

The Week That Was: 2020-07-04 (July 4, 2020)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: *“The problem isn't that Johnny can't read. The problem isn't even that Johnny can't think. The problem is that Johnny doesn't know what thinking is; he confuses it with feeling.”* — Thomas Sowell [H/t Jim Buell]

Number of the Week: 0.086°C/decade (0.155°F/decade)

THIS WEEK:

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

Oversimplified-Part II: Last week, TWTW focused on part of a new paper by MIT Professor emeritus in Atmospheric Physics Richard Lindzen titled: “An oversimplified picture of the climate behavior based on a single process can lead to distorted conclusions.” It presented the generally accepted physical characteristics of the climate system, which is extraordinarily complex and ever changing. As Lindzen asserts, even if the solar forcing were constant, which it is not, the climate would vary. With the massive size of the oceans, and their ability to absorb heat, such variations can involve timescales of a thousand years or more.

This week, TWTW will focus on the balance of Lindzen’s paper, emphasizing some of the points he makes. But first it is useful to repeat what Lindzen states as the ‘consensus’ view:

“The ‘consensus’ assessment of this system is today the following:

“In this complex multifactor system, the climate (which, itself, consists in many variables – especially the temperature difference between the equator and the poles) is described by just one variable, the global averaged temperature change, and is controlled by the 1–2% perturbation in the energy budget due to a single variable (any single variable) among many variables of comparable importance. We go further and designate CO₂ as the sole control. Although we are not sure of the budget for this variable, we know precisely what policies to implement in order to control it.

“How did such a naïve seeming picture come to be accepted, not just by the proponents of the issue, but also by most skeptics?” To which the paper adds: *“After all, we spend much of our effort arguing about global temperature records, climate sensitivity, etc. In brief, we are guided by this line of thought.”*

Lindzen goes on to give a brief overview of the history of climate science. Until the 1980s the greenhouse effect was well established but increasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) was not considered important in changing climate. The main focus was the cyclical nature of glaciation.

However, things changed in 1988 when James Hansen gave his famous testimony to the Senate declaring dangerous global warming from human emissions of CO₂.

Lindzen continues:

“Between 1988 and 1994, things changed radically. In the USA, funding for climate increased by about a factor of 15. This led to a great increase in the number of people interested in working as ‘climate scientists’, and the new climate scientists understood that the reason for the funding was the ‘global warming’ alarm.”

“In France, in the 60s, there was essentially one theoretical meteorologist, Queney. Today, there are hundreds involved with models if not theory, and it is largely due to ‘global warming.’ Is it unreasonable to wonder whether or not a political movement has succeeded in capturing a scientific field?”

“What was the previous situation? For most of the twentieth century, climate was a small subset of the small fields of meteorology and oceanography with important contributions from a handful of geologists. Almost no major scientists working on aspects of climate referred to themselves as ‘climate scientists.’ Within meteorology, the dominant approach to climate was dynamic meteorology (though the greenhouse effect was well known).”

Lindzen then describes the status of the science prior to 1988, with a principal concern being Ice Ages, glaciation. He discusses advances in paleoclimatology by early 1980s:

“The data suggested that for both glacial periods and the warm periods, equatorial temperatures did not differ much from present values, but the temperature difference between the tropics and high latitudes varied greatly.”

Lindzen gives a table illustrating these differences. During the warm period called the Eocene, about 50 million years ago, the surface temperature difference between the tropics and the high latitudes (polar regions) was about 20°C (about 35°F). During the last glacial maximum surface temperature difference between the tropics and the high latitudes was about 60°C (about 110°F). Today, the surface temperature difference between the tropics and the high latitudes is about 40°C (about 70°F). Lindzen accepts the Milankovitch cycle as the explanation for the cycles in glaciation. Today, some researchers trying to amplify the role of CO₂ in changing climate are claiming other explanations, which are beyond this TWTW.

Lindzen attributes the remarkable temperature stability of the tropical regions to the actions of high-level cirrus clouds, which are more prevalent in the tropics than elsewhere on earth. When they form, they have a warming effect by reducing outgoing longwave radiation. When they dissipate there is a cooling effect by more longwave radiation going to space.

The equator to pole surface temperature differences during different periods has been a puzzle for years. Lindzen presents a possible explanation by suggesting thermal inversions may explain such differences. During a thermal inversion temperature increases as altitude increase, quite the opposite of the lapse rate, which is an idealized concept. Based on research by others, Lindzen suggests that the temperature difference between the tropics to the pole be considered as depending on altitude:

“An isentrope [an idealized parcel of air at an idealized pressure, moisture and temperature] originating at the surface in the tropics will rise as one approaches the pole and will essentially determine the temperature at the tropopause over the pole. According to Jansen and Ferarri, this, in turn, determines the tropics-to-pole temperature difference at the height of the polar tropopause (ca 6 km), and that value is about 20C. When one looks at today’s climate, we see that

the equator-pole temperature difference at the altitude of the polar tropopause is, in fact, approximately 20C. The existence of the arctic inversion causes the surface temperature differences between the tropics and the pole to be larger than they are at the tropopause.” [The references are not reproduced here.]

What is important for TWTW is that there are significant issues regarding the earth’s changing climate that have not been resolved and are largely ignored by advocates of the simplified approach that CO2 [with or without water vapor amplification] is the primary cause of climate change. This ignorance is highly disturbing and may result in destructive government policies. Lindzen concludes with:

“As noted in Sect. 2 [The climate system], it is implausible that a system as complex as the climate system with numerous degrees of freedom should be meaningfully summarized by a single variable (global mean temperature anomaly) and determined by a single factor (CO2 level in the atmosphere). As an example, we have shown in Sect. 4 [Earlier approach to climate versus current approach], that the different physics associated with tropical temperatures (i.e. radiative forcing including radiative feedbacks) and with the equator-to pole temperature difference (i.e. hydrodynamic transport via baroclinic instabilities) both lead to changes in global mean temperature. However, this does not imply that changes in global mean temperature cause changes in the equator-to-pole temperature difference. This brief paper focuses on a single example of where the assumption of single variable control can lead to a mistaken result. However, the issue of sensitivity even when restricted to radiation is still subject to numerous possibilities, and there is ample reason to suppose that the radiative component of the sensitivity is, itself, exaggerated in most current models. A separate discussion of this matter can be found in Lindzen, R.S. (2019)” [http://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Lindzen_On-Climate-Sensitivity.pdf]

“Interestingly, even those of us rejecting climate alarm (including me) have focused on the greenhouse picture despite the fact that this may not be the major factor in historic climate change (except, in the case of low sensitivity, to explain the stability of equatorial temperatures). That is to say, we have accepted the basic premise of the conventional picture: namely that all changes in global mean temperature are due to radiative forcing. Although capturing the narrative is a crucial element in a political battle, it should not be permitted to replace scientific reasoning.”

