

The Week That Was: 2014-02-08 (February 8, 2014)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: “When the debate is lost, slander becomes the tool of the loser.” — Socrates
#####

Number of the Week: 0.60 miles per day
#####

Un-Science or Non-Science? Writing in Bishop Hill, Andrew Montford observes that once climatologists get a new generation of climate models into the open, as may occur with the Assessment Reports of UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the climatologists spend the next few years writing papers on their analyses of the outputs of the models. They do not attempt to validate the models against actual observations, which those engaged in empirical research and model testing would do.

The publication of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was accompanied by a new round of climate models – the CMIP5 climate models. CMIP stands for the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project, under the World Climate Research Programme. “The Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison (PCMDI) archives much of the CMIP data and provides other support for CMIP. PCMDI’s CMIP effort is funded by the Regional and Global Climate Modeling (RGCM) Program of the Climate and Environmental Sciences Division of the **U.S. Department of Energy’s** Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program.” <http://cmip-pcmdi.llnl.gov/>

On his blog, Roy Spencer presents his updated analysis of 90 CMIP5 Climate Models. Over 95% of these models over-estimate the observed warming, the surface warming as measured by HadCRUT4 and the atmospheric warming as measured by the University of Alabama in Huntsville. These models that overestimate global warming since 1983 are being used to justify many environmental and energy policies in the US. As Spencer reports, these models should not be used to force expensive and property-destroying energy policies down our throats.

In August 2013, the White House reported to Congress that Federal Climate Change Expenditures in FY 2013 amounted to \$22.6 billion. The Department of Energy’s (DOE) share amounted to \$4.572 billion. By far, the largest single category was Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (\$1.8 billion). As the major funder of the PCMDI-CMIP effort, the DOE has the responsibility to the US taxpayer of insisting that the CMIP models be rigorously tested and validated (only one model can be valid). DOE has failed to do so, and it is clear that DOE has a financial incentive not to do so. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Un-Science or Non-Science?, and http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative_reports/fcce-report-to-congress.pdf

Funding Failure: Last week, TWTW reported that the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean array of buoys is failing for lack of maintenance. These buoys monitor the warming and cooling events in the equatorial Pacific, known respectively as El Niño and La Niña, which are important natural for climate change. About 50% of the NOAA-maintained buoys are not reporting. The budget for maintaining the buoys fell from about \$10-\$12 million to \$2-3 million. Somehow Washington can spend \$22.6 billion in 2013 on climate change but not maintain critical instruments on

understanding weather and climate change. The amount for buoys is tiny compared to DOE spending on renewables.

TWTW Reader Timothy Wise reminded us of a GAO report last February, which stated that there is a significant timing gap between the end of scheduled life existing satellites, and replacement with new satellites. The US has two complementary sets of satellites, polar-orbiting ones, and geostationary ones. They are used by weather forecasters, climatologists, the military, etc. According to the GAO report, the timing gap between end of scheduled life and replacement with new satellites could span from 17 to 53 months or more, depending on how long the current satellite lasts and any delays in launching or operating the new one. As reported in past TWTWs, based on three separate, but somewhat overlapping government reports, the US has spent some \$165 billion on climate change since 1993, but the US cannot spend the money needed to maintain critical instrumentation. Another source for funds is the \$8 Billion in “Energy Payments in Lieu of Tax Provisions in the FY 2013 Federal Climate Change Expenditures. A new report will not come out until early 2015. See link under Measurement Issues.

Plateau: NOAA, and other entities that report annual temperatures, are becoming desperate on how to report a no trend in global warming. They mislead the public by stating that last year was the X -- warmest on record rather than stating bluntly that there has been no surface warming trend for 16 or 17 years. It is somewhat similar to Fridjof Nansen’s small team crossing southern Greenland in 1888. After finally climbing the mountains in the southeast they came to a huge plateau. For days they crossed it, not knowing if they would come to a mountain range or a warm valley as some had speculated. Finally, they came to the mountains in the southwest that also ring the plateau. The crossing took 49 days, including the time spent climbing and descending the mountains. Are we on a similar plateau about temperatures?

Some scientists predict temperatures trends will rise, other predict they will fall. Regardless if the temperature trends rise, or fall, the failure of the models to predict the plateau is all too evident. The models are unsuitable for establishing government policies on climate and energy use. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Measurement Issues.

New Hot Spot: The old hot spot cannot be found. The falsely claimed human fingerprint to global warming (actually whatever the cause) of a distinct warming trend centered about 10 km (33,000 feet) above the tropics does not appear on satellite or weather balloon measurements.

An article in the *Wall Street Journal* brought up a warm area in the northeast Pacific off the coasts of Canada and Alaska. Bob Tisdale examined the hot spot and reported that the anomaly may be as great as 7 degrees F. But according to Tisdale, the ARGO buoys show no unusual warming (or cooling) event for the top 700 meters, “so the warming event appears to be surface related.” In a personal communication, Joe D’Aleo writes it has survived there for six months. Simply, the cause of this hot spot is not known at this time. See link under Changing Weather and Article #2.

Fraying Solidarity: The problems with the 95% certainty of the climate science and surveys that 97% of scientists agree that [fill in the blank], are creating problems in the climate establishment. The general public is becoming increasingly skeptical. In his article “Science can’t settle what should be done about climate change,” Mike Hulme, Professor of Climate Change in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and of Climategate note, argues for a more politicized atmosphere for addressing global warming/climate change. TWTW suggests the science has long been political. It is set up in a manner that does not produce a

scientific solution. There is no effort to attempt to validate the models, on which the entire climate establishment depends. It is clear the climate establishment cannot model natural climate change, which is a necessary step to successfully modeling the human influence. See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy

More Fraying Solidarity: The long-delayed approval process for the northern leg of the Keystone Pipeline to bring oil from Canada to Nebraska, and then to the Gulf Coast, is producing discord in the environmental industry and in organizations that support them. Some leaders of the environmental industry are questioning if the fight against Keystone is an issue they should continue. Even the *Washington Post* has editorialized in favor of Keystone. The oil will move whether or not Washington approves it. The question is who will benefit the most.

The White House had the audacity to announce the decision will not be a political one. For over 5 years it has been little else but political. No doubt, the administration will delay the decision until it becomes clear it can no longer use an impending decision for political advantage, such as fund raising. See links under: Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up, Questioning Green Elsewhere, and Washington’s Control of Energy.

Drilling in Britain: The opposition to smart drilling for natural gas in deep shale is now proposing to stop the drilling by bringing up property trespass – can a drill pass under their lands, no matter how deep underground, without the property owners permission. Andrew Montford suggests a simple way of averting the issue. Repeal the Petroleum (Production) Act 1934, which nationalizes ownership of onshore oil and gas resources. He states that shale gas development will take place on a voluntary basis.

Writing in Master Resource, Robert Bradley makes a similar argument for private mineral rights in South America. One difficulty may be size of land holdings and acquiring rights of way. It remains to be seen if such actions are forthcoming. See links under Energy Issues – Non-US.

Number of the Week: 0.60 miles per day. The Wall Street Journal reports that as of January 31, 2014, the application for the northern leg of the Keystone pipeline has been under approval review for 1960 days. The leg is 1179 miles long. This works out to 0.60 miles per day, or 0.025 miles per hour (mph).

According to the Guinness Book of Records, “in a speed test carried out in the Seychelles, a male giant tortoise could only cover 15 feet in 43.5 sec (0.23 mph) despite the enticement of a female.” So there you have it. A male, giant tortoise of the Seychelles can be enticed to move about 10 times faster than the Washington bureaucracy in considering the Keystone pipeline.

<http://hypertextbook.com/facts/1999/RachelShweky.shtml>

#####

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. The Stealth Carbon Tax

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 3, 2014

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

2. Now Is the Winter of Our Discontent

Weather Experts Blame Oceanic Quirk for Extreme Cold and Unusual Warmth Across U.S.

