

# **The Week That Was: 2026-08-22 (August 22, 2026)**

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### **The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

**Quote of the Week:** *“We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles,”*  
— Thomas Edison

**Number of the Week:** 63 oceanic warming events.

#### **THIS WEEK:**

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

**Scope:** This TWTW begins with a comparison of the human contribution to atmospheric carbon dioxide with the natural contribution; then it continues with an estimate of how long the human contribution will remain in the atmosphere. TWTW discusses some of the work by Geologist Ian Plimer and his suggestion that the current warming may be largely natural. TWTW discusses the suggestion by Michael Jonas that Chaos theory is void (scientifically inoperative). TWTW concludes with a discussion by energy economist Lars Schernikau that an important component of any energy generating system is often ignored when comparing energy generating systems.

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**Over Time:** Humans are not the primary cause of the annual change in atmospheric carbon dioxide. Nature is. Each spring in the Northern Hemisphere (which has about 68% of Earth's land mass) plants and soils absorb carbon dioxide, which plants use for photosynthesis. Based on observations at Mauna Loa and elsewhere, CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations reach an annual peak in May and decline to a low point in September. Then plants begin to die and decay, resulting in an increase in CO<sub>2</sub>, which continues until the next May. (The warming and cooling of oceans play a role in CO<sub>2</sub> fluctuation, but that role is not as regular as the annual seasonal role of plants on land masses.)

Unfortunately, many fellow sceptics of human caused global warming consider that natural variation overwhelms the human contribution to rising carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It does not. For example, Kenneth Richard of No Tricks Zone discusses a paper by Masaharu Nishioka, “The Critical Role of Temperate Forests in the Modern Warming Period.” The abstract states in part:

*“The role of soil respiration (Rs) in the global carbon cycle has long been recognized. However, amidst the strong emphasis placed on the impact of anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions on global warming, the role of Rs tends to be overlooked. The volume of CO<sub>2</sub> generated through Rs far exceeds that generated through anthropogenic emissions. Furthermore, Rs increases in tandem with increasing temperature (T). Consequently, in the current era of global warming, the CO<sub>2</sub> released through Rs, driven by rising temperatures, represents an additional quantity beyond the existing equilibrium level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Compared with tropical rainforests, **temperate forests** experience greater T fluctuations; as a result, the T dependence of Rs is more pronounced in these ecosystems. It is therefore believed that vegetation*

*and temperate forests play decisive roles in influencing global warming.*” [Boldface was italics in original]

There is no issue with the paper, but there is an issue with the assertion by Richard that “New Research Shows Soil Respiration and Temperature Drive CO<sub>2</sub> Change, Not Humans.” Long term trends are the result of human CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, not natural emissions. During the last interglacial period, the Eemian, (about 130,000 to 115,000 years ago), maximum CO<sub>2</sub> reached about 280 parts per million by volume (ppmv). Today CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is about 430 ppmv. It is the continual, and increasing, human contribution that is driving CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations higher, not the annual seasonal fluctuations. See links under Questioning the Orthodoxy.

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**How Long Does It Last?** William Happer, Gregory Wrightstone, and Fritz Byron Soepyan wrote a brief, mathematical paper for the CO<sub>2</sub> Coalition “Human Emissions and Atmospheric Concentrations of Carbon Dioxide” addressing the issue of how long will the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by humans remain in the atmosphere? The mathematics is beyond the scope of TWTW, but a few key points are discussed here. The paper opens with:

*“Assuming that any human-caused increase of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration decays exponentially to zero, with a time constant of about 50 years, gives modelled concentrations that agree very well with observed concentrations and emissions. Figure 1 shows observed human emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, mostly due to combustion of fossil fuels, for the years 1850 to 2024.”*

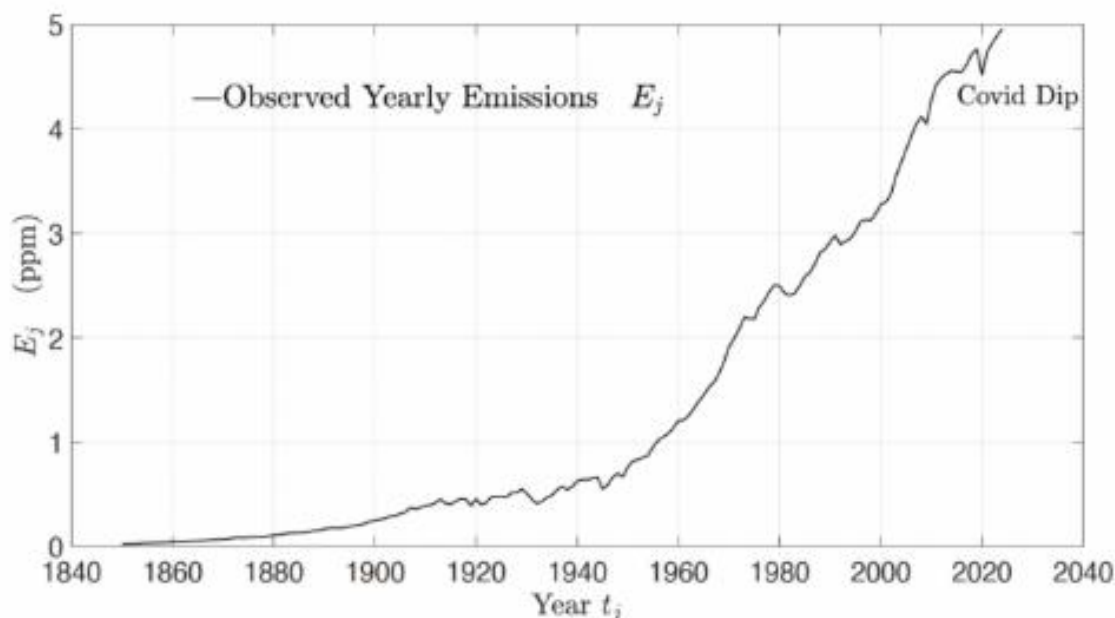


Figure 1: Yearly human emissions  $E_j$  ... of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere in parts per million (ppm) versus calendar year  $t_j$  .... The observational data is from reference [1]. [Reference not included here] Note the small dip in emissions in the year 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.”

The authors then test several speculated exponential decay rates and find that an exponential decay rate of 50 years fits the data very well. They conclude with:

*This extremely simple, 1-parameter ( $\tau$ ) [exponential decay rate] model gives very good agreement with observations for  $\tau = 50$  years. This is strong additional evidence that most of the increase of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> over the past two centuries has been due to human emissions, as discussed in more depth in reference [below].*

The referenced document is:

F. Engelbeen, R. Hannon and D. Burton, The Human Contribution to Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide,

<https://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Human-Contribution-to-Atmospheric-CO2-digital-compressed.pdf>

See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy

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**Why Not Natural?** Ian Plimer is an emeritus professor of geology, former chair of the University of Adelaide, the University of Melbourne, the University of Newcastle and the Technical University of Munich. Also, he has extensive experience in the minerals exploration industry, covering geology, mining, and Earth sciences. His books include **Heaven and Earth: Global Warming, the Missing Science** and **Green Murder: A Life Sentence of Net Zero with No Parole**.

