

**The Week That Was: 2018-12-15 (December 15, 2018)**  
**Brought to You by SEPP ([www.SEPP.org](http://www.SEPP.org))**  
**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

**Quote of the Week:** *“Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.”* – Carl Sagan

**Number of the Week:** 0% since 2005

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**Dear Reader of The Week That Was,**

**The Science & Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)** is a 501-c-3 organization, incorporated in Virginia. Its Federal I.D. Number is 54-1645372 and donations are US tax deductible. Established in 1990 by S. Fred Singer to challenge government environmental policies based on poor science, SEPP stands for objective science, based on hard evidence.

No matter how elaborate, results from numerical models that are not thoroughly and repeatedly tested against hard evidence are speculation and cannot be relied upon. Testing the results from using parts of a model against the results from the entire model is a ruse used by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It is like declaring that a simple linear equation with two unknowns has a unique solution. Major government policies based on speculation are a waste of resources.

Our founder, Dr. Singer, is Chairman emeritus. Physicist Dr. Thomas Sheahen is Chairman. Other distinguished scientists serve on the board of directors. Ken Haapala continues as president and oversees general operations. We continue to be very productive.

Two prevalent myths are damaging our economy and hurting the less fortunate: 1) greenhouse gases, chiefly carbon dioxide, are causing dangerous global warming; and 2) wind and solar can easily replace fossil fuels, nuclear, and hydro in electricity generation. Both are false, yet widely accepted. We continue to contest these myths, and others, with hard evidence.

In collaboration with like-minded groups, we produce hard-hitting comments for the public record and provide scientific testimony on Federal government climate and energy policy. We are actively attempting to eliminate or change the EPA's endangerment finding that carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, poses a danger to public health, a finding that lacks hard evidence.

In 2007, SEPP established NIPCC (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change) to respond to the false claims of the UN-IPCC, and its followers, who claim, without hard evidence, that the use of fossil fuels, and CO2 emissions, will lead to climate disasters. The Heartland Institute continues the NIPCC efforts with well-attended sessions of the International Conference on Climate Change and the NIPCC reports at [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org).

Contrary to frequent attacks, SEPP has never solicited and does not receive support from oil, tobacco, or chemical companies – or government organizations. In fact, SEPP does not solicit donations from any source. However, SEPP accepts donations from private individuals and small contributions from foundations. The appropriate IRS tax filings are made by an independent CPA and are “Open to Public Inspection.”

SEPP is frugal: no fancy offices, no employees, no salaries, etc. The total operating budget is about \$100,000.00. We are not beholden to anyone and our writings are clear from any outside influence. SEPP’s goal remains the same today as it was at the time of its founding – put real science, based on objective measures, ahead of all other considerations and biases.

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### **THIS WEEK:**

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

**With a Whimper?** The 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice Poland (COP24), has apparently ended. Given the lack of anxious articles in main stream media, it ended “Not with a bang, but a whimper.” (T.S. Eliot, The Hollow Men). If one believes press releases, then according to UN Climate Change News, Katowice, 15 December:

*“Governments have adopted a robust set of guidelines for implementing the landmark 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement.*

*“The implementation of the agreement will benefit people from all walks of life, especially the most vulnerable.*

*“The agreed ‘Katowice Climate Package’ is designed to operationalize the climate change regime contained in the Paris Agreement. Under the auspices of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, it will promote international cooperation and encourage greater ambition.*

*“The guidelines will promote trust among nations that all countries are playing their part in addressing the challenge of climate change.*

*“The President of COP24, Mr. Michal Kurtyka of Poland, said: “All nations have worked tirelessly. All nations showed their commitment. All nations can leave Katowice with a sense of pride, knowing that their efforts have paid off. The guidelines contained in the Katowice Climate Package provide the basis for implementing the agreement as of 2020”.*

*“The Katowice package includes guidelines that will operationalize the transparency framework.*

*“It sets out how countries will provide information about their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that describe their domestic climate actions. This information includes mitigation and adaptation measures as well as details of financial support for climate action in developing countries.*

*“The package also includes guidelines that relate to:*

- *The process for establishing new targets on finance from 2025 onwards to follow-on from the current target of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year from 2020 to support developing countries*
- *How to conduct the Global Stocktake of the effectiveness of climate action in 2023*
- *How to assess progress on the development and transfer of technology*

The report included many bureaucratic niceties, then concluded with:

*“Many made key announcements, that were critical to build momentum. These include:*

- *The World Bank’s pledge of \$200 billion in climate action funding for the period 2021-2025;*
- *The MDBs announcement to align their activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement;*
- *The commitment by fifteen international organizations to make their operations climate neutral;*
- *The announcement by the C40 Cities coalition, which includes cities across the globe, to work with the IPCC to identify how the Global Warming of 1.5C report can apply to cities’ climate actions.*

*Many more announcements were made, and inspiring examples of climate action showcased at the Global Climate Action High-level events (For more information, see here [see original]).*

*The next United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in Chile and consultations will provide clarity on the city and exact date of the conference in due course.*

Those who believe the five assessment reports (AR’s) of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicating that a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide may cause dire global warming, with a warming in the range of 3°C plus or minus 1.5°C, may be disappointed with the bureaucratic niceties and lack of “concrete” accomplishments.

Those who accept the claims of future warming of 5°C, or more, no doubt are greatly disappointed, and will continue to insist that humanity is destroying the planet.

Others are skeptics, often called climate change deniers, or worse. Many in this group recognize that despite spending tens of billions on climate science, with the US spending over \$40 billion, the range of plus or minus 50% has not been substantially changed since the first IPCC AR in 1990. Further, this estimate dates to estimates by modelers in the 1979 Charney Report. In effect the science has stagnated for almost 40 years, despite a wealth of information in the form of accurate measurement of global temperature trends in the bulk atmosphere, where the greenhouse effect occurs.

TWTW does not speak for others, but it appears that a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> will not cause a warming greater than 1°C and likely will be less. The 1°C can be calculated from experiments on the “optical depth” of atmospheric gases conducted by numerous experiments in laboratories around the world starting in the 1920s. The warming starting about 1850 is largely from natural variation, which the IPCC ignores, much to its shame. Further, the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) also ignores natural variation, contrary to its mandate, and much to its discredit.

Why the IPCC and the USGCRP ignore comprehensive atmospheric temperature trends, which became available in 1990, is known only to them. Greenhouse gas warming occurs in the bulk atmosphere, not on the surface or in the oceans. The failure to address these important data is just another indication on how bureaucratic climate science has stagnated.

It is becoming increasingly clear, based on hard evidence of actual data, not models, that any warming from human greenhouse gas emissions is insufficient to stop an ice age, which is likely to occur in the future. The entire UNFCCC exercise should stop, which is unlikely. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy.

