

The Week That Was: 2012-11-17 (November 17, 2012)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *If we take into our hand any volume; of divinity or school metaphysics, for instance; let us ask, Does it contain any abstract reasoning concerning quantity or number? No. Does it contain any experimental reasoning concerning matter of fact and existence? No. Consign it then to the flames: For it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion.* David Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Section XII (1748)

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Number of the Week: 3.6° C

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THIS WEEK:

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

On the Road Again: On November 28, Fred Singer will be leaving for another lecture tour in Europe. On November 30 he will be speaking at the EIKE Conference in Munich, co-sponsored by Heartland. On December 3, he will be in Geneva giving three talks: luncheon talk to the BSCC, an afternoon talk with the WMO, and an evening talk “The Climate Debate.” On December 5, he give a 3pm open lecture on “Skeptical about Climate Catastrophes” at the Google building in Zurich To RSVP contact Johan Branstroem +41 76 79 89 579. He will give another open talk in Vienna on Dec 7 at 6 pm. To RSVP contact Gabriella Engler at the F. von Hayek Institute. For additional information please contact Ken@SEPP.org.

Trenberth and Fasullo: Last week TWTW linked to a study by Kevin Trenberth and John Fasullo of US National Center for Atmospheric Research that claimed that the most sensitive of the climate models are supported by their research in 10 years of changes in relative humidity. This was widely reported as proof that increasing carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere would cause drastic global warming because increases in water vapor will amplify the effects of increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations (a positive feedback). Without a positive feedback the theoretical warming from a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide is only 1.1 deg C (2 deg F).

In his comments, John Christy pointed out that the projections from the most sensitive models are diverging greatly from actual observations. The divergence is statistically significant. Trenberth and Fasullo failed to mention this divergence in their study.

This week, Richard Lindzen sent to TWTW an article by Trenberth and Fasullo that appeared in *Geophysical Research Letters* on April 14, 2009 titled “Global warming due to increasing absorbed solar radiation.” The main part of the abstract reads:

“There is an increase in net radiation absorbed, but not in ways commonly assumed. While there is a large increase in the greenhouse effect from increasing greenhouse gases and water vapor (as a feedback), this is offset to a large degree by a decreasing greenhouse effect from reducing cloud cover and increasing radiative emissions from higher temperatures. Instead the main warming from an energy budget standpoint comes from increases in absorbed solar radiation that stem directly from the decreasing cloud amounts.”

This is a re-statement of Lindzen's "Iris Effect", first published in 2001. Strangely, in the 2009 article Trenberth and Fasullo failed to mention the prior work of Lindzen. Could it be that Lindzen asserts that the iris effect cancels the water vapor feedback? Lindzen's research indicates that warming from doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide will be significantly less than the theoretical 1.1 deg C and much less than that projected by the models. Please see links in last week's TWTW and <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2009/2009GL037527.shtml>.

WUWT TV: To counter Al Gore's Dirty Weather telethon, Anthony Watts had a 24 hour program featuring scientists addressing key scientific issues involving the threat of global warming / climate change. The entire program can be viewed from Anthony's web site, WUWT. Shortly, individual segments will be available on UTube.

According to some who saw parts of both, Anthony's program was not as slick as the expensive and expertly produced Gore program. But all too often Hollywood slickness is used to cover-up scientific faults. The Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee, appointed by the Parliament of Norway, should have learned this by now. Please see links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

A Note of Thanks: Roger Pielke Sr. is retiring his popular web blog, Pielke Climate Science, to focus on research. Since July 2005, his blog has been a source for valuable information that often did not appear elsewhere. Now, he finds a number of excellent blogs exist and prefers to concentrate on other matters. His comments have always been professional and courteous, a high standard missing in many climate blogs. We are looking forward to the third edition of his modeling book. Please see link under Seeking a Common Ground.