By Robeert Lee Hotz, WSJ, Jan 31, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/article_email/SB10001424052702303743604579355184004388274-1MyQjAxMTA0MDAwMjEwNDIyWj

3. Robert Bryce: The Real Climate 'Deniers' Are the Greens

While renewables subsidies have punished Europe, shale gas has cut U.S. emissions

By Robert Bryce, WSJ, Feb 2, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304007504579346774109467020?mod=I TP_opinion_0

4. Rising Coal Use Clouds Europe's Future

Turn Away From Gas Seen Impacting Continent's Industrial Base

By Stephen Fidler, WSJ, Feb 6, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304450904579367074233771140?mod=WSJ_Energy_2_4_Right

[SEPP Comment: Striking graphic on difference for natural-gas prices for selected countries.]

#####

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Challenging the Orthodoxy

95% of Climate Models Agree: The Observations Must be Wrong

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Feb 7, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/02/95-of-climate-models-agree-the-observations-must-be-wrong/>

Climate Scientist Who Got It Right Predicts 20 More Years of Global Cooling

By Barbara Hollingsworth, CNSNews, Jan 28, 2014

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/barbara-hollingsworth/climate-scientist-who-got-it-right-predicts-20-more-years-global>

Obama Mised on Climate Change Facts

By H. Leighton Steward, Politix, No Date

<http://politix.topix.com/story/10271-obama-mised-on-climate-change-facts>

2013: The NASA/Hansen Climate Model Prediction of Global Warming Vs. Climate Reality

By Editor, C3 Headlines, Jan 31, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.c3headlines.com/2014/01/2013-nasa-hansen-climate-model-prediction-global-warming-reality-those-stubborn-facts.html>

Looking at the last refuges of AGW theory that fails data scrutiny

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Feb 3, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/looking_at_the_last_refuges_of_agw_theory_that_fails_data_scrutiny/

Defending the Orthodoxy

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

By Staff Writers, Geneva (AFP), Feb 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/2013_sixth-hottest_year_confirms_long-term_warming_UN_999.html

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Fighting the Wrong Battle: Public Persuaded About CO₂ As Pollutant – Not As Cause of Warming

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Feb 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/05/fighting-the-wrong-battle-public-persuaded-about-co2-as-pollutant-not-as-cause-of-warming/>

The Polar Vortex: Climate Alarmism Blows Hot And Cold

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Feb 2, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2014/02/02/the-polar-vortex-climate-alarmism-blows-hot-and-cold/>

It's time to get rid of the EPA

By Bill Wilson, Fox News, Feb 5, 2014

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/02/05/it-time-to-get-rid-epa/>

Global Warming's Tree Ring Circus Brings Us The Costliest Show On Earth

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Feb 2, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2014/02/04/global-warmings-tree-ring-circus/>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Evolution in Natural Vegetation: The Role of CO₂

By Staff Writers, SPPI, Feb 6, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/evolution_in_natural_vegetation_the_role_of_co2.html

Link to paper: Evolution in Natural Vegetation: The Role of CO₂

By Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, Feb 5, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/subject/e/summaries/evolutionnaturalco2.php>

Health-Promoting Effects of Elevated CO₂ on Medical Plants

By Staff Writers, SPPI, Feb 5, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/health_promoting_effects_of_elevated_co2_on_medical_plants.html

Modern Transportation and Food: How Carbon-based Fuel Kept the ‘Third Horseman’ in Check

By Pierre Desrochers, Master Resource, Feb 3, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/02/modern-transportation-vs-famine/>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Science can't settle what should be done about climate change

By Mike Hulme, The Conversation, Feb 4, 2014

<http://theconversation.com/science-cant-settle-what-should-be-done-about-climate-change-22727>

Hulme tries to throw all scientists under a bus. It's just “the debate is over”. Cook, consensus take collateral hit.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 5, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/02/hulme-tries-to-throw-all-scientists-under-a-bus-its-just-the-debate-is-over-without-lauding-the-consensus/#more-33188>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

A methane mystery: Scientists probe unanswered questions about methane and climate change

By Roz Pidcock, The Carbon Brief, Jan 31, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/01/a-methane-mystery-scientists-probe-unanswered-questions-about-methane-and-climate-change/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=cd6d014c53-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+18+7+137+18+2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836acd6d014c53-215218249

Seeking a Common Ground

The Overselling of Climate Modeling Predictability on Multi-Decadal time Scales in the 2013 IPCC WG1 Report – Annex 1 Is Not Scientifically Robust

By Roger Pielke Sr. WUWT, Feb 7, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/07/the-overselling-of-climate-modeling-predictability-on-multi-decadal-time-scales-in-the-2013-ipcc-wg1-report-annex-1-is-not-scientifically-robust/>

The global warmer's dilemma

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 7, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/7/the-global-warmers-dilemma.html>

Link to press release: NERC signs MoU with multinational energy company Shell

By Staff Writers, Natural Environmental Research Council, Feb 7, 2014

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/press/releases/2014/03-shell.asp?cookieConsent=A>

Will The Overselling Of Global Warming Lead To A New Scientific Dark Age?

By Patrick Michaels, Forbes Feb 3, 2014 [H/t Bud Bromely]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickmichaels/2014/02/03/will-the-overselling-of-global-warming-lead-to-a-new-scientific-dark-age/>

What scientific ideas are ready for retirement?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Feb 2, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/02/02/what-scientific-ideas-are-ready-for-retirement/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Atmospheric CO2 Helps Oak Trees Recover from Natural Disasters

Reference: Day, F.P., Schroeder, R.E., Stover, D.B., Brown, A.L.P., Butnor, J.R., Dilustro, J., Hungate, B.A., Dijkstra, P., Duval, B.D., Seiler, T.J., Drake, B.G. and Hinkle, C.R. 2013. The effects of 11 years of CO2 enrichment on roots in a Florida scrub-oak ecosystem. *New Phytologist* 200: 778-787.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/4feb2014a1.html>

Modelling Decadal to Centennial Climate in the Equatorial Pacific

Reference: Ault, T.R., Deser, C., Newman, M. and Emile-Gray, J. 2013. Characterizing decadal to centennial variability in the equatorial Pacific during the last millennium. *Geophysical Research Letters* 40: 3450-3456.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/feb/4feb2014a2.html>

Ault et al. write "these findings imply that the response of the tropical Pacific to future forcings may be even more uncertain than portrayed by state-of-the-art models because there are potentially important sources of century-scale variability that these models do not simulate." Such uncertainty must be adequately addressed before model projections can be taken seriously.

Including the Stratosphere in Models of Global Climate Change

Reference: Marsh, D.R., Mills, M.J., Kinnison, D.E., Lamarque, J.-F., Calvo, N., and Polvani, L.M. 2013. Climate change from 1850 to 2005 simulated in CESM1(WACCM). *Journal of Climate* 26: 7372-7391.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/feb/5feb2014a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: If "the models overestimate the short-term cooling following large volcanic eruptions," the models may overestimate the cooling effect of aerosols, and the warming effect of carbon dioxide.]

Modelling the Asian Summer Monsoon: Another Revealing Analysis

Reference: Sperber, K.R., Annamalai, H., Kang, I.-S., Kitoh, A., Moise, A., Turner, A., Wang, B. and Zhou, T. 2013. The Asian summer monsoon: an intercomparison of CMIP5 vs. CMIP3 simulations of the late 20th century. *Climate Dynamics* 41: 2711-2744.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/feb/5feb2014a3.html>

Models v. Observations

+++**Government abandons temperature records**+++

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 4, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/4/government-abandons-temperature-records.html>

Carbon dioxide is still a greenhouse gas of course, but it is startling to realise that the government has effectively abandoned the temperature records as evidence for global warming. Everything comes down to the climate models.

[SEPP Comment: If the data does not agree with the models, discard the data?]

