

The Week That Was: 2012-06-09 (June 9, 2012)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote (Joke) of the Week:

*If the contrarians did not think Santer's and Mann's evidence provided proof, or something close to it, then why did they go to such lengths to discredit it? **The hockey stick was as close to proof as we get in science.** Naomi Oreskes, Physics Today, June 2012 p 54 [H/t Howard Hayden, Boldface added.]*

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Number of the Week: 5.4%

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On the Road Again: Fred Singer will be traveling to Houston, Texas and Boulder, Colorado to give talks and attend the Conference on Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets. Both talks that are open to the public will be at the Gilruth Center of Johnson Space Center in Houston (Clear Lake). They are: June 21, 7:30 pm, Mars Exploration talk to the NASA Alumni League, and June 22, 4:00 pm, Climate discussion with the "Right Stuff" group [For further information contact Ken@SEPP.org]

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THIS WEEK:

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

Rio + 20: Although there are ongoing pre-conferences meeting, The UN Conference on Sustainable Development begins on Wednesday, June 20. The major objective by the UN is to establish a massive Green Climate Fund that will handle a proposed \$100 Billion per year. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) expects that it will handle the Fund. The UNFCCC was formed by 192 countries by treaty in Rio twenty years ago. Its web site states that the "very heart of the response to climate change, however, lies in the need to reduce emissions." (Principally carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.) The claim was that human CO2 emissions cause unprecedented and dangerous global warming.

Since there has been no measured warming trend for over a decade, even though CO2 emissions have been increasing, we are being treated with a barrage of studies claiming unusual weather events, often not so unusual, are proof of climate change. Or that the warming is sure to come, as predicted in the models, which have never been verified and validated. Of course, climate change has been ongoing since the formation of the earth and will continue regardless of what UN bureaucrats claim. Unlike some government leaders, nature is not influenced by money.

Alternatively, we are receiving studies that claim that the increase in heat is occurring in the oceans rather than in the atmosphere, or claims that the earth is reaching tipping points. These studies are questionable at best.

In planning to obtain large sums, the leaders of the Bonn, Germany based UNFCCC are seeking immunities against any future legal charges, such as conflict of interest, violations of due process, etc.

Did the announcement by President Obama that he will make climate change a priority in his next term give the US delegation its marching orders? Please see links under Rio+20, Defending the Orthodoxy, and <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>.

Hiding Heat: In time for Rio+20, *Nature Climate Change* published a study by Gleckler, Santer, et al, in which they claim they have found the distinct human fingerprint in the warming in the upper oceans. The previously claimed distinct human fingerprint in the warming of the tropics has apparently been moved.

The study was immediately addressed by a number of scientists who blog. Please see the links under **Defending the Orthodoxy and Challenging the Orthodoxy**.

Blogging Scientists: During his speech at the Heartland International Conference on Climate Change in May, Czech President Vaclav Klaus personally thanked the bloggers who expose the questionable science that is used to frighten the public on climate issues. The process is becoming an extended peer review that is even being recognized by Andy Revkin of the New York Times. Please see links under **Climategate Continued and Seeking a Common Ground**.

US Senate: On Wednesday, the opening day of Rio+20, the US Senate is scheduled to vote on a bill stopping the EPA from enforcing the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Standards issued in December by the EPA. Numerous utilities have announced they are shutting down their coal-fired power plants because they cannot economically meet the standards. According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which has the legal authority to regulate bulk power system users, eight of the ten service territories in the eastern US will fall below key reliability thresholds by 2018. That is, all but three eastern states, and Texas, may be subject to brownouts or blackouts.

As discussed in prior TWTWs, the only major health benefits arising from the MACT regulations are already covered under other regulations. The EPA is engaged in double counting. The remaining benefits are illusionary – created by statistical manipulation rather than empirically demonstrated. When EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson was asked about the rules creating problems, she claimed that the problems concerning coal-fired plants were market driven. This is an illogical red herring. The choice of what type of fuel to use in a new power plant may be market driven, especially with natural gas prices unusually low. However, the closing of existing, productive plants is regulation driven.

The EPA's proposed new rules on CO2 emissions from power plants are based upon the EPA's finding that CO2 emissions endanger public health and welfare. The EPA claimed that it relied on independent studies when making this finding. Patrick Michaels discusses that the studies are not independent, but depend on the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) in 2007. Please see articles under **EPA and other Regulators on the March**, and

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=ec71376e-802a-23ad-415f-c962d01c50f6

Frac'ing Issues: US National Research Council issued an advanced copy of a report on the potential of hydraulic fracturing and other underground activities including carbon capture and storage (CCS) causing an increase in seismic activity (earthquakes). Three major findings emerged from the study: “(1) the process of hydraulic fracturing a well as presently implemented for shale gas recovery does not pose a high risk for inducing felt seismic events; (2) injection for disposal of waste water derived from energy technologies into the subsurface does pose some risk for induced seismicity, but very few events have been documented over the past several decades relative to the large number of disposal wells in operation; and (3) CCS, due to the large net volumes of injected fluids, may have potential for inducing larger seismic events.”

The fear of hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and natural gas is not substantiated. However, the issue of injecting water into the earth for disposal remains open. The water from the wells include the water that is injected, which contains low concentrations of chemicals, and water from the earth which can contain comparatively high concentrations of salt and other minerals. Proper disposal of the water is an ongoing issue falling on the appropriate state agencies. Although amount of water used in hydraulic fracturing may appear large, it is quite small compared with agriculture and other water intensive industries. Please see link under **Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?**

Climate Science: Is it currently designed to answer question? Richard Lindzen's provocative 2008 article has been updated and published in the *Euresis Journal*. Given the continued use of questionable claims and sloppy definitions that promote sloppy thinking, the answer appears to be no. But that is a conclusion for each individual to decide. In a separate post, Roger Pielke Sr, emphasizes the need for precise definitions. Please see links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Seeking a Common Ground.

Quote of the Week: Self-styled climate science historian, Naomi Oreskes, may help answer the question raised by Richard Lindzen. The hockey stick is contradicted by hundreds of empirical studies showing a Medieval Warm Period and a Little Ice Age. A number of scientists have shown that the methodology creates a bias for hockey-sticks. Yet, according to Oreskes these criticisms constitute the finest proof possible in science that the hockey-stick accurately describes climate history for the past 1000 years. [Duh?]

Energy Policy: *The New York Times* ran an editorial stating presidential candidate Romney has changed his energy policy since he was governor of Massachusetts. Fred Singer responds: "As the editorial (NYT 6-17-12) makes clear, Mr. Romney's views have evolved – but along with the scientific evidence, as they should. After all, there has been no observed warming trend now for more than a decade – in spite of a strong increase in atmospheric CO2 levels. Even previous warming, during the past century, cannot be attributed to human causes. It makes sense therefore to choose a non-alarmist energy policy that provides households with lower-cost electricity, cheaper gasoline, and more discretionary income through lower taxes. As a successful businessman, rather than community organizer, Mr. Romney knows that lower-cost energy is also the key to economic recovery and more productive jobs. It's encouraging to learn that he will undo the restrictions that are hobbling such recovery and stop wasting multi-billions of taxpayers' money on pie-in-the-sky energy boondoggles." Please see the editorial

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/opinion/sunday/energy-etch-a-sketch.html?_r=1&comments#permid=62

Number of the Week: 5.4% According to BP's 61st annual Review of World Energy Statistics the total consumption of coal in 2011 grew 5.4% over 2010 consumption. In oil equivalents, oil is the world's leading fuel with 33.1% of energy consumption, coal is second with 30.3% of energy consumption.