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Science Fiction? As discussed in last week’s TWTW, Roy Spencer notes that the 13 new climate models (CMIP6), that are currently publicly available, and will be used by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its upcoming report, overestimate observed surface temperature trends since 1979 by over 50%. This appears to be part of an effort by the IPCC and its followers to frighten the public about CO2 even further. The IPCC’s chosen modelers no longer seem to be constrained by atmospheric observations or even by surface-air temperature observations that yield higher temperature trends; data do not seem to matter to them.

This week, Spencer compares the results of the new CMIP6 climate models run from 1970 to 2019 with NOAA summertime (June-August) observations over that period for the U.S. Midwest Corn Belt. According to the IPCC, during the past 50 years we should have seen significant

surface warming. As Spencer shows there has been little warming, barely statistically significant. The old CMIP5 models project a warming trend 4 times as large, and the new, improved (?) CMIP6 models project a trend 6 times as large. Unfortunately, exaggeration has long been accepted in the environmental industry and by some scientists.

Often, science fiction writers exaggerate human abilities, such as strength, hearing, vision, to supernatural abilities. At what point will the public realize the climate modelers have exaggerated the ability of carbon dioxide to influence climate and life on this planet to supernatural proportions and that climate modelers are dealing with science fiction? See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

A Contrarian: As stated in TWTW last week, although he was once an advocate of the orthodoxy, Michael Shellenberger has written a book challenging many of the accepted ideas of environmentalists by presenting informed, contrarian views: “Apocalypse Never: Why Environmental Alarmism Hurts Us All.” The environmental industry is not amused.

Shellenberger has been a columnist, contributor, carried by Forbes online. Amusingly, Forbes published, then censored an article by Shellenberger apologizing for the climate scare. [The article appears in Environmental Progress.] As of this writing, Forbes continues to post a more recent article by Shellenberger criticizing the Democrats “Climate Crisis Action Plan” as killing endangered species (threatening whooping cranes in the Sand Hills, Nebraska, ecosystem) and anti-environmentalism. See links under Censorship, Challenging the Orthodoxy, and Questioning Green Elsewhere.

South Pole Warming: The headlines claimed record warming of the South Pole, but the conclusions of the paper stated:

“These results, along with prior studies underscore the important role of natural circulation variability, particularly from the tropics, in driving extreme climate anomalies in interior Antarctica. While radiative forcing from greenhouse gas increases probably intensified the recent South Pole warming, the observed trend remains within the upper bounds of natural variability inferred from unforced, pre-industrial simulations and can be explained via a strong cyclonic anomaly in the Weddell Sea resulting from coupling of negative IPO and positive SAM during the twenty-first century...”

In short, we can make no firm conclusions about surface warming at the South Pole. Although it does not cover the South Pole itself, the bulk atmospheric data show no pronounced warming of the Antarctic for the past 40 years. See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate or be Vague? and Measurement Issues: Atmosphere.

Hydrogen – The Miracle Fuel? Much is being written about hydrogen replacing fossil fuels. On this planet, there are no natural reserves of hydrogen, so it must be obtained by breaking apart power chemical bonds such as separating hydrogen from oxygen in water or hydrogen from carbon in methane (natural gas, a fossil fuel). As Paul Homewood writes in his blog, first quoting from an essay by Roger Harrabin in BBC.

“The process is wasteful because it involves turning electricity into a gas, then back into electricity – a two-step shuffle dismissed by Tesla car chief Elon Musk as ‘staggeringly dumb’. ‘Fool cells’, he calls them.

“But hydrogen-lovers believe the future electricity grid will produce so much cheap off-peak power that we’ll need to find other uses for it. And they hope to see the cost of fuel cells plummet following the example of offshore wind.”

Homewood then writes:

“And, of course, that is the very real problem. Nobody has ever doubted that you can burn hydrogen or use it in fuel cells. It is the hugely inefficient and costly production methods, along with the problem of distribution and storage, which explains why it has never taken off.”

“Harrabin hopes that we can take advantage of cheap off-peak power. But this shows up his lack of economic knowledge. He is plainly talking about wind and solar power here, as the electricity obviously needs to be zero carbon. But if power is given away at low prices when demand is slack or output high, it simply makes the unit cost higher the rest of the time.”

“The economics of wind and solar power depend on all of the output being sold. Giving large amounts of it away would alter the business case, and electricity users would end up paying the bill. This would put paid to claims, propagated by Harrabin, that renewable power is now cheaper than conventional.”

“And the economic downside does not end there. The unpredictable intermittency of wind and solar power would necessitate a huge overcapacity of electrolyser units, able to take all of the surplus power available at any particular time. These electrolysers would then not only run at well below capacity but would also have to ramp their outputs up and down on an hour by hour and day by day basis.”

“I know of no production processes that can work efficiently on that basis.”

See link under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy – Other.

Quote of the Week: The author of the Quote of the Week is economist Thomas Sowell, who turned 90 this week. Sowell has written many essays and books, countering popular beliefs with evidence. He strongly believes in market economics because, though not perfect, the free market is the most efficient way to allocate scarce resources. Twenty years ago, his book: “Basic Economics: A Citizen’s Guide to the Economy” came out. It took him ten years to write and may have been the most difficult task in writing because it does not contain a single graph or equation and avoids jargon common to economics. All these interfere with an intelligent person understanding the subject, without specializing in it. One may add that all too often graphs, equations, and jargon often become a cover for the author’s failure to understand the concepts entailed.

Vote for Aprils Fools Award: The voting for the SEPP’s April Fools Award will be continued until July 31. Due to changes in schedules, there are no conferences held before then to announce the results. So, get your votes in now.

Number of the Week: 0.086°C/decade (0.155°F/decade) According to calculations by Roy Spencer this is the observed increase in summer temperatures in the US Midwest Corn Belt over the past 50 years (1970-2019). Although 2019 was a down year due to frozen ground, which

caused flooding and made planting difficult, the US Corn Grain Yield grew from about 80 bushels per acre in 1970 to 170 bushels per acre in 2019, an increase of over 110%. In making predictions about US agriculture, the US Global Change Research Program demonstrated total ignorance about this subject. <https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/YieldTrends.html>

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Censorship

Down with eco-censorship

Forbes has censored Michael Shellenberger's sensible critique of eco-alarmism.

