

The Week That Was: 2014-03-29 (March 29, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *Any body of scientists that adopts pressure group tactics is endangering its status as the guardian of principles of scientific philosophy that are worth keeping.* By Charles Fleming [H/t Alex Henney on Bishop Hill]

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Number of the Week: 34.2% & 23.3%

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NIPCC in Washington – April 7 to 10
Presentations by Lead Authors/Editors and Others
Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change
Volumes 1, 2 & 3 of Climate Change Reconsidered II
The Physical Science, Biological Impacts, and Economics, Energy, and Policy
Open to the Public

Monday April 7 – Noon -- Competitive Enterprise Institute – Light Lunch (Seating Limited)
Contact: Myron Ebell
1899 L ST NW Floor 12
Phone: 202/331-101

Tuesday April 8 – 8 am Breakfast at the Capitol Hill Club
300 1st St SE
Phone: 202/484-4590
Contact: Aaron Stover
Cell: 703/801-7916

11:30 Lunch at the Cato Institute – co-sponsored by the George C. Marshall Foundation
1000 Massachusetts Ave NW
Contact at Cato: Rachel Goldman
Phone: 202/218-4606
Contact at Marshall: Jeff Kueter
Phone: 202/296-9655

Wednesday, April 9 8 am Press conference, National Press Club, Bloomberg Room

Thursday, April 10 Briefings on Capitol Hill (Not open to the public)

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9th International Conference on Climate Change

Press Release, The Heartland Institute, Mar 17, 2014

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

July 7 – 9 -- Las Vegas, Nevada

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

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THIS WEEK:

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

NIPCC: More reports from the independent researchers of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) are on the way. Volume 2 of Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts is being published and the Summary for Policymakers is available on the web. No doubt this report will be in stark contrast with a report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which covers some of the same material. The main difference is that the NIPCC includes material that the IPCC conveniently ignores. This material emphasizes the large benefits to plant life, the environment, and humanity from enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂). If the UN IPCC report follows the patterns of the past, it will contain alarming comments of possible harms far in the future from enhanced atmospheric CO₂ – catastrophic anthropogenic (man-made) global warming (CAGW). NIPCC has found no strong evidence that CAGW exists. The UN IPCC used models to make claims of future CAGW. But, the models have never been validated, thus are purely speculative, not scientific. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

IPCC: The latest report of the IPCC Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerabilities is due to be released on March 31, 2014. Initial leaks indicated that the tone would be moderate compared with the alarmist tone of the last report, which contained many errors of fact, such as the glaciers in the Himalaya Mountains will melt by 2040. However, this optimism may have been premature. Later reports indicate there is a hardening of lines among the alarmists, which is to be expected. Too many politicians, climate scientists, and leaders of Green organizations has staked their reputations of the promotion of CAGW. They will not back down quietly.

One could assess the demands of the alarmists with the announcement of the Summary for Policymakers for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) in October, 2013. Even though the climate models on which predictions of CAGW are failing epically -- and that after 35 years of research, after spending tens of billions of dollars, failed to narrow the range of estimated temperature values for a doubling of CO₂, controllers of the report insisted they are 95% confident in the findings of the report. An indication that the less alarmist view of the proceedings may not be correct is the resignation of Richard Tol, a convening lead author of the chapter on economics. He requested his name be removed from the report.

In other work, Tol, an economist at the University of Sussex, estimated that for most of this century human CO₂ emissions will be beneficial to humanity, only causing net harm near the end of the century. Strident alarmists would consider him a heretic. One can only wait to see what dominates the UN IPCC, will it be rigorous science, or raw political power? For a wide range of speculation see links under Problems in the Orthodoxy.

US Exports: Russia's venture into the Crimea is increasing political calls for opening the US energy markets to exporting oil and natural gas --- particularly, exporting natural gas to Europe, lessening dependence on Russian gas. Companies such as Dow argue such actions will raise the cost of natural gas in the US, squashing the only substantial new job growth that is occurring. A study by NERA Economic Consulting, updated in February, shows that the increase in US prices will be minor.

Dow has formed a group called America's Energy Advantage. This group largely ignores the costs of transporting the natural gas from wellhead in the US to city gate in Europe. NERA estimates

these costs, in 2018, will amount to \$6.33/Mcf (2012 dollars). The costs include the costs of new pipelines on both ends, liquefaction, shipping, and regasification. Thus, natural gas in the US will have still a significant price advantage over Europe.

Other objections being raised is that it will take too long. It may be too late for the Crimea, but not too late to influence other Russian actions. Some brought up the experience in Greece. When another option to Russian gas appeared, Gazprom renegotiated its prices, lowering them.

There is speculation whether President Obama will encourage oil and gas exports. Perhaps his inaction on the Keystone pipeline is the best indicator. The pipeline requires no government grants or subsidies – just government approvals. It was to bring heavy oil from Canada, the largest US trading partner, to refineries on the Gulf Coast, in part replacing heavy oil from Venezuela, an unreliable source. The southern part of the pipeline has been built. After over five years, the northern part, over which the Administration has control has not been approved. Instead, the Administration; is using it to leverage campaign contributions for the Democratic Party. See Article #3 and links under Energy Issues – Non-US and Washington’s Control of Energy.

Alaska Squeeze: Washington continues to squeeze the oil industry in Alaska, which once provided 10% of the oil consumed by the US. Washington’s policy threatens the Alaskan pipeline. At its peak of 1988, the throughput of the pipeline averaged 2,032,928 bbl. per day. In 2013, the average was 534,480 bbl. per day, a drop of almost 74%. If volume drops to about 300,000 bbl. per day the pipeline will freeze and cannot be restarted. By law, once it stops, this valuable national asset would have to be disassembled.

By continuing to squeeze oil production, Washington is squeezing the budget of Alaska, which depends heavily on royalties from oil. Washington is preventing development the Coastal Plain (ANWR), the National Petroleum Reserve, Indian Lands, and hobbling development of the Chukchi Sea OCS work by Shell. In contrast, Russian is proceeding aggressively with its development of the oil reserves in its portion the Chukchi Sea. One joint ventures includes Shell. Among the Russian fields being explored is one about 40 to 50 miles from Shell’s US leaseholds and about 150 miles from the Russian coast.

US recoverable resources are estimated to be 40 Billion barrels of oil. Congress must decide if a tiny portion of ANWR can be developed, the balance is under the control of the Administration. The Administration refused to permit a 3-D survey of ANWR. The speculation is that the Administration does not want the public to know the extent of the resources that it is locking-up. The State has sued the Federal government on the grounds that, based on an interpretation of the agreement which provided statehood, Alaska has the right to develop oil and natural gas on its lands, and Indians have the right to develop oil and natural gas on their lands. It will be interesting to see how the courts interpret this state rights issue.

Japan: In wake of the tsunami that wiped out the cooling pumps of the Fukushima reactor, the government of Japan implemented stringent regulations for nuclear power plants. It appears that many of the nuclear plants shut down after the Fukushima incident will not be reopened because it is uneconomic to modify them to meet the new regulations. Japan’s answer to low-cost base-load electricity is coal. After China, Japan is the second largest importer of coal and may be building more coal-fired power plants. See Article #4.

Regulators on the March: One of the pernicious features of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act is that they give great power to government agencies to determine the need for regulations, which the same agency then implements. The courts have deferred to the government agencies on the science justifying the expansion of government control. There is no counterbalancing power to the actions of these agencies. Often these actions result in significant costs to private parties that continue to own the land but are subject to government control of its use.