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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. 'Cap and Trade' For CO2 Needs a Stake through the Heart

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Jun 11, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/06/cap_and_trade_for_co2_needs_a_stake_through_the_heart.htm
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2. Virginia Is Sinking

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Jun 15, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/06/virginia_is_sinking.html
[SEPP Comment: It is a matter of how you measure sea level.]

3. Coal India May Import Up to 30 Million Tons This Year

By Saurabh Chaturvedi, WSJ, Jun 11, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303768104577459812375027288.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

4. How to Shrink the French Economy

France will have to shrink its economy by two-fifths to prevent widespread ecological decline.
By Erik Assadourian, WSJ, Jun 12, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303901504577461853663432964.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

[SEPP Comment: Mr. Assadourian is co-director of Worldwatch Institute's *State of the World 2012: Moving Toward Sustainable Prosperity*. Sustainable poverty is more in keeping with the suggested policies.]

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

An Unpublished Law Dome Series

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jun 12, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/06/12/an-unpublished-law-dome-series/#more-16301>

On a personal level, I understand that people can't do everything in the world. But nonetheless, the deep Law Dome hole was drilled between 1987 and 1992. It provides the highest resolution ice core for the two-millennium period. And remains unpublished. Amazing.

More on Screening in Gergis et al 2012

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jun 10, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/06/10/more-on-screening-in-gergis-et-al-2012/>

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

UK government endorses IPCC secrecy

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 12, 2012

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2012/6/12/uk-government-endorses-ipcc-secrecy.html>

[SEPP Comment: The reviewers cannot see the responses of the lead authors to their comments and criticisms of the report. This is peer review and transparency at its best?]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Climate Science: Is it currently designed to answer questions?

By Richard Lindzen, Euresis Journal, Mar 9, 2012 [H/t Joe Bast]

<http://www.euresisjournal.org/default.asp?pagina=414&act=2&id=41>

Space Leaders Charge NASA Doesn't Demand Right Stuff From Climate Science Programs

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jun 12, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/06/12/space-leaders-charge-nasa-doesnt-demand-right-stuff-from-climate-science-programs/>

Norwegian Climate Professor: Hansen's Projection Off By 150%...Regrettable That Politicians Still View It As Reliable

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 15, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/06/15/norwegian-climate-professor-hansens-projection-off-by-150-regrettable-that-politicians-still-view-it-as-reliable/>

[SEPP Comment: To successfully complete its missions, the NASA Apollo team needed great precision. What would the team say about the standards of precision of the NASA-GISS team? The link above this link gives an indication.]

Climate models fail reality test

Computer models utterly fail to predict climate changes in regions

By Ross McKittrick, Financial Post, Jun 13, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/13/junk-science-week-climate-models-fail-reality-test/>

The 50th Anniversary of "Silent Spring": A Lethal Legacy

By Alan Caruba, Facts Not Fantasy, Jun 14, 2012

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/50th-anniversary-of-silent-spring.html>

The Very Model Of A Modern Major Problem

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Jun 14, 2012

<http://thegwvf.org/the-observatory/5964-the-very-model-of-a-modern-major-problem.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Questions on the Gleckler, Santer, et al. study.*]

Causes(?) of ocean warming

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Jun 11, 2012 [H/t Anne Debeil]

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/06/11/causes-of-ocean-warming/>

[SEPP Comment: *Further questions on the Gleckler, Santer, et al. study.*]

Comments On “Human-induced Global Ocean Warming On Multidecadal Timescales” By Gleckler Et Al 2012

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jun 12, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/06/12/comments-on-human-induced-global-ocean-warming-on-multidecadal-timescales-by-gleckler-et-al-2012/>

[SEPP Comment: *Even further questions on the Gleckler, Santer, et al. study.*]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Human-induced global ocean warming on multidecadal timescales

By Gleckler, Santer, et al, Nature Climate Change, Jun 10, 2012

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1553.html>

Obama believes the most important issue of second term is 'climate change'

By Ed Lasky, American Thinker, Jun 11, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2012/06/obama_believes_the_most_important_issue_of_second_term_is_climate_change.html

Obama's Hope ... And Climate Change

Editorial, IBD, Jun 12, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/article/614608/201206121844/obama-makes-climate-change-his-top-priority-for-his-second-term.htm>

[SEPP Comment: *A true hockey-stick – of federal funding for climate activities.*]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Money corrupts peer-review process

Government cash -influences the process

By Bob Carter, Financial Post, Jun 14, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/14/money-corrupts-peer-review-process/>

Misconceptions About Plant, Animal And Human Adaptation To Climate Change

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Jun 11, 2012

<http://drtimball.com/2012/misconceptions-about-plant-animal-and-human-adaptation-to-climate-change/>

There ain't no nearby tipping points

By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Jun 9, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/06/there-aint-no-nearby-tipping-points.html#more>
[SEPP Comment: A discussion of the concept of tipping points with some mathematics.]

Surprise, Surprise: Flawed Models Making Fuzzier Climate Picture

The more we know about climate change the more uncertain our models become — and if scientists are not to lose the trust of the public they need to explain this, a senior climatologist has said.

By Tom Whipple, The Times, From GWPF, Jun 15, 2012

<http://thegwgf.org/the-climate-record/5968-surprise-surprise-flawed-models-making-fuzzier-climate-picture.html>

Nature on Uncertainty: Climate Change is Less Important Than We Thought

By Tim Worstall, Forbes, Jun 10, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2012/06/10/nature-on-uncertainty-climate-change-is-less-important-than-we-thought/>

Questioning European Green

More Misinformation On Wind Energy

By Roger Helmer, MEP, Jun 13, 2012

<http://thegwgf.org/best-of-blogs/5953-roger-helmer-mep-more-misinformation-on-wind-energy.html>

An Open Letter to the members of the EU's Parliament on Soaring Energy Bills: A Failure of the EU?

By Franco Battaglia, Professor of Chemical physics and Environmental Chemistry, Università di Modena, Italy, Posted Jun 16, 2012

http://www.sepp.org/key_issues/soaring_energy_bills.pdf

[SEPP Comment: A carefully presented proposal of the right energy mix to generate electricity in the EU for lowest possible costs. This includes as much hydropower as possible and using nuclear plants cover the base load; using coal plants for the regular load (above base load); and natural gas only for the peak load.]

