

The Week That Was: 2014-05-03 (May 3, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *On what principle is it that, when we see nothing but improvement behind us, we are to expect nothing but deterioration before us?* Thomas Macaulay 1830 [H/t Steven Hayward.

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Number of the Week: 100 Times

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9th International Conference on Climate Change

July 7 – 9 -- Las Vegas, Nevada

Includes the Findings of the New Report by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) *Climate Change Reconsidered II*, Volumes 1, 2, and 3

<http://climateconference.heartland.org/>

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SEPP'S APRIL FOOLS AWARD
THE JACKSON

SEPP is conducting its annual vote for the recipient of the coveted trophy, a piece of coal, The Jackson. Readers are asked to nominate and vote for who they think is most deserving following these criteria:

- The nominee has advanced, or proposes to advance, significant expansion of governmental power, regulation, or control over the public or significant sections of the general economy.
- The nominee does so by declaring such measures are necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment.
- The nominee declares that physical science supports such measures.
- The physical science supporting the measures is flimsy at best, and possibly non-existent.

The first two recipients, Lisa Jackson and Barack Obama, are not candidates. Due to the late announcement, the voting will close on May 16. Please send your nominee and a brief reason why the person is qualified for the honor to Ken@Haapala.com. Thank you.

At the suggestion of Sonja A. Boehmer-Christiansen, Editor of *Energy & Environment*, nominees can include leaders of big banks and other financial institutions who are advocating global warming/climate change and profiting from the fear created by financing renewables, which are increasing the cost of electricity to the general public.

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THIS WEEK:

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

Hemispheric Asymmetry: On her web site, Climate Etc., Judith Curry discusses a recent paper published in Nature Climate Change. The paper presents differences in findings of temperature

trends between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres for the past 1000 years. The paper states that models built on data largely from Northern Hemisphere may have low predictive ability.

The paper claims that there was no Medieval Warm Period in the ocean-dominated Southern Hemisphere. However, as previously discussed in *Climate Audit* and *Watts Up With That*, the paper may suffer from what Curry calls ‘post hoc proxy selection’, otherwise known as ‘cherry picking’. Certainly, the 2013 report of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change shows that Medieval Warm Period was Global, but most of it occurred prior to the artificial cut-off date in the article of 1000 A.D. The global warm period was most pronounced between about 800 and 1000 A.D.

Although the paper suffers from selective reporting, it is somewhat encouraging to see a publication in a climate establishment journal that calls into question the data sets used to establish climate models and the procedures used by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Curry’s use of the term “cheery picking” refers to the exclusion of data that contradicts the hypothesis. All too frequently, those engaged in hypothesis testing are accused of “cherry picking” because they may exclude the data that support hypothesis. Exclusion of data that supports the hypothesis is irrelevant. This reversal in emphasis reflects a misunderstanding of hypothesis testing. A hypothesis must withstand all relevant data sets. If it does not, the hypothesis must be rejected or changed. See links under *Challenging the Orthodoxy* and <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2a/pdf/Chapter-4-Temperature.pdf>, particularly Figure 4.2.2.4

IPCC Synthesis Report: On October 31, 2014, the IPCC is scheduled to produce report synthesizing the 2013 – 2014 main reports of Working Group I, The Physical Science Basis; Working Group II, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; and Working Group III, Mitigation of Climate Change. These documents along with the Synthesis Report (SYR) are called the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). According the SYR Scoping document, the proposed SYR will be in two parts, a Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and a longer report. The former will be up to 8 page of text, excluding tables, maps, boxes, and figures. The latter will be up to 30 pages, excluding tables, maps, boxes, and figures. The Core Writing Team will be led by IPCC Chairman, Rajendra Pachauri.

The entire process should be interesting, and, as Judith Curry writes, much needed. In her assessment: *Upon reflecting on the 3 IPCC reports, a picture is emerging of a very complex climate system linked to complex environmental issues and socioeconomic problems. True to its classic wicked messiness, there is no unambiguous way to separate natural from anthropogenic climate change, or to separate climate change impacts from other confounding factors, or to separate the solutions from the broader issues of population increase, underdevelopment, mismanagement, and corrupt governments.*

Of the three WGs, I would say that WG2 and WG3 showed maturity in attempting to deal with these issues, whereas WG1 dropped the ball with its ‘extremely likely’ and ‘don’t mention the pause’.

Apart from the obvious politics that polluted the SPM process, I am even more dismayed by public statements from the IPCC leadership that has spun the AR5 message into the usual alarmist meme.

What is now needed is sober assessment and interpretation of the assessments. Given the complexity, ambiguity and incompleteness of the evidence and understanding, multiple perspectives are not only to be expected but are desired.