The EPA and the Corps of Engineers have announced the expansion of control of significant amounts of private and state-owned lands under the Clean Water Act. EPA uses broad definitions of waters that it can control, such as leaves made wet from rain are waters of the US. Similarly, US Fish and Wildlife Service uses narrow definitions of species to include minor local adaption of a species to be a separate species. It has announced the lesser prairie chicken as threatened, which will give it control of major sections of five Western states. Several years ago, Fish and Wildlife listed the polar bear as threatened, even though populations are growing. See links under EPA and other Regulators on the March

McIntyre: In 2012, Steven McIntyre filed a Freedom of Information Act request to the University of Western Australia. He was seeking the data behind a survey by Lewandowsky et al. that found that skeptics are conspiracy theorists. According to McIntyre, the survey data was manipulated after the fact. Based on other information received, McIntyre filed for a retraction of the study. University of Western Australia flatly denied request for retraction. Apparently the Vice Chancellor's feelings were hurt, accusing McIntyre of inflammatory statements and becoming unbalanced on the issue. The university policy is that research data must be available to other researchers. See link under Climategate Continued

Green Revolution: March 25, 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Norman Borlaug. He was the primary person responsible for the Green Revolution that greatly expanded food productivity, allowing many farmers to break the shackles of subsistence agriculture.

By way of contrast, March 29, 2014 marked the symbolic effort of the other green revolution to turn off electric lights for one hour. This second green revolution is largely for the wealthy, demanding that those less fortunate not be allowed reliable, affordable electricity provided fossil fuels. See links under Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine and Environmental Industry.

Number of the Week: 34.2% & 23.3% The Census Bureau reported *"Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industries were the most rapidly growing part of our nation's economy over the last several years,"* From 2007 to 2012 the number of employees rose 23.3 percent to 903,641 and the revenues grew 34.2 percent to \$555.2 billion. Of course, most if not all of the growth came from oil and gas extraction, and the data do not reflect the growth in 2013. Also, the data do not reflect the job growth is in service industries and industries that benefit from reliable supplies of oil and low-cost natural gas. This growth is not the result of policies implemented by the current Administration.

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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 Coming Paradigm Shift on Climate

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Mar 27, 2014
http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/03/the_coming_paradigm_shift_on_climate_.html

2. Climate Forecast: Muting the Alarm

Even while it exaggerates the amount of warming, the IPCC is becoming more cautious about its effects.

By Matt Ridley, WSJ, Mar 27, 2014
http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303725404579460973643962840?mod=rending_now_3

3. Energy Seriousness for Europe

Shale gas, not windmills, can free the continent from reliance on Russia.

Editorial, WSJ, Mar 27, 2014
http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303725404579461251566976372?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop&mg=reno64-wsj

4. Japan's Answer to Fukushima: Coal Power

Many Nuclear Plants Are Too Expensive to Retrofit to Meet Tightened Safety Standards

By Mari Iwata, WSJ, Mar 27, 2014
http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304688104579464942892719528?mod=WSJ_business_LeadStoryCollection&mg=reno64-wsj

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

UWA Vice-Chancellor Refuses Lewandowsky Data

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Mar 28, 2014
<http://climateaudit.org/2014/03/28/uwa-vice-chancellor-refuses-lewandowsky-data/#more-19056>

The 'Fine' Paper That Had To Be Pulled

By Michael Kile, Quadrant, Mar 26, 2014
<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/03/fine-paper-retracted/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts

Summary for Policy Makers, Nongovernment International Panel on Climate Change, April 2014
<http://heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-IIb/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

'Warming Interruptus' – Causes for The Pause

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Mar 26, 2014 [H/t WUWT]
<http://www.thegwgf.org/warming-interruptus-causes-for-the-pause/>
[SEPP Comment: A summary of the after-the-fact excuses why there no longer is a warming trend as the models, and alarmists, predicted. A video and a link to the paper.]

IPCC Scientists Knew Data and Science Inadequacies Contradicted Certainties Presented to Media, Public and Politicians, But Remained Silent.

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Mar 22, 2014
<http://drtimball.com/2014/ipcc-scientists-knew-data-and-science-inadequacies-contradicted-certainties-presented-to-media-public-and-politicians-but-remained-silent-2/>

[SEPP Comment: A lengthy post explaining some of the weaknesses in the models and some of the self-serving pronouncements of the IPCC.]

Uncovering deceptions in the climate change debate

By Jay Lehr, Daily Caller, Mar 28, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/03/28/uncovering-deceptions-in-the-climate-change-debate/#ixzz2xLQ1UKO8>

[SEPP Comment: A review of Tim Ball's new book: The Deliberate Corruption of Climate Science.]

Environmental Scams

By Vincent Gray, NZ Climate Truth Newsletter No. 329, Mar 24, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/03/environmental-scams.html>

AR5 inquiry follow-up

By Nic Lewis, Bishop Hill, Mar 27, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/27/ar5-inquiry-followup.html>

[SEPP Comment: More on the comments of the Lewis/Crok report criticizing the IPCC Summary for Policymakers.]

Regional Newspaper Story Educating Public on Climate Reality - maybe news you can use

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Mar 26, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/regional-newspaper-story-educating-public-on-climate-reality1/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Press Release No. 985

World Meteorological Organization

http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_985_en.html?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=33e161a42d-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+18+7+137+18+2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-33e161a42d-215218249

UN scientists see grim future if no climate action

By Richard Ingham, AFP, Mar 23, 2014

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iTNR6GKheuVnlyYMQva0e4qsitfg?docId=35631058-5d3e-4f00-bebf-0cc8c02639e2&utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=33e161a42d-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+18+7+137+18+2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-33e161a42d-215218249

Questioning the Orthodoxy

The Denier Mantle Moves On

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Mar 28, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/03/the_denier_mantle_moves_on.html

The IPCC: Providing 'Hope for Our Earth'

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Mar 26, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2014/03/26/the-ipcc-providing-hope-for-our-earth/>

“What We Really Know” and What the AAAS Failed to Mention.

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Mar 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/23/the-aaass-lost-climate-integrity/>

If People Are Like Polar Bears, We'll Be Fine

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Mar 28, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/people-are-polar-bears-well-be-fine>

The Collapsing Souffle of Climate Change

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Mar 27, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/03/the-climate-souffle.php>

A Mother, a Daughter & a New IPCC Leak

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Mar 25, 2014

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2014/03/25/a-mother-a-daughter-a-new-ipcc-leak/>

[SEPP Comment: The question for the ages: When does an IPCC final report become the final report?]

Climate Boffins Target Depression

Engineering the Emissions Target Depression

By Viv Forbes, NCTSP, Mar 25, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/03/climate-boffins-target-depression.html>

[SEPP Comment: Apparently the anti-CO2 politicians do not understand population growth and arithmetic.]

The Washington Post Responds to Me, and I Reply to the Post

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Mar 22, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/03/the-washington-post-responds-to-me-and-i-reply-to-the-post.php>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

At U.N. climate talks, many seek sterner warnings of GDP losses

By Alister Doyle, Reuters, Mar 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://news.yahoo.com/u-n-climate-talks-many-seek-sterner-warnings-143150264.html>

Governments reject IPCC economist's 'meaningless' climate costs estimate

UK-based Richard Tol, who has criticised overall report, accused of underestimating costs of climate change in economics section

By Suzanne Goldenberg, Guardian, Mar 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/mar/28/ipcc-climate-costs-estimate-meaningless?CMP=twf_fd

Prof Richard Tol wants his name removed from “exaggerated” IPCC report

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 27, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/03/prof-richard-tol-wants-his-name-removed-from-exaggerated-ipcc-report/#more-34473>

Global Warming Will Not Cost the Earth, Leaked IPCC Report Admits

By James Delingpole, Breitbart, Mar 26, 2014 [H/t GWPF]
<http://www.breitbart.com/Breitbart-London/2014/03/26/Global-warming-will-not-cost-the-earth-leaked-IPCC-report-admits>

Leading Scientist Removes His Name from “Silly” and “Apocalyptic” Climate Change Document

By Nick Hallett, Breitbart, Mar 25, 2014
<http://www.breitbart.com/Breitbart-London/2014/03/25/Climate-Change-Report-Author-Asks-for-Name-to-be-Removed>

Climate change: the debate is about to change radically

By Andrew Lilico, Telegraph, UK, Mar 25, 2014 [H/t GWPF]
<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/finance/andrewlilico/100026933/climate-change-the-debate-is-about-to-change-radically/>

Dissent among scientists over key climate impact report

By Matt McGrath, BBC, Mar 24, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26655779>

Spiegel Reports: “Leading Scientist Leaves IPCC ...Dispute Surrounding UN Climate Panel Escalates”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 27, 2014
<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/27/spiegel-reports-leading-scientist-leaves-ipcc-dispute-surrounding-un-climate-panel-escalates/>

U.N. climate author withdraws because the report has become ‘too alarmist’

By Cheryl K. Chumley, The Washington Times, Mar 27, 2014
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/27/un-climate-author-withdraws-damn-obvious-warmer-te/>

“They will adapt,” Mr. Tol said, Reuters reported. “Farmers are not stupid.”

