.html?\\_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th212&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/20/opinion/20cullen.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th212&pagewanted=print)

[SEPP Comment: See article by Bastardi, above.]

#### **The Texas centered drought versus 1918, 1956, and 1934**

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jul 19, 2011

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog>

#### **The Deadliest U.S. Natural Hazard: Extreme Cold**

Posted on December 18, 2008 by Anthony Watts



<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2008/12/18/the-deadliest-us-natural-hazard-extreme-cold/>

### **Deaths and Death Rates from Extreme Weather Events: 1900-2008**

Indur Goklany, J. of American Physicians and Surgeons, Winter 2009

<http://www.jpands.org/vol14no4/goklany.pdf>

### **Heat index update, Mid-Atlantic states experience Middle East climate**

By Ryan Maue, WUWT, Jul 22, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/07/22/heat-index-update-mid-atlantic-states-experience-middle-east-climate/>

### **Recent historically low global tropical cyclone activity**

By Ryan Maue, Geophysical Research Letters, Vol 38, L14803

<http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2011/2011GL047711.shtml>

### **Somali refugee death rate at 15 times above norm: UNHCR**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 19, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Somali\\_refugee\\_death\\_rate\\_at\\_15\\_times\\_above\\_norm\\_UNHCR\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Somali_refugee_death_rate_at_15_times_above_norm_UNHCR_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: A clear example where UN peace keeping has failed to prevent militants from banning humanitarian relief.]*

### **Changing Climate**

#### **Fast-Shrinking Greenland Glacier Experienced Rapid Growth During Cooler Times**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 20, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Fast\\_Shrinking\\_Greenland\\_Glacier\\_Experienced\\_Rapid\\_Growth\\_During\\_Cooler\\_Times\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Fast_Shrinking_Greenland_Glacier_Experienced_Rapid_Growth_During_Cooler_Times_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Since the glacier grows and shrinks rapidly, it should not be used to project what is happening to the entire ice mass. The entire ice mass must be measured.]*

### **Changing Seas**

#### **Fishy Science on the Great Barrier Reef**

By Walter Starck, Quadrant, Jul-Aug 2011

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/magazine/issue/2011/7-8/fishy-science-on-the-great-barrier-reef>

#### **Strong El Nino could bring increased sea levels, storm surges to US East Coast**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 18, 2011

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Strong\\_El\\_Nino\\_could\\_bring\\_increased\\_sea\\_levels\\_storm\\_surges\\_to\\_US\\_East\\_Coast\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Strong_El_Nino_could_bring_increased_sea_levels_storm_surges_to_US_East_Coast_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: According to the IPCC, El Ninos do not change climate. Did the recent study of sea level rise in North Carolina calculate this effect? Doubtful!]*

#### **Sea-level rises are slowing, tidal gauge records show**

By Stuart Rintoul, The Australian, Jul 22, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/sea-level-rises-are-slowing-tidal-gauge-records-show/story-fn59niix-1226099350056>

#### **Only when the tide goes out**

Editorial, Australian, Jul 23, 2011



<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/only-when-the-tide-goes-out/story-e6frg71x-1226100074756>

### **Overpeck says 3 feet, real world sea level data says no way**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 18, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/07/18/simulation-says-doom-real-world-data-says-no-worry/>

### ***Changing Seas – Science by Press Release***

#### **Multiple Ocean Stresses Threaten “Globally Significant” Marine Extinction**

Press Release, International Programme on the State of the Ocean, Jun 20, 2011

[http://www.stateoftheocean.org/pdfs/1806\\_IPSOPR.pdf](http://www.stateoftheocean.org/pdfs/1806_IPSOPR.pdf)

[SEPP Comment: *The Bait, the Press Release!*]

#### **International Earth system expert workshop on ocean stresses and impacts.**

By Rogers, A.D. & Laffoley, D.d'A. 2011 Summary report. IPSO Oxford, 18 pp.

