

The Week That Was: 2013-11-02 (November 2, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive.* – C.S. Lewis, [H/t Jim Johnson]

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Number of the Week: \$22,195,000,000 US

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THIS WEEK:

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

Executive Order: On Friday President Obama issued an executive order to prepare the US for the impacts of climate change. The order states that it will assist in preparedness and resilience. On the surface, resilience is important. One can compare the evacuation of some 800,000 citizens from the coast of India from last week's cyclone with the poor handling by state and local officials of the evacuation of New Orleans from hurricane Katrina.

However, given the record of this administration, the order is a disturbing action intended to avoid Congress. When Congress failed to pass the cap-and-trade, the administration used the EPA to control carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by declaring that greenhouse gases (basically CO₂) endanger public health and welfare. The EPA scientific justification is crumbling. There is no distinct human fingerprint, late 20th century surface warming stopped sixteen years ago, and all the models overestimate global warming. Yet these failures in the scientific justification have not stopped the EPA from issuing new regulations that effectively prohibit the construction of new coal-fired power plants. Further, the administration, without Congressional approval, is implementing a carbon tax in the form of what it calls "The Social Costs of Carbon."

The executive order states: "A foundation for coordinated action on climate change preparedness and resilience across the Federal Government was established by Executive Order 13514 of October 5, 2009 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance), and the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force led by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)." Thus, the foundation for the order is a previous executive order by the administration.

The order also cites the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), which is little more than a rubber stamp for the highly questionable findings of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The new executive order states: "The impacts of climate change -- including an increase in prolonged periods of excessively high temperatures, more heavy downpours, an increase in wildfires, more severe droughts, permafrost thawing, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise -- are already affecting communities, natural resources, ecosystems, economies, and public health across the Nation. These impacts are often most significant for communities that already face economic or health-related challenges, and for species and habitats that are already facing other pressures."

Herein lies a great concern. For decades, the government-financed climate establishment, including the IPCC, has greatly exaggerated the certainty of its science, the influence of CO2 on temperatures, and the consequences of human-caused global warming. Now, we may be witnessing the dark side of Steven Schneider's famous false dilemma. "So we have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little mention of any doubts we might have... Each of us has to decide what the right balance is between being effective and being honest." For whatever motive, those who have chosen to be effective by exaggeration rather than being scrupulously honest are paving the way for authoritarian expansion of executive power, bypassing the democratically elected Congress. See Article #1 for Fred Singer's discussion of the problems in the latest IPCC summary, links under Using Climate Change to Expand Executive Power, and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Schneider.

EPA: When justifying the new power plant regulations, which would require a 40% reduction of CO2 emissions below that of the most efficient coal-fired plants, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy stated the technology is ready to achieve such a reduction. Leaders of organizations exploring advances in reducing CO2 emissions are refuting her claims. Further, they state that the new rules are so extreme that they would stop additional research. [The new rules state CO2 emissions from new coal-fired power plants to be no more than 1,100 pounds of CO2 per megawatt hour of electricity produced. The most efficient plants produce about 1,800 pounds.] For issues regarding EPA rules see Article # 2 and links under EPA and other Regulators on the March

Baffin Island: Last week, TWTW linked to a study of moss specimens collected along a 1000 km section of the east side of Baffin Island. The study was used to claim that summer temperatures in the Canadian Arctic are higher today than they have been for 44,000 years. This week, numerous deficiencies in the study were exposed, not the least of which was excessive generalization from one small section of the Arctic to the entire Canadian Arctic. The study may be more of a reflection on gradual thinning of ice than temperatures and it focused on 4 sites rather than the more geographically extensive 135 sites surveyed.

The lead author responded to criticism posted on Climate Etc. stating that they never claimed that the data demonstrates Arctic-wide unprecedented warming. Yet, blogger Jim Bouldin notes that the paper concludes with the statement: "These findings add additional evidence to the growing consensus that anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases have now resulted in unprecedented recent summer warmth that is well outside the range of that attributable to natural climate variability" and the title the phrase Arctic Canada. Please see links under Seeking a Common Ground.

Ocean Heat: A new paper claims to trace the Pacific Ocean heat content over the past 10,000 years. Using high-resolution proxy records from sediment cores, the paper stated "that water masses linked to North Pacific and Antarctic intermediate waters were warmer by $2.1 \pm 0.4^\circ\text{C}$ and $1.5 \pm 0.4^\circ\text{C}$, respectively, during the middle Holocene Thermal Maximum than over the past century. Both water masses were $\sim 0.9^\circ\text{C}$ warmer during the Medieval Warm period than during the Little Ice Age and $\sim 0.65^\circ$ warmer than in recent decades." This is more evidence that Mr. Mann's hockey-stick was wrong; based on reports he is unhappy with the paper.

The paper was published in *Science* magazine, which has long had an editorial policy of not publishing papers that challenge the orthodoxy. Has the editorial policy of *Science* changed? Or is this an effort to buttress the claims that global warming projected in the climate models is hiding

in the deep ocean. If it is the former, then it has been long needed. If it is the latter, then it has major problems.

As any diver knows, sunlight can penetrate deep into the ocean, up to 200 meters (656 feet) or more. So the cause of the past warming could be greater sunlight – such as a changing intensity or less cloudiness. However, the energy from atmospheric greenhouse gases is in the infrared region that does not penetrate much beyond 10 microns (less than 0.001 of an inch). So a significant increase in the greenhouse effect would cause a warming of the sea surface, which is not being observed. See links under Changing Climate and http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/light_travel.html

Model Falsification: Both statistician William Briggs and Judith Curry have posts discussing that the failure of the models to predict the current temperature trend of no warming does not falsify the models. Briggs asserts that if predictions derived from a theory are probabilistic, then the theory cannot be falsified using such predictions. There is always some probability, no matter how tiny, that the theory is correct. According to Briggs, by the IPCC is changing its theories (assumptions), even ever so slightly, it impossible to falsify the theories.

Curry asks what good are the climate models. They may be useful as research tools, have a heuristic value to explore the climate processes. But they are very expensive and are not readily understood. She concludes with remarks much the same as Richard Lindzen. The entire effort is not to reach scientifically satisfactory results to basic questions, but to support the effort. She further asks: what will happen if the discrepancy between models and observations continues to grow, will the entire effort come crashing down?

With governments continuing to fund the climate establishment and instituting severe regulations based on exaggerated claims, an eventual collapse may be very ugly for science in general and especially for climate science. See links under Models v. Observations.

Supreme Court: There are mixed commentaries on the meaning of the Supreme Court agreeing to review the EPA’s finding that greenhouse gases (mainly CO2) endanger public health and welfare. The court was specific that it would confine the arguments to the EPA broadening rules intended for vehicles to stationary sources such as power plants. But it may go beyond that. In its enthusiasm to regulate, the EPA may have put itself into a logical and legal trap. See links under Litigation Issues.

Number of the Week: \$22,195,000,000 US. As required by law, the White House delivered to Congress a report stating in Fiscal Year 2013, which ended on September 30, the US government spent \$22,195,000,000 on climate change matters. The main categories are: US Global Change Research Program \$2.463 Billion; Clean Energy Technologies \$5.783 Billion, International Assistance \$797 Million; Natural Resources Adaption \$95 Million; Energy Tax Provisions That May Reduce Greenhouse Gases \$4.999 Billion; Energy Payments in Lieu of Tax Provisions \$8.080 Billion. The \$8.080 Billion buys a lot of lobbying power for the wind and solar industries.