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**Finger-Pointing:** The finger-pointing, blame, of what went wrong at COP24 began even before the conference. The developed countries have not put up the \$100 billion per year promised to the developing countries; China, India, etc. are not doing their share to control emissions; the protest in France upset the procedures; former President Obama misled the world in Paris in 2015; the refusal by key countries “to accept” the latest IPCC report; etc. Below are some of the articles illustrating the finger pointing and the delusion of the activists.

The proposed solution to the claimed problem of human-caused climate change is wind and solar, along with some unspecified “other.” However, by their very capricious nature, they are physically incapable of delivering the reliable electric power that modern civilization needs. Pretending that they do is little more than illusions, “smoke and mirrors [no comma]” from the promoters, and political favors to interest groups. Many countries, such as China and India, see through this. Government officials in western countries must finally come to recognize that “smoke and mirrors” no longer work. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, After Paris! and After Paris! – COP-24.

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**Problems with Surface Temperature Data:** The great fluid on the surface of the earth, the oceans, are in chaotic motion. It may take a thousand years for oceans to reveal past global warming and cooling. Thermometer readings from the oceans are extremely sparse. The same can be said for much of the land area especially for the Tropics and the Southern Hemisphere, particularly so before 1950. For these and other reasons, TWTW does not focus on research using surface temperatures. We place much more stock in readings taken by satellites, which cover the earth uniformly.

However, Nic Lewis, a dedicated researcher, has another post on Judith Curry's Climate Etc. exploring the global climate sensitivity to carbon dioxide emission using surface measurements. He brings up the concept of transient response to carbon emissions (TCRE), which "measures the change in global mean surface temperature (GMST) at the end of a period, typically of the order of a century long, during which CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted smoothly." Another concept is the "(ERCE). This measures the equilibrium change in GMST (Global Mean Surface Temperature) per 1000 GtC of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions."

The concepts are from global climate modelers and are excessively complex. Given the chaotic motion of the oceans, when equilibrium is reached is anyone's guess. The work of Lewis is difficult and dedicated. However, TWTW focuses on the atmosphere and atmospheric temperature trends, where the greenhouse effect occurs. Thus, excessively complex concepts such as transient response to carbon emissions and equilibrium response to carbon emissions are not needed. Of course, some precision may be lost, but what precision is there in understanding the chaotic motion of the oceans? See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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**Scientific Method:** Many students learned about the scientific method in secondary school, which could be summarized as induction, deduction, and verification. One could think of explaining a cause for a certain event as induction, a guess. Then, logically deduce some way of testing whether the guessed at cause was true. Finally, execute the test to see if the expected result occurs. Many problems may occur, but the method is a way of trying to understand the natural world and, possibly, human behavior.

Last week in American Thinker, Jay Lehr, science director of The Heartland Institute, wrote:

*"All problems can be viewed as having three stages, observation, modeling, and prediction. Perhaps the most active area for mathematical modeling is the economy and the stock market. No one has ever succeeded in getting it right and there are far fewer variables than occur in determining the climate of our planet."*

In correspondence, Apollo team meteorologist Tom Wismuller added two additional steps: verification and validation. The resulting five steps are: 1) observation; 2) modeling, 3) prediction 4) verification, and 5) validation. Wismuller stated:

*"'Verification' involves seeing if predictions actually happen, and 'validation' checks to see if the prediction is something other than random correlation. Recent CO<sub>2</sub> rise correlating with industrial age warming is an example on point that came to mind."*

These are good operational definitions for the complex problems of verification and validation. Reproducibility of experiments or statistical tests is critical. "Cold fusion" is another example of reported events that could not be verified and validated by replication. The global climate models relied upon by the IPCC and the USGCRP have not been verified and validated. John Christy has tested the models against bulk atmospheric warming and found, as a group, they greatly overestimate atmospheric warming. Thus, they should be discarded for any policy considerations. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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**Censorship Continues:** Judith Curry has a post on the efforts by the University of Washington to silence Cliff Mass. Mass has been a member of the faculty of the Atmospheric Sciences

Department since 1982. Weekly, TWTW visits Mass's web site. He gives no nonsense explanations of weather events along the West Coast. Apparently, Mass is not sufficiently strident in blaming carbon dioxide (CO2) for all the bad weather events such as California fires, lack of snow in the winter, etc. A student publicly complained about Mass and his failure to embrace the Washington State carbon dioxide tax. Mass thought the tax was "hard wired" to benefit special interests.

Students complained to the Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion who responded with a mass email to the department without bothering to check the validity of accusations. In true Orwellian fashion, apparently, this Assistant Dean believes Diversity requires uniformity to the Assistant Dean's beliefs.

Curry notes, a Ph.D. candidate, Alex Lenferna, "...wrote a blog post that is basically a 'hit-job' on Cliff Mass, owing to his failure to support I-1631, [the Washington State carbon dioxide tax law] including playing the 'racism' card. The blog post includes an image: Cliff Mass 'hearts' oil."

The "Atmospheric Sciences Department Chair (Dale Durran) sent a mass email to the Department faculty including the link to Lenferna's post, and voicing concern about Mass's behavior and 'racism' and including the image Mass 'hearts' oil."

Grace and toleration in higher education long disappeared from those involved in climate change. Curry experienced similar grace and toleration at Georgia Tech. Her comments are appropriate.

Although they disagree with his views on global warming / climate change, Anthony Watts and Charles Rotter of WUWT have proposed that readers write to the University in support of Cliff Mass. Outgoing California Governor Jerry Brown has publicly questioned whether the green movement has gone too far. Perhaps we may be seeing illustrations of his heart of oil. See links under Censorship and California Dreaming.

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**Corn and Soybeans:** Several readers expressed surprise that central Brazil, in the tropics at about 16° South latitude, is a major competitor in soybean and corn (maize) exports with the Midwest, about 41° North latitude (the tall grass prairie).

According to 2017 statistics, the major **producers** of soybeans are 1) USA, (108.0 million metric tons); 2) Brazil (86.8 million metric tons); and 3) Argentina (53.4 million metric tons); 4) China (12.2 million metric tons); and 5) India (10.5 million metric tons). The major **exporters** of corn are 1) United States: US\$9.6 billion (32.3% of total corn exports); 2) Brazil: \$4.6 billion (15.6%); 3) Argentina: \$3.9 billion (13.1%). According to the USDA, in 2017 the highest value US agriculture exports were: 1) Soybeans: \$21.6 Billion; 2) Corn: \$9.1 Billion; 3) Tree Nuts: \$8.5 Billion.

That the Fourth Assessment Report of the USGCRP claimed global warming will adversely affect agriculture production in the Midwest is probably the most glaring of its many deficiencies. See links under Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine.

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**Number of the Week: 0% since 2005.** According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), in 2005 US Electricity Net Generation totaled 4,055,423 Million kWh for all sectors, including renewables. In 2017, US Electricity Net Generation it totaled 4,034,288 Million kWh. This is a negative growth of 0.5%.