Measurement Issues

Mitigating Gaps in Weather Satellite Data

By Staff Writers, GAO, Feb 14, 2013

http://www.gao.gov/highrisk/mitigating_gaps_in_weather_satellite_data/why_did_study#t=0

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

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Feb 3, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/02/u-s-decjan-temperatures-3rd-coldest-in-30-years/>

[SEPP Comment: Limited to 350 NOAA/NWS stations that report every 6 hours, not only the maximum and minimum. Many of the 350 stations are at airports.]

Satellites show no global warming for 17 years 5 months

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Feb 6, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/06/satellites-show-no-global-warming-for-17-years-5-months/>

[SEPP Comment: Others may look at the entire satellite record and argue that it shows no warming trend for at least a decade.]

CRU produces something useful for a change

World temperature records available via Google Earth

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 6, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/06/cru-produces-something-useful-for-a-change/>

[SEPP Comment: The issue is how accurate are the measurements and the coverage?]

Changing Weather

The End of Snow? New York Times hypes yet another warmist lie that snow is disappearing

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Feb 7, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/the_end_of_snow_new_york_times_hypes_the_leftist_lie_that_snow_is_disappear/

Most Great Lakes ice since the mid 1990s - 78.5% coverage

By Joe D'Aleo, ICECAP, Feb 8, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/in-the-news/most_great_lakes_ice_since_mid_1990s_785_coverage

Great Lakes ice cover spreading rapidly; see which lake set a new record

By Mark Torregrossa, Michigan Live, Feb 6, 2014

http://www.mlive.com/weather/index.ssf/2014/02/great_lakes_added_11_percent_i.html

It is going to be close, but we may be living in a historic winter with regards to amount of Great Lakes ice. .. We will see some fascinating ice sculptures if we get a big wind that breaks the ice, and piles it up.

The Hotspot in the North Pacific

By Bob Tisdale, Climate Observations, Feb 5, 2014

<http://bobtisdale.wordpress.com/2014/02/05/the-hotspot-in-the-north-pacific/>

January Rainfall Stats [UK]

By Paul Homewood Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/02/03/january-rainfall-stats/>

Changing Climate

California Dreamin' Of Wetter Times

By Doug Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, Feb 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/california-dreamin-wetter-times>

California drought: Past dry periods have lasted more than 200 years, scientists say

By Paul Rogers, San Jose Mercury News, Jan 25, 2014 [H/t Climate Change Weekly]

http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_24993601/california-drought-past-dry-periods-have-lasting-

A 'smoking gun' on the Ice Age megafauna extinctions

By Staff Writers, Copenhagen, Denmark (SPX), Feb 06, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/A_smoking_gun_on_the_Ice_Age_megafauna_extinctions_999.html

When winter really was winter: the last of the London Frost Fairs

By Cahal Milmo, Independent, UK, Jan 31, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/when-winter-really-was-winter-the-last-of-the-london-frost-fairs-9100338.html>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Why is there so much Antarctic sea ice?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Feb 3, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/02/03/why-is-there-so-much-antarctic-sea-ice/>

CryoSat shows Arctic sea ice volume up 50% from last year

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/05/cryosat-shows-arctic-sea-ice-volume-up-50-from-last-year/>

[SEPP Comment: Does thick ice cause extreme cold in Washington by shifting the circumpolar vortex?]

Greenland's fastest glacier reaches record speeds

By Staff Writers, Munich, Germany (SPX) Feb 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Greenlands_fastest_glacier_reaches_record_speeds_999.html

Link to paper: Brief Communication: Further summer speedup of Jakobshavn Isbræ

By Joughin, Smith, Shean, and Floricioiu, The Cryosphere, Feb 3, 2014

<http://www.the-cryosphere.net/8/209/2014/tc-8-209-2014-metrics.html>

Arctic lakes show climate on thin ice

By Staff Writers, Paris (ESA), Feb 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Arctic_lakes_show_climate_on_thin_ice_999.html

Link to study: Response of ice cover on shallow lakes of the North Slope of Alaska to contemporary climate conditions (1950–2011): radar remote-sensing and numerical modeling data analysis

By Surdu, et al. The Cryosphere, No Date

<http://www.the-cryosphere.net/8/167/2014/tc-8-167-2014.html>

[SEPP Comment: Generalizing from the North Slope of Alaska to the entire Arctic. Model simulations are used to estimate values prior to 1991.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack: Climate change wreaking havoc on farmers

By Brian Hughes, Washington Examiner, Feb 5, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-climate-change-wreaking-havoc-on-farmers/article/2543508?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Reoccurring%20-%2002/06/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today

[SEPP Comment: A Secretary of Agriculture who fails to recognize the benefits of carbon dioxide to agriculture.]

Un-Science or Non-Science?

What to do with a hot model

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 2, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/2/what-to-do-with-a-hot-model.html>

Link to paper: Decline of Arctic sea ice: Evaluation and weighting of CMIP5 projections

By Snape & Forster, Journal of Geophysical Research, Jan 29, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2013JD020593/abstract>

Link to second paper: Arctic amplification dominated by temperature feedbacks in contemporary climate models

By Pithan & Mauritsen, Nature Geoscience, Feb 2, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/ngeo2071.html>

Oh my! Climate change threatens to cause ‘trillions’ in damage to world’s coastal regions

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/04/oh-my-climate-change-threatens-to-cause-trillions-in-damage-to-worlds-coastal-regions/>

Link to study: Coastal flood damage and adaptation costs under 21st century sea-level rise

By Jochen Hinkel, et al. PNAS, Jan 29, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/01/29/1222469111.abstract>

[SEPP Comment: According to the abstract: The global costs of protecting the coast with dikes are significant with annual investment and maintenance costs of US\$ 12–71 billion in 2100. The press release is overblown.]

Forest emissions, wildfires explain why ancient Earth was so hot

By Kevin Dennehy for Yale News, New Haven CT (SPX), Feb 06, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Forest_emissions_wildfires_explain_why_ancient_Earth_was_so_hot_999.html

The modeling calculations were performed on Yale University's omega supercomputer, a 704-node cluster capable of processing more than 52 trillion calculations per second.

[SEPP Comment: The definitive word?]

Lowering Standards

Parliamentary feedback

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 3, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/3/parliamentary-feedback.html>

Compared to existing model estimates, it is likely that climate feedbacks will result in additional carbon in the atmosphere and additional warming. This is because the majority of poorly represented climate feedbacks are likely to be amplifying feedbacks.

[SEPP Comment: Unreal!]

State of the Union

Breaking Down Obama’s Energy and Environment Plans in the #SOTU

By Ken Haapala, Somewhat Reasonable, Feb 4, 2014

<http://blog.heartland.org/2014/02/breaking-down-obamas-energy-and-environment-plans-in-the-sotu/>

Opinion: Climate rhetoric undermines rational decision-making

Obama’s State of the Union address employed language tricks to bolster global warming scare

By Tom Harris, Vancouver Sun, Feb 4, 2014

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/Opinion+Climate+rhetoric+undermines+rational+decision+making/9469309/story.html>

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

Veteran German Journalist On Met Office Global Temperature Forecasts: “It Is Stunning, But Some Never Learn”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 6, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/06/veteran-german-journalist-on-met-office-global-temperature-forecasts-it-is-stunning-but-some-never-learn/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Americans' Mental Health is Latest Victim of Changing Climate (Op-Ed)

By Marlene Cimons, Live Science, Feb 3, 2014 [H/t Jo Nova]

<http://news.yahoo.com/americans-39-mental-health-latest-victim-changing-climate-185245229.html>

Members of Psychologists for Social Responsibility worry that continued inaction on climate change will only bring more of the same. The group recently wrote to Congress, urging lawmakers to address climate change to avoid a mental health catastrophe.

[SEPP Comment: Special pleading. No one has suffered from hurricanes, floods, droughts, heat waves, cold weather, etc. before? If there is mental health suffering, it is from two decades of alarmism – correctly called propaganda.]

Flat Temperatures, Still More Ills

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, Feb 5, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/02/flat-still-more-ill/>

[SEPP Comment: More on the claimed ill from no global warming.]

How to convince your friends to believe in climate change. It’s not as hard as you think.