EU leaders delay decision on climate targets

By Dave Keating, EuropeanVoice, Mar 21, 2014
<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/2014/march/eu-leaders-delay-decision-on-climate-targets/80180.aspx>

IPCC admission from new report: ‘no evidence climate change has led to even a single species becoming extinct’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 28, 2014
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/28/ipcc-admission-from-new-report-no-evidence-climate-change-has-led-to-even-a-single-species-becoming-extinct/>

New UN Report Is Cautious On Making Climate Predictions

By Fred Pearce, Environment 360, Mar 24, 2014
http://e360.yale.edu/feature/new_un_report_is_cautious_on_making_climate_predictions/2750/

Secret UN Report: IPCC Doubts Prognoses On Species Extinction

By Axel Bojanowski, Spiegel Online, Via GWPF, Mar 24, 2014
<http://www.thegwpf.org/secret-un-report-ipcc-doubts-prognoses-on-species-extinction/>

Seeking a Common Ground

EconTalk: Christy and Emanuel

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Mar 24 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/03/24/econtalk-christy-and-emanuel/>

Nate Silver, Roger Pielke, and journalism ethics

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Mar 29, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/03/nate-silver-roger-pielke-and-journalism.html#more>

More scientific mavericks needed

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Mar 23, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/03/23/more-scientific-mavericks-needed/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

The Greening of Asia

Reference: Ichii, K., Kondo, M., Okabe, Y., Ueyama, M., Kobayashi, H., Lee, S.-J., Saigusa, N., Zhu, Z. and Myneni, R.B. 2013. Recent changes in terrestrial gross primary productivity in Asia from 1982 to 2011. *Remote Sensing* 5: 6043-6062.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/mar/25mar2014a1.html>

Needing More Food, but Biting the Hand that Feeds Us

Reference: Muldowney, J., Mounsey, J. and Kinsella, L. 2013. Agriculture in the climate change negotiations; ensuring that food production is not threatened. *Animal* 7:s2: 206-211

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/mar/25mar2014a3.html>

Urban Heat Islands of China

Reference: He, Y., Jia, G., Hu, Y. and Zhou, Z. 2013. Detecting urban warming signals in climate records. *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* 30: 1143-1153.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/mar/26mar2014a1.html>

The Sad State of Sub-Daily Precipitation in CMIP5 Climate Models

Reference: Rosa, D. and Collins, W.D. 2013. A case study of subdaily simulated and observed continental convective precipitation: CMIP5 and multiscale global climate models comparison. *Geophysical Research Letters* 40: 10.1002/2013GL057987.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/mar/26mar2014a3.html>

Measurement Issues

Just How Angry Was Our Summer?

By Des Moore, Quadrant, Mar 28, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/03/just-angry-summer/>

[SEPP Comment: Australia's official temperature takers may be experiencing a fever.]

New paper finds global sea level rise has decelerated 31% since 2002 along with the 'pause' of global warming

By Staff Writer, Hockey Schtick, Mar 23, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2014/03/new-paper-finds-global-sea-level-rise.html>

Link to paper: The rate of sea-level rise

By Anny Cazenave, et al., Nature Climate Change, Mar 23, 2014
<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2014/03/new-paper-finds-global-sea-level-rise.html>

Study: Many US weather stations show cooling, maximum temperatures flat

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 25, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/25/study-many-us-weather-stations-show-cooling-maximum-temperatures-flat/>

Changing Weather

Disasters Cost More Than Ever — But Not Because of Climate Change

By Roger Pielke Jr, FiveThirtyEightScience, Mar 19, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/disasters-cost-more-than-ever-but-not-because-of-climate-change/>

Google Could Greatly Improve Weather Forecasts: Will It Take the Necessary Steps?

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Mar 26, 2014

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2014/03/google-could-greatly-improve-weather.html>

Thousands of Ducks Die as Great Lakes Ice Covers Food Supply

By Mark Leberfinger, AccuWeather, Mar 22, 2014

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/chaotic-winter-hard-on-ducks-b/24590501>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

New study shows Arctic sea ice extent ~6000 years ago was much less than today

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/24/new-study-shows-arctic-sea-ice-extent-6000-years-ago-was-much-less-than-today/>

[SEPP Comment: Confirming some prior studies.]

Arctic Sea Ice Appears to Have Reached Maximum And Other Ice Observations

By Just The Facts, WUWT, Mar 25, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/25/arctic-sea-ice-appears-to-have-reached-maximum-and-other-ice-observations/>

Glacial advances in Nyainqentanglha maybe linked to North Atlantic cooling

By Staff Writers, Beijing, China (SPX), Mar 24, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/The_MIS_3_glacial_advances_in_the_Nyainqentanglha_and_possible_linkage_to_the_North_Atlantic_cooling_999.html

Latest admission from NSIDC on forecasting sea ice extent is a far cry from ‘Arctic death spiral’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 28, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/28/latest-admission-from-nsidc-on-forecasting-sea-ice-extent-is-a-far-cry-from-arctic-death-spiral/>

Acidic Waters

New paper finds no effect of "acidification" on plankton from CO2 levels 8 times higher than today

By Staff Writer The Hockey Schtick, Mar 26, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/03/new-paper-finds-no-effect-of.html>

Link to paper: Response of benthic foraminifera to ocean acidification in their natural sediment environment: a long-term culturing experiment

By K. Haynert, J. Schönfeld, R. Schiebel, B. Wilson, and J. Thomsen, Biogeosciences, Mar 26, 2014

<http://www.biogeosciences.net/11/1581/2014/bg-11-1581-2014.html>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

How one man battled the bureaucrats to save a billion lives

By Marc Sidwell, City A.M. Mar 27, 2014

<http://www.cityam.com/article/1395949106/how-one-man-battled-bureaucrats-save-billion-lives>

Israel no longer worried about its water supply, thanks to desalination plants

By Joel Greenberg, McClatchy DC, Mar 20, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/03/20/221880/israel-no-longer-worried-about.html>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Deep Ocean Current May Slow Due to Climate Change

By Staff Writers, Philadelphia PA(SPX), Mar 24, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Deep_Ocean_Current_May_Slow_Due_to_Climate_Change_99.html

Lowering Standards

Some comments on the Royal Society report

By Alex Henney, Bishop Hill, Mar 25, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/25/some-comments-on-the-royal-society-report.html>

U.S. National Academy of Sciences: Doubling Down on Climate Alarmism (and taking science down a notch with it)

By James Rust, Master Resource, Mar 27, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/03/u-s-nas-climate-alarmism/#more-30060>

Geographical magazine does climate

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 22, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/22/geographical-magazine-does-climate.html>

BBC Trust Distances Itself From Executive Who Ordered To Gag Climate Sceptics

By David Rose, Daily Mail, Via GWPF, Mar 23, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/bbc-trust-distance-itself-from-executive-who-ordered-to-gag-climate-sceptics/>

Protecting scientists

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 23, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/23/protecting-scientists.html>

[SEPP Comment: BBC: No more debates between global warming promoters and skeptics – skeptics not allowed, they may beat the promoters.]

