

The Week That Was: 2014-02-22 (February 22, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *"When a politician says 'the debate is over,' you can be sure of two things: the debate is raging; and he's losing it."* Political columnist George Will [H/t Tom Sheahen]

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Number of the Week: \$40 Billion

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APS: Judith Curry reports that the American Physical Society (APS) is reviewing its 2007 Climate Change Statement that supports the views of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that human emissions of greenhouse gases were responsible for global warming. Now that there has been no warming trend on the surface for at least 16 years and no warming trend in the atmosphere for over a decade, the promoters of global warming have conveniently changed the language to climate change, something that has been on-going for hundreds of millions of years.

The six experts were invited to give a 30 minute presentation at an APS workshop on January 6 were Bill Collins, Ben Santer, Isaac Held, Richard Lindzen, John Christy, and Curry. The last three have openly questioned the findings of the IPCC and its false claims of certainty in its science. In a hearing before a Congressional Committee, Ben Santer bragged he was the one who identified a warming trend in the atmosphere centered over the Tropics at about 33,000 feet as the distinct human fingerprint. This trend would occur whatever the cause of the warming would be. Satellite and weather balloon observations have failed to find this human fingerprint. It is found only in the climate models and in Santer's statistical tricks. Christy was a co-author of a paper demonstrating the lack of the fingerprint. Curry reported that Santer and Christy had a few tiffs on satellite-derived tropospheric temperature trends.

As reported by Curry, this review with some sceptics as participants is a hopeful sign, that some of the leaders of APS may be finally realizing that the prior statement went too far. However, there is little reason to expect a frank statement that we simply do not understand the natural influences on climate change well enough to attribute to humans a major role in global warming/climate change. The role of humans in local and regional change is not disputed. See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy and

http://www.sepp.org/science_papers/DCPS_IJC_final.pdf

Limits of Climate Models: On Climate Etc. Judith Curry continues to describe the presentations at a UK-US Climate Science Workshop held on February 6 & 7 at Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department at Georgia Tech, which she chairs. The latest posts focused on the utility of climate models for regional adaption decisions. The presentations included one by Leonard Smith of the London School of Economics, which challenged the use of downscaling global models for regional use. In Smith's view, the climate community has oversold its climate models.

SEPP could not agree more. The climate models calculated a significant warming trend for the past 16 years; yet, such a trend has not been measured on the surface for 16 years and in the atmosphere for 10 years. As Smith stated, attempting to use such models for regional use is nonsense.

The workshop provided necessary model skepticism and was possibly useful. But, already, effective recommendations on how to proceed come from the Right Climate Stuff Research Team. Develop global models that can effectively describe natural causes in climate change first. Then, adapt these models to include human influences. See links under Seeking a Common Ground and <http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/>

H.H. Lamb: On his web site, Bernie Lewin has a long essay exploring how the human-caused global warming skepticism of Hubert Horace Lamb was distorted by those who followed him at the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia, and others. Lamb was a pioneer in the study of climate change and the founder of CRU. Lamb was concerned with global cooling, a return of a Little Ice Age, or worse, a full ice age. He extensively wrote about the human tragedy that global cooling would bring. This history was glossed over by the new leadership of CRU, which promoted the new fad of fear of global warming.

Lewin quotes from Lamb's memoir: *Since my retirement from the directorship of the Climatic Research Unit there have been changes there... My immediate successor, Professor Tom Wigley, was chiefly interested in the prospects of world climate being changed as a result of human activities, ...After only a few years almost all the work on historical reconstruction of past climate and weather situations, which had first made the Unit well known, was abandoned. There was an exception in the case of tree-ring studies. [p1997 p249]*

No wonder global warming promoters are becoming very concerned over the recent lack of a warming trend. They ignore the history of past climate change.

In prior posts, Lewin traces how graphs created by Lamb were misused in official reports. For example, the 1990 IPCC report included an unreferenced graph of temperatures for the past 1000 years based upon Lamb's extension of a central England temperature chart by Gordon Manley. The IPCC report implied it was global. Since then, significant evidence has been acquired showing that the Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age occurred in both hemispheres; however, the origin of the graph remained mysterious until Lewin explored it. See links under Suppressing Scientific Inquiry.

Circumpolar Vortex: In the 1995 edition of his book, **Climate, History and the Modern World** Lamb discussed how changes in the circumpolar vortex can result extended periods of cold or heat over regions of the Northern Hemisphere. These changes have nothing to do with global warming, Arctic ice melting, and other popular excuses for extended cold periods or hot periods. Lamb specifically discusses the period March to May, 1962, which at time of final writing, was the coldest spring of the century in the British Isles and neighboring countries.

In The Reference Frame, Luboš Motl, comes to the aid of his fellow string theorist, Michio Kaku, in explaining how it is somewhat plausible that Arctic warming may contribute to changes in the circumpolar vortex. Motl writes:

It is adequate to mention that most of these "explanations" are not really "explanations" at all. They are just rephrasing the problem and the data (snow here and there, no snow there, and so on) in different words (meander's shape having an extra wider wiggle etc.) – perhaps more specific words but still words that don't allow us to predict things. The cold or snowy weather in some parts of the U.S. may be partly attributed to the more wiggly meanders in the jet stream (Rossby waves that get further away from the North Pole) but we still don't really know the cause

of either and we can't predict what will happen with these quantities in the coming years or the distant future. Sometimes, the meanders are wider, sometimes they are narrower. They may get narrower in 30 years on the Northern Hemisphere but the effect may move to the Southern Hemisphere in 2073. Nobody knows. It's mostly a chaotic system controlled by its internal, largely unpredictable processes.

The cause of the recent warming of the Arctic is not clear. If the cause was increased carbon dioxide, enhanced greenhouse, which occurs in the atmosphere, the Antarctic would be warming as well, and it is not.

As Motl points out, what is important is the temperature gradient, the difference between polar and equatorial temperatures. The gradient is far more important in driving intense storms, and significant weather events than a slight change in global mean temperatures. See link under Seeking a Common Ground.

Solar Power? With great fanfare, U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz dedicated the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating Station outside of Las Vegas, Nevada. Ivanpah is the world's largest concentrating solar power (CSP) facility and covers 3,500 acres [5 square miles]. The station uses 347,000 mirrors to focus the sun's energy on the boilers on three 459-foot towers. The steam is directed to turbine generators at ground level. The system has a net capacity, nameplate, of only 377 MW and cost \$2.2 Billion with \$1.6 Billion guaranteed by the US government through the Department of Energy. It will be interesting to find out what the annual operating capacity will be, say 25%.

There was no mention where the customers will get electricity when the sun goes lower on the horizon, on a cloudy day, or at night. There was no mention of a similar solar power tower that was attempted in the 1960s, and failed.

The *Investors' Business Daily* was less than impressed by the latest government investment and calculated the amount of area that would need to be covered to power the US with such facilities to meet US consumption, a few hours a day.

Without great fanfare, the owners of Andasol 3, a large parabolic solar facility in Spain that uses molten salt to store energy, admitted they are having to take considerable write-offs to cover the losses from the facility. Spain, once President Obama's model for renewable energy, has been forced to reduce its subsidies for such facilities. It is not clear from the article if there are loans that are being paid from the operating revenues. If not, the plant is a complete financial disaster, unable to cover its operating costs. Will lawyers suing Spain for the subsidies be classified as having green jobs? See links under Green Jobs and Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Now New Depths: Early on, political commentators praised the administration for soaring rhetoric. Now, the rhetoric is plunging to new depths. Addressing a group of students and government officials at the American cultural center in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, Secretary of State John Kerry declared that global warming/climate change was "perhaps the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction." He evoked all the unsubstantiated claims of a dire future, many produced by government-funded scientists, and stated he and President Obama do not have time to meet with skeptics – the "Flat Earth Society." He accused skeptics as being shoddy scientists and extreme ideologues who ignore the facts. He repeated the nonsense of 97% of scientists agree that humans are causing global warming, etc.