By Brian Palmer, Washington Post, Feb 3, 2014

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/how-to-convince-your-friends-to-believe-in-climate-change-its-not-as-hard-as-you-think/2014/02/03/3a9a1fa8-8828-11e3-916e-e01534b1e132_story.html

[SEPP Comment: Tropical disease arguments work for those who are ignorant that in the 1800s diseases such as malaria broke out north of the Arctic Circle.]

Keystone: The Pipeline to Disaster

By Jeffrey Sachs, Huff Post, Feb 3, 2014

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-sachs/keystone-the-pipeline-to_b_4716229.html

Expanding the Orthodoxy

U.S. to launch 'climate hubs' to help farmers face climate change

By Jeff Mason, Reuters, Feb 5, 2013

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/05/usa-climate-hubs-idUKL2N0LA04N20140205>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the effects of climate change have led to a longer crop growing season in the Midwest, a fire season that is 60 days longer than it was three decades ago, and droughts that cost the United States \$50 billion from 2011-2013.

[SEPP Comment: If the first assertion is true, it demonstrates the absurdity of the entire concept – longer growing seasons are harmful?]

Questioning European Green

Europe Starts To Run, Not Walk, Away From Green Economics

Editorial, IBD, Feb 5, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/020514-689033-europe-finds-anti-co2-policies-are-destroying-the-economy.htm>

German industry says energy reform plans threaten jobs

By Madeline Chambers, Reuters, Feb 2, 2014

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idCABREA110DU20140202>

Renewable Energy's Eroding Support: Former German Chancellor Schröder "Warns Of Revolt Due To High Electricity Prices"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 2, 2014

http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/02/renewable-energy-eroding-support-former-german-chancellor-schroeder-warns-of-revolt-due-to-high-electricity-prices/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

UK floods: Environment Agency accused of 'putting birds before humans'

Peers say they were told by officials from the agency that it could not protect the railway line at Dawlish until it had considered the possible impact on local birdlife

By James Kirkup, and Sam Marsden, Telegraph, UK, Feb 6, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/topics/weather/10623109/UK-floods-Environment-Agency-accused-of-putting-birds-before-humans.html>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Keystone report from State Dept. puts common sense back in the pipeline

Editorial, Washington Post, Feb 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/keystone-report-from-state-dept-puts-common-sense-back-in-the-pipeline/2014/02/05/ae82cf7a-8d21-11e3-95dd-36ff657a4dae_story.html

Keystone Pipeline to Be Built Because There's No Reason Not To

By Jonathan Chait, New York Magazine, Jan 31, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2014/01/keystone-pipeline-to-be-built.html>

Green Jobs

Terence Corcoran: Poo, power, profits and the cult of green investment

By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Via GWPF, Feb 6 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/terence-corcoran-poo-power-profits-cult-green-investment/>

[SEPP Comment: GWPF shows the striking drop in the Renewable Energy Industrial Index, the stock index of the world's 30 largest renewable energy companies. From a peak of over 1800 in 2008 to a low of below 200 in 2013. So much for the promise of sustainable green jobs and prosperity.]

Funding Issues

Inspector General: Global Climate Change Program Data May Be Unreliable

By Alissa Tabirian, The Foundry, Feb 7, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://blog.heritage.org/2014/02/07/inspector-general-global-climate-change-program-data-may-unreliable/>

UK Gov't Spends £ Millions Lobbying Itself for Bigger, More Intrusive State.

By Raheem Kassam, Breitbart, Feb 5, 2014

http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Peace/2014/02/05/UK-govt-spends-millions-lobbying-itself-for-bigger-more-intrusive-state-says-think-tank?utm_source=e_breitbart_com&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Breitbart+News+Roundup%2C+February+6%2C+2014&utm_campaign=20140206_m119079594_Breitbart+News+Roundup%2C+February+6%2C+2014&utm_term=More

Link to the report: The Sock Doctrine - What can be done about state-funded political activism?
By Christopher Snowden, IEA, Feb 5, 2014

<http://www.iea.org.uk/publications/research/the-sock-doctrine-what-can-be-done-about-state-funded-political-activism>

There is strong evidence of similar funding patterns in the USA and Australia. In earlier papers it was argued that state-funding of politically active organisations subverts the democratic process and squanders taxpayers' money.

The Political Games Continue

'Secret science' must end, Republicans declare

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Feb 6, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/197701-gop-bill-would-outlaw-epas-secret-science>

[SEPP Comment: Long needed – the EPA is less than transparent.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

\$7b paid in carbon tax to reduce CO2 by 0.3% and cool us by zero degrees

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 6, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/02/7b-paid-in-carbon-tax-to-reduce-co2-by-0-3-and-cool-us-by-zero-degrees/#more-33238>

Australia's environment minister denounces carbon tax

By Staff Writers, Canberra, Australia (UPI), Feb 5, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Australias_environment_minister_denounces_carbon_tax_999.html

Exporting greenhouse gas emissions

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Feb 6, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/exporting-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing the folly of imposing duties on the importation of goods that require large amounts of carbon dioxide emissions to manufacture.]

A Meat Tax? Seriously?

By Joseph Thorndike, Forbes, Feb 7, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/taxanalysts/2014/02/07/a-meat-tax-seriously/>

Link to the paper: Ruminants, climate change and climate policy

By Ripple, et al. Nature Climate Change, Dec 20, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v4/n1/full/nclimate2081.html>

[SEPP Comment: Addressing arguments for sin taxes to stop global warming/climate change.

Human breathing increases CO2 concentration of the air used by about 100 times, is breathing a sin?]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Spain prepares curbs for renewable energy subsidies

By Staff Writers, Bloomberg, Feb 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/carbon-economy/spain-prepares-curbs-for-renewable-energy-subsidies-20140204-31xy8.html>

[SEPP Comment: Spain is discovering that “free” wind power is unaffordable.]

Don't Expect Electric Cars To Save The Environment

Editorial, IBD, Jan 31, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/013114-688535-electric-cars-wont-save-the-earth.htm>

[SEPP Comment: Subsidies for status symbols do not necessarily help the environment.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA pushes new pollution standards for military ships

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Jan 31, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/197165-epa-pushes-new-pollution-standards-for-military-ships>

EPA piles up billions

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Feb 7, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/197839-epa-touts-billions-in-fines>

Link to report: Enforcement Annual Results for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013

By Staff Writers, EPA, Feb 7, 2014

<http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-annual-results-fiscal-year-fy-2013>

[SEPP Comment: How much of this goes to actual protection of public health?]

EPA Overreach Hits the Poor

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Feb 3, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/EPA-Poor-wood-stoves/2014/02/03/id/550551>

Energy regs come with \$70M price tag

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Feb 7, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/197856-energy-regs-comes-with-70m-price-tag>

[SEPP Comment: The new regulations are to be published on Monday. The claimed \$400 billion in energy savings to the public by 2030 is unlikely to be substantiated.]

EPA Reports Toxic Air Releases Down Due in Part to Coal Plants

By Aaron Larson, Power News, Feb 5, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/epa-reports-toxic-air-releases-down-due-in-part-to-coal-plants/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2827076&hq_l=10&hq_v=5e660500d0

Link to the report: 2012 Toxics Release Inventory – National Analysis Overview

By Staff Writers, EPA, February 2014

http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-01/documents/complete_2012_tri_na_overview_document.pdf

[SEPP Comment: Carbon dioxide is not listed as a toxin, why is called a pollutant?]

Energy Issues – Non-US

My 2014 Energy Predictions

By: Robert Rapier, Energy Tribune, Jan 24, 2014

<http://www.energytribune.com/79931/my-2014-energy-predictions#sthash.jKLLH7Mf.dpbs>

[SEPP Comment: Barring war or similar, relatively safe predictions.]