Using numbers from Statista, energy expert Donn Dears has a post showing a 1% growth since 1975. TWTW prefers using EIA numbers, but agrees with the assertions by Dears.

In a small part, the increases in electricity costs are from population shifts, as people move to the warmer climates. The regional demands and distribution costs change. And to some degree, increases in electricity costs are due to increasing costs of fuels.

However, the 1978 Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act restricted the use of oil and natural gas for new power plants. Fortunately, it was repealed in 1987, permitting the use of modern gas turbine. and especially efficient combined-cycle gas-powered plants. Oil never returned as a primary source of generating electricity. Using modern high efficiency coal-fired power plants was prohibited by regulations under the Obama administration. Blaming increasing electricity prices on fossil fuels is not valid.

Politicians foolishly believe that wind and solar are viable alternatives to fossil fuels, and have written laws that keep pricing mechanisms from responding to grid reliability considerations. See links under Energy Issues – US and [https://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/pdf/sec7\\_5.pdf](https://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/pdf/sec7_5.pdf)

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#### **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

##### ***Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?***

##### **Solar Cycle 25 Will Not Lead to Cooling of the Global Temps, Study Predicts**

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Dec 8, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/no-global-cooling-miracle-solar-activity-will-speed-up-soon-researchers-predict/>

Link to paper: “Prediction of the strength and timing of sunspot cycle 25 reveal decadal-scale space environmental conditions”

By Bhowmik, P., and Nandy, D. 2018, Nature Communications

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-07690-0.epdf>

##### ***Climategate Continued***

##### **A Fabricated ‘Uptick’? Marcott’s 2013 Hockey Stick Graph Debunked By Marcott’s Own 2011 Ph.D Thesis**

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Dec 13, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/12/13/a-fabricated-uptick-marcotts-2013-hockey-stick-graph-debunked-by-marcotts-own-2011-ph-d-thesis/>

##### ***Censorship***

##### **Cliff Mass: victim of academic political bullying**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Dec 12, 2018

<https://judithcurry.com/2018/12/12/cliff-mass-victim-of-academic-political-bullying/#more-24557>

##### **Let’s help Cliff Mass**

Opinion by Anthony Watts and Charles Rotter, WUWT, Dec 14, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/14/lets-help-cliff-mass/>

##### ***Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC***

##### **Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science**

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2013

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

Summary: <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2a/pdf/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

### **Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts**

Idso, Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2014

<http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2b/pdf/Full-Report.pdf>

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

### **Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming**

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

By Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, NIPCC, Nov 23, 2015

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>

Download with no charge

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

### **Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate**

S. Fred Singer, Editor, NIPCC, 2008

[http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc\\_final.pdf](http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc_final.pdf)

### **Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels**

By Multiple Authors, Bezdek, Idso, Legates, and Singer eds., Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, Draft Summary for Policymakers, NIPCC, Oct 3, 2018

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/10-05-18-DRAFT-CCRII-Fossil-Fuels-Summary-for-Policy-Makers.pdf>

### ***Challenging the Orthodoxy***

#### **Climate-Modeling Illusions Not Based on Reality**

By Jay Lehr, American Thinker, Dec 7, 2018

[https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2018/12/climate\\_modeling\\_illusions\\_not\\_based\\_in\\_reality.html](https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2018/12/climate_modeling_illusions_not_based_in_reality.html)

#### **Renewables and Climate Policy Are on a Collision Course**

By John Constable, GWPF, Dec 9, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/renewables-and-climate-policy-are-on-a-collision-course/>

“This is what policy failure looks like. At what point do those sincerely concerned to see prompt and sustainable emissions reductions begin to wonder whether the renewables industry is a liability and an obstacle to the aim of climate change mitigation?”

#### **There’s Less Than Meets The Eye**

By William O’Keefe, Reality Based Policy, Dec 10, 2018

<http://realitybasedpolicy.com/theres-less-than-meets-the-eye/>

Link to paper: Some thoughts on the public discourse over climate change.

By Richard Lindzen, CO2 Coalition, April 2017

<http://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/For-over-30-years.pdf>

### **Breaking The Rules Of Science: Potsdam Researchers Concoct, Blame Extreme Cold On Global Warming!**

The non-falsifiable climate catastrophe: No matter if it's hot or cold – it always has got to be global warming

By Die kalte Sonne, (Text translated by P Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, Dec 14, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/12/14/breaking-the-rules-of-science-potsdam-researchers-concoct-blame-extreme-cold-on-global-warming/>

Link to paper: The different stratospheric influence on cold-extremes in Eurasia and North America

By Marlene Kretschmer, et al., Nature, Nov 22, 2018

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41612-018-0054-4>

### **Climate sensitivity to cumulative carbon emissions**

By Nic Lewis, Climate Etc. Dec 11, 2018

<https://judithcurry.com/2018/12/11/climate-sensitivity-to-cumulative-carbon-emissions/>

### ***Defending the Orthodoxy***

#### **New Era of Global Climate Action To Begin Under Paris Climate Change Agreement**

Contact: Alexander Saier, Communications and Outreach, UN Climate Change (UNFCCC), Dec 15, 2018

<https://unfccc.int/news/new-era-of-global-climate-action-to-begin-under-paris-climate-change-agreement-0>

#### **Right to end life on Earth: Can corporations that spread climate change denialism be held liable?**

If a corporation's propaganda destroys the world, doesn't that conflict with our right to live?

By Matthew Roza, Salon, Dec 10, 2018 [H/t Dennis Ambler]

<https://www.salon.com/2018/12/09/right-to-end-life-on-earth-can-corporations-that-spread-climate-change-denialism-be-held-liable/>

*[SEPP Comment: What about "experts" who exaggerate risk, such as the Himalayas will be ice free by the 2040s?]*

#### **The Planet Has Seen Sudden Warming Before. It Wiped Out Almost Everything.**

In some ways, the planet's worst mass extinction — 250 million years ago, at the end of the Permian Period — may parallel climate change today.

By Carl Zimmer, NYT, Dec 7, 2018

[https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/07/science/climate-change-mass-extinction.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_181211&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=598318591211](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/07/science/climate-change-mass-extinction.html?emc=edit_th_181211&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=598318591211)

As the Siberian volcanoes flooded the virtual atmosphere with carbon dioxide, the atmosphere warmed. The ocean warmed, too — and according to the model, it began losing oxygen.