[http://www.stateoftheocean.org/pdfs/1906\\_IPSO-LONG.pdf](http://www.stateoftheocean.org/pdfs/1906_IPSO-LONG.pdf)

[SEPP Comment: *The Hook. Self-proclaimed experts release the excited summary and press release first, followed by substantiation later. See below. This is not to state that overfishing of certain species is not a problem, but many of the issues are highly exaggerated.*]

#### **A Look Into the Ocean’s Future**

Editorial, NYT, Jul 15, 2011

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/16/opinion/16sat3.html?\\_r=2&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th211](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/16/opinion/16sat3.html?_r=2&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th211)

[SEPP Comment: *The Fish. The New York Times swallows the bait, hook, line and sinker.*]

### ***Changing Earth***

#### **Earth Getting Greener, not Browner**

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Jul 19, 2011

<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2011/07/19/earth-getting-greener-not-browner/#more-499>

### ***Acidic Waters***

#### **Acidifying oceans could hit California mussels**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 21, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Acidifying\\_oceans\\_could\\_hit\\_California\\_mussels\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Acidifying_oceans_could_hit_California_mussels_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: *No mention of pH, no doubt the acidifying oceans remain alkaline.*]

### ***Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine***

#### **Crop biotechnology still attracts opposition**

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Jul 21, 2011

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/crop-biotechnology-still-attracts-opposition>

#### **As ethanol's ravages grow, phony 'reform' emerges**

By: Timothy P. Carney, Washington Examiner, Jul 17, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/2011/07/ethanols-ravages-grow-phony-reform-emerges>

[SEPP Comment: *Producing about 40.8% of the world’s harvest by ton, the US is the world’s largest producer of corn. According to the article, of US production this year 12.1% will be used for food or seed, 43.7% will be used for animal feed, and 44.2% for ethanol – transportation.*]

### ***Subsidies and Mandates Forever***

## **Ending Windpower Subsidies for Deficit Reduction (failed promises have consequences)**

By Lisa Linowes, Master Resource, Jul 21, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/07/windpower-deficit-reduction/#more-15804>

*[SEPP Comment: Thirty years of subsidies should be sufficient.]*

## **Blame Congress**

Editorial, NYT, Jul 20, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/20/opinion/20wed2.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha211&pagewanted=print>

*[SEPP Comment: A plea for a national energy standard that will lower the disposable income and standards of living for virtually everyone.]*

## **Big Bulb + Big Green = Big Profit Bulb Ban**

John LaPlante/ The Michigan View.com, Jul 18, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20110718/MIVIEW/107180398/LaPlante--Big-Bulb-+-Big-Green--Big-Profit-Bulb-Ban>

## ***EPA and other Regulators on the March***

### **Show us the bodies, EPA**

Green agency uses phony death statistics to justify job-killing rules

By Steve Milloy, Washington Times, Jul 20, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/20/show-us-the-bodies-epa/>

## **EPA Proposes Secondary Standards for NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub>**

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Jul 20, 2011

[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3863.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2245637&hq\\_l=14&hq\\_v=5e66050d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3863.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2245637&hq_l=14&hq_v=5e66050d0)

*[SEPP Comment: EPA still fails to explain why asthma prevalence increases as NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> decline.]*

## **Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Could Cause Power Shortages, ERCOT, Texas Agencies Warn**

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Jul 20, 2011

[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3859.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2245637&hq\\_l=7&hq\\_v=5e66050d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3859.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2245637&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e66050d0)

## **EPA ozone proposal draws fire**

Tighter curbs seen hurting economy

By Tim Devaney, Washington Times, Jul 17, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/17/epa-ozone-proposal-draws-fire/>

## **EPA issues final mountaintop mining guidance**

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jul 21, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/172761-epa-issues-final-mountaintop-mining-guidance>

*[SEPP Comment: EPA pressing the limits of its powers by calling these disguised regulations as guidance.]*

## **FERC Declines Rulemaking, Tosses Smart Grid Interoperability Standards Back to NIST**

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Jul 20, 2011

[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3868.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2245637&hq\\_l=6&hq\\_v=5e66050d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3868.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2245637&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e66050d0)

[SEPP Comment: Such standards should be decided by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.]

