

The Week That Was: 2015-01-24 (January 24, 2015)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *Choosing to make selective choices among competing evidence, so as to emphasize those results that support a given position, while ignoring or dismissing any findings that do not support it, is a practice known as "cherry picking" and is a hallmark of poor science or pseudo-science.* Richard Somerville Testimony before the US House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power, March 8, 2011.

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Number of the Week: \$100 Billion USD

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THIS WEEK:

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

A New Byrd-Hagel Resolution? As discussed in an article by Fred Singer, in 1997 the U.S. Senate passed by unanimous vote the Byrd-Hagel resolution against a climate protocol being considered by UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and by the Clinton-Gore Administration. The protocol in doubt became the unsuccessful Kyoto Protocol which extended the life of the UNFCCC and committed the parties to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Although signed technically signed by the US government, the Clinton-Gore administration did not submit the Kyoto Protocol to the Senate for ratification, as required by the Constitution to be binding on the US, in light of the opposition expressed in the Byrd-Hagel resolution.

In order to advance a vote for the Keystone XL pipeline in the Senate, the new Senate leadership considered amendments to the pipeline bill. [The prior leadership, under Harry Reid, generally refused to consider amendments to legislation.] On January 21, the Senate voted 98-1 that "climate change is real and is not a hoax" in an amendment offered by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I) and strongly promoted by Senator Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont). To the surprise of many, Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla), and new chairman of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, supported the measure, even though many classify him as the Senate's leading skeptic of human-caused global warming/climate change.

James Taranto who writes "Best of the Web" for the *Wall Street Journal* was one of the few who understood what was happening. Taranto wrote:

But don't worry. Inhofe, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, hasn't suddenly gone warmist. We noted last week that Vermont's Sen. Bernie Sanders was planning on introducing an amendment calling on his colleagues to express loyalty to "the entire worldwide scientific community," which purportedly adheres to the doctrine known as climate change.

"There is archeological evidence of that, there's Biblical evidence of' the climate changing," Politico quotes Inhofe as saying. He might have added that there's paleontological evidence—after all, the climate was changing long before Homo sapiens came along.

Actually, he might have gone further still. Climate change in this sense has no need of evidence. The proposition "Climates change," like the proposition "2 plus 2 equal 4," is not an empirical

hypothesis but a tautology. It is true by definition. Climate is change. There is no climate change on the moon, but only because there is no atmosphere and hence no climate. Climate change is like chemicals: Without it, life itself would be impossible.

The Senate adjourned without a final vote on the pipeline itself (Senate bill S.1), and it is scheduled to resume on Monday afternoon, January 26, which is forecasted to be a rainy and snowy day in Washington.

Fred Singer sees an opening in this game playing. A bi-partisan Resolution might be sponsored by Sen. Roy Blunt, (R-MO) and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), similar to the 1997 Byrd-Hagel Resolution, and it may garner sufficient support to pass. Such a resolution will blunt President Obama's ambition for an agreement at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Paris in December 2015, probably the President's last opportunity to make global warming/climate change his signature issue, even though public support is fading. Senator Manchin's state is suffering from reduced coal production caused by the Administration's campaign against coal-fired power plants. See Articles # 1 and # 2 and links under The Political Games Continue.

Cherry Picking Temperatures: The quote-of-the-week comes from Richard Somerville, a climate scientist and professor emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. As such, he signed a petition opposing the Keystone XL pipeline. According to his web site, Somerville was a Coordinating Lead Author in Working Group I, Physical Science, for the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report (AR-4) of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is not a global warming skeptic. The Summary for Policymakers of AR-4 expressed great certainty in the science and the global climate models and it formed a basis for EPA's finding that emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly CO₂, endanger public health.

As expressed in the January 10 and 17 TWTWs, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) issued a joint press release on 2014 temperatures, declaring it the warmest recorded. Both agencies ignore measurements from satellites, the most comprehensive set of global temperature ever compiled, which do not support the claim that 2014 was the warmest year on record.

Using the definition above, both NOAA and NASA are engaged in cherry picking, a hallmark of poor science or pseudo-science. These agencies are misleading the public

As criticism of the press release by NOAA and NASA intensified, Gavin Schmidt of NASA-GISS (Goddard Institute of Space Studies) presented a table by NASA stating there was a 38% probability that 2014 was the warmest year recorded. Apparently, both NOAA and NASA calculated such probabilities prior to the press release but did not disclose them.

Given that the bump in temperatures is less than the range of error in the instrumentation, the calculation of the probabilities no more solid than the prior claims. Certainly, they could not be based on any numerical distribution from observations. The entire episode raises questions as to the credibility of these government agencies. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Questioning the Orthodoxy, <http://richardsomerville.com/>, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-112hhrg66704/html/CHRG-112hhrg66704.htm>, and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherry_picking_%28fallacy%29

State of the Union: To complicate the effort to mislead the public with grand announcements of global temperatures by using inferior, “cherry-picked” data, President Obama cited the temperature announcements of NOAA and NASA in his State of the Union Address, using it to solicit support from the public for his program to combat climate change by restricting carbon dioxide emissions – no matter if the causes are not known. Usually, the leaders of governments departments take pride when their entities are singled out by the President in such a public forum as examples of excellent work. There have been no reports of reactions by the heads of NOAA and NASA for the praise President Obama gave their agencies.

As all too typical, the President also singled out the improvements in US oil and natural gas production. These increases are a boon to the economy. But they have occurred on lands not controlled by Federal entities, with production from federally controlled lands and waters declining. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy, Questioning the Orthodoxy, Seeking a Common Ground, and Energy Issues – US.

A Bit of Humor: After examining the paucity of data that went into the NOAA and NASA claim of the warmest year on record, Tim Ball examines ice core data from Greenland (GRIP). He observes that “the record is at least 10,000 years old” with the Climatic Optimum about 2.5°C warmer than present, about 4,000 to 7,000 years ago. From this, he concludes that 2014 is one of the coldest years in the 10,000 year record, and groups it with about 3% of the years over the past 10,000 that were as cold.

The analysis brings out an important point. How many of the politicians and Senators who are so anxious to stop global warming/climate change by controlling CO2 emissions have any idea of the history of climate of their State? Senator Sanders from Vermont, the Green Mountain State, seems to be blissfully unaware that for much of the past 2.5 million years the state was a barren, frozen wasteland, occasionally changed by brief warm periods. As late as 20,000 years ago, it was covered by thousands of feet of ice. Senator Whitehouse appears to be similarly ignorant of climate history. Rhode Island was covered with ice and its famed rugged coast line was quite flat, with the continental shelf stretching many miles beyond the current shore-line. Sea levels were about 400 feet lower than today and “teeth of mastodons and mammoths have been recovered by fishermen from at least 40 sites on the continental shelf as deep as 120 meters.”