**Heaven and Earth** documents that Climate, sea level, and ice sheets have always changed, and the changes observed today are less than those of the past. Climate changes are cyclical and are driven by the Earth's position in the galaxy, the sun, wobbles in the Earth's orbit, ocean currents, and plate tectonics. In the past, atmospheric carbon dioxide was far higher than at present, but it did not drive climate change. Further no runaway greenhouse effect occurred during times of excessively high carbon dioxide. During past glaciations, hundreds of millions of years ago, carbon dioxide was higher than it is today.

In discussing Plimer's chapter "The Geology of Climate Change" in **Canary In a Climate World**, John Robson begins with:

*"We often roll our eyes at the taunt that so-and-so is "not a climate scientist", partly because many darlings of the climate movement aren't either. But also, and more importantly, because many people actually trained in technical fields directly related to climate are dismissed in this manner by activists. Brushing aside countless academic disciplines related to the complex mechanics and past history of the Earth and its weather conditions, they instead reserve the cancellation-proofing quasi-official stamp of "climate scientist" for those special few who learned how to spin up a fake climate in a computer but are often woefully ignorant of key workings of the real one. For instance, they disregard Professor Ian Plimer, author of Chapter 8 in the Canary volume profiled in this series, even though, or perhaps because, as a geologist Plimer is deeply trained in the physical processes that have shaped the Earth's surface and atmosphere over its long history, non-stop changes over hundreds of millions of years that refute simplistic CO<sub>2</sub>-driven explanations and the obsession with humans' alleged environmental sins. In this Chapter he discusses just a few of the massive historical climate changes visible in the geological record that can't possibly be attributed to modern fossil fuel use and asks this critical*

question, “Why would the current warming be due to human activity when the previous 62 were natural?” Which far too many zealots and their approved “climate scientists” deal with by ignoring it and being ignorant of these previous changes.

As Plimer points out: “For more than 80 per cent of Earth’s history, it has been warmer and wetter than now, with sea level 200-300 meters higher.” He adds that we’re currently in an ice age and have been for 34 million years. In common parlance “ice ages” refer to times the glaciers advance well south into Europe and Asia, but to geologists it means a period with year-round ice at one pole and the South Pole has been frozen since the start of the Oligocene. Even if you insist on ice at both poles we’ve been in an “ice age” since the start of the Pleistocene 2.58 million years ago. And properly speaking the episodes during which the ice creeps down over continents are called “glaciations” and the melting event back toward the poles depicted in, e.g., Ice Age, is called a deglaciation.

So, there’s some real climate science. On which Plimer goes on to note that sea levels are currently very low compared to much of Earth’s history, not high, as are CO<sub>2</sub> levels. What’s more, and highly significant in terms of recent dogma about CO<sub>2</sub> and warming, the geological record shows that ice ages somehow began during periods when CO<sub>2</sub> levels were very high.

It’s also important that whether we are currently warming or cooling depends on the time frame. Broadly speaking we’ve been cooling for 50 million years. But we’ve warmed since the Permo-Carboniferous ice age. No, not the boringly named Last Glacial Period between the Eemian interglacial 125,000 years ago and the current Holocene; the massive glaciation around 300 million years ago when the glaciers apparently came as far south as 40°N, so basically as far as Madrid, Rome and Sofia, as well as Chicago and the outskirts of Reno. By the same token, but on a shorter scale, we’ve warmed since the Last Glacial Maximum and cooled since the Holocene Climatic Optimum. And of course we’ve also warmed since the Little Ice Age. But what makes it legitimate to call the last one, and only it, artificial? What evidence exists, or could, to support that claim?”

Ian Plimer begins “The Geology of Climate Change” with:

“Past natural climate changes have been massive and far greater than any measured modern climate change. For example, the global Marinoan ice age comprised at least two major glaciations at 650-635 million years ago (Ma), with ice sheets kilometers thick at sea level at the equator and sea ice covering entire oceans, stopping oxygenation and circulation. After glaciation, sea level rose 600 meters and dolomite cap carbonates blanketed glacial debris. Dolomite formed when atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> exceeded 10 percent. To argue that modern warming is rapid, catastrophic or driven by CO<sub>2</sub> is incommensurate with geological facts.

Since the beginning of the current interglacial, there have been warm and cool cycles measured globally from sediments, café deposits, fossils, palynology, ice archaeology, cosmogenic, radiogenic and stable isotopes and historical records. **The modern warming is just another warming event in the final stages of the current interglacial.** [Boldface added]

*Seafloor micro-organism fossils show cyclical warming and cooling Over the last 5.3 million years; 63 oceanic warming events have been measured. Ocean temperatures are not static; it is normal of oceans to warm and cool. Why would the current warming be due to human activity when the previous 62 were natural?"*

Of course, the IPCC and its followers ignore Earth's climate history except when they cherry-pick certain carefully selected periods to falsely claim that the warming (or ocean acidification) was due to carbon dioxide. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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**Bye, Bye Butterfly?** The World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews published a paper by Michael Jonas, titled "Chaos theory is void." The abstract states:

*"This paper demonstrates that in the real world, Chaos Theory is Void. "Void" is used to mean that the theory is logically coherent and perhaps even true, but it can never contribute to scientific enquiry because it cannot be tested or applied. **A Void theory is not necessarily false; it is just scientifically inoperative. Chaos theory does apply in General Circulation Models, but in this context there is no useful relationship between General Circulation Models and the real world.** This has positive implications for both climate prediction and weather forecasting: by using a more appropriate model structure than General Circulation Models, it may be possible to improve climate prediction and to extend weather forecasting beyond the generally-accepted two-week prediction horizon."* [Boldface added]

The "Chaos Theory" entry in Britannica states:

*"Chaos theory, in mechanics and mathematics, the study of apparently random or unpredictable behavior in systems governed by deterministic laws. A more accurate term, **deterministic chaos**, suggests a paradox because it connects two notions that are familiar and commonly regarded as incompatible. The first is that of randomness or unpredictability, as in the trajectory of a molecule in a gas or in the voting choice of a particular individual from out of a population. In conventional analyses, randomness was considered more apparent than real, arising from ignorance of the many causes at work. In other words, it was commonly believed that the world is unpredictable because it is complicated. The second notion is that of deterministic motion, as that of a pendulum or a planet, which has been accepted since the time of Isaac Newton as exemplifying the success of science in rendering predictable that which is initially complex.*

*In recent decades, however, a diversity of systems have been studied that behave unpredictably despite their seeming simplicity and the fact that the forces involved are governed by well-understood physical laws. The common element in these systems is a very high degree of sensitivity to initial conditions and to the way in which they are set in motion. For example, the meteorologist Edward Lorenz discovered that a simple model of heat convection possesses intrinsic unpredictability, a circumstance he called the 'butterfly effect,' suggesting that the mere flapping of a butterfly's wing can change the weather. A more homely example is the pinball machine: the ball's movements are precisely governed by laws of gravitational rolling and elastic collisions—both fully understood—yet the final outcome is unpredictable.*

*In classical mechanics the behavior of a dynamical system can be described geometrically as motion on an 'attractor.' The mathematics of classical mechanics effectively recognized three types of attractors: single points (characterizing steady states), closed loops (periodic cycles), and tori (combinations of several cycles). In the 1960s a new class of 'strange attractors' was discovered by the American mathematician Stephen Smale. On strange attractors the dynamics is chaotic. Later it was recognized that strange attractors have detailed structure on all scales of magnification; a direct result of this recognition was the development of the concept of the fractal (a class of complex geometric shapes that commonly exhibit the property of self-similarity), which led in turn to remarkable developments in computer graphics.*