*[SEPP Comment: Apparently the author is unaware that drastic warming occurred at the beginning of the Holocene, the current warm period, about 11,700 year ago. The Siberian volcanoes probably flooded the atmosphere with something other than CO2 – sulfuric acid.]*

### ***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

#### **The List Grows – Now 85 Scientific Papers Assert CO2 Has A Minuscule Effect On The Climate**

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Dec 10, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/12/10/the-list-grows-now-85-scientific-papers-assert-co2-has-a-minuscule-effect-on-the-climate/>

### **Lessons from the failure of the climate change crusade**

By Larry Kummer. From the Fabius Maximus website., WUWT, Dec 14, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/14/lessons-from-the-failure-of-the-climate-change-crusade/>  
*[SEPP Comment: Kummer does not address the major problem: the influence of CO2 on temperatures is logarithmic, increasing at an ever-decreasing rate. Yet the warming advocates produce graphs that the relationship is exponential, the converse, increasing at an ever-increasing rate. With the CO2 level today, the rate of increase is extremely important.]*

### **Fossil Fuels: Villain or Hero?**

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Dec 11, 2018

<http://ddears.com/2018/12/11/fossil-fuels-villain-or-hero/>

### **When Will It Be OK To Laugh At The Climate Campaigners?**

By Francis Menton, Manhattan Contrarian, Dec 12, 2018

<https://www.manhattancontrarian.com/blog/2018-12-12-when-will-it-be-ok-to-laugh-at-the-climate-campaigners>

### **U.N. conference climate alarmists out of touch with energy reality as world's nations embrace increased use of fossil fuels**

Guest essay by Larry Hamlin, WUWT, Dec 15, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/15/u-n-conference-climate-alarmists-out-of-touch-with-energy-reality-as-worlds-nations-embrace-increased-use-of-fossil-fuels/>

### ***After Paris!***

#### **About Those French Protests: 5 Insights**

Ordinary people loathe carbon taxes – and might bring down your government.

By Donna Laframboise, Big Picture News, Dec 10, 2018

<https://nofrackingconsensus.com/2018/12/10/about-those-french-protests-5-insights/>

### **India, BASIC Block Oppose Developed Nations' Attempt to Backslide on Paris Agreement**

By Vishwa Mohan, Times of India, Via TWC, Dec 12, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://weather.com/en-IN/india/news/news/2018-12-13-india-basic-nations-paris-agreement>

### **How John Prescott Defended China–Copenhagen 2009 Flashback**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 14, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/12/14/how-john-prescott-defended-china-copenhagen-2009-flashback/#more-36799>

“John Prescott has defended China’s role in the climate change summit, saying the blame for its flawed outcome must lie with the United States and Barack Obama.

“The former deputy prime minister helped negotiate the Kyoto protocol in 1997, and was in Copenhagen acting as an informal bridge between the Chinese delegation and others.”

### **Paris riots over fuel taxes dim hopes for climate fight**

By Seth Borenstein and Angela Charlton, AP, Dec 6, 2018

<https://www.njherald.com/article/20181206/AP/312069927#>

### ***After Paris! – COP-24***

#### **Attenborough and the deluded elites of Katowice**

By Euan Mearns, Energy Matters, Dec 10, 2018

<http://euanmearns.com/attenborough-and-the-deluded-elites-of-katowice/#more-22834>

“If we don’t take action the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon.”

### **Winning: Huge UN Climate junket only attracts four leaders**

By Jo Nova Her Blog, Dec 13, 2018

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/12/winning-huge-un-climate-junket-only-attracts-four-leaders/>

### **Climate hysteria not welcome: USA, KSA, RF, Kuwait**

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Dec 10, 2018

<https://motls.blogspot.com/2018/12/climate-hysteria-not-welcome-usa-ksa-rf.html>

### **Climate change: COP24 fails to adopt key scientific report**

By Matt McGrath, BBC, Dec 8, 2018

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46496967>

"We hope that the rest of the world will rally and we get a decisive response to the report," said Yamide Dagnet.

"I sincerely hope that all countries will fight that we don't leave COP24 having missed a moment of history."

### **Document this: Climate change talks in Katowice split over question**

The answer could decide if the Paris Agreement can be selectively rewritten in future yet again.

By Nitin Sethi, Business Standard, India, Dec 8, 2018

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/document-this-climate-change-talks-in-katowice-split-over-question-118120701173\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/document-this-climate-change-talks-in-katowice-split-over-question-118120701173_1.html)

“Should the Paris Agreement rulebook be one omnibus document or should it be accepted by the countries gathered at Katowice as dozens of different documents, each reflecting one element of the rulebook?

“The question may sound ordinary, but the answer will decide if developed countries are able to further dilute their obligations under the Paris Agreement.”

### **China’s Great Leap Backward on climate change**

By Gary Mason, The Globe and Mail, Canada, Dec 13, 2018 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-chinas-great-leap-backward-on-climate-change/>

### **China Was the Climate Champion of Paris. Now It’s Doing a Complete U-Turn**

By Patricia Adams, Financial Post, Dec 12, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/china-was-the-climate-champion-of-paris-now-its-doing-a-complete-u-turn/>

### **China Demands USA Give Money to China Because Climate Change**

Guest essay by Eric Worrall, WUWT, Dec 14, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/14/china-demands-usa-give-money-to-china-because-climate-change/>

### **Europe stuck on climate ambition at COP24**

By Claire Stam, EurActiv, Dec 11, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/climate-environment/news/europe-stuck-on-climate-ambition-at-cop24/>

## **Bush 41 and Climate Policy: Launching a Mistake (1992 Rio Summit haunts us today)**

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, Dec 10, 2018

<https://www.masterresource.org/bush-george-h-w/bush-41-climate-policy/>

## **COP24 Summit: First day of ministerial meetings fails to resolve deadlock**

The issues under discussion here are mainly procedural in nature and deal with the details of the processes and mechanisms through which the provisions of the Paris Agreement will be implemented.

By Amitabh Sinha, The India Express, Dec 11, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/first-day-of-ministerial-meetings-fails-to-resolve-deadlock-paris-agreement-5487446/>

## **COP24 In Large Part An Expensive Taxpayer Funded Junket For Third World Delegates**

406 Guinea Delegates Make Junket To Katowice Climate Conference

By Die kalte Sonne, (German text translated/edited by P. Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, Dec 11, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/12/11/cop24-in-large-part-an-expensive-taxpayer-funded-junket-for-third-world-delegates/>

## ***Change in US Administrations***

### **Germany's environmental minister takes on Trump over cost of pulling out of Paris deal**

By Aris Folley, The Hill, Dec 14, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/421370-germany-blasts-trump-for-bragging-about-saving-money-by-pulling-out>

[SEPP Comment: The minister does not mention the \$100 Billion per year in revenue distribution.]

## ***Problems in the Orthodoxy***

### **Global warming should be called global heating, says key scientist**

UK Met Office professor tells UN summit Earth's 'energy balance' is changing

By Jonathan Watts, Guardian, UK, Dec 13, 2018 [H/t Dennis Ambler]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/13/global-heating-more-accurate-to-describe-risks-to-planet-says-key-scientist>

[SEPP Comment: To be more accurate: Is global cooling slowing?]