See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy and

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1245&context=usgsstaffpub>

Personal Attacks: With Nature refusing to obey the projections from climate models, exposing weakness of the climate science as stated by the IPCC; there seems it be an increase in personal attacks to attempt to discredit scientists who do not accept that CO2 emissions are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming. A common tactic is accusing scientists of receiving funding from improper sources, whatever they are. Those using this tactic frequently ignore the issue, what is the quality of the product? Is “cherry picking” any better or worse if the funding sources are tobacco companies or governments? Both can mislead the public on important issues such as public health.

It may be time to review the work by Russell Cook, exposing a few experts in personal vilification and the issues in which they were involved. It is sad to think that many practitioners of this practice are highly regarded in some professional circles, indicating that those in these circles have difficulty distinguishing between an accusation and evidence supporting the accusation.

Fred Singer Notes: Russell Cook has done a careful 'forensic' investigation of the false accusations against so-called climate skeptics. His latest opus is published as a Policy Brief by the Heartland Institute at <http://heartland.org/policy-documents/merchants-smear>

Cook traces the whole sad story -- from retired journalist Ross Gelbspan (who claims to have a Pulitzer Prize) all the way to Prof Naomi Oreskes (who styles herself as a 'science historian'). As true believers in anthropogenic [human-caused] global warming (AGW), they rely on a manufactured scientific consensus -- that does not exist. They desperately try to link skeptics to the tobacco industry -- in order to attack the scientific credibility of the vast and growing number of those who doubt AGW.

The Merchants of Smear were dealt a serious blow by the Oregon Petition, signed by more than 31,000 scientists and engineers -- one-third of them with advanced degrees. But the final blow has come from Mother Nature: no warming for the past 18 years -- and counting -- in complete contradiction to every climate model.

However, like all 'true believers' who claim "The End is Near" they double down and simply shift the date of the apocalypse into the future.

Fred Singer, Chairman, SEPP 1/24/2015

See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal and Article # 5.

Peak Oil? No! Peak Bio! In the 1970s *The Limits of Growth*, attempted to use state-of-the-art computer models to establish that production of oil and many other essential materials are reaching their peak. This coincided with the idea that humanity cannot sustain itself. It failed. As can be seen by the US production of oil and the oil market, the assumptions did not bear out.

Now we are being exposed to a new peak – artificially contrived planet boundaries. The fear of carbon dioxide caused global warming is losing its effect. So another fear must take its place. See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Another Week, Another Conference: The World Economic Forum is having a conference in Davos Switzerland. This gives an opportunity for those who wish to expand control of people to present their latest schemes. One such scheme, endorsed by former Vice President Gore, is redesigning cities so they do not need cars. The proposal estimates that this solution to global warming will cost only “\$90 trillion (£59 trillion) over the next few years to redesign all the cities — as in all the cities on earth — so people live in more densely packed neighborhoods and don't need cars.” The proposal is presented under the self-proclaimed “The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate”, indicating that economy does not mean frugality.

It is amusing to note that those who count these things estimated that attendees included those arriving in some 1700 private aircraft (Zurich airport). If one is to ban automobiles, there is no reason that they cannot travel in style.

Number of the Week: \$100 Billion (USD) Thus far, the big surprise from the World Economic Forum in Davos is that a private consulting firm working for the Forum estimated that countries in Europe wasted (squandered) about \$100 Billion on renewable energy projects that were of the wrong type or in the wrong place. Solar power in cloudy and northern (low sun angle) Germany is

but one example. The tax payers and ratepayers who subsidize such poor decisions will never see that money again.

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ARTICLES:

Please note that articles that are not linked or summarized here are reproduced in the Articles Section of the full TWTW that can be found on the web site under the date of the TWTW.

1. Global climate policy after Lima

U.S. support for a Kyoto-type pact would be a mistake

By S. Fred Singer, Washington Times, Jan 21, 2015

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/21/s-fred-singer-global-climate-policy-after-lima/>

[See Link with the following added: PS [Jan 24] We need another bipartisan Senate Resolution -- by Blunt (R-MO) and Manchin (D-WV)]

2. Best of the Web: Why Is This Man Smiling?

Climate change is no hoax. It's a tautology.

By James Taranto, WSJ, Jan 22, 2015

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/why-is-this-man-smiling-1421958869?tesla=y>

[Key part summarized in discussion under the above discussion under A New Byrd-Hagel Resolution?]

3. Climate Reporting's Hot Mess

AP takes the cake in the relentless campaign by global-warming journalists to discredit their own profession.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Jan 20, 2015

http://www.wsj.com/articles/holman-jenkins-climate-reportings-hot-mess-1421802468?mod=hp_opinion

4. Merchants of Smear

By Russell Cook, Heartland Policy Brief, Sep 19, 2014

<http://heartland.org/policy-documents/merchants-smear>

Link to Full Document:

http://heartland.org/sites/default/files/10-06-14_cook_merchants_of_smear.pdf

[See Links]

5. Letters, Richmond Times-Dispatch

By Charles Battig, Jan 19, 2015

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article_90caa172-55de-5a3a-836e-a9ed404a5d7c.html

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Important New North American East Coast Proxy Data

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jan 21, 2015

<http://climateaudit.org/2015/01/21/important-new-north-american-east-coast-proxy-data/#more-20559>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

The Costly, False, Futile Climate Crusade

By William Happer, Master Resource, Jan 22, 2015

<https://www.masterresource.org/debate-issues/costly-false-climate-crusade/>

[SEPP Comment: The distinguished Professor of Physics at Princeton presents how those who profit from promoting global warming play on the ignorance of others.]

Unintended Consequences of the Climate Crusade

By Andrew Montford, Master Resources, Jan 23, 2015

<https://www.masterresource.org/debate-issues/unintended-consequences-climate-crusade/>

MIT Climate Scientist: Global Warming Believers a ‘Cult’

By Howie Carr, Breitbart, Jan 21, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/01/21/mit-climate-scientist-global-warming-believers-a-cult/>

[SEPP Comment: Richard Lindzen has long been a knowledgeable, effective critic of the climate establishment.]

2014: Among the 3 percent Coldest Years in 10,000 years?

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective

<http://drtimball.com/2015/2014-among-the-3-percent-coldest-years-in-10000-years/>

New Paper: Unintended Consequences Of Climate Policies Unethical

By Staff Writer, GWPF, Jan 19, 2015

<http://www.thegwgf.com/new-paper-unintended-consequences-of-climate-policies-unethical/>

Link to paper: Unintended Consequences Of Climate Policies Unethical

By Andrew Montford, Global Warming Policy Foundation, 2015

<http://www.thegwgf.org/content/uploads/2015/01/Unintended-Consequences1.pdf>

2014 as the Mildest Year: Why You are Being Misled on Global Temperatures

OR: Why I Should Have Been an Engineer Rather than a Climate Scientist

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jan 18, 2015

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2015/01/2014-as-the-mildest-year-why-you-are-being-misled-on-global-temperatures/>

NOAA, NASA: 2014 was probably not the warmest year on our record

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Jan 18, 2015

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2015/01/noaa-nasa-2014-was-probably-not-warmest.html>

2014: The Most Dishonest Year on Record

‘Warmest Year On Record’ Claims Falling Apart Under Scrutiny

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 20, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/20/2014-the-most-dishonest-year-on-record/>

Climate And Truth: A Tale Of Immorality?