Also, Curry asserts that the key findings in the Technical Summaries and the individual chapter Executive Summaries should be emphasized over the heavily politically influenced Summaries for Policymakers. I

Increasingly, the press is reporting the falling-out of key authors over the political influences on the reports. The once vaunted, false consensus is no more. Richard Tol, who resigned as a Convening Lead Author of one of the chapters of WG III report wrote: *In the earlier drafts of the SPM, there was a key message that was new, snappy and relevant: Many of the more worrying impacts of climate change really are symptoms of mismanagement and underdevelopment.*

This message does not support the political agenda for greenhouse gas emission reduction. Later drafts put more and more emphasis on the reasons for concern about climate change, a concept I had helped to develop for AR3. Raising the alarm about climate change has been tried before, many times in fact, but it has not had an appreciable effect on greenhouse gas emissions.

The international climate negotiations of 2013 in Warsaw concluded that poor countries might be entitled to compensation for the impacts of climate change. It stands to reason that the IPCC would be asked to assess the size of those impacts and hence the compensation package. This led to an undignified bidding war among delegations – my country is more vulnerable than yours – that descended into farce when landlocked countries vigorously protested that they too would suffer from sea level rise.

The SPM omits that better cultivars and improved irrigation increase crop yields. It shows the impact of sea level rise on the most vulnerable country, but does not mention the average. It emphasize the impacts of increased heat stress but downplays reduced cold stress. It warns about poverty traps, violent conflict and mass migration without much support in the literature. The media, of course, exaggerated further.

Alarmism feeds polarization. Climate zealots want to burn heretics of global warming on a stick. Others only see incompetence and conspiracy in climate research, and nepotism in climate policy. A polarized debate is not conducive to enlightened policy in an area as complex as climate change. The IPCC missed an opportunity to restore itself as a sober authority, accepted (perhaps only grudgingly) by most.

The IPCC does not guard itself against selection bias and group think. Academics who worry about climate change are more likely to publish about it, and more likely to get into the IPCC. Groups of like-minded people reinforce their beliefs. The environment agencies that comment on the draft IPCC report will not argue that their department is obsolete. The IPCC should therefore be taken out of the hands of the climate bureaucracy and transferred to the academic authorities.

The last sentence may be hopelessly optimistic. Academic institutions have demonstrated to be subject to the group-think, as the failures to properly investigate Climategate assertions and acceptance of Mr. Mann’s “hockey-stick” demonstrate.

Further, Curry is probably too optimistic about the SYR becoming an objective report. The political entities that fund what Tol calls the climate bureaucracy are far too committed to allow an objective report that permits skeptics, and others, to question to purpose of spending hundreds of billions of dollars for programs designed to fight global warming/climate change, even when global warming is no longer occurring. Further, the industries and banks that benefit for the unnecessary fight would be outraged to see their sources of profits disappear. See links under Questioning the Orthodoxy and Problems in the Orthodoxy.

Tough Questions: To compliment his post of Top Ten bad global warming arguments, Roy Spencer posted a list of questions to ask those who are advocating catastrophic anthropogenic (human caused) global warming (AGW).

These questions may be particularly fitting for those, including US Senators, who are repeating the slogan “If you don’t believe in climate change look out the window.” In a matter of a few weeks, Washington suddenly transformed from cold and snow to warmth and a bursting of flowers and green. The climate change was obvious. In the past it was called changing seasons. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Fossil Fuel Subsidies: Of the arguments used in developed Western countries to justify subsidies to unreliable wind and solar power, probably the most bluntly illogical one is current subsidies to the fossil fuel industries. BBC reported the 2012 ranking of the top ten countries subsidizing fossil fuels are stated by the International Energy Agency (IEA). The countries were, in order, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, Venezuela, China, Indonesia, Egypt, UAE, and Iraq. Governments of these countries subsidizing fuel, or demanding state-owned companies sell to the public at below market prices has no bearing on the energy policies of countries not subsidizing fossil fuels.

Also, such articles often fail to make the distinctions between subsidies to consumers and tax deductions for production of fuels such as depreciation of equipment, which is an accounting concept to calculate the cost of production.

Similarly, in the US, and some other countries, depletion is an accounting concept used most often in mining, timber, petroleum, etc. The depletion deduction allows a company to account for the reduction of a product’s reserves. Contrary to many reports in the US the depletion deduction is not permitted for the major (integrated) oil companies.

The strangest graph in the BBC report shows that, in the US, the fossil fuel subsidies amount to about 3.5% of the GDP. TWTW was unable to confirm the source of the graph although it was attributed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Assuming a GDP of \$16.5 Trillion, this works out to be about \$577 Billion, or about 100 times the highest monetary estimates from various sources reviewed. See link under Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Number of the Week: 100 times or more. As explained above, the BBC overestimated the broadly defined US fossil fuel subsidies by about 100 times.