*Applications of the mathematics of chaos are highly diverse, including the study of turbulent flow of fluids, irregularities in heartbeat, population dynamics, chemical reactions, plasma physics, and the motion of groups and clusters of stars."*

Britannica identifies Chaos under principles of physical science in Concepts fundamental to the attitudes and methods of physical science. The *Chaos* entry begins with:

*"Many systems can be described in terms of a small number of parameters and behave in a highly predictable manner. Were this not the case, the laws of physics might never have been elucidated. If one maintains the swing of a pendulum by tapping it at regular intervals, say once per swing, it will eventually settle down to a regular oscillation. Now let it be jolted out of its regularity; in due course it will revert to its previous oscillation as if nothing had disturbed it. Systems that respond in this well-behaved manner have been studied extensively and have frequently been taken to define the norm, from which departures are somewhat unusual. It is with such departures that this section is concerned.*

*An example not unlike the periodically struck pendulum is provided by a ball bouncing repeatedly in a vertical line on a base plate that is caused to vibrate up and down to counteract dissipation and maintain the bounce. With a small but sufficient amplitude of base motion the ball synchronizes with the plate, returning regularly once per cycle of vibration. With larger amplitudes the ball bounces higher but still manages to remain synchronized until eventually this becomes impossible. Two alternatives may then occur: (1) the ball may switch to a new synchronized mode in which it bounces so much higher that it returns only every two, three, or more cycles, or (2) it may become unsynchronized and return at irregular, apparently random, intervals. Yet, the behavior is not random in the way that raindrops strike a small area of surface at irregular intervals. The arrival of a raindrop allows one to make no prediction of when the next will arrive; the best one can hope for is a statement that there is half a chance that the next will arrive before the lapse of a certain time. By contrast, the bouncing ball is described by a rather simple set of differential equations that can be solved to predict without fail when the next bounce will occur and how fast the ball will be moving on impact, given the time of the last bounce and the speed of that impact. **In other words, the system is precisely determinate, yet to the casual observer it is devoid of regularity. Systems that are determinate but irregular in this sense are called chaotic; like so many other scientific terms, this is a technical expression that bears no necessary relation to the word's common usage.**" [Boldface added]*

Based on the above it may be better to assert Chaos is a valuable concept because it recognizes that there are variations in a determinate system that we do not fully understand. For example, do solutions to the Navier–Stokes equations remain smooth (finite, non-singular) for all time, starting from smooth initial conditions? These equations present the significant problems of turbulence in fluid dynamics and efforts to predict weather. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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**Ignored Energy:** In “The Energy Nobody Counts: Embodied energy – The first step in understanding eROI”, German energy economist Lars Schernikau discusses an important, but ignored, concept. The abbreviation eROI stands for the Energy Return on Investment (eROI), of energy return on energy invested, or net energy efficiency. Do investments in certain forms of energy generation show an actual return on total energy invested? “How much energy do we get back for the energy we invest?”

One of the key components of eROI is: “What must be invested to deliver 1 GW of “continuous” solar power?” In his summary, Schernikau writes that: [Boldface in original]

*“Embodied energy is not an argument for or against any particular technology. Nor does it diminish the importance of operational efficiency or electricity generation, which remain essential metrics when evaluating energy systems. Quite the contrary, it guides us to “produce” the services we require as energy and raw material efficient as possible.*

*I am merely addressing the fact that **every energy technology carries an often-overlooked energy investment before it begins delivering useful electricity**, and that the investment does not end once construction is complete. It continues throughout the life of the system as infrastructure is maintained, refurbished and ultimately disposed of and replaced.*

*A comprehensive comparison of energy technologies should therefore extend beyond operational performance alone to include the total energy required to build, maintain and repeatedly renew the infrastructure on which electricity generation depends. Only then can confidently compare technologies on a genuinely like-for-like basis.*

*These implications extend well beyond electricity generation, filtering through to the materials required for modern energy systems, like steel, cement, copper, aluminum, silicon, lithium, nickel, glass, and rare earth elements, which must themselves be mined, processed, manufactured and transported using energy-intensive industrial processes. As energy systems based on wind and solar become increasingly infrastructure intensive driven by their low energy density, intermittency and short operational lifetime, embodied energy becomes an increasingly important component of the overall energy balance.”*

Schernikau states a simple equation for eROI:  $\text{eROI} = \frac{\text{total energy “produced” over the entire lifetime}}{\text{total energy invested (incl. embodied energy)}}$ . He gives an example of the foolish effort to compare a solar project in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with one in Germany, then concludes with:

*“At this point I would like to ask you: **Should success be measured solely by what happens during operation, or should it also reflect the total lifetime energy investment required to build, maintain and decommission, dispose, and replace the system itself?***

*The answer to that question may significantly influence how we evaluate future electricity systems, compare competing technologies and allocate limited fund and natural resources.*

*After all, every energy system has an energy bill.”*

See links under Energy Issues – General

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**Number of the Week: 63 oceanic warming events.** As Ian Plimer wrote (above):

*“Seafloor micro-organism fossils show cyclical warming and cooling Over the last 5.3 million years; 63 oceanic warming events have been measured. Ocean temperatures are not static; it is normal of oceans to warm and cool. **Why would the current warming be due to human activity when the previous 62 were natural?**” [Boldface added]*

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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## **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/climate-change-reconsidered-ii-fossil-fuels/>

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

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

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

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/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)

## ***Challenging the Orthodoxy – Radiation Transfer***

### **The Role of Greenhouse Gases in Energy Transfer in the Earth's Atmosphere**

By W.A. van Wijngaarden and W. Happer, Preprint, Mar 3, 2023

<https://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/The-Role-of-Greenhouse-Gases-in-Energy-Transfer-in-the-Earths-Atmosphere.pdf>

### **Dependence of Earth's Thermal Radiation on Five Most Abundant Greenhouse Gases**

By W.A. van Wijngaarden and W. Happer, Preprint, December 22, 2020

<https://wvanwijngaarden.info.yorku.ca/files/2020/12/WThermal-Radiationf.pdf?x45936>

### **Net Zero Averted Temperature Increase**

By Richard Lindzen, William Happer, and William A. van Wijngaarden, CO2 Coalition, June 2024

<https://co2coalition.org/publications/net-zero-averted-temperature-increase/>

### **Radiation Transport in Clouds**

By W.A. van Wijngaarden and W. Happer, *Klimarealistene*, Science of Climate Change, January 2025

<https://scienceofclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/SCC-2025-vWijngaarden-Happer.pdf>

## ***Challenging the Orthodoxy***

### **Human Emissions and Atmospheric Concentrations of Carbon Dioxide**

By William Happer, Gregory Wrightstone, Fritz Byron Soepyan, CO2 Coalition, Aug 21, 2026

<https://co2coalition.org/publications/human-emissions-and-atmospheric-concentrations-of-carbon-dioxide/>

### **Livestock, Methane and Climate**

By D. Alexander, J. D. Ferguson, A. Glatzle, W. Happer, and W. A. van Wijngaarden, Preprint, Jan 17, 2026

<https://wvanwijngaarden.info.yorku.ca/files/2026/01/Arxiv-Version-Livestock-Methane-and-Climate.pdf?x45936>