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Jan 18, 2015

<http://drtimball.com/2015/climate-and-truth-a-tale-of-immorality/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Obama: Climate change the greatest threat to future generations

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jan 20, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230146-obama-declares-climate-greatest-threat-to-future-generations>

Earth's hottest year, and GOP doesn't get it

By Rhea Suh, CNN, Jan 16, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/16/opinion/suh-hottest-year-2014/index.html>

[SEPP Comment: Will the National Resources Defense Council, of which the author is president, ever realize that the science upon which such claims are based has major problems? Such advocates holding senior administrative positions in the Department of Interior are not enhancing the credibility of these government agencies.]

How much is climate change going to cost us?

By David Roberts, Grist, Jan 15, 2015 [H/t Malcolm Field]

http://grist.org/climate-energy/how-much-is-climate-change-going-to-cost-us/?utm_source=newsletter&u

[SEPP Comment: The author asserts that the economic models on climate damages may be reflecting our assumptions back at us. The same could be said for the global climate models, the assumptions have not been thoroughly tested.]

The economic cost of climate change: time for new math

By Delavane Diaz, The Conversation, Jan 20, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://theconversation.com/the-economic-cost-of-climate-change-time-for-new-math-36401?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+January+21+2015&utm_content=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+January+21+2015+CID_36b61d3aa46bd50a8e1dcd83a02a204&utm_source=campaign_monitor_us&utm_term=The%20economic%20cost%20of%20climate%20change%20time%20for%20new%20math

[SEPP Comment: Start with unsubstantiated assumptions of the future, add more unsubstantiated assumptions, and you have a new model. The propaganda photo of flooding from (non) hurricane Sandy summed it up.]

The Fight for Justice Starts With Climate

By Tom Steyer, Huff Post, Jan 22, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-steyer/senate-climate-change_b_6525724.html

[SEPP Comment: The man who promised up to \$100 million to finance candidates who will "fight" climate change expresses his views.]

UAE says falling oil prices will not impact clean energy

By Staff Writers, Abu Dhabi (AFP), Jan 19, 2015

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/UAE_says_falling_oil_prices_will_not_impact_clean_energy_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The energy summit that opened on Monday is part of a series of events organized under the banner of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. It includes an International Water Summit.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Who Runs The GHCN

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 18, 2015

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/18/who-runs-the-ghcn/>

[SEPP Comment: Revealing the control of Global Historical Climatology Network.]

What went wrong with the “settled science?”

By Christopher Monckton, AU Climate Sceptics, Jan 21, 2015

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2015/01/what-went-wrong-with-settled-science.html>

The Most Dishonest Year on Record

By Robert Tracinski, The Federalist, Jan 19, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://thefederalist.com/2015/01/19/global-warming-most-dishonest-year-on-record/>

Hottest Year Claim: Minuscule Change in Imaginary Number

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jan 19, 2015

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2015/01/19/hottest-year-claim-minuscule-change-in-imaginary-number/>

Obama’s SOTU: The Good, The Bad, and the Forgotten

By Alex Fitzsimmons, American Energy Alliance, Jan 21, 2015

<http://americanenergyalliance.org/2015/01/21/obamas-sotu-the-good-the-bad-and-the-forgotten/>

For Western Hudson Bay polar bears, the magic number could be 24

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board finishes public hearings last week in Rankin Inlet

By Staff Writers, Nunatsiaq News, Dec 8, 2015 [H/t Power Line]

http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674for_western_hudson_bay_polar_bears_the_magic_number_may_be_24/

[SEPP Comment: 24 refers to the total allowable polar bear harvest.]

On Polar Bears, Don’t Buy the Hype

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Jan 19, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2015/01/on-polar-bears-dont-buy-the-hype.php>

[SEPP Comment: CWS refers to Canadian Wildlife Service.]

German Met: Climate Change Nothing New...”We Do Not Know What Will Be 30, 40, Or 50 Years In The Future

Dominik Jung warns of uncertain climate forecasts: “Us meteorologists know just how difficult forecasts for the next 5 to 10 days are. So how certain can 50-year trends be?”

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, Translated/edited by P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 18, 2015

<http://notrickszone.com/2015/01/18/german-met-climate-change-nothing-new-we-do-not-know-what-will-be-30-40-or-50-years-in-the-future/#sthash.CTPDVH6K.dpbs>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Primary productivity--"nature's alchemy"--focus of annual NSF Long-Term Ecological Research mini-symposium

Process at base of food web affects health of one ecosystem to entire globe

By Staff Writers, NSF, Jan 22, 2015

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133894&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

“Nature's alchemy, it might be called. At the base of Earth's food webs, organisms convert sunlight, water and carbon dioxide into chemical energy.”

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Climate change falling so far off the public radar, a major polling house didn't even bother asking about it this year

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Jan 21, 2105

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/21/climate-change-falling-so-far-off-the-public-radar-a-major-polling-house-didnt-even-bother-asking-about-it-this-year/>

Spotlight on light

By Ivy Kupec, NSF, Jan 20, 2015

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133860&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

[SEPP Comment: As the UN and other organizations endeavor to make electricity less affordable: “The United Nations' International Year of Light was launched in the City of Light (Paris, France) on Monday,”]

Seeking a Common Ground

European Scientists and Scholars Issue Communique Demanding Freedom of Speech on Climate Science and on Global Warming Policies say Friends of Science

By Staff Writers, Friends of Science Society, Canada, No Date [H/t Anne Debeil]

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2015/01/prweb12459961.htm>

How the Climate System Works (for Dummies)

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jan 23, 2015

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2015/01/how-the-climate-system-works-for-dummies/>

‘Most’ versus ‘more than half’ versus ‘> 50%’

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 19, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/19/most-versus-more-than-half-versus-50/#more-17629>

[SEPP Comment: Amusing statement by Craig Loehle at the bottom.]

To the GOP and the Pope: Forcing Higher Energy Prices on the Poor is Immoral

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jan 20, 2015

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2015/01/to-the-gop-and-the-pope-forcing-higher-energy-prices-on-the-poor-is-immoral/>

Is the Senate Going Lukewarm?

By Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, Jan 23, 2015

<http://www.cato.org/blog/senate-going-lukewarm>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

The Future of Sugarcane Production in Southern Brazil

dos Santos, D.L. and Sentelhas, P.C. 2014. Climate change scenarios and their impact on water balance and sugarcane yield in Southern Brazil. *Sugar Tech* **16**: 356-365., Jan 21, 2015

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V18/jan/a19.php>

[SEPP Comment: Contradicts model projections that warming will bring on food hardships.]

Grass Surviving Drought with a Little Help from Its Fungal Friends

Afkhami, M.E., McIntyre, P.J. and Strauss, S.Y. 2014. Mutualist-mediated effects on species' range limits across large geographic scales. *Ecology Letters* 17: 1265-1273. Jan 21, 2015

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V18/jan/a18.php>

Modeling Cloud Processes and Their Effects on Earth's Climate

Park, S., Bretherton, C.S. and Rasch, P.J. 2014. Integrating cloud processes in the Community Atmosphere Model, Version 5. *Journal of Climate* 27: 6821-6856.

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V18/jan/a17.php>

Late-Holocene Climate of the Eastern Slope of the Northern Urals

Antipina, T.G., Panova, N.K. and Korona, O.M. 2014. The Holocene dynamics of vegetation and environmental conditions on the eastern slope of the Northern Urals. *Russian Journal of Ecology* 45: 351-358. Jan 15, 2015

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V18/jan/a14.php>

Species Extinctions (Model Predictions) – Summary, Jan 16, 2015

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

“In concluding this summary document, it should be clear that the panic-evoking extinction-predicting paradigms of the past are rapidly giving way to the realization that they bear little resemblance to reality. Earth's plant and animal species clearly are not slip-sliding away - even slowly - into the netherworld of extinction that is preached from the pulpit of climate alarmism as being caused by CO₂-induced global warming.”

Model Issues

What has gone wrong with the IPCC models?

By Staff Writers, Beijing (SPX), Jan 23, 2015

http://www.terraily.com/reports/What_went_wrong_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The new, simplified model was presented in the Jan 18 TWTW.]

Volatility from Vega – Why math models can't predict the future

By Eric Worrall, Jo Nova's Blog, Jan 18, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/01/volatility-from-vega-why-math-models-cant-predict-the-future/>

[SEPP Comment: Although the errors in them may be similar, models of financial issues are not directly comparable with models of nature. The failure to properly test the models is common to financial markets and to climate science as practiced by the IPCC.]

Measurement Issues

Nasa climate scientists: We said 2014 was the warmest year on record... but we're only 38% sure we were right

Nasa's Goddard Institute for Space Studies claimed its analysis of world temperatures showed '2014 was the warmest year on record'

But it emerged that GISS's analysis is subject to a margin of error

Nasa admits this means it is far from certain that 2014 set a record at all

By David Rose, Daily Mail, UK, Jan 17, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2915061/Nasa-climate-scientists-said-2014-warmest-year-record-38-sure-right.html>

Massive Tampering With Temperatures In South America

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 20, 2015

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/20/massive-tampering-with-temperatures-in-south-america/>

The Heavily Urbanised Temperature Record In Chile

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 22, 2015

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/22/the-heavily-urbanised-temperature-record-in-chile/#more-12673>

Alice Springs [AU] Automatic Weather Station Inflated Temperature By 4.5°C, Producing False “Record High”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 22, 2015

<http://notrickszone.com/2015/01/22/alice-springs-automatic-weather-station-inflated-temperature-by-4-5c-producing-false-record-high/#sthash.jXv1rBrL.dpbs>

Geostationary Weather Satellites

Launch Date Nears, but Remaining Schedule Risks Need to be Addressed

GAO-15-60: Published: Dec 16, 2014. Publicly Released: Jan 15, 2015.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-60>

Changing Weather

Atmospheric rivers, aerosol particles, and California reservoirs

By Staff Writers, San Diego CA (SPX), Jan 21, 2015

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Atmospheric_rivers_cloud_creating_aerosol_particles_and_California_reservoirs_999.html

Update on snow and exceptional cold coming

By Joe D'Aleo, Weatherbell.com, Jan 22, 2015

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/update_on_snow_and_exceptional_cold_coming/

Changing Climate

Will Steffen in denial of entire Holocene?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 19, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/01/will-steffen-in-denial-of-entire-holocene/#more-40515>

Changing Seas

Is Sea Level Accelerating?

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jan 19,, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.com/is-sea-level-accelerating/>

Why The Hay Paper On Sea Level Got It So Wrong

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 20, 2015

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/20/why-the-hay-paper-on-sea-level-got-it-so-wrong/>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Giant atmospheric rivers add mass to Antarctica's ice sheet

By Staff Writers, Leuven, Belgium (SPX), Jan 21, 2015

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Giant atmospheric rivers add mass to Antarcticas ice sheet 999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Giant_atmospheric_rivers_add_mass_to_Antarcticas_ice_sheet_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: With the headlines focused on the West Antarctic ice sheet, what is happening to the continent and the East Antarctic ice sheet is largely ignored.]

Stemming ice loss, giant atmospheric rivers add mass to Antarctica's ice sheet

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 20, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/20/what-ice-loss-giant-atmospheric-rivers-add-mass-to-antarcticas-ice-sheet/>

No Warming In Antarctica During Satellite Record

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 23, 2015

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/23/no-warming-in-antarctica-during-satellite-record/>

Claim: Melting glaciers have big carbon impact

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 19, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/19/claim-melting-glaciers-have-big-carbon-impact/>

Penn State researchers miss obvious visual clues on "glacier melt" – black carbon and sublimation

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 21, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/21/penn-state-researchers-miss-obvious-visual-clues-on-glacier-melt-black-carbon-and-sublimation/>

NSF-funded Antarctic drilling team is first to bore through hundreds of meters of ice to where ice sheet, ocean and land converge

"Grounding Zones" are key to regulating ice-sheet movement and sea-level rise, but also, surprisingly, home to an apparently thriving ecosystem

By Staff Writers, NSF, Jan 21, 2015

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133895&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Subglacial Lakes Seen Refilling in Greenland

By Staff Writers, Greenbelt MD (SPX), Jan 22, 2015

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Subglacial_Lakes_Seen_Refilling_in_Greenland_999.html

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

GM crops: the scientific argument's over

Genetic modification raises yields and cuts pesticide use

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Jan 20, 2015

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/gm-crops-the-scientific-argument's-over.aspx>

Golden Rice: An example of the potential benefits of genetic engineering technology

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jan 23, 2015

<http://acsh.org/2015/01/golden-rice-example-potential-benefits-genetic-engineering-technology/>

Study: climate change accounts for only 1/3 of crop yield variation

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 22, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/22/study-climate-change-accounts-for-only-13-of-crop-yield-variation/>

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the headline, elsewhere the study asserts: "More than 60 percent of the yield variability can be explained by climate variability in regions that are important producers of major crops, including the Midwestern U.S., the North China Plains, western Europe and Japan." The statement indicates the researchers may be confusing weather with climate.]