There is something strange when the Secretary of State of a wealthy nation, that built much of its wealth from the use of fossil fuels, lectures the students and government officials of a country that is just coming out of dire poverty, stating they should not use fossil fuels to build wealth. Indonesia has significant coal resources. The strangeness is amplified by Kerry's wealth – among other things he owns 5 residences, a yacht, and a private jet. For a link to the speech see [Suppressing Scientific Inquiry](#). For a number of effective rebuttals and for praises see links under [Lowering Standards – Go Personal – Secretary of State Kerry](#), especially the ignorance of equating climate change with weapons of mass destruction in the brief essay by Charles Battig and Articles # 1 and # 3.

Response by McNider and Christy: The Wall Street Journal carried a carefully measured and effective response to John Kerry's speech by University of Alabama in Huntsville scientists Richard McNider and John Christy. Among other points, the article contains a simplified, and very effective, graph of the gross failure of the climate models, which greatly overestimated the temperature trends as observed by two sets of satellite data and four sets of weather balloon data.

The closed-minded lack of concern by the Administration for the failure of the government's research programs to develop a valid climate model is a clear example of government failure, in spite of having spent over \$35 billion on climate research since 1993. The response concludes with: *We should not have a climate-science research program that searches only for ways to confirm prevailing theories, and we should not honor government leaders, such as Secretary Kerry, who attack others for their inconvenient, fact-based views.* See link under [Challenging the Orthodoxy](#) or Article # 2.

Labeling: Roy Spencer has withstood a lot of abuse from the climate establishment including difficulty in having his papers published. When giving testimony to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, on separate occasions, Senators Barbara Boxer and Sheldon Whitehouse have belittled his religious beliefs. If it were done to a global warming advocate, the press would have a field day at the expense of these politicians.

For some reason, this mild mannered gentleman, and scrupulous scientist, has decided to change and posted an essay titled "Time to push back against the global warming Nazis." Overall the essay is well reasoned, and in the 1920s and 30s, many politicians, both Republicans and Democrats, who considered themselves to be Progressives, praised fascism and the authoritarian control of the economy, without major government ownership of business, etc. Spencer's choice of the label Nazi may not be the best, because it evokes an emotional response rather than a rational response. Perhaps fascists without military uniforms may have been better.

A Poll To Use? TWTW does not have a great admiration for polls. All too often, they are used to promote the views of those conducting the poll. In [No Tricks Zone](#), Pierre Gosselin linked to a poll conducted for the European Union, which surveyed citizens in all the countries. One section dealt with the three most important issues facing the EU, as seen by those surveyed. The three issues considered most important by the respondents were: unemployment, 49%; economic situation, 33%; and rising prices/inflation, 20%. Government debt, 14%, came in fourth and the environment, climate and energy issues came in a distant 12th, 5%.

The four countries which had more than 5% of the respondents ranked climate change as one of the three most important concerns were: Sweden, 21%; Denmark, 12%; Finland, 11%; and

Germany, 7%. It is clear that economic issues are far more important to Europeans than global warming/climate change. See links under Questioning European Green.

Number of the Week: \$40 Billion. Reporting for Power Magazine, Thomas Overton wrote that during dedication of the Ivanpah solar project Secretary of Energy “Moniz stressed that the DOE is looking to support more projects like Ivanpah. *We have over \$40 billion to spend on clean energy projects*, he said. *Bring them on!*” If these projects fail, or if utility bills increase, the taxpayers and ratepayers know who to thank.

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. Climate Consensus Con Game

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 17, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/02/climate_consensus_con_game.html

2. McNider and Christy: Why Kerry Is Flat Wrong on Climate Change

It was the scientific skeptics who bucked the 'consensus' and said the Earth was round.

By Richard McNider and John Christy, WSJ, Feb 19, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303945704579391611041331266>

3. Stephens: Climate Prophets and Profiteers

The most cynical part of John Kerry's climate-change speech.

By Bret Stevens, WSJ, Feb 17, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304675504579389492229581738?mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702304675504579389492229581738.html%3Fmod%3DjemMER_h

4. EPA Emission Rules Face Test at High Court

By Brent Kendall, WSJ, Feb 18, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304899704579389302045805162?mod=I TP_pageone_1

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Remarks on Climate Change

By John Kerry, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, Diplomacy in Action, Jakarta, Indonesia, Feb 16, 2014

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/02/221704.htm#.UwEe-hfRKHU.twitter>

The Skepticism of Hubert Horace Lamb

By Bernie Lewin, Enthusiasm, Scepticism and Science, Feb 10, 2014

<http://enthusiamscepticismscience.wordpress.com/2014/02/10/the-skepticism-of-hubert-horace-lamb/>

FORMAN: Not up for debate

Student groups should not invite scientifically illiterate speakers to [UVA] Grounds under the guise of promoting free discourse

By Thomas Forman, Cavalier Daily, Feb 17, 2014 [H/t Jeff Braswell]

<http://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2014/02/forman-not-up-for-debate>

Rebuttal: Anthropogenic climate change does not exist

By Phil Valentine, Cavalier Daily, Feb 19, 2014 [H/t Jeff Braswell]

<http://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2014/02/valentine-challenge-the-theory>

[SEPP Comment: Do not necessarily agree with all the statements in the rebuttal. But, the assertion of scientifically illiterate speakers by Mr. Forman, the President of the UVA Environmental Sciences Organization, is clear suppression of thought; once repudiated by Thomas Jefferson, now expressed at the college he inspired and designed.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

McNider and Christy: Why Kerry Is Flat Wrong on Climate Change

It was the scientific skeptics who bucked the 'consensus' and said the Earth was round.

By Richard McNider and John Christy, WSJ, Feb 19, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303945704579391611041331266>

Time to push back against the global warming Nazis

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Feb 20, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/02/time-to-push-back-against-the-global-warming-nazis/>

NZClimate Truth Newsletter No 326

The Final Final IPCC AR5 WG1 Report

By Vincent Gray, IPCC Expert Reviewer, Feb 19, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/02/vincent-gray-and-final-final-ipcc-ar5.html>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Scientists: Don't make "extreme cold" centerpiece of global warming argument

By Jason Samenow, Washington Post, Feb 20, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2014/02/20/scientists-dont-make-extreme-cold-centerpiece-of-global-warming-discussions/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Comment on Kevin Trenberth's interview on February 17 2014 – An Example of Misrepresenting Climate Science

By Roger Pielke Sr., WUWT, Feb 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/19/comment-on-kevin-trenberths-interview-on-february-17-2014-an-example-of-misrepresenting-climate-science/>

Crises in Climatology

By Donald Morton, Herzberg Program in Astronomy and Astrophysics, National Research Council of Canada, WUWT, Feb 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/17/crises-in-climatology/>

The sceptics are right. Don't scapegoat them.

Floods and gales in the UK are not evidence of climate change

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Feb 17, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/the-sceptics-are-right-don-t-scapegoat-them.aspx>

Climate Science, How She Is Done

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Feb 21, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/02/climate-science-done/>

[SEPP Comment: Business as usual]

Al Gore's global-warming rhetoric is put on ice

By Andrea Peyser, New York Post, Feb 17, 2014

<http://nypost.com/2014/02/17/al-gores-global-warming-rhetoric-is-put-on-ice/>

Examiner Editorial: No, Mr. President, drought and climate change aren't linked

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Feb 16, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-no-mr.-president-drought-and-climate-change-arent-linked/article/2544075?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%2002/17/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

[SEPP Comment: Using prior statements by the US Global Change Research Program to contradict the president.]