James Lovelock: The UK should be going mad for fracking

Scientist James Lovelock is the man behind Gaia theory, and once predicted doom for our climate. He discusses nuclear (good), wind power (bad) and why fracking is the future

By Leo Hickman, Guardian, UK, Jun 15, 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jun/15/james-lovelock-interview-gaia-theory>

IMF ties environment to restoring European growth

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), June 12, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/IMF_ties_environment_to_restoring_European_growth_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A few years ago, the green development was claimed to create the growth.]

IEA: With Right Policies, Shift to Clean Energy Can More Than Pay for Itself

By Gail Reitenbach, Power News, Jun 13, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4712.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2463050&hq_l=13&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Apparently the IMF and the IEA have a disagreement. Which comes first: green policies then growth, or growth then green policies?]

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Green grabs: The dark side of the green economy

The rapidly-growing appropriation of land and resources in the name of 'green ' biofuels, carbon offsetting schemes, conservation efforts and eco-tourism initiatives – is forcing people from their homelands and increasing poverty, new research has found.

By Staff Writers, PhysOrg, Jun 14, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://phys.org/news/2012-06-green-dark-side-economy.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Energy efficiency: the deal is done

By Sonja van Renssen, European Energy Review, Jun 15, 2012

http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=283&toegang=0f49c89d1e7298bb9930789c8ed59d48&id=3316

[SEPP Comment: Bureaucrats saving energy, used by others.]

Rio + 20 – World Control?

Commonsense wisdom from African farmers

They know “sustainable development” really means sustained poverty and malnutrition

By Kelvin Kemm, Canada Free Press, Jun 13, 2012

<http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/47287>

Wrongheaded in Rio

By Bjørn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Jun 13, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/wrongheaded-in-rio>

[SEPP Comment: Lomborg addressing the failings of Rio+20. Perhaps the title of its fancy leaflet should be changed from “The Future We Want” to Let the Peasants Starve.]

Expectations for the Rio Summit, in quotes

By Staff Writers, Rio de Janeiro (AFP), June 11, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Expectations_for_the_Rio_Summit_in_quotes_999.html

U.N. Climate Organization Wants Immunities Against Charges of Conflict of Interest, Exceeding Mandate, Among Others

By George Russell, Fox News, Jun 12, 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/06/12/un-climate-organization-wants-immunities-against-charges-conflict-interest/>

Scientists uncover evidence of impending tipping point for Earth

By Staff Writers, Berkeley CA (SPX), Jun 11, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Scientists_uncover_evidence_of_impending_tipping_point_for_Earth_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Must be members of the flat earth society – see comments by Lubos Motl on tipping points, under Questioning the Orthodoxy.]

Tackle rising population, consumption: science academies

By Staff Writers: Paris (AFP) June 14, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Tackle_rising_population_consumption_science_academies_999.html

[SEPP Comment: More from the uninformed science academies. Contrary to their pronouncements, Population growth rates are declining and prosperity enables environmental protection. Subsistence agriculture does not.]

More planning of population and consumption demanded for Rio

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Jun 14, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/more-planning-population-and-consumption-demanded-rio>

[SEPP Comment: A serious issue, but one may ask if it is population consumption they are planning?]

Rio+20 Earth Summit Facing Deadlock, Delegates Walk Out Of ‘Green Economy’ Talks

By Amrutha Gayathri, International Business Times, Jun 15, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/352602/20120615/rio-20-earth-summit-green-economy-sustainable.htm>

2052? More like 2084

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Jun 12, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/12/peter-foster-2052-more-like-2084/>

[SEPP Comment: Limits of growth, again.]

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton To Head U.S. Delegation to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development

By Victoria Nuland, State Department, Jun 12, 2012 [H/t Marc Morano]

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/06/192201.htm>

[SEPP Comment: With the complete crew carefully selected to protect American interests, no doubt.]

Funding Fights

Sock Puppets: How the government lobbies itself and why

By Christopher Snowdon, IEA, June 2012 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.iea.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/files/Sock%20Puppets.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: A study on the remarkable growth of state funding of charities in Britain to turn them into political pressure groups appearing to give popular support. According to the report, 27,000 charities receive more than 75 per cent of their income from the government.]

Seeking a Common Ground

UEA death threats published

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 13, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/6/13/uea-death-threats-published.html>

[SEPP Comment: These are disgusting death threat received by Phil Jones of the University of East Anglia. Those who sent them should be investigated and, if guilty, appropriately punished. Why hasn't an investigation been announced?]

The Need For Precise Definitions In Climate Science – The Misuse Of The Terminology “Climate Change”

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jun 15, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/06/15/the-need-for-precise-definitions-in-climate-science-the-misuse-of-the-terminology-climate-change/>

Revkin on the Gergis et al ‘on hold’ affair

By Anthony Watts and Andrew Revkin, WUWT, Jun 12, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/12/revkin-on-the-gergis-et-al-on-hold-affair/>

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

Is the United States Actually Getting Warmer?

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Jun 9, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2012/06/is-the-united-states-actually-getting-warmer.php>

[SEPP Comment: Producing heat by cooking the books.]

“Climate Scientists” and Mainstream Media Team Up Again to Incite Groundless Fears

By E. Calvin Beisner, Cornwall Alliance, Jun 13, 2012

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/blog/item/climate-scientists-and-mainstream-media-team-up/>

Study: Climate change to increase wildfires

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 14, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/232733-study-shows-climate-change-boosting-wildfires-as-obama-beefs-up-response>

[SEPP Comment: Using questionable models: climate change could produce more rain.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Federal agency: May was second-warmest on record globally

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 14, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/232787-federal-data-says-may-was-second-warmest-on-record-globally->

[SEPP Comment: See satellite measurements for May under UAH Global Temperature Update. Satellite measurements are globally comprehensive, something that NOAA measurements are not.]

More record warmth as scientists warn of global tipping point

By Michael Pearson and Phil Gast, CNN, Jun 8, 2012

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/06/08/us/record-warmth/index.html>

Doctored Data, Not U.S. Temperatures, Set a Record This Year

By James Taylor, Forbes, Jun 13, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2012/06/13/doctored-data-not-u-s-temperatures-set-a-record-this-year/>

Lowballing Carbon Dioxide Emissions Projections

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Jun 11, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/06/lowballing-carbon-dioxide-emissions.html>

[SEPP Comment: Systematic underestimation of growth rates of CO2 leads to underestimation of the costs of emissions reductions.]

Models v. Observations

Science vs AGW Advocacy in North Carolina

By John Droz, Jr, WUWT, Jun 11, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/11/science-vs-agw-advocacy-in-north-carolina/>

[SEPP Comment: Do you believe in observations or in long term computer models.]

Another Scientifically Flawed Presentation Of Regional Multi-Decadal Climate Predictions

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jun 13, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/06/13/another-scientifically-flawed-presentation-of-regional-multi-decadal-climate-predictions/>

[SEPP Comment: The convergence of different models does not demonstrate the models accurately reflect reality.]