Dishonest Government Data A Threat To Our Civilization

By Victor Davis Hanson, IBD, Mar 27, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/032714-694914-lack-of-honesty-in-government-could-mean-end-of-america.htm?p=full>

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

The IPCC: Providing ‘Hope for Our Earth’

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Mar 26, 2014

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2014/03/26/the-ipcc-providing-hope-for-our-earth/>

Link to Report: Hope for our Earth from Yokohama: Saving the Planet in Yokohama,

By IPCC, Mar 2014

<http://nofrackingconsensus.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/hopeforourearthfromyokohama.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: *The new science, propaganda.*]

Climate Change Dangers Here Now, Will Worsen Many Human Ills, UN Panel Warns

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Mar 25, 2014

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/24/climate-change-dangers_n_5019412.html?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=33e161a42d-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+18+7+137+18+2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-33e161a42d-215218249

Coloring Reality with Climate Division Ranks

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/27/coloring-reality-with-climate-division-ranks/>

[SEPP Comment: *NOAA cannot report monthly temperatures clearly to the public. Why?*]

Global warming is big risk for people

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Mar 24, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.msn.com/science-technology/global-warming-is-big-risk-for-people>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Oxfam report: Global hunger exacerbated by climate change

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 25, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/201630-report-global-hunger-exacerbated-by-climate-change>

Southern Beaufort polar bear ‘decline’ & reduced cub survival touted in 2008 was invalid, PBSG now admits

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Mar 24, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/03/24/southern-beaufort-polar-bear-decline-reduced-cub-survival-touted-in-2008-was-invalid-pbsg-now-admits/>

[SEPP Comment: *Exposing Fish & Wildlife in action.*]

AGW Con needs a Minder to cover for AGW New Tricks

By Geoff Brown, NCTCS, Mar 23, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/03/agw-con-needs-minder-to-cover-from-agw.html>

[SEPP Comment: *More CO2 propaganda.*]

Anti-fracking/Keystone groups make desperate ‘cancer’ claims to push agenda

By Ashe Schow, Washington Examiner, Mar 27, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/anti-frackingkeystone-groups-make-desperate-cancer-claims-to-push-agenda/article/2546426>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Smearing Climate Skeptics

By Russell Cook, American Thinker, Mar 27, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/03/smearing_climate_skeptics.html

Nick Cohen “deniers have won” — gets startlingly close to the truth

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 23, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/03/nick-cohen-deniers-have-won-gets-startlingly-close-to-the-truth/#more-34425>

[SEPP Comment: Nova exhibits great rebuttals to Cohen’s accusations.]

Examiner Editorial: Desperate about Keystone XL? Throw mud at the Kochs

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Mar 24, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-desperate-about-keystone-xl-throw-mud-at-the-kochs/article/2546209>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

VIMS model now capable of street-level storm-tide predictions

By David Malmquist for VIMS News, Gloucester Point VA (SPX) Mar 28, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/VIMS_model_now_capable_of_street_level_storm_tide_predictions_999.html

Questioning European Green

Kelly on engineering reality

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 28, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/28/kelly-on-engineering-reality.html>

Link to report: Technology Introductions in the Context of Decarbonization: Lessons from recent history

By Michael Kelly, GWPF,

<http://www.thegwgf.org/content/uploads/2014/03/Kelly-lessons.pdf>

Devastating Renewable energy subsidies in Europe

By Dennis Ambler, SPPI, Mar 26, 2014

<http://spbiblog.org/news/devastating-renewable-energy-subsidies-in-europe>

Stunning Absurdity From Germany’s Energy Feed-In Act...Wind-Park Operators Earn Most When Turbines Are Idle!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 28, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/28/stunning-absurdity-from-germanys-wind-energy-feed-in-act-wind-park-operators-earn-the-most-when-turbines-are-idle/>

[SEPP Comment: Getting paid more when the turbine is idle, and the electricity is not needed, then when the turbine is operating and the electricity is useful?]

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Going Green A Luxury Good For Rich At Expense Of Poor

Editorial, IBD, Mar 27, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/032714-694978-only-the-wealthy-can-afford-to-be-environmentalists.htm>

Human Achievement Hour: Lights On!

By William Yeatman, Master Resource, March 28, 2014 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/03/30049/>

Lomborg: Earth Hour just a feel-good campaign

By Bjørn Lomborg, USA Today, Mar 27, 2014

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/03/27/bjorn-lomborg-earth-hour-electricity-column/6975265/>

Green Jobs

The green economy

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Mar 28, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/green-economy>

The green myth: Why renewables destroy jobs

By Matthew Sinclair, City A.M. Mar 25, 2014

<http://www.cityam.com/article/1395776963/green-myth-why-renewables-destroy-jobs>

Non-Green Jobs

Energy Boom Spurs Growth West of the Mississippi

By Jesse Holland, AP, Mar 27, 2014

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/energy-boom-spurs-growth-west-mississippi>

Technology creates jobs as much as it destroys them

It's a good thing we don't all have to dig the fields by hand

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Mar 23, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/technology-will-not-destroy-all-jobs.aspx>

Funding Issues

GOP: Predict storms, not climate change

By Pete Kasperowicz, The Hill, Mar 28, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/202051-gop-government-should-focus-on-storm-prediction-not>

[SEPP Comment: Message to NOAA: we know storms and weather events kill people – climate change is another thing.]

Feds spent \$700,000 on a climate change musical

By Michael Bastasch, Daly Caller, Mar 26, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/03/26/feds-spent-700000-on-a-climate-change-musical/>

[SEPP Comment: The government has too much money to spend.]

Oil money provided the foundation of polar bear research, now its “greenwash”

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Mar 27, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/03/27/oil-money-provided-the-foundation-of-polar-bear-research-now-its-greenwash/>

The Political Games Continue

Bombshell in WAPO/Keystone Scandal: Did the Post Coordinate with Congressional Democrats?

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Mar 26, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/03/bombshell-in-wapokeystone-scandal-did-the-post-coordinate-with-congressional-democrats.php>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

US wind projects fall 93 percent

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 27, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/201916-us-wind-projects-fall-93-percent>

[SEPP Comment: No wonder the US wind industry want subsidies that are predictable, consistent, and stable. Because its electricity is unpredictable, inconsistent, and unstable, few will invest in the industry without subsidies.]

Biofuel groups push for renewal of tax credits

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Mar 25, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/201620-biofuel-groups-push-for-renewal-of-tax-credits>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Feds assert authority over streams, wetlands

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 25, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/201652-feds-hunker-down-on-protections-of-streams-wetlands>

White House tackles methane emissions in sweeping strategy

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

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/202038-white-house-drops-strategy-to-reduce-methane-emissions>

Lesser prairie chicken listed as threatened species

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Mar 27, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/201979-lesser-prairie-chicken-listed-as-threatened-species>

Alaskans battle for survival against feds' protection of migratory birds

By Valerie Richardson, Washington Times, Mar 26, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/26/alaskans-battle-for-survival-against-feds-protecti/>

D.C. May Soon Tell You What to Eat to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

By Mallory Carr and Daren Bakst, The Foundry, Mar 24, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://blog.heritage.org/2014/03/24/usda-hhs-consider-global-warming-formulating-dietary-guidelines/>

EPA's shredding system makes bad news about climate regulations disappear

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Mar 25, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/epas-shredding-system-makes-bad-news-about-climate-regulations-disappear/article/2546272>

Members of the ‘Independent’ EPA Advisory Committee Got \$180 Million from EPA

By David Kreutzer, The Foundry, Mar 26, 2014

<http://blog.heritage.org/2014/03/26/members-independent-epa-advisory-committee-got-180-million-epa/>

Regulating Our Way to Prosperity

According to government math, issuing new rules is the same as minting money.

