

The Week That Was: 2020-10-24 (October 24, 2020)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: *“Holmes: I have no data yet. It is a capital mistake to theorise before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.”* – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 1891 *A Scandal in Bohemia*, [H/t James Randi]

Number of the Week: 251.9 million years ago

THIS WEEK:

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

Atmospheric Measurements? The generally accepted standard for atmospheric carbon dioxide measurements are the ones from Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii run by NOAA. Writing in No Tricks Zone, Kenneth Richard asks: “Is this the best location to measure global CO2 levels?”

It may be a reasonable location, provided the MPAA carefully maintains the records. Alas, NOAA has not carefully maintained the US surface temperatures, once the gold standard.

In addition to Mauna Loa, NOAA has observatories in the Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) Alaska, the most northern point of the US; American Samoa, in the middle of the South Pacific; and the South Pole Observatory. According to NOAA’s Global Monitoring Laboratory website:

“We have confidence that the CO2 measurements made at the Mauna Loa Observatory reflect truth about our global atmosphere. The main reasons for that confidence are:

“The Observatory near the summit of Mauna Loa, at an altitude of 3400 m, is well situated to measure air masses that are representative of very large areas.

“All of the measurements are rigorously and very frequently calibrated.

“Ongoing comparisons of independent measurements at the same site allow an estimate of the accuracy, which is generally better than 0.2 ppm.”

This is strange. NOAA’s measurements of carbon dioxide are at 3400 meters (11,150 feet) to assure they are of large air masses and represent large areas. Yet, NOAA’s global climate modelers use highly localized surface temperature data (roughly shoulder height) to make model estimates of the influence of CO2. NOAA’s modelers ignore the temperature trends of the bulk atmosphere, which have been compiled for over 40 years, where CO2 is measured and where the greenhouse effect occurs.

Further, in discussing the background of CO2 levels, the NOAA website presents two sets of data: 1) air that has been artificially dried of all water vapor; and 2) air that has 3% water vapor. When John Tyndall began his experiments in 1859, he began to realize that water vapor is the dominant greenhouse gas which keeps the world considerably warmer at night than it would be otherwise. Yet NOAA’s modelers use artificially dried air to calculate the influence of CO2 and other

greenhouse gases. See links under Measurement Issues -- Surface and Measurement Issues -- Atmosphere.

Weather – The Political Football: Last week, TWTW discussed a new report from the UN Office for Disaster Reduction which declared that climate disasters have doubled over the past 20 years (2000-2019). Unfortunately, TWTW did not link to the report and does so now. Among the Themes listed on the website of the report is “Advocacy & Media.” That theme well summarizes the report. Its purpose is to promote the dangers of human emissions of carbon dioxide, whether such dangers exist or not.

Last week, Eric Worrall writing in Watts Up With That had a good review of some of the deficiencies in the report concerning flooding in Asia, particularly China. This week, Paul Homewood addresses deficiencies in the report for US Tornadoes. This week, Paul Homewood compares the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) by Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters – CRED tornado claims with the U.S. annual count of tornadoes maintained by NOAA from 1954 through 2014. Although modern instruments are more capable of recording a tornado than those used in the past, the annual count shows no trend.

Not discussed by Homewood, the U.S. Annual Count of Strong to Violent Tornadoes (F3+), 1954 through 2014 also show no strong trend, but one might claim that violent tornadoes are declining. By far, the worst year was 1974. Further, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1971, and 1973 had as many or more violent tornadoes than 2011, which had the highest number after 1974. As Homewood concludes:

“Remember that EM-DAT record even tiny events, which for instance affect only 100 people. Virtually every tornado which goes through a populated area will qualify under this definition.

“And, of course, the NOAA graph above confirms that the number of tornadoes has been trending down, not up.

“Plainly the EM-DAT database is worthless and should not be used for comparing long term trends.”

It is worth remembering that in 1980 the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) became a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Defending the Orthodoxy, and <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/climate-information/extreme-events/us-tornado-climatology/trends>.

Why Normalize? When comparing different years, or periods, economists like to normalize, to bring things to a standard condition of state. In other words, trends are best discerned on an everything-else-being-equal basis. This does not necessarily mean that there is a static, state. As stated previously, the economist Joseph Schumpeter considered that the normal state of a competitive economy is change – creative destruction. By creating improvements, newly forming processes and companies overcome the dominant positions of older ones. There normalization involves comparing similar-to-similar, or apples-to-apples. The deficiencies in the above discussed report are its failure to normalize the two time periods during an era when human prosperity was growing rapidly. According to Our World in Data, based on World Bank data, the number of people living in extreme poverty in 1990 was 1.9 billion, 36% of the world’s

population. By 2015, the number went down to 730 million, about 10% of the world's population. The CRED report failed to realize the impact of this.

Before the CRED report, Roger Pielke Jr. recognized the IPCC as producing credible reports on extreme weather events. For example, he frequently recognized the UN IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5, 2013) because it tried to normalize changes, which the CRED report did not. In August, the journal *Environmental Hazards* published a paper Pielke finished in July, "Economic 'normalisation' of disaster losses 1998–2020: a literature review and assessment." The Abstract establishes why normalization of economic losses is necessary.