Changing Weather

Records and Extremes – Updated,

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Jan 9, 2012

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/records_and_extremes1/

UAH Global Temperature Update for May 2012: +0.29°C

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, June 4th, 2012

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/06/uah-global-temperature-update-for-may-2012-0-29176c/>

Spring warmth: weather, not climate

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 14, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/14/spring-warmth-weather-not-climate/#more-65650>

Hot And Dry Forecast For The Western USA – A Possible Extreme Event

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jun 14, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/06/14/hot-and-dry-forecast-for-the-western-usa-a-possible-extreme-event/>

Vast Defenses Now Shielding New Orleans

By John Schwartz, NYT, Jun 14, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/15/us/vast-defenses-now-shielding-new-orleans.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20120615

[SEPP Comment: A great tragedy could have been partially averted if building the proper defenses had not been stopped by the environmental industry and the courts.]

Changing Climate

Study Jointly Led by UCSB Researcher Finds New Evidence Supporting Theory of Extraterrestrial Impact

Press Release, UC Santa Barbara, Jun 11, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/pa/display.aspx?pkey=2748>

[SEPP Comment: A new theory on the Younger Dryas, when the earth suddenly cooled about 13,000 years ago after it appeared to be coming out of the last ice age.]

Changing Seas

Global Warming Text Was Removed From Virginia Bill on Rising Sea Levels

Virginia has commissioned a study to examine coastal flooding, but only after references to climate change were removed

By Seth Cline, US News, Jun 13, 2012

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2012/06/13/global-warming-text-was-removed-from-virginia-bill-on-rising-sea-levels->

[SEPP Comment: Historic trends are a better indicator than climate science modeling.]

Balance Needed on Coverage of Sea Level Rise

By Paul Chesser, Carolina Journal, From SPPI, June 15, 2012

<http://sppiblog.org/news/balance-needed-on-coverage-of-sea-level-rise#more-7613>

Changing Sea Ice

North-East Passage soon free from ice again

By Staff Writers, Bremerhaven, Germany (SPX), Jun 14, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/North_East_Passage_soon_free_from_ice_again_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Apparently from prevailing winds.]

Changing Earth

The Mystery of the Sinking South Pacific Islands

Climate Change or Tectonic Shifts?

By Gerald Traufetter, Spiegel Online, Jun 15, 2012

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/south-pacific-islands-threatened-by-more-than-just-rising-sea-levels-a-838675.html>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Using recycled sewage treatment plant water for irrigating crops

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Jun 14, 2012

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/using_recycled_sewage_treatment_plant_water_for_irrigating_crops_99.html

[SEPP Comment: In parts of the Southwest, only recycled water can be used to irrigate golf courses.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA chief says agency rules not to blame for problems facing coal industry

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 11, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/231991-epa-chief-dont-blame-enviro-rules-for-coals-woes>

The EPA and “Independence”

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Jun 15, 2012

<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2012/06/15/the-epa-and-independence/#more-543>

EPA’s Proposed Carbon “Pollution” Standard for New Power Plants

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics, Jun 11, 2012

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/1511>

[SEPP Comment: The EPA veteran links to his presentations on upcoming EPA regulations.]

Reconsidering U.S. EPA’s Proposed NESHAP’s Mercury Emission Rule

By Willie Soon, Master Resource, Jun 11, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/06/epa-neshap-rule-mercury-criticism/#more-20368>

Bad science behind Florida mercury phobia

Proposed rules could raise electricity costs while harming human health

By Willie Soon, Washington Times, Jun 8, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jun/8/bad-science-behind-florida-mercury-phobia/>

EPA's phony job numbers

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Jun 12, 2012

http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2012/06/epas-phony-job-numbers/722356?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2006/13/2012&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

EPA proposes tougher rules on soot

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 15, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/232901-epa-to-propose-tougher-soot-rule>

White House retreats on endangered species protection for lizard

By Stephen Dinan, Washington Times, Jun 13, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jun/13/white-house-retreats-on-endangered-species-protect/>

[SEPP Comment: The finding would have created significant problems in running pipelines to new oil fields.]

Energy Issues – Non-US

BP Statistical Review of World Energy, June 2012

By Staff Writers [May require copying the web address directly onto a web browser.]

http://www.bp.com/assets/bp_internet/globalbp/globalbp_uk_english/reports_and_publications/statistical_energy_review_2011/STAGING/local_assets/pdf/statistical_review_of_world_energy_full_report_2012.pdf

Open markets to the rescue - the story of energy in 2011, and its lessons for the future

By Alex Forbes, European Energy Review, Jun 14, 2012

http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=283&toegang=0f49c89d1e7298bb9930789c8ed59d48&id=3751

Gazprom: No More Business as Usual

By Staff Writer, Natural Gas Europe, Jun 11, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/gazprom-changing-european-gas-markets>

Canada Seeks Alternatives to Transport Oil Reserves

By Elisabeth Rosenthal, NYT, Jun 13, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/14/science/earth/canada-seeks-new-ways-to-get-oil-reserves-to-market.html?_r=2&hp

[SEPP Comment: *The US is no longer a reliable trading partner.*]

Energy Issues -- US

Can Methanol Replace Foreign Oil?

The glut of natural gas [sic] makes it a no-brainer.

By William Tucker, American Spectator, Jun 15, 2012

<http://spectator.org/archives/2012/06/15/can-methanol-replace-foreign-o>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Shale Boom Will Create 1.5M New Jobs by 2035 and Generate \$1.5T in Tax and Royalty Revenue

By Mark Perry, Carpe Diem, Jun 13, 2012

<http://mjerry.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/shale-boom-to-create-15-million-new.html>

Induced Seismicity Potential in Energy Technologies

By National Research Council, Jun 15, 2012

http://thehill.com/images/stories/news/2012/06_june/induced_seismicity_report.pdf

America's New No. 2 Oil State – North Dakota – Sets More New Oil Production Records In April

By Mark Perry, Carpe Diem, Jun 12, 2012

<http://www.dailymarkets.com/economy/2012/06/12/americas-new-no-2-oil-state-north-dakota-sets-more-new-oil-production-records-in-april/>

Washington's Control of Oil and Gas

US must encourage development of Canadian oil sands, mitigation of CO2 emissions

By Staff Writers, Houston TX (SPX) Jun 12, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/US_must_encourage_development_of_Canadian_oil_sands_mitigation_of_CO2_emissions_999.html

The War On Energy And A Second Term

By Art Horn, Energy Tribune, Jun 15, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10925/The-War-On-Energy-And-A-Second-Term>

Return of King Coal?

World Coal Demand Growing Fastest Of All Fuels

By Al Fin, Energy, From GWPF, Jun 14, 2012

<http://thegwgf.org/energy-news/5966-world-coal-demand-growing-fastest-of-all-fuel.html>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Oil slick threatens drinking water supply of Canadian town

By Staff Writers, Montreal (AFP), June 12, 2012

[http://www.energy-](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Oil_slick_threatens_drinking_water_supply_of_Canadian_town_999.html)

[daily.com/reports/Oil_slick_threatens_drinking_water_supply_of_Canadian_town_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Oil_slick_threatens_drinking_water_supply_of_Canadian_town_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: According to the report, the pipeline is 50 years old.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

German utilities want 15 bn euros for nuclear exit: report

By Staff Writers, Frankfurt (AFP), June 13, 2012

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/German_utilities_want_15_bn_euros_for_nuclear_exit_report_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Hasty policy decisions have costs. When was the last time a tsunami hit Germany?]