By Staff, Spiked, June 30, 2020

<https://www.spiked-online.com/2020/06/30/down-with-eco-censorship/>

John Robson: Forbes falls to cancel culture as it erases environmentalist's mea culpa

By John Robson, National Post, Canada. June 30, 2020

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/john-robson-forbes-falls-to-cancel-culture-as-it-erases-environmentalists-mea-culpa>

Mea culpa: Another leading environmentalist admits he got it wrong over climate change, but MSM tries to CENSOR him

By Rob Lyons, RT, June 29, 2020

<https://www.rt.com/op-ed/493285-leading-environmentalist-climate-change-censored/>

[SEPP Comment: Appearing in formerly Russia Today!]

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

The agnotology of jailing deniers

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/the-agnotology-of-jailing-deniers/>

Link to articles: Guest post: How climate change misinformation spreads online

The rapid rise of social media over the past two decades has brought with it a surge in misinformation.

By Treen, Williams, & O'Neil, Carbon Brief, June 26, 2020

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/guest-post-how-climate-change-misinformation-spreads-online>

But what is climate change misinformation? Who is involved? How does it spread and why does it matter?

Link to paper: Online misinformation about climate change

By Treen, Williams, & O'Neil, WIREs, Climate Change, June 18, 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wcc.665>

[SEPP Comment: The US is seeing a display of misinformation in mob rule trying to tear down monuments of Abraham Lincoln.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), 2013

<https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/CCR-II-Full.pdf>

Summary: https://www.heartland.org/_template-assets/documents/CCR/CCR-II/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts

Idso, Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), 2014

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/climate-change-reconsidered-ii-biological-impacts/>

Summary: <https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-IIb/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels

By Multiple Authors, Bezdek, Idso, Legates, and Singer eds., Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, April 2019

<http://store.heartland.org/shop/ccr-ii-fossil-fuels/>

Download with no charge:

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Climate-Change-Reconsidered-II-Fossil-Fuels-FULL-Volume-with-covers.pdf>

Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

By Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), Nov 23, 2015

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>

Download with no charge:

<https://www.heartland.org/policy-documents/why-scientists-disagree-about-global-warming>

Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate

S. Fred Singer, Editor, NIPCC, 2008

http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc_final.pdf

Global Sea-Level Rise: An Evaluation of the Data

By Craig D. Idso, David Legates, and S. Fred Singer, Heartland Policy Brief, May 20, 2019

<https://www.heartland.org/template-assets/documents/publications/SeaLevelRiseCCRII.pdf>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

An oversimplified picture of the climate behavior based on a single process can lead to distorted conclusions

By Richard S. Lindzen, The European Physical Journal Plus, June 3, 2020

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1140/epjp/s13360-020-00471-z>

On Climate Sensitivity

By Richard Lindzen, CO2 Coalition, 2019

http://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Lindzen_On-Climate-Sensitivity.pdf

Hot Summer Epic Fail: New Climate Models Exaggerate Midwest Warming by 6X

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, July 3, 2020

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2020/07/hot-summer-epic-fail-new-climate-models-exaggerate-midwest-warming-by-6x/>

A Winning Trifecta for Climate Science and Rationality

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, June 27, 2020

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2020/06/a_winning_trifecta_for_climate_science_and_rationality_.html

On Behalf Of Environmentalists, I Apologize For The Climate Scare

By Michael Shellenberger, Environmental Progress, June 29, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<http://environmentalprogress.org/big-news/2020/6/29/on-behalf-of-environmentalists-i-apologize-for-the-climate-scare>

“But mostly I was scared. I remained quiet about the climate disinformation campaign because I was afraid of losing friends and funding. The few times I summoned the courage to defend climate science from those who misrepresent it I suffered harsh consequences. And so I mostly stood by and did next to nothing as my fellow environmentalists terrified the public.”

This just out

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/this-just-out/>

“Bottom line: The debate on climate is conducted in a climate of fear coming from the bullying guardians of orthodoxy.”

A MUST WATCH: Environmentalist Michael Shellenberger on rejecting climate alarmism

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, July 3, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/03/a-must-watch-environmentalist-michael-shellenberger-on-rejecting-climate-alarmism/>

Book Review: “Apocalypse Never” by Michael Shellenberger

By Peter Murphy, CFACT, June 29, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.cfact.org/2020/06/29/book-review-apocalypse-never-by-michael-shellenberger/>

Bjorn Lomborg’s ‘False Alarm’ Brings Reason to Climate Change Debate

By Richard Trzupsek, The Epoch Times, June 30, 2020

https://www.theepochtimes.com/bjorn-lomborgs-false-alarm-brings-reason-to-the-climate-change-debate_3405697.html

Defending the Orthodoxy

House Democrats just put out the most detailed climate plan in US political history

A new select committee report is perfectly in tune with the growing climate policy alignment on the left around standards, investments, and justice.

By David Roberts, Vox, June 30, 2020 [H/t WUWT]

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2020/6/30/21305891/aoc-climate-change-house-democrats-select-committee-report>

60% of fish species could be unable to survive in current areas by 2100 – study

Warming water temperatures lower water oxygen levels, putting embryos and pregnant fish at risk, researchers say

By Valerie Yurk, The Guardian, July 2, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/02/fish-species-survival-climate-warming-study>

Link to paper: Thermal bottlenecks in the life cycle define climate vulnerability of fish

By Flemming T. Dahlke, et al. AAAS Science, July 3, 2020

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6499/65>

[SEPP Comment: Ignore that there is no strongly established physical relationship between CO2 and ocean temperatures. Just speculate.]

Global warming has erased 6,500 years of cooling

By Brooks Hays, Washington DC (UPI) Jun 30, 2020

https://www.terradaily.com/reports/Global_warming_has_erased_6500_years_of_cooling_999.html

Link to paper: Holocene global mean surface temperature, a multi-method reconstruction approach

By Darrell Kaufman, et al. Nature Scientific Data, June 30, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-020-0530-7>

Global warming will cause ecosystems to produce more methane than first predicted

Press Release, by Queen Mary, University of London, June 29, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://phys.org/news/2020-06-global-ecosystems-methane.html>

Disproportionate increase in freshwater methane emissions induced by experimental warming

By Yizhu Zhu, et al. Nature Climate Change, June 29, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0824-y>

From the abstract: Our findings indicate that as Earth warms, natural ecosystems will emit disproportionately more methane in a positive feedback warming loop.