## **EU talks to set CO2 emission limits for cars founder**

By Staff Writers, The Straits Times, Dec 11, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/eu-talks-to-set-co2-emission-limits-for-cars-founder>

## **Climate Leader China Plans 200 more Airports**

By Paul Mathews, Climate Scepticism, Dec 12, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://cliscep.com/2018/12/12/climate-leader-china-plans-200-more-airports/>

## ***Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science***

### **A Coccolithophore's Response to Ocean Acidification**

Liu, Y.-W., Eagle, R.A., Aciego, S.M., Gilmore, R.E. and Ries, J.B. 2018. A coastal coccolithophore maintains pH homeostasis and switches carbon sources in response to ocean acidification. *Nature Communications* 9: 2857, DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-04463-7. Dec 14, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/dec/a7.php>

“The positive results of this study add to the many encouraging findings published by multiple other researchers on this topic (see the multiple reviews we have posted in our Subject Index under the topic of Ocean Acidification). And given these many *positive* and *encouraging* findings, it appears that the widespread negative projections of an ocean acidification-induced disaster are themselves dissolving away.”

### **A Bright Future for U.S. Loblolly Pine Forests**

Burkhart, H.E., Brooks, E.B., Dinon-Aldridge, H. Sabatia, C.O., Gyawali, N., Wynne, R.H. and Thomas, V.A. 2018. Regional simulations of loblolly pine productivity with CO2 enrichment and changing climate scenarios. *Forest Science* 64: 349-357. Dec 13, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/dec/a6.php>

### **The Impact of the Urban Heat Island on Temperature in Manchester, UK**

Levermore, G., Parkinson, J., Lee, K., Laycock, P. and Lindley, S. 2018. The increasing trend of the urban heat island intensity. *Urban Climate* 24: 360-368. Dec 12, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/dec/a5.php>

“Think about the above results. A 1.5 to 11% reduction in green space over a ten-year period was significant enough to raise temperatures in the Manchester record by an average of 0.42°C. That spurious warming is about half the magnitude of warming that the world has seen globally since the end of the Little Ice Age over a century ago. Clearly, correcting for urbanization effects is a knotty issue of climate science and, if not done correctly, will add spurious warming unrelated to natural or anthropogenic trends. And that is one of the reasons that satellite-derived temperature data are considered to be superior to data collected at near-surface land-based locations.”

### **The Positive Influence of Ocean Acidification on Atlantic Herring Larvae Survival**

Sswat, M., Stiasny, M.H., Taucher, J., Algueró-Muñiz, M., Bach, L.T., Jutfelt, F., Riebesell, U. and Clemmesen, C. 2018. Food web changes under ocean acidification promote herring larvae survival. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 2: 836-840. Dec 10, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/dec/a4.php>

### ***Measurement Issues -- Surface***

#### **Examples of How the Use of Temperature ANOMALY Data Instead of Temperature Data Can Result in WRONG Answers**

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 13, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/13/examples-of-how-the-use-of-temperature-anomaly-data-instead-of-temperature-data-can-result-in-wrong-answers/>

“...it is the change in temperature compared to what we’ve been used to that matters.” –

#### **Part 2**

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 15, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/15/it-is-the-change-in-temperature-compared-to-what-weve-been-used-to-that-matters-part-2/>

#### **Surprise: CO2 Warming Signal Absent in Japan ...Number of “Cold Days” Rising Over Past 30 Years**

By Kirye, No Tricks Zone, Dec 8, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/12/08/surprise-co2-warming-signal-absent-in-japan-number-of-cold-days-rising-over-past-30-years/>

## ***Changing Weather***

### **Atlantic Hurricane Season – 2018**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 8, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/12/08/atlantic-hurricane-season-2018/>

### **'Glimmer Of Hope' For Great Barrier Reef As Study Shows Tolerance To Climate Change**

Last year's oceanic heat wave wasn't as destructive as one the year before, scientists said.

By Nick Visser, HuffPost US, Dec 10, 2018

[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/great-barrier-reef-climate-change-bleaching\\_us\\_5c0de357e4b0ab8cf694ae16?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer\\_us=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGhlZ3dwZi5jb20v&guce\\_referrer\\_cs=4a86\\_JzIPUWvIqS0uuQBxQ](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/great-barrier-reef-climate-change-bleaching_us_5c0de357e4b0ab8cf694ae16?guccounter=1&guce_referrer_us=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGhlZ3dwZi5jb20v&guce_referrer_cs=4a86_JzIPUWvIqS0uuQBxQ)

Link to paper: Ecological memory modifies the cumulative impact of recurrent climate extremes

By Terry Hughes, Nature Climate Change, Dec 10, 2018

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-018-0351-2>

[SEPP Comment: The abstract starts: "Climate change is radically altering the frequency, intensity and spatial scale of severe weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts, floods and fires. As the time interval shrinks between recurrent shocks the responses of ecosystems to each new disturbance are increasingly likely to be contingent on the history of other recent extreme events."]

### **North America sets all-time record snowfall in November**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 10, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/10/north-america-sets-all-time-record-snowfall-in-november/>

### **Climate change and wildfires. An Interview with An Imperfect Union**

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Dec 9, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/09/climate-change-and-wildfires-an-interview-with-an-imperfect-union/>

### **NOAA: El Niño is expected to form and continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2018-19**

By Antony Watts, WUWT, Dec 13, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/13/el-nio-is-expected-to-form-and-continue-through-the-northern-hemisphere-winter-2018-19/>

### **When Snow Prayers Work Too Well**

By Cliff Mass, Weather and Climate Blog, Dec 10, 2018

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2018-12-12T00:30:00-08:00&max-results=2>

## ***Changing Seas***

### **Peter Ridd: Crying Wolf Over the Great Barrier Reef**

By Peter Ridd, Australia, GWPF, Dec 12, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/peter-ridd-crying-wolf-over-the-great-barrier-reef>

### **Alarmist Sea Rise Scenarios Unlikely, Says Climate Scientist Judith Curry**

By Staff Writers, The Australian, Dec 12, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/sea-rise-scenarios-barely-possible-says-climate-scientist-judith-curry/>

## ***Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice***

### **Arctic hits second warmest temperatures on record in 2018**

By Miranda Green, The Hill, Dec 11, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/420793-arctic-hits-second-warmest-temperatures-on-record-in-2018>

Arctic Report Card: Update for 2018: Effects of persistent Arctic warming continue to mount  
Executive Summary by E. Osborne, J. Richter-Menge, & M. Jeffries, NOAA, 2018

<https://arctic.noaa.gov/Report-Card/Report-Card-2018/ArtMID/7878/ArticleID/772/Executive-Summary>

“Despite the growth of vegetation available for grazing land animals, herd populations of caribou and wild reindeer across the Arctic tundra have declined by nearly 50% over the last two decades.”