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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. The EPA Unchained

The Supreme Court reinstates a cross-state pollution rule.

Editorial, WSJ, Apr 29, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303939404579531814034036286?mg=reno64-wsj>

2. Partners in Ethanol Crime

The corn-fuel mandate has been an invitation to mass fraud.

Editorial, WSJ, Apr 25, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304512504579491750362682742?mg=reno64-wsj>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Top Ten Good Skeptical Arguments

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, May 1, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/05/top-ten-good-skeptical-arguments/>

The inconvenient Southern Hemisphere

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. May 1, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/05/01/the-inconvenient-southern-hemisphere/>

Link to paper: Palaeoclimate: A southern misfit

By Kim M. Cobb, Nature Climate Change, Apr 25, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v4/n5/full/nclimate2219.html>

Adaptation to Extreme Heat

By Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, Cato, Apr 30, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/adaptation-extreme-heat>

Link to paper: Adaptation to extreme heat in Stockholm County, Sweden

By Paul Knappenberger, Patrick Michaels & Anthony Watts, Nature Climate Change, Apr 25, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v4/n5/full/nclimate2201.html>

An alternative metric to assess global warming

By Roger A. Pielke Sr., Richard T. McNider, and John Christy, Climate Etc. Apr 28, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/04/28/an-alternative-metric-to-assess-global-warming/>

David Kear, former Director-General of NZ Scientific Research, says global warming is a non-existent threat

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 3, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/05/david-kear-former-director-general-nz-dsir-says-a-non-existent-threat/>

Link to paper: GLOBAL WARMING alias CLIMATE CHANGE [the NON-EXISTENT, incredibly expensive, THREAT TO US ALL, including to our GRANDCHILDREN]

<http://www.nzcpr.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Global-Warming-Dr-David-Kear.pdf>

Former NASA Scientist: Global Warming Is Nonsense

By Nick Hallett, Breitbart, Apr 26, 2014

<http://www.breitbart.com/Breitbart-London/2014/04/26/Former-NASA-Scientist-Global-Warming-is-Nonsense>

New skeptic publication in Nature Climate Change rebuts Åström et al. claims of increased deaths due to heat waves

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 30, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/30/new-skeptic-publication-in-nature-climate-change-rebuts-strm-et-al-claims-of-increased-deaths-due-to-heat-waves/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Cool It

By Nigel Lawson, Standpoint, May 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.standpointmag.co.uk/node/5541/full>

In The End, Their Credibility Will Melt Away Quite Suddenly

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Apr 29, 2014

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/04/29/in-the-end-their-credibility-will-melt-away-quite-suddenly/>

IPCC CO2 Reductions

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, May 2, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/05/02/ipcc-co2-reductions/>

Lennart Bengtsson: “The whole concept behind IPCC is basically wrong”

By Marcel Crok, His Blog, May 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.staatvanhetklimaat.nl/2014/05/01/lennart-bengtsson-the-whole-concept-behind-ipcc-is-basically-wrong/>

Why most resources don't run out

Economists versus ecologists and the limits to growth

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Apr 30, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/why-most-resources-don't-run-out.aspx>

We can't wreck the climate unless we get rich, but if we get rich, we won't wreck the climate

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Apr 26, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/we-can't-wreck-the-climate-unless-we-get-rich,-but-if-we-get-rich,-we-won't-wreck-the-climate.aspx>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

IPCC Again

By Richard Tol, His Blog, Apr 25, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://richardtol.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/ipcc-again.html>

Stavins and Tol on IPCC WG3

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Apr 26, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/04/26/stavins-and-tol-on-ipcc-wg3/#more-15358>

Many of the more worrying impacts of climate change really are symptoms of mismanagement and underdevelopment. – Richard Tol

Two scathing reviews by scholars working with the IPCC show why the organization is hopelessly corrupted by politics

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 26, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/26/two-scathing-reviews-by-scholars-working-with-the-ipcc-show-why-the-organization-is-hopelessly-corrupted-by-politics/>

Lead author claims U.N. climate change report was rewritten for political reasons

By John Hayward, Breitbart, Apr 27, 2014

<http://www.breitbart.com/InstaBlog/2014/04/27/Lead-author-claims-U-N-climate-change-report-was-rewritten-for-political-reasons>

Africa: Climate Adaptation Advice for Cities in Global South

By Jaspreet Kndra, All Africa, Apr 28, 2014

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201404282177.html?viewall=1>

Hell Freezes Over! Germany's Ultra-Green 'Die Zeit' Concedes Climate Movement Has Been Too Alarmist

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Apr 28, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/04/28/hell-freezes-over-germanys-ultra-green-die-zeit-concedes-climate-movement-has-been-too-alarmist/>

IPCC Report Was Watered Down By Government Officials, Lead Author Confirms

By Pilita Clark, Financial Times, Via GWPF, Apr 26, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/ipcc-report-was-watered-down-by-government-officials-lead-author-confirms/>

[SEPP Comment: The scientific integrity was lost years ago.]