[SEPP Comment: The “positive feedback warming loop” didn’t stop the last glacial period, or the previous one, or the one before that, or]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Extra £14bn needed a year for climate, report says

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, June 29, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/06/29/extra-14bn-needed-a-year-for-climate-report-says/>

“As Rose noted, foundations who support the ECF, such as Esme Fairbairn and Tellus, also directly fund the Green Alliance, who also receive money from the likes of Greenpeace, FOE, Client Earth and WWF, who all also receive money from ECF. A money-go-round in other words! “Other supporters of the Green Alliance include Orsted (formerly DONG), who make a fortune in subsidies for wind power, and the murky Network for Social Change.

“There is no doubt that this shadowy network is undermining UK democracy, in pursuit of its own objectives. It is shameful that the BBC should be facilitating this.”

Eco-Colonialism In Africa

GWPF TV, June 30, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/eco-colonialism-in-africa/>

Dominic Lawson: David Attenborough’s Population Scare Is Unwarranted

By Dominic Lawson, The Sunday Times, Via GWPF, June 28, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/dominic-lawson-david-attenboroughs-population-scare-is-unwarranted/>

Cold water on warming hype

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/cold-water-on-warming-hype/>

Link to article: New Climate Assessment Suggests No Dangerous Warming

By Vijay Jayaraj, WUWT, June 25, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/06/25/new-climate-assessment-suggests-no-dangerous-warming/>

Link to report: “Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region,”
By Staff, The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, 2020
<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789811543265>

After Paris!

Japan Is Building Coal Fired Power Plants Despite Its Paris Accord Commitment

By Staff, Institute for Energy Research, Feb 18, 2020

<https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/international-issues/japan-is-building-coal-fired-power-plants-despite-its-paris-accord-commitment/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Chancellor Merkel Calls For Talks Between Representatives Of Different Opinions In Climate Debate!

By Die kalte Sonne, (Text translated by P. Gosselin) No Tricks Zone, June 28, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/06/28/chancellor-merkel-calls-for-talks-between-representatives-of-different-opinions-in-climate-debate/>

Science, Policy, and Evidence

Geoff Hill: Heart Of Darkness

Be afraid of the dark

By Geoff Hill, GWPF, June 30, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/geoff-hill-heart-of-darkness/>

[SEPP Comment: *Answering why bring electricity to Africa?*]

The progress of the COVID-19 epidemic in Sweden: an analysis

By Nic Lewis, Climate Etc. June 28, 2020

<https://judithcurry.com/2020/06/28/the-progress-of-the-covid-19-epidemic-in-sweden-an-analysis/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

Fish Diversity is Unaffected by Ocean Acidification at a Natural CO2 Vent Site

Mirasole, A., Signa, G., Gianguzza, P., Bonaviri, C., Mazzola, A. and Vizzini, S. 2020. Fish assemblages cope with ocean acidification in a shallow volcanic CO2 vent benefiting from an adjacent recovery area. *Marine Environmental Research* 157: 104851, doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2019.104851. July 3, 2020

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/jul/a2.php>

A CO2-induced Herbivory Decline of the Corn Leaf Aphid on Barley

Chen, Y., Serteyn, L., Wang, Z., He, K. and Francis, F. 2019. Reduction of plant suitability for corn leaf aphid (Hemiptera: Aphididae) under elevated carbon dioxide condition. *Plant-Insect Interactions* 48: 935-944. July 1, 2020

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/jul/a1.php>

“When all was said and done, Chen et al. report ‘*R. maidis* feeding on elevated CO2 barley seedlings showed significantly decreased body weight, fecundity, and intrinsic rate of population increase, which may result in decreased population abundance under elevated atmospheric CO2.’ And to this they add in the final sentence of their paper ‘further studies will be required to determine the defense mechanisms including epidermal integrity, defense proteins, and secondary metabolites of plants which might also hinder the penetration of [aphid] stylets.’”

Effects of Elevated CO₂ and Heat Stress on Tomato Seedlings

Zhang, H., Pan, C., Gu, S., Ma, Q., Zhang, Y., Li, X. and Shi, K. 2019. Stomatal movements are involved in elevated CO₂-mitigated high temperature stress in tomato. *Physiologia Plantarum* 165: 569-583. June 29, 2020

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/jun/a13.php>

“Such welcomed findings bode well for plants experiencing heat stress as the air's CO₂ content rises in the years and decades ahead -- and not just tomato plants -- for Zhang et al. report their findings are ‘consistent with previous studies that describe how CO₂ enrichment improves plant tolerance to various unfavorable conditions (Taub et al., 2000; Qaderi et al., 2006; Xu et al., 2013; Yu et al., 2014).”

Model Issues

The Calamity of Models – Podcast with Willis Eschenbach

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, June 30, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/06/30/the-calamity-of-models-podcast-with-willis-eschenbach/>

The Climate Model Muddle

Guest post by Ed Zuiderwijk, WUWT, July 1, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/01/the-climate-model-muddle/>

Measurement Issues -- Surface

Siberian Heatwave–Climate Or Weather?

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, June 27, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/06/27/siberian-heatwave-climate-or-weather/>

Arctic’s ‘Hottest Day’? Not So Fast

Guest post by Michael Kile, WUWT, July 2, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/02/arctics-hottest-day-not-so-fast/>

Measurement Issues -- Atmosphere

UAH Global Temperature Update for June 2020: +0.43 deg. C

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, July 2, 2020

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2020/07/uah-global-temperature-update-for-june-2020-0-43-deg-c/>

Links to Maps and Graphs

By Staff, Earth System Science Center, UAH, June 2020

https://www.nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2020/june2020/202006_map.png

https://www.nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2020/june2020/202006_bar.png

Changing Weather

New Study: ‘The Most Suitable Place In The World For Temperature Reconstruction’ Shows Net Cooling Since The 1930s

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, July 2, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/07/02/new-study-the-most-suitable-place-in-the-world-for-temperature-reconstruction-shows-net-cooling-since-the-1930s/>

Link to one of the papers: Dendroclimatic potential of dendroanatomy in temperature-sensitive *Pinus sylvestris* [Scots pine]

By Jesper Björklund, et al., Dendrochronologia, April 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1125786520300114>

“A new 1876-present temperature reconstruction for Northern Finland shows the 1930s were the warmest period of the last 140 years. And there has been no net warming since.”