### **#Canary In A Climate World: Ian Plimer on the geology of climate change**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/canary-in-a-climate-world-ian-plimer-on-the-geology-of-climate-change/>

### **Link to: Canary In A Climate World: Climate Realism vs. The Net Zero Myth**

Editor C.H. Klotz (38 authors Canaries), Amazon.com, 2026

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0H2QK5SN2/?bestFormat=true&k=canary%20in%20a%20climate%20world&ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_sx-ent-bk-ww\\_k0\\_1\\_10\\_de&crid=1ICVROMWC5NPN&srefix=canary%20in%20](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0H2QK5SN2/?bestFormat=true&k=canary%20in%20a%20climate%20world&ref=nb_sb_ss_sx-ent-bk-ww_k0_1_10_de&crid=1ICVROMWC5NPN&srefix=canary%20in%20)

### **Wave Goodbye to the Butterfly Effect ...**

By Mike Jonas, WUWT, Aug 17, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/17/wave-goodbye-to-the-butterfly-effect/>

Link to paper: **Chaos theory is void**

By Michael Jonas, World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, Aug 6, 2026

<https://wjarr.com/content/chaos-theory-void>

### **NOAA Proposes Amending the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5)**

By Charles Rotter, WUWT, Aug 21, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/21/noaa-proposes-amending-the-fifth-national-climate-assessment-nca5/>

There is also a larger institutional question. Why did it take so long? Hausfather and Peters were publicly warning in Nature in 2020 that treating worst-case scenarios as the most likely future was misleading. Pielke and other researchers had been criticizing the use of extreme emissions scenarios for over a decade. The original assumptions behind RCP8.5 were publicly available. Yet the scenario remained deeply embedded in climate research and government assessments.

### **Short Summary of Observations Until July 2026**

By Ole Humlum, Climate4you, Aug 18, 2026

<https://www.climate4you.com/>

### **The Climate Policy Trap: Why Failure So Often Leads to More of the Same**

Group identity, social status, and a credential-dominated policy establishment make the climate narrative increasingly immune to disappointing results, argues Evert Doornhof of Clintel. The result is a climate policy trap in which failure doesn't lead to reconsideration, but to even more climate policy.

By Evert Doornhof, CLINTEL, Aug 17, 2026 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://clintel.org/climate-policy-trap/>

### **Bob Zyback on forest fires, then and now**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/bob-zyback-on-forest-fires-then-and-now/>

### **Comparing Equilibrium, Kinetic, and Non-Equilibrium Temperatures**

By Andy May, WUWT, Aug 17, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/17/comparing-equilibrium-kinetic-and-non-equilibrium-temperatures/>

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

**Claim: "Natural Variability" Hid the Real Magnitude of Global Warming Between 1981 and 2014**

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Aug 20, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/20/claim-natural-variability-hid-the-real-magnitude-of-global-warming-between-1981-and-2014/>

Link to paper: **Recent Temperature and Energy Imbalance Trends Point to Higher Estimates of Future Warming**

By G. Gyuleva, E. Fischer, R. Knutti, S. Sippel, Earth's Future, Aug 11, 2026

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2026EF008356>

From Plain Language Summary: Previous attempts to narrow down this range based on observed 20th century warming suggested that Earth might warm less than some models predicted.

However, recent data of the amount of heat energy trapped within the Earth system—the energy imbalance—indicates that Earth may actually be warming faster, aligned with models that forecast higher temperatures. We partially resolve this contradiction by showing that during the recent observational period, both temperature and the energy imbalance point to higher future warming. We also show how previous analyses were skewed by natural, short-term climate fluctuations, known as internal variability. By filtering out this natural variability and using trends of temperature and the energy imbalance, we provide a revised very likely range of future warming. We show that the energy imbalance is a potentially strong new line of evidence to narrow our uncertainty about future warming. Our findings indicate that it becomes increasingly difficult to exclude models with strong future warming.

*[SEPP Comment: Natural variability skews measurements, therefore extreme model forecasts are likely to be more certain? What about Ice Ages which models project will never occur again?]*

**Four reasons why fully electric homes can be affordable and efficient**

By Lala Rukh, The Conversation, Aug 15, 2026 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://theconversation.com/four-reasons-why-fully-electric-homes-can-be-affordable-and-efficient-288037>

From Kepshire: "So why doesn't every house already have a heat pump? It's expensive to buy one, and even to run it."

"These upfront costs are being tackled through subsidies and low-interest loans."

"Upfront bills form half a heat pump's lifetime expense, but running costs are the real hurdle. Because EU electricity costs three times more than gas, a heat pump's impressive efficiency is entirely cancelled out at the meter."

***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

**New Research Shows Soil Respiration And Temperature Drive CO2 Change, Not Humans**

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Aug 21, 2026

<https://notrickszone.com/2026/08/21/new-research-shows-soil-respiration-and-temperature-drive-co2-change-not-humans/>

Link to paper: **The Critical Role of Temperate Forests in the Modern Warming Period**

By Masaharu Nishioka, Atmospheric and Climate Sciences, July 30, 2026

[https://content.scirp.org/pdf/acs\\_4701439.pdf](https://content.scirp.org/pdf/acs_4701439.pdf)

**Am I a Conspiracy Theorist?**

By Tom Forrester-Paton, The Daily Sceptic, Aug 16, 2026

<https://dailysceptic.org/2026/08/16/am-i-a-conspiracy-theorist/>

**The Capture of Academia: Norman Fenton's Forensic Indictment of Ideological Orthodoxy**

By Tilak Doshi, Tilak's Substack, Aug 20, 2026

<https://tilakdoshi.substack.com/p/the-capture-of-academia-norman-fentons>

[In the UK] Universities now operate within an ecosystem dominated by agencies such as the UN, the WHO and the World Economic Forum. The WEF's Expert Network and Young Scientists programmes, together with its research partnerships, effectively groom aspiring academics from an early stage, so that success in the profession increasingly depends on alignment with a global-governance agenda set well outside the university itself.

### **Climate Change and the Little Giant Fire: The Real Facts**

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Aug 19, 2026

<https://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2026/08/climate-change-and-little-giant-fire.html>

Perhaps the most impactful Washington State wildfire of this summer is the Little Giant Fire near Lake Chelan, ignited on July 15 by a lightning storm and now extending over 135,985 acres (see map below)

The fire is still active today, with plenty of smoke and flames (see satellite image yesterday afternoon)

There are many claims that this fire resulted from climate change, drought, and extreme heat (see below).

As I will demonstrate in this blog, such claims are demonstrably false.

### **We'll sleep on it**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/well-sleep-on-it/>

### **Vacation conflagration**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/vacation-conflagration/>

### **Tidbits**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/tidbits-169/>

### **Energy & Environmental Review: August 17, 2026**

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Aug 17, 2026

<https://www.masterresource.org/alliance-for-wise-energy-decisions/energy-environmental-review-08-17-2026/>

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

#### **China's coal boom is roaring back — 78GW of new coal plants last year is the highest for 18 years**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Aug 21, 2026

<https://joannenova.com.au/2026/08/chinas-coal-boom-is-roaring-back-78gw-of-new-coal-plants-last-year-is-the-highest-for-18-years/>

Link to: **Global Coal Plant Tracker**

The Global Coal Plant Tracker catalogues coal-fired power units worldwide. The tracker monitors every unit with a capacity of 30+ megawatts, including operating units, new units proposed since 2010, and units retired since 2000.