*[SEPP Comment: Why have herds of grazing land animals declined]*

### **It's snowing more in Antarctica 'because of global warming', say scientists**

Researchers say analysis of 53 ice cores from across the continent showed that snowfall had stopped seas rising by 10mm.

By Staff Writers, Sky News, Dec 10, 2018

<https://news.sky.com/story/its-snowing-more-in-antarctica-because-of-global-warming-say-scientists-11577478>

“The team behind the findings published in the Nature Climate Change journal found the increased snowfall and its distribution pattern was consistent with a warming atmosphere, which can hold more moisture.”

*[SEPP Comment: Why don't atmospheric temperature trends over Antarctica show wide-spread warming? As discussed in the past two TWTWs, the surface records show a warming, but they appear to be made-up – where there are no instruments.]*

## ***Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine***

### **Top U.S. Agricultural Exports in 2017**

By Staff Writers, USDA, 2017

<https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/top-us-agricultural-exports-2017>

### **10 Countries With Largest Soybean Production**

World leaders in soya production based on annual data released by FAOSTAT, the USA leads the way, followed by Brazil.

By James Karuga, World Atlas, Aug 30, 2018

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/world-leaders-in-soya-soybean-production-by-country.html>

### **Corn Exports by Country**

By Daniel Workman, World's Top Exports, Aug 5, 2018

<http://www.worldstopexports.com/corn-exports-country/>

## ***Lowering Standards***

### **Climate Change Is Shrinking BBC's Credibility**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 13, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/12/13/climate-change-is-shrinking-bbcs-credibility/>

## ***Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.***

## **Climate change researcher warns 'so-called superpowers' against arguing with 'the laws of physics'**

By John Bowden, The Hill, Dec 12, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/421126-climate-change-researcher-warns-so-called-superpowers-against>

*[SEPP Comment: What law of physics states human emissions of CO2 will cause dangerous global warming?]*

## **Is There Anything Environmentalists Won't Blame On Climate Change?**

Editorial, IBD, Dec 12, 2018

<https://www.investors.com/politics/editorials/environmentalists-climate-change-blame/>

## **Santa says renewables “push down prices”. Sydney Morning Herald believes him.**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 12, 2018

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/12/santa-says-renewables-push-down-prices-sydney-morning-herald-believes-him/>

## ***Expanding the Orthodoxy***

### **Sports world must join climate change crusade, says IOC**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Dec 13, 2018 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<https://www.manilatimes.net/sports-world-must-join-climate-change-crusade-ioc/481897/>

“Unreliable snow and warm winters are threatening winter sports, while rising temperatures and unpredictable weather are challenging summer-sport athletes, spectators and organizers.”

*[SEPP Comment: Constant CO2 will make the weather as reliable as the weather?]*

## ***Questioning European Green***

### **The solar panel trap that means you can't sell your home**

By Sam Meadows, The Telegraph, UK, Via GWPF, Dec 9, 2018

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/bills-and-utilities/renewable-energy/solar-panel-trap-means-cant-sell-home/>

## ***Questioning Green Elsewhere***

### **The Chinese “Leadership” in Renewables Is Crumbling**

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics and Science, Dec 13, 2018

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/4712>

*[SEPP Comment: Was it green propaganda, or were the greens fooled?]*

## **Colorado energy company Xcel goes crazy green**

By David Wojick, The Heartland Institute, Dec 13, 2018

<https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/colorado-energy-company-xcel-goes-crazy-green>

## ***Funding Issues***

### **Infrastructure Bill Should Attack Climate Red Tape, Not Increase It**

By Ben Lieberman, CEI, Dec 13, 2018

<https://cei.org/blog/infrastructure-bill-should-attack-climate-red-tape-not-increase-it>

## **Investors with \$32 trillion at stake sound the alarm on climate change**

By Ivana Kottasová, CNN Business, Dec 10, 2018

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/10/business/climate-change-investors-cop24/index.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Not if they lose money! It's not the noise but the action that is important.]*

### ***Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes***

#### **Macron's Carbon Tax Disaster**

By Kenny Stein, Institute for Energy Research, Dec 5, 2018

<https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/international-issues/macrons-carbon-tax-disaster/>

#### **Justin Trudeau Is Facing a Climate Tax Backlash. He's Not Alone**

By Ian Austen, New York Times, Via GWPF, Dec 8, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/justin-trudeau-is-facing-a-carbon-tax-backlash-hes-not-alone/>

#### **Lessons of the Failure of Initiative 1631, the Washington State Carbon Fee, Part 1: Election Analysis**

By Cliff Mass, Weather and Climate Blog, Dec 8, 2018

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2018/12/lessons-of-failure-of-initiative-1631.html>

“I believe that the bottom line is that 1631 lost because most Republicans were against it, low income, construction/labor, and minority groups were wary of its economic impacts on their lives, and a significant proportion of climate-concerned folks, many of them long-term Democrats, were uncomfortable with aspects of the policy.”

#### **“Why Greens are Turning Away from a Carbon Tax” (POLITICO documents a turning point)**

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, Dec 2, 2018

<https://www.masterresource.org/carbon-tax/carbon-tax-politically-toxic/>

### ***EPA and other Regulators on the March***

#### **EPA to pursue final 'science transparency' rule in 2019**

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 14, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/421479-epa-to-pursue-final-science-transparency-rule-in-2019>

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **Britain's oldest coal plants called on to avoid running out of power as cold sets in**

By Jillian Ambrose, Telegraph, UK, Via GWPF, Dec 8, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/britains-oldest-coal-plants-called-on-to-avoid-running-out-of-power-as-cold-sets-in/>

“Britain's oldest coal-fired power plants prepared to fire up their hoppers for a price of almost £1,000 per megawatt-hour on Tuesday to avert a power shortfall as temperatures across the country plunge and wind power wanes.”

#### **Coal Power Capacity Update**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 11, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/12/11/coal-power-capacity-update/>

*[SEPP Comment: More detailed look than link immediately above.]*

### ***Energy Issues – US***

#### **Building Unnecessary Power Plants**

By Dom Dears, Power For USA, Dec 14, 2018

<http://ddears.com/2018/12/14/building-unnecessary-power-plants/>

### ***Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?***

#### **Private Governance in Oil & Gas: Permian Strategic Partnership**

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Dec 11, 2018

<https://www.masterresource.org/private-governance/private-governance-in-oil-gas-permian-strategic-partnership/>

### ***Return of King Coal?***

#### **World Biggest Investors Raise Coal Holdings (Despite Their Green PR Campaigns)**

By Staff Writers, Financial Times, Via GWPF, Dec 9, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/world-biggest-investors-raise-coal-holdings-despite-their-green-pr-campaigns/>

### ***Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy – Storage***

#### **The Key For Tesla's Future Is Batteries, Not Cars**

By Enrique Dans, Forbes, Dec 7, 2018

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/enriquedans/2018/12/07/the-key-for-teslas-future-is-batteries-not-cars/#69fb4cf40612>

*[SEPP Comment: Electricity storage is needed for vehicles, solar and wind power, etc. Affordable solutions are critical for their success. See link immediately below.]*

#### **Powering the Tesla Gigafactory**

By Roger Andrews, Energy Matters, Dec 12, 2018

<http://euanmearns.com/powering-the-tesla-gigafactory/#more-22824>

“One is that Tesla has apparently chosen not to use the approach used by other companies that claim to have gone 100% renewable, which is to purchase enough power from a distant renewable plant to cover their annual electricity consumption through Guarantees Of Origin or Renewable Energy Certificates and pretend that this makes them 100% renewable even though they continue to depend on fossil fuel power from the local grid. Apple and Google, discussed in this 2017 post, are examples.”