Krauthammer: Climate change is not political, it's a 'religion' [Video]

By Staff Writers, Fox News, Feb 14, 2014

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/02/14/krauthammer-climate-change-is-not-political-its-religion/>

It's a Myth That Climate Science Is Settled

By Charles Krauthammer, IBD, Feb 20, 2014 [H/t Rob Sheldon]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-on-the-right/022014-690665-climate-science-isnt-settled.htm?p=full>

Legacy-seeking politicians preach the gospel of global warming

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Feb 20, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/legacy-seeking-politicians-preach-the-gospel-of-global-warming/article/2544330?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%2002/21/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Problems in the Orthodoxy

APS reviews its Climate Change Statement

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Feb 19, 2014 [H/t Lars and Anne Debeil]

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/02/19/aps-reviews-its-climate-change-statement/>

Link to transcript: Climate Change Statement Review Workshop

By Staff, American Physical Society, Jan 8, 2014

<http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/upload/climate-seminar-transcript.pdf>

Seeking a Common Ground

The peer review game

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 19, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/19/the-peer-review-game.html>

UK-US Workshop Part IV: Limits of climate models for adaptation decision making

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Feb 18, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/02/18/uk-us-workshop-part-iv-limits-of-climate-models-for-adaptation-decision-making/>

Michio Kaku's theory of polar vortex

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Feb 15, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/02/michio-kakus-theory-of-polar-vortex.html>

John Kerry's remarks on climate change

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Feb 17, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/02/17/john-kerrys-remarks-on-climate-change/>

Climate sceptic to lead review of Australia's renewable energy target

Industrialist Dick Warburton will head review whose terms of reference focus heavily on impact of RET on power prices

By Lenore Taylor, Guardian, UK, Feb 17, 2014

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/feb/17/cimate-sceptic-to-lead-review-of-australias-renewable-energy-target>

Extreme weather and climate change

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Feb 20, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/extreme-weather-and-climate-change>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

For a full list of articles see www.NIPCCreport.org

A Climate Model that Apparently Produces No Realistic Predictions

Reference Frankignoul, C., Gastineau, G. and Kwon, Y.-O. 2013. The influence of the AMOC variability on the atmosphere in CCSM3. *Journal of Climate* 26: 9774-9790.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/18feb2014a2.html>

Is Global Climate Becoming More Variable?

Reference: Huntingford, C., Jones, P.D., Livina, V.N., Lenton, T.M. and Cox, P.M. 2013. No increase in global temperature variability despite changing regional patterns. *Nature* 500: 327-330.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/18feb2014a3.html>

Relating to the Reliability of Seasonal to Decadal SST Forecasts

Reference: Ho, C.K., Hawkins, E., Shaffrey, L., Brocker, J., Hermanson, L., Murphy, J.M., Smith, D.M. and Eade, R. 2013. Examining reliability of seasonal to decadal sea surface temperature forecasts: The role of ensemble dispersion. *Geophysical Research Letters* 40: 5770-5775.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/19feb2014a1.html>

A 2500-Year Temperature History of the Northern Tibetan Plateau

Reference: He, Y., Zhao, C., Wang, Z., Wang, H., Song, M., Liu, W. and Liu, Z. 2013. Late Holocene coupled moisture and temperature changes on the northern Tibetan Plateau. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 80: 47-57.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/19feb2014a2.html>

Models v. Observations

Climate models robustly predicted the opposite of what has caused the record cold US weather

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Feb 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2014/02/climate-models-robustly-predicted.html>

The Official Forecast of the U.S. Government Never Saw This Winter Coming

By Peter Coy, Bloomberg, Feb 18, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-02-18/the-official-forecast-of-the-u-dot-s-dot-government-never-saw-this-winter-coming>

Could Met Office have been more wrong? Just before floods, secret report told councils: Winter will be 'drier than normal' - especially in West Country!

By Tamara Cohen, Mail, UK, Feb 21, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2564358/Could-Met-Office-wrong-Just-floods-secret-report-told-councils-Winter-drier-normal-especially-West-Country.html>

Models Issues

Farmers' Almanac More Reliable Than Warming Climate Models

Editorial, IBD, Feb 21, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/022114-690857-farmers-almanac-more-accurate-than-climate-models.htm>

Changing Weather

UK weather: it's not as weird as our warmists claim

Misconceived EU and UK policies provide a better explanation of the floods than 'climate change'

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Feb 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/topics/weather/10639819/UK-weather-its-not-as-weird-as-our-warmists-claim.html>

No, global warming did NOT cause the storms, says one of the Met Office's most senior experts

By David Rose, Mail, UK, Feb 15, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2560310/No-global-warming-did-NOT-cause-storms-says-one-Met-Offices-senior-experts.html#ixzz2tRdMB4oB>

The real reason for flooding in Somerset Levels? Not global warming – river management

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 16, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/16/the-real-reason-for-flooding-in-somerset-levels-not-global-warming-the-only-pump-was-turned-off/>

Meteorologist: 'We've Forgotten How to Be Cold'

By Melanie Hunter, CNS News, Feb 17, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/melanie-hunter/meteorologist-weve-forgotten-how-be-cold>

Recent decades likely wettest in four millennia in Tibet

By Staff Writers, Lanzhou, China (SPX), Feb 20, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Recent_decades_likely_wettest_in_four_millennia_in_Tibet_99.html

[SEPP Comment: Could recent wider tree rings be the response to carbon dioxide fertilization? The 50 year instrument record of rain gages is too short to limit the explanations to increased moisture.]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Greenland ice cores show natural swings are large and warming means less storms

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 22, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/02/greenland-ice-cores-show-natural-swings-are-large-and-warming-means-less-storms/#more-33952>

Link to paper: Holocene warming marked by abrupt onset of longer summers and reduced storm frequency around Greenland

By Mayewski, et al., Journal of Quaternary Science, Dec 19, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jqs.2684/abstract>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Another dubious linkage to ‘climate change’: Modeled increase in Arctic Cyclones

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/18/another-dubious-linkage-to-climate-change-modeled-increase-in-arctic-cyclones/>

Claim: Extreme weather decides distribution of insects

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 20, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/20/claim-extreme-weather-decides-distribution-of-insects/>

Lowering Standards

Deliberately or otherwise, Slingo has misled the public

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 16, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/2/16/deliberately-or-otherwise-slingo-has-misled-the-public.html>

Lowering Standards – Go Personal – Secretary of State Kerry

Mass Destruction of Science

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Feb 18, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/02/mass_destruction_of_science.html

Secretary Kerry: Leadership for a New Dark Age?

By William Hawkins, American Thinker, Feb 21, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/02/secretary_kerry_leadership_for_a_new_dark_age.html

John Kerry calls climate change deniers members of 'Flat Earth Society'

By Brian Hughes, Washington Examiner, Feb 16, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/john-kerry-calls-climate-change-deniers-members-of-flat-earth-society/article/2544106?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Reoccurring%20-

[%2002/17/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today](#)

Kerry calls climate change a weapon of mass destruction, derides skeptics

By Simon Denyer, Washington Post, Feb 16, 2014

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/kerry-calls-climate-change-a-weapon-of-mass-destruction-derides-skeptics/2014/02/16/1283b168-971a-11e3-ae45-458927ccedb6_story.html

Climate hawks defend WMD remark

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/198904-dems-come-to-kerrys-aid-in-wake-of-climate-speech>

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

Extreme weather images in the media cause fear and disengagement with climate change

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Feb 18, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/02/140218100626.htm>

Link to paper, Images of Extreme Weather: Symbolising Human Responses to Climate Change

By Nerlich and Jaspal, Science as Culture, Oct 11, 2013

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09505431.2013.846311#.Uwd60fldXCs>

NOAA: Global high temps despite cold snap

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/198949-despite-a-cold-us-globe-has-fourth-warmest-january-on-record>

[SEPP Comment: No one disagrees that there was warming in the beginning of the 20th century, before NOAA manipulated temperatures. What about a warming trend in the 21st century?]

NOAA researcher says Arctic marine mammals are ecosystem sentinels

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Feb 18, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/NOAA_researcher_says_Arctic_marine_mammals_are_ecosystem_sentinels_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Now that polar bear populations are growing, are marine mammals the new canary-in-the-coal mine? More polar bears will eat more marine mammals.]