International Experts Meet in Vienna To Discuss Improving Communication During a Nuclear Emergency

By Iulia Iliut, IAEA, Jun 15, 2012

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/2012/communication.html>

[SEPP Comment: Although the complete devastation of communication lines and power lines with the combination of earthquake and tsunami was unusual, the communications failure at Fukushima needs to be addressed.]

Experts call for strong regulation and peer review of military and civilian nuclear programs

By Staff Writers, Stanford CA (SPX), Jun 12, 2012

http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Experts_call_for_strong_regulation_and_peer_review_of_military_and_civilian_nuclear_programs_999.html

Nuclear Technology for a Sustainable Future

By Rodolfo Quevenco, IAEA at Rio+ 20, Jun 14, 2012

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/2012/rio20.html>

[SEPP Comment: Amusing. It is unlikely the environmental groups at the conference will embrace nuclear technology.]

Court rejects NRC used fuel ruling

By Staff Writers, WNN, Jun 11, 2012

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/WR-Court_rejects_NRC_used_fuel_ruling-1106124.html

[SEPP Comment: After the nuclear electricity industry paid over \$25 Billion for a questionably needed permanent storage facility for spent fuel in Yucca Mountain, the Federal government pulled the plug on the project. The government claimed it could be stored on-site. Now the US Court of Appeals for DC said no. Anyone for dumping it on Washington?]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

IEA calls for \$36 trillion more in clean energy investments

By Steve Hargreaves, CNN Money, Jun 12, 2012 [H/t Marc Morano]

<http://money.cnn.com/2012/06/12/news/economy/iea-energy/>

[SEPP Comment: Free energy from the wind and the sun is not free.]

Steven Chu is no Don Draper

Leave the advertising campaigns to Madison Avenue

Editorial, Washington Times, Jun 13, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jun/13/steven-chu-is-no-don-draper/>

The Wind Lobby Is Powered by Fossil Fuels

By Robert Bryce, Energy Tribune, Jun 13, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10909/The-Wind-Lobby-Is-Powered-by-Fossil-Fuels>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing the corporate financial power of the Wind Power lobby.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy -- Other

Global investment in renewable energy powers to record \$257 billion

By Staff Writers, Paris, France (SPX), Jun 12, 2012

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Global_investment_in_renewable_energy_powers_to_record_257_billion_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Though not specifically stated: the numbers for the US on renewable power generation probably include Biofuels. According to the EIA, in 2011 the electrical generation was coal with 42%, natural gas with 25%, nuclear with 19% renewable with 13% (63% from hydro) and petroleum with less than 1%. Electric Power Generation, Feb 2012]

California Dreaming

How to Surpass California's Renewable Energy Goals

By Staff Writers, Berkeley CA (SPX), Jun 14, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/How_to_Surpass_California_Renewable_Energy_Goals_999.html

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Landfast Sea Ice Extent Along the East Antarctic Coast

Reference: Fraser, A.D., Massom, R.A., Michael, K.J., Galton-Fenzi, B.K. and Lieser, J.L. 2012. East Antarctic landfast sea ice distribution and variability, 2000-08. *Journal of Climate* 25: 1137-1156.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/12jun2012a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: The sea ice attached to land is growing.]

The Winds of Climate Change: Altering Albatross Life-History Traits

Reference: Weimerskirch, H., Louzao, M. de Grissac, S. and Delord, K. 2012. Changes in wind pattern alter albatross distribution and life-history traits. *Science* 335: 211-214.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/12jun2012a2.html>

[SEPP Comment: Is global warming making the albatross obese?]

Sub-Antarctic Sea Urchin Larval Responses to Lower Seawater pH

Reference: Catarino, A.I., De Ridder, C., Gonzalez, M., Gallardo, P. and Dubois, P. 2012. Sea urchin *Arbacia dufresnei* (Blainville 1825) larvae response to ocean acidification. *Polar Biology* 35: 455-461.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/12jun2012a4.html>

Polar Bears Found Capable of Swimming Long Distances in Open Water

Reference: Pagano, A.M., Durner, G.M., Amstrup, S.C., Simac, K.S. and York, G.S. 2012. Long-distance swimming by polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) of the southern Beaufort Sea during years of extensive open water. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 90: 663-676.

[SEPP Comment: Adult female bears with cubs can swim long distances. This has been known for a long time, but ignored by the alarmists. Bears survived the Holocene Global Optimum in which the temperatures were warmer than today.]

Plants of Today (and Even More So of Tomorrow): Free at Last!

Reference: Tissue, D.T. and Lewis, J.D. 2012. Learning from the past: how low [CO₂] studies inform plant and ecosystem response to future climate change. *New Phytologist* 194: 4-6.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/13jun2012a1.html>

More specifically, they indicate that "during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM, 18,000-20,000 years ago), atmospheric CO₂ ranged from 180-200 ppm, which is approximately half the current CO₂ (392 ppm), and *among the lowest CO₂ observed during the evolution of vascular land plants over the past 350 million years* [italics and bold added]."

More Southern Hemisphere Evidence for Global Millennial-Scale Cycling of Climate

Reference: Kemp, J., Radke, L.C., Olley, J., Juggins, S. and De Deckker, P. 2012. Holocene lake salinity changes in the Wimmera, southeastern Australia, provide evidence for millennial-scale climate variability. *Quaternary Research* 77: 65-76.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/13jun2012a2.html>

[SEPP Comment: Approximately every 1500 years, likely thanks to solar variation.]

Environmental Industry

Socialists Force Bank Of America To Fund 'Green Economy'

Editorial, IBD, Jun 14, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/614942/201206141907/militant-environmentalists-dictating-bank-investing-decisions.htm?p=full>

[SEPP Comment: Is the \$50 Billion commitment the cost of taking Federal loans during the bail-out?]

Road to Rio II

Is WWF Delusional?

By Staff Writers, World Growth, Jun 2012 (pdf)

http://www.worldgrowth.org/assets/files/WG_GreenPaper_WWF_Delusional_6_12.pdf

Now, the War on Natural Gas

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jun 15, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/06/15/now-the-war-on-natural-gas/>

NRDC, Out to Scare People

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jun 12, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/06/12/nrdc-out-to-scare-people/>

Are the green energy mob lying about their tax breaks, or just ignorant?

By Tim Worstall, Telegraph, Jun 12, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/finance/timworstall/100017772/are-the-green-energy-mob-lying-about-their-tax-breaks-or-just-ignorant/>

"Allowing an earth sciences PhD to play with taxes and economics is going to turn out as badly as allowing me to play with physics."

[SEPP Comment: Most of the famous tax breaks for fossil fuels are in developing countries, not developed countries.]