### **Barrasso revives battle against SEC climate risk disclosure**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jul 20, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/172603-barrasso-revives-battle-against-sec-climate-risk-disclosure->

### ***Energy Issues***

#### **A Test of Prudence Favors Coal – Part Two**

By Frank Clemente, Energy Facts, Jul 20, 2011

[http://www.energy-facts.org/?utm\\_source=Energy+Facts+Weekly&utm\\_campaign=856f516895-EnergyFactsWeekly\\_July+\\_20\\_2011&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.energy-facts.org/?utm_source=Energy+Facts+Weekly&utm_campaign=856f516895-EnergyFactsWeekly_July+_20_2011&utm_medium=email)

### ***Nuclear Fears & Responses***

#### **Efforts to stabilize nuclear crisis on track - Japan**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 19, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Efforts\\_to\\_stabilise\\_nuclear\\_crisis\\_on\\_track\\_Japan\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Efforts_to_stabilise_nuclear_crisis_on_track_Japan_999.html)

#### **Japan bans Fukushima beef shipments over radiation**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 19, 2011

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Japan\\_bans\\_Fukushima\\_beef\\_shipments\\_over\\_radiation\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Japan_bans_Fukushima_beef_shipments_over_radiation_999.html)

#### **Task force reports on US plant safety**

By Staff Writers, WNN, 14 July 2011

[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS-Task\\_force\\_reports\\_on\\_US\\_plant\\_safety-1407114.html](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS-Task_force_reports_on_US_plant_safety-1407114.html)

#### **EU tightens nuclear waste disposal rules**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 19, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/EU\\_tightens\\_nuclear\\_waste\\_disposal\\_rules\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/EU_tightens_nuclear_waste_disposal_rules_999.html)

### ***Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?***

#### **The U.S. Isn't Running Out of Oil**

By Stephen Eule, Real Clear Politics, Jul 15, 2011

[http://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2011/07/15/the\\_us\\_isnt\\_running\\_out\\_of\\_oil\\_106244.html](http://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2011/07/15/the_us_isnt_running_out_of_oil_106244.html)

#### **Shale and its Discontents**

The New York Times still doesn't get the shale revolution.

By Robert Bryce, National Review, Jul 15, 2011 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/271890/shale-and-its-discontents-robert-bryce>

#### **Penn State report even more bullish on Marcellus Shale**

By Andrew Maykuth, Philadelphia Inquirer, Jul 20, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/125871638.html>

*"From the household perspective, reductions in energy expenditures act like a tax cut for the Pennsylvania economy, increasing discretionary income," the study said.*

#### **New York Times Ombudsman Rebukes His Own Paper for Reporting Lapses on Natural Gas**

By Jon Entine, The American, July 18, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blog.american.com/2011/07/new-york-times-ombudsman-rebukes-his-own-paper-for-reporting-lapses-on-natural-gas/>

### **Inhibiting an Oil and Gas Boom**

By Paul Chesser, American Spectator, Jul 22, 2011

<http://spectator.org/archives/2011/07/22/inhibiting-an-oil-and-gas-boom>

### **Shale-gas extraction faces growing public and regulatory challenges**

Two federal agencies are scrutinizing the shale-gas industry and its use of “fracking,” but gas producers insist that state regulators provide sufficient environmental oversight.

By David Kramer, Physics Today, July 2011, page 23 [H/t Moorad Alexanian]

[http://physicstoday.org/resource/1/phtoadv64/i7/p23\\_sl?bypassSSO=1](http://physicstoday.org/resource/1/phtoadv64/i7/p23_sl?bypassSSO=1)

### **Brazil has a 'North Sea of oil'**

By Staff Writers, UPI, Jul 15, 2011

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Brazil\\_has\\_a\\_North\\_Sea\\_of\\_oil\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Brazil_has_a_North_Sea_of_oil_999.html)

### **Canada to monitor oil sands pollution**

By Claudia Cattaneo, Financial Post, Jul 21, 2011

<http://business.financialpost.com/2011/07/21/canada-to-monitor-oil-sands-pollution-eyes-keystone-pipeline/>