Britain's energy crisis is about to boil over

Shale gas can power our future, but not if we get bogged down in battles over trespass

By Philip Johnston, Telegraph, UK, Feb 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/fracking/10614840/Britains-energy-crisis-is-about-to-boil-over.html>

A voluntary approach to shale gas

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 4, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/4/a-voluntary-approach-to-shale-gas.html>

'Theft of the Subsoil' (Guillermo Yeatts on Latin/South America mineral-rights reform)

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Feb 6, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/02/theft-subsoil-preface-yeatts/#more-29239>

Gas Prices Force Switch To Coal For Power Stations Down Under

By Annabel Hepworth, The Australian, Via GWPF, Feb 6, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/gas-prices-force-switch-coal-power-stations/>

Spain's Endesa launches large-scale energy storage project

By Staff Writers, La Aldea De San Nicolas, Spain (UPI) Feb 5, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Spains_Endesa_launches_large-scale_energy_storage_project_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Not truly large scale, but experimenting with three different electricity storage concepts: electro chemical storage in the form of lithium-ion batteries, a flywheel system, and an ultracondenser system.]

Energy Issues -- US

Revisiting the Charter of the U.S. Department of Energy (reasons to abolish the agency)

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Feb 4, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/02/charter-doe-1977/#more-29490>

[SEPP Comment: Does it serve the stated public interest and promote the general welfare?]

Deroy Murdock: Fracked natural gas should be Left's fuel of choice

By Deroy Murdock, New Hampshire Union Leader, Feb 2, 2014 [H/t ACSH]

<http://www.unionleader.com/article/20140203/OPINION02/140209872>

[SEPP Comment: Without double-checking the numbers, ethanol and soy biodiesel come off extremely poorly for water use.]

Drought threatens US fracking industry: study

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), Feb 05, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Drought_threatens_US_fracking_industry_study_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Rubbish! According to the US drought monitor the most severe drought is in southern California, where smart drilling is not yet permitted.]

Inhofe warns EPA regulations could cause winter blackouts

By Ramsey Cox, The Hill, Feb 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/197390-inhofe-warns-epa-regulations-could-cause-winter-blackouts>

Washington's Control of Energy

White House: No politics in Keystone decision

By Justin Sink, The Hill, Feb 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/197552-white-house-no-politics-in-keystone-decision>

[SEPP Comment: A Washington joke!]

Build the Keystone pipeline, already!

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, Feb 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/03/build-the-keystone-pipeline-already/>

[SEPP Comment: The Acronym translator is precious. Do many in Washington really understand the acronyms they use?]

Fellow Democrats press Obama to approve Keystone, following environmental report

By Staff Writers, Fox News, Feb 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/02/01/fellow-democrats-press-obama-to-approve-keystone-following-environmental-report/>

Obama's Keystone follies

By Lorrie Goldstein, Sun New, CA, Feb 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/straighttalk/archives/2014/02/20140202-091955.html>

Dems warn of drilling on 'treasured landscapes'

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/197459-house-dems-call-for-hearing-on-crude-oil-export-ban>

[SEPP Comment: How many objectors would prefer to put wind farms on the treasured landscapes?]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Cuadrilla's fancy new toy

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 6, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/6/cuadrillas-fancy-new-toy.html>

[SEPP Comment: Showing the landscape before, during, and after drilling work. Unlike wind farms and solar arrays, deep underground smart drilling of shale has little permanent impact on the landscape.]

Fracking – Clean and green

Fracking UnitHatred of hydrocarbons should not excuse frackophobes from learning facts or speaking factually

By Deroy Murdock, The Moral Liberal, Feb 5, 2014

<http://www.themoralliberal.com/2014/02/05/fracking-clean-and-green/>

Return of King Coal?

Enzi: GAO report proves coal helps the economy

By Ramsey Cox, The Hill, Feb 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/197567-enzi-gao-report-proves-coal-helps-the-economy>

[SEPP Comments: The royalty payments to the US government are significant. Anti-coal politicians claim they are not enough. No doubt, these politicians would prefer no coal and no payments.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

NRC Commissioners Grilled on Nuclear Rules, Security, and Efficiency

By Aaron Larson, Power Magazine, Feb 6, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/nrc-commissioners-grilled-on-nuclear-rules-security-and-efficiency/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2827076&hq_l=3&hq_v=5e660500d0

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

As Investments Turn Sour, Wind Energy Sector in Germany Begins To Crumble In Wake of Solar Industry Collapse

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 4, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/04/as-investments-turn-sour-wind-energy-sector-in-german-begins-to-crumble-in-wake-of-solar-industry-collapse/>

Solar Thermal Technology Poses Challenges for Drought-Stricken California

Reducing water consumption at solar thermal plants raises costs and decreases power production.

By Kevin Bullis, MIT Technology Review, Feb 3, 2014

<http://www.technologyreview.com/news/523856/solar-thermal-technology-poses-challenges-for-drought-stricken-california/>

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

Craven Kramer

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 6, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/6/craven-kramer.html>

[SEPP Comment: UK’s Transport Minister misleading the public about biofuel requirements.]

Companies could make the switch to wood power

By Staff Writers, Philadelphia PA(SPX), Dec 06, 2013

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Companies_could_make_the_switch_to_wood_power_999.html

[SEPP Comment: In his autobiography, Benjamin Franklin wrote that the disappearance of forests for firewood around Philadelphia motivated him to invent the Franklin stove; to assure its wide use, he did not seek a patent.]

Warning Not to Use E15 Gas in Your Car: FOX Business

By Lauren Fix, Fox News, Dec 6, 2012

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceW9Nc1hVHU>

[SEPP Comment: Year-old video explaining the problems of high ethanol fuel blends.]

Drivers face £200 bill to fill up with EU eco-fuel: Tests find new unleaded blend makes cars less efficient, ruins engines on older models and increases emissions

By Ray Massey, Daily Mail, UK, Feb 5, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2552657/Drivers-face-200-bill-EU-eco-fuel.html>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Hidden Costs of EVs and PHEVs – Part I

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Feb 4, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/02/04/hidden-costs-of-evs-and-phevs-part-i/>

[SEPP Comment: The second part is linked in the first part.]

California Dreaming

California Fights Two Droughts, One Of Them Man-Made

By Victor Davis Hanson, IBD, Feb 6, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/020614-689138-affluent-on-coasts-green-utopians-cause-california-drought.htm?p=full>

Environmental Industry

Greens warn base will sit out election

By Ben Goad and Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/197327-greens-warn-base-will-sit-out-election-over-keystone-xl>

Have Environmentalists Blundered On Keystone

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Feb 6, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/02/have-environmentalists-blundered-on-keystone.php>

The Sierra Club Hates Energy

By Alan Caruba, Canada Free Press, Feb 3, 2014

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/60908>

Examiner Editorial: Big Green lawyers have hijacked the Endangered Species Act

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Feb 4, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-big-green-lawyers-have-hijacked-the-endangered-species-act/article/2543450?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%2002/05/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

From Occupy to Climate Justice

There's a growing effort to merge economic-justice and climate activism. Call it climate democracy.

By Wen Stephenson, The Nation, Feb 24, 2014 edition [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.thenation.com/article/178242/occupy-climate-justice>

He points to what happened recently in Boulder, Colorado, where voters approved a grassroots energy initiative, by a two-thirds landslide, to move the city from a big, corporate, coal-dominated utility, Xcel Energy, to a publicly owned municipal utility that will expand renewables at the same or lower rates.

[SEPP Comment: Long essay describing those who demand climate justice, climate democracy and other inane concepts. The voters in Boulder are unlikely to have renewable power at the same or lower rates as coal.]

Other Scientific News

To Bee or Not to Bee? What is behind the bee colony collapse? Or is there one?

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Feb 6, 2014
<http://acsh.org/2014/02/bee-bee-behind-bee-colony-collapse-one/>

Greenhouse "Time Machine" Sheds Light on Corn Domestication

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Feb 05, 2014
Link to paper: Teosinte before domestication: Experimental study of growth and phenotypic variability in Late Pleistocene and early Holocene environments

By Piperno, Holst, Winter, & McMillan, Quaternary International, Jan 31, 2014
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S104061821300983X>

[SEPP Comment: Highly question the temperature assumed: "We grew teosinte in the conditions that it encountered 10,000 years ago during the early Holocene period: temperatures 2-3 degrees Celsius cooler than today's with atmospheric carbon dioxide levels at around 260 parts per million,"]

Other News that May Be of Interest

A Historical Perspective on Hysterical Rhetoric

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Feb 4, 2014
<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2014/02/04/a-historical-perspective-on-hysterical-rhetoric/>

Can workshops on household water use impact consumer behavior?