Other Scientific News

Undersea volcano gave off signals before eruption in 2011

By Staff Writers, Newport OR (SPX), Jun 14, 2012
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Undersea_volcano_gave_off_signals_before_eruption_in_2011_999.html

Artificial science

By Elizabeth Whelan, ACSH, Financial Post, Jun 12, 2012
<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/12/junk-science-week-artificial-science/>

Other News that May Be of Interest

How to create -science consensus

New book recounts mass -official craziness in policymaking
By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Jun 11, 2012
<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/11/terence-corcoran-how-to-create-%C2%ADscience-consensus/>

Unique microbes found in extreme environment

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Jun 12, 2012
http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Unique_microbes_found_in_extreme_environment_999.html
... temperatures dropped to -10 degrees Celsius (14 degrees Fahrenheit) one night, and spiked to 56 degrees C (133 degrees F) the next day.
[SEPP Comment: The temperature extremes show the lack of greenhouse gases – namely, water vapor.]

The Great Fire Of 1910 Places The Current 2012 Fire Season In Perspective

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jun 15, 2012
<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/06/15/the-great-fire-of-1910-places-the-current-2012-fire-season-in-perspective/>
[SEPP Comment: Background on what created the forest fire policies in the US.]

Satellite Sees Smoke from Siberian Fires Reach the U.S. Coast

By Laura Betz for Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt MD (SPX) Jun 13, 2012
http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Satellite_Sees_Smoke_from_Siberian_Fires_Reach_the_US_Coast_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Will the EPA regulate fires in Siberia next?]

US scientists celebrate return of the cougar to the American midwest

Nearly extinct in the 1990s, cougars are expanding their presence in the country, with male found as far as Connecticut
By Karen McVeigh, Guardian, Jun 14, 2012
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jun/14/return-of-the-cougar>
[SEPP Comment: When the cougars begin attacking human joggers and domestic animals as they do in parts of California, the rejoicing may become a bit subdued.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

'Drought-hit' UK lifts hosepipe bans after two soggy months

By Staff Writers, London (AFP), June 13, 2012
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Drought-hit_UK_lifts_hosepipe_bans_after_two_soggy_months_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Sad news for the climate modelers, the drought did not make it.]

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ARTICLES:

1. 'Cap and Trade' For CO2 Needs a Stake through the Heart

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Jun 11, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/06/cap_and_trade_for_co2_needs_a_stake_through_the_heart.htm
1

Cap and trade (C&T) is in the news again: Global Carbon Market trading (practically all EU) climbed to \$176 billion in 2011 according to the The World Bank, which has just released its annual State and Trends of The Carbon Market in 2012. That makes it about the same value as total global wheat production -- which supplies about 20% of the calories consumed by the 7 billion people on planet Earth.

Meanwhile in Sacramento, CA, passage of Assembly Bill 1532 on May 29, signals a shift from regulation of air pollution to an outright war on business and industry in California. And in Los Angeles, the Cal Air Resources Board (CARB) is moving to implement a state-wide C&T scheme by Jan 2013 that will be like a carbon tax, yielding annual revenues of about a billion through the auctioning of emission permits

In New Jersey, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Environment New Jersey filed a lawsuit on June 6 complaining that Gov. Chris Christie's exit from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative didn't give the public any chance to comment. Last year, Christie vetoed legislation that would have kept NJ in the climate initiative.

C&T explained

C&T refers to a system of pollution control that received great notoriety in 2009 in the Waxman -Markey bill. This monstrosity barely passed the House in a close vote along partisan lines. At the last minute, the sponsors added 300 pages to the 1,100-page bill, which hardly anyone had read before voting. I still recall then-Minority Leader John Boehner actually reading from the 300 pages on the House floor, trying to stall the vote. The U.S. Senate, wisely, refused to consider the bill and so this monstrous piece of legislation, a centerpiece of Obama's climate/tax policy, died a quick death.

In general, however, a C&T scheme is much favored by economists over "command & control" because it provides a lowest-cost approach to reduce the emission of a pollutant. If one has a fixed target for ambient air quality and emitters facing diverse mitigation costs, it makes sense to have them trade emission rights; it will result in the lower-cost emitters applying controls before it causes higher-cost emitters to do likewise. In essence, one constructs a supply curve, familiar to every student of economics, plotting cost against amounts emitted, showing a gradual rise, followed a by steeper rise as the target level is approached. The result: less waste of resources and increased societal benefits.

It is well-known that C&T and pollution taxes are in some sense equivalent ways of controlling emissions. In the case of C&T, one knows the total amount that can be emitted, which is set by the cap; but one doesn't know the cost beforehand. In the case of energy taxes, one can estimate the total cost but doesn't know how much emission reduction will actually take place.

C&T was first applied to control sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from various sources, including smelters and electric power plants burning coal. Smelters for copper and other minerals emit copious amounts of sulfur dioxide; so it make sense for them to establish controls at relatively low cost and then sell emission rights to electric utilities that face a much higher control cost per ton.

In defending his C&T scheme for CO₂, President Obama often reminds us that two decades ago, then-President George H.W Bush backed such a cap-&-trade program, targeting acid rain; it was meant to reduce SO₂ emissions by a fixed amount. The measure overwhelmingly passed Congress as part of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Hill:

Cap-and-trade was originally proposed by conservatives and Republicans as a market-based solution to solving environmental problems," Obama said during a fiery speech at a luncheon hosted by The Associated Press. [...] "The first president to talk about cap-and-trade was George H.W. Bush. Now you've got the other party essentially saying we shouldn't even be thinking about environmental protection.

But C&T for CO2 is different

But Obama's comparison is specious. C&T for controlling SO2 did achieve a certain amount of success, being applied regionally or nationally. However, C&T applied to carbon dioxide (CO2) is a different kind of animal and has become highly controversial. There are several reasons for that.

1. SO2 is a true pollutant, as set out by law in the Clean Air Act. CO2, however, is not a pollutant and will remain so unless or until the EPA can demonstrate that it is "harmful to human health and welfare." EPA is now attempting to do this through its 2009 Endangerment Finding (EF), currently being litigated. A decision by the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia is expected within weeks. (Full disclosure: I am on the plaintiff team, hoping to demonstrate that EPA's EF lacks any scientific base: i.e., that CO2 is not a pollutant at all.)
2. In the case of SO2, the desired ambient atmospheric level -- and therefore, the "cap" -- is set by a cost-benefit analysis of health effects and can be established in advance. On the other hand, the cap for CO2 is not fixed but is viewed by its proponents as subject to downward revisions as politics will permit.
3. Even worse, there has been talk about setting "flexible caps" for CO2 -- in case the control costs become too burdensome. This is an open invitation for political meddling to Congress, and of course to lobbyists, to adjust the cap according to political considerations.
4. But there is a more fundamental difference: SO2 is regional, and can be managed within the U.S. or Europe: CO2 is truly global and therefore outside of purely national control. How would EPA enforce -- or even decide on NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards)? The misguided Kyoto Protocol never even considered an international scheme of C&T.