Anthropogenic influence on extreme rainfall

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/anthropogenic-influence-on-extreme-rainfall/>

Link to paper: Increasing heavy rainfall events in south India due to changing land use and land cover

By Alugula Boyaj, Hari P. Dasari, Ibrahim Hoteit, & Karumuri Ashok, Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, May 18, 2020

<https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/qj.3826>

From Robson: “The important point is that when a heavy rainfall event happens and alarmists rush to blame greenhouse gases, they are jumping to a premature conclusion. Urbanization and land surface modification have the same meteorological effect, and can’t be ruled out as the cause.”

Facts are fun

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/facts-are-fun/>

Link to: State Climate Extremes Committee (SCEC), Records

By Staff, NOAA, Accessed July 2, 2020

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/scec/records>

1919 or 2019? London Ontario Edition

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/1919-or-2019-london-ontario-edition/>

Changing Climate

Asteroid impact, not volcanoes, made the Earth uninhabitable for dinosaurs

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Jun 30, 2020

https://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Asteroid_impact_not_volcanoes_made_the_Earth_uninhabitable_for_dinosaurs_999.html

By Asteroid impact, not volcanism, caused the end-Cretaceous dinosaur extinction

By Alfio Alessandro Chiarenza, et al. PNAS, June 29, 2020

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/06/23/2006087117>

From abstract: Asteroid impact models generate a prolonged cold winter that suppresses potential global dinosaur habitats. Conversely, long-term forcing from Deccan volcanism (carbon dioxide [CO₂]-induced warming) leads to increased habitat suitability. Short-term (aerosol cooling) volcanism still allows equatorial habitability.

When the land [Greenland] really was green

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/when-the-land-really-was-green/>

Link to paper: Greenland was nearly ice-free for extended periods during the Pleistocene

By Joerg M. Schaefer, et al. December 7, 2016

<https://www.nature.com/articles/nature20146>

Changing Climate – Cultures & Civilizations

Claim: Alaska Okmok Eruption Volcanic Winter Caused Social Turmoil in Ancient Rome

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 3, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/03/claim-alaska-okmok-eruption-volcanic-winter-caused-social-turmoil-in-ancient-rome/>

Link to News Release, Eruption of Alaska's Okmok volcano linked to period of extreme cold in ancient Rome

Ice core samples provide new evidence of a massive volcanic eruption in 43 BCE

By Staff, Desert Research Institute, June 22, 2020

https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2020-06/dri-eoa061720.php

Link to paper: Extreme climate after massive eruption of Alaska's Okmok volcano in 43 BCE and effects on the late Roman Republic and Ptolemaic Kingdom

By Joseph McConnell, et al. PNAS, June 22, 2020

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/06/25/2002722117>

Ancient Maya reservoirs contained toxic pollution

By Staff Writers, Cincinnati OH (SPX), Jun 26, 2020

https://www.terraily.com/reports/Ancient_Maya_reservoirs_contained_toxic_pollution_999.html

Link to paper: Molecular genetic and geochemical assays reveal severe contamination of drinking water reservoirs at the ancient Maya city of Tikal

By David L. Lentz, Nature, Scientific Reports, June 25, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-67044-z>

“Sediment from the reservoirs nearest Tikal's central temple and palace showed evidence of toxic algae called cyanobacteria. Consuming this water, particularly during droughts, would have made people sick even if the water were boiled, Lentz said.”

Changing Seas

Scientists shed light on human causes of North Atlantic's 'cold blob'

By Robert McSweeney, Carbon Brief, June 29, 2020

https://www.carbonbrief.org/scientists-shed-light-on-human-causes-of-north-atlantics-cold-blob?utm_campaign=RevueCBWeeklyBriefing&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Revue%20newsletter

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Polar bear habitat in Canada and eastern Alaska compared at end of June 2012-2020

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, June 29, 2020

<https://polarbearscience.com/2020/06/29/polar-bear-habitat-in-canada-and-eastern-alaska-compared-at-end-of-june-2012-2020/>

“Ice cover at the end of June shown in these charts since 2012 reinforces the fact, documented in the peer-reviewed literature, that there has been no continued declining trend in dates of sea ice breakup for Western and Southern Hudson Bay since 1998 at least (Castro de la Guardia et al. 2017; Lunn et al. 2016).”

Beavers gnawing away at the Arctic permafrost

News Release, by Alfred Wegener Institute, June 30, 2020 [H/t WUWT]

<https://phys.org/news/2020-06-beavers-gnawing-arctic-permafrost.html>

Link to paper: Increase in beaver dams controls surface water and thermokarst dynamics in an Arctic tundra region, Baldwin Peninsula, northwestern Alaska

By Benjamin Jones, Environmental Research Letters, June 30, 2020

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab80f1>

Climate Scientist: “Anyone who wants to predict the future of the permafrost should be sure to keep the beaver in mind.”

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 1, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/01/climate-scientist-anyone-who-wants-to-predict-the-future-of-the-permafrost-should-be-sure-to-keep-the-beaver-in-mind/>

See link immediately above

Antarctic penguins could experience a 'population boom' due to global warming as melting sea ice means they spend less time foraging for food

By Jonathan Chadwick, Daily Mail, June 24, 2020 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8455143/Antarctic-penguin-populations-explode-global-warming.html>

Acidic Waters

When Exposed To Natural, Long-Term Extreme ‘Ocean Acidification’, Coral And Urchin ‘Persist’ And Even ‘Thrive’

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, June 29, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/06/29/when-exposed-to-natural-long-term-extreme-ocean-acidification-coral-and-urchin-persist-and-even-thrive/>

Link to newest paper: Coral persistence despite extreme periodic pH fluctuations at a volcanically acidified Caribbean reef

By I. C. Enochs, Coral Reefs, Apr 11, 2020

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00338-020-01927-5>

“...Twice daily extremes in acidification [with pH levels as low as 6.540], in some cases leading to undersaturation of aragonite, are correlated with tidal fluctuations and are likely related to water flow. Corals persisting despite this periodic acidification can provide insights into mechanisms of resilience and the importance of natural pH variability on coral reefs.”

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Heatwaves have become longer in most of the world since 1950s – study

Frequency of heatwaves and cumulative intensity has risen through the decades, research finds

By Adam Morton, The Guardian, July 3, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/03/heatwaves-longer-since-1950s-study-frequency>

Link to paper: Increasing trends in regional heatwaves

By S. E. Perkins-Kirkpatrick & S. C. Lewis, Nature Communications, July 3, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16970-7>

[SEPP Comment: Based on Berkley Earth numbers. Cumulative heat produces misleading numbers and does not get to cause, which is the issue. ARC Centre of Excellent in Climate Extremes?]