Finding common ground fosters understanding of climate change

By Staff Writers, East Lansing MI (SPX), Feb 18, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Finding_common_ground_fosters_understanding_of_climate_change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Focus on the fluff, ignore the real stuff – the climate models are failing!]

Fertilization destabilizes global grassland ecosystems

By Staff Writers, Minneapolis MN (SPX), Feb 19, 2014

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Fertilization_destabilizes_global_grassland_ecosystems_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Climate change and agriculture destabilize grasslands, what is new here?]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

CURL: New 'climate change' tack: It's the economy, stupid

By Joseph Curl, Washington Times, Feb 16, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/feb/16/curl-new-climate-change-tack-its-the-economy-stupi/>

Climate shock or schlock?

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/17/climate-shock-or-schlock/>
[SEPP Comment: Climate shocks???]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Are you now or have you ever been a climate-change sceptic?

By Brendan O'Neill, Telegraph, UK, Feb 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/brendanoneill2/100259728/are-you-now-or-have-you-ever-been-a-climate-change-sceptic/>

Questioning European Green

Giant Money-Sucking Euro-Vortex. Major EU Survey: Climate Is Irrelevant Fringe Issue That Costs Hundreds Of Billions!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 18, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/18/the-giant-money-sucking-euro-vortex-major-eu-survey-climate-is-irrelevant-fringe-issue-that-costs-hundreds-of-billions/>

Link to poll: Public Opinion in European Union

By Staff Writers, European Commission, Dec 2013, Fieldwork: Nov 2013

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/eb80/eb80_first_en.pdf

Revealed: how green ideology turned a deluge into a flood

Somerset saw the floods coming. The Environment Agency should have, too.

By Christopher Booker, The Spectator, UK, Feb 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/9137131/instant-wildlife-just-add-water/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Australia to investigate renewable energy target

By Staff Writers, Canberra, Australia (UPI), Feb 18, 2013

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Australia_to_investigate_renewable_energy_target_999.html

Obama Wants to Waste a Billion on "Climate Change"

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Feb 18, 2014

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2014/02/obama-wants-to-waste-billion-on-climate.html>

Green Jobs

Large Andasol 3 Parabolic Solar Plant Losing Tens Of Millions After Broke Spain Eliminates Green Energy Subsidies

B P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 21, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/21/large-andasol-3-parabolic-solar-plant-losing-millions-after-broke-spain-eliminates-green-energy-subsidies/>

Un-Green Jobs

America's Shale Boom Is A Major Job Creator

By Mark Mills, IBD, Feb 19, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/021914-690504-shale-boom-can-create-jobs-if-government-will-let-it.htm>

Link to report: Where the Jobs Are: Small Businesses Unleash Energy Employment Boom

By Mark Mills, Manhattan Institute, Feb, 2014

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/pgi_04.htm#.Uwe0nvldXCc

Oil Is Where the Growth Is, So Let's Drill

By Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Real Clear Markets, Feb 18, 2014

http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2014/02/18/oil_is_where_the_growth_is_so_lets_drill_100908.html

Litigation Issues

Nothing to See Here! Shredding Parties and Hiding the Decline in Taxpayer-Funded Science

By Chris Horner, WUWT, Feb 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/17/nothing-to-see-here-shredding-parties-and-hiding-the-decline-in-taxpayer-funded-science/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Fuel Efficiency Standards for New Trucks—Can't We Decide These for Ourselves?

Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Feb 19, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/fuel-efficiency-standards-new-trucks-cant-we-decide-these-ourselves>

Highway agency moving toward new alt fuel rules

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Feb 19, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/198756-highway-agency-set-to-release-new-alt-fuel-rules>

[SEPP Comment: Another highly questionable, bureaucratically created cost number?]

The Infant Industry Argument and Renewable Energy Production

Press Release, Marshall Institute, Dec 20, 2014

<http://marshall.org/energy-policy/the-infant-industry-argument-and-renewable-energy-production/>

Link to the report: The Infant Industry Argument and Renewable Energy Production

By Sergey Mityakov and Margarita Portnykh, George Marshall Institute, 2013

<http://marshall.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/The-Infant-Industry-Argument-and-Renewable-Energy-Production.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: The infant industry has become huge. Time for it to stand by itself.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA Misses Key Concerns Over Sue and Settle Secrecy

By William Kovacs, US Chamber of Commerce, Feb 20, 2014

<https://www.uschamber.com/blog/epa-misses-key-concerns-over-sue-and-settle-secrecy>

AEP to Retire Two Coal Units Per Regional Haze Plan

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Feb 20, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/aep-to-retire-two-coal-units-per-regional-haze-plan/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2834896&hq_l=3&hq_v=5e660500d0

EPA to overhaul pesticide regs

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Feb 20, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/pending-regs/198864-epa-to-overhaul-pesticide-regs>

[SEPP Comment: No link to a study demonstrating the basis of the claim of 10,000 to 20,000 workers suffer from pesticide poisoning every year.]

New regulations target: Appliances

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Feb 19, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/198706-doe-rolls-out-appliance-efficiency-regs>

Mass. Natural Gas Plant Developer Agrees to Reduce GHG Emissions Annually

By Sonal Patel, Power Mag, Feb 20, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/mass-natural-gas-plant-developer-agrees-to-reduce-ghg-emissions-annually/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2834896&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e660500d0

Energy Issues – Non-US

Germany's Energy Goals Backfire

By Vaclav Smil, The American, Feb 14, 2014 [H/t NCPA]

<http://american.com/archive/2014/february/germanys-energy-goals-backfire>

How energy bills are threatening export hopes of UK businesses

By Tim Wallace, City A.M., Feb 17, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.cityam.com/article/1392615455/energy-bills-hit-export-hopes-uk-businesses>

Energy Issues -- US

A Framework for a New U.S. Energy Policy

By Jeff Kueter, George Marshall Institute, February 2014

<http://marshall.org/energy-policy/a-framework-for-a-new-u-s-energy-policy/>

Link to report: A Framework for a New U.S. Energy Policy

By William O'Keefe and Jeff Kueter, George Marshall Institute, 2013

<http://marshall.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Energy-Framework-Report.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: Suggested energy policy: Other than for clearly, and rigorously defined health risks, keep Washington out! Require expedited granting of permits, with appropriate royalties, and sit back and collect money that benefits all Americans.]

The petrostate of America

The energy boom is good for America and the world. It would be nice if Barack Obama helped a bit

Editorial, The Economist, Feb 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21596521-energy-boom-good-america-and-world-it-would-be-nice-if-barack-obama-helped>

Court blocks Keystone XL route through Nebraska

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Feb 19, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/court-blocks-keystone-xl-route-through-nebraska/article/2544286?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Reoccurring%20-%2002/20/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today

Smart Grid as Marketing Tool

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Feb 18, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/02/18/smart-grid-as-marketing-tool/>

Trade Gap Shrank in 2013 as U.S. Fuel Exports Climbed: Economy

By Jeanna Smialek, Bloomberg, Feb 6, 2014 [H/t NCPA]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-06/trade-gap-widened-more-than-forecast-in-december-as-exports-fell.html>

[SEPP Comment: Please note it is exports of fuel and related products that is improving the US trade balance. The export of crude oil is still illegal, except for special circumstance.]

Washington's Control of Energy

Don't Derail Crude-By-Rail Shipments Of Shale Boom

By Mark Perry, IBD, Feb 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-brain-trust/021914-690510-crude-oil-rail-shipments-key-to-us-energy-boom.htm?p=full>

[SEPP Comment: Certain domestic railroads are greatly benefiting from the shale-oil boom. Needed improvements will be done, but will Washington try to stop it?]