What has actually happened with CO2 trading can be seen from the European experience. There, carbon allowances were given to various industries and utilities for free, without any auction -- and of course without any revenue to the national treasuries. Additional permits then had to be bought, and there was great activity among brokers and exchanges to profit from such trades. The actual experience has been quite disappointing. The price of carbon permits has fluctuated violently and has trended downward recently-- to the extent that carbon exchanges have gone out of business and there is no active market at the present. Part of the problem has been the economic downturn. For example, in the United States carbon emissions have decreased by 2 percent per year in the last 3 years.

With its relentless, ideological war against coal by the activist EPA, the percentage of coal-fired power plants has decreased substantially, from 51% to 42%, and is still trending downward, as power plants fired by lower-cost natural gas are taking over. Natural gas also emits roughly half as much CO2 as coal per kilowatt-hour. The new stringent mercury rule proposed by EPA is already causing old coal-fired power plants to close. And proposed CO2-emission limits would even prevent the construction of new plants in the U.S.

Elsewhere the opposite is happening. For example, since Germany has decreed that nuclear plants must close, coal-fired power-plants are being built at rapid pace. And of course, China has been building such plants at the rate of one per week for some time now, paying little attention to the control of genuine toxic

pollutants. As a result, global atmospheric CO2 levels are increasing but will increase more rapidly as the world economy recovers -- no matter what the EPA decrees.

A historical note:

In 1982, I was part of a small panel of experts set up by White House science adviser Dr George Keyworth to make recommendations about SO2 emission problems. At that time, the acid-rain issue was in full swing and was causing some friction with Canada, our neighbor to the North. The panel was chaired by Dr. William Nierenberg and had on it some rabid acid-rain activists, supported by EPA grants and contracts.

I recall proposing a C&T scheme for SO2, but met great opposition from these activists. A compromise was reached by chairman Nierenberg: my C&T proposal would not appear in the panel report but in an Appendix, to be signed by me. Even though it was obvious that C&T would provide the lowest-cost solution nationally, the activists on the panel just couldn't stomach the idea that utilities would be permitted to emit SO2 as before by simply buying emission rights. In their thoroughly a-historical and un-scientific book *Merchants of Doubt*, the authors Oreskes and Conway take me to task about this C&T proposal as a defender of the industries involved.

Yet MoD gives me credit (or blames me) for inventing the trading of emission rights under a fixed cap of total emissions (see pp. 91-93). I had never claimed any kind of priority (a dubious honor, anyway) because I honestly don't know if this idea had been published anywhere. It just seemed like the natural thing to suggest in order to reduce total cost -- once an emission cap had been set. My example involved smelters that emit SO2 copiously versus electric utilities that burn coal. I even constructed what amounts to a "supply curve" in which the bulk of the emission control is borne initially by the lowest-cost units.

It is ironic that these same activists who then ideologically opposed C&T for SO2 are now clamoring for C&T to control emissions of CO2 -- a pointless, counterproductive, and very expensive exercise.

2. Virginia Is Sinking

By Charles Battig, *American Thinker*, Jun 15, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/06/virginia_is_sinking.html

[SEPP Comment: It is a matter of how you measure sea level.]

Virginia has attracted much attention recently not only because of its status as a swing state, but also as a sinking state. Within the same week, two remarkably similar articles were published featuring the nexus between political belief systems and coastal sea level impacts. The June 5, 2012 BBC News Magazine article by Daniel Nasaw "Virginia's dying marshes and climate change denial" was soon followed by the June 10, 2012 PilotOnline "Lawmakers avoid buzzwords on climate change bills" by Scott Harper.

Mr. Nasaw paints a dismal picture of the Virginia coastline with trees withering away and vital marsh lands sinking, victims of a "rising sea level," linked to "climate change denial." Amongst those quoted in his two-page article is Carl Hershner who "studies coastal resources management at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)." Mr. Hershner dutifully laments that, "Here in Virginia there is very little political will to address the mitigation side of things-reducing our carbon footprint, reducing greenhouse gas emissions." Perhaps Hershner has some unique insight into the nature and magnitude of such mitigations needed to achieve a measurable impact on "the climate." To date, the human contribution to global temperature change remains an ill-defined, minor contribution to natural forces. The link to "climate change" is just plain un-defined. Global temperatures have not increased for the past 15 years even as atmospheric carbon dioxide (carbon footprint) has continued to rise.

Neither Mr. Hershner nor reporter Nasaw seems aware of Professor John Boon, also of the same VIMS. Boon has studied the geology and sea level interactions of the Chesapeake area. His December 2010 report, "Sea-Level study brings good and bad news to Hampton Roads," states that the good news is that "absolute sea level in Chesapeake Bay is rising only about half as fast as the global average rise rate. The bad news, says Boon, is that local subsidence more than makes up for it." His report notes that, "Data from NOAA satellites and tide gauges show that absolute sea level is rising at a rate of about 1.8 millimeters per year in Chesapeake Bay. That's only about half of the globally averaged 3.1-mm per year rate of absolute sea-level rise, as reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change." Boon concludes that, "on average, about 50% of the relative sea level rise measured at Bay water level stations is due to local subsidence. The mid-

Atlantic region is slowly sinking in response to land movements associated with melting of the polar ice caps following the last Ice Age, faulting associated with the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater, local groundwater withdrawals, and other factors."

A November 2010 report to the U.S. Corps of Engineers by Boon and his co-authors, "Chesapeake Bay Subsidence and Sea Level Change," provides a more in depth analysis of the land subsidence/land sinking and absolute sea-level interaction.

The best that the Nasaw BBC article can do is a single sentence "ancient geological forces are causing the land literally to sink..." Nowhere does he define his headlined "climate change denial." He cites not one source which is denying "climate change," an undeniable fact of Earth's history at all time scales.

Scott Harper in his Virginia-Pilot editorial engages in a pre-occupation with "buzzwords," and Republican vs. Democratic word-games at the expense of scientific clarity. Is it "sea level rise," "climate change," or "land subsidence/sinking"? The actual phenomenon of "recurrent flooding" is described as a political work-around. It is not, but is the just plain-common-sense term which accurately describes what the local citizens see and understandably fear.

"The semantics dance harkens to the days when 'global warming' was commonly uttered. But after conservatives criticized and ridiculed Al Gore and others, 'climate change' became the kinder, gentler way to communicate the same thing" according to Harper, who is unaware that an international community of scientists have also criticized Mr. Gore's climate claims. No, kindness had nothing to do with the re-labeling: the continuing lack of global warming for the past 15 years made the term ineffective and an embarrassment. Less kind terms, including "climate weirding" are now in use by environmentalists.

Harper's article notes, "It also shows how climate skeptics, through their political connections and organization, are forcing state and local government to stay clear of certain buzzwords in quietly pursuing a strategy, else they risk unleashing a brawl." He obviously feels that open scientific debate engenders a "brawl." The political connections and organizations supporting the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its dogma of dangerous, man-made climate change are given a pass. In spite of the four IPCC reports of 1990, 1995, 2001, and 2007, they have failed to provide scientific proof for their founding assumption that man-made carbon dioxide has made a clearly identifiable and significant impact on global temperature. The IPCC excels in producing computer model "scenarios" of future climate states based on their parameterization of Nature; their track record and the reality of Nature have been at odds for some time.