Lowering Standards

Math am hard and so are economics

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/math-am-hard-and-so-are-economics/>

Link to - analysis? NGFS Climate Scenarios for central banks and supervisors

By Staff, The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), June 2020

https://www.ngfs.net/sites/default/files/medias/documents/ngfs_climate_scenarios_final.pdf

Climate alarmism versus integrity at National Academies of Science

By David Wojick, CFACT, June 28, 2020 [H/t WUWT]

<https://www.cfact.org/2020/06/28/climate-alarmism-versus-integrity-at-national-academies-of-science/>

Met Office’s “Record Rainfall” Claim Turns Out To Be Fake

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, June 29, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/06/29/met-offices-record-rainfall-claim-turns-out-to-be-fake/>

“Incidents like this prove that the Met Office has now lost all right to be regarded as an objective, scientific organisation.”

MET Office: Climate Change will Force the UK to Endure French Holiday Weather

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 1, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/01/met-office-climate-change-will-force-the-uk-to-endure-french-mediterranean-holiday-weather/>

[SEPP Comment: During the medieval warm period, England grew French wine grapes, long before the practice of grafting French vines onto more hardy North American rootstock.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Yellow (Green) Journalism?

The environmentalist's apology: how Michael Shellenberger unsettled some of his prominent supporters

The American environment and energy commentator’s piece in the Australian has found praise in conservative media

By Graham Readfearn, The Guardian, July 3, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/04/the-environmentalists-apology-how-michael-shellenberger-unsettled-some-of-his-prominent-supporters>

“Ninety minutes after the deadline to respond to the questions had passed, Shellenberger emailed a letter to Guardian Australia entitled ‘Formal request for ethics investigation of Graham Redfearn [sic]’ and then shared the letter on social media.”

[SEPP Comment: Who established the deadline and how long was it – a New York minute?]

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

How the Ugliest Climate Fairy Tale Won

By Donna Laframboise, Big Picture News, June 29, 2020

<https://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2020/06/29/how-the-ugliest-climate-fairy-tale-won/>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing the deceitful IPCC fairy tale.]

South pole warming three times faster than rest of the world, our research shows

Dramatic change in Antarctica’s interior in past three decades a result of effects from tropical variability working together with increasing greenhouse gases

By Kyle Clem, The Guardian, June 29, 2020 H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/30/south-pole-warming-three-times-faster-than-rest-of-the-world-our-research-shows>

Link to paper: Record warming at the South Pole during the past three decades

By Kyle R. Clem, et al., June 29, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0815-z>

UK could hit 40C ‘regularly’ by end of this century—Says Flawed Met Office Study

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 1, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/07/01/uk-could-hit-40c-regularly-by-end-of-this-century-says-flawed-met-office-study/>

Arctic plants may not provide predicted carbon sequestration potential

Press Release, University of Stirling, Via WUWT, July 3, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/03/arctic-plants-may-not-provide-predicted-carbon-sequestration-potential/>

Link to paper: Plant carbon allocation drives turnover of old soil organic matter in permafrost tundra soils

By Lorna Street, Global Change Biology, June 17, 2020

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/gcb.15134>

[SEPP Comment: Whatever was predicted by whomever?]

Maryland offshore wind farm could become stop-over for migrating sturgeon, striped bass

By Staff Writers, Solomons MD (SPX), Jun 26, 2020

https://www.winddaily.com/reports/Maryland_offshore_wind_farm_could_become_stop_over_for_migrating_sturgeon_striped_bass_999.html

Comparative migration ecology of striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon in the US Southern mid-Atlantic bight flyway

By Ella R. Rothermel, et al. Plos One, June 17, 2020

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0234442>

[SEPP Comment: When it was inactive, the Calvert Cliffs LNG plant was an excellent fishing ground in the Chesapeake Bay. But wind turbines providing a stop-over for birds?]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Koalas extinct? Hardly. “Nearly everything you have read or heard about koalas is wrong”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, July 3, 2020

<http://joannenova.com.au/2020/07/koalas-extinct-no-chance-its-just-another-man-made-boom-n-bust-cycle/>

Fooling Us With Climate Trickery

By Donna Laframboise, Big Picture News, July 1, 2020

<https://nofrackingconsensus.com/2020/07/01/fooling-us-with-climate-trickery/>

Link to highly questionable report: The RCP greenhouse gas concentrations and their extensions from 1765 to 2300

By Malte Meinshausen, et al. Climate Change, **Aug 9, 2011**

<http://edoc.gfz-potsdam.de/pik/get/5095/0/0ce498a63b150282a29b729de9615698/5095.pdf>

Extinction Rebellion claims hoax about Swedish fund

By Staff Writers, Stockholm (AFP), June 30, 2020

https://www.terraily.com/reports/Extinction_Rebellion_claims_hoax_about_Swedish_fund_999.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Amazing Grace Saves A Wretch

By Jim Steele, WUWT, June 30, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/06/30/amazing-grace-saves-a-wretch/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda

How Badly Have Environmentalists Misled and Frightened the Public!

By Jennifer Marohasy, Her Blog, July 1, 2020

<https://jennifermarohasy.com/2020/07/how-badly-have-environmentalist-misled-and-frightened-the-public/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Protest

Extinction Rebellion to BLOCKADE Parliament until Boris Johnson gives in to three demands

CLIMATE change activists are plotting to disrupt Parliament when it reopens after the summer recess.

By Simon Osborne, Express, July 3, 2020 [H/t Paul Homewood]

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1304564/Extinction-Rebellion-blockade-parliament-latest-September-London-news-Cardiff-Edinburgh>

“Extinction Rebellion said its first demand was for the Government to declare a climate and ecological emergency and work with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.

“The second demand is for the Government to act immediately to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.

“And the group's third demand is the creation of a ‘Citizens’ Assembly’ on climate and ecological justice.”

[SEPP Comment: It's easy, start by turning off electricity, heat, and transportation.]

Questioning European Green

Ireland's Most Expensive Suicide Letter

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, June 27, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/06/27/irelands-most-expensive-suicide-letter/>

“The bottom line is that Ireland does not have cat in hell's chance of cutting its emissions in half by 2030, even if it cripples its economy in the attempt.