By Staff Writers, Gainesville FL (SPX), Feb 05, 2014
http://www.terraily.com/reports/Can_workshops_on_household_water_use_impact_consumer_behavior_999.html

Link to the paper: Exploring the Effects of Extension Workshops on Household Water-use Behavior

By Tatiana Borisova1 and Pilar Useche, HortTechnology, October 2013
<http://horttech.ashspublications.org/content/23/5/668.abstract>

[SEPP Comment: Is the failure of workshops an example of scientists failing to communicate?]

#####

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate craziness of the week: climate change> bigger waves> fish have to swim harder

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 5, 2014
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/05/climate-craziness-of-the-week-climate-change-bigger-waves-fish-have-to-swim-harder/>

If smoke falls in a closet, does anybody hear it? Mice do, apparently.

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Feb 4, 2014
<http://acsh.org/2014/02/smoke-falls-closet-anybody-hear-mice-apparently/>
#####

ARTICLES:

1. The Stealth Carbon Tax

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 3, 2014
http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/02/the_stealth_carbon_tax.html

Using Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review, issued by President Bill Clinton back in 1993), the White House Office of Management and Budget (WH-OMB) has published numerical estimates for the 'Social Cost of Carbon' (SCC). In Public Comments, we have challenged these OMB numbers in three respects: use of outdated climate science; internal inconsistency; omission of CO2 benefits. These miscalculations -- whether politically inspired or

innocently overlooked -- could end up costing the American public hundreds of billions in higher dollar costs, as well as millions of lost jobs.

OMB's announced purpose is to arrive at validated and consistent dollar figures that can be used in OMB Regulatory Impact Analysis. However, I strongly suspect that the real purpose of the White House is to establish a *de facto* carbon tax. Such a scheme would usurp the authority of Congress and likely violate the US Constitution, since all tax bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

Adding to my suspicion is the sneaky way in which the White House is going about this exercise. With a minimum of notice, and without publicity, OMB assembled an Interagency Working Group (IWG), which arrived at a cost of about \$12 per ton of emitted carbon, based on a Technical Support Document (TSD) of Feb 2010. This TSD was updated in May 2013, upping the SCC to about \$36 per ton -- and rising over time. The Dept of Energy (DOE) then promptly used this figure in setting an efficiency standard for microwave ovens.

In June 2013, the Landmark Legal [Foundation, a public-interest group, unsuccessfully petitioned the DOE, stating](#): "DOE's unannounced, dramatically increased, and improperly altered 'Social Cost of Carbon' ('SCC') valuation presented for the first time in this microwave oven regulation will certainly become the standard by which all other agencies will place a purportedly beneficial economic value on new carbon regulations." [For details, see Federal Register, Vol 78, No. 251, Dec 31, 2013]

Subsequently, in Aug 2013, the House passed two bills (H.R. 367 and H.R.1582) -- which would block a carbon tax and also aimed to enjoin the EPA from using SCC. However, the Senate never scheduled a debate and vote, and the WH has threatened a veto. The next session of Congress may have more success.

The White House effort is fundamentally prejudiced; an unbiased study would have allowed for the *a priori* possibility that the so-called 'cost' is in fact a 'benefit.' Instead, the OMB studies implicitly assume that the rise of atmospheric carbon dioxide, a known greenhouse gas, will inevitably lead to adverse climate impacts. Here we critique this facile assumption and also describe major positive consequences. We conclude that the historic increase of CO₂ in the past 200 years has benefitted humanity and will continue to do so in future.

Outdated Climate Science

The most fundamental problem with the TSDs is the absence of any empirical evidence for significant climate effects of rising CO₂ levels. [We note in particular a lack of global warming over the past 17 years!] The only 'evidence' comes from (so far) unvalidated climate models that disagree even with each other, and from unsubstantiated claims of anthropogenic global warming (AGW) in successive UN-IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) reports. [For details, see reports of the more credible NIPCC (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change) at www.NIPCCreport.org . A critique of the latest (2013) IPCC Summary can be accessed at http://heartland.org/sites/default/files/critique_of_ipcc_spm.pdf]

Internal Inconsistency

The TSD estimates for SCC are based on the arithmetic average of three integrated assessment models (IAMs): DICE, FUND, and PAGE. Each IAM has its own damage function, based on

estimated economic and non-economic damages for each sector (such as agriculture, sea level rise, etc). Not surprisingly, dollar figures for 'damage per sector' disagree among the three models, reflecting the wide choice of assumptions by the three model builders. More seriously, however, the integrated damage figures diverge in sign (!) for modest increases in global temperature: below 3 degC; FUND shows benefits, while DICE and PAGE show costs; see Fig. 1 of the 2010 TSD <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/for-agencies/Social-Cost-of-Carbon-for-RIA.pdf>>; the 2013 TSD <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/for-agencies/Social-Cost-of-Carbon-for-RIA.pdf>> does not show or discuss this significant inconsistency. MIT Prof Robert Pindyck has prepared a detailed critique of the IAMs [NBER, Working paper 19244, July 2013]; he says they are flawed and useless for policy purposes.

There has been much debate about the proper choice of discount rate in the final calculation. There is no need to enter into this debate here; we only note that the OMB uses 7% as its standard for project calculations and that the IWG rejects the near-zero rate used by Lord Nicholas Stern, which yields huge values for SCC.

Three Benefits of Rising CO2 Levels

1. Even under the popular but unproven assumption that there will be a modest global-mean warming caused by increasing CO2, the overall economic effect may well be beneficial, mainly for agriculture. This is the conclusion of Yale economist Prof Robert Mendelsohn and 23 collaborating economists. Their study was published in book form in 1994 by Cambridge University Press.

Their beneficial results can be further amplified as follows:

**All IAMs over-estimate damages from future sea level rise; but the rate of sea-level rise does not seem to depend on CO2 at all.

**Climate forcing increases only slowly, as the logarithm of CO2. In any case, the US contribution to global CO2 values is becoming ever smaller over time and may soon be negligible.

**Climate models suggest that warming increases with latitude; therefore, a warmer 'mean' might result in Siberian winter nights at -35 degC instead of -40 degC.

2. The direct benefits of CO2 as a plant fertilizer are well known; the 'greening' of the planet has been directly measured [1]. Historically, major agricultural crop varieties developed when CO2 levels were several times present values. The slight reduction in ocean alkalinity from increasing CO2 is not considered to be a problem. [Scientific details are fully discussed in the 2013-14 reports of the NIPCC at <www.NIPCCreport.org>]

3. Finally, we have a recent study (Jan 2014) that notes the striking correlation, since 1850, between the rise of both global GDP and atmospheric CO2 (i.e., through the use of concentrated energy, mostly from fossil fuels). Even assigning only a fraction of the benefits of the industrial revolution (and modern civilization) to CO2, yields huge benefit numbers - 50 to 500 times the typical cost estimate of the IWG's \$36 per ton of carbon.

[The study [2] is published by the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity]

Conclusion

The use of fossil fuels, and the resultant rise in atmospheric CO₂, yield benefits that far outweigh any conceivable estimate of social cost; hence using an SCC does not make economic sense. The OMB should publicize this view and encourage reasoned debate. Beyond a possible use in allowing rational regulation, establishing an SCC as a Carbon Tax is likely unconstitutional.