*"Nowadays, following every weather disaster quickly follow estimates of economic loss. Quick blame for those losses, or some part, often is placed on claims of more frequent or intense weather events. However, understanding what role changes in climate may have played in increasing weather-related disaster losses is challenging because, in addition to changes in climate, society also undergoes dramatic change. Increasing development and wealth influence exposure and vulnerability to loss – typically increasing exposure while reducing vulnerability. In recent decades a scientific literature has emerged that seeks to adjust historical economic damage from extreme weather to remove the influences of societal change from economic loss time series to estimate what losses past extreme events would cause under present-day societal conditions. **In regions with broad exposure to loss, an unbiased economic normalisation will exhibit trends consistent with corresponding climatological trends in related extreme events, providing an independent check on normalisation results. This paper reviews 54 normalisation studies published 1998–2020 and finds little evidence to support claims that any part of the overall increase in global economic losses documented on climate time scales is attributable to human-caused changes in climate, reinforcing conclusions of recent assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.**"* [Boldface added]

In the Introduction section of the paper Pielke asserts:

"To successfully employ normalizations methods requires understanding relationships of economic loss, changing patterns of societal vulnerability and exposure, and trends in the frequency and extreme weather events. (IPCC 2012...)"

The 2012 paper is titled: "Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation." The paragraph continues:

It is essential to emphasize that one should not look for direct evidence of changes in the incidence of weather events in economic loss data – whether normalized or not – climate data will always better serve that purpose. However, because normalization studies seek to remove the effects of changing societal factors in a historical loss record and adjust data to a common base year, trends in normalized losses should be consistent with trends in related weather extremes. Consequently, climate data provide an important independent check on normalization results." [Boldface added]

The new CRED report, a part of the UN World Health Organization, failed to normalize their results, standardize reported events, and ignored an important independent check of their results. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

“Correct” Environmentalism: The American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) was founded in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in 1933, to promote the concepts of a free market and free society with the role of government confined to the provision of public goods. According to its 2019 Annual Report, its revenues totaled \$2.1 million – virtually nothing compared to some major environmental organizations. AIER sponsored the October 4 Great Barrington Declaration authored by noted epidemiologists (physicians) who questioned what they consider the excessive response to COVID-19 by many governments. The opening statement of the Declaration reads:

“As infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists we have grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies and recommend an approach we call Focused Protection.”

The final paragraph reads:

Those who are not vulnerable should immediately be allowed to resume life as normal. Simple hygiene measures, such as hand washing and staying home when sick should be practiced by everyone to reduce the herd immunity threshold. Schools and universities should be open for in-person teaching. Extracurricular activities, such as sports, should be resumed. Young low-risk adults should work normally, rather than from home. Restaurants and other businesses should open. Arts, music, sport, and other cultural activities should resume. People who are more at risk may participate if they wish, while society as a whole enjoys the protection conferred upon the vulnerable by those who have built up herd immunity.

By now, it is clear which groups are vulnerable and those which are not. According to the October 23 report by the US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention:

“The total number of excess deaths (deaths above average levels) from January 26 through October 3 ranged from a low of approximately 841 in the youngest age group (<25 years) to a high of 94,646 among adults aged 75–84 years. However, the average percentage change in deaths over this period compared with previous years was largest for adults aged 25–44 years (26.5%). Overall, numbers of deaths among persons aged <25 years were 2.0% below average, and among adults aged 45–64, 65–74 years, 75–84, and ≥85 years were 14.4%, 24.1%, 21.5%, and 14.7% above average, respectively.”

The “excess deaths” are highly age related, and other conditions which weaken the immune system are often involved. Yet, the signers of the Declaration have been strongly attacked, including a Nobel laureate in Chemistry for expressing the “wrong ideas” about COVID-19.

In defending the sponsoring institute writer Joakim Book commented:

“Much of the outrage over AIER’s sponsoring and hosting of the Declaration had nothing to do with what the scientists in it said, or even the topic of societal disagreement that it captures.”

Apparently, many critics of the Declaration claim it downplays the fictitious “environmental crisis” which the UN and many of its followers insist is occurring. The UN and its followers produce hollow evidence such as the CRED report discussed above, which is a collection of faulty analysis. To base policy on questionable evidence is folly; thus, to criticize other folly is anti-environmentalism? See links under Seeking a Common Ground, Science, Policy, and Evidence,

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6942e2.htm#:~:text=Overall%2C%20numbers%20of%20deaths%20among,14.7%25%20above%20average%2C%20respectively> and <https://www.aier.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/AIER-AnnualReport2019.pdf>

Food Security: A favorite topic of “climate crisis” promoters are food security, how the changing climate will destroy food production. As discussed in previous TWTWs, the US Fourth National Assessment by the US Global Change Research Program asserted that US production of corn (maize) and soybeans will suffer from warming. Yet, the biggest US export competitor for these crops is tropical Brazil, In 2019, Brazil fell to third in maize, slightly less than Argentina

Starting this week, TWTW will have a new heading, Changing Technology, to include improvements in food production. Argentina announced it engineered a drought resistant variety of wheat. However, no importing country has yet approved it. The biggest destination for Argentina wheat export is Brazil. See link under Changing Technology.

Are They Green? Politicians are pushing green vehicles. But avoid the question: will they increase requirements for electricity? In California, the energized system that delivers electrical power (the grid) already has problems to deliver the power when needed the most. The results are blackouts, because solar is unable to deliver power in the late afternoons when sunshine is diminishing.