By Roger Meiners, Reason, Mar 18, 2014

<http://reason.com/archives/2014/03/18/regulating-our-way-to-prosperity>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Energy security towers over EU-US summit

By Staff Writers, EurActiv, Mar 26, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/energy-security-towers-over-eu-us-summit-301174>

Sanctions could pinch Russia's energy sector

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

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/202021-report-sanctions-could-hurt-russian-oil-and-gas>

European energy and climate policy in the face of the Russian interventions in Crimea and Ukraine

By Dieter Helm, Energies Futures Network, Mar 17, 2014

http://www.dieterhelm.co.uk/sites/default/files/Ukraine%20implications_0.pdf

Major points, as edited by GWPF Mar 22, 2013:

http://www.dieterhelm.co.uk/sites/default/files/Ukraine%20implications_0.pdf

Germany’s Green Energy Shift Increases Dependence On Russian Gas

By Hans-Werner Sinn, WirtschaftsWoche, Translated by Philipp Mueller, GWPF, Mar 24, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/germanys-green-energy-shift-increases-dependence-on-russia-gas/>

Ukraine Crisis Spurs Calls For Europe To Rethink Shale

By Selina Williams, WSJ, Via GWPF, Mar 27, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/ukraine-crisis-spurs-calls-for-europe-to-rethink-shale/>

Energy policy in Germany: Big problems in Europe’s powerhouse

By Jürgen Krönig, Policy Network, Mar 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://policy-network.net/pno_detail.aspx?ID=4612&title=Energy-policy-in-Germany-Big-problems-in-Europes-powerhouse

Obama Pitches Shale Gas as EU Seeks to Cut Russian Imports (1)

By Ewa Krukowska, Bloomberg, Mar 26, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-03-26/obama-pitches-shale-gas-to-eu-seeking-to-cut-imports-from-russia>

Brazil scrambles to avoid power rationing as costs soar

By Jeb Blount, Reuters, Mar 24, 2014 [H/t GWPF]
http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-03-24/business/sns-rt-us-brazil-electricity-analysis-20140324_1_power-rationing-president-dilma-rousseff-hydroelectric-dams

'Big six' energy firms face competition inquiry

By Staff Writers, BBC, Mar 27, 2014

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-26734203>

Energy wars spark UK blackout fears

By Suzie Neuwirth, City A.M. Mar 28, 2014

<http://www.cityam.com/article/1395986091/energy-wars-spark-uk-blackout-fears>

[SEPP Comment: A guaranteed return on costs does not inspire cost cutting.]

When Britain's Lamps Go Out

Green policies destroy the economics of power generation.

Editorial, WSJ, Via GWPF, Mar 28, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/editorial-when-britains-lamps-go-out/>

Energy Issues -- US

The Newly Urgent National Security Aspects of the Climate Change Issue

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics and Science, Mar 23, 2014

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/1615>

Threat of Russia Energy Cutoff To West Is Overblown

By Robert Samuelson, IBD, Mar 26, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-on-the-left/032614-694725-russia-natural-gas-cutoff-wouldnt-hurt-as-much-as-thought.htm>

Updated Macroeconomic Impacts of LNG Exports from the United States

By Robert Brown, et al., NERA Economic Consulting, for Cheniere Energy, Inc. February 20, 2014 [H/t Marlo Lewis]

http://www.nera.com/nera-files/PUB_LNG_Update_0214.pdf

Export crude, not gas, to help allies, oil exec says

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Mar 26, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/201840-export-oil-not-natural-gas-to-help-allies-oil-executive-says>

The Case for Crude Oil Exports

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Mar 25, 2014

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=24239&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

Link to paper: The Case for Permitting Crude Oil Exports

By Merrill Matthews, IPA Ideas, Mar 2014

http://www.ipi.org/docLib/20140311_CaseforPermittingCrudeOilExport4.pdf

Attacks on Fracking Attack U.S. Consumers

By Steve Everley, Master Resource, Mar 26, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/03/fracking-pro-consumers/#more-30053>

[SEPP Comment: Opposing natural gas, which is needed as a back-up for renewables. Is it hypocrisy or just gross ignorance?]

Washington's Control of Energy

Obama Delay Of Keystone Pipeline Is About Politics, Not Environment

By Merrill Matthews, IBD, Mar 25, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/032514-694567-obama-has-no-good-environmental-reason-to-stall-keystone-pipeline.htm?p=full>

The Other Keystone

It's just as important to stop Cove Point.

By Mark Hertsgaard, The Nation, April 7, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.thenation.com/article/178922/other-keystone>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

US now producing 10 percent of world's crude oil

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 26, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/201833-us-now-producing-10-percent-of-worlds-crude-oil>

Radicals Against Natural Gas

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Mar 28, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/03/28/radicals-against-natural-gas/>

The Employment And Economic Consequences Of Fracking Bans

Editorial, IBD, Mar 28, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/032814-695152-fracking-moratoriums-have-high-job-and-economic-costs.htm>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

GOP: Administration Stonewalling on Bird Deaths

By Matthew Daily, AP, Mar 26, 2014

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/gop-administration-stonewalling-bird-deaths>

Analysis Shows Solar Modules Cause More Greenhouse Gas Emissions Than Modern Coal Power Plants!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 25, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/25/analysis-shows-solar-modules-cause-more-greenhouse-gas-emissions-than-modern-coal-power-plants/>

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

Biofuels do more harm than good, UN warns

Growing crops to make “green” biofuel harms the environment and drives up food prices, admits the United Nations

By Robert Mendick, Telegraph, UK, Mar 23, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/10716756/Biofuels-do-more-harm-than-good-UN-warns.html>

Megadam Projects Not Successful

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Mar 27, 2014

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=24252&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Range Loss of EVs In Extreme Temps Has Been Reported for Years

By Paul Chesser, National Legal and Policy Center, Mar 24, 2014

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2014/03/23/range-loss-evs-extreme-temps-has-been-reported-years>

Carbon Schemes

Duke Energy's Clean Coal Plant Uses More Energy Than It Produces

By Paul Chesser, National Legal, and Policy Center, Mar 25, 2014

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2014/03/25/duke-energys-clean-coal-plant-uses-more-energy-it-produces>

Inconvenient truth of carbon offsets

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Mar 28, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/03/28/inconvenient-truth-of-carbon-offsets/>

Oh Mann!

Earth Will Cross the Climate Danger Threshold by 2036

The rate of global temperature rise may have hit a plateau, but a climate crisis still looms in the near future

By Michael Mann, Scientific American, Mar 18, 2014

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/earth-will-cross-the-climate-danger-threshold-by-2036/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately below.]

Hide the decline deja vu? Mann's ‘little white line’ as ‘False Hope’ may actually be false hype

By Christopher Monckton, Foreword by Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/24/hide-the-decline-deja-vu-manns-little-white-line-as-false-hope-may-actually-be-false-hype/>

Environmental Industry

And Speaking of Sleeping with the Enemy

By Ed Driscoll, PJ Media, Mar 22, 2014

<http://pjmedia.com/eddriscoll/2014/03/22/sleeping-with-the-enemy/>

[SEPP Comment: Includes reporters for the Washington Post.]

Confidential document reveals the Sierra Club's plan to shut down the coal industry

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Mar 26, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/03/26/confidential-document-reveals-the-sierra-clubs-plan-to-shut-down-the-coal-industry/>

EU policy: WWF on the gravy train

By Richard North, EUReferendum, Mar 3, 2014 [H/t Anne Debeil]

<http://www.eureferendum.com/blogview.aspx?blogno=84752>

Environmentalists Hyped False Fracking Fears Ahead of Elections

Colorado regulators find water contamination concerns that led to fracking bans were ‘unfounded’

By Lachlan Markay, Washington Free Beacon, Mar 24, 2014

<http://freebeacon.com/environmentalists-hyped-false-fracking-fears-ahead-of-elections/>

The Inconvenient Truth: Earth Hour adds to CO2 emissions.