[1] http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/reprint/the_positive_externalities_of_carbon_dioxide.html
http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/monetary_co2.pdf

Dr Craig Idso, director of the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Climate Change, and a co-author of the NIPCC reports, states: "Advancements in technology and scientific expertise that accompanied the Industrial Revolution initiated a great transformation within the global enterprise of agriculture. More efficient machinery and improved plant cultivars, for example, paved the way toward higher crop yields and increased global food production. And with the ever-burgeoning population of the planet, the increase in food production was a welcomed societal benefit. But what remained largely unknown to society at that time, was the birth of an ancillary aid to agriculture that would confer great benefits upon future inhabitants of the globe in the decades and centuries to come. The source of that aid: atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂)."

[2] http://www.americaspower.org/sites/default/files/Social_Cost_of_Carbon.pdf
<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/196165-coal-leaders-obamas-social-cost-of-carbon-flawed>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/for-agencies/Social-Cost-of-Carbon-for-RIA.pdf>
TSD of Feb 2010

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/for-agencies/Social-Cost-of-Carbon-for-RIA.pdf> TSD of May 2013

S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project.

2. Now Is the Winter of Our Discontent

Weather Experts Blame Oceanic Quirk for Extreme Cold and Unusual Warmth Across U.S.

By Robeert Lee Hotz, WSJ, Jan 31, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/article_email/SB10001424052702303743604579355184004388274-1MyQjAxMTA0MDAwMjEwNDIyWj

At times in January, Chicago was colder than the South Pole, while flowers bloomed out of season in balmy Juneau, Alaska.

Driven by contorted bends of the jet stream, cold snaps and snow kept Northern and Southern states in a deep freeze, while unusually warm weather and record drought gripped the far West.

The U.S. has been a country divided by temperature extremes, in a winter of record Western highs and bone-chilling Eastern lows, federal climate experts and private meteorologists said.

A formal federal tally of January's temperature trends won't be completed for weeks, but preliminary regional data compiled by commercial meteorologists suggest that the Eastern half of the country is experiencing one of its 10 coldest winters on record—with thousands of local

records for cold already tied or broken. By contrast, California, Alaska and the Western U.S. are having one of the 10 warmest winters, with several cities setting records in January for high temperatures.

"We are talking about significant departures from normal," said meteorologist Joe D'Aleo, chief forecaster at Weatherbell Analytics LLC, a commercial forecasting company based in New York.

Weather experts blame it all on a vast pool of warm water in the North Pacific—up to seven degrees hotter than in most years. Generating a plume of rising hot air, it has pushed the polar jet stream, which steers air across the continent from west to east, further north and then south in a series of kinks like accordion pleats. The same odd continental pattern of air circulation contributed to the coldest U.S. winters on record in 1977 and 1979, experts said.

"The jet stream has configured itself in a way that it is positioned to bring warm air to the West and shots of really cold air to the East," said Deke Arndt, chief of climate monitoring at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

As a consequence, the Western half of the country has been almost as much above average as the Eastern half has been below average. "If you average the extremes, you miss out on how truly extraordinary the weather this January is," said Jeff Masters, chief meteorologist at Weather Underground, a commercial forecasting service.

The month unofficially edged out 1948 as only the 25th coldest U.S. January, based on more than a century of record-keeping.

"The bitter cold we experienced in January was certainly unusual and the coldest we have seen in the 21st century, said Dr. Arndt. "But they were the kinds of temperatures we would routinely see in two out of three winters in the cold decades of the 1970s and 1990s."

Even so, it has been cold enough to drive the penguins indoors at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, icy enough to freeze over much of the Great Lakes, and snowy enough that airlines in January canceled more than 36,000 flights. By a preliminary count, the month set more than a thousand local records for snowfall.

At the same time, it was warm and dry enough in the West that California's snowpack is now at its lowest level in 50 years, threatening the state's water supply. Temperatures in January topped 88 degrees in Long Beach, while Anchorage, Alaska, notched its warmest January day on record this past Monday, with temperatures southwest of the city reaching 62 degrees.

"It is a study in extremes," Dr. Masters said.

3. Robert Bryce: The Real Climate 'Deniers' Are the Greens

While renewables subsidies have punished Europe, shale gas has cut U.S. emissions

By Robert Bryce, WSJ, Feb 2, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304007504579346774109467020?mod=I TP_opinion_0

For years, greens and many on the political left have insisted that widespread adoption of renewable energy will create jobs and stimulate the economy. An example: In September 2008, then-candidate Barack Obama claimed at a speech in Golden, Colo., that his planned investments in "green" energy would create "five million new jobs that pay well and can't ever be outsourced."

It was all bunk.

Proof came last month when both the European Union and the German government announced separately that they were both rolling back aggressive subsidies and mandates for renewable energy. The reason: staggering costs. Spain has racked up some \$35 billion in debt—known as the "tariff deficit"—thanks to excessive renewable-energy subsidies. In Germany, renewable-energy subsidies are now costing German consumers and industry about \$32 billion a year. The costs have become so onerous that on Jan. 21 Germany's economy and energy minister Sigmar Gabriel told energy conference attendees in Berlin that his country is risking "dramatic deindustrialization" if it doesn't reduce energy costs.

In December, the Center for European Policy Studies, a Brussels-based think tank, reported that European steelmakers are paying twice as much for electricity and four times as much for natural gas as their U.S. competitors. In Denmark, that wonderland for wind-energy enthusiasts, residential electricity now costs about 41 cents per kilowatt-hour, more than three times the U.S. average rate.

Europe's decision to slow down on renewables suggests that the term "climate denier" needs an overhaul. For the past decade or so, this has been the label for anyone who questions climate change models or the forecasts derived from them. But the lesson from Europe is that the environmentalists who have been relentlessly hawking renewables are the real deniers.

They have denied the costs that renewable energy mandates impose on the European economy. They've denied the environmental benefits of increased natural gas use in the U.S. And they continue to deny the difficulty of addressing carbon-dioxide emissions on a global scale.

In December 2012, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. , a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, co-wrote an op-ed in the New York Times in which he claimed that Germany's solar-energy efforts should be copied by the U.S. because a "transition to renewable power could create millions of domestic jobs" and take a "substantial bite" out of America's greenhouse-gas emissions.

If Mr. Kennedy wants to continue cutting those emissions, he should be encouraging the development of shale gas. In 2013, thanks largely to the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in shale formations, U.S. natural-gas production averaged 70 billion cubic feet a day, a record, and a 41% increase over 2005 levels. Lower-cost gas is reducing the domestic use of coal, which is cutting emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that natural-gas-fired power plants emit about half as much carbon dioxide as comparable coal-fired ones.

Thanks to the shale revolution, the U.S. is also reducing emissions faster, at far lower cost, than the EU. Between 2005 and 2012, U.S. carbon-dioxide emissions fell by 10.9%, according to the widely cited "BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2013." During the same period the EU's emissions fell by 9.9%, according to the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.

Nevertheless, Mr. Kennedy denounced natural gas at a visit to Franklin and Marshall College last October, calling it "a catastrophe." Bill McKibben, the founder of the environmental organization 350.org who has advocated enormous reductions in global hydrocarbon use, has made similar declarations. In a Jan. 21 op-ed in Politico that he wrote with Chesapeake Climate Action Network's Mike Tidwell, he said natural gas "needs to stay in the ground" and that it is "just coal by another name." Mr. McKibben's energy prescription? U.S. states should "double and triple their wind and solar mandates." He too believes the U.S. should follow Germany's lead.

Mr. McKibben is denying the facts. Even though Germany has spent more than \$100 billion subsidizing renewables since 2000, the country's coal use is rising, as are its carbon-dioxide emissions, according to the BP Statistical Review. And Germany's coal use may continue to grow as the country turns away from nuclear power. In the wake of the Fukushima disaster in 2011, Germany shut down eight of its nuclear reactors, and it plans to retire the rest by 2022. According to an October report from energy publisher Platts, some 7,300 megawatts of new coal plants will be brought online by next year.