By Staff, Global Energy Monitor (GEM), Accessed Aug 21, 2026

<https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-coal-plant-tracker>

From GEM: In 2007, responding to a call to action by climate scientist James Hansen, an informal group of journalists and environmental advocates began documenting 151 proposed coal plants in the United States. This group would eventually go on to become Global Energy Monitor.

96% of coal power development worldwide is concentrated in just ten countries

43 countries have eliminated coal power under development since the 2015 Paris Agreement

From Nova: The Boom is just beginning — there are another 313GW of coal plants in China that are in the pipeline. These are projects that are announced, permitted or under construction.

### **Even CNN Admits It: Americans “Don’t Care” about Climate Change Hysteria**

Voters understand that their quality of life is more directly tied to jobs and immigration, rather than trace amounts of a life-essential gas floating in the atmosphere.

By Leslie Estman, Legal Insurrection, Aug 15, 2026

<https://legalinsurrection.com/2026/08/even-cnn-admits-it-americans-dont-care-about-climate-change-hysteria/>

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

#### **Aussie Climate Minister turns to International Labor Unions to Fill Seats at his No Show Fiji Climate Conference**

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Aug 19, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/19/aussie-climate-minister-turns-to-international-labor-unions-to-fill-seats-at-his-no-show-fiji-climate-conference/>

### ***Social Benefits of Carbon Dioxide***

#### **Climate Alarmists Go Silent: Turns Out Fossil Fuels Are Earth’s ‘Miracle-Gro’**

By Vijay Jayaraj, CO2 Coalition, Aug 17, 2026

<https://co2coalition.org/2026/08/17/climate-alarmists-go-silent-turns-out-fossil-fuels-are-earths-miracle-gro/>

Link to paper: **Global analysis suggests nitrogen deposition as an underestimated driver of vegetation greening**

By Jonas Trepel, et al., Ecography, July 20, 2025

<https://nsojournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ecog.08631>

### **Climate News Worth Celebrating: The Earth Is Getting Greener.**

By The Heartland Institute, Red State, Aug 21, 2026

<https://redstate.com/heartlandinstitute/2026/08/21/climate-news-worth-celebrating-the-earth-is-getting-greener-n2205839>

### **The effect of CO2 on Japanese cedar**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/the-effect-of-co2-on-japanese-cedar/>

From the CO2Science archive,

### ***Seeking a Common Ground***

#### **‘Climate Emergency’ Scepticism in Eight Charts**

By Ramesh Thankur, Brownstone Journal, Aug 14, 2026 [H/t Bernie Kesphire]

<https://brownstone.org/articles/climate-emergency-scepticism-in-eight-charts/>

A total of 116,045 full-text articles from the ten media outlets covering all five IPCC Assessment Reports were scrutinized to observe patterns of how reporters, editors, and columnists selected, framed, and presented stories to governments and the public. The study found a consistent bias towards emphasizing higher-impact magnitudes within the ranges reported by the IPCC, a validation of the journalistic adage that if it bleeds, it leads.

### **Climate Change is Making Us Stupid**

How the scientific community is undermining detection and attribution

By Roger Pielke Jr. The Honest Broker, Aug 21, 2026

<https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/climate-change-is-making-us-stupid>

Back to [Dan] Sarewitz on what is the problem: [in 2014]

“The real problem is . . . the hysterics . . . who insist, often in the name of science, that all the suffering to come will have only one true cause, and that redemption can be achieved only by following one true path. No matter that long and sad human experience teaches us where such absolute orthodoxies lead. Indeed, with climate change being blamed for almost everything these days, the one phenomenon that seems to have escaped the notice of scientists, environmentalists and the media alike is that, perhaps above all, climate change is making us stupid.”

### ***Science, Policy, and Evidence***

#### **An effective emission reduction strategy**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/an-effective-emission-reduction-strategy/>

Blackmon does his readers the courtesy of reviewing data showing declining global wildfire rates and referring to published evidence of the fire deficit across North America:

“Nature is partially reverting toward historical regimes, compounded by decades of stupid policies driven by alarmism which mandate reduced mechanical thinning and prescribed burning.”

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

#### **How Unstable Power Corrupts Australia's Temperature Record**

By Jennifer Marohasy, Her Blog, Aug 17, 2026

<https://jennifermarohasy.com/2026/08/how-unstable-power-corrupts-australias-temperature-record/>

### ***Changing Weather***

#### **Extraordinary Rain and Wind in Hawaii: Did El Nino Help?**

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Aug 16, 2026

<https://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2026/08/extroordinary-rain-and-wind-in-hawaii.html>

Hurricanes are relatively rare in Hawaii, because the water temperatures are generally too cool (you read that right).

#### **NOAA releases fall weather predictions for all 50 states as El Niño grows stronger**

By Alix Martichoux, The Hill, Aug 20, 2026

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/6041581-noaa-releases-fall-weather-predictions-for-all-50-states-as-el-nino-grows-stronger/>

*[SEPP Comment: No part of the country will have lower than normal temperatures?]*

### **Sometimes It Rains and Sometimes It Does Not!**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 14, 2026

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2026/08/14/sometimes-it-rains-and-sometimes-it-does-not/>

Of course, it has been dry in the last few months. But the 12 month, and even 6 month figures, are a reminder that nothing much changes over time.

### **Just as Hot in 1911**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 16, 2026

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2026/08/16/just-as-hot-in-1911/>

The heatwave in 1911 was also long lasting, extending from July well into September. It was also exceptionally dry.

I'll do a full analysis when summer is over. But the summer of 1911 disproves the notion that we did not used to have heatwaves like this year's in the past.

### **Hottest July Evah!**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 21, 2026

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2026/08/20/hottest-july-evah/>

While Britain and parts of NW Europe have baked in recent weeks, large regions of the world have experienced extreme cold.

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

#### **2026 Mid-August Arctic Ice Meltdown Slows**

By Ron Clutz, Science Matters, Aug 16, 2026

<https://rclutz.com/2026/08/16/2026-mid-august-arctic-ice-meltdown-slows/>

The chart above [in post] from DMI shows why Arctic ice is melting slowly. This year the daily mean temperature never went above freezing, From now on it will only grow colder. August is significant because it is the last month that NH ice extent declines.

### ***Changing Earth***

#### **Did the Earth move?**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/did-the-earth-move/>

Yes, *The Atlantic* says, and it's your fault. According to their "Weekly Planet", and we are not making it up, "On geological timescales, the Earth is a dynamic place. Tectonic plates shift. Continents move. Mountains rise and fall. But during humanity's tenure on Earth, the ground beneath our feet has largely stayed put. That stable period may now be at an end." Gosh. Better warn people in San Francisco that it could cause a nasty earthquake as early as 1906. No, wait. That was before climate. You see, "When the Earth's waters shift, so does solid ground. Now warming is destabilizing land across the planet, and geology is becoming a real-time science. In more and more places, the floor is giving way."