Lowering Standards

A shameful lecture in St Andrews

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 23, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/1/23/a-shameful-lecture-in-st-andrews.html>

English Version of Communiqué Demanding a Review of Belgian Government Support for the position of Prof. van Ypersele for the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

By Undersigned, Brussels, Jan 12, 2015

<https://friendsofsciencecalgary.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/english-version-of-van-ypersele-communicue-jan-21-2015.pdf>

The Settled Science of Ignoring Facts

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Jan 20, 2015

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2015/01/settled-science-ignoring-facts/>

[SEPP Comment: Problems with revising a statement on global warming and its causes by Australia's Academy of Science are delaying the issuance of a clarifying opinion.]

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

BOM admits they got it wrong on “worst Queensland drought”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 21, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/01/bom-admits-they-got-it-wrong-on-worst-queensland-drought/>

[SEPP Comment: Perhaps to some, there is little difference in 9 years and in 80 years.]

Cornell University’s Greenland ice melt hype

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 21, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/21/cornell-universitys-greenland-ice-melt-hype/>

Wildlife loss in the global ocean

By Staff Writers, Santa Barbara CA (SPX), Jan 20, 2015

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Wildlife_loss_in_the_global_ocean_999.html

"Anyone that has ever kept a fish tank knows that if you crank up your aquarium heater and dump acid into the water, your fish are in trouble," said co-author Malin Pinsky, an ecologist at Rutgers University. "This is what climate change is doing now to the oceans."

[SEPP Comment: There may be some validity in the general article, but it is totally eliminated by the extreme views quoted above.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Atmospheric warming heats the bottom of ice sheets, as well as the top

By Staff Writers, Ithaca NY (SPX), Jan 22, 2015

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Atmospheric_warming_heats_the_bottom_of_ice_sheets_as_well_as_the_top_999.html

Did the Anthropocene begin with the nuclear age?

By Staff Writers, Leicester, UK (SPX), Jan 20, 2015

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Did_the_Anthropocene_begin_with_the_nuclear_age_999.html

Nearly half the systems crucial to stability of planet compromised

By Staff Writers, Montreal, Canada (SPX), Jan 20, 2015

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Nearly_half_the_systems_crucial_to_stability_of_planet_compromised_999.html

Planetary boundaries, tipping points and prophets of doom

By Robert Ellison, Climate Etc. Jan 23, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/23/planetary-boundaries-tipping-points-and-prophets-of-doom/#more-17671>

We're killing our planet

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Jan 19, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/we-re-killing-our-planet-1.1806550#.VL-80fF98E>

Link to paper: Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet

By Steffen, Richadson, Johan, et all, Science Mag, Jan 15, 2015

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2015/01/14/science.1259855>

Sustainability challenged as many renewable resources max out

By Staff Writers, East Lansing MI (SPX), Jan 19, 2015

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Sustainability_challenged_as_many_renewable_resources_max_out_999.html

Planetary dashboard shows massive acceleration in human activity

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Jan 20, 2015

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/New_planetary_dashboard_shows_Great_Acceleration_in_human_activity_since_1950_999.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Merchants of Smear

By Russell Cook, Heartland Policy Brief, Sep 19, 2014

<http://heartland.org/policy-documents/merchants-smear>

Link to Full Document:

http://heartland.org/sites/default/files/10-06-14_cook_merchants_of_smear.pdf

My life as a climate lukewarmer

The polarisation of the climate debate has gone too far

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Jan 20, 2015

<http://rationalsoptimist.com/blog/my-life-as-a-climate-lukewarmer.aspx>

[SEPP Comment: Articulate defense of his view that recent global warming is real and largely the result of human activity, but not dangerous. Uses questionable temperature data for 2014.]

On namecalling

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 21, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/1/21/on-namecalling.html>

More Greenpeace death threats

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 23, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/1/23/more-greenpeace-death-threats.html>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

Feds Enlist Disney To Make A ‘Frozen’ Film About The Melting Arctic

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jan 23, 2015 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/01/23/feds-enlist-disney-to-make-a-frozen-film-about-the-melting-arctic/>

[SEPP Comment: The effort is led by Retired Admiral Robert Papp, U.S. Special Representative for the Arctic. Given the Navy’s promotion of biofuels in the name of national security, totally ignoring massive increases in US production of fossil fuels, little realism can be expected here.]

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Politics More: Davos World Economic Forum

A Plan Is Floating Around Davos To Spend \$90 Trillion Redesigning All The Cities So They Don't Need Cars

By Jim Edwards, Business Insider, Jan 21, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.businessinsider.com/plan-to-spend-90-trillion-redesigning-cities-without-cars-2015-1?&platform=bi-androidapp>

Link to the City Plan: Engines of National and Global Growth,

By Staff Writers, The New Climate Economy, The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, No Date

<http://newclimateeconomy.report/cities/>

World Leaders Jet Out To Davos To Save Us From Global Warming

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 22, 2015

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/22/world-leaders-jet-out-to-davos-to-save-us-from-global-warming/>

Editorial calls for more jobs for polar bear biologists

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Jan 22, 2015

<http://polarbearscience.com/2015/01/22/editorial-calls-for-more-jobs-for-polar-bear-biologists/>

Experts: Ocean Acidification Should Be Included in the Climate Change Discussions

By Michael Madsen, IAEA, Jan 22, 2015

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/experts-ocean-acidification-should-be-included-climate-change-discussions>

[SEPP Comment: Apparently the leadership of the International Atomic Energy Agency believes that by promoting the fear of carbon dioxide, it can reduce the fear of nuclear power and waste. This may be a false dilemma, the public can reject both fossil fuels and nuclear power.]

Questioning European Green

Badly located renewable power plants cost Europe \$100 billion: Davos report

By Geert De Clercq, Reuters, Jan 20, 2015 [H/t American Interest]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/20/us-utilities-europe-davos-idUSKBN0KT2BC20150120>

Link to Report: The Future of Electricity

By Staff Writers World Economic Forum

<http://www.weforum.org/reports/future-electricity>

Europe's \$100 Billion Green Energy Mistake

By Walter Russell Mead and Staff, American Interest, Jan 22, 2015 [H/t NFC]

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2015/01/22/europes-100-billion-green-energy-mistake/>

Electricity demand hits highest this winter - as wind power slumps to its lowest

Power demand hit its highest level this winter on Monday, but wind farms met just one per cent of the UK's needs

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jan 20, 2015

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/11358062/Electricity-demand-hits-highest-this-winter-as-wind-power-slumps-to-its-lowest.html>

"It's wrong to cherry-pick statistics for short periods when the wind didn't blow," wind industry body RenewableUK said.