Poland Says EU 2030 Carbon Goal Compromise Viable in October

By Ewa Krukowska and Marek Strzelecki, Bloomberg, Apr 29, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-04-29/eu-2030-climate-goal-compromise-possible-in-october-poland-says.html>

Seeking a Common Ground

Pushing the boundaries

By Martin Livermore, Science Alliance, May 2, 2014

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=f1e3eeb023e7d88eff0dda8a2&id=477b240a55&e=f98840f454>

[SEPP Comment: Questions the need to accept any paradigm if the data contradicts it.]

IPCC TAR and the hockey stick

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Apr 29, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/04/29/ipcc-tar-and-the-hockey-stick/>

[SEPP Comment: Presenting John Christy's testimony on how the hockey-stick got in the IPCC Third Assessment Report and Mr. Mann became a lead author.]

The Curry factor: 30 to 1

By Judith Curry, Apr 27, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/04/27/the-curry-factor-30-to-1/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Long-Term Responses of *Emiliana huxleyi* to Ocean Acidification

Reference: Benner, I., Diner, R.E., Lefebvre, S.C., Li, D., Komada, T., Carpenter, E.J. and Stillman, J.H. 2014. *Emiliana huxleyi* increases calcification but not expression of calcification-related genes in long-term exposure to elevated temperature and pCO₂. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 368: 10.1098/rstb.2013.0049.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2014/apr/29apr2014a1.html>

Three Centuries of New Climate Change Data for West Antarctica

Reference: Thomas, E.R., Bracegirdle, T.J., Turner, J. and Wolff, E.W. 2013. A 308-year record of climate variability in West Antarctica. *Geophysical Research Letters* 40: 5492-5496.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2014/apr/29apr2014a3.html>

Evolution to the Rescue!

Reference: Baily, J.K. 2014. Incorporating eco-evolutionary dynamics into global change research. *Functional Ecology* 28: 3-4.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2014/apr/29apr2014a4.html>

The European-Wide and Holocene-Long Growth Rates of Fir Trees

Reference: Buntgen, U., Tegel, W., Kaplan, J.O., Schaub, M., Hagedorn, F., Burgi, M., Brazdil, R., Helle, G., Carrer, M., Heussner, K.-U., Hofmann, J., Kontic, R., Kyncl, T., Kyncl, J., Camarero, J.J., Tinner, W., Esper, J. and Liebhold, A. 2014. Placing unprecedented recent fir growth in a European-wide and Holocene-long context. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 12: 100-106.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2014/apr/30apr2014a2.html>

Measurement Issues

German Weather Service Employs Manipulative Statistical Sleights Of Hand To Craft Warming From Cooling

The German Weather Service has a problem with the climate

By D.E. Koelle, Translated by and edited P. Gosselin, Apr 29, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/04/29/german-weather-service-employs-manipulative-statistical-sleights-of-hand-to-craft-warming-from-cooling/>

Climate Outsider Finds Missing Global Warming

By Eli Kintisch, Science, Apr 25, 2014

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/344/6182/348.summary>

One way adjustments: The Latest Alteration to the U.S. Climate Record

By Dan Travers, WUWT, Apr 29, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/29/one-way-adjustments-the-latest-alteration-to-the-u-s-climate-record/>

Changing Weather

Study: ‘worst drought of this century barely makes the top 10 ‘

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/02/worst-drought-of-this-century-barely-makes-the-top-10/#more-108531>

Link to paper: A 576-Year Weber River Streamflow Reconstruction from Tree Rings for Water Resource Risk Assessment in the Wasatch Front, Utah†

By Matthew Bekker, JAWRA, Apr 30, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jawr.12191/abstract>

100 percent of California currently in a drought, first time in 15 years

By Brooks Hays, Sacramento (UPI), Apr 25, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/100_percent_of_California_currently_in_a_drought_first_time_in_15_years_999.html

Arkansas Ravaged By Tornadoes

By Doug Hoffman, Resilient Earth, Apr 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/arkansas-ravaged-tornadoes>

Multiple consecutive days of tornado activity spawn worst events

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 30, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/30/multiple-consecutive-days-of-tornado-activity-spawn-worst-events/>

Climate change causes severe weather? 2014 tornado count about half of normal

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/02/climate-changes-causes-severe-weather-2014-tornado-count-about-half-of-normal/#more-108535>

Great Lakes Ice Coverage 1000% Of Normal, More Than Double The Previous Record

By Staff Writer, GWPF, Apr 25, 2104

<http://www.thegwfp.org/great-lakes-ice-coverage-1000-of-normal-more-than-double-the-previous-record/>

Lake Superior Freeze/Thaw Time Lapse: Ice Until June?