These expenditures further support SEPP’s earlier estimates that since 1993, the US has spent over \$150 Billion on climate change. The updated figure is over \$165 Billion. The climate establishment is well funded, but it still cannot provide an accurate answer to the critical question of how sensitive is the planet to a doubling of atmospheric CO2. See links under Funding Issues

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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. Non-governmental climate scientists slam the UN's IPCC

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Nov 3, 2013

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

2 New EPA Rules Will Kill Clean Coal

Technology for carbon capture could be a boon if regulators give it time.

By Robert Duncan, WSJ, Oct 29, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304171804579121393922993208?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

3. Natural Decarbonation

U.S. carbon emissions fell in 2012, thanks to the oil and gas industry.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 29, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304200804579165650383659112?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

4. The Coming Carbon Asset Bubble

Fossil-fuel investments are destined to lose their economic value. Investors need to adjust now.

By Al Gore and David Blood, WSJ, Oct 29, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304655104579163663464339836?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the claims of Mr. Gore and others, fossil fuel assets will become stranded assets only if Washington, with its subprime science, has its way.]

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

New paper suggests the sun's magnetic fields defines climate over the long term

By Cornelis de Jager, WUWT, Oct 31, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/31/new-paper-suggests-the-suns-magnetic-fields-defines-climate-over-the-long-term/>

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Real risk of a Maunder minimum 'Little Ice Age' says leading scientist

By Paul Hudson, BBC, Oct 28, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.live.bbc.co.uk/blogs/blogpaulhudson/posts/Real-risk-of-a-Maunder-minimum-Little-Ice-Age-says-leading-scientist>

[SEPP Comment: Lockwood has apparently changed his mind.]

Cold Winters, Hot News

By David Whithouse, The Observatory, Oct 30, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/cold-winters-hot-news/>

[SEPP Comment: Further on the link immediately above.]

A Sea Change for Climate Science?

As CO2 climate models falter and even the IPCC backs off its estimates, it just may be that a radical shift in thinking is looming. Wouldn't it be funny if it was the sun all along?

By David Stockwell, Quadrant, Oct 31, 2013

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2013/10/sea-change-climate-science/>

Growing Risk Of A Maunder Minimum 'Little Ice Age'?

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Oct 31, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/growing_risk_of_a_maunder_minimum_little_ice_age1/

Dispute over relevance of falling solar activity

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, Nov 1, 2013 [H/t GWPF]]

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/health-science/dispute-over-relevance-of-falling-solar-activity/story-e6frg8y6-1226750854173>

A global cooling consensus

By Lawrence Solomon, Financial Post, Oct 10, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/10/31/lawrence-solomon-a-global-cooling-consensus/>
[SEPP Comment: *The headline is a bit much.*]

Climategate Continued

The IPCC Southern Hemisphere Reconstructions

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Oct 28, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/10/28/the-ipcc-southern-hemisphere-reconstructions/#more-18498>

[SEPP Comment: *The deceit continues in the latest IPCC report.*]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Climate Scare is an abuse of science

By John [no last name given], NCTSP, Oct 29, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/10/climate-scare-is-abuse-of-science.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Links to an interview of NIPCC authors Fred Singer and Bob Carter by John Coleman of KUSI News San Diego, CA*]

IPCC sea level exaggeration

NZCLIMATE TRUTH NEWSLETTER NO 319

By Vincent Gray, WUWT, Oct 30, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/30/ipcc-sea-level-exaggeration/>

Climate change certainties?

By William Briggs, Tribune-Review, Oct 28, 2013

<http://triblive.com/opinion/featuredcommentary/4934150-74/climate-ipcc-weather#axzz2jDWXvrFH>

In olden days, when a theory made consistently poor predictions, people concluded it was wrong. But we're postmodernists now. It's not the truth of the theory or the accuracy of predictions based on it that count. It's what in your heart that matters. Love and caring trump reality.

Desperately Searching For Climate Warming In China, Alaska And Canada

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, Trans. P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 28, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/10/28/desperately-searching-for-climate-warming-worldwide-none-found-in-china-alaska-or-canada/>

The eyes of Texas are upon us

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Oct 28, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/the_eyes_of_texas_are_upon_us/

[SEPP Comment: Describing cyclical weather patterns related to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) and the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO). The research suggest The AMO drives the drought frequency in the southern plains and Corn Belt with location determined by the PDO The research further suggests that the AMO is strongly related to solar activity since 1900.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Working Group II government draft

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 1, 2103

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/11/1/working-group-ii-government-draft.html>

[SEPP Comment: The draft of the impacts of climate change.]

Claim: El Nino events get more extreme as globe warms

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 30, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/30/claim-el-nino-events-get-more-extreme-as-globe-warms/>

Link to paper: Inferred changes in El Niño–Southern Oscillation variance over the past six centuries

By McGregor, et al. Climate of the Past, Oct 10, 2013

<http://www.clim-past.net/9/2269/2013/cp-9-2269-2013.html>

[SEPP Comment: Causation may be backwards. – Earlier work showed more El Ninos may cause more warming.]

Countries at climate risk to hold more GDP: report

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Oct 30, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Countries_at_climate_risk_to_hold_more_GDP_report_999.html

[SEPP Comment: They can adapt more easily?]

Kerry ‘Amazed’ That Some Americans Still Don’t Grasp Urgency of Global Warming

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, Oct 30, 2013 [H/t Adrain Gibby]

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/patrick-goodenough/kerry-amazed-some-americans-still-don-t-grasp-urgency-global-warming>

[SEPP Comment: The threat of no warming.]

UK Dispatchers 45 Delegates to Climate Conference that Will Be Mostly Hot Air

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, Nov 1, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/uk-dispatches-45-delegates-climate-conference-hot-air/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Commonsense Climate Science and Forecasting after AR5

By Norman Page, WUWT, Oct 29, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/29/commonsense-climate-science-and-forecasting-after-ar5/>

Climate Change Authority: Last Spasm

By Anthony Cox, NCTCS, Oct 31, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/10/climate-change-authority-last-spasm.html>

Nebraska climate scientists' heads stuck in the topsoil

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Oct 25, 2013

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/10/nebraska-climate-scientists-heads-stuck-in-the-topsoil/>

Polar bear cannibalism and sea ice, the spring of 1976

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Oct 30, 2013

<http://polarbearscience.com/2013/10/30/polar-bear-cannibalism-and-sea-ice-the-spring-of-1976/#more-3470>

[SEPP Comment: So much for polar bear "experts" who claim cannibalism is new, therefore a result of global warming. It is well recognized that female grizzly bears aggressively protect their cubs from being killed by male grizzly bears.]

Using Climate Change to Expand Executive Power

Obama creates climate change task force

By David Jackson, USA Today, Nov 1, 2013 [H/t Bud Bromley]

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/theoval/2013/11/01/obama-climate-change-task-force/3348083/>

Link to Executive Order: Executive Order -- Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change

By Office of the Press Secretary, The White House, Nov 1, 2013

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/executive-order-preparing-united-states-impacts-climate-change>

The Council shall be co-chaired by the Chair of CEQ, the Director of OSTP, and the Assistant to the President for **Homeland Security and Counterterrorism**. [Boldface added]

[SEPP Comment: Will emitting CO2 into the atmosphere be defined as a terrorist act.]