### ***Carbon Schemes***

#### **Carbon capture industry says Trump EPA is wrong to underestimate them**

By Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner, Dec 11, 2018

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy/carbon-capture-industry-says-trump-epa-is-wrong-to-underestimate-them>

“Of course, CCS has been adequately demonstrated,’ Julio Friedmann, former principal deputy assistant of the Energy Department’s Office of Fossil Energy, told the Washington Examiner. ‘We know the costs, performance, risks, and timeline for construction. How much demonstration do you need?’”

*[SEPP Comment: No solid reference of a successful, commercially viable demonstration!]*

#### **The Best Technology for Fighting Climate Change Isn't a Technology**

Forests are the most powerful and efficient carbon-capture system on the planet

By Han de Groot, Scientific American, Dec 5, 2018

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/the-best-technology-for-fighting-climate-change-isnt-a-technology/>

### ***California Dreaming***

**Jerry Brown Says Dems Are Becoming Too Extreme — Ocasio-Cortez Proves Him Right**  
Editorial, IBD, Dec 13, 2018

<https://www.investors.com/politics/editorials/jerry-brown-democrats-extremists-ocasio-cortez/>

**California commits to 100 percent electric bus fleet by 2040**

By Miranda Green, The Hill, Dec 14, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/421438-california-commits-to-100-percent-electric-bus-fleet-by-2040>

### ***Health, Energy, and Climate***

#### **The Lancet & Climate Change**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 12, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/12/12/the-lancet-climate-change/>

“5) Food insecurity

“The Lancet claim that:

“Worldwide, more than sufficient food is produced to feed the global population. The causes of food insecurity and undernutrition are hence both complex and multifactorial, driven by factors beyond total food availability.

“However, food production is already being compromised by extremes of weather that are predicted to become more frequent and extreme; yield potentials are decreasing globally, and many countries are already experiencing falling yields.”

*[SEPP Comment: The Lancet lacks objectivity. A medical journal should not be making policy recommendations. Homewood takes the false claims apart.]*

### ***Oh Mann!***

#### **Another Manntastic law footnote: the process is the punishment**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 13, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/12/13/another-manntastic-law-footnote-the-process-is-the-punishment/>

*[SEPP Comment: The saying “Justice delayed is justice denied” does not apply to litigation involving Mr. Mann.]*

### ***Other Scientific News***

#### **Taming turbulence: Seeking to make complex simulations a breeze**

By Terry Devitt, Univ of Wisconsin-Madison, Dec 11, 2018 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<https://news.wisc.edu/taming-turbulence-seeking-to-make-complex-simulations-a-breeze/>

Link to paper: Role of stable modes in driven shear-flow turbulence

By A. E. Fraser, M. J. Pueschel, P. W. Terry, and E. G. Zweibel, Physics of Plasmas, Dec 10, 2018

<https://aip.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/1.5049580>

“Put simply, shear flow occurs when two fluids — where fluids are a liquid, a gas or a plasma (the amorphous superhot gas that makes up stars like our sun or that occurs in a fusion device) — pass by one another such as when wind flows over a lake or hot gas jets from a galaxy. The turbulent chaos that occurs as a result of the interacting fluids can be exceedingly difficult to recreate in the numerical models scientists use to describe and understand a wide range of phenomena.”

#### **The Talented Gribble**

By Chuck Dinerstein, ACSH, Dec 5, 2018

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/12/05/talented-gribble-13644>

### ***Other News that May Be of Interest***

#### **Did supernovae kill off large ocean animals at dawn of Pleistocene?**

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Dec 11, 2018

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/12/181211112941.htm>

Link to paper: Hypothesis: Muon Radiation Dose and Marine Megafaunal Extinction at the End-Pliocene Supernova

By Adrian L. Melott, Franciole Marinho, Laura Paulucc, Mary Ann Liebert, Inc, Nov 27, 2018

<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/ast.2018.1902>

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### **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

#### **Half of Adélie Penguins Could Be Wiped Out by Global Warming**

By Tia Ghose, Live Science, June 29, 2018

<https://www.livescience.com/55239-antarctica-penguin-populations-declining.html>

Link to paper: Projected asymmetric response of Adélie penguins to Antarctic climate change

By Megan Cimino, et al. Nature, Scientific Reports, June 29, 2016

<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep28785>

“... best working hypothesis is that the population decline there is probably also due to climate change.”

#### **How This Supercolony of 1.5 Million Penguins Stayed Hidden for Nearly 3,000 Years**

By Yasemin Saplakoglu, Live Science, Dec 12, 2018

[https://www.livescience.com/64282-hidden-adelie-penguin-](https://www.livescience.com/64282-hidden-adelie-penguin-supercolony.html?utm_source=deployer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ConservativeFW)

[supercolony.html?utm\\_source=deployer&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ConservativeFW](https://www.livescience.com/64282-hidden-adelie-penguin-supercolony.html?utm_source=deployer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ConservativeFW)

[D+Daily&utm\\_content=20181215052951](https://www.livescience.com/64282-hidden-adelie-penguin-supercolony.html?utm_source=deployer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ConservativeFW)

*[SEPP Comment: Does this mean the models predicting extinction may have an error? See link immediately above.]*

#### **Oysters**

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, Dec 12, 2018

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/10203>

“Thinking about a romantic seafood dinner for two? Often touted as an aphrodisiac food, oysters may not be on the menu for much longer.

“According to a recent Grist article, the acidification of the ocean is threatening the Pacific Northwest’s famed oyster industry.

“Since the Industrial Revolution, ocean acidity has increased 30%, and projections are saying it could be 150% more acidic by the end of the century. Prevention, 12 Apr 2013”

#### **Cookies**

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, Dec 11, 2018

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/10201>

“Some must-have ingredients for cookies and other baked goods are already feeling the climate change pinch.

“Peanut butter prices are spiking after the southern US saw one of the worst harvests in decades, thanks to out-of-the-ordinary extreme heat over the summer.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the peanut harvest is down nearly 15% compared to last year.