Obama's War on America: Killing Coal to Kill U.S. Electrical Power

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Feb 19, 2014

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2014/02/obamas-war-on-america-killing-coal-to.html>

Report: Coal Power Plant Shutdowns to Accelerate

Industry, workers blame Obama EPA for layoffs as companies retire larger coal-fired plants

By Lachian Markay, Washington Free Beacon, Feb 14, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://freebeacon.com/report-coal-power-plant-shutdowns-to-accelerate/>

Link to report: AEO2014 projects more coal-fired power plant retirements by 2016 than have been scheduled

By Staff Writers, EIA, Feb 14, 2014

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=15031&src=email>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

The Good and Evil of Methane Hydrates

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Feb 21, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/02/21/the-good-and-evil-of-methane-hydrates/>

Study: methane leaks aren't significant enough to negate value of natural gas

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/18/study-methane-leaks-arent-significant-enough-to-negate-value-of-natural-gas/>

All-Alaska Gas Pipeline Will Spike America's Energy Boom

By Chriss Street, American Thinker, Feb 19, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/02/all-alaska_gas_pipeline_will_spike_americas_energy_boom.html

[SEPP Comment: The pipeline will not address the stranded oil in the Arctic – Washington will not allow drilling.]

Siberian shale find fuels Russia's fracking future

Vast oil reserves could create new top producer

By Patrice Hill, Washington Times, Feb 18, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/feb/18/siberian-shale-find-fuels-russias-fracking-future/>

Shale Gas Halted in U.K. by Six-Month Permit Wait: Energy

By Nidaa Bakhsh, Bloomberg, Feb 20, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-20/drill-permits-26-times-slower-than-texas-halt-u-k-shale.html>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Energy Dept. announces billions in loans for new nuclear reactors

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 19, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/198733-energy-department-green-lights-billions-for-new-nuke-reactors>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Ivanpah Launches as the World's Largest CSP Plant

By Thomas Overton, Power Mag, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/ivanpah-launches-as-the-worlds-largest-csp-plant/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2834896&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: The Department of Energy will spare no expense to squander the taxpayer's money. Lengthy article.]

The Dark Side Of Solar Power

Editorial, IBD, Feb 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/021914-690545-ivanpah-shines-a-light-on-the-dark-side-of-solar-power.htm>

The Levelized Cost of Electric Generation

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Feb 16, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/16/the-levelized-cost-of-electric-generation/>

Oh Mann!

Mann and the Muir Russell Inquiry #1

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Feb 21, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/02/21/mann-and-the-muir-russell-inquiry-1/#more-18909>

Steyn counter sues Mann for 10 million dollars

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/21/steyn-countersues-mann-for-10-million-dollars/>

Environmental Industry

How global forest-destroyers are turning over a new leaf

By Bill Laurance, The Conversation, Feb 13, 2014

<https://theconversation.com/how-global-forest-destroyers-are-turning-over-a-new-leaf-22943>

[SEPP Question: Why are environment-destroying bio-fuels needed? Green regulations elsewhere?]

Doctors push for curbs on traffic pollution

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Feb 20, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/198837-doctors-push-for-curbs-on-traffic-pollution>

[SEPP Comment: ALA is a pressure group that receives money from EPA.]

Other Scientific News

How Long Does Mass Extinction Take?

By figuring out the timing and rate of the world's most massive extinction 252 million years ago, scientists hope to figure out how such lethal events work

By Helen Thompson, Smithsonian Mag, Feb 18, 2014 [H/t Howard Hayden]

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-long-mass-extinction-180949711/#.UwWWPHfiz8Q.email>

[SEPP Comment: Another otherwise interesting article weakened by focusing on CO2. As Howard Hayden stated: "throughout the Permian, the soil was yellowish. In the Triassic, the soil was red. That's the clue that links to extinction to the Siberian Traps. The oxygen content of the atmosphere got down to about 12%. Likely, the massive amount of iron gobbled up some atmospheric oxygen."

Other News that May Be of Interest

Brilliant Blunders

By Mario Vivio, Project Syndicate, Feb 20, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/mario-livio-emphasizes-the-critical-role-of-mistakes-in-driving-scientific-progress>

China pillages Africa like old colonialists: Jane Goodall

By Staff Writers, Johannesburg (AFP), Feb 18, 2014

http://www.africadaily.net/reports/China_pillages_Africa_like_old_colonialists_Jane_Goodall_999.html

New Bedford Harbor pollution prompts PCB-resistance in Atlantic killifish

By Staff Writers, Cape Cod MA (SPX), Feb 19, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/New_Bedford_Harbor_pollution_prompts_PCB_resistance_in_Atlantic_killifish_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Exactly how DOES global warming cause -50 deg F in Minnesota

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Feb 19, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/02/exactly-how-does-global-warming-cause-50-deg-f-in-minnesota/>

[SEPP Comment: Spencer gives an explanation for the cold weather that is amusing, and only a little more far-fetched than some other explanations.]

Climate change brings more crime

By Louis Sahagun, LA Times, Feb 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-climate-change-crime-20140219,0,2765136.story#axzz2tpjhfqKL>

[SEPP Comment: *The LA Times demonstrates its lack of critical reading skills with a flourish by printing this nonsense.*]

Oh Lord, there be idiots at Stanford

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/17/oh-lord-there-be-idiots-at-stanford/>

[SEPP Comment: *100% renewable fuel standards by 2050?*]

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ARTICLES:

1. Climate Consensus Con Game

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 17, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/02/climate_consensus_con_game.html

At the outset, let's be quite clear: There is no consensus about dangerous anthropogenic global warming (DAGW) -- and there never was. There is not even a consensus on whether human activities, such as burning fossil fuels to produce useful energy, affect global climate significantly. So what's all this fuss about?

Let's also be quite clear that science does not work by way of consensus. Science does not progress by appeal to authority; in fact, major scientific advances usually come from outside the consensus; one can cite many classic examples, from Galileo to Einstein. [Another way to phrase this issue: Scientific veracity does not depend on fashionable thinking.] In other words, the very notion of a scientific consensus is unscientific.

The degree of consensus also depends on the way the questions are phrased. For example, we can get 100% consensus if the question is "Do you believe in climate change?" We can get a near-100% consensus if the question is "Do you believe that humans have some effect on the climate?" This latter question also would include also local effects, like urbanization, clearing of forests, agriculture, etc.

So one has to be rather careful and always ask: What is the exact question for which a consensus has been claimed?

Subverting Peer Review

Finally, we should point out that a consensus can be manufactured -- even where no consensus exists. For example, it has become very popular to claim that 97% of all publications support AGW. Here the key question to ask is: *Which* publications and what exactly is the form of support?

Thanks to the revelations of the Climategate e-mails, we now have a more skeptical view about the process which is used to vet publications. We know now that peer-review, once considered by many as the 'gold-standard,' can be manipulated -- and in fact has been manipulated by a gang of UK and US climate scientists who have been very open about their aim to keep dissenting views from being published. We also know from the same e-mails that editors can be bullied by determined activists.

In any case, the peer-review process can easily be slanted by the editor, who usually selects the reviewers. And some editors misuse their position to advance their personal biases.

We have, for example, the case of a former editor of *Science* who was quite open about his belief in DAGW, and actively discouraged publication of any papers that went against his bias. Finally, he had to be shamed into giving voice to a climate skeptic's contrary opinion, based on solid scientific evidence. But of course, he reserved to himself the last word in the debate.

My occasional scientific coauthors David Douglass (U. of Rochester) and John Christy (U. of Alabama, Huntsville) describe a [particularly egregious instance](#) of the blatant subversion of peer-review -- all supported by evidence from Climategate e-mails.

Confusing the Issue

Further, we should mention the possibility of confusing the public, and often many scientists as well, by clever use of words. I will give just two examples:

It is often pointed out that there has been essentially no warming trend in the last 15 years -- even though greenhouse forcing from carbon dioxide has been steadily increasing. At the same time, climate activists claim that the past decade is the warmest since thermometer records were started.

It happens that both statements are true; yet they do not contradict each other. How is this possible?