### **China's CNOOC to buy Canadian oil sands developer**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 20, 2011

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chinas\\_CNOOC\\_to\\_buy\\_Canadian\\_oil\\_sands\\_developer\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chinas_CNOOC_to_buy_Canadian_oil_sands_developer_999.html)

### ***Oil Spills & Consequences***

#### **Deep below the Deepwater Horizon oil spill**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 21, 2011

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Deep\\_below\\_the\\_Deepwater\\_Horizon\\_oil\\_spill\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Deep_below_the_Deepwater_Horizon_oil_spill_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Not stated here, but apparently the hydrocarbons in the deep water plume are principally those that contain benzene rings.]*

### ***Administration Control of Fossil Fuels***

#### **Obama Anti-Coal Energy Agenda Would Hurt America**

By Daniel Kish, US News, July 20, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/energy-intelligence/2011/07/20/obama-anti-coal-energy-agenda-would-hurt-america>

*[SEPP Comment: Now even unions are questioning EPA imaginary numbers]*

### **The left's brilliant lie**

Regulatory tyranny targets internal combustion and incandescent light

Editorial, Washington Times, Jul 21, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/21/the-lefts-brilliant-lie/>

### ***Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy***

#### **Ontario's Power Trip: Power dumping**

Billions are wasted buying subsidized wind and solar power that ends up being exported at fire-sale prices

By Parker Gallant and Scott Luft, Financial Post, Jul 20, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/07/20/ontarios-power-trip-power-dumping/>

[SEPP Comment: Buy high, sell low – the secret to Green Energy prosperity.]

### **The big green surge to fend off critics of Ontario's renewable energy strategy**

By Parker Gallant, Financial Post, Jul 20, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/07/20/the-big-green-surge-to-fend-off-critics-of-ontarios-renewable-energy-strategy/>

### **A New Study Takes The Wind Out Of Wind Energy**

Reality has overtaken green hope.

Robert Bryce, Forbes, Jul 19, 2011, [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.forbes.com/2011/07/19/wind-energy-carbon.html>

### **2010 Wind Technologies Market Report**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 18, 2011

[http://www.winddaily.com/reports/2010\\_Wind\\_Technologies\\_Market\\_Report\\_999.html](http://www.winddaily.com/reports/2010_Wind_Technologies_Market_Report_999.html)

### **Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC**

**For a full list of articles see [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org)**

#### **Atmospheric Models: Keeping it Simple**

Reference: Levine, X.J. and Schneider, T. 2011. Response of the Hadley Circulation to Climate Change in an Aquaplanet GCM Coupled to a Simple Representation of Ocean Heat Transport. *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* 68: 769-783.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/jul/19jul2011a2.html>

#### **The World's Oscillatory Climate as Experienced in Northern Iberia**

Reference: Martin-Chivelet, J., Munoz-Garcia, M.B., Edwards, R.L., Turrero, M.J. and Ortega, A.I. 2011. Land surface temperature changes in Northern Iberia since 4000 yr BP, based on  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of speleothems. *Global and Planetary Change* 77: 1-12.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/jul/20jul2011a2.html>

#### **The Fate of Carbon in a Warming Temperate Peatland**

Reference: Cai, S. and Yu, Z. 2011. Response of a warm temperate peatland to Holocene climate change in northeastern Pennsylvania. *Quaternary Research* 75: 531-540.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/jul/19jul2011a4.html>

#### **Why Climate Change Effect Studies are Pessimistic**

Reference: Loehle, C. 2011. Criteria for Assessing Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystems. *Ecology and Evolution* doi: 10.1002/ece3.7.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/jul/20jul2011a1.html>

### **Environmental Industry**

#### **Bloomberg gives \$50M to anti-coal effort**

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jul 21, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/172713-mayor-bloomberg-donates-50-million-to-anti-coal-campaign>

#### **Greens go for the gold, leave us in the red**

Enviros make bank off schemes that would leave world bankrupt

By Terrence Scanlon, Washington Times, Jul 20, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/20/greens-go-for-the-gold-leave-us-in-the-red/>

**Other Scientific News**

**Forests absorb much more greenhouse gas than previously known**

Worldwide, forests absorb almost 9 billion tons of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide every year, according to a new study published Thursday in the journal Science.