EIKE – Heartland Conference: As stated above, The Heartland Institute is partnering with the European Institute for Climate and Energy (EIKE) to host a conference on Climate Change in Munich. For details please see the link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

BBC Special: The BBC climate scandal continues to unfold. In 2006, BBC announced that based on a panel of experts, it would no longer give equal time to climate change skeptics. As linked in TWTW last week, a lonely British subject, who pays taxes supporting BBC, inquired who was on the panel. He has been thwarted by the BBC and the courts on claims by BBC executives that the panel met only under commonly used conditions of secrecy. This week, a blogger discovered the names of the panel from apparently completely legal and open sources. As expected, few on the panel were climate experts and many were from organizations hostile to use of carbon based fuels. It is sad to witness a once venerable institution, noted for its integrity, headed the way of supermarket tabloids by defending politicized climate science and policy. Please see links under BBC Special.

Quote of the Week: The quote was used in a lecture at Oxford on science and rhetoric by Mark Thompson in which he criticized the Global Warming Policy Foundation (GWPF). Mr. Thompson is the former head of the BBC. Apparently, Mr. Thompson does not realize that complex numerical models can be another form of sophistry and illusion – particularly if their assumptions have not been empirically verified, and when the models require updating as observations significantly diverge from predictions. Please see link under Defending the Orthodoxy.

IEA: The International Energy Administration (IEA) has issued a large study titled **World Energy Outlook, 2012**. According to the outlook, largely due to deep underground hydraulic fracturing of dense shale and deepwater drilling, by the early 2020s, the US will be producing more oil than Saudi Arabia. Based on its Executive Summary and Fact Sheet, the IEA completely accepts the claims of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that carbon dioxide emissions are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming. This may give pause in accepting the IEA claims by those who question the reliability of the IPCC models. Please Article # 2 and links under Energy Issues – Non-US.

Number of the Week: 3.6° C. Peter Foster writes in the *Financial Post*: “According to the IEA report, given present consumption trends, the Earth is headed for 3.6C of temperature increase in the “long term.” Just what the long term means is buried in a convoluted and confusing graph on page 247, where it is revealed that that 3.6C is in fact a probability and refers to the year ... 2200. Yes, that’s 188 years from now.” Please see link under Energy Issues – Non-US.

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. We'd Like to Write Rosy EPA Letters

By Philip D. Guerin, Letter, WSJ, Nov 11, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324439804578106811022163062.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_1

2. Saudi America

The U.S. will be the world's leading energy producer, if we allow it.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 13, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323894704578114591174453074.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEADTop

3. The Fracker's Guide to a Greener World

Greenhouse-gas emissions are growing rapidly in the developing world. The only realistic alternative to this trend is natural gas.

By Richard Muller & Mitch Daniels, WSJ, Nov 11, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204712904578093082937646090.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEADTop

[SEPP Comment in the WSJ: Professor Muller’s research could be used to support the research of Professor Lars Franzén of the University of Gothenburg, and others, who state that without carbon dioxide emissions the earth would be entering a new ice age. Why is this trade-off not mentioned?]

4. Can Medieval Heat Cool Warming Worries?

By Matt Ridley, WSJ, Nov 9, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204349404578100862654023702.html>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Solar Activity – Past, Present, Future

By Leif Svalgaard, WUWT, Nov 11, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/11/solar-activity-past-present-future/>

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Professor Vahrenholt: Climate Science “A Real Effrontery”... “Scientists Leave The Room When They See Me”

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 11, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/11/11/professor-vahrenholt-climate-science-a-real-effrontery-scientists-leave-the-room-when-they-see-me/>

[SEPP Comment: Although Professor Vahrenholt states that carbon dioxide is causing warming, in his book, *Die kalte Sonne*, he asserts that the sun has a major role in climate change – something the IPCC rejects.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

WUWT-TV’s answer to Al Gore’s ‘Dirty Weather Report’ is ON THE AIR

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 14, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/14/wuwt-tvs-answer-to-al-gores-dirty-weather-report-is-on-the-air/>