Of significant interest is what will happen when commuters come home and plug-in their electric vehicles? The governor and legislators of California ignore such difficulties and the regulated utility companies see such issues as opportunities expand regulatory approved costs, thus profit centers because they allow regulated utilities to run up their “rate base” for permitted, regulated profits. A game played at the expense of the general consumer.

In a related issue, power expert Donn Dears discusses the Battery Day presentation by Elon Musk stating:

“To his credit, Musk has assembled an engineering team that identifies problems and then identifies solutions to those problems.

“During the Battery Day presentation, Musk’s engineering leader summarized the following actions that he predicted would result in a 56% improvement in battery cost and a 54% improvement in range.” [Explained in the article.]

See Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles and Article # 1

Number of the Week: 251.9 million years ago. A paper published in *Nature Geoscience* is being used to claim a greenhouse catastrophe killed nearly all life during Permian–Triassic mass extinction about 251.9 million years ago. The claim of “greenhouse catastrophe” is based on volcanic eruptions which emitted sulfur dioxide, which is very acidic, and carbon dioxide, which is mildly acidic. This is not evidence that human emissions of carbon dioxide will endanger life on this planet today. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy.

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

New Study Finds A Robust Link Between European Temperatures And Solar Activity Via AMO/NAO Modulation

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Oct 22, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/10/22/new-study-finds-a-robust-link-between-european-temperatures-and-solar-activity-via-amo-nao-modulation/>

Link to paper: Decadal and multidecadal natural variability in European temperature

By Horst-Joachim Lüdeck, et al. Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Sep 1, 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1364682620301115>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), 2013

<https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/CCR-II-Full.pdf>

Summary: https://www.heartland.org/_template-assets/documents/CCR/CCR-II/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts

Idso, Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), 2014

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/climate-change-reconsidered-ii-biological-impacts/>

Summary: <https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-IIb/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels

By Multiple Authors, Bezdek, Idso, Legates, and Singer eds., Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, April 2019

<http://store.heartland.org/shop/ccr-ii-fossil-fuels/>

Download with no charge:

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Climate-Change-Reconsidered-II-Fossil-Fuels-FULL-Volume-with-covers.pdf>

Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

By Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), Nov 23, 2015

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>

Download with no charge:

<https://www.heartland.org/policy-documents/why-scientists-disagree-about-global-warming>

Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate

S. Fred Singer, Editor, NIPCC, 2008

http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc_final.pdf

Global Sea-Level Rise: An Evaluation of the Data

By Craig D. Idso, David Legates, and S. Fred Singer, Heartland Policy Brief, May 20, 2019

https://www.heartland.org/_template-assets/documents/publications/SeaLevelRiseCCRII.pdf

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Economic ‘normalisation’ of disaster losses 1998–2020: a literature review and assessment

By Roger Pielke, Environmental Hazards, Aug 5, 2020

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17477891.2020.1800440?journalCode=tenh20>

Tornado Data Shows EM-DAT Is Worthless

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 23, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/23/tornado-data-shows-em-dat-is-worthless/>

Crisis looms in alarmist climate science

By David Wojick, CFACT, Oct 20, 2020

<https://www.cfact.org/2020/10/20/crisis-looms-in-alarmist-climate-science/>

[SEPP Comment: If one accepts that there has been no such thing as an equilibrium climate, then pursuit of an equilibrium climate sensitivity (ECS) is a pursuit of a myth. A dynamic system is never in equilibrium. What is needed is to establish upper bounds on the influence of a particular physical occurrence that may influence temperatures; and separate the extent humans contribute to such occurrences from nature’s influence.]

Climate Change is Not the End of the World

By Michael Green, Quadrant, Oct 23, 2020

<https://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2020/10/climate-change-is-not-the-end-of-the-world/>

[SEPP Comment: Review of Michael Schellenberger’s Apocalypse Never.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- Nils-Axel Mörner and James Randi, R.I.P

Professor Nils-Axel Mörner, 1938-2020

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, WUWT, Oct 19, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/19/professor-nils-axel-morner-1938-2020/>

A lullaby in memory of the late Professor Nils-Axel Mörner

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, WUWT, Oct 21, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/21/a-lullaby-in-memory-of-the-late-professor-nils-axel-morner/>

James Randi: World’s most famous sceptic & climate sceptic dies aged 92

[And magician who recognized the tricks of the IPCC]

By Staff, GWPF, Oct 22, 2020

https://www.thegwpf.com/james-randi-worlds-most-famous-magician-climate-sceptic-dies-aged-92/?utm_source=CCNet+Newsletter&utm_campaign=eafc20e145-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_10_22_12_28_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fe4b2f45ef-eafc20e145-20157985&mc_cid=eafc20e145&mc_eid=a4f47ad7e7

Link to: AGW Revisited

By James Randi, James Randi Educational Foundation, Dec 15, 2009

http://archive.randi.org/site/index.php/swift-blog/805-agw-revisited.html?utm_source=CCNet+Newsletter&utm_campaign=eafc20e145-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_10_22_12_28_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fe4b2f45ef-eafc20e145-20157985&mc_cid=eafc20e145&mc_eid=a4f47ad7e7

Defending the Orthodoxy

UN Report charts huge rise in climate disasters

Press Release by Denis McClean, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Oct 13, 2020