By Mark Clayton, Christian Science Monitor, Jul. 15, 2011 [H/t Tim Wise]

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2011/0715/Study-Forests-absorb-much-more-greenhouse-gas-than-previously-known>

[SEPP Comment: Previously known by whom?]

**Mercury pollution from power plants seen**

By Staff Writers, UPI, Jul 19, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Mercury\\_pollution\\_from\\_power\\_plants\\_seen\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Mercury_pollution_from_power_plants_seen_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Mercury is a naturally occurring metal found throughout the world. The issues are: what source, are the concentrations unusual, are the concentrations toxic?]

**Loss of top animal predators has massive ecological effects**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 20, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Loss\\_of\\_top\\_animal\\_predators\\_has\\_massive\\_ecological\\_effects\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Loss_of_top_animal_predators_has_massive_ecological_effects_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: The statement "An old paradigm has shifted, and those who question this theory now have the burden to prove otherwise" reflects an ignorance of hypothesis testing.]

**New way to store sun's heat**

By David L. Chandler, SPX, Jul 20, 2011

[http://www.solardaily.com/reports/New\\_way\\_to\\_store\\_sun\\_heat\\_999.html](http://www.solardaily.com/reports/New_way_to_store_sun_heat_999.html)

**Other News that May Be of Interest**

**Derail High-Speed Spending**

Editorial, IBD, 07/21/2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=579121&p=1>

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**BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

**How Dairy Farms Contribute to Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

By Ann Perry, Agriculture Research Service, July 19, 2011 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2011/110719.htm>

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**ARTICLES:**

**1. Oh, the Insensitivity! More on Ocean Warming 1955-2010**

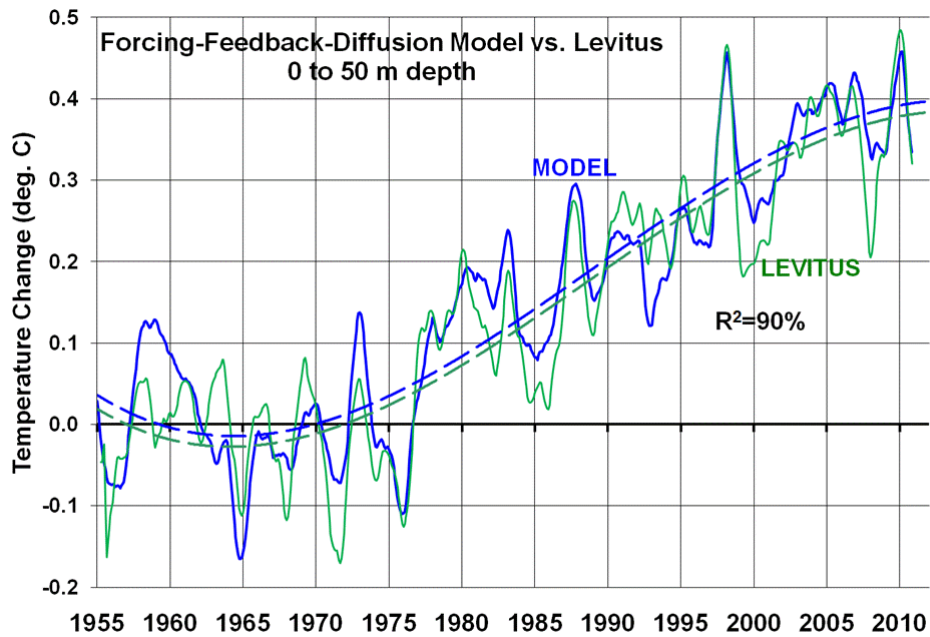
By Roy Spencer, His Blog, July 21st, 2011

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/>

The evidence for anthropogenic global warming being a false alarm does not get much more convincing than this, folks.