Obama uses executive order in sweeping takeover of nation's climate change policies

By Perry Chiaramonte, Fox News, Nov 1, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/11/01/obama-creates-climate-change-task-force/>

Obama takes on climate-fueled storms

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 1, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/188970-obama-order-seeks-to-bolster-climate-change-defenses>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Obama's 'Social Cost Of Carbon' Is At Odds With Science

By Chip Knappenberger, IBD, Oct 28, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/102813-676935-war-against-carbon-ignores-benefits-of-co2-producing-industries.htm>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

An 'Uh Oh' moment in Nature – IPCC Climate panel is ripe for examination

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 31, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/31/an-uh-oh-moment-in-nature-ipcc-climate-panel-is-ripe-for-examination/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Warmest since....when?

By Jim Bouldin, Ecologically Orientated, Oct 25, 2013 [H/t Climate Audit]
<http://ecologicallyoriented.wordpress.com/2013/10/25/bad-study-on/>

Unprecedented (?) Arctic warming, Part II

By Marcia Wyatt, Climate Etc. Oct 29, 2013
<http://judithcurry.com/2013/10/29/unprecedented-arctic-warming-part-ii/>

More Moss from Miller

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Oct 26, 2013
<http://climateaudit.org/2013/10/26/18501/>

Ozone loss warmed southern Africa

Antarctic ozone hole's effects may have spread much wider than thought.
By Hannah Hoag, Nature, Oct 13, 2013 [H/t Ron Sundelin]
<http://www.nature.com/news/ozone-loss-warmed-southern-africa-1.13938>

The Forecasting and Climate Lessons of Superstorm Sandy

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Oct 30, 2013
<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/10/the-forecasting-and-climate-lessons-of.html>
[SEPP Comment: An analysis of what was learned, and not learned, from Sandy by a meteorologist concerned about global warming.]

Aboriginal Hunting Practice Increases Animal Populations

By Rob Jordan for Stanford News, Stanford CA (SPX), Oct 28, 2013
http://www.terraily.com/reports/Aboriginal_Hunting_Practice_Increases_Animal_Populations_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Now fires are labeled as destructive, extreme events.]

Lowering Standards

Halloween Thoughts from Obama's Science Advisor

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Oct 31, 2013
<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/10/halloween-holdren/#more-28258>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Water Is Replacing Climate As The Next UN Environmental Resource Scare

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Nov 1, 2013
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/01/water-is-replacing-climate-as-the-next-un-environmental-resource-scare/>

Treasury Dept. Advises Development Banks Not to Fund New Coal Plants Without CCS

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Oct 31, 2013
http://www.powermag.com/treasury-dept-advises-development-banks-not-to-fund-new-coal-plants-without-ccs/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2775530&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e660500d0

Scientists develop new method to help global coasts adapt to sea-level rise

By Staff Writers, Southampton, UK (SPX), Oct 30, 2013
http://www.terraily.com/reports/Scientists_develop_new_method_to_help_global_coasts_adapt_to_sea_level_rise_999.html

[SEPP Comment: An early draft for the next IPCC report on adaptation.]

US citizens pay for 'solar school' foolishness

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Oct 31, 2013

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/oct/31/us-citizens-pay-solar-school-foolishness/>

Questioning European Green

Poland, Wedded to Coal, Spurs Europe on Clean Energy Targets

By Danny Hakim and Mateusz Zurawik, NYT, Oct 31, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/01/business/energy-environment/poland-wedded-to-coal-spurns-europe-on-clean-energy.html?partner=r&r=0>

Long, cold winter for 3 million who can't pay their energy bills

Fears that 200 people a day could die as temperatures fall and prices rise

By Charlie Cooper, Nigel Morris, Independent, Oct 28, 2013

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/long-cold-winter-for3-million-who-cant-pay-their-energy-bills-8907701.html>

Wind and solar power put German net stability at risk - cost of a 60 minute blackout: 600 million euro!

The New Nostradamus of the North, Oct 28, 2013

<http://newnostradamusofthenorth.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/wind-and-solar-power-put-german-net.html>

Reality Check: Germany's Defective Green Energy Game Plan

By Alexander Neubacher, Trans. Paul Cohen, Der Spiegel, Oct 25, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/commentary-why-germany-is-waging-its-green-revolution-wrong-a-929693.html>

Energy company bosses today defended controversial rises in customers' bills, partly blaming green taxes for the recent increases of over 9 per cent.

By Philippe Naughton, The Times, Via GWPF, Oct 29, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/big-energy-bosses-blame-green-taxes-price-rises/>

Europe risks 'de-industrialisation' if energy price imbalance with US continues

By Kelvin Ross, Power Engineering, Oct 30, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.powerengineeringint.com/articles/2013/10/europe-risks-de-industrialisation-if-energy-price-imbalance-with-us-continues.html>

[SEPP Comment: That may be the goal of the greens.]

European Economic Stability Threatened By Renewable Energy Subsidies

By James Conca, Forbes, Oct 20, 2013 [H/t EEN]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2013/10/20/european-economic-stability-threatened-by-renewable-energy-subsidies/?ss=business%3Aenergy>

FT: Britain's Energy Market Needs Perestroika

Editorial, Financial Times, Via GWPF, Oct 28, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/ft-britains-energy-market-perestroika/>

Green Jobs

The myth of green-job creation

Opinion: University of Calgary also warns misinformation can lead to measures that do little for the environment

By Jennifer Winter, Vancouver Sun, Oct 28, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/myth+green+creation/9094251/story.html>

Link to paper: The "Green Jobs" Fantasy: Why the Economic and Environmental Reality Can Never Live Up to the Political Promise

By Michal Moore and Jennifer Winter, Univ of Calgary, Oct, 2013

<http://www.policyschool.ucalgary.ca/?q=content/green-jobs-fantasy-why-economic-and-environmental-reality-can-never-live-political-promise>

Funding Issues

Global warming gets nearly twice as much taxpayer money as border security

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 28, 2013 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/10/28/global-warming-gets-nearly-twice-as-much-taxpayer-money-as-border-security/#ixzz2j6S8Hqte>

Link to Report: Federal Climate Change Expenditures Report to Congress

By Staff Writers, The White House, August 2013

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative_reports/fcce-report-to-congress.pdf

Cost climate: daily \$ 1 billion disappears into a black hole

By Hans Labohm, Trans from Dutch, DDS, Oct 25, 2013 [H/t Anne Debeil]

http://www.dagelijksstandaard.nl/2013/10/kosten-klimaatbeleid-dagelijks-verdwijnt-1-miljard-in-een-zwart-gat?utm_source=Dagelijkse+Standaard+List&utm_campaign=235b97ee2f-nb&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ec416e99c9-235b97ee2f-296051165

New Australian PM dismisses as 'hogwash' claims of Climate Commission he stripped of state funding that bushfires were caused by global warming

By Ted Thornhill, Mail, UK, Oct 25, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2476502/New-Australian-PM-Tony-Abbott-dismisses-hogwash-claims-bushfires-caused-global-warming.html>

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

Hampton Roads on the 'front lines' of climate change

By Tamara Dietrich, Daily Press, Oct 28, 2013 [H/t Ronal Sundelin]

http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-10-28/news/dp-nws-sandy-climate-change-one-20131028_1_bruce-wielicki-climate-change-hampton-roads

[SEPP Comment: A search on Google produced front lines ranging from Virginia, to Somerset, UK, to India, to Pacific Islands, to New York, back to Virginia.]

Crisfield, Md., beats back a rising Chesapeake Bay

By David Montgomery, Washington Post, Oct 24, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/crisfield-md-beats-back-a-rising-chesapeake-bay/2013/10/24/ab213bda-0f1f-11e3-85b6-d27422650fd5_story.html?Post+generic=%253Ftid%253Dsm_twitter_washingtonpost

[SEPP Comment: The region has been subsiding for centuries.]