EU Carbon Plummets as Panel Rejects Market Fix Recommendation

By Ewa Krukowska and Ian Wishart, Bloomberg, Jan 22, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2015-01-22/eu-lawmakers-reject-carbon-fix-opinion-in-clash-over-ambition.html>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Clean energy risks over oil price fall: French minister

By Staff Writers, Abu Dhabi (AFP), Jan 19, 2015

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Clean_energy_risks_over_oil_price_fall_French_minister_999.html

Green Incompetence Isn't Sustainable

Bo Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jan 23, 2015

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2015/01/23/green-incompetence-isnt-sustainable/>

Funding Issues

German Scientist Calls For Founding And Funding Of Independent [German-based] Climate Research Institute To Counter Alarmist Climate Claims

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 23, 2015

<http://notrickszone.com/2015/01/23/german-scientist-calls-for-founding-and-funding-of-independent-climate-research-institute-to-counter-alarmist-climate-claims/#sthash.iENN4UO1.dpbs>

The Political Games Continue

You Ought to Have a Look: Web Reactions to SOTU Climate Claims

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Jan 23, 2015

<http://www.cato.org/blog/you-ought-have-look-web-reactions-sotu-climate-claims>

Raw politics of climate change in the U.S.

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 21, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/21/raw-politics-of-climate-change-in-the-u-s/#more-17648>

Nonsensus about the Senate's non consensus on climate change

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 22, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/22/nonsensus-about-the-senates-non-consensus-on-climate-change/#more-17663>

Republicans outfox Democrats on climate votes

The GOP accepts the notion of climate change - but not the way Democrats wanted them to.

By Elana Schor, Politico, Jan 22, 2015

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/01/senate-climate-change-vote-114463.html>

GOP finds its secret weapon

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Jan 19, 2015

<http://thehill.com/regulation/legislation/229936-gop-finds-its-secret-weapon>

[SEPP Comment: No so much a secret, but the Congressional Review Act is seldom used to control excess regulations from government agencies.]

GOP targets Obama's climate change deals

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Jan 22, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/gop-targets-obamas-climate-change-deals/article/2559138>

GOP looks to take a position on climate change, but how?

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Jan 19, 2015 [H/t James Rust]

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/gop-looks-to-take-a-position-on-climate-change-but-how/article/2558737?utm_campaign=Prospect:%20Politics%20Today%20pmi&utm_source=Prospect:%20Politics%20Today%20pmi%20-%20001/19/15&utm_medium=email

Senate votes that climate change is real

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jan 21, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230316-senate-votes-98-1-that-climate-change-is-real>

Sen. Jim Inhofe Outfoxes Dems on Climate Change in Keystone Vote

By Melissa Clyne, Newsmax, Jan 22, 2015

http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Jim-Inhofe-Senate-climate-change-foax/2015/01/22/id/620031/?ns_mail_uid=33788306&ns_mail_job=1604760_01222015&s=al&dk_t_nbr=fj4mokl4

House votes to speed natural gas pipelines

By Cristina Marcos, The Hill, Jan 21, 2015

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/230303-house-passes-bill-to-speed-natural-gas-pipeline-approval>

Litigation Issues

Impact of Deadline Suits on EPA's Rulemaking Is Limited

By Staff Writers, GAO, Jan 14, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-34>

“The effect of settlements in deadline suits on EPA's rulemaking priorities is limited. According to EPA officials, settlements in deadline suits primarily affect a single office within EPA—the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)—because most deadline suits are based on provisions of the Clean Air Act for which that office is responsible.”

EPA and other Regulators on the March

The EPA's command-and-control climate science

Questioning global warming is no longer tolerated

By Anthony Sadar, Washington Times, Jan 20, 2015

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/20/anthony-sadar-epa-wont-tolerate-global-warming-que/>

EPA Putting Electricity Grid At Risk

By Mike Duncan, Daily Caller, Jan 22, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/01/22/epa-putting-electricity-grid-at-risk/>

Gina McCarthy in Colorado proves why she is clueless and thus dangerous

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Jan 23, 2015

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

Energy Issues – Non-US

What is Saudi Arabia's Game Plan for Oil?

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jan 20, 2015

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2015/01/20/what-is-saudi-arabias-game-plan-for-oil/>

How Opposition To Fossil Fuels Hurts The Poor Most Of All

By Alex Epstein, Forbes, Jan 14, 2015

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/alexepstein/2015/01/14/how-opposition-to-fossil-fuels-hurts-the-poor-most-of-all/>

[SEPP Comment: From the author of The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels.]

Lancashire's fracking nimbys will condemn Britain to blackouts

By Andrew Critchow, Telegraph, UK, Jan 21, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/lancashire-fracking-nimbys-condemn-britain-155428562.html>

Plans coming to fruition

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 21, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/1/21/plans-coming-to-fruition.html>

[SEPP Comment: Stopping drilling for natural gas because of noise pollution. The motorists on the major road nearby may object to the noise from the well site?]

Big Trouble for Britain's North Sea Oil

By Staff Writer, American Interest, Jan 18, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2015/01/18/britains-north-sea-oil-in-big-trouble/>

Cuadrilla fracking plans should be refused, officials say

Major blow to Government hopes of shale gas revolution as planning officer says Cuadrilla's plans to frack at two sites in Lancashire should be refused

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jan 21, 2015 [H/t GWPF]
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/fracking/11358573/Fracking-plans-should-be-refused-council-report-advises.html>

Japan Mulling \$800 Million Stimulus for Battery Storage and Efficiency

By Thomas Overton, Power, Jan 20, 2015
http://www.powermag.com/japan-mulling-800-million-stimulus-for-battery-storage-and-efficiency/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3015417&hq_l=13&hq_v=5e660500d0
[SEPP Comment: Such a “stimulus” on the deployment of such installations may do little more than “stimulus” spending on deployment of carbon dioxide storage.]

Energy Issues -- US

Carbon Morality

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jan 23, 2015
<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2015/01/23/carbon-morality/>

U.S. Electric Utility Toxic Releases Decrease 49% During the Past Decade

By Aaron Larswon, Power, Jan 16, 2015
http://www.powermag.com/u-s-electric-utility-toxic-releases-decrease-49-during-the-past-decade/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3015417&hq_l=18&hq_v=5e660500d0
Link to the report: 2013 Toxics Release Inventory National Analysis
By Staff Writers, EPA, No date
<http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/2013-toxics-release-inventory-national-analysis>

GOP chairman blasts Obama’s ‘war on fossil fuels’

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jan 20, 2015
<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230189-gop-chairman-blasts-obamas-war-on-fossil-fuels>

Highway Taxes vs. Road Expenditure (Diversion) by State

By Randy O’Toole, Master Resource, Jan 21, 2015
<https://www.masterresource.org/motor-fuel-taxes-2/highway-taxes-vs-diversion-state/>
[SEPP Comment: The diversion of funds for intended use is quite surprising.]