Using a combination of the GISS-assumed external **forcings** for long-term temperature changes, and an El Nino/La Nina internal forcing term for year-to-year variability, a simple Forcing-Feedback-Diffusion

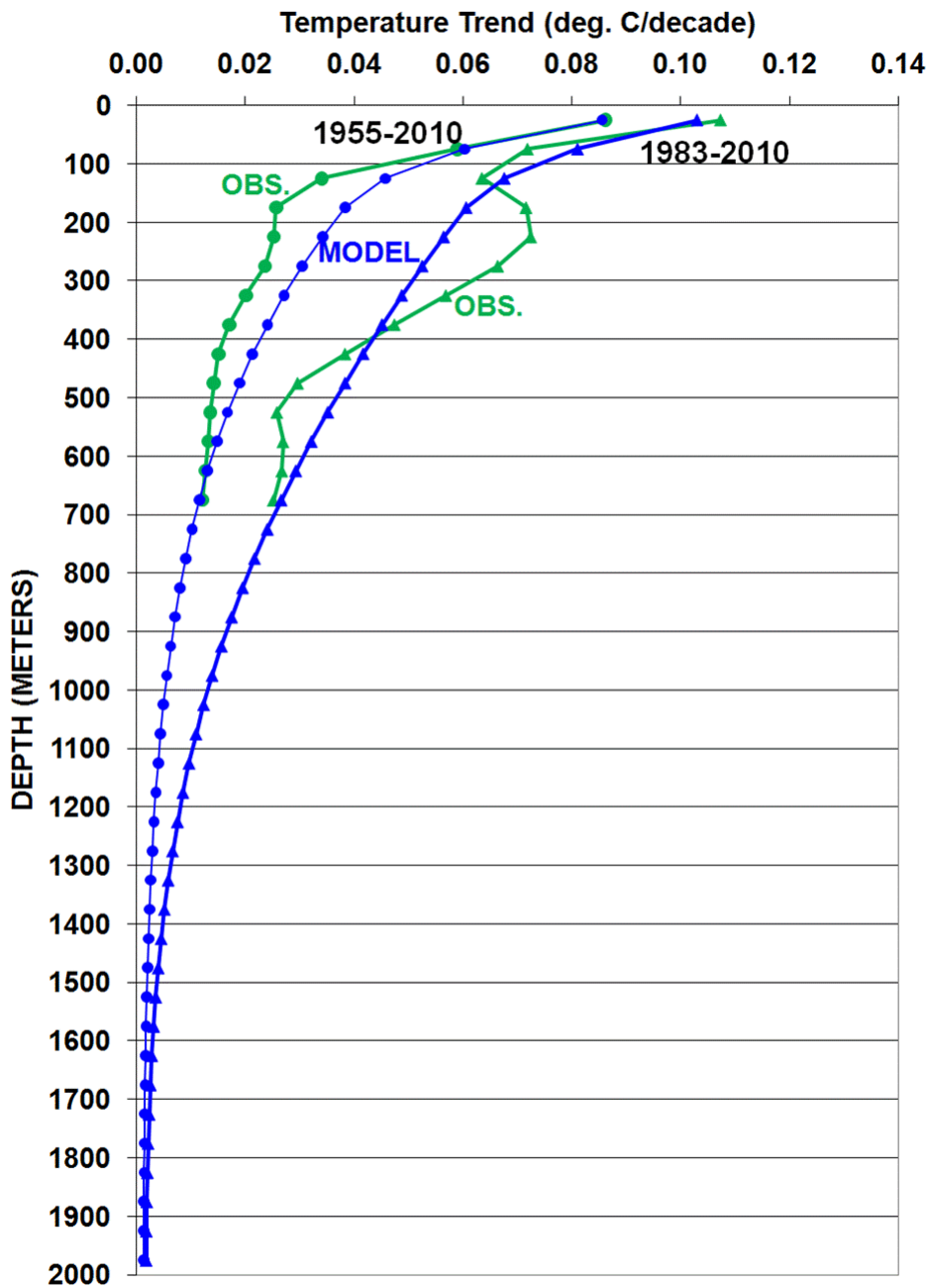
(FFD) model explains 90% of the variance in ocean heat content variations in the surface-to-50 meter depth layer since 1955 (click for full-size version):



The dashed lines are 3rd order polynomial fits; I have included a small offset between the model and observation data so you can see those trend curves, otherwise they would lie on top of each other. Note that the model captures the lack of warming since about 2003.