Thawing Permafrost: The speed of coastal erosion in Eastern Siberia has nearly doubled

By Staff Writers, Bremerhaven, Germany (SPX), Oct 31, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Thawing_Permafrost_The_speed_of_coastal_erosion_in_Easte_rn_Siberia_has_nearly_doubled_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Wave action erodes coastline – is this new?]

Increasing toxicity of algal blooms tied to nutrient enrichment and climate change

Toxic microcystin bacteria float, along with a dead fish, on the surface of this lake. Photo courtesy of Oregon State University.

By Staff Writers, Corvallis OR (SPX), Oct 28, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Increasing_toxicity_of_algal_blooms_tied_to_nutrient_enrichment_and_climate_change_999.html

Optimism About Meeting 'Grand Challenge' of Global Prosperity

By Staff Writer, Science Daily, Oct 24, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/10/131024121806.htm>

Weather pattern could provide early warning for catastrophic U.S. heat waves

By John Roach, NBC News, Oct 27, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/weather-pattern-could-provide-early-warning-catastrophic-u-s-heat-8C11467011#weather-pattern-coul>

[SEPP Comment: The jet stream blocking pattern has long been known by meteorologists including Joe D'Aleo and Joe Bastardi.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Heat and fires from when CO2 was “ideal”: Black Thursday, 1851

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 31, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/10/heat-and-fires-from-when-co2-was-ideal-black-thursday-stories-from-1851/#more-31470>

[SEPP Comment: So much for Australia's fires being something new created by global warming.]

Germany's Intelligence Agency Warns Of “International CO2 Conflicts”...But Geology Expert Calls Warnings “Pure Comedy”

By P Gosselin , No Tricks Zone, Nov 2, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/02/germanys-intelligence-agency-warns-of-international-co2-conflicts-but-geology-expert-calls-warnings-pure-comedy/>

Environmental Group BUND Releases Baby-Gassing Video...Shows Agriculture Gassing Field Of Babies With Chemical Pesticides!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone Nov 1, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/01/environmentalist-group-bund-releases-baby-gassing-video-shows-agriculture-gassing-babies-with-chemical-pesticides/>

Models v. Observations

Implications for climate models of their disagreement with observations

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Oct 30, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/10/30/implications-for-climate-models-of-their-disagreement-with-observations/>

The existence of disagreement between climate model predictions and observations doesn't provide any insight in itself to why the disagreement exists, i.e. which aspect(s) of the model are inadequate, owing to the epistemic opacity of knowledge codified in complex models.

Why Falsifiability, Though Flawed, Is Alluring: Part I

By William Briggs, His Blog, Oct 29, 2013

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=9705>

Why Falsifiability, Though Flawed, Is Alluring: Part II Climate Model Example

By William Briggs, His Blog, Oct 31, 2013

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=9761>

Changing Weather

"Extreme weather" does not justify extreme political agenda

By Sen. Jeff Sessions, All Alabama, Oct 30, 2013 [H/t ICECAP]

http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2013/10/extreme_weather_does_not_justi.html

The UK Saint Jude's Day Storm – just another fall storm in a long line of many

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Oct 28, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/28/the-uk-saint-judes-day-storm-just-another-fall-storm-in-a-long-line-of-many/>

Atlantic hurricane season quietest in 45 years, experts say

By Tom Brown, Reuters, Oct 24, 2013

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/atlantic-hurricane-season-quietest-45-years-experts-170425159.html>

[SEPP Comment: Not over yet.]

Storms are becoming ever more survivable

A big wind hitting Britain today does less harm than in past centuries

By Matt Ridley, His Blog, Oct 31, 2013

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/storms-are-becoming-ever-more-survivable.aspx>

Changing Climate

New paper shows Medieval Warm Period was global in scope

By Anthony Watts: WUWT, Oct 31, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/31/new-paper-shows-medieval-warm-period-was-global-in-scope/>

Link to paper: Pacific Ocean Heat Content During the Past 10,000 Years

By Rosenthal, Linsley, and Oppo, Science, Nov 1, 2013

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/342/6158/617>

Pacific Ocean Heat Content for the Past 10,000 years

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 1, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/01/pacific-ocean-heat-content-for-the-past-10000-years/>

[SEPP Comment: Paper in link immediately above.]

What is Happening to the Oceans

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Nov 1, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/happening-oceans/>

ScienceMag: Medieval Warm Period global, 0.65 °C warmer than present

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Nov 1, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/11/sciencemag-medieval-warm-period-global.html#more>

10,000-Year Study Finds Oceans Warming Fast, But From a Cool Baseline

By Andrew Revkin, NYT Dot Earth., Oct 31, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/31/10000-year-study-finds-oceans-warming-fast-but-from-a-cool-baseline/?partner=rss&em>

Medieval Warm Period and the World's Oceans

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO2 Science, Oct 29, 2013

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

Link to the report:

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/mwp_oceans.pdf

Adapt to climate change, don't fight it

By Tom Harris, Detroit News, Oct 31, 2013

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20131031/OPINION01/310310007/1008/OPINION01/Adapt-climate-change-don-t-fight-it>

Changing Seas

New study suggests coral reefs may be able to adapt to moderate climate change

By Staff Writers, NOAA, Oct 29, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20131029_coral.html

Link to paper: Incorporating adaptive responses into future projections of coral bleaching

By Logan, et al. Global Change Biology, Oct 28, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.12390/full>

Coral chemicals protect against warming oceans

By Staff Writers, Melbourne, Australia (SPX), Oct 28, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Coral_chemicals_protect_against_warming_oceans_999.html

Link to paper: DMSP biosynthesis by an animal and its role in coral thermal stress response

By Raina, et al, Nature, Oct 23, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature12677.html>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Historical Temperature Trends in Antarctica

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO2 Science, Oct 30, 2013

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

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Science, Belief and Policy

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Oct 31, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/science-belief-and-policy>

[SEPP Comment: Contrasting supporting the science establishment in GM crops and opposing the establishment in global warming.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

No new reviews this week

Litigation Issues

The Supreme Court eyes the EPA

By Leighton Steward, The Hill, Oct 30, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/judicial/188555-the-supreme-court-eyes-the-epa>

Will Supreme Court Review Of Greenhouse Rule Take Air Out Of EPA Regulatory Overreach?

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Oct 29, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/10/29/will-supreme-court-review-of-greenhouse-rule-take-air-out-of-epa-regulatory-overreach/>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

France caves in to Brittany 'ecotax' protesters

By Tony Todd, France 24/7, Oct 31, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.france24.com/en/20131029-france-ecotax-brittany-farmers-food-climate-taxes-protests>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Coal Miner's Slaughter: Thousands Protest War On Coal

Editorial, IBD, Oct 30, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/103013-677276-thousands-protest-epa-war-on-coal.htm?p=full>

[Former] Obama official testifies against EPA's global warming agenda

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 29, 2013

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/10/29/obama-official-testifies-against-epas-global-warming-agenda/>

Georgia Public Service Commissioner Echols discusses impacts of power plant regulations on state

Transcript by Staff Writers, EETV, Oct 15, 2013

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1735/transcript>

[SEPP Comment: Pleading for time and flexibility to adjust to regulations.]

Bureaucrats run free, misinterpreting Endangered Species Act

By Theodore Hadzi-Antich, Washington Times, Oct 31, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/oct/31/hadzi-antich-fishy-friends-in-high-places/>

The dollars and nonsense of energy conservation

By David Kreutzer, Washington Times, Oct 27, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/oct/27/kreutzer-the-dollars-and-nonsense-of-energy-conser/#ixzz2j1gd9V1q>

[SEPP Comment: The public savings on the new EPA/DOE regulations on microwave ovens will about to \$1.20 per year?]