By Geoff Brown, NCTCS, Mar 29, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/03/the-inconvenient-truth-earth-hour-adds.html>

The Sierra Club might be surprised to learn that some of these emissions aren’t soot

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 26, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/26/the-sierra-club-might-be-surprised-to-learn-that-some-of-these-emissions-arent-soot/>

[SEPP Comment: More propaganda from the Sierra Club]

Other Scientific News

The Landslide State

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Mar 28, 2014

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2014/03/the-landslide-state.html>

Other News that May Be of Interest

HHS Officials Calls Agency “Secretive, Autocratic, and Unaccountable” in Resignation Letter

By James Delingpole, Breitbart, Mar 21, 2014 [H/t Jo Nova]

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/03/21/Science-historian-resigns>

7M died in 2012 due to air pollution, WHO says

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Mar 26, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/201771-7-million-died-in-2012-due-to-air-pollution-who-says>

[SEPP Comment: The numbers may be highly questionable, but no doubt indoor air pollution kills many who are poor and use traditional cooking methods. Of the total, how many died prematurely from exposure to CO2? None?]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

A 30% increase in autism in two years? Oh, really?

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Mar 28, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/03/30-increase-autism-two-years-oh-really/>

Climate Crazyness of the Week: how ‘climate change is messing up’ the search for the missing Malaysian airliner

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/24/climate-crazyness-of-the-week-how-climate-change-is-messing-up-the-search-for-the-missing-malaysian-airliner/>

Oh Noes! Salamanders shrinking due to climate change

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 25, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/25/oh-noes-salamanders-shrinking-due-to-climate-change/>

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ARTICLES:

1. The Coming Paradigm Shift on Climate

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Mar 27, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/03/the_coming_paradigm_shift_on_climate_.html

The just-published NIPCC reports may lead to a paradigm shift about what or who causes current climate changes. All the evidence suggests that Nature rules the climate – not Man.

Watch for it: We may be on the threshold of a tipping point in climate history. No, I'm not talking about a tipping point in the sense that the Earth will be covered with ice or become hellishly hot. I'm talking about a tipping point in our views of what controls the climate -- whether it's mainly humans or whether it's mainly natural. It makes an enormous difference in climate policy: Do we try to mitigate, at huge cost, or do we merely adapt to natural changes -- as our ancestors did for many millennia?

Such tipping points occur quite frequently in science. I have personally witnessed two paradigm shifts where world scientific opinion changed rapidly -- almost overnight. One was in Cosmology, where the "Steady State" theory of the Universe was replaced by the "Big Bang." This shift was confirmed by the discovery of the "microwave background radiation," which has already garnered Nobel prizes, and will likely get more.

The other major shift occurred in Continental Drift. After being denounced by the Science Establishment, the hypothesis of Alfred Wegener, initially based on approximate relations between South America and Africa, was dramatically confirmed by the discovery of "sea-floor spreading."

These shifts were possible because there were no commercial or financial interests -- and they did not involve the public and politicians. But climate is a different animal: The financial stakes are huge -- in the trillions of dollars, and affect energy policy, and indeed the economic wellbeing of every inhabitant of the developed and developing world. For example, the conversion into ethanol fuel of a substantial portion of the US corn crop raised the price of tortillas in Mexico and caused food riots.

Nevertheless, I believe the time is right for a paradigm shift on climate. For one, there has been no warming now for some 15 years -- in spite of rising levels of greenhouse (GH) gases. Climate models have not come up with any accepted explanation. This disparity, of course, throws great doubt about any future warming derived from these same models, and indeed also about policies that are being advocated -- principally, the mitigation and control of Carbon Dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.

Next year, in Paris, the UN will try to reconstitute the basic features of the (1997-2012) Kyoto Protocol -- an international treaty of participating nations to limit their emissions of CO₂. They may succeed -- unless the current paradigm changes.

We can already see the pressure building up for such a treaty. The big guns of international science are actively promoting climate scares. The Royal Society and US National Academy of Sciences have published a joint major report, containing no new science but advocating a "need for action." The AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science), the largest

scientific organization in the United States, is promoting the same policy, again without a shred of science in their slick pamphlet. Even the once-respected Scientific American magazine has gotten into the act and openly advocates such policies.

All of these Establishment groups, it seems, have a keen eye open for government funding -- not only for research but also the actions that go with such policies. They all accept the climate science as propagated by the three volumes of the 5th Assessment Report (AR5) of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). Volume #1, dealing with physical science, was published in Sept 2013; volumes 2 and 3, dealing with impacts and mitigation, will be published in March and April of 2014.

But now, for the first time, we have NIPCC (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change) as a counter to the IPCC, as an independent voice, a second opinion, if you will -- something that was advocated by the IAC (InterAcademy Council on Science). We now have a credible number of studies, which the IPCC chose to ignore in reaching their conclusion about anthropogenic global warming (AGW). The NIPCC reports were also published in September 2013 (Physical Science), and in March and April of 2014 (Biological Impacts and Societal Impacts).

The NIPCC, in particular its Summary for Policy-Makers (SPM) of Vol 1, looks critically at the evidence that the IPCC uses to back up their claim of AGW. NIPCC notes that the evidence keeps changing over time. The first IPCC report (1990) used an improbable statistical method to suggest that the warming of the early part of the 20th century was due to human-produced GH gases; no one believes this anymore.

The second assessment report of 1996, which led to the infamous 1997 Kyoto Protocol, manufactured the so-called "HotSpot," a region of increased warming trend, with a maximum in the equatorial troposphere. That evidence has also disappeared: a detailed analysis (published in Nature 1996) showed that the Hotspot doesn't even exist. In addition, the assumption that it constitutes a "fingerprint" for AGW is in error.

As a result of these two failed attempts to establish some kind of evidence for AGW, the third IPCC report (2001) latched on to the so-called "Hockeystick" graph, which claimed that only the 20th century showed unusual warming during the past 1000 years. However, further scrutiny demonstrated that the Hockeystick was also manufactured -- based on faulty data, erroneous statistical methods, and an inappropriate calibration method. Even purely random data fed into the algorithm would always produce a hockeystick.

In its most recent AR5 of 2013, the IPCC has dropped all previous pieces of evidence and instead concentrates on trying to prove that the reported surface warming between 1978 and 2000 agrees with a warming predicted by climate models. This so-called proof turns out to be a weak reed indeed. The reported warming applies only to surface (land-based) weather stations and is not seen in any other data set; the weather satellite data that measure atmospheric temperature show no significant trend -- neither do proxy data (from analysis of tree rings, ocean/lake sediments, stalagmites, etc)

It can therefore be argued that there has been no appreciable human-caused warming in the 20th century at all -- and that the warming effects of rising GH-gas content of the atmosphere have

been quite insignificant. See also

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/11/ipcc_s_bogus_evidence_for_global_warming.html

But what about future global temperatures? Opinions differ sharply -- all the way from another “Little Ice Age” (a calamity, in my opinion) to a resumption of warming (aided by the “missing heat” that some alarmists are sure is hiding somewhere). Personally, I don’t do forecasts since I know too little about the Sun’s interior; I simply try to understand and explain the past climate. But if pressed, I would go with historic cycles, like the observed 1000-1500-yr cycle; it suggests a modest warming over the next few centuries, perhaps in ‘fits and starts’ -- unlike computer models that yield a steady increase in temperature from a steady increase of GH-gas levels.

Will nations accept any treaties emanating from the 2015 Paris Conference? So far, only Western Europe seems to be keen on ratifying -- and even there, doubts are developing. Eastern Europe is definitely against any new Protocol, as are Japan, Australia, and Canada. And what about the Chinese, the world’s largest emitters of CO₂? They gain a competitive advantage if their commercial competitors accept the Treaty’s restrictions, which raise their cost of energy.

The United States may be in a transition mode -- and that’s where a paradigm shift could really make a global difference. According to the latest Gallup poll, the US public ranks Global Warming almost at the bottom of twenty issues, mostly concerned with economics. The White House, however, seems to be gung-ho for climate alarmism. President Obama is planning new climate initiatives, based on advice from his Science Adviser, John Holdren, an erstwhile disciple of “Population Bomb” Paul Ehrlich. John Podesta has come aboard as counselor and special assistant to the President to push climate initiatives. And of course, the rest of the Administration is in tune with the White House.