We are dealing here with a case of simple confusion. On the one hand we have a temperature trend which has been essentially zero for at least 15 years. On the other hand, we have a temperature level which is highest since the Little Ice Age ended, around 1800 A.D.

Note that 'level' and 'trend' are quite different concepts -- and even use different units. Level is measured in degreesC; trend is measured in degC per decade. [This is a very general problem; for example, many people confuse electric energy with electric power; one is measured in joules or kilowatt-hours; the other is measured in kilowatts.]

It may help here to think of prices on the stock market. The Dow-Jones index has more or less been level for the last several weeks, fluctuating between 15,000 and 16,000, showing essentially a zero trend; but it is at its highest level since the D-J index was started in 1896.

This is only one example by which climate activists can confuse the public -- and often even themselves -- into believing that there is a consensus on DAGW. Look at two typical recent headlines:

"2013 sixth-hottest year, confirms long-term warming: UN"

"U.S. Dec/Jan Temperatures 3rd Coldest in 30 Years"

Both are correct, but neither mentions the important fact that the trend has been flat for at least 15 years -- thus falsifying the greenhouse climate models, all of which predict a strong future warming.

And of course, government climate policies are all based on such unvalidated climate models -- which have already been proven wrong. Yet the latest UN-IPCC report of Sept 2013 claims to be 95% certain about DAGW! Aware of the actual temperature data, how can they claim this and keep a straight face?

Their laughable answer: 95% of climate models agree; therefore the observations must be wrong! One can only shake one's head sadly at such a display of "science."

Another trick question by activists trying to sell a "consensus": "If you are seriously ill and 99 doctors recommend a certain treatment, would you go with the one doctor who disagrees?"

It all depends. Suppose I do some research and find that all 99 doctors got their information from a single (anonymous) article in Wikipedia, what then?

Opinion Polls

Both sides in the climate debate have made active use of opinion polls. In 1990, when I started to become seriously involved in climate-change arguments and incorporated the SEPP (Science & Environmental Policy Project), I decided to poll the experts. Having limited funds, and before the advent of widespread e-mail, I polled the officers of the listed technical committees of the American Meteorological Society -- a sample of less than 100. I figured those must be the experts.

I took the precaution of isolating myself from this survey by enlisting the cooperation of Dr Jay Winston, a widely respected meteorologist, skeptical of climate skeptics. And I employed two graduate students who had no discernible expertise in climate issues to conduct the actual survey and analyze the returns.

This exercise produced an interesting result: Roughly half of the AMS experts believed there must be a significant human influence on the climate through the release of carbon dioxide -- while the other half had considerable doubt about the validity of climate models.

Subsequent polls, for example those by Hans von Storch in Germany, have given similar results -- while polls conducted by activists have consistently shown strong support for AGW. A classic case is a survey of the abstracts of nearly 1000 papers, by science historian Naomi Oreskes (UC San Diego); published in 2004 *Science*, she claimed a near-unanimous consensus about AGW. However, after being challenged, Oreskes discovered having overlooked some 11,000 abstracts -- and published a discreet Correction in a later issue of *Science*.

On the other hand, independent polls by newspapers, by Pew, Gallup, and other respected organizations, using much larger samples, have mirrored the results of my earlier AMS poll. But what has been most interesting is the gradual decline over the years in public support for DAGW, as shown by these independent polls.

Over the years also, there have been a large number of "declarations, manifestos, and petitions" -- signed by scientists, and designed to influence public opinion -- starting with the "Leipzig Declaration" of 1995. Noteworthy among the many is the Copenhagen Diagnosis (2009), published to build up hype for a UN conference that failed utterly.

It is safe to say that the overall impact of such polls has been minimal, compared to the political consequences of UN-IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) reports that led to (mostly failed) attempts at international action, like the Kyoto Protocol (1997-2012). One should mention here the Oregon Petition against Kyoto, signed by some 31,000 (mostly US) scientists and engineers -- nearly 10,000 with advanced degrees. More important perhaps, in July 1997 the US Senate passed the Byrd-Hagel Resolution against a Kyoto-like treaty by unanimous vote -- which probably dissuaded the Clinton-Gore White House from ever submitting Kyoto for Senate ratification.

Is Consensus still an issue?

By now, the question of a scientific consensus on AGW may have become largely academic. What counts are the actual climate observations, which have shaken public faith in climate models that preach DAGW. The wild claims of the IPCC are being offset by the more sober, fact-based publications of the NIPCC (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change). While many national science academies and organizations still cling to the ever-

changing "evidence" presented by the IPCC, it may be significant that the Chinese Academy of Sciences has translated and published a condensation of NIPCC reports.

In the words of physicist Prof Howard "Cork" Hayden:

"If the science were as certain as climate activists pretend, then there would be precisely one climate model, and it would be in agreement with measured data. As it happens, climate modelers have constructed literally dozens of climate models. What they all have in common is a failure to represent reality, and a failure to agree with the other models. As the models have increasingly diverged from the data, the climate clique have nevertheless grown increasingly confident -- from cocky in 2001 (66% certainty in IPCC's Third Assessment Report) to downright arrogant in 2013 (95% certainty in the Fifth Assessment Report)."

Climate activists seem to embrace faith and ideology -- and are no longer interested in facts.

S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project. His specialty is atmospheric and space physics.

2. McNider and Christy: Why Kerry Is Flat Wrong on Climate Change

It was the scientific skeptics who bucked the 'consensus' and said the Earth was round.

By Richard McNider and John Christy, WSJ, Feb 19, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303945704579391611041331266>

(Graph at the Bottom of the Page)

In a Feb. 16 speech in Indonesia, Secretary of State John Kerry assailed climate-change skeptics as members of the "Flat Earth Society" for doubting the reality of catastrophic climate change. He said, "We should not allow a tiny minority of shoddy scientists" and "extreme ideologues to compete with scientific facts."

But who are the Flat Earthers, and who is ignoring the scientific facts? In ancient times, the notion of a flat Earth was the scientific consensus, and it was only a minority who dared question this belief. We are among today's scientists who are skeptical about the so-called consensus on climate change. Does that make us modern-day Flat Earthers, as Mr. Kerry suggests, or are we among those who defy the prevailing wisdom to declare that the world is round?

Most of us who are skeptical about the dangers of climate change actually embrace many of the facts that people like Bill Nye, the ubiquitous TV "science guy," say we ignore. The two fundamental facts are that carbon-dioxide levels in the atmosphere have increased due to the burning of fossil fuels, and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a greenhouse gas, trapping heat before it can escape into space.

What is not a known fact is by how much the Earth's atmosphere will warm in response to this added carbon dioxide. The warming numbers most commonly advanced are created by climate computer models built almost entirely by scientists who believe in catastrophic global warming. The rate of warming forecast by these models depends on many assumptions and engineering to replicate a complex world in tractable terms, such as how water vapor and clouds will react to the direct heat added by carbon dioxide or the rate of heat uptake, or absorption, by the oceans.

We might forgive these modelers if their forecasts had not been so consistently and spectacularly wrong. From the beginning of climate modeling in the 1980s, these forecasts have, on average,

always overstated the degree to which the Earth is warming compared with what we see in the real climate.

For instance, in 1994 we published an article in the journal *Nature* showing that the actual global temperature trend was "one-quarter of the magnitude of climate model results." As the nearby graph shows, the disparity between the predicted temperature increases and real-world evidence has only grown in the past 20 years.

When the failure of its predictions become clear, the modeling industry always comes back with new models that soften their previous warming forecasts, claiming, for instance, that an unexpected increase in the human use of aerosols had skewed the results. After these changes, the models tended to agree better with the actual numbers that came in—but the forecasts for future temperatures have continued to be too warm.

The modelers insist that they are unlucky because natural temperature variability is masking the real warming. They might be right, but when a batter goes 0 for 10, he's better off questioning his swing than blaming the umpire.