EU Plans To Regulate Homes And Society...But Backs Down (For Now) On Mandating Water Savings

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 30, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/10/30/more-on-the-eus-plans-to-regulate-homes-and-society-backs-down-for-now-on-mandating-water-savings/>

[SEPP Comment: Hanging the wash outside in the winter uses less energy than running an electric dryer.]

Energy Issues – Non-US

IEA: Global Power Generation from Non-Fossil Sources has Decreased Over 20 Years

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Oct 30, 2013

<http://www.thegwgf.org/iea-global-power-generation-green-energy-decreased-20-years/>

Link to the book: Resources to Reserves 2013

IEA, Jun 28, 2013

<http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?K=5K9FMQX930HG>

Link to Executive Summary:

<http://www.iea.org/Textbase/npsum/resources2013SUM.pdf>

China's Natural Gas Paradigm Shift

By Tim Daiss and Michael Economides, Energy Tribune, Oct 31, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/79648/chinas-natural-gas-paradigm-shift#sthash.abHvFhCz.dpbs>

CO2 emissions increased at slower rate in 2012: report

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Oct 31, 2013

http://www.terraviva.com/reports/CO2_emissions_increased_at_slower_rate_in_2012_report_999.html

German BND spy agency sees shale depressing oil prices for decades

By Andreas Rinke, Reuters, Oct 31, 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/31/oil-germany-shale-idUSL5N0IL3F020131031>

Energy Issues -- US

DOE rooftop challenge winners offer energy, cost savings

By Staff Writers, Richland WA (SPX), Nov 01, 2013

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/DOE_rooftop_challenge_winners_offer_energy_cost_savings_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Designing more efficient commercial heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.]

Washington's Control of Energy

Keystone developer: We won't quit

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Oct 30, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/188717-keystone-developer-we-wont-quit>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

The US shale revolution is a reminder of the deep pools of ingenuity, risk taking, and entrepreneurship in America

By Mark Perry, AEIdeas, Oct 29, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2013/10/the-us-shale-revolution-is-a-reminder-of-the-deep-pools-of-ingenuity-risk-taking-and-entrepreneurship-in-america/>

Shale gas fracking a low risk to public health - UK review

By Kate Kelland, Reuters, Oct 31, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/31/uk-britain-health-fracking-idUKBRE99U0KK20131031>

New Data Shows Carbon Emissions Falling As Shale Gas Debate Is Rising

By Ken Silverstein, Forbes, Oct 23, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/kensilverstein/2013/10/23/carbon-emissions-falling-as-shale-gas-debate-is-rising/?ss=business%3Aenergy>

Scientists wary of shale oil and gas as US energy salvation

By Staff Writers, Boulder CO (SPX), Nov 01, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Scientists_wary_of_shale_oil_and_gas_as_US_energy_salvation_999.html

[SEPP Comment: What nonsense!]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Mini-Nuclear Reactors & The New Power Game

By: Peter C. Glover, Energy Tribune, Oct 28, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/79604/mini-nuclear-reactors-the-new-power-game#sthash.Mpn5ERXu.dpbs>

Why nuclear power costs so much

Regulation has driven up the price

By Matt Ridley, His Blog, Oct 27, 2013

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/why-nuclear-power-costs-so-much.aspx>

[SEPP Comment: Excessive regulation and the past efforts to create unique plants.]

Swiss nuclear plant to close in 2019: firm

By Staff Writers, Geneva (AFP), Oct 30, 2013

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Swiss_nuclear_plant_to_close_in_2019_firm_999.html

[SEPP Comment: It was the tsunami that wiped out the cooling facilities at Fukushima, not the earthquake. Yet, the government of mountainous, landlocked Switzerland uses Fukushima to justify shutting off nuclear power? According to Wikipedia, the elevation of Mühleberg, where the plant is located, is 557 m (1,827 ft).]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Storage Double Speak

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Nov 1, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/11/01/storage-double-speak/>

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

Avoiding the Power Grid

A cheaper fuel cell could provide affordable power for microgrids.

By David Talbot, MIT Technology Review, Oct 22, 2013

http://www.technologyreview.com/demo/520451/avoiding-the-power-grid/?utm_campaign=newsletters&utm_source=newsletter-daily-all&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20131028

Lockheed Martin and Reignwood Group Sign Contract To Develop Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Power Plant

by Staff Writers

Baltimore MD (SPX) Nov 01, 2013

[SEPP Comment: A fascinating source of power, but only suitable for places with a deep drop off of ocean depth [temperature], such as Hawaii.]

The proteins in major biodiesel plant have been mapped - and it does not look good

By Staff Writers, Odense, Denmark (SPX) Oct 28, 2013

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/The_proteins_in_major_biodiesel_plant_have_been_mapped_and_it_does_not_look_good_999.html

Link to Paper; Isotope Labeling-Based Quantitative Proteomics of Developing Seeds of Castor Oil Seed (*Ricinus communis* L.)

By Fabio, et al, J. Proteome Res, Oct 3, 2013

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/pr400685z>

[SEPP Comments: The waste products may be toxic.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Tesla as David vs Goliath

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Oct 29, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/10/29/tesla-as-david-vs-goliath/>

Carbon Schemes

Coal Utilization Research Council's Yamagata says wide-scale CCS deployment 20 years away

Transcript by Staff Writer, EETV, Oct 29, 2013

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1741/transcript>

[SEPP Comment: So much for EPA claims that it is commercially available and the new EPA rigs will squash CCS development.]

Kemper IGCC Costs Again Revised Upwards, In-Schedule Date Reset

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Oct 31, 2013

http://www.powermag.com/kemper-igcc-costs-again-revised-upwards-in-schedule-date-reset/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2775530&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: The estimated cost of this plant that includes carbon capture and storage have gone from \$2.2 billion in 2004 to \$4.02 billion today.]

California Dreaming

Fixing California: The Green Gentry's Class Warfare

By Joel Kotkin, U-T San Diego, Oct 26, 2013 {H/t GWPF}

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/oct/26/fixing-california-the-green-gentrys-class-warfare/>

California's Crude Attack On Oil Imports Makes Other States Green With Enmity

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Oct 27, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/10/27/californias-crude-attack-on-oil-imports-makes-other-states-green-with-enmity/>

[SEPP Comment: According to the bureaucrats, locally produced oil is cleaner than other oil because the shorter transportation creates less CO2 emissions. What about refining locally?]

California Energy Update: Part II

California's Green Energy Swan Turning Into Ugly Duckling

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/10/california-energy-update-ii/#more-28217>

[SEPP Comment: The critical months for assuring adequate power on the grid are becoming the once safe, shoulder months.]

Health, Energy, and Climate

Michael Pollan Promotes 'Denialist' Anti-GMO Junk Science, Says He Manipulates New York Times' Editors

By Jon Entine, Forbes, Oct 24, 2013 [H/t ACSH]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jonentine/2013/10/24/michael-pollan-promotes-denialist-anti-gmo-junk-science-brags-he-manipulates-new-york-times-editors/>

[SEPP Comment: More on the campaigns against genetically modified organisms that increase crop yields and can improve health.]