### ***Changing Seas***

#### **New Research Documents The Lack Of Any Net Decline In GBR Coral Cover Since The 1980s**

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Aug 15, 2026

<https://notrickszone.com/2026/08/15/new-research-documents-the-lack-of-any-net-decline-in-gbr-coral-cover-since-the-1980s/>

Link to paper: **Substantial impacts from the 2024 summer reverse five years**  
of coral cover gains on the Great Barrier Reef

By Daniela M. Ceccarelli, et al., Coral Reefs, Feb 18, 2026

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s00338-026-02829-8.pdf>

*[SEPP Comment: The abstract concludes with: "Climate change is already fueling increasingly frequent and intense heatwaves, and conditions for reef recovery will continue to deteriorate without urgent reductions of greenhouse gas emissions." Yet there has been a net increase since the 1980s. Apparently the researchers have blinders when reading data.]*

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

#### **The Financial Times Says War and Climate Change Spiked Shipping Costs: War, Yes; Weather, Yes; Climate Change, NO!**

By Linnea Lueken, Climate Realism, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climaterealism.com/2026/08/the-financial-times-says-war-and-climate-change-spiked-shipping-costs-war-yes-weather-yes-climate-change-no/>

#### **The Loneliness Epidemic is Not Caused by Climate Change, PBS News**

By Linnea Lueken, Climate Realism, Aug 14, 2026

<https://climaterealism.com/2026/08/the-loneliness-epidemic-is-not-caused-by-climate-change-pbs-news/>

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

#### **When Experts Obfuscate! How Alarmist Scientists like D. Swain, J. Abatzoglou, A. Williams Falsely Attribute Wildfires to Climate Change.**

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Aug 16, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/16/when-experts-obfuscate-how-alarmist-scientists-like-d-swain-j-abatzoglou-a-williams-falsely-attribute-wildfires-to-climate-change/>

In their Goss et al (2020) paper "*Climate Change Is Increasing the Likelihood of Extreme Autumn Wildfire Conditions Across California*", those alarmist scientists clearly stated their intention was to make climate change the culprit by presenting an investigation that "only considers changes in climatic contributions to wildfire risk, irrespective of changes in fire ignitions, vegetation, land use or management strategies." However, all those other factors can completely account for wildfire trends unrelated to climate change.

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda***

#### **Comparison Of Two German Weather Forecasts: From 25 Years Ago And From Today**

By Pierre Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Aug 20, 2026

<https://notrickszone.com/2026/08/20/comparison-of-two-german-weather-forecasts-from-25-years-ago-and-from-today/>

*[SEPP Comment: 25 years ago, a high temperature 28 to 30 degrees Celsius (82 to 86 degrees F) was called pleasant now it is called extremely dangerous.]*

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Protest***

**Save LBI Notifies U.S. Department of Commerce of Intent to Sue for Failure to Protect Critically Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale**

By Staff, Save Long Beach Island, Inc, Aug 16, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/16/save-lbi-notifies-u-s-department-of-commerce-of-intent-to-sue-for-failure-to-protect-critically-endangered-north-atlantic-right-whale/>

### ***Questioning European Green***

**New Report Says Miliband's Clean Power Plan Will Cost £320 Billion**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 19, 2026

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2026/08/19/new-report-says-milibands-clean-power-plan-will-cost-320-billion/>

Link to report: **Firm Foundations: The case for cheap and reliable power**

By Ed Hezlet, Onward, Aug 18, 2026

<https://ukonward.com/reports/firm-foundations/>

From Executive Summary: This paper quantifies the logical failures that have led to high prices and how they are defeating the very reason why the costs were incurred in the first place: to meet environmental objectives. Expensive electricity is hampering the electrification of heating, transport and industrial activity, pushing progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions ever further away.

From Homewood: Onward is a highly reputable economic think tank, at the forefront of forward thinking.

The indisputable facts they have put forward must be the strongest argument yet about abandoning Ed Miliband's mad dash to decarbonise the electricity system.

That policy lies at the very heart of the Net Zero agenda.

### ***More Pennies Dropping***

But these pennies add up to billions of pounds

By Mark Hodgson, Climate Scepticism, Aug 19, 2026 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://cliscep.com/2026/08/19/more-pennies-dropping/>

The Telegraph quotes Richard Tice thus:

[He] said the plans showed that “the Government has lost the plot” in its pursuit of net zero targets.

He said: “First they subsidize renewables heavily. Then they realize the wind does not always blow nor the sun always shine and we have huge blackout risk.

“So now they subsidize gas to billions of pounds to act as backup. The result is households being fleeced by vast subsidies to investors who cannot believe their luck.”

### ***Litigation Issues***

**Winning: NZ parliament ends climate activists hopes of using tort lawfare to shut down the economy**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Aug 20, 2026

<https://joannenova.com.au/2026/08/winning-nz-parliament-ends-climate-activists-hopes-of-using-tort-lawfare-to-shut-down-the-economy/>

Jon McGowan predicts that the US legislation will stall until after the midterms and may take years. In the interim, the Republican States will enact their own legislation to protect themselves and the Democrat states will do the opposite and attack the energy companies.

Frankly, I'm wondering when Exxon or Shell will just stop supplying New York and tell them to go drill for their own.

### **D.C. Circuit Endangerment Finding Litigation: The Nefarious EPA "Futility" Analysis**

By Francis Menton, Manhattan Contrarian, Aug 16, 2026

<https://www.manhattancontrarian.com/blog/2026-8-16-dc-circuit-endangerment-finding-litigation-the-nefarious-epa-futility-analysis>

### **Michigan Court Redefines Tenure Track?**

By Staff, Government Accountability & Oversight, Aug 13, 2026

<https://govoversight.org/michigan-court-redefines-tenure-track/>

In *GAO v. Regents of the University of Michigan*, the court has ruled that a law professor's public "expert testimony" and other advocacy, performed expressly and repeatedly in her capacity as an expert University of Michigan Law School professor, wasn't really being performed as a University of Michigan law professor. This despite that the professor also taught classes on the same subject ("climate superfund" laws). Apparently, everyone now agrees the professor was actually acting on behalf of the Rockefeller Family Fund when wielding her academic title as an expert professor on the topic.

### **Data-center Data Dump**

By Staff, Government Accountability & Oversight, Aug 17, 2026

<https://govoversight.org/data-center-data-dump/>

### ***Energy Issues – General***

#### **Energy Cost Before Energy Generation**

By Lars Schernikau, WUWT, Aug 18, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/18/energy-cost-before-energy-generation/>

Link to: **The Energy Nobody Counts**

Embodied energy – The first step in understanding eROI

By Lars Schernikau, The Unpopular Blog, Aug 8, 2026

<https://unpopular-truth.com/2026/08/08/the-energy-nobody-counts/>

#### **Hoping for an Energy-Intensive Future**

By Vijay Jayaraj, WUWT, Aug 17, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/17/hoping-for-an-energy-intensive-future/>

Link to: **Energy Abundance and Human Flourishing: A Data-Driven Global Analysis**

By Kevin Dayarana and Kat Miller, Advancing American Freedom (AAF), May 28, 2026

<https://advancingamericanfreedom.com/memos/energy-abundance-and-human-flourishing-a-data-driven-global-analysis>

From report: No country has ever become rich, healthy, and long-lived without utilizing a lot of energy. Across every nation and the entire historical record, prosperity and energy use rise together — with no exceptions.

### **How Energy Costs Are Driving the Great Stagnation [UK]**

By David Turver, The Daily Sceptic, Aug 17, 2026 [H/t Bernie Kesphire]

<https://dailysceptic.org/2026/08/17/how-energy-costs-are-driving-the-great-stagnation/>

[SEPP Comment: There are no wealthy, low-energy countries.]