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Apr 29, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/04/lake-superior-freezethaw-time-lapse-ice-until-june/>

Changing Climate

Claim: climate change targeting wine grapes

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/01/claim-climate-change-targeting-wine-grapes/>

Changing Seas

Forget global warming and melting polar caps - groundwater extraction is causing cities to SINK beneath sea level

By Sarah Griffiths, Mail, UK, Apr 30, 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2616714/Forget-global-warming-groundwater-extraction-causing-megacities-SINK-beneath-sea-level.html>

In some coastal cities, subsidence now exceeds absolute sea level rise up to a factor of ten

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/01/in-some-coastal-cities-subsidence-now-exceeds-absolute-sea-level-rise-up-to-a-factor-of-ten/>

How Productive are the Ore Factories in the Deep Sea?

By Staff Writers, Kiel, Germany (SPX), Apr 28, 2014

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/How_Productive_are_the_Ore_Factories_in_the_Deep_Sea_99.html

Link to paper: Hybrid shallow on-axis and deep off-axis hydrothermal circulation at fast-spreading ridges

By Jörg Hasenclever, et al. Apr 23, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v508/n7497/full/nature13174.html>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Climate change accelerating, dirt blamed

By Anthony Watts. WIWT. Apr 26, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/26/climate-change-accelerating-dirt-blamed/>

Claim: ‘health facilities are too vulnerable to weather and climate events’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 29, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/29/claim-health-facilities-are-too-vulnerable-to-weather-and-climate-events/>

Smithsonian Magazine Claim: ‘ up to 1 billion climate refugees by 2050’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 30, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/30/smithsonian-magazine-claim-1-billion-climate-refugees-by-2050/>

Link to the Article: The Reality of a Hotter World is Already Here

As global warming makes sizzling temperatures more common, will human beings be able to keep their cool? New research suggests not

By Jerry Adler, Smithsonian Magazine, May 2014

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/reality-hotter-world-already-here-180951172/?no-ist>

[SEPP Comment: So much for the standards of the Smithsonian.]

Top 12 ways the world can eliminate agriculture's climate footprint

By Staff Writers, San Francisco CA (SPX) Apr 28, 2014

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Top_12_ways_the_world_can_eliminate_agricultures_climate_footprint_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Eliminate?]

Lowering Standards

The U.S. Slips to Fourth Place in Global Weather Prediction, While a New Weather Service Supercomputer Has Not Been Ordered

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Apr 30, 2014

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2014/04/the-us-slips-to-fourth-place-in-global.html>

[SEPP Comment: In his May 3, 2014 forecast Joe Bastardi of WeatherBELL Analytics stated the problem with the US models may be systemic. If so, a new supercomputer will not solve the issues.]

Lord Stern FRS

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 1, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/5/1/lord-stern-frs.html>

Holding Slingo To Account

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Apr 25, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/04/25/slingo-wrong-on-all-counts/>

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

Study: It Is "Very Likely" That Scientists Are Confusing Us About Global Warming

The United Nations' blockbuster climate reports are full of language that makes people doubt climate change.

By Chris Mooney, Mother Jones, Apr 29, 2014

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/04/ipcc-global-warming-doubt-psychology>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Test-Driving the EPA's Carbon Models

By David W. Kreutzer & Kevin Dayaratna, Real Clear Policy, Apr 30, 2014

http://www.realclearpolicy.com/blog/2014/04/30/test-driving_the_epas_carbon_models_927.html

Fossil fuel subsidies growing despite concerns

By Richard Anderson, BBC, Apr 29, 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-27142377>

New study shows power prices will be lower with Renewable Energy Target

By Staff Writers, Canberra, Australia (SPX), Apr 30, 2014

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/New_study_shows_power_prices_will_be_lower_with_Renewable_Energy_Target_999.html

"This study shows that the Renewable Energy Target is holding electricity prices lower over the long term by minimising the use of increasingly costly gas for electricity generation.

[SEPP Comment: Playing with numbers!]