Washington’s Control of Energy

Reduce Consumer Costs by Repealing Energy Regulations

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Jan 22, 2015
http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=25283&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EnvPD

Keystone XL and Climate: 0.0001 C/yr (one ten thousandths of a degree Celsius)

By Chip Knappenberger, Master Resource, Jan 20, 2015
<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-sensitivity-climate-change/keystone-climate-0-0001/>

Obama issues order on Arctic climate change

By Justin Sink, The Hill, Jan 21, 2015
<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230308-obama-issues-order-on-arctic-climate-change>

President Obama on Wednesday signed an executive order establishing a new panel that will advise the federal government on preserving the Alaskan Arctic.

[SEPP Comment: Forget nature, bureaucrats can do it!]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

As oil and gas prices tumble, it's a good time to reflect on the marvels of the market and Julian Simon

By Mark Perry, AEIdeas, Jan15,2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.aei.org/publication/oil-gas-prices-fall-historically-low-levels-good-time-reflect-marvels-market-julian-simon/>

All Hail the Tumbling Price of Gas

By Jeffrey Tucker, Foundation for Economic Education, Jan 13, 2015 [H/t AEIdeas]

http://fee.org/freeman/detail/all-hail-the-tumbling-price-of-gas?utm_source=Foundation+for+Economic+Education+Current+Contacts&utm_campaign=d555e686d5-In+Brief+1+13+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_77ef1bd48e-d555e686d5-13802372

Back To Basics: Why Conventional Drilling Makes Sense in 2015

By James Stafford of Oilprice.com, Washington DC (SPX), Jan 22, 2015

<http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Back+To+Basics+Why+Conventional+Drilling+Makes+Sense+in+2015+999.html>

The Miracle Of \$2 A Gallon Gasoline

By John Merline, IBD, Jan 22, 2015

<http://news.investors.com/blogs-capital-hill/012215-735801-gasoline-is-cheaper-today-than-milk-or-bottled-water.htm>

New contaminants found in oil and gas wastewater

By Staff Writers, Durham NC (SPX) ,Jan 19, 2015

<http://www.terraily.com/reports/New+contaminants+found+in+oil+and+gas+wastewater+999.html>

New, long-term study by PA Environmental agency shows low risk of radiation from fracking

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jan 23, 2015

<http://acsh.org/2015/01/new-long-term-study-pa-environmental-agency-shows-low-risk-radiation-fracking/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Return of King Coal?

GOP to seek changes to EPA coal ash rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jan 22, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230410-gop-to-seek-changes-to-epa-coal-ash-rule>

[SEPP Comment: Fear of future classification as a hazardous waste. Coal ash can be a useful product.]

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

After geoscientists joust, judge rules BP Gulf spill totaled 3.19 million barrels of oil

By David Malakoff, Science Mag, Jan 15, 2015

<http://news.sciencemag.org/environment/2015/01/after-geoscientists-joust-judge-rules-bp-gulf-spill-totaled-3-19-million-barrels>

Cleanup Underway for Nearly 3M Gallon Saltwater Spill in North Dakota

By Regina Garcia Cano, AP, Jan 22, 2015

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_NORTH_DAKOTA_SALTWATER_SPILL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Montana oil spill contaminates water supply

By Daniel J. Graeber, Glendive, Mont. (UPI), Jan 21, 2015

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Montana_oil_spill_contaminates_water_supply_999.html

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Claim: Melting glaciers have big carbon impact

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 19, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/19/claim-melting-glaciers-have-big-carbon-impact/>

China to Start Building Five Nuclear Reactors in 2015

By Staff Writers, Moscow, Russia (Sputnik), Jan 20, 2015

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/China_to_Start_Building_Five_Nuclear_Reactors_in_2015_999.html

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Desert Sunlight PV Plant Comes Online

By Thomas Overton, Power, Jan 16, 2015

http://www.powermag.com/desert-sunlight-pv-plant-comes-online/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3015417&hq_l=20&hq_v=5e660500d0

Energy: The (Ugly) Truth About Little Wind Turbines

By Staff Writer, Professional Remodeler, Jan 22, 2015

<http://www.proremodeler.com/energy-ugly-truth-about-little-wind-turbines?eid=216507008&bid=998713>

[SEPP Comment: According to the article wind turbine producer Solacidy states: “Wind turbines need wind. Not just any wind, but the nicely flowing, smooth, laminar kind. That cannot be found at 30 feet height. It can usually not be found at 60 feet. Sometimes you find it at 80 feet. More often than not it takes 100 feet of tower to get there.”]

Proof that the wind industry cannot be relied upon for our electricity

Wind farms have been of very little use when we need vast amounts of electricity

By Allister Heath, Telegraph, UK, Jan 20, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/11358770/Proof-that-the-wind-industry-cannot-be-relied-upon-for-our-electricity.html>

Hawaii learns that going solar isn’t as easy as it sounds

By Jazz Shaw, Hot Air, Jan 20, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://hotair.com/archives/2015/01/20/hawaii-learns-that-going-solar-isnt-as-easy-as-it-sounds/>

[SEPP Comment: Lead-acid batteries are not durable or cheap.]

New small study: Wind farms show health effects – why wasn't this done before?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 21, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/01/new-small-study-wind-farms-show-health-effects-why-wasnt-this-done-before/#more-40547>

Carbon Schemes

Four European utilities drop EU CCS technology project

* Utilities say CCS technology too expensive

* Pull out of ZEP, which advises the European Commission on CCS

By Alister Doyle, Reuters, Jan 19, 2015

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL6N0UV3H320150119?sp=true>

[SEPP Comment: But the EPA and the US Department of Energy insist that it is commercially available!]

Health, Energy, and Climate

Yak dung burning pollutes indoor air of Tibetan households

By Staff Writers, Atlanta GA (SPX) Jan 20, 2015

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Yak_dung_burning_pollutes_indoor_air_of_Tibetan_households_999.html

[SEPP Comment: It has long been known that this form of renewable energy is not healthy. Indoor burning of dung is a major cause of human diseases.]

Disneyland's measles outbreak continues to spread, is "100 percent connected" to the anti-vaccine movement

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jan 22, 2015

<http://acsh.org/2015/01/disneylands-measles-outbreak-continues-spread-100-percent-connected-anti-vaccine-movement/>

[SEPP Comment; Better than the NASA-GISS 38%?]

"The Science of the 'Endocrine Disrupter' Debate" explains the absence of science

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jan 21, 2015

<http://acsh.org/2015/01/science-endocrine-disrupter-debate-explains-absence-science/>

Link to study: Endocrine disruption: Fact or urban legend?

By Nohynek, et al, Toxicology Letters, Dec 16, 2013

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378427413013659>

Environmental Industry

To BPA or Not to BPA, That Is the Question

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Jan 21, 2015

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2015/01/to-bpa-or-not-to-bpa-that-is-the-question.php>

Other Scientific News

Is Science Biased Toward Natural?