<https://www.undrr.org/news/drrday-un-report-charts-huge-rise-climate-disasters>

Link to report: The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years (2000-2019)

By Staff, UNDRR/CRED, 2020

<https://www.undrr.org/publication/human-cost-disasters-overview-last-20-years-2000-2019>

How a greenhouse catastrophe killed nearly all life

By Staff Writers, Potsdam, Germany (SPX) Oct 20, 2020

https://www.terraily.com/reports/How_a_greenhouse_catastrophe_killed_nearly_all_life_999.html

Link to paper: Permian–Triassic mass extinction pulses driven by major marine carbon cycle perturbations

By Hana Jurikova, Nature Geoscience, Oct 19, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41561-020-00646-4>

WEF Covid-19 Great Reset: “Today’s consumers do not want ... goods and services for a reasonable price.”

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Oct 17, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/17/wef-covid-19-great-reset-todays-consumers-do-not-want-goods-and-services-for-a-reasonable-price/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

But if it's a science...

By Paul Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Oct 21, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/10/21/but-if-its-a-science/>

Link to Test: The Dirty Dozen Tests Of Global Warming Science

By Geoffrey Sherrington, WUWT, Sep 11, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/09/11/the-dirty-dozen-tests-of-global-warming-science/>

Financial experts say

By Paul Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Oct 21, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/10/21/financial-experts-say/>

“Seriously. If you knew something the financial markets didn’t, something that affected billions of dollars in investment capital, would you write some paper and tell everyone, or run down to your broker (or these days, to your computer to teleconference with your broker) and yell ‘Buy buy buy’.”

Is Mauna Loa Really The Best Location To Measure ‘Global’ CO2 Levels?

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Oct 19, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/10/19/is-mauna-loa-really-the-best-location-to-measure-global-co2-levels/>

[SEPP Comment: It may be a reasonable location provided the records are carefully maintained. Other NOAA observatories are in the Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) Alaska, the most northern point of the US; American Samoa, middle of the South Pacific; and the South Pole Observatory.

Changing Technology

Argentina to produce climate-resistant super wheat in world first

It is hoped that the gene-edited crop will reduce water stress and food scarcity across the region
By Jordan Kelly Linden, The Telegraph, Oct 19, 2020

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/climate-and-people/argentina-produce-climate-resistant-super-wheat-world-first/#:~:text=Gene%2Dedited%20wheat%20is%20to,of%20the%20drought%2Dresistant%20crop.>

Social Benefits of Carbon Dioxide

Unexpectedly large number of trees populate the Western Sahara and the Sahel

By Staff Writers, Paris, France (SPX), Oct 16, 2020

https://www.terraviva.com/reports/Unexpectedly_large_number_of_trees_populate_the_Western_Sahara_and_the_Sahel_999.html

An unexpectedly large count of trees in the West African Sahara and Sahel

By Martin Brandt, et al. Nature, Oct 14, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2824-5>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

China As Climate Change Savior: The Triumph Of Hope Over Experience?

By Tilak Doshi, Forbes, Oct 17, 2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tilakdoshi/2020/10/17/china-as-climate-change-savior-the-triumph-of-hope-over-experience/#66d346702ffc>

Oxfam: Rich countries are not delivering on \$100bn climate finance promise

By Joe Lo, Climate Home News, Oct 20, 2020

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/10/20/oxfam-rich-countries-not-delivering-100bn-climate-finance-promise/>

“Nearly 80% of climate finance is in the form of loans that must be repaid, adding to the debt burden of the poorest countries, anti-poverty campaigners found.”

[SEPP Comment: Will China make up the difference in 2060?]

Climate Campaigners Horrified Global Shipping Will be Allowed to Grow

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Oct 23, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/23/climate-campaigners-horrified-global-shipping-will-be-allowed-to-grow/>

Macron in last-ditch Brexit punishment with threat to devastate UK with energy blockade

EMMANUEL MACRON confirmed that the EU would launch a devastating energy embargo against the UK if Boris Johnson refuses to give in on fisheries.

By Oli Smith, Express, Oct 19, 2020

https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1349210/Brexit-news-Emmanuel-Macron-France-fisheries-energy-blockade-threat-EU-punishment-vn?utm_source=CCNet+Newsletter&utm_campaign=8a13cc92f4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_10_19_01_30_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fe4b2f45ef-8a13cc92f4-20137121&mc_cid=8a13cc92f4&mc_eid=2206e9995b

[SEPP Comment: So much of UK going 100% non-fossil fuel.]

Hands up! Your fish or your electricity. Macron threatens to cut interconnector to UK

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 20, 2020

<http://joannenova.com.au/2020/10/hands-up-your-fish-or-your-electricity-macron-threatens-to-cut-interconnector-to-uk/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Request for Public Nominations for Authors and Scientific/Technical Inputs and Notice of Planned Public Engagement Opportunities for the Fifth National Climate Assessment

By Staff, NASA, Federal Register, Via WUWT, Oct 21, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/21/request-for-public-nominations-for-authors-and-scientific-technical-inputs-and-notice-of-planned-public-engagement-opportunities-for-the-fifth-national-climate-assessment/>

Climate Catastrophism and a Sensible Environmentalism

By Joakim Book, American Institute for Economic Research (AIER), Oct 22, 2020

<https://www.aier.org/article/climate-catastrophism-and-a-sensible-environmentalism/>

How dangerous (or uncommon) is a temperature rise of 2° C above preindustrial values?