Secretary of State John Kerry considers AGW the greatest challenge to US security -- in spite of having his plate full of foreign-policy problems: the Iran nuclear negotiations, the Syrian civil war, a developing Sunni insurgency in Iraq, the Arab-Israel ‘peace’ negotiations, and the Russian annexation of Crimea. This, of course, is the same John Kerry, who as a US Senator in 1997 voted for the Byrd-Hagel Resolution against the likes of a Kyoto Protocol.

In mid-2014, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) will issue its opinion on the EPA’s mis-guided and unscientific efforts to limit or even abolish the use of coal for electric generation. If SCOTUS can become aware of the NIPCC conclusions, they will surely decide against EPA and therefore the WH. Such an event may become the trigger for a cataclysmic paradigm shift in US policy on energy and climate. The November 2014 elections could tip the balance and finally kill the myth of Global Warming catastrophes in the US and throughout the world.

NIPCC Conclusions in Brief

Backed by thousands of peer-reviewed studies, are in striking contrast to the IPCC’s alarmist predictions:

****Climate data tell us that the human impact on Earth’s climate is very small and that any warming due to GH gases will be so small as to be indiscernible from natural variability.**

**The net impacts of modestly rising temperatures and higher carbon-dioxide levels on plants, animals, wildlife, and human welfare have been positive so far and are likely to continue to be positive.

**The costs of trying to mitigate climate change by reducing emissions vastly exceed the benefits. Annual cost per US household would run to some \$3,900; would destroy millions of jobs.

**In light of the new science and economics of climate change, thousands of laws passed at the height of the global warming scare need to be re-evaluated, modified, or repealed.

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

2. Climate Forecast: Muting the Alarm

Even while it exaggerates the amount of warming, the IPCC is becoming more cautious about its effects.

By Matt Ridley, WSJ, Mar 27, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303725404579460973643962840?mod=trailing_now_3

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will shortly publish the second part of its latest report, on the likely impact of climate change. Government representatives are meeting with scientists in Japan to sex up—sorry, rewrite—a summary of the scientists' accounts of storms, droughts and diseases to come. But the actual report, known as AR5-WGII, is less frightening than its predecessor seven years ago.

The 2007 report was riddled with errors about Himalayan glaciers, the Amazon rain forest, African agriculture, water shortages and other matters, all of which erred in the direction of alarm. This led to a critical appraisal of the report-writing process from a council of national science academies, some of whose recommendations were simply ignored.

Others, however, hit home. According to leaks, this time the full report is much more cautious and vague about worsening cyclones, changes in rainfall, climate-change refugees, and the overall cost of global warming.

It puts the overall cost at less than 2% of GDP for a 2.5 degrees Centigrade (or 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit) temperature increase during this century. This is vastly less than the much heralded prediction of Lord Stern, who said climate change would cost 5%-20% of world GDP in his influential 2006 report for the British government.

The forthcoming report apparently admits that climate change has extinguished no species so far and expresses "very little confidence" that it will do so. There is new emphasis that climate change is not the only environmental problem that matters and on adapting to it rather than preventing it. Yet the report still assumes 70% more warming by the last decades of this century than the best science now suggests. This is because of an overreliance on models rather than on data in the first section of the IPCC report—on physical science—that was published in September 2013.

In this space on Dec. 19, 2012, I forecast that the IPCC was going to have to lower its estimates of future warming because of new sensitivity results. (Sensitivity is the amount of warming due to a

doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide.) "Cooling Down Fears of Climate Change" (Dec. 19), led to a storm of protest, in which I was called "anti-science," a "denier" and worse.

The IPCC's September 2013 report abandoned any attempt to estimate the most likely "sensitivity" of the climate to a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The explanation, buried in a technical summary not published until January, is that "estimates derived from observed climate change tend to best fit the observed surface and ocean warming for [sensitivity] values in the lower part of the likely range." Translation: The data suggest we probably face less warming than the models indicate, but we would rather not say so.

The Global Warming Policy Foundation, a London think tank, published a careful survey of all the reliable studies of sensitivity on March 5. The authors are British climate scientist Nic Lewis (who has no academic affiliation but a growing reputation since he discovered a glaring statistical distortion that exaggerated climate sensitivity in the previous IPCC report) and the Dutch science writer Marcel Crok. They say the IPCC's September report "buried good news about global warming," and that "the best observational evidence indicates our climate is considerably less sensitive to greenhouse gases than climate scientists had previously thought."

Messrs. Lewis and Crok argue that the average of the best observationally based studies shows the amount of immediate warming to be expected if carbon dioxide levels double after 70 years is "likely" to be between one and two degrees Centigrade, with a best estimate of 1.35C (or 2.4F). That's much lower than the IPCC assumes in its forthcoming report.

In short, the warming we experienced over the past 35 years—about 0.4C (or 0.7F) if you average the measurements made by satellites and those made by ground stations—is likely to continue at about the same rate: a little over a degree a century.

Briefly during the 1990s there did seem to be warming that went as fast as the models wanted. But for the past 15-17 years there has been essentially no net warming (a "hiatus" now conceded by the IPCC), a fact that the models did not predict and now struggle to explain. The favorite post-hoc explanation is that because of natural variability in ocean currents more heat has been slipping into the ocean since 2000—although the evidence for this is far from conclusive.

None of this contradicts basic physics. Doubling carbon dioxide cannot on its own generate more than about 1.1C (2F) of warming, however long it takes. All the putative warming above that level would come from amplifying factors, chiefly related to water vapor and clouds. The net effect of these factors is the subject of contentious debate.

In climate science, the real debate has never been between "deniers" and the rest, but between "lukewarmers," who think man-made climate change is real but fairly harmless, and those who think the future is alarming. Scientists like Judith Curry of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Richard Lindzen of MIT have moved steadily toward lukewarm views in recent years.

Even with its too-high, too-fast assumptions, the recently leaked draft of the IPCC impacts report makes clear that when it comes to the effect on human welfare, "for most economic sectors, the impact of climate change will be small relative to the impacts of other drivers," such as economic growth and technology, for the rest of this century. If temperatures change by about 1C degrees between now and 2090, as Mr. Lewis calculates, then the effects will be even smaller.

Indeed, a small amount of warming spread over a long period will, most experts think, bring net improvements to human welfare. Studies such as by the IPCC author and economist Professor Richard Tol of Sussex University in Britain show that global warming has probably done so already. People can adapt to such change—which essentially means capture the benefits but minimize the harm. Satellites have recorded a roughly 14% increase in greenery on the planet over the past 30 years, in all types of ecosystems, partly as a result of man-made CO2 emissions, which enable plants to grow faster and use less water.

There remains a risk that the latest science is wrong and rapid warming will occur with disastrous consequences. And if renewable energy had proved by now to be cheap, clean and thrifty in its use of land, then we would be right to address that small risk of a large catastrophe by rushing to replace fossil fuels with first-generation wind, solar and bioenergy. But since these forms of energy have proved expensive, environmentally damaging and land-hungry, it appears that in our efforts to combat warming we may have been taking the economic equivalent of chemotherapy for a cold.

Almost every global environmental scare of the past half century proved exaggerated including the population "bomb," pesticides, acid rain, the ozone hole, falling sperm counts, genetically engineered crops and killer bees. In every case, institutional scientists gained a lot of funding from the scare and then quietly converged on the view that the problem was much more moderate than the extreme voices had argued. Global warming is no different.

Mr. Ridley is the author of "The Rational Optimist" (HarperCollins, 2010) and a member of the British House of Lords.

3. Energy Seriousness for Europe

Shale gas, not windmills, can free the continent from reliance on Russia.

Editorial, WSJ, Mar 27, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303725404579461251566976372?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop&mg=reno64-wsj

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has at last focused European minds on the need to reduce their dependence on Russian energy. One solution lies right underfoot.

British Prime Minister David Cameron offered what should be an obvious fix: tapping some of the trillions of cubic feet of shale oil and gas that are estimated to be locked under the European surface. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday in the Hague, Mr. Cameron called the invasion of Crimea "something of a wake-up call" for Europe. "Energy independence, using all these different sources of energy, should be a tier one political issue from now on, rather than tier five."