Environmental Industry

Chevron Vindicated As Evidence Points To 'Green Fraud' By Environmentalists

Editorial, IBD, Nov 1, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/110113-677673-massive-fine-against-chevron-overturned-on-evidence-of-fraud-by-leftwing-opposition.htm?p=full>

Defeating Faux Environmentalism: Making a Moral Case for Fossil Fuel Abundance

By Alex Epstein, Master Resource, Nov 1, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/11/defeating-faux-environmentalism/#more-28285>

'Fractivists' caught in flood of Colorado lie

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Oct 27, 2013

http://washingtonexaminer.com/fractivists-caught-in-flood-of-colorado-lies/article/2537929?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%2010/28/2013&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Link to funding sources: CitizenAudit exposes the funding behind Big Green's Colorado 'netwar'

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/citizenaudit-exposes-the-funding-behind-big-greens-colorado-netwar/article/2538025>

The New Renewables Narrative: Buyer Beware

By Marita Noon, Master Resource, Oct 29, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/10/new-renewables-narrative/#more-28232>

[SEPP Comment: Economically destructive, environmental zealotry is not limited to any political party.]

The Fossil Fuel Industry Must Vigorously Defend Itself Against Attacks From Environmentalists

By Alex Epstein, Forbes, Oct 30, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/alexepstein/2013/10/30/the-fossil-fuel-industry-must-vigorously-defend-itself-against-attacks-from-haughty-environmentalists/>

Other Scientific News

Dark matter experiment deep in U.S. gold mine returns first results

By Staff Writers, Lead, S.D. (UPI), Oct 30, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Dark_matter_experiment_deep_in_US_gold_mine_returns_first_results_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Just 2 weeks in orbit causes changes in eyes

By Staff Writers, Houston TX (SPX), Oct 28, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Just_2_weeks_in_orbit_causes_changes_in_eyes_999.html

Watching Earth's Winds, On a Shoestring

By Staff Writers, Pasadena CA (JPL), Nov 01, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Watching_Earths_Winds_On_a_Shoestring_999.html

Norwegian village uses giant mirrors to capture the sun

By Staff Writers, Rjukan, Norway (AFP), Oct 30, 2013

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Norwegian_village_uses_giant_mirrors_to_capture_the_sun_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

The Battle of the Psychologists:

Enviro-Psychologists Confirm Climate Alarmists Are Making Themselves Mentally Sick...”Doomer Depression”

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 31, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/10/31/green-psychologists-confirm-climate-alarmists-are-making-themselves-mentally-sick-doomer-depression/>

Mann and Lewandowsky go psychotic on climate skeptics

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 1, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/01/mann-and-lewandowsky-go-psychotic-on-skeptics/>
[SEPP Comment: Anyone who dares to disagree with Mr. Mann must have a psychological disorder.]

Friday Funny – Svalbard Revisited

By David Archibald, WUWT, Nov 1, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/01/friday-funny-svalbard-revisited/>

The big stink 93.9 million years ago – blame CO2

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 28, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/10/28/the-big-stink-93-9-million-years-ago-blame-co2/>

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ARTICLES:

1. Non-governmental climate scientists slam the UN's IPCC

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Nov 3, 2013

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

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a final version of their Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) of its fifth assessment report (AR5) on September 27, 2013. This new SPM reveals that the IPCC has retreated from about a dozen alarmist claims promulgated in its previous reports or by scientists who are prominently associated with the IPCC. Their SPM also contains more than a dozen misleading or untrue statements, plus about another dozen statements that mislead readers or misrepresent important aspects of the science. Two weeks before the UN-IPCC released its report, an alternative report was released by the Nongovernmental Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC). Unlike the UN-IPCC, NIPCC's charter is to investigate causes and consequences of climate change from all perspectives rather than just to search for a human impact on climate change. This NIPCC report, titled "Climate Change Reconsidered - II: Physical Science" contradicts many of the IPCC's findings. It is available online at www.climatechangereconsidered.org

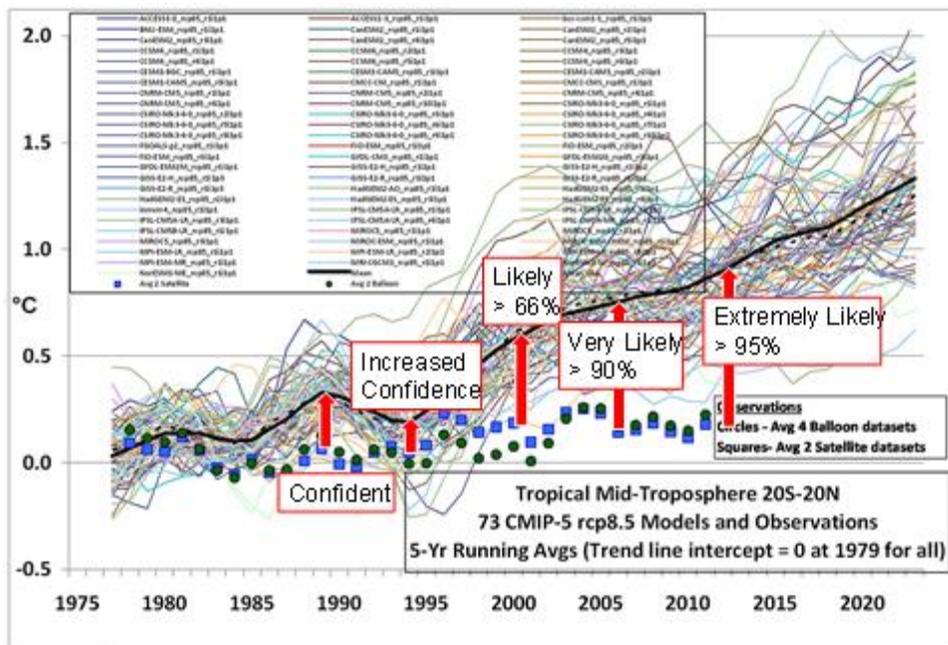
In the discussion that follows, we divide our critique of the IPCC's SPM into three categories.

1. IPCC-AR5 retreats from previous positions

The IPCC's 2013 SPM apparently retreats from more alarmist positions struck in earlier assessment reports. For example, the IPCC concedes for the first time that a fifteen-year-long period of insignificant warming (or perhaps even cooling) has occurred since 1998, despite a 7% rise in Carbon Dioxide concentration in the atmosphere. This is striking evidence that there is something wrong with the IPCC's climate models, which all predict a substantial warming in response to rising CO₂.

IPCC scientists are of two minds in trying to explain this discrepancy between models and observations. On the one hand, they argue that this is a statistical fluctuation. One might compare it to fifteen heads in a row when tossing a coin. However, with each passing year without warming, the probability of such a fluctuation becomes smaller.

Other IPCC scientists search for elusive physical evidence for such a lack of warming. One favorite explanation has it that the heat is "hiding in the deep ocean;" but the IPCC fails to explain that heat cannot transfer into the deep ocean without first passing through the shallow ocean, which has not warmed since 2003. It is ironic that at the same time that predictions from 73 (!) climate models and observations (from satellites and balloons) increasingly diverge, successive IPCC reports have expressed increasing certainty about human Influences on warming. This disconnect is illustrated in the graph below, prepared by John Christy and Roy Spencer, and further annotated by Howard Hayden.



Arrows & CON statements (from IPCC) by H. Hayden; Roy Spencer, 6/6/13

In spite of the SPMs' assertion of increasing certainty about dangerous human-caused warming, the IPCC report itself expresses less certainty. For example, AR4 [2007] predicts a temperature rise of between 2 degrees and 4.5 deg C for a doubling of CO2, while AR5 [2013] expands the interval to 1.5 to 4.5 degrees C. These limits happen to be the same ones published in the 'Charney' climate report of 1979. In other words, no refinement has been made in 34 years in determining how much warming is likely to result from a doubling of CO2 -- in spite of much effort and great expenditures of money in model construction.