Music star Al Gore plans a virtual reality drop

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Nov 16, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/11/music-star-al-gore-plans-virtual.html#more>

Heartland Institute Hosts Eighth International Conference on Climate Change in Germany

The Heartland Institute is partnering with the Germany-based European Institute for Climate and Energy (EIKE) to host the Eighth International Conference on Climate Change November 30 - December 1

Press Release, Heartland, Nov 15, 2012

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2012/11/prweb10139236.htm>

Little Change in Drought Over 60 Years

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Nov 15, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/11/little-change-in-drought-over-60-years.html>

Nature paper: Global droughts unchanged in 60 years

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 16, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/11/nature-paper-global-droughts-unchanged-in-60-years/>

Meteorologist Challenges Obama’s Climate Change Claims

By Mandy Nagy, Breitbart, Nov 14, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2012/11/14/Meteorologist-Joe-Bastardi-Challenges-Obama-s-Climate-Change-Facts>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Mark Thompson on the GWPF

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 12, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/11/12/mark-thompson-on-the-gwpcf.html>

Carbon buried in the soil rises again

By Staff Writers, Davis CA (SPX), Nov 12, 2012

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Carbon buried in the soil rises again 999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Carbon%20buried%20in%20the%20soil%20rises%20again%20999.html)

Climate Change Report Outlines Perils for U.S. Military

By John Broder, NYT, Nov 9, 2012 [H/t SPPI]

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/10/science/earth/climate-change-report-outlines-perils-for-us-military.html?_r=0

[SEPP Comment: Another alarmist study from the once respectable National Research Council.]

Global Warming Could Wipe Out Govt.

By Staff Writers, Judicial Watch, Nov 8, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2012/11/global-warming-could-wipe-out-govt/>

[SEPP Comment: An amusing twist on an alarmist sea level rise study with projections as large as a 5 meter rise. Among the alarmists statements in the study is that by 3000 North African rainfall will get worse (from a study in Nature Geoscience). The Sahara getting rainfall is a bad thing?]

German Climate Institutes Revise: CO2 Will Now Cause Warmer Winters With “More Frequent Cold”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 14, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/11/14/german-climate-institutes-co2-will-cause-warmer-with-more-frequent-cold/>

[SEPP Comment: If it is a warm winter, the cause is global warming. If it is a cold winter, the cause is global warming.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Global Cooling: A Far More Dangerous Fate

Humans thrive during warm spells. We die in the cold.

By Tim Ball and Tom Harris, PJ Media, Nov 13, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/global-cooling-a-far-more-dangerous-fate/>

Analysis of US and State-by-State Carbon Dioxide Emissions & Potential "Savings" in Future Global Temperature & Global Sea Level Rise

By Paul Knappenberger, SPPI, Nov 16, 2012

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

Using assumptions based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports, if the U.S. as a whole stopped emitting all carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions immediately, the ultimate impact on projected global temperature rise would be a reduction, or a “savings,” of approximately 0.08°C by the year 2050 and 0.17°C by the year 2100—amounts that are, for all intents and purposes, negligible.

Spiegel Scare: 2011 Sees New “Gigantic” CO2 Emissions Record (Pssst – But Global Temperatures Dropped)

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 13, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/11/13/spiegel-scare-2011-sees-new-gigantic-co2-emissions-record-pssst-but-global-temperatures-dropped/>

[SEPP Comment: No warming trend may be more accurate than temperatures dropped.]

Nobel winners here, there, everywhere!

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Nov 12, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/11/nobel-winners-here-there-everywhere>

Questioning European Green

Commissioner Oettinger rails against state subsidies

By Staff Write, Press Europe, Nov 13, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.presseurop.eu/en/content/news-brief/3026021-commissioner-oettinger-rails-against-against-state-subsidies>

Moody's: Wind and solar power will continue to erode thermal generators' credit quality

By Scott Phillips, et al, Moody's Investor Service, Nov 6, 2012

http://www.moodys.com/research/Moodys-Wind-and-solar-power-will-continue-to-erode-thermal--PR_259122

Renewables growth in Europe: good news for wholesale electricity prices?