“In any normal world, its politicians would have chucked out these dopey green policies at first sight. Unfortunately, its citizens will now have to pay the cost of its rulers virtue signaling.”

Boris Johnson's Chief Adviser Moves Away From Home Insulation Pledge

By Staff, GWPF & Financial Times, June 29, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/boris-johnsons-chief-adviser-moves-away-from-home-insulation-pledge/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Democrats' New Climate Plan Will Kill Endangered Species, Environmentalists Fear

By Michael Shellenberger, Forbes, June 30, 2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelszellenberger/2020/06/30/democrats-climate-plan-will-kill-endangered-species-environmentalists-fear/#428a0dd77571>

A Global Green New Deal: IEA's “Great Reset” Plan

By Robert Bradley, Institute for Energy Research, June 30, 2020

<https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/climate-change/a-global-green-new-deal-ieas-great-reset-plan/>

“The United States should consider withdrawing its membership from the politicized IEA. This advocacy group, handmaiden to the Paris Climate Accord, does not need the U.S.’s money and imprimatur. The world, and particularly the U.S., needs a better energy voice.”

6 takeaways from the House Democrats' climate blueprint

By Ben Geman, Axios June 30, 2020

<https://www.axios.com/house-democrats-climate-change-plan-32595de8-0e8c-43a2-b913-ea0bb7ef5e8f.html>

“1. George Floyd's influence. The plan — which cites Floyd's killing on the first page — strongly emphasizes the nexus between pollution and racial inequalities, something long on the policy radar but now receiving even greater attention.”

[SEPP Comment: Clear low-income neighborhoods for wind power?]

Funding Issues

‘COVID-19 brings the folly of political activism by big investors into light’

By Mark Perry, Carpe Diem, May 28, 2020

<https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/covid-19-brings-the-folly-of-political-activism-by-big-investors-into-light/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

House approves \$1.5T green infrastructure plan

By Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill, July 1, 2020

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/505397-house-approves-15t-green-infrastructure-plan>

“It includes a large suite of tax breaks for renewables and other clean energy efforts, and offers grant funding for zero-emissions buses, electrifying the postal service fleet, and retrofitting schools and other large buildings while offering up weatherizing assistance for homeowners.”

[SEPP Comment: Unreliable wind and solar are as critical for infrastructure as unreliable steel is for bridges. The US has had over 40 years of weatherizing assistance.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

FDA: Deregulating during the pandemic, and beyond

By Dvorah A. Richman, WUWT, July 1, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/01/fda-deregulating-during-the-pandemic-and-beyond/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Reliable, Cheap & Abundant Electricity For All – 24-7

By Staff, GWPF TV, July 2, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/reliable-cheap-abundant-electricity-for-all-24-7/>

‘The Increasing Sustainability of Conventional Energy’ (1999 analysis for 2020)

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, June 30, 2020

<https://www.masterresource.org/bradley/increasing-sustainability-conventional-energy-bradley-1999/>

Kariba, Hwange coal plant, praised as example to world

Aid groups accused of colonial mentality

By Staff, The Zambabwean, June 30, 2020 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.thezimbabwean.co/2020/06/kariba-hwange-coal-plant-praised-as-example-to-world/>

Spain closes half its coal-fired power stations

By Emmanuelle Michel, Madrid (AFP) June 30, 2020

https://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Spain_closes_half_its_coal-fired_power_stations_999.html

Energy Issues – Australia

New Liberty Mutual Climate Policy: Coal Mines Owned by Liberty are Still OK

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, June 30, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/06/30/new-liberty-mutual-climate-policy-coal-mines-owned-by-liberty-are-still-ok/>

Energy Issues -- US

In New York, The Town Of Freedom Isn't Free From Big Wind

By Robert Bryce, Forbes, June 25, 2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertbryce/2020/06/25/in-new-york-the-town-of-freedom-isnt-free-from-big-wind/#4240289465bb>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

France pulls plug on country's oldest nuclear plant

By Beatrice Roman Amat, Fessenheim, France (AFP,) June 28, 2020

https://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/France_pulls_plug_on_countrys_oldest_nuclear_plant_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Fear of tidal waves hitting the plant near the French/German/Swiss border about 600 km (375 miles) from the North Sea and with an elevation of about 205 m (675 ft)]?

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Inertia and the Unintended Consequences of More Renewable Power Deployment

By Chris Kimmitt, Real Clear Energy, June 29, 2020

https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2020/06/29/inertia_and_the_unintended_consequences_of_more_renewable_power_deployment_497567.html

“The ruling matters for several reasons. First among them: it provides another example of how renewable-energy projects are being forced onto low-income communities.”

[SEPP Comment: Yet the state forbids drilling for natural gas in many of New York's poor counties!]

What Does the Future of Offshore Wind Energy Look Like?

By Emily Folk, Real Clear Energy, July 1, 2020

https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2020/07/01/what_does_the_future_of_offshore_wind_energy_look_like_497786.html

“With mass implementation, wind power can make entire countries sustainable.”

[SEPP Comment: No rigorous presentation of what can be done to make wind reliable. Thus, the author makes the foolish logical assertion that unreliable power is sustainable power.]

Weaknesses of solar and wind, Myths and Questions that require an answer

Guest post by Rob Jeffrey, WUWT, July 3, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/03/weaknesses-of-solar-and-wind-myths-and-questions-that-require-an-answer/>

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

Harrabin's Hydrogen Fantasy

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 1, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/07/01/harrabins-hydrogen-fantasy/>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Vehicles

UN Warns Electric Automobile Rush is Causing Human Rights Abuses

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 3, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/03/un-warns-electric-automobile-rush-is-causing-human-rights-abuses/>

“For example, Tesla has launched a line of cobalt free battery powered vehicles in China. The batteries replace Cobalt oxide with iron phosphate.”

Carbon Schemes

Fear of Climate Change is Bad for America

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, June 30, 2020

<https://ddears.com/2020/06/30/fear-of-climate-change-is-bad-for-america/>

California Dreaming

Waste-to-Hydrogen Project Set for California

By Darrell Proctor, Power Mag, June 30, 2020

<https://www.powermag.com/waste-to-hydrogen-project-set-for-california/>

Jean-Louis Kindler, CEO of Ways2H, “said the company is still deciding whether to focus the facility on ‘paper and plastic waste,’ or on the ‘usual municipal solid waste.’”

[SEPP Comment: No estimates of costs, the first plant, in Japan, is yet to operate.]

