Screaming About Climate Disaster

By Howard Hayden Energy Advocate, February 2024

Sometimes it is a good idea to refer to a truth that everybody can understand regardless of their scientific background. There are infrared thermometers and thermal imaging cameras on the market, and they must rely on some *known* *relationship* between temperature and the amount of IR that bodies emit. That relationship is, of course, embodied in a mathematical formula, and even if you don’t know what the formula is, you can easily recognize that such a formula exists. It even has a name: the Stefan-Boltzmann law.

Now, suppose that you were a climate scientist whose job it is to model the climate when the atmosphere has more CO2 because of humanity’s combustion of coal, oil, and natural gas. Your computer model predicts some temperature rise for some given scenario.

You then publish your results. *What did you miss?*

The Stefan-Boltzmann law has a trivial result for small increases in the temperature of the earth. For each 1ºC temperature rise, the surface must emit about 5.5 W/m2 more heat.

If you did not apply that Stefan-Boltzmann law to your result, you were negligent. A science journal refereed or not, that published the model result without that calculation is also negligent. Suffice it to say that the IPCC has never—repeat NEVER—applied the S-B law to their predicted temperatures.

It is a very simple matter to append an IR emission scale to every temperature scale, as shown in Figure 1. However, you will search in vain for such a scale, as the IPCC—and all of its references—have failed to apply the S-B law.



Figure 1: An example model result (Fig. SPM4 from IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report (2021), with an IR emission scale appended.

Yet, everything we read about the “climate crisis”, “climate agreements,” “climate legislation,” “climate goals,” “keeping the temperature rise below 1.5ºC,” “climate footprint,” and so forth is based on climate models, not a single one of which can pass that freshman physics test.

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