By Paul Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Oct 21, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/10/21/how-dangerous-or-uncommon-is-a-temperature-rise-of-2-c-above-preindustrial-values/>

Science, Policy, and Evidence

Delingpole; Nobel Winner Michael Levitt Cancelled for Coronavirus Wrongthink

By James Delingpole, Breitbart, Oct 20, 2020 [H/t WUWT]

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/10/20/delingpole-nobel-winner-michael-levitt-cancelled-for-coronavirus-wrongthink/>

Link to the Great Barrington Declaration

By Drs. Martin Kulldorff, Sunetra Gupa, Jay Bhattacharya, Oct 4, 2020

<https://gbdeclaration.org/>

What SAGE Has Got Wrong

By Mike Yeadon, Lockdown Sceptics, Oct 21, 2020 [H/t WUWT]

<https://lockdownsceptics.org/what-sage-got-wrong/>

Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) UK

Planners ‘must prepare’ for weather extremes – Met Office

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 22, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/22/planners-must-prepare-for-weather-extremes-met-office/>

[SEPP Comment: Hasn't this been done before? Such as, trying to control the Mississippi after the disastrous floods of 1734-35, 1788, 1809, 1825, 1844, 1851, 1874, 1882, 1891, and, particularly, 1927?]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

Temperature-related Excess Mortality in Twelve German Cities

Huber, V., Krummenauer, L., Peña-Ortiz, C., Lange, S., Gasparrini, A., Vicedo-Cabrera, A.M., Garcia-Herrera, R. and Frieler, K. 2020. Temperature-related excess mortality in German cities at 2°C and higher degrees of global warming. *Environmental Research* 186: 109447, doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2020.109447. Oct 23, 2020

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/oct/a10.php>

“In light of the above findings, clearly, cold (not hot!) temperatures are what policy makers should be most concerned about when attempting to protect the public from temperature-related mortality events.”

Impacts of CO₂ on Two Grapevine Cultivars

Wohlfahrt, Y., Tittmann, S., Schmidt, D., Rauhut, D., Honermeier, B. and Stoll, M. 2020. The effect of elevated CO₂ on berry development and bunch structure of *Vitis cinifera* L. cvs. Riesling and Cabernet Sauvignon. *Applied Sciences* 10: 2486, doi: 10.3390/app10072486. Oct 21, 2020 <http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/oct/a9.php>

“In summing up their findings, the scientists thus conclude their work “provides evidence that elevated CO₂ did alter some bunch and berry parameters without causing any negative effects on fruit quality during berry development and structure of bunches.” All in all, therefore, it appears the alarmists will just have to accept the fact that rising CO₂ improves the growth of these two grapevine cultivars without impacting their quality. And that sounds like a very favorable outcome!”

A CO₂-induced Amelioration of Temperature Stress on Potato Yields

Yubi, Y., Jun, L., Haiyang, N. and Xiuyun, Z. 2020. Combined impact of elevated CO₂ concentration and climatic warming on potato yield and quality in semi-arid regions. *Potato Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11540-020-09466-w>. Oct 19, 2020 <http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/oct/a8.php>

“With respect to potato yield, which is a key parameter for food security, Yubi et al. report ‘the yield in the elevated temperature treatment was low because potato crops prefer cool temperatures’ and ‘warming restricts tuber growth.’ However, they add that increasing the CO₂ concentration ameliorated this stress by improving net photosynthesis and plant water use efficiency, which combination of factors ‘resulted in greater dry matter accumulation [and] promotes the increase of economic yields [for potato growers].’ Indeed, as shown in Figure 1, yields in the combined elevated temperature and elevated CO₂ treatment were 13% greater than the control treatment and a whopping 60% greater than the elevated temperature treatment.”

Model Issues

What Will Northwest Weather and Climate Be Like in 2050?

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Oct 18, 2020

<https://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2020/10/what-will-northwest-weather-and-climate.html>

[SEPP Comment: Using 50 years of data to forecast (predict) to 2050 and 2100.]

Measurement Issues -- Surface

Is Mauna Loa Really The Best Location To Measure ‘Global’ CO₂ Levels?

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Oct 19, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/10/19/is-mauna-loa-really-the-best-location-to-measure-global-co2-levels/>

How The US Temperature Record Is Being Altered (Part 2)

By Tony Heller, His Blog, Oct 20, 2020

<https://realclimatescience.com/2020/10/how-the-us-temperature-record-is-being-altered/>

New Video : How The US Temperature Record Is Being Altered (Part 3)

By Tony Heller, His Blog, Oct 20, 2020

<https://realclimatescience.com/2020/10/new-video-how-the-us-temperature-record-is-being-altered-part-3/>

Newport, Arkansas Has Had A Cooling Trend Since 1891

By Kirye, Tony Heller's Blog, Oct 13, 2020

<https://realclimatescience.com/2020/10/newport-arkansas-has-had-a-cooling-trend-since-1891/>

No warming in the UK?

By Andrew Montford, GWPF, Oct 20, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/no-warming-in-the-uk/>

“So it would be fair to say that there has been no warming at all in the Central England Temperature Record for 30 years.”