Here are the model-vs-observations warming trends as a function of ocean depth; I have plotted them for both the full period (56 years, 1955-2010), and also for the 2nd half of the period (1983-2010) which is when almost all of the warming below 200 meters occurred (click for full-size version):





Now, the important news is that the model fits to the data were accomplished with a climate sensitivity of only 1.1 deg. C for a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> (a feedback parameter of 3.6 W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>). This is well below what the IPCC claims for future warming rates.

Also, without the El Nino/La Nina term, the model produces far too much warming late in the period. So, a lack of ocean warming since about 2003 could be La Nina's 'canceling out' CO<sub>2</sub> warming. (I found

using the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, PDO, as a natural forcing term did basically the same thing, but it could not capture the large El Nino/La Nina temperature swings.)

Of course, there could be other natural forcings at work, too. To the extent that a portion of warming since the 1950s was due to those processes, this would mean climate sensitivity is lower still.

### **Where's that Darn Missing Heat?**

Now, there are [Trenberthian claims](#) out there that a recent lack of warming is due to the 'missing heat' hiding in the deep ocean somewhere, just waiting to pounce on us when we aren't looking. To address this possibility, the model mixes a substantial amount of extra heat down to 2000 meters depth (even though a 2009 Levitus presentation suggested that there has been essentially no warming below 1500 meters depth...see slide 14 [here](#)).

In fact, even with low climate sensitivity, the model solution for 1955-2010 pumps 18% more heat into the 0-700 meter layer than the Levitus observations show for that 56 year period. Furthermore, 30% of the total heat pumped into the ocean by the model is below 700 meters deep. So, it appears that even deep ocean heating cannot explain away a recent lack of surface warming.

One of the things you find with these models is that, if the heat cannot mix below the thermocline, then there is no way for the ocean below the thermocline to warm. The Levitus data suggests an average thermocline depth of 100 meters or so...notice the "bend" in the warming profiles around that depth, suggesting resistance to turbulent heat diffusion. Instead, much of the extra heat in the mixed layer is lost to space through negative feedback processes which the IPCC claims are instead positive.

[For a little entertainment, here's an animation of the three-monthly changes in the temperature profile down to 700 meters, 1955 through early 2011, put together for me by Danny Braswell]:

[Levitus temperature profile animation](#)

### **Conclusion**

The bottom line is that the relatively weak warming of the ocean since the 1950s is consistent with negative feedback (low climate sensitivity), not positive feedback. The ocean mixed layer and the atmosphere convectively coupled to it loses excess heat to outer space before it can be mixed into the deep ocean.

In other words, Trenberth's missing heat is not in the deep ocean...it's instead lost in outer space.

### **Model Details:**

- 40 model layers, each 50 m thick, to a depth of 2,000 meters (the atmosphere is assumed to be in convective equilibrium with the top layer, and its heat capacity is small enough to be ignored).
- Energy is conserved in each model layer through a combination of forcing, feedback (top layer only), and turbulent heat diffusion between layers.
- Feedback (loss of excess energy to space from implicit changes in the atmosphere with temperature) is proportional to the top layer temperature departure from average.

- Heat diffusion coefficients between layers are manually adjusted to give an approximate fit to the warming profiles with depth. We are working on further optimizing those fits with an iterative adjustment procedure.

- Yearly 'external' forcing estimates are from GISS, interpolated to monthly, and extrapolated thru 2010.