It's not just Germany. Global coal consumption jumped by about 55% over the past decade as demand for electricity has soared. That consumption is boosting global carbon-dioxide emissions, which have increased by 32% over that period, according to the BP Statistical Review. Relatively small reductions in carbon emissions in Europe or the U.S. won't make a significant difference amid such rapid growth. Since 2005, China alone has increased its carbon-dioxide emissions by about 3.6 billion tons, or about four times the amount Germany emitted in 2012.

The reality is simple: The U.S. is the world leader in carbon policy. It has cut carbon-dioxide emissions more effectively than the EU while generating an economic boom from the shale revolution. In October 2013, Purdue University energy economist Wallace Tyner estimated that between 2008 and 2035 the shale revolution will add an average of \$473 billion a year to the U.S. economy—or about 3% of current GDP. Using more natural gas in the U.S. sets an example for the rest of the world for economic growth, energy production and carbon dioxide.

But don't bother trying to convince Messrs. Kennedy and McKibben and their allies. They would rather stay in climate denial.

Mr. Bryce is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. This piece is excerpted from his forthcoming report for the institute on America's energy advantages.

4. Rising Coal Use Clouds Europe's Future

Turn Away From Gas Seen Impacting Continent's Industrial Base

By Stephen Fidler, WSJ, Feb 6, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304450904579367074233771140?mod=WSJ_Energy_2_4_Right

[SEPP Comment: Striking graphic on difference for natural-gas prices for selected countries.]

The European Union sees itself leading the world in curbing carbon-dioxide emissions and doing more than any other region to mitigate climate change. But it is also increasing the share of electricity being generated by the most carbon-intensive energy source of all: coal.

Coal-fired electrical-generation plants are being started up in Europe—and comparatively clean gas-fired generating capacity is being shut down.

That is hardly what the climate doctor ordered—and it is part of what many experts see as an energy-policy mess that is weighing on the Continent's industrial base. So who is to blame?

We could start with Americans. They have turned the energy world on its head by exploiting large amounts of shale gas—natural gas tightly embedded in rocks deep underground. As a result, natural-gas prices in the U.S. have fallen, displacing coal as the country's least-expensive energy source.

Losing their home market, U.S. coal producers have sought buyers elsewhere. U.S. coal is now a cheaper fuel source than natural gas in Europe, so electricity generators are switching to coal.

According to one forecast cited at a Brussels conference on Thursday by Fabio Marchetti, head of government affairs in Brussels for the Italian energy company ENI ENI.MI -1.03% SpA, 10 gigawatts of gas-power plants will be dismantled in Germany by 2015—to be replaced with seven gigawatts of coal-fired plants. That is in Germany, the Continent's leader in heavily subsidized renewable energy.

The other big cause is Europe's faltering economy. That has contributed to a fall in carbon production and thereby to a drop in the price industry has to pay to emit carbon in the bloc's carbon-emission trading system. Increased energy efficiency, thanks in part to European policy, has also reduced emissions. Bottom line: The low price of carbon has weakened incentives to avoid producing it.

The growth of coal-fired electricity generation may have another unwanted effect: undermining the stability of the electricity grid. Increasing the share of renewable energy in the generation mix—particularly from the sun and wind—means that a growing proportion of electricity output is intermittent.

To make sure there is always enough electricity when the elements don't cooperate, generators have to keep other power plants ready to fire up. That is something gas-fired plants do. Coal-fired plants, on the other hand, need time to crank up. Thus, the combination of growing renewables and coal-fired generation could eventually reduce the reliability of the electricity supply.

Reducing gas use in electricity generation has a big impact on carbon emissions. An estimate from the oil major BP BPLN -0.71% PLC suggests that a 1% switch of electricity generation capacity world-wide to gas from coal would save as much carbon as an 11% growth in output from renewable sources.

These issues are on top of a lack of coherence of EU energy policy, guided in Brussels by two different departments, energy and climate change. In a recent report for the business association Business Europe, the Cologne Institute of Economic Research cited four often-conflicting policy instruments addressing climate change, renewables and energy efficiency. National policies also often aren't joined up with EU-wide policy.

Some of these issues are likely to linger. Most forecasts suggest natural gas will still be significantly cheaper in the U.S. than in Europe in the long term. Gas is roughly three times as expensive now in Europe as in the U.S. The International Energy Agency's central forecast scenario suggests "gas and industrial electricity prices in the European Union and Japan remain around twice the level of the U.S." even in 2035.

Some manufacturers say this is a long-standing competitive disadvantage that is likely to create a creeping deindustrialization of Europe. To the extent it happens, it will be most marked in energy-intensive industries such as chemicals that use gas as a feedstock as well as an energy source. Given the importance of chemicals in the industrial value chain, this could have an impact on industry more broadly.

There are opportunities for change. Some renewable technologies now are close to the point where they can compete without subsidies, and many at Thursday's Brussels conference argued subsidies should be reduced over time.

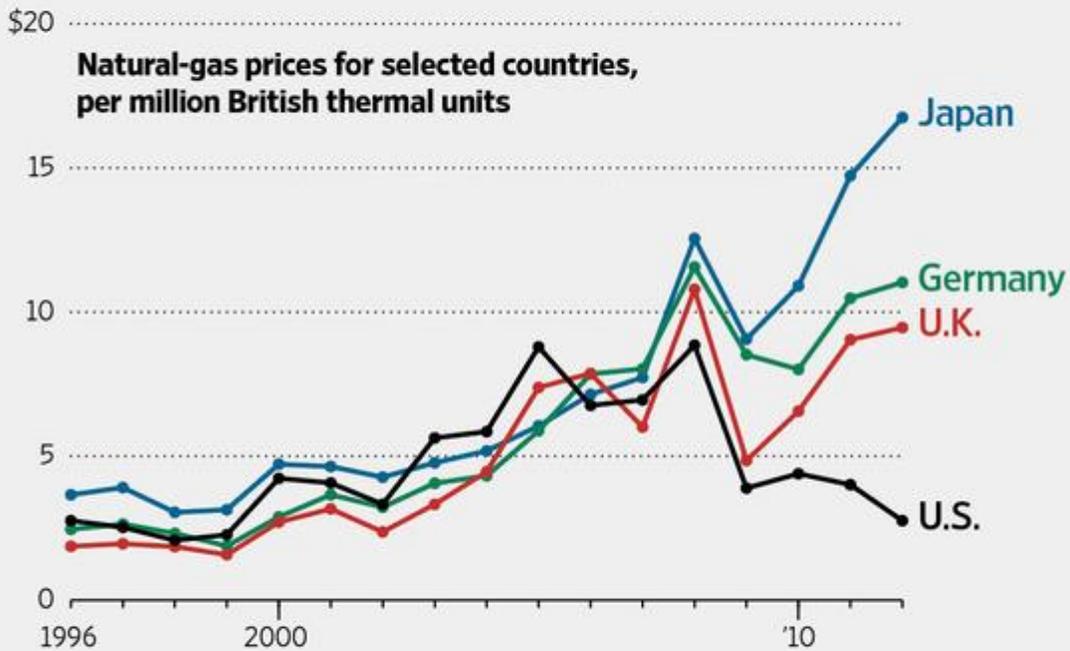
A new energy proposal in January from the European Commission, the EU executive, calling for further cuts in European carbon emissions by 2030, offers the opportunity for a broad EU policy discussion.

A summit of EU leaders is also due to discuss energy policy in March. Given the importance of manufacturing industry to Germany, for which exports account for more than half of economic output, the bloc's leading economy has incentives to seek change.

But though energy is an area where economists see major gains from a true European common market, it has always been one where national governments have been least eager to yield influence.

Carbon Backfire

More European electricity generators are switching from natural gas to cheaper but more carbon-intensive coal. The U.S. shale boom has lowered natural-gas prices in America and prompted coal producers there to export coal to Europe.



Note: Prices based on widely traded benchmarks in natural-gas market. For Japan, liquefied-natural-gas import price including cost, insurance and freight (CIF); for Germany, average import price including CIF; for U.K., national balancing point (NBP); for U.S., Henry Hub natural-gas spot price

Source: BP Review of World Energy 2013

The Wall Street Journal

#####