He should know. U.K.-based Cuadrilla Resources first applied for an exploration permit in Lancashire in 2008, under the previous Labour government. Cuadrilla says it has found 200 trillion cubic feet of gas-in-place in Lancashire's Bowland Basin alone. With the U.K. consuming roughly 3.4 trillion cubic feet per year, even a fraction of that gas could make a dramatic difference to energy prices and prospects in Europe.

Since 2008, Cuadrilla has conducted some testing and exploration; met with local land-owners in its prospective drilling sites; prepared more applications for planning and health and safety approval than we can list here; and waited out a string of government-commissioned consultations

and studies—all of which have so far concluded that hydraulic fracturing poses no serious risk, albeit with myriad recommended rules governing the process.

A Cuadrilla spokeswoman tells us that if the company's plans remain on track, it expects to begin exploratory drilling in Lancashire next year and that commercialized production "could begin before the end of the decade." For an idea of the hold-ups Cuadrilla has already experienced, see the company's explanation for rejecting a site last year: "The background to this decision includes technical constraints related to wintering birds," according to Chief Executive Francis Egan's statement.

That has to change. Lithuania, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Bulgaria are almost completely dependent on Russia for their natural gas. Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Austria and Greece source more than half their gas from Russia. Germany gets more than 30%.

All this should put the usual reservations about hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, into a more sober perspective. France and Bulgaria have banned fracking in a fit of environmentalist hysteria, and Germany has placed a moratorium on the practice. Policy makers in Brussels are still fine-tuning the EU environmental regulations they want to require of shale prospectors.

European reluctance to develop fossil-fuel resources at home was a problem long before the Ukraine crisis: Cheap domestic gas would have helped ease the EU's recent and ongoing economic troubles. Moscow's invasion of Crimea has now forced European governments to finally admit, among other inconvenient truths, that taxpayer-funded windmills will not deliver energy security, much less improved geopolitical leverage against Moscow. There are few silver linings to Russia's revanchism, but perhaps a serious European energy policy might be one of them.

4. Japan's Answer to Fukushima: Coal Power

Many Nuclear Plants Are Too Expensive to Retrofit to Meet Tightened Safety Standards

By Mari Iwata, WSJ, Mar 27, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304688104579464942892719528?mod=WSJ_business_LeadStoryCollection&mg=reno64-wsj

TOKYO—Japan is turning into a rare bright spot in the world coal market, stepping up coal-fired power generation to replace nuclear plants that went offline after the 2011 Fukushima accident.

Plans by Japanese companies to spend billions of dollars on new coal-fired plants offer a striking contrast with the U.S., which has effectively blocked new coal plants using existing technology over concerns about global warming. And they show how deeply Japan's energy picture has changed since the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami caused meltdowns at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactors.

On Thursday, Kyushu Electric Power Co. said it would restart a long-frozen project to build a one-gigawatt coal-fired unit in southern Japan. Other utilities including Tokyo Electric Power Co. have announced similar plans for more coal-fired power.

If the plans all come to fruition, Japan's coal-fired power capacity would increase to around 47 gigawatts over the next decade or so, up 21% from the time right before the Fukushima accident.

All 48 of Japan's nuclear-power plants are currently offline. While regulators are expected to allow several to restart this year and next, many older plants are too expensive to retrofit to meet tightened safety standards.

Imported natural gas is filling some of the gap, but it is costly. Solar power and residential fuel cells still account for a fraction of Japan's power demand. That leaves coal, which is relatively inexpensive, readily available from nations such as Australia and usable 24 hours a day.

"We can import coal from politically stable countries, and its prices are very competitive," said Hiroya Harada, general manager of Tohoku Electric Power Co. Tokyo branch. He spoke at a news conference Thursday where Tohoku Electric said it would seek contracts for 1.2 gigawatts of fossil-fuel-fired power, half of which it expects to come from coal.

The downside is the effect on the environment. Japan's coal use has already been edging higher since the Fukushima accident and as a result, the nation's carbon dioxide emissions climbed to their second-highest level on record in the year ended March 2013.

Japan is the second-largest coal importer in the world after China, which has been looking for alternatives because of choking air pollution caused in part by coal-fired power plants. Unlike China, which has large domestic coal supplies, Japan must import almost all of its coal.

In 2013, Japan's imports of coal for power production rose 1.3% to 109 million metric tons, after a 6.4% rise in 2012, according to customs data, and imports continued rising in the first two months of 2014.

The plans by Japanese power companies are good news for international coal suppliers struggling with sluggish demand in China and elsewhere. Switzerland-based Glencore Xstrata GLNCY - has been in talks with Tohoku Electric about pricing for deliveries starting in April, according to traders at Tokyo-based trading companies. Representatives of Glencore Xstrata and Tohoku Electric declined to comment.

Power-industry deregulation taking effect in Japan in the next few years has prompted several companies outside of the traditional utility industry to look at coal-fired power.

Earlier this month, Osaka Gas Co. said it would build a 149-megawatt coal power station in central Japan. Nippon Steel Sumitomo Metal Corp., the nation's largest steelmaker, and Electric Power Development Co. in December set up a joint venture to build and operate a 640-megawatt coal power plant northeast of Tokyo.

Like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Japan's Ministry of Environment has long frowned on coal-fired power and strongly opposed new plants. But it yielded early last year after rising natural-gas imports and a weaker yen caused electricity prices to surge.

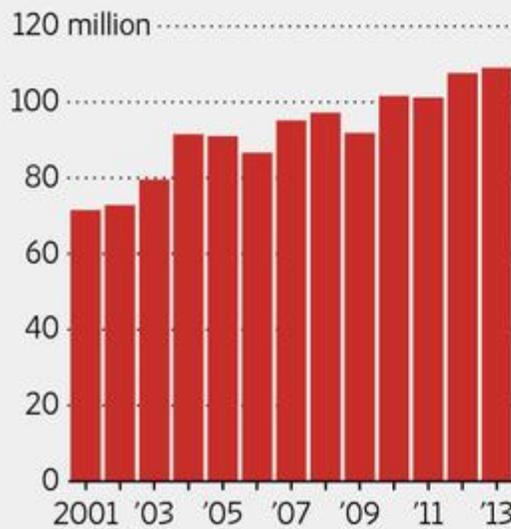
The new plants generally plan to use advanced technology that limits, but doesn't eliminate, emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollution.

"Coal-fired power plants are much more efficient compared with the past," said Tomomichi Akuta, an economist at a research arm of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc. "Using cheap coal would save money that can be invested in new technologies to cut emissions."

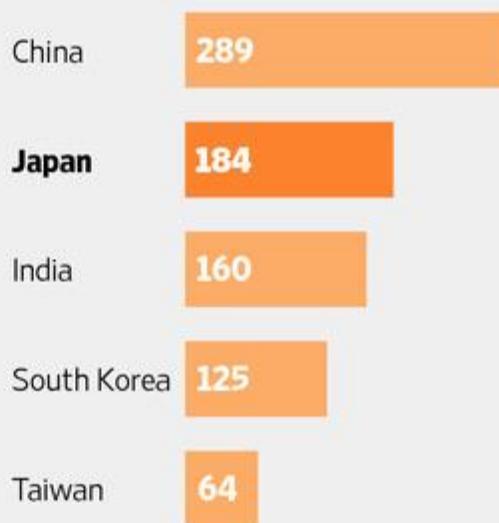
Kanna Mitsuta of Friends of the Earth Japan said her group was more strongly opposed to nuclear power than to coal but believed Japan should move quickly to renewable power. "We have been worried that global warming seems to be forgotten recently," she said.

Firing Up | Japan's coal imports are rising as the nation moves away from nuclear power.

Japan's thermal coal imports in metric tons



Top five coal importers in 2012, in millions of tons



Sources: Japan's Ministry of Finance (thermal coal); World Coal Association

The Wall Street Journal

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