The models mostly miss warming in the deep atmosphere—from the Earth's surface to 75,000 feet—which is supposed to be one of the real signals of warming caused by carbon dioxide. Here, the consensus ignores the reality of temperature observations of the deep atmosphere collected by satellites and balloons, which have continually shown less than half of the warming shown in the average model forecasts.

The climate-change-consensus community points to such indirect evidence of warming as glaciers melting, coral being bleached, more droughts and stronger storms. Yet observations show that the warming of the deep atmosphere (the fundamental sign of carbon-dioxide-caused climate change, which is supposedly behind these natural phenomena) is not occurring at an alarming rate: Instruments aboard NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association satellites put the Mid-Tropospheric warming rate since late 1978 at about 0.7 degrees Celsius, or 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit, per 100 years. For the same period, the models on average give 2.1 degrees Celsius, or 3.8 degrees Fahrenheit, per 100 years (see graph).

The models also fail to get details of the past climate right. For example, most of the observed warming over land in the past century occurred at night. The same models used to predict future warming models showed day and night warming over the last century at nearly the same rates.

Past models also missed the dramatic recent warming found in observations in the Arctic. With this information as hindsight, the latest, adjusted set of climate models did manage to show more warming in the Arctic. But the tweaking resulted in too-warm predictions—disproved by real-world evidence—for the rest of the planet compared with earlier models.

Shouldn't modelers be more humble and open to saying that perhaps the Arctic warming is due to something we don't understand?

While none of these inconsistencies refutes the fundamental concern about greenhouse-gas-enhanced climate change, it is disturbing that "consensus science" will not acknowledge that such discrepancies are major problems. From the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's beginning, that largely self-selected panel of scientists has embraced the notion that consensus on climate change is the necessary path to taking action and reducing man-made carbon emissions

around the world. The consensus community uses this to push the view that "the science is settled" and hold up skeptics to ridicule, as John Kerry did on Sunday.

We are reminded of the dangers of consensus science in the past. For example, in the 18th century, more British sailors died of scurvy than died in battle. In this disease, brought on by a lack of vitamin C, the body loses its ability to manufacture collagen, and gums and other tissues bleed and disintegrate. These deaths were especially tragic because many sea captains and some ships' doctors knew, based on observations early in the century, that fresh vegetables and citrus cured scurvy.

Nonetheless, the British Admiralty's onshore Sick and Health Board of scientists and physicians (somewhat akin to the current Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) dismissed this evidence for more than 50 years because it did not fit their consensus theory that putrefaction (or internal decay) caused scurvy, which they felt could be cured by fresh air, exercise and laxatives.

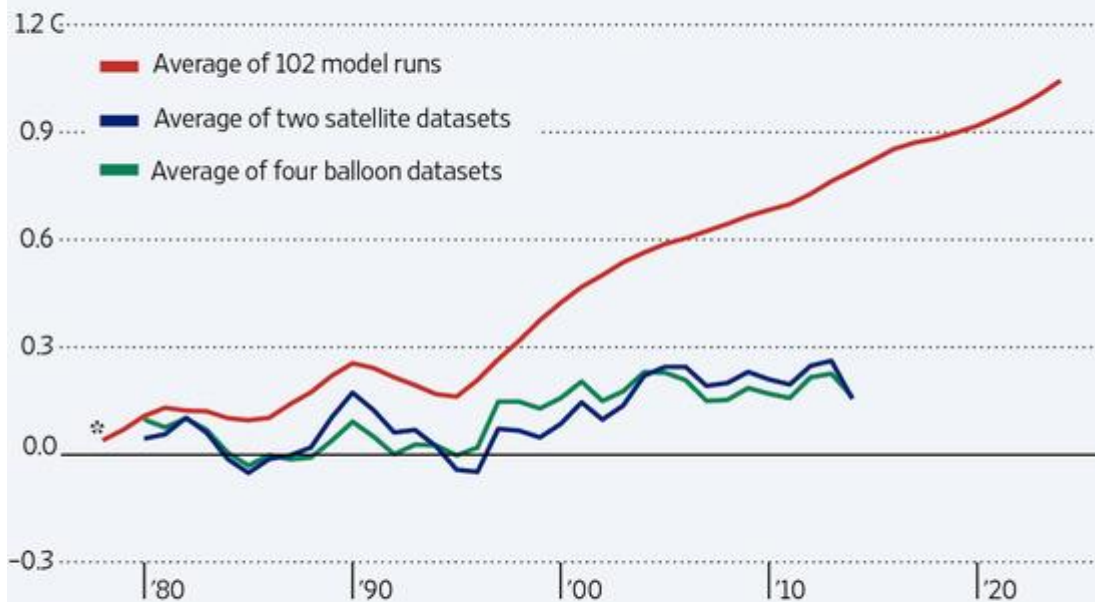
"Consensus" science that ignores reality can have tragic consequences if cures are ignored or promising research is abandoned. The climate-change consensus is not endangering lives, but the way it imperils economic growth and warps government policy making has made the future considerably bleaker. The recent Obama administration announcement that it would not provide aid for fossil-fuel energy in developing countries, thereby consigning millions of people to energy poverty, is all too reminiscent of the Sick and Health Board denying fresh fruit to dying British sailors.

We should not have a climate-science research program that searches only for ways to confirm prevailing theories, and we should not honor government leaders, such as Secretary Kerry, who attack others for their inconvenient, fact-based views.

Messrs. McNider and Christy are professors of atmospheric science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and fellows of the American Meteorological Society. Mr. Christy was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore.

Warming Predictions vs. the Real World

Global mid-tropospheric temperature 5-year averages, in degrees Celsius



* The linear trend of all three curves intersects at zero in 1979, with the values shown as departures from that trend line.

Sources: Various, as described in the "State of the Climate in 2012" in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, August 2013

3. Stephens: Climate Prophets and Profiteers

The most cynical part of John Kerry's climate-change speech.

By Brent Stevens, WSJ, Feb 17, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304675504579389492229581738?mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702304675504579389492229581738.html%3Fmod%3DjemMER_h

The weirdest thing about John Kerry's weekend speech on climate-change—other than the fact that this is the same guy who in 1997 voted to forbid the U.S. from signing the Kyoto Protocol—is that it begins by quoting something Maurice Strong said at the U.N.'s 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro: "Every bit of evidence I've seen persuades me that we are on a course leading to tragedy."

Maurice who?

Mr. Strong, a former oil executive from Canada (he was Pierre Trudeau's pick to run state-owned Petro-Canada in the mid-1970s), was for many years the U.N.'s ultimate mandarin. He organized many of its environmental mega-confabs, including the 1972 Stockholm Conference and the 1992 Rio summit, before rising to become Kofi Annan's right-hand man. At various times Mr. Strong has served as director at the World Economic Forum, chairman of the Earth Council and the World Resources Institute, vice chairman of the Chicago Climate Exchange and chairman of the China Carbon Corporation, to name just a few of his many prominent affiliations.

In 2005 it emerged that Mr. Strong, who was the chairman of the U.N. panel that created the Office of the Iraq Program, had accepted a check for close to \$1 million from a South Korean businessman named Tongsun Park, who in the 1970s had been involved in an effort to bribe U.S. politicians. Mr. Strong claimed that the check, from a Jordanian bank, was meant as an investment in a family company that later went bankrupt. Mr. Park (who also sublet office space from Mr. Strong) later went to prison for trying to bribe U.N. officials overseeing the Oil-for-Food program that was propping up Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. Mr. Strong was accused of no wrongdoing and has denied involvement in Oil-for-Food. He left the U.N. that year and moved to Beijing.

Draw your own conclusions. Ask yourself: Is this a guy who deserves a shout-out from the U.S. Secretary of State?

When John Kerry speaks, people wonder: Is he seriously clever or totally oblivious? Profound or void? Detective Columbo or Chance the gardener?