The Guardian tries to claim global warming sank the Titanic – research says the exact opposite

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 28, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/28/the-guardian-tries-to-claim-global-warming-sank-the-titanic-research-says-the-exact-opposite/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Exeter University Prof: 'Debating skeptics is like mud wrestling with pigs'

By Paul Burtwistle, WUWT, Apr 28, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/28/exeter-university-prof-debating-skeptics-is-like-mud-wrestling-with-pigs/>

Questioning European Green

Angela Merkel's Vice Chancellor Stuns, Declares Germany's 'Energiewende' To Be On 'The Verge Of Failure'!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Apr 27, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/04/27/angela-merkels-vice-chancellor-stuns-declares-germanys-energiewende-to-be-on-the-verge-of-failure/>

Christopher Booker: Why Does Ed Davey Want To Keep Us In The Dark?

By Christopher Booker, Sunday Telegraph, Via GWPF, Apr 27, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/christopher-booker-why-does-ed-davey-want-to-keep-us-in-the-dark/>

Germany's CO2 and energy policy – about to falter?

By Fred Mueller, WUWT, Apr 27, 2014

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Germans fitting far fewer solar panels

By Anneli Palmen and Vara Eckert, Reuters, Apr 30, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

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German Consumer Agency Issues Open Letter, Warns Deutsche Bank Of “Dubious Renewable Energy...Burdens Of Over 1 Trillion Euros Feared”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Apr 30, 2014

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By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Apr 28, 2014

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Supreme Court Revives CSAPR

By Tomas Overton, Power News, Apr 20, 2014

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Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

UN agency brokering carbon credits spends millions on staff despite massive drop in projects

By Susanna Twidale and Ben Garside, Reuters, Apr 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/04/28/un-agency-brokering-carbon-credits-spends-millions-on-staff-despite-massive-drop-in-projects/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Cash cut for solar farms that blight countryside: Energy minister set to announce review of subsidies

By Ben Spencer, Mail, UK, Apr 29, 2014

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AWEA's Bold Push for More Wind Welfare

By Travis Fisher, IER, Apr 23, 2014

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New York Wind falls short... again

By Lisa Linowes, Wind Action, Apr 28, 2014

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[SEPP Comment: Cash payments to wind farms instead of the production tax credit are a further rip-off of the taxpayer.]

Energy Companies ‘To Reap £2bn Windfall’ From Green Levies Deal

By Emily Gosden, Daily Telegraph, Via GWPF, Apr 28, 2014

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German Solar Stutters Once Subsidies Dry Up

By Walter Russell Mead & Staff, American Interest, May 2, 2014

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/blog/2014/05/02/german-solar-stutters-once-subsidies-dry-up/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Introduction to EPA's Stormwater Calculator - Incorporating Low Impact Development and Climate Science Tools

By Staff Writers, EPA, Apr 26, 2014 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

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EPA chief slams 'secret science' claims

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Apr 28, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/e2-wire/204535-epa-chief-slams-secret-science-claims>

EPA Chief Promises To Go After Republicans Who Question Agency Science

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Apr 28, 2014 [H/t Bud Bromley]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/04/28/epa-chief-promises-to-go-after-republicans-who-question-agency-science/#ixzz30FdDzxeH>

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China seeks clean, sustainable energy for growth

By Staff Writers, WNN, Apr 22, 2014

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UNEP says fossil fuel subsidies undermining green economy

By Staff Writers, African News, Apr 28, 2014

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[SEPP Comment: Expensive, unreliable electricity is the path to prosperity to these former colonies?]

Energy Issues -- US

Despite Green Energy Gains, U.S. Reliance On Coal And Gas Set To Continue

By Daniel Graeber, Oil Price.com, Apr 29, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Despite-Green-Energy-Gains-U.S.-Reliance-On-Coal-And-Gas-Set-To-Continue.html>

Shale gas development: Getting the best bang for your buck

By Staff Writers, ASCH, Apr 30, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/04/shale-gas-development-getting-best-bang-buck/>

Link to Op-Ed: The Right Way to Develop Shale Gas

By Michael Bloomberg and Fred Krupp, NYT, Apr 29, 2014

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/30/opinion/the-right-way-to-develop-shale-gas.html?hpw&rref=opinion&r=0>

[SEPP Comment: The Op-Ed is fairly well-balanced.]

Stressing the Grid: From Interventionism to Blackouts

By Steve Gorham, Master Resource, Apr 14, 2014

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US Energy Renaissance Brings Important Foreign Policy Choices

By Roman Kilisek, Breaking Energy, Apr 28, 2014

<http://breakingenergy.com/2014/04/28/us-energy-renaissance-brings-important-foreign-policy-choices/>

Washington's Control of Energy

Carter-Obama Energy Policy: From Gasoline Lines to Pipeline Obstructionism

By Marlo Lewis, Master Resource, Apr 25, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/04/carter-no-to-keystone-xl/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Dream Energy Source

Methane Hydrate May Ignite New Energy War in Asia

By Staff Writer, Business Korea, May 2, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

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Return of King Coal?