Measurement Issues -- Atmosphere

How we measure background CO2 levels on Mauna Loa.

By Pieter Tans and Kirk Thoning, NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory, updated September 2020

https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/about/co2_measurements.html

Changing Climate

If only it had warmed

By Paul Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Oct 21, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/10/21/if-only-it-had-warmed/>

Link to paper included in last week's TWTW: Past Extinctions of Homo Species Coincided with Increased Vulnerability to Climatic Change

By Pasquale Raia, et al. One Earth, Oct 15, 2020

[https://www.cell.com/one-earth/fulltext/S2590-3322\(20\)30476-0?utm_source=EA](https://www.cell.com/one-earth/fulltext/S2590-3322(20)30476-0?utm_source=EA)

“But his actual autopsy shows that he died from... what's this? Global hypothermia? Yes. Natural cooling did it. Exactly unlike today.”

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Ten polar bears – six adults and four cubs – besiege a stalled rubbish truck in Russian Arctic

By Siberian Times reporter, The Siberian Times, Oct 20, 2020 [H/t WUWT]

<https://siberiantimes.com/other/others/news/ten-polar-bears-six-adults-and-four-cubs-besiege-a-stalled-rubbish-truck-in-russian-arctic/>

It's awfully cold in East Antarctica

By Paul Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Oct 21, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/10/21/its-awfully-cold-in-east-antarctica/>

Melting Alpine glaciers yield archaeological troves, but clock ticking

By Nina Larson, Sion, Switzerland (AFP) Oct 16, 2020

https://www.terraviva.com/reports/Melting_Alpine_glaciers_yield_archaeologic_troves_but_clock_ticking_999.html

Norway Glaciers Show Surprisingly Small Retreat During 2020...”Nigardsbreen Glacier Actually Grew”

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 18, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/10/18/norway-glaciers-show-surprisingly-small-retreat-during-2020-nigardsbreen-glacier-actually-grew/>

Acidic Waters

Researchers publish rebuttal of prior study on ocean acidification effects on the behavior of coral reef fishes

By James Cook University, Oct 22 2020

<https://phys.org/news/2020-10-publish-rebuttal-prior-ocean-acidification.html>

Methods matter in repeating ocean acidification studies

By Philip L. Munday, et al. Nature, Oct 21, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2803-x>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

World wheat crop tips record: AMIS

By Staff, Grain Central, Oct 9, 2020

https://www.graincentral.com/markets/world-wheat-crop-tips-record-amis/?utm_source=CCNet+Newsletter&utm_campaign=eafc20e145-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_10_22_12_28_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fe4b2f45ef-eafc20e145-20157985&mc_cid=eafc20e145&mc_eid=a4f47ad7e7

https://www.graincentral.com/markets/world-wheat-crop-tips-record-amis/?utm_source=CCNet+Newsletter&utm_campaign=eafc20e145-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_10_22_12_28_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fe4b2f45ef-eafc20e145-20157985&mc_cid=eafc20e145&mc_eid=a4f47ad7e7

Sorry, Google News, Climate Change Is Helping End World Hunger

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 21, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/21/sorry-google-news-climate-change-is-helping-end-world-hunger/>

Ross Clark: Why is the UK copying the EU's failed agricultural policy?

By Ross Clark, The Speculator, Vai GWPF, Oct 23, 2020

<https://www.thegwgf.com/ross-clark-why-is-the-uk-copying-the-eus-failed-agricultural-policy/>

Lowering Standards

UK Weather To Become More Extreme- Met Office

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 17, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/17/uk-weather-to-become-more-extreme-met-office/>

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

Tropical cyclones moving faster in recent decades: study

Press Release by University of Hawaii at Manoa, Phys.org, Oct 19, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://phys.org/news/2020-10-tropical-cyclones-faster-decades.html>

Link to paper: An increase in global trends of tropical cyclone translation speed since 1982 and its physical causes

By Sung-Hun Kim, et al. Environmental Research Letters, Sep 2, 2020

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab9e1f>

From the abstract: “These values correspond to a change of 5.9% and –5.6% during the analysis period for the mean TCTS and steering flow, respectively.”

Whatever it is, it's climate change

By Paul Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Oct 21, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/10/21/whatever-it-is-its-climate-change/>

[SEPP Comment: Looking for the distinct human fingerprint – in the water?]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

De Telegraaf Misled By UN Disaster Report Researcher

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 20, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/20/de-telegraaf-misled-over-un-disaster-report/>

“Van Loenhout should withdraw his false statement without delay, and admit that the UN report is fatally flawed.”

[SEPP Comment: Further examination of the deficient work promoted by the UN as “science.”]

A staggering rise in dishonesty

By Paul Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Oct 21, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/10/21/a-staggering-rise-in-dishonesty/>

“It’s revealing that the report itself refers to ‘events’ in the earlier period and ‘disasters’ in the latter. Because it’s not science, it’s propaganda in the worst sense of that word.”

See link immediately above

It's Official: Solar Is the Cheapest Electricity in History

By Caroline Delbert, Popular Mechanics, Oct 22, 2020

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a34372005/solar-cheapest-energy-ever/>

“The International Energy Agency (IEA) says the cost per megawatt to build solar plants is below fossil fuels worldwide for the first time.”