The secretary devoted much of his speech to venting spleen at those in the "Flat Earth Society" who dispute the 97% of climate scientists who believe in man-made global warming. "We should not allow a tiny minority of shoddy scientists and science and extreme ideologues to compete with scientific fact," he said. Once upon a time people understood that skepticism was essential to good science. Now Mr. Kerry is trying to invoke a specious democracy among scientists to shut down democratic debate for everyone else.

This is of a piece with the amusing notion that the only thing standing in the way of climate salvation is a shadowy, greedy and powerful conspiracy involving the Koch Brothers, MIT's Dick Lindzen, Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe and this newspaper's editorial page. Oh, the power!

And yet there goes Mr. Kerry extolling Mr. Strong, who really does stand at the obscure intersection of public policy, private profits and the climate science that joins the two. "I have to disclose my own association with this process in my earlier role in the United Nations negotiations which established the basis for the development of these new [market] opportunities," Mr. Strong said in a 2007 speech, noting his roles in the Chicago Climate Exchange and the China Carbon Corporation.

If George W. Bush had left office and immediately joined the boards of defense contractors building MRAPs for Iraq, hard questions would be raised. When Maurice Strong, Al Gore and other climate profiteers seek to enrich themselves from policies they put into place while in office, it scarcely raises an eyebrow.

It should. The carbon-trading schemes enacted with such fanfare just a few years ago have effectively ceased to operate amid collapsing prices. The sustainable-energy craze produced the expensive bankruptcies of solar-panel maker Solyndra, Fisker Automotive and battery maker A123 Systems, to name a few. Germany, which has taken its climate-change fetish further than any other major economy, is now coming to grips with a comprehensive fiasco of higher energy prices and higher carbon emissions. Who would have thought that when the sun doesn't shine or the wind doesn't blow, people might still want to switch on the lights?

It is now the dogma of the left that any hint of doubt when it comes to predictions of climate doom is evidence of greed, stupidity, moral turpitude or psychological derangement. "Climate

denial" is intended to be the equivalent of Holocaust denial. And yet the only people who've predicted anything right so far are those who foresaw that the Kyoto Protocol would fail, that renewable energies didn't really work, and that climate bureaucrats accountable to nobody but their own sense of virtue and taste for profit were a danger to everyone.

Rereading Mr. Kerry's speech, I have to say he really does come across as a true believer. That it begins by citing Maurice Strong, the ultimate cynic, tells you what you need to know about where this strain of true belief leads.

4. EPA Emission Rules Face Test at High Court

By Brent Kendall, WSJ, Feb 18, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304899704579389302045805162?mod=I_TP_pageone_1

Seven years after a landmark Supreme Court ruling cleared the way for federal regulation of greenhouse gases, the justices will consider whether the Environmental Protection Agency has stretched its powers too far in applying new emissions rules.

The stakes are high for both the EPA and the industries it is targeting to help curb pollution. Businesses say a win for the EPA could pave the way for the agency to dictate the design and operation of a wide range of industrial facilities, imposing billions of dollars in new costs. A loss could threaten the EPA's immediate ability to require greenhouse-gas controls and complicate its broader carbon-emissions agenda.

"EPA is under so much political fire that any legal loss will be portrayed as a reason why the agency shouldn't be doing this," said Harvard University law professor Jody Freeman, who previously served in the Obama White House as a counselor on climate-change initiatives.

The case, scheduled for oral arguments on Feb. 24, focuses on the EPA's 2010 greenhouse-gas rules that imposed pollution-control requirements on facilities such as refineries, steel mills, chemical and cement plants that are expanded or modernized. It is one of two major Clean Air Act cases on the court's docket. The justices separately are considering EPA rules that limit power-plant emissions crossing state lines. Decisions in both cases are expected by July.

The court test comes as the EPA is also attempting to limit carbon emissions more broadly through new regulations—an approach that has been criticized by business groups and Republican lawmakers as regulatory overreach. The agency has proposed rules to limit emissions from new power plants and also plans to propose limits for existing power plants, which now account for about a third of U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions.

The Supreme Court's review has cast uncertainty over the EPA's efforts on greenhouse gases, but the agency has already passed some notable legal tests. The EPA concluded in 2009 that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases pose a danger to public health, a finding that provided the foundation for the agency's 2010 regulations, including automobile-emissions standards that are now in effect. Opponents challenged the EPA's core findings and its auto rules, but lost handily in a Washington, D.C., appeals court. The Supreme Court announced last October it wouldn't review those issues.

The EPA said its new automobile rules automatically triggered regulation of greenhouse gases from stationary emitters, such as power plants. It drew those facilities into a Clean Air Act permitting program, which requires large, stationary emitters of some pollutants to obtain permits when modifying or building new plants. To get the permits, those facilities must limit emissions by adopting the "best available" technologies.

The government says the program's terms prevent regulators from imposing cost-prohibitive technology requirements. But a trade group of manufacturers said in a court brief that the best-available-technology requirement gives regulators the ability to "impose almost unlimited costs" and intrude into every aspect of a plant's operations, all the way down to "light bulbs in the factory cafeteria."

States have lined up on both sides of the case. A group of 15 states, including New York and California, say emitters are often able to satisfy their new greenhouse-gas obligations by relying on pollution controls already required to reduce other air pollutants. A group of 12 objecting states, including Texas and Michigan, said in a court brief that the EPA's permit rule "is one of the most brazen power grabs ever attempted by an administrative agency."

State officials and the EPA have been issuing greenhouse-gas permits for three years and the process is running smoothly, according to the EPA. "As projects move forward, we see companies looking for and finding opportunities to increase efficiency and minimize GHG emissions in ways that benefit them directly," the agency said.

Fueling many of the challengers' arguments are admissions from the EPA that the permitting program, as written by Congress, would produce "absurd results" when applied to greenhouse gases. Since carbon dioxide is emitted in much higher quantities than traditional pollutants covered by the program it could sweep in more than 80,000 new sources, including hospitals, commercial buildings and even some residences.

The EPA revised the pollution thresholds so only several hundred large greenhouse-gas sources would be covered. Business groups say the move provides little comfort because the EPA, if it wins at the high court, could unilaterally decide to include additional sources later on.

"The future is what people are worried about the most," said lawyer Richard Faulk of Hollingsworth LLP, who filed a brief on behalf of 75 state and local business associations. The threat of regulatory costs "is a factor you have to consider before expanding your business," he said.

U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli, who is defending the EPA regulations in court, said in court papers that the agency's revisions may reflect the fact that the Clean Air Act is "less-than-perfectly tailored" for dealing with greenhouse gases, but he said the agency's approach "best implements Congress's purpose" in enacting the permitting program to protect the public from air pollution.

Mr. Verrilli said there was no legal basis for excluding greenhouse gases from the permitting program, particularly in light of the Supreme Court's 2007 decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, where it ruled 5-4 that the EPA had the power—and was obligated—to regulate greenhouse gases if it found the emissions to be harmful.

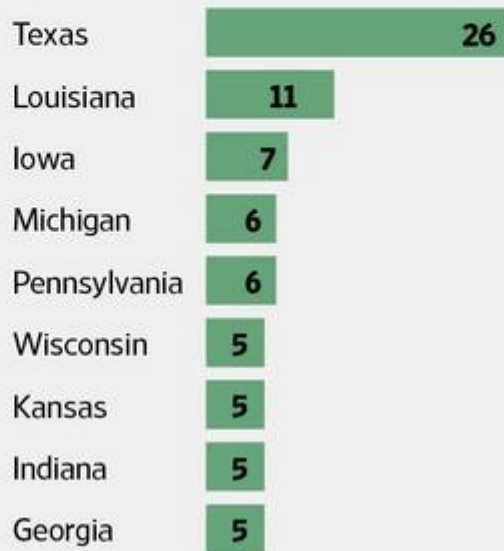
Greenhouse Gas Allowance

Business groups are fighting EPA rules that require pollution controls and permits for large facilities that emit greenhouse gases.

Industries covered by the permits so far



Top nine locations receiving permits



Source: Environmental Protection Agency

The Wall Street Journal

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