Another interesting admission: The IPCC now has "low confidence" in predicting more frequent or more extreme droughts and tropical cyclones. Thus, IPCC is specifically revoking its previous more alarmist claims.

2. Misleading or untrue statements

Among the many untrue claims, is one that asserts that post-1950 warming is "unprecedented." However, as shown by the Hadley [UK] record, it is reported as of about the same magnitude and rate as the 1910 - 1940 warming.

The IPCC-SPM also suggests a significant radiative forcing for carbon monoxide; but this is contradicted by statements made by the IPCC authors themselves. Carbon monoxide, CO, is not a greenhouse gas.

Elsewhere, the SPM admits that both the sign and amplitude of cloud feedback are uncertain. But then it is impossible to be sure, as claimed, that the net radiative feedback is positive.

In comparing models and observations, the underlying claim is that the models include all of the relevant physics. This is a false statement because our knowledge is far from complete -- and specifically, the models omit important forcings, such as changes in ocean currents or solar magnetic activity.

The SPM claims sure evidence for human-caused sea level rise. But there is no observational evidence for the IPCC claim. Sea level has been rising since long before the human era, and generally at much higher rates than observed in the industrial-human period.

3. Deceptive language that misrepresent the Science

The SPM claims that globally averaged surface temperatures show a linear warming trend over the period 1880 to 2012. This is a cherry-picked interval, used to give a false impression of a steady, continuous warming. It includes the major warming between 1910 and 1940, and a slight cooling from 1940 to 1975. It includes also the 1998 warming spike caused by a Super El Nino and temperature 'jumps' around 1976 and 2002, which cannot be attributed to human influences. It fails to distinguish fully between temperature 'trend' and temperature 'level.'

The SPM misleadingly claims that the troposphere has warmed globally since the mid-20th century. This statement fails to acknowledge that there has been effectively no warming in the tropical troposphere as universally projected by models (the 'missing hotspot')

The SPM points out that the maximum global mean sea level during the last interglacial period was at least five meters higher than the present level, but to compare sea levels in the Eemian and the Holocene is misleading since Earth's orbital configurations with respect to the Sun were different.

Advice for policy makers

Between 1988 and 2007, the span of preparation of its first four assessment reports, the UN's IPCC was the sole international body able to provide advice to governments on the global warming issue. Since 2008, with the formation of the Nongovernmental Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), a second and independent team of scientific assessors has emerged.

Now, with the release of the 2013 reports by both the IPCC and NIPCC, due diligence analysis is finally possible. *After 2013, any responsible policy maker has an obligation to be fully familiar with the arguments adduced by two teams of climate advisors, who use the same peer-reviewed science but reach quite different conclusions.*

The IPCC's scientific advice can now be weighed against an independent team of scholars. With the same set of peer-reviewed journals for review, the IPCC and NIPCC have come to diametrically opposing conclusions. IPCC scientists remain alarmist about the threat of human-caused global warming. Even while they admit that observations increasingly invalidate their model-based predictions, they are reluctant to acknowledge past errors and new research that challenge their hypothesis of human-caused dangerous climate change.

In stark contrast, NIPCC scientists find no hard evidence for a dangerous warming. They find that the null hypothesis -- that observed changes in climate are due to natural causes only -- cannot be rejected. NIPCC scientists remain open to new discoveries and further debate.

Towards this end, we present the primary conclusions of NIPCC's latest report -- as they are stated in its SPM:

1. We conclude that neither the rate nor the magnitude of the reported late 20th century surface warming (1979 to 2000) lies outside normal natural variability, nor is it in any way unusual compared to earlier episodes in Earth's history. Furthermore, solar forcing of temperature change

is more important than currently recognized, and evidence is lacking that a 2-degree C rise in temperature (from whatever cause) would be globally harmful.

2. We conclude that no unambiguous evidence exists for adverse changes to the global environment caused by human-related CO₂ emission. In particular, the cryosphere is not melting at an enhanced rate, sea-level rise is not accelerating, and no systematic changes have been documented in evaporation or rainfall or in the magnitude or intensity of extreme meteorological events. An increased release of methane into the atmosphere from permafrost or sub-seabed gas hydrates is unlikely.

3. We conclude that the current generation of global climate models is unable to make accurate projections of climate even 10 years ahead -- let alone the 100-year period that has been adopted by policy planners. The output of such models should therefore not be used to guide public-policy formulation until they have been validated and shown to have predictive value.

This essay is based on a Policy Brief published by NIPCC in October 2013, entitled "Scientific Critique of IPCC's 2013 'Summary for Policymakers,' by Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, S. Fred Singer, and Willie Soon." It can be accessed

at http://heartland.org/sites/default/files/critique_of_ipcc_spm.pdf

2. New EPA Rules Will Kill Clean Coal

Technology for carbon capture could be a boon if regulators give it time.

By Robert Duncan, WSJ, Oct 29, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304171804579121393922993208?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

In an astounding paradox of modern politics, the Obama administration continues to promote green-energy technologies while also working hard to kill at least one of them. The proof lies in the administration's carbon regulations on coal power plants announced on Sept. 20. The rules would wipe out the development of ecologically important carbon capture and storage technologies.

In announcing the EPA's new carbon regulations, Administrator Gina McCarthy said that new power plants "can minimize their carbon emissions by taking advantage of modern technologies." The fact is that the coal-based industry cannot realistically follow these rules without putting itself out of business.

Carbon capture and storage is a form of clean-coal technology that allows power plants to trap and store their carbon emissions. CCS holds great promise as a means to use coal while drastically lowering carbon emissions.

The technology is still in its infancy, though. The first generation in the U.S. is now being developed through a joint venture between private industry and the government. The goal is to demonstrate that CCS can operate reliably and safely on large power plants.

Only one first-generation CCS project is now being built on a large power plant in the U.S.: the Kemper County plant in Mississippi. As the Journal pointed out in an Oct. 13 article ("Mississippi Plant Shows the Cost of Clean Coal"), Kemper has been plagued by serious cost overruns and

illustrates how expensive CCS implementation is today. Incorporating this technology into a new coal plant could cost up to \$1 billion.

The second generation of CCS projects is expected to lower costs and improve performance. This is the critical step to ensuring that CCS can be implemented on a broad scale. This is also the step that the Obama administration will be stopping with its latest EPA rules.

The EPA's proposed carbon regulations will require new coal plants to use CCS regardless of the cost. Since only the expensive first-generation technology is now available to utility companies, the EPA is making new coal plants so expensive that no utility will build one.

The administration's action ignores the historical evidence on how new technologies are successfully developed. The first cellphones in the mid-1980s cost more than \$4,000 and had the physical characteristics of a brick. Each new technological generation of the mobile device became more advanced, less expensive and more efficient. In 2013, new phones can be purchased for less than \$100, have the processing capacity of household computers and are owned by almost everyone.

Like the mobile phone, CCS technologies will become less expensive over time if given the chance. The coal industry already has a proven record when it comes to clean energy technology. There are at least 15 different clean-coal technologies in use by our nation's coal fleet, which have helped reduce emissions by nearly 90% since 1970.

CCS may be the most innovative and valuable of them all. The global market for the technology could exceed more than \$1 trillion within the next two decades. If the U.S. is forced out of the CCS business by EPA's rules, other nations like China will pick up the slack and reap these large economic benefits.

Over the past five years, the Obama administration has trumpeted its commitment to clean energy, clean coal technologies and CCS. If this commitment is real, then the EPA regulators should allow CCS technology time to develop and become commercially viable before imposing it on companies. To do otherwise will be dangerous for energy and the environment.