- El Nino/La Nina 'internal' forcing is empirically derived based upon a best fit to observed year-to-year temperature variations: forcing = 0.85 times the Multivariate ENSO Index (MEI), in Watts per sq. meter, with a time lag of 3 months.

- Model is initialized in 1900 using GISS forcings; MEI forcing is included starting in 1955 (which is when the ocean temperature observations become available for comparison).

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## **2. Nantucket's Wind Power Rip-off**

Vastly cheaper forms of green energy are available.

By Robert F. Kennedy Jr, WSJ, Jul 18, 2011 [H/t George Nicholas]

[http://professional.wsj.com/article\\_email/SB10001424052702304521304576447541604359376-1MyQjAxMTAxMDEwODEwNDgyWj.html](http://professional.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052702304521304576447541604359376-1MyQjAxMTAxMDEwODEwNDgyWj.html)

Someone needs to tell the politicians in Boston and Washington that Cape Wind, the long-stalled plan to cover 25 square miles of pristine Nantucket Sound with 130 massive steel windmill-turbine towers, is a rip-off. That someone is most likely to be the newly enlightened electricity ratepayers—and voters—of Massachusetts.

In the past few months it has become clearer than ever how much this giveaway of public property is going to cost them if Cape Wind is ever built. The numbers are staggering.

Vermont wants to take its nuclear plant off line and replace it with clean, green power from HydroQuebec—power available to Massachusetts utilities—at a cost of six cents per kilowatt hour (kwh). Cape Wind electricity, by a conservative estimate and based on figures they filed with the state, comes in at 25 cents per kwh.

In Massachusetts, the utility company NSTAR has fought off intense political pressure to commit to buying Cape Wind's power when and if it becomes available. CEO Tom May has repeatedly said such a contract would impose far too large a burden on his ratepayers.

Instead, and to meet the state's requirements that utilities purchase 3.5% of their power from "green" sources, NSTAR has contracted with several far less expensive land-based wind-power providers.

According to NSTAR's own filings to certify compliance with the green-power requirement, these contracts come in at \$111 million below market averages over the standard contract period of 15 years. The price of Cape Wind power comes in at well over \$1 billion *above* market averages, according to Cape Wind's own regulatory filings about its contract with National Grid, the utility company that has agreed to buy half its power.

If the sea-based wind farm off Nantucket did begin operating, it is safe to deduce that National Grid customers would be getting fleeced compared to their NSTAR neighbors. The land-based wind alternatives that have sprouted up over the last decade have given utilities far cheaper alternatives to the unbuilt Cape Wind.

Bluntly put: Whether you agree or disagree with the fishermen, homeowners and environmentalists who have fought Cape Wind for a decade, the fact is this project makes no sense for ratepayers and taxpayers. Vastly cheaper forms of energy, and not just wind, are now available.

Despite this, there are ominous signs that NSTAR, after years of fighting off pressure by the state of Massachusetts to jam its customers with higher costs, is being told to accept the higher costs after all. The state's leverage? A proposed merger of NSTAR with Northeast Utilities.

In only the latest example of how heavy-handed Cape Wind's backers are, Massachusetts has suddenly agreed to change the rules for utilities as they apply to mergers and the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions. In effect, the state administration is trying to hold hostage the proposed NSTAR-Northeast Utilities merger unless the two electric companies agree to buy Cape Wind's power.

Stopping Cape Wind is no longer merely about preventing the desecration of sacred Native American land, including land now under shallow waters in the Sound, where the turbines would also obstruct religiously significant views of the sunrise and sunset. It is no longer simply about protecting fish and fishing—which Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick has moved to do for other areas of the state. Those reasons, along with protecting the safety of boats and planes while saving Cape Cod and the Islands from a devastating blow to tourism and property values, are still valid.

Stopping Cape Wind is now about preventing us from buying into a boondoggle: from investing desperately needed federal, state and ratepayer dollars in a single project, on public land, for the benefit of a private developer when better and cheaper renewable energy—from wind and water power—is abundantly available.

*Mr. Kennedy is an environmental lawyer and president of the environmental group Waterkeeper Alliance.*

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