Coal Increasingly Seen As Option For European Energy Security

By Nick Cunningham, Oil Price.com, Apr 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Coal/Coal-Increasingly-Seen-As-Option-For-European-Energy-Security.html>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Oil train derails in Lynchburg, Va.

By Blake Neff, The Hill, Apr 30, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/204840-oil-train-derails-in-lynchburg-va>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Faster nuclear, coal power plant retirements would affect emissions

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Apr 28, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/faster-nuclear-coal-power-plant-retirements-would-affect-emissions/article/2547792>

Regulators fight third-time 'tax' on nuclear

By Staff Writers, WNN, Apr 23, 2014

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/C-Regulators-fight-third-time-tax-on-nuclear-2304141.html>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Sacrifice 40,000 jobs for seven? Put wind farm on hold

By E. J. Monheiser, Baltimore Sun, Apr 28, 2014 [H/t Wind Action]

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

Energy Department finds 65 GW of hydropower available

By Daniel J. Graeber, Washington (UPI), Apr 30, 2013

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Experimental Efforts to Harvest the Ocean's Power Face Cost Setbacks

By Joshua Hunt and Diane Cardwell, NYT, Apr 27, 2014 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/28/business/energy-environment/experimental-efforts-to-harvest-the-oceans-power-face-cost-setbacks.html>

Ozone levels drop 20 percent with switch from ethanol to gasoline

By Press Release, Northwestern U. Apr 30, 2014

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Link to paper: Reduction in local ozone levels in urban São Paulo due to a shift from ethanol to gasoline use

By Alberto Salvo & Franz M. Geiger, Nature Geoscience, Apr 28, 2014

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Carbon Schemes

Duke Energy's Clean Coal Plant Coughed, Wheezed in Feb.

By Paul Chesser, NLPC, Apr 29, 2014

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2014/04/29/duke-energys-clean-coal-plant-coughed-wheezed-feb>

California Dreaming

California Energy Policy: Elitist, Import-dependent, and a Tax on the Rest of Us

By Paul Driessen, Master Resource, May 1, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/05/california-energy-elitism/>

Should California dictate US energy policies?

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, Apr 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/27/should-california-dictate-us-energy-policies/>

Oh Mann!

The Climate Inquisitor

By Charles C.W. Cooke, National Review Online, May 5, 2014

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/376574/climate-inquisitor-charles-c-w-cooke>

Environmental Industry

U.S. Foundations Support Canadian Anti-Oil Groups

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Apr 28, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Canadian-Keystone-tar-sands-Tides-USA/2014/04/28/id/568129/>

Other Scientific News

X-37B Gets Stranger

By Morris Jones, Sydney, Australia (SPX), Apr 28, 2014

http://www.spacewar.com/reports/X_37B_Gets_Stranger_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Excessive regulations turning scientists into bureaucrats

By Staff Writers, NSF, May 1, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=131273&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

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By Arnold Stancell, et al, To the National Science Board, Mar 10, 2014

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The Amazing LED

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Apr 29, 2014

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate Crazyness of the Week – UN: Climate change to affect computers, communications, prepare now!

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Apr 29, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/29/climate-crazyness-of-the-week-un-climate-change-to-effect-computers-communications-prepare-now/>

Climate mitigation via Ergonomics ???

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 29, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/29/climate-mitigation-via-ergonomics/>

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ARTICLES:

1. The EPA Unchained

The Supreme Court reinstates a cross-state pollution rule.

Editorial, WSJ, Apr 29, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303939404579531814034036286?mg=reno64-wsj>

The next time someone says the John Roberts Supreme Court consistently blocks Obama Administration policy, be sure to recall the ObamaCare case. But right behind that you can mention Tuesday's 6-2 ruling that anoints the Environmental Protection Agency's habit of rewriting the Clean Air Act and even offers a convenient legal rationale that the EPA hadn't offered.

Chief Justice Roberts—this is becoming a habit—and Justice Anthony Kennedy joined the four liberal Justices to overturn a D.C. Circuit appellate panel and revive the EPA's 2011 cross-state pollution rule. In *EPA v. EME Homer City Generation*, Texas and more than a dozen states and some private companies had challenged the rule for violating state prerogatives under the statute.

No one disputes the EPA's authority to regulate air pollution across state lines, but for the first time the EPA imposed its standards without giving states a chance to offer their own plans. Also for the first time, the agency imposed a uniform compliance standard regardless of an individual state's contribution to cross-state pollution. This is aimed at Texas and other states that have large coal-fired electric plants and forces higher reductions in emissions than states might otherwise have to implement. It is part of the Administration's agenda of imposing via regulation what it can't get through Congress, even a Democratic Senate.