By all means, let us get the political speech out of the local flooding discussion, and put in some scientific clarity as Harper quotes State Del. Chris Stolle, R-Virginia Beach, "who insisted on changing the 'sea level rise' study in the General Assembly to one on 'recurrent flooding,' said he wants to get political speech out of the mix altogether."

Harper fails to provide that clarity by including such comments as, "According to scientific tide measurements at Sewells Point in Norfolk, the sea level has risen by 14.5 inches in the past 100 years. The trend is projected to continue for at least the next century, and some scientists predict that the rate could accelerate, with the level rising an additional 2 to 3 feet by 2100, and perhaps higher." The inclusion of "could" and "some scientists predict" qualifiers indicate that these are unsubstantiated computer modeling exercises. Harper states, "Scientists are not sure at what rate the soft, marshy region is sinking, only that it plays a significant role in calculating "relative sea level rise." He is apparently unaware of the before-mentioned VIMS report by Professor Boon on Chesapeake Bay subsidence when he clearly states that "about 50% of the relative sea level rise measured at Bay water level stations is due to local subsidence."

Clarity would be the less sloppy use of undefined terminology in these political writings. When the water is lapping up at your back yard, it could be because the land you are standing on is sinking, or because there is more water entering your yard, or because there is a combination of the two, as in the Chesapeake Bay area. The combination effect is properly known as "relative sea rise."

Clarity would be abandoning the catch-all, and undefined term "climate change" as the universal "explanation" for these observations, and justification for political action. Satellite data from the University of Colorado shows a relatively constant rate of sea level rise for the past ten years, and a more recent negative sea-level-rise trend. Fifteen years of global cooling debunk any simplistic cause-and-effect link to increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Yes, it is time to deal with reality.

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3. Coal India May Import Up to 30 Million Tons This Year

By Saurabh Chaturvedi, WSJ, Jun 11, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303768104577459812375027288.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

NEW DELHI--Coal India Ltd. plans to import up to 30 million metric tons of coal this fiscal year as part of efforts to meet rising domestic demand and mitigate power shortages.

The imports, are dependent on "firm orders" from customers, mostly in the power and cement sectors, Chairman S. Narsing Rao said. If shipments are arranged, they will be Coal India's first imports on record.

The world's largest coal company by output has seen its production growth stagnate over the past two years, widening the gap between supply and demand--and increasing the likelihood of successfully importing on behalf of its customers. When the shortfall was relatively narrow, power companies opted to arrange imports directly, but with their import requirements increasing, they may choose to take delivery via the state-owned Coal India, as--in most cases--they will be permitted to pass increased costs associated with imports arranged this way on to electricity consumers.

The company hasn't yet been able to implement a plan to sign long-term import contracts with overseas companies, due to lack of interest from downstream buyers.

Coal India, which sells more than 80% of the coal consumed in the country, is facing delays in obtaining environmental clearances for expansion projects and land acquisition problems.

More than half of India's 201 gigawatts of power-generation capacity is coal-fueled, as is most of country's new capacity.

"Coal imports can help us in meeting the rising requirement of coal," Mr. Rao said by telephone from Kolkata, where the company is headquartered. "We are also taking other measures to augment domestic supplies."

Coal India is attempting to enhance output at its mines to narrow the domestic shortfall, currently estimated at more than 100 million tons, Mr. Rao said.

Meanwhile, transport bottlenecks and lower availability of wagons to supply coal from the company's various local mines have led to bulging stockpiles--currently at 63 million tons, a figure the company is "not comfortable" with, he said.

"We have made our coal stocks at mines available to the customers," Mr. Rao said. "Those who are willing to arrange for their own transport and collect it from the pit-head are welcome."

Mr. Rao said the company plans to lower its coal sales through electronic auctions by 3.9% on year to about 50 million tons in the year that began April 1, to comply with government directives to trim such lucrative sales over the next five years and make more coal available to the power sector.

4. How to Shrink the French Economy

France will have to shrink its economy by two-fifths to prevent widespread ecological decline.

By Erik Assadourian, WSJ, Jun 12, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303901504577461853663432964.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

[SEPP Comment: Mr. Assadourian is co-director of Worldwatch Institute's State of the World 2012: Moving Toward Sustainable Prosperity. Sustainable poverty is more in keeping with the suggested policies.]

There are many competing priorities that demand the new French president's attention: a shaky euro, public debt, French troops in Afghanistan. But with jobless rates hovering near 10% and 23% of French youth now unemployed, stimulating growth is surely at the top of François Hollande's to-do list.

Yet considering France's ecological footprint is 64% larger than the planet can sustain, France will have to shrink its economy by two-fifths over time to prevent widespread ecological decline in France and beyond, even as its population continues to grow.

In other words, there's a responsible way to grow the economy and there's an irresponsible way. Here are some suggestions on how Mr. Hollande can bring France closer to sustainable prosperity, rather than just create another short-term economic bubble that the breakdown of Earth's systems will pop a decade or two down the road:

- Tax the rich. A lot. Mr. Hollande should follow through on his campaign promise to increase tax rates to 75% on those earning more than €1 million. This will curb the market for unsustainable luxury goods while providing revenue to fund France's transition to a sustainable society.
- Tax social ills. Fossil fuels, carbon emissions, junk food, automobiles, advertising—these are all ripe for additional taxes to curb their abundance, while generating further state revenue.

- Invest in renewables to improve France's path to energy security. At the same time, Mr. Hollande must help normalize much lower rates of electricity usage, such as through tiered electricity pricing, which would charge users progressively for higher levels of use.
- Make French cities nearly car-free by 2022. Invest heavily in mass transit, bicycle lanes and pedestrian-friendly development so that the only urban vehicles 10 years from now will be shared and rented cars, taxis, delivery trucks and ambulances. This one measure would save billions of euros in traffic fatalities and air pollution-related illnesses, reduce CO2 emissions, and create far more local jobs in bicycle maintenance and sales than those lost in the French auto industry.
- Follow the Netherlands' lead and create a 200-year plan to address climate change. The Dutch are investing a billion dollars a year preparing their coastlines, infrastructure and agriculture for climate change. That's a step in the right direction, though the standard assumption of an increase of only two degrees Celsius over the next two centuries is probably optimistic at this point.
- Facilitate a return to traditional living arrangements. Although youth unemployment is a challenge, multigenerational housing can help address it, creating new ways to share costs among family members. Increasing the desirability of multigenerational housing could be done through tax incentives, social marketing and stimulating new local economic opportunities—such as small-scale farming and animal husbandry, artisanal crafts and repair.

Together, these could help reduce economic insecurity and ecological impact as housing density increases, local economies develop and families once again turn to social capital instead of financial capital to maintain high-quality lives.

Over time, humanity will once again discover that a consumer economy of dispersed car-owning single-family homes is ecologically impossible and socially harmful. Proactively facilitating the transition away from this model and toward one centered on sustainable prosperity would be the best contribution this French presidency could make to France, the European Union and the planet.

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