[SEPP Comment: How much do those megawatts cost at midnight?]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

‘Death sentence on nature’: MEPs accused of turning European agricultural policy into ‘extinction machine’

‘There are no reasons to spend a third of the EU budget on industrial agriculture which drives biodiversity loss and worsens the climate crisis,’ says critic

By Jane Dalton, Independent, Oct 22, 2020

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/eu-agricultural-policy-cap-mep-vote-reform-farming-climate-change-extinction-b1226540.html>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Children for Propaganda

The Climate Cult’s Brat Brigade

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Oct 20, 2020

<https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2020/10/the-climate-cults-brat-brigade/>

Creepy Climate Conversations

By Donna Laframboise, Big Picture News, Oct 21 2020

<https://nofrackingconsensus.com/2020/10/21/creepy-climate-conversations/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

GE announces plan to be carbon-neutral by 2030

By Staff Power Engineering, Oct 19, 2020

<https://www.power-eng.com/2020/10/19/ge-announces-plan-to-be-carbon-neutral-by-2030/#gref>

Green Jobs

‘Green Recovery’ flop: Another UK wind farm deal collapses

By Staff, The Times, Via GWPF, Oct 22, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/green-recovery-flops-as-another-wind-farm-deal-collapses/>

The Political Games Continue

The Biden-Harris Ticket Thinks Renewable Energy Is Carbon-Free

By Staff, Institute for Energy Research, Oct 19, 2020

<https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/renewable/the-biden-harris-thinks-renewable-energy-is-carbon-free/>

Irish President Calls For Socialism To Fight Climate Change

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 22, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/22/irish-president-calls-for-socialism-to-fight-climate-change/>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Irish farmers revolt: Carbon Tax rises a ‘vicious attack on rural Ireland’

By Staff, The Independent, Via GWPF, Oct 20, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/irish-farmers-revolt-carbon-tax-rises-a-vicious-attack-on-rural-ireland/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Comments to EPA’s Proposed Aircraft GHG Rule Show Industry Support, Activist Opposition

By Ben Lieberman, CEI, Oct 23, 2020

<https://cei.org/blog/comments-epa%E2%80%99s-proposed-aircraft-ghg-rule-show-industry-support-activist-opposition>

Energy Dept. exempts quick dishwashers from existing efficiency standards

By Rachel Frazin, The Hill, Oct 23, 2020

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/522471-energy-department-exempts-quick-dishwashers-from-existing>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Malthusianism Reconsidered: Desrochers on Smil

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Oct 22, 2020

<https://www.masterresource.org/smil-vaclav/malthusianism-desrochers-on-smil/>

“... Professor Smil’s breadth and depth of technical knowledge on anything remotely related to energy is truly astonishing. Idiosyncratic, he is a self-described ‘old-fashioned scientist’ who prefers ‘hard engineering realities’ to ‘interminably vacuous and poorly informed policy ‘debates.’”

Sorry Boris, But You Still Need Gas!

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 19, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/19/sorry-boris-but-you-still-need-gas/>

Dubai builds first coal power plant despite pledging lowest carbon footprint in the world by 2050

In the oil-rich nation of the United Arab Emirates, an unusual sight is rising in Dubai
By Staff AP, Via Independent, Oct 22, 2020

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/dubai-coal-fired-power-plant-electricity-renewable-energy-carbon-footprint-b1222381.html>

Energy Issues -- US

California's energy nightmare is coming to Virginia

By Bonner Cohen, CFACT, Oct 18, 2020

https://www.cfact.org/2020/10/18/californias-energy-nightmare-is-coming-to-virginia/?mc_cid=04642f0434&mc_eid=ffd82d3222

Washington's Control of Energy

FERC Carbon Pricing Policy Statement

By Roger Caiazza, WUWT, Oct 20, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/20/watts-up-with-that-ferc-carbon-pricing-policy-statement/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

New Dawn Fades - Floating LNG Prospects Fizzle As Operational Issues Emerge

By Richard Platt, RBN Energy, Oct 22, 2020

<https://rbnenergy.com/new-dawn-fades-floating-lng-prospects-fizzle-as-operational-issues-emerge>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

US firm 'aims to build a nuclear power plant' in South Africa

What pandemic? An American investment group is looking to pump billions into South Africa, with one eye on a new nuclear power plant for Mzansi.

By Tom Head, The South African, Oct 18, 2020 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/us-firm-aims-to-build-a-nuclear-power-plant-in-south-africa/>

[SEPP Comment: With a photo of emissions from an unidentified cooling tower blackening the skies. Could it be a cooling tower for a nuclear plant?]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy -- Other

Environmental Rape Of Africa: Hamburg Power Plants Aim To Deforest Namibia For Power Plant Fuel!

By P Gosselin, No Trick Zone, Oct 20, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/10/20/environmental-rape-of-africa-hamburg-power-plants-aim-to-deforest-namibia-for-power-plant-fuel/>

Germany's biogas plants face bankruptcy

Video, DW, Oct 19, 2020 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-biogas-plants-face-bankruptcy/av-55321525>

[SEPP Comment: We need to use the technology no matter how expensive it is?]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy -- Storage

Wisdom of hydrogen called into question

By Staff. Transport Xtra, Via GWPF, Oct 22, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/wisdom-of-hydrogen-called-into-question/>

“In other words, we are going to take very expensive electricity from offshore windfarms, use it to make hydrogen, which we will burn to make electricity again.”