By Robert Lackey, Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife, OR St. Univ. at the 35th Annual North

American Meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Nov 11-14, 2014

<http://fw.oregonstate.edu/system/files/u2937/2014x-Is-Science-Biased-SETAC-Keynote-Lackey-Nov-12-2014.pdf>

The "Impact" Illusion in Science

By Henry Miller, Project Syndicate, Jan 21, 2015

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/scientific-research-investment-applications-by-henry-i--miller-2015-01>

Bigger problems than global warming – NASA discovers 8 new dangerous near Earth asteroids

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Jan 19, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/19/bigger-problems-than-global-warming-nasa-discovers-8-new-dangerous-near-earth-asteroids/>

Polar Weather Satellites

NOAA Needs To Prepare for Near-term Data Gaps [Reissued on January 16, 2015]

By Staff Writers, GAO, Jan 15, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-47>

What is really killing bees? You may be surprised.

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jan 21, 2015

<http://acsh.org/2015/01/really-killing-bees-may-surprised/>

Ocean floor dust gives new insight into supernovae

By Staff Writers, Canberra, Australia (SPX), Jan 21, 2015

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Ocean_floor_dust_gives_new_insight_into_supernovae_999.html

UNL drillers help make new Antarctic discoveries

By Staff Writers, Lincoln NE (SPX), Jan 23, 2015

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/UNL_drillers_help_make_new_Antarctic_discoveries_999.html

Preliminary findings offer interesting clues about how climate change might affect Antarctic ice, according to a recent report on the expedition published by Scientific American. Ross Powell, a glaciologist from Northern Illinois University and WISSARD chief scientist, pointed to a layer of pebbles strewn on the bottom of the seawater cavity. They appear to have dropped from the ice as it melted and indicate a fairly recent change in the environment.

They might help measure how fast the ice is melting and the stability of the ice shelf. A weakening or collapse of the Ross Ice Shelf would allow glaciers to flow more rapidly into the ocean, raising global sea level.

[SEPP Comment: Pure speculation!]

For sea turtles, there's no place like magnetic home

By Staff Writers, Chapel Hill NC (SPX), Jan 20, 2015

http://www.terraily.com/reports/For_sea_turtles_theres_no_place_like_magnetic_home_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Fascinating Climate Policy PhD of a Member [first alternate] of the European Parliament

By Roger Pielke Jr, The Climate Fix, Jan 22, 2015 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<https://theclimatefix.wordpress.com/2015/01/22/fascinating-climate-policy-phd-of-a-member-of-the-european-parliament/>

Pythagoras theorem shows when a patient has turned a corner

By Staff Writers, Coventry UK (SPX), Jan 20, 2015

http://www.interndaily.com/reports/2500_year_old_Pythagoras_theorem_helps_to_show_when_a_patient_has_turned_a_corner_999.html

The Fall of the House of Samuelson

By Robert Sidelsky, Project Syndicate, Jan 22, 2015

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/paul-samuelson-economic-crisis-by-robert-skidelsky-2015-01>

[SEPP Comment: *Limitations on the ability of governments to promote prosperity?*]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

4 bears die of chocolate overdoses; expert proposes ban

By Staff Writer, AP, Jan 22, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/4-bears-die-chocolate-overdoses-expert-proposes-ban-160159265.html>

Atomic Scientists: We're getting even closer to doomsday

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Jan 22, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/atomic-scientists-were-getting-even-closer-doomsday-163831874.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Is the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists taking lessons from Secretary of State Kerry on weapons of mass destruction?*]

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ARTICLES:

3. Climate Reporting's Hot Mess

AP takes the cake in the relentless campaign by global-warming journalists to discredit their own profession.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Jan 20, 2015

http://www.wsj.com/articles/holman-jenkins-climate-reportings-hot-mess-1421802468?mod=hp_opinion

[SUMMARY: Based on the Factiva database, Jenkins identifies that the *Daily Mail* was the only publication covering the temperature alarm by NOAA and NASA to make any meaningful sense of the claim, by using the phrase “statistically significant” to evaluate the press release. He also notes the caution exhibited by Berkeley Earth. The AP stated that the odds of 9 of the 10 hottest years occurring since 2000 are calculated to be about 1 in 650 million. Subsequently, the statistician calculating the odds backed-down, claiming he was requested to calculate these odds based on random events. Jenkins states: “This is akin to assuming that, because you weighed 195 pounds at some point in your life, there should be an equal chance of you weighing 195 pounds at any point in your life, even when you were a baby.”

“When climate reporters robotically insist, as they did again this week, that the 2000s represent the hottest period in the rather skimpy, 134-year historical record, they are merely reiterating that the pre-1998 warming happened. No clear trend up or down has been apparent since then.

The bigger problem, of course, is that evidence of warming is not evidence of what causes warming. One would be astonished if mankind, with its prodigious release of greenhouse gases and other activities, were not having an impact on climate. But how and how much are the crucial questions.”

“Even if humanity could assert bureaucratic control over climate, the cost-benefit case would remain problematic—the costs being huge and the benefits necessarily being as uncertain as man’s role in causing climate change.”]

5. Letters, Richmond Times-Dispatch

By Charles Battig, Jan 19, 2015

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article_90caa172-55de-5a3a-836e-a9ed404a5d7c.html

In his Commentary column, “China, America and climate change,” Hullahen W. Moore seems aghast over increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and human contributions to that total. He simply lists carbon dioxide sources from various countries, and then asserts “the math requires China, India and the U.S. control their emissions” and “America must stop whining.” Unaddressed is the basic question: Why? Is it axiomatic that man-made carbon dioxide alone controls global climate in a predictable and wished-for manner? The scientific record indicates not.

Is Moore unaware that water vapor (clouds) account for about 95 percent of the greenhouse gas effect (GHGE); that all atmospheric carbon dioxide contributes about 3.5 percent of the GHGE, and that all human activities contribute only about 3 percent to the total atmospheric carbon dioxide? Encyclopaedia Britannica 2014: “Anthropogenic emissions currently account for the annual release of about 7 gigatons (7 billion tons) of carbon into the atmosphere ... equal to approximately 3 percent of the total emissions of carbon dioxide by natural sources (i.e. 230 billion tons).” Thus all human-produced carbon dioxide is responsible for a mere 0.12 percent of the GHGE. Human life evolved with carbon dioxide levels 10 times or more the present 400ppm.

Nature has provided Moore and the U.N. with a quandary. Satellite records for the past 18 years have documented no rise in atmospheric temperature in spite of a 10 percent rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide. The claimed cause-and-effect correlation is broken. False or non-validated assumptions are neither the basis for valid public policy, nor for whining scare stories.

As for the poor nations, the record is clear that as they achieve economic success, they concurrently achieve the ability to reduce real pollution. Meanwhile, higher carbon dioxide levels produce greater crop yields for many countries. That’s the better picture.

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