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3. Natural Decarbonation

U.S. carbon emissions fell in 2012, thanks to the oil and gas industry.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 29, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304200804579165650383659112?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

One of President Obama's steadfast second-term priorities is his regulatory "climate action plan." If the point is to reduce carbon emissions, the evidence suggests he'd accomplish more counting on capitalism.

The federal Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported last week, to too little media fanfare, that U.S. energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions declined 3.8% in 2012, bringing CO2 emissions to their lowest level since 1994. The only year since 1990 with a steeper decline was 2009 amid an economic recession. The 2012 decline occurred even as the economy grew 2.8%.

Much of the 2012 decline was due to a warm first quarter that reduced the use of heating fuels, as well as fewer transportation emissions, as Americans drove less and overall vehicle miles were flat compared to 2011.

More notable is that 2012 saw the largest drop in the overall "carbon intensity" of the economy since the feds began keeping records in 1949. The EIA reports that the boom in natural-gas production "substantially reduced the carbon intensity of electricity generation in 2012." The switch to natural gas, mainly from coal, was so substantial that the resulting CO₂-emissions decreases offset what was an "overall decline" last year in renewable power generation.

The EIA report also cited such Administration policies as mandates for more fuel-efficient cars as contributing to the carbon decline. But those mandates played a token role in the overall reduction, though they have cost consumers in higher costs for vehicles.

If you're scoring at home, this means that the innovation of the private oil and gas industry in extracting natural gas from oil shale has done more to reduce CO₂ emissions than have all of the Obama Administration's subsidies, mandates and crony-capitalist schemes for renewable energy.

Mr. Obama should say a prayer of thanks every day for the fracking and horizontal drilling revolutions, which have so far managed to avoid the crippling grasp of Washington regulators. If Mr. Obama is looking for a slogan for his "climate action plan," here's an idea: Keep on frackin'.

4. The Coming Carbon Asset Bubble

Fossil-fuel investments are destined to lose their economic value. Investors need to adjust now.

By Al Gore and David Blood, WSJ, Oct 29, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304655104579163663464339836?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the claims of Mr. Gore and others, fossil fuel assets will become stranded assets only if Washington, with its subprime science, has its way.]

After the credit crisis and Great Recession, it seemed ridiculous to have thought that investing in subprime mortgages was a good idea. As with most market "bubbles," the risk of giving 7.5 million mortgages to people who couldn't possibly pay them off was somehow invisible to many investors at the time.

One reason such bubbles form is the tendency by many investors to confuse "risk" with "uncertainty." As the economist Frank Knight established, there is a subtle but crucial distinction between the two: Uncertainty is what good investors usually fear the most, because it cannot be measured or priced as risk can be. But when investors mislabel risk as uncertainty, they become vulnerable to the assumption that since it cannot be measured, they might as well ignore it.

That is exactly what is happening with the subprime carbon asset bubble: It is still growing because most market participants are mistakenly treating carbon risk as an uncertainty, and are thus failing to incorporate it in investment analyses. By overlooking a known material-risk factor, investors are exposing their portfolios to an externality that should be integrated into the capital allocation process.

Here is the relevance of carbon to investing: There is consensus within the scientific community that increasing the global temperature by more than 2°C will likely cause devastating and irreversible damage to the planet. Reliable measurements make it clear that we will easily cross this threshold in the near term at our current rate of CO₂ emissions. So in an effort to avoid it, the International Energy Agency has calculated a global "Carbon Budget" that accommodates the burning of merely one-third of existing fossil fuel reserves by 2050. Put differently, at least two-thirds of fossil fuel reserves will not be monetized if we are to stay below 2°C of warming—creating "stranded carbon assets."

A stranded asset is one that loses economic value well ahead of its anticipated useful life. Stranded carbon assets include fossil fuels, as well as those assets which, given their dependence on fossil fuels, are also CO₂-emissions intensive. Not all carbon-intensive assets are created equal, and it is reasonable to assume that in carbon-constrained scenarios the projects with the highest break-even costs and emissions profile (e.g., tar sands and coal) will be stranded first.

Many investors cite what we believe is a misinformed view that carbon assets will not be vulnerable to stranding until a meaningful carbon price is enforced by a global accord. While a global price on carbon certainly would be important, we believe that investors are mistaken to assume that is the only path to stranding carbon assets. We believe that any such strategy is unwise and increasingly reckless—because of three broad risks:

First is regulation that could strand assets in several ways: direct regulation on carbon led by authorities at the local, national, regional, or global level; indirect regulation through increased pollution controls, constraints on water usage, or policies targeting health concerns; and mandates on renewable energy adoption and efficiency standards. Even the threat of impending regulation creates uncertainty for long-lived carbon-intensive assets.

Second, stranding may occur as a result of market forces. Renewable technologies are already economically competitive with fossil fuels in a number of countries without subsidies. This cost competitiveness, combined with the ability to secure stable long-term prices for power, and an increase in distributed electricity models, could continue to shift capital allocation way from fossil fuels.

Third, sociopolitical pressures (e.g., fossil-fuel divestment campaigns, environmental advocacy, grass-roots protests and changing public opinion) could create an environment in which carbon-intensive businesses could lose their "license to operate," thereby stranding assets.

Delaying action to mitigate climate change will not delay climate change itself. As such, investors can strand fossil-fuel energy assets today, or absorb the cost of inaction by causing a much larger stranding across industries and asset classes in the future. The case to incorporate carbon risk into both equity and debt valuations now is one of short- and long-term prudent risk management. There are four principal ways investors can do this:

First, identify carbon asset risks across portfolios. At a minimum, investors should determine the extent to which carbon risk is embedded in current and future investments. This can be achieved by, for example, considering the key drivers of a company's current and future asset base in the context of carbon risks and developing tools that quantify risks for valuations. Note that passive, index tracking funds should also identify their exposure to carbon risks since they too are

vulnerable to stranding as fossil fuel-dependent assets make up roughly 10%-30% of most major exchanges.

Second, engage corporate boards and executives on plans to mitigate and disclose carbon risks. Investors should ask questions like: Do companies have a shadow price on carbon (if not, why not?) and how does it impact their cash position? What is the amount of carbon they plan to burn and how does it relate to their long-term strategic plan? Investors should pressure executive teams to divert cash flow away from capital expenditures on developing fossil fuels and toward more productive uses in the context of a transition to a low carbon economy.

Third, diversify investments into opportunities positioned to succeed in a low-carbon economy. Investors should tilt portfolios away from assets with embedded carbon risks and toward assets with low or no carbon emissions. Investors have the opportunity to capitalize on emerging solutions such as: energy generation (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal); buildings (e.g., insulating materials, lighting, metering); and transport (e.g., engines, electric vehicles, fleet logistics). This hedging strategy will buffer the impact an extreme carbon risk event might have on a portfolio while potentially capturing the upside of the transition away from fossil fuel assets.

Fourth, divest fossil fuel assets. This is certainly the surest way to reduce carbon risk, though we fully recognize that divesting can be complicated and may be difficult for many asset owners. Such a transition could be phased in over several years, and there are gradations; early and easy progress can be made by at least divesting from the most emissions-intensive forms of energy—especially since they are likely to face stranding well ahead of less carbon-intensive fossil fuels.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction." The transition to a low carbon future will revolutionize the global economy and present significant opportunities for superior investment returns. However, investors must also acknowledge that carbon risk is real and growing. Inaction is no longer prudent.

Mr. Gore is a former vice president of the United States and is now chairman of Generation Investment Management. Mr. Blood is senior partner of Generation Investment Management.

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