“Likewise, extreme temperatures in Texas have hampered pecan production, **while a recent study published in the journal Science found that yields of wheat are down about 5% since the 1980s.** Prevention, 12 Apr 2013” [Boldface added.]

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## ARTICLES:

### 1. The Supreme Court May Begin to Tame the Administrative State

A 1997 precedent requires judges to defer to agencies’ interpretations of their own ambiguous rules.

By Peter J. Wallison, WSJ, Dec 13, 2018

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-supreme-court-may-begin-to-tame-the-administrative-state-11544744606>

SUMMARY: The senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and author of “Judicial Fortitude: The Last Chance to Rein in the Administrative State” writes:

*“Sometimes little things mean a lot when it comes to the Constitution. The Supreme Court agreed this week to hear *Kisor v. Wilkie*, an obscure dispute between a former Marine and the Department of Veterans Affairs. It could be a step toward significantly limiting the powers of the federal administrative state.*

*“The case arose when the VA denied benefits to James Kisor, who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. The VA found the evidence he submitted wasn’t ‘relevant’ within the meaning of that term in the VA’s regulations. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit concluded that the meaning of ‘relevant’ in the regulation was ambiguous. It therefore sided with the VA, applying a Supreme Court precedent, *Auer v. Robbins* (1997), that generally requires federal courts to accept an administrative agency’s interpretation of its own ambiguous regulations—a rule known as *Auer* deference.*

*”In his appeal, Mr. Kisor asked the high court to overturn *Auer* or to establish some other rule of construction for cases like this. The justices accepted only the more basic question of whether to do away with *Auer* deference. That suggests they’re moving toward a more assertive judicial role in reviewing and interpreting administrative decisions. That would be consistent with the rule of law, which depends on the public’s ability to understand the rules it has to follow. If agencies can change their rules simply by reinterpreting them, how can citizens be expected to comply?*

*“If the court overturns *Auer*, a logical next step would be to reconsider deference for agency interpretations of the statutes that authorize their actions. In *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council* (1984), the justices directed lower courts to defer to any agency interpretations of laws enacted by Congress, so long as the interpretation is deemed ‘reasonable.’ *Chevron* deference has engendered significant opposition, with critics arguing that agencies will always opt for a broader rather than a narrower view of the statutes they administer and that judicial deference also gives government agencies an unfair advantage in litigating with private parties.*

*“In addition, [the] *Chevron* [deference] helped enable a vast expansion of administrative rule making. Since 1993, the agencies of the administrative state have issued more than 100,000 rules, and never fewer than 3,000 in a year, according to Wayne Crews of the Competitive Enterprise*

*Institute. This avalanche of rules and regulations is beyond the ability of the president or Congress to control. It is also a challenge to the rule of law.*

*“The strongest argument for curtailing deference is that the judiciary’s hands-off approach under Chevron and Auer has enabled the agencies of the executive branch to assert power Congress never gave them. In many cases, unelected agency heads and bureaucrats have become America’s main lawgivers. The court may have come to recognize that the only way to halt this process is for the judiciary to take a more active role in limiting administrative authority.*

*“An unchecked administrative state flies in the face of the Constitution’s structure. The Framers had seen in their own time that tyranny resulted when the same person or institution held the power both to make laws and to enforce them. That’s why they developed a structure in which all lawmaking power belongs to Congress, while the executive branch has the authority only to administer and enforce laws. Over time, however, and particularly since Chevron, effective lawmaking power has been accumulating in the agencies of the executive branch.*

*“And in decisions like Chevron and Auer, the judiciary handed over to the executive branch a great deal of its own responsibility to interpret the laws. ‘It is emphatically the province and duty of the Judicial Department to say what the law is,’ Chief Justice John Marshall observed in Marbury v. Madison (1803). It would not be surprising if the court now sought to reclaim that authority.*

*“Several of today’s justices have made clear in earlier cases that they believe the court has a duty to preserve the separation of powers by stepping in when the elected branches—responding perhaps to political pressures—disregard the structure of the Constitution. In a 2013 dissent, Chief Justice John Roberts cited the ‘obligation of the Judiciary not only to confine itself to its proper role, but to ensure that the other branches do as well.’*

*“If the court does overturn its precedents requiring deference, critics may describe it as ‘judicial activism.’ That’s a misuse of the term. Activism consists in judges’ making policy decisions that should be made by the legislative branch. In reasserting the judiciary’s authority to interpret the law, the court would be preserving the constitutional structure and fulfilling its own proper role.*

The author concludes with an argument against an unchecked administrative state.

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## **2. Trump’s Regulatory Dredging**

A new EPA rule would limit regulation to ‘navigable’ waters.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 11, 2018

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/trumps-regulatory-dredging-11544571902>

SUMMARY: The editorial states that business confidence remains high because the Trump administration is reducing regulations such as the previous rule on Waters of the U.S.. The editorial continues: :

*“In 2015 the Obama overlords attempted a massive land grab by redefining tens of millions of acres as “waters of the U.S.” subject to federal jurisdiction. Congress in the 1972 Clean Water Act authorized the federal government to regulate “navigable waterways” such as the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan.*

*“Yet federal regulators have sought to extend their jurisdiction time and again. In Rapanos v. U.S. (2006), the Supreme Court split 4-1-4 over whether a Michigan landowner could be imprisoned because he failed to obtain permits to move dirt on his sometimes-saturated land.*

*“The Court’s conservatives led by Justice Antonin Scalia repudiated the government’s argument that it could regulate land 11 to 20 miles from the nearest navigable waterway. But Justice Anthony Kennedy suggested that any property with a “significant nexus” to waters under U.S. jurisdiction could be within the government’s purview. This in theory could apply to the entire U.S. land mass.*

*“Invoking Justice Kennedy’s muddled opinion, the Obama EPA claimed all land within a 100-year floodplain and 1,500 feet of the high-water mark or 4,000 feet of waters already under its jurisdiction—namely, rivers, tributaries and adjacent wetlands. Ditto “ephemeral” ponds, ditches and creeks that occasionally fill with storm runoff. The Hudson River is less murky than the Obama rule.*

*“Courts gave a reprieve for homebuilders, farmers and other businesses by staying the rule in 28 states that sued. The EPA is now proposing a bright-line test that excludes from federal regulation land that contains water only after rainfall such as farm and roadside ditches. Groundwater recharge and wastewater recycling basins would also be exempt. Tributaries would be covered only if they connect to navigable waters. Lakes and ponds could be regulated only insofar as they are navigable, as in the Clean Water Act. Imagine: Adhering to the statute.*

*“While states could continue to regulate waters within their borders, businesses would have an easier time navigating the federal regulatory landscape. If Democratic states sue the EPA, as is their wont, the Supreme Court might welcome the opportunity to clarify the limits on regulatory power.”*