### **Ellenbogen's (New York) Data from the July 2026 Heat Wave**

By Roger Caiazza, Pragmatic Environmentalist of New York, via WUWT, Aug 17, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/17/ellenbogens-data-from-the-july-2026-heat-wave/>

His central point is one I share: a fleet of four-hour or eight-hour battery systems cannot bridge a 47- to 72-hour period of degraded grid conditions, and inverter-based resources — solar and batteries alike — are prone to disconnecting from the grid precisely when voltage and frequency swing outside their normal operating range, removing generation at the worst possible time. As New York leans more heavily on these technologies to meet Climate Act mandates, this event is a warning that deserves serious engineering attention rather than the political dismissal Ellenbogen believes it has received so far.

### ***Energy Issues – Europe***

#### **The Green Con Exposed**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 21, 2026

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2026/08/21/the-green-con-exposed/>

8 minute video of Jacob Rees-Mogg, on wind and solar power are not cheap. The UK has the highest cost of industrial electricity in the world, the second highest cost of domestic (consumer) electricity.

Reducing the supply of electricity by driving up the price is the goal of many promoters of Net Zero. The marginal price of renewables is a false guide to total price.

### **Veteran Swiss Meteorologist On Germany's Recent Heat Wave: "You're A Really Crazy Country"**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Aug 16, 2026

<https://notrickszone.com/2026/08/16/veteran-swiss-meteorologist-on-germanys-recent-heat-wave-youre-a-really-crazy-country/>

For example, one widespread superstition leads Germans to fear drafts flowing across rooms and air conditioning, believing they cause stiff necks or illness, rather than using fans or AC units to save lives during extreme heat.

### ***Energy Issues – Australia***

#### **Aussie Renewables Win Tax Concessions the Government Claims Other Businesses Don't Need**

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Aug 21, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/21/aussie-renewables-win-tax-concessions-the-government-claims-other-businesses-dont-need/>

## **Aussie Coal Plants to Stay Operational Thanks to a “Souring” Renewable Investment Environment**

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Aug 18, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/18/aussie-coal-plants-to-stay-operational-thanks-to-a-souring-renewable-investment-environment/>

## ***Energy Issues – Elsewhere non-US***

### **Washington Lit the Fuse for Africa’s Energy Explosion**

By Vijay Jayaraj, CO2 Coalition, aug 17, 2026

<https://co2coalition.org/2026/08/17/washington-lit-the-fuse-for-africas-energy-explosion/>

## ***Energy Issues -- US***

### **Energy Dominance Requires Commitments That Last**

By Guy Caruso, Power Mag, Aug 17, 2026

[https://www.powermag.com/energy-dominance-requires-commitments-that-last/?utm\\_source=omeda&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pwrrenewable+eletter&oly\\_enc\\_id=7809H6412578J0B](https://www.powermag.com/energy-dominance-requires-commitments-that-last/?utm_source=omeda&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pwrrenewable+eletter&oly_enc_id=7809H6412578J0B)

That is why permitting reform deserves renewed bipartisan attention. Reform is not about guaranteeing approval for every project or weakening legitimate environmental protections, it is about restoring confidence that once a project satisfies clearly established legal requirements, government will honor its commitments. Developers should either meet the rules or they should not. Endless administrative reconsideration should not become standard practice.

### **The 1970s Oil Crisis: Never Forget**

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Aug 21, 2026

<https://www.masterresource.org/1970s-price-controls/1970s-oil-crisis-never-forget/>

This week marks the 55th anniversary of President Richard Nixon’s 90-day wage and price order of August 15, 1971. With extensions, maximum prices caused oil shortages beginning in 1972. More shortages with the Arab Embargo of October 1973 ensured passage of the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973, which continued federal price and allocation controls until President Reagan’s decontrol order in early 1981. This post adds to the historical record of one of the greatest peacetime energy policy failures in U.S. history.

### **Electric Sector Reform and Regional Transmission Organizations: A Government Creation That It is No Longer Working**

By Jonathan Lesser, Brent Bennett, Real Clear Energy, Aug 19, 2026

[https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2026/08/19/electric\\_sector\\_reform\\_and\\_regional\\_transmission\\_organizations\\_a\\_government\\_creation\\_that\\_it\\_is\\_no\\_longer\\_working\\_1201085.html](https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2026/08/19/electric_sector_reform_and_regional_transmission_organizations_a_government_creation_that_it_is_no_longer_working_1201085.html)

The apparent price benefits of RTOs have been shown to be primarily a function of underinvesting in new, reliable generation and infrastructure and of free-riding on investments made in previous eras.

Moreover, the need for new capacity has been exacerbated by the consequences of state and federal environmental policies, which forced the closure of many reliable fossil-fuel power plants that could not compete against heavily subsidized wind and solar generation, because those generators drove wholesale energy prices to zero, and even below zero, in many hours.

## **The New Economics of AI Infrastructure: Why Tax Strategy Is Now Part of Energy Strategy**

By Matt Noll, Power Mag, Aug 18, 2026

[https://www.powermag.com/the-new-economics-of-ai-infrastructure-why-tax-strategy-is-now-part-of-energy-strategy/?utm\\_source=omeda&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pwrrenewable+eletter&oly\\_enc\\_id=7809H6412578J0B](https://www.powermag.com/the-new-economics-of-ai-infrastructure-why-tax-strategy-is-now-part-of-energy-strategy/?utm_source=omeda&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pwrrenewable+eletter&oly_enc_id=7809H6412578J0B)

That reality is pushing developers and operators to rethink how they secure energy. Many are exploring co-located renewable generation, battery storage, microgrids, and other approaches that offer greater certainty in a market where grid capacity, interconnection timelines, and permitting are creating very real constraints.

At the same time, federal incentives are creating opportunities for a significant return on these clean energy and storage investments. The most successful developers and operators are recovering federal incentives like the Investment Tax Credit, which can return up to 50% of the initial investment in cash within the first year the assets are operational.

## **The Data Center Backlash Has a Practical Fix**

By Howard Franklin, Real Clear Energy, Aug 19, 2026

[https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2026/08/19/the\\_data\\_center\\_backlash\\_has\\_a\\_practical\\_fix\\_1201285.html](https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2026/08/19/the_data_center_backlash_has_a_practical_fix_1201285.html)

Price the exit, not just the entry. Every incentive negotiation obsesses over the ribbon-cutting. The harder question is the one no one asks out loud: if AI demand disappoints after the generation is built, who owns the surplus? North Carolina learned this lesson the expensive way when VinFast's 7,500 promised jobs became roughly 1,400 — and the state discovered it held clawback rights it never expected to need. Write the data center version now: capacity commitments that survive cancellation, clawbacks that trigger automatically, and no exposure to stranded plants for the ratepayers who never voted for them.

## **PJM Widens Response to Data Center Load as Capacity Shortfalls Deepen**

By Sonal C. Patel, Power Mag, Aug 20, 2026

[https://www.powermag.com/pjm-widens-response-to-data-center-load-as-capacity-shortfalls-deepen/?utm\\_source=omeda&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pwrnews+eletter&oly\\_enc\\_id=7809H6412578J0B](https://www.powermag.com/pjm-widens-response-to-data-center-load-as-capacity-shortfalls-deepen/?utm_source=omeda&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pwrnews+eletter&oly_enc_id=7809H6412578J0B)

## **Blue States. High Rates (\$0.55/gallon premium)**

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Aug 19, 2026

<https://www.masterresource.org/gasoline-prices/blue-states-high-rates-55-cent/>

Link to report: **The Pacific Premium: Why Gasoline Costs More In Democratic-Controlled States**

By Daniel Simmons, Institute for Energy Research (IER), July 14, 2026

<https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/fossil-fuels/gas-and-oil/the-pacific-premium/>

From Bradley: The political signal in gasoline prices is real, but it is a signal of accumulated policy choices: fuel taxes, carbon taxes, and regulatory environments built over decades, rather than of who happens to hold office right now.