Health, Energy, and Climate

Viral Encore: Another Swine Flu Strain In China Reportedly Threatens To Become A Pandemic

By Charels Rotter, WUWT, July 1, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/01/viral-encore-another-swine-flu-strain-in-china-reportedly-threatens-to-become-a-pandemic/>

Other Scientific News

But if not...

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 1, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/01/but-if-not/>

Link to: Climate Explainer: “If humans had not contributed to greenhouses gases in any way at all, what would the global temperature be today...”

By David Middleton, WUWT, June 25, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/06/25/climate-explainer-if-humans-had-not-contributed-to-greenhouses-gases-in-any-way-at-all-what-would-the-global-temperature-be-today/>

Other News that May Be of Interest

Remembering Adam Smith this July 4th (Part 2)

By Richard Ebeling, Master Resource, July 2, 2020

<https://www.masterresource.org/smith-adam/adam-smith-july-4th-2/>

Thomas Sowell at 90 Is More Relevant Than Ever

By Steve Hanke & Richard Ebeling, National Review, July 1, 2020

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/07/thomas-sowell-90-indispensable-voice-more-relevant-than-ever/>

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Open Democracy: “Why don’t we take climate change seriously? Racism is the answer”

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 2, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/02/open-democracy-why-dont-we-take-climate-change-seriously-racism-is-the-answer/>

Combating climate change: Why investors should keep their shares in fossil fuel companies

By Adrian R. Bell, Chris Brooks, The Conversation, Via Phys.org, June 29, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://phys.org/news/2020-06-combating-climate-changewhy-investors-fossil.html>

[SEPP Comment: Photo of students carrying a great sign: “Fossil Free Universities.” Get rid of the old professors who expect students learn to think?]

ARTICLES

Capitalism After the Coronavirus

The pandemic provides an opportunity to build a resilient, healthy, fair and zero-carbon economy. By Al Gore and David Blood, WSJ, June 29, 2020

https://www.wsj.com/articles/capitalism-after-the-coronavirus-11593470102?mod=hp_opin_pos_2

TWTW Summary: The former vice president of the United States is chairman and Mr. Blood is senior partner of Generation Investment Management. According to its web site:

“A sustainable company is: 1) one whose current earnings do not borrow from its future earnings; 2) one whose sustainability practices, products and services drive revenues, profitability and competitive positioning; and 3) one that provides goods and services consistent with a low-carbon, prosperous, equitable, healthy and safe society.”

The executives write:

“We wrote an op-ed for these pages in 2006 titled ‘For People and Planet,’ in which we argued for a long-term, sustainable, multi-stakeholder approach to business. We said America’s corporate leaders should put environmental, social and governance factors at the heart of their decision-making.

“Fourteen years later, the idea has become a proven model for business. The Business Roundtable and the British Academy have both strongly endorsed the multi-stakeholder approach in the past nine months. Why? Because sustainable capitalism is better suited than business as usual to the challenges we face.

“Voluminous research has shown conclusively that businesses properly integrating ESG factors into their plans are typically more successful and profitable. As the value of this paradigm

becomes widely recognized, investors who fail to take it into account may be at risk of violating their fiduciary duty to their clients.

“As economies reopen around the country, it is essential that policy makers don’t default to pre-pandemic thinking. Covid-19 with all its unfolding tragedy presents a once-in-a-century obligation to rethink the relationships among business, markets, government and society. What is desperately needed, and what we must deliver, is a sustainable form of capitalism.

“Investors have a critical role to play. All investments made today must factor in long-term climate and societal implications. Indeed, the shift to a zero-carbon, inclusive business model is already well under way. Entire sectors are beginning to be transformed: energy, agriculture and food, fishing and ocean protection, forestry, architecture and construction, mobility and transport, and other carbon-intensive sectors such as chemicals and heavy manufacturing. We believe this transition will be the most significant change in economic history. The opportunities are ready now. We need to invest in them with the same sense of urgency that people have demanded in mitigating the pandemic.

“Already, the pandemic has revealed what companies are truly made of. Health-care firms have played vital and visible roles in sequencing the virus, testing, and delivering personal protective equipment. Companies in other sectors have also stepped up by helping restaurants pivot to digital ordering channels or directing small businesses to the financial support they need to get through the crisis.

Some companies have responded by adopting a responsible, long-term perspective on this challenge—absorbing costs where necessary to protect their employees. Major food retailers are sharing data, logistics infrastructure and even staff in a huge effort to maintain food security. This unprecedented cooperation is made possible by regulators waiving normal rules on competition.

“CEOs must put the welfare of their employees first. People shouldn’t have to worry about getting hurt or getting sick when they come to work, and those who are working from home need support too. It goes without saying that those who do get sick will need time to recover and those who lose family members or friends will need space to grieve.

“African-Americans are suffering from Covid-19 more than any other race, in part because their much higher exposure to air pollution increases the mortality rate from the virus. The mental-health challenges and financial pressures related to the pandemic are also affecting some populations more than others.

“Companies making cuts in pay or staff numbers should lead from the top. The C-suites should be taking the largest cuts to total compensation, and we are pleased that many companies have adopted this approach. We also ask CEOs to focus on their companies’ long-term strengths. It is far wiser to prioritize capital allocation in ways that will produce results in 2021 or even several years hence, instead of chasing the next quarter’s numbers. For some companies, there may be opportunities to bring forward a long-term project or make a strategic acquisition.

“Finally, we want CEOs to accelerate their efforts on climate action. For perspective, it is worth recalling the shocking wildfires that have struck Australia, California and the Amazon in recent years. There is an obvious, if uncomfortable, parallel between our still inadequate responses to the tragic suffering of Covid-19 and to the fast-growing consequences of the climate crisis. We

ignored the warnings of respected epidemiologists and virologists about the likelihood of a deadly pandemic such as the one we are now struggling to vanquish. Similarly, climate scientists have warned us with ever greater urgency about the consequences of the climate crisis. There is still time to keep temperatures from rising to truly catastrophic levels, but a huge effort is needed to halve global emissions this decade. CEOs should set emissions reduction targets that are aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement and work closely with their suppliers, customers and peers to help move the dial.

“We believe the next decade will be the most important in our careers. Business and investors can and must do more. We must build back the economy better, together. That means a resilient, healthy, fair and zero-carbon economy. Our ability to meet the challenges of future pandemics, the climate crisis, and inequality depends on it.”

[TWTW Comment: No comment except see discussion about Lindzen’s paper above.]