How green hydrogen can become cheap enough to compete with fossil fuels

By Charles Rotter, News Release form University of South Wales, Via WUWT, Oct 17, 2020
<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/17/how-green-hydrogen-can-become-cheap-enough-to-compete-with-fossil-fuels/>

[SEPP Comment: Crunching numbers is not the same as proof of concept! Note, AAAS EurekAlert! is changing policy and some links to it may not work.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Musk Drives Ahead

By Donn Dears, Oct 20, 2020

<https://ddears.com/2020/10/20/musk-drives-ahead/>

Germany on course for climate neutral flying

By Staff Writers, Berlin, Germany (SPX), Oct 15, 2020

https://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Germany_on_course_for_climate_neutral_flying_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Return of hot-air balloons using wood for fuel?]

Tesla to export China-made Model 3 vehicles to Europe

By Staff, Reuters, Oct 19, 2020

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/tesla-china-exports/tesla-to-export-china-made-model-3-vehicles-to-europe-idUSKBN27425C>

Carbon Schemes

Science is ready to save us, maybe

Guest Post by Ivor Williams, WUWT, Oct 19, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/19/science-is-ready-to-save-us-maybe/>

AEP’s Carbon Capture Fantasy

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 20, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/20/aeps-carbon-capture-fantasy/>

California Dreaming

Restoring California’s forests to reduce wildfire risks will take time, billions of dollars and a broad commitment

By Roger Bales, University of California, Merced and Martha Conklin, University of California, Merced, WUWT, Oct 18, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/18/restoring-californias-forests-to-reduce-wildfire-risks-will-take-time-billions-of-dollars-and-a-broad-commitment/>

[SEPP Comment: The authors are professors of engineering.]

Why California’s Natural Gas Appliance Bans Are Bad Economic and Environmental Policy

By Nicolas Loris, the Daily Signal, Oct 8, 2020

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/10/08/why-californias-natural-gas-appliance-bans-are-bad-economic-and-environmental-policy/>

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE

CNN: Climate Change is Driving Fatal Shark Attacks

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Oct 20, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/10/20/cnn-climate-change-driving-fatal-shark-attacks/>

Looking for a better neighborhood?

By Paul Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Oct 21, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/10/21/looking-for-a-better-neighbourhood/>

[SEPP Comment: Ten percent larger, more gravity, and 5° C (9° F) hotter?]

No, Climate Change Is Not Turning the Amazon into a Savannah

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 18, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/10/18/no-climate-change-is-not-turning-the-amazon-into-a-savannah/>

ARTICLES

1 Utilities Wage Battle Over Charging Stations

By Rebecca Elliott, WSJ, Oct 19, 2020

<http://ereader.wsj.net/?editionStart=The+Wall+Street+Journal>

TWTW Summary: The reporter writes:

“Electric vehicles are widely seen as the automobile industry’s future, but a battle is unfolding in states across America over who should control the charging stations that could gradually replace fuel pumps.

“From Exelon Corp. to Southern California Edison, utilities have sought regulatory approval to invest millions of dollars in upgrading their infrastructure to prepare for charging and, in some cases, to own and operate chargers.

“The proposals are sparking concerns from consumer advocates about higher electric rates and oil companies about subsidizing rivals. They are also drawing opposition from startups that say the successors to gas stations should be open to private competition, not controlled by monopoly utilities.

“That debate is playing out in regulatory commissions throughout the U.S. as states and utilities promote wider adoption of electric vehicles. At stake are charging infrastructure investments expected to total more than \$13 billion over the next five years, according to energy consulting firm Wood Mackenzie. That would cover roughly 3.2 million charging outlets.

“Calvin Butler Jr., who leads Exelon’s utilities business, said many states have grown more open to the idea of utilities becoming bigger players in charging as electric vehicles have struggled to take off in the U.S., where they make up only around 2% of new car sales. ‘When the utilities are engaged, there’s quicker adoption because the infrastructure is there,’ he said.

“Major auto makers including General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co. are accelerating production of electric vehicles, and a number of states have set ambitious EV goals—most recently California, which aims to ban the sale of new gasoline-powered cars by 2035. But a patchy charging-station network remains a huge impediment to mass EV adoption.

“Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has called for building more than 500,000 new public charging outlets in a decade as part of his plan to combat climate change. But exactly how that would happen is unclear. The U.S. has fewer than 100,000 public outlets, according to the Energy Department. President Trump, who has weakened federal tailpipe emissions targets, hasn’t put forward an electric-vehicle charging plan, though he backed a 2019 transportation bill that would have provided \$1 billion in grants to build alternative fueling infrastructure, including for electric vehicles.

“Charging access varies widely by state, as does utility involvement, which can range from providing rebates on home chargers to preparing sites for public charging—and even owning and operating the equipment needed to juice up electric vehicles.

“As of September, regulators in 24 states had signed off on roughly \$2.6 billion of utility investment in transportation electrification, according to Atlas Public Policy, a Washington, D.C., policy firm. More than half of that spending was authorized in California, where electric vehicle adoption is highest.”

The article then goes into political history over the past 20 years but ignores cost except saying Southern California Edison claims its program will:

“...increase the average residential customer’s bill by around 50 cents a month.”