Remarkably, the majority doesn't even mention the EPA's own legal justification for its Clean Air rewrite, which hangs on the meaning of the word "significantly." (We won't torture you with the details.) Instead, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg detects what she calls a "gap" in the statute on how states should share responsibility for their share of pollution, and then proceeds to fill it with her own cost-benefit legal rationale. This cost-benefit defense of the EPA is ironically amusing because the EPA typically dismisses cost-benefit analysis unless a statute explicitly calls for it.

As Justice Antonin Scalia notes in his dissent, joined by Justice Clarence Thomas, the statute is relatively clear about the allocation of costs and "contains a gap only for those who blind themselves to the obvious in order to pursue a preferred policy." Even if the EPA's emissions standards are more cost-effective overall, that may not be true for every upwind state, and the EPA cannot simply ignore the federalist obligations of the Clean Air Act to impose them.

The decision is a reminder of how deferential the courts usually are to executive regulation, far more than they should be in this era when the Obama Administration is broadcasting—even boasting about—its policy of govern-by-regulation. The D.C. Circuit rarely overturns a federal rule, and the Supreme Court tends to accept an appeal only when the government loses.

The decision is also a reminder that in this era of the ever-growing administrative state, control of the executive is more important than ever. Congress can only do so much to check federal government encroachment on private industry and state sovereign powers.

As Justice Scalia wrote, "Too many important decisions of the Federal Government are made nowadays by unelected agency officials exercising broad lawmaking authority, rather than by the people's representatives in Congress." The danger after Tuesday's ruling is that the Obama EPA will feel even less bound by legal restraints, if that's possible.

2. Partners in Ethanol Crime

The corn-fuel mandate has been an invitation to mass fraud.

Editorial, WSJ, Apr 25, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304512504579491750362682742?mg=reno64-wsj>

Ethanol is losing political steam on the left and right, but the fuel retains a powerful patron in the Environmental Protection Agency. On Wednesday the EPA retroactively reduced the 2013

gasoline-blending mandate for cellulosic ethanol to 810,185 gallons from six million. If that sounds like a big cut, 810,185 gallons is precisely every last drop the industry managed to produce. The 2014 mandate is nonetheless pegged at a preposterous 17 million gallons.

An even better measure of the EPA's tie-up with the ethanol lobby is the protracted delay of rules meant to keep criminals out of the alternative fuels markets. Ethanol has always been a scam on taxpayers but the mandate has proved to be an invitation for mass fraud.

Every gallon of ethanol is assigned a 38-digit "renewable identification number," or RIN, which oil refiners, blenders and importers can buy or trade to comply with the quotas. Because the EPA registers RIN generators but conducts no due diligence about their legitimacy, crooks have discovered that they can sell fake RINs that are unconnected to an underlying batch of ethanol.

In January two Las Vegas men were indicted by federal prosecutors on 57 wire fraud, conspiracy, money laundering and other counts in a \$37 million scheme. They claimed to be importing Canadian biodiesel made from vegetable oil that never existed. Last September the feds broke up an Indiana ring that stole \$100 million and that the U.S. attorney called "the largest tax and securities fraud scheme in Indiana history." The list of accused is long.

In January 2013, the EPA moved to create a quality control program, but not out of concern for the refiners that must pass the costs of these thefts on to consumers at the pump. The EPA maintains a "buyer beware" rule that punishes the victims of RIN fraud with fines even if they acted in good faith.

Rather, the EPA wants to prop up the larger multibillion-dollar RINs industry. As the agency explained in the Federal Register, fraud was undermining the ethanol mandate—some gallons were going unsold—and to defend their business refiners "limit their RIN-related business relationships to those parties that they are confident are generating valid RINs." The EPA is worried this harms smaller producers.

Under the quality program, ethanol makers could voluntarily submit to an audit that would verify the existence of a physical plant, check receipts for feedstocks and utilities, and so on. Refiners who bought audited RINs would gain a legal defense against EPA fines.

The quality program was supposed to be in force by the end of last year but has been held up for months as the ethanol makers lobby to kill it. They claim the minimums are too onerous and want the refiners who are forced to buy their products to retain liability for getting ripped off.

In a memo to the White House, the National Biodiesel Board (the companion of the corn ethanol lobby) writes that the quality program will lead to "an overall reduction in mandated volumes" and "impose substantial burdens on not-at-fault producers." In other words, Big Ethanol thinks criminal scammers are a price worth paying so the government-backed industry can continue to profit.

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