## **Michigan's Energy Abundance Is on the Ballot**

By Samantha Fillmore, Real Clear Energy, Aug 20, 2026

[https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2026/08/20/michigans\\_energy\\_abundance\\_is\\_on\\_the\\_ballot\\_1201540.html](https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2026/08/20/michigans_energy_abundance_is_on_the_ballot_1201540.html)

### ***Nuclear Energy and Fears***

#### **Deployable Energy's new compact nuclear reactor**

By Andy May, WUWT, Aug 21, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/21/deployable-energys-new-compact-nuclear-reactor/>

### ***Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind***

#### **The Biggest Garbage Heaps in Human History**

So much for the lies about clean, renewable, sustainable energy. Where will all the trash go?

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, Aug 17, 2026

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2026/08/17/the-biggest-garbage-heaps-in-human-history/>

Turbine blades are made from fiberglass or carbon-fiber composites; they're extremely difficult to cut into pieces and nearly impossible to shred or recycle. Solar panels are theoretically recyclable, at least for their aluminum frames; but their copper, silver and other metals are embedded in glass or plastic and nearly impossible to recover economically. Batteries are likewise recyclable, in theory – but it's a very expensive and dangerous process, because components are prone to massive spontaneous chemical combustion.

#### **Next time for sure**

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Aug 19, 2026

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2026/08/19/next-time-for-sure/>

Meaning, one presumes, somehow continuing to subsidize expensive alternative energy you're certain is secretly cheaper, but somehow do it so nobody pays or at any rate realizes they're paying. Because politicians can order things to be cheap ("cost savings for Virginians") and even pass bills saying they're cheap, but they can't make them cheap and one of those dratted tricky things about reality is the money has to come from somewhere.

#### **Oops! China throws away a quarter of its renewable power (more than Australia uses each year)**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Aug 19, 2026

<https://joannenova.com.au/2026/08/useless-china-throws-away-a-quarter-of-its-renewable-power-more-than-australia-uses-each-year/>

A mammoth 360TWh wind and solar power in China has been discarded already this year. So, China appears to have even more useless, unreliable power than we do. "Congrats".

#### **The Billion-Dollar Blind Spot in Wind Turbine Maintenance**

By Alexis Grenon, Power Mag, Aug 14, 2026

[https://www.powermag.com/the-billion-dollar-blind-spot-in-wind-turbine-maintenance/?utm\\_source=omeda&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pwrrenewable+eletter&oly\\_enc\\_id=7809H6412578J0B](https://www.powermag.com/the-billion-dollar-blind-spot-in-wind-turbine-maintenance/?utm_source=omeda&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pwrrenewable+eletter&oly_enc_id=7809H6412578J0B)

Structural failure of a blade brings operations to a halt, and the lost revenue of business interruption, averaging approximately \$100,000 per day, compounds the expense of repairing the blade or sourcing a replacement. The availability of replacement blades is very limited and those

that can be ordered cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000 with a potential lead time of more than 12 months. Meanwhile, a complete turbine replacement can exceed \$5 million.

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

#### **Hydrogen: Not Market Ready**

By Kennedy Maize, Master Resource, Aug 18, 2026

<https://www.masterresource.org/hydrogen-fuel-cell-vehicles/latest-hydrogen/>

### ***California Dreaming***

#### **California’s New Tire Mandate Could Drive Up Costs**

Sacramento has spent years squeezing refiners out of the state. Now it’s squeezing tire manufacturers, all while insisting each new mandate is somehow a gift to drivers and taxpayers.

By Leslie Eastman, Legal Insurrection, Aug 19, 2026

<https://legalinsurrection.com/2026/08/californias-new-tire-mandate-could-drive-up-costs/>

#### **California’s ‘Sustainability’ Bureaucracy Takes a Big Sip from Napa Valley’s Iconic Vineyards**

“Sustainability” has essentially become the bureaucratic equivalent of a blank check, invoked to justify new fees and new layers of government management.

By Leslie Eastman, Legal Insurrection, Aug 14, 2026

<https://legalinsurrection.com/2026/08/californias-sustainability-bureaucracy-takes-a-big-sip-from-napa-valleys-iconic-vineyards/>

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

#### **Victor Davis Hanson: The American Tech Boom No One Is Talking About**

By Victor Davis Hanson, Daily Signal, Aug 20, 2026

[https://www.dailysignal.com/2026/08/20/hanson-the-american-tech-boom/?utm\\_source=TDS\\_Email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=fraud-runs-in-the-family-report-details-50-million-in-taxpayer-rip-offs&\\_bhlid=9243e52fa28accfad85c9f93b034763696a44233](https://www.dailysignal.com/2026/08/20/hanson-the-american-tech-boom/?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fraud-runs-in-the-family-report-details-50-million-in-taxpayer-rip-offs&_bhlid=9243e52fa28accfad85c9f93b034763696a44233)

Take, for instance, tech companies. One way we measure their influence and power is their market capitalization.

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## **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE**

#### **We are all going to die: Climate Change is affecting human blood chemistry (Buy another solar panel!)**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Aug 18, 2026

<https://joannenova.com.au/2026/08/we-are-all-going-to-die-climate-change-is-affecting-human-blood-chemistry-buy-another-solar-panel/>

Link to paper: **Carbon dioxide overload, detected in human blood, suggests a potentially toxic atmosphere within 50 years**

By Alexander N. Larcombe & Phil N. Bierwirth, Air Quality, Atmosphere & Health, Feb 26, 2026

[https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11869-026-01918-5#auth-Alexander\\_N\\_-Larcombe-Aff1-Aff2-Aff3](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11869-026-01918-5#auth-Alexander_N_-Larcombe-Aff1-Aff2-Aff3)

From Nova: All the scientific method of a fortune cookie

And then as Will Happer reminds us, somehow our submariners survive for months breathing 3,000 to 5,000 ppm all day every day.

### **Psychedelics for Climate Action (12,000 cultists)**

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Aug 20, 2026

<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-extremism/psychedelics-climate-action-2/>

### **Rising temperatures are bringing “new” marine life to Britain**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 21, 2026

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2026/08/18/rising-temperatures-are-bringing-new-marine-life-to-britain/>

The main motive for this latest piece of Telegraph nonsense seems to be that it is a blatant plug for sight-seeing boat trips.

### **Net Zero prison to be £150million overbudget and deliver just 200 jail places**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 17, 2026

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2026/08/17/net-zero-prison-to-be-150million-overbudget-and-deliver-just-200-jail-places/>

*[SEPP Comment: Will the prisoners have heat in the winter?]*

### **Too Hot For Oak Trees!**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 16, 2026

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2026/08/15/too-hot-for-oak-trees/>

English oaks, formally named *Quercus robur* or pedunculate oak, are common across most of Europe, where they have considerably hotter summers:

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## **ARTICLES**

NO ARTICLES THIS WEEK