By Freya Roberts, Carbon Brief, Nov 12, 2012

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2012/11/renewables-growth-in-europe-good-news-for-wholesale-electricity-prices>

[SEPP Comment: According to this article, Moody's report states renewable are driving down the cost of electricity in Europe. However, it has not reduced the cost of electricity to the consumers.]

'Job done' on wind farms, says John Hayes

A Conservative minister last night defied Liberal Democrat Energy secretary Ed Davey to insist no more onshore wind farms would be built beyond those already planned.

By Christopher Hope, Telegraph, UK, Nov 13, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9676256/Job-done-on-wind-farms-says-John-Hayes.html>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Adapting to Climate Change Is Less Costly than Spending Trillions on Emission Targets

By Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar, From Economic Times, India, Nov 7, 2012

<http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/adapting-climate-change-is-less-costly-spending-trillions-emission-targets>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

What Scandal? CIA Hard At Work Exposing Security Risks of “Climate Phenomena”

By Staff Writers, Judicial Watch, Nov 14, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2012/11/what-scandal-cia-hard-at-work-exposing-security-risks-of-climate-phenomena/>

Cultural dimensions of climate change are underestimated, overlooked and misunderstood

By Staff Writers, Exeter UK (SPX), Nov 14, 2012

http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Cultural_dimensions_of_climate_change_are_underestimated_overlooked_and_misunderstood_999.html

Trouble in the Orthodoxy

President of UN climate summit in Qatar says shale gas is “good news”

By Ed King, RTCC, Nov 13, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.rtcc.org/president-of-un-climate-summit-in-qatar-says-shale-gas-is-good-news/>
[SEPP Comment: Not exactly great news for the greens.]

Doha conference: carbon cuts talks must wait, says key negotiator

Brazil's Luiz Alberto Figueiredo says a Kyoto protocol extension must take priority at the Doha climate negotiations

By Jonathan Watts, Guardian, UK, Nov 15, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/nov/15/doha-carbon-cuts-climate-change?intcmp=122>

Kyoto: Australia “IN” New Zealand “Out”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 12, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/11/kyoto-australia-in-new-zealand-out/#more-25185>

Washington weighs moving climate politics beyond UNFCCC

By Arthur Neslen, EurActiv, Nov 16, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/washington-weighs-moving-climate-news-516077>

Seeking a Common Ground

The Weblog Is Retiring

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Nov 13, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/11/13/the-weblog-is-retiring/>

Publication of “Reply to “Comment On ‘Ocean Heat Content And Earth’s Radiation Imbalance. II. Relation To Climate Shifts’ ” by Nuccitelli Et Al. By Douglass and Knox 2012

By Roger Pielke Sr, Climate Science, Nov 12, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/11/12/publication-of-reply-to-comment-on-ocean-heat-content-and-earths-radiation-imbalance-ii-relation-to-climate-shifts-by-nuccitelli-et-al-by-douglass-an/>

[SEPP Comment: The concept of climate shifts gives great difficulty to those who advocate that carbon dioxide emissions are the primary cause of global warming / climate change.]

PBL, KNMI and Crok launch Climate Discussion platform Climate Dialogue

Press Release, PBL, Netherlands, Nov 11, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.pbl.nl/en/news/newsitems/2012/pbl-knmi-and-crok-launch-climate-discussion-platform-climatedialogueorg>

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

Climate Change: Lessons From Ronald Reagan

By Cass Sunstein, NYT, Nov 10, 2012 [H/t Willie Soon]

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/11/opinion/sunday/climate-change-lessons-from-ronald-reagan.html?_r=0

[SEPP Comment: When Freon was banned in the US as patents expired, chemical companies already had alternatives – patent protected and more expensive, of course.]

John Boehner’s discouraging view of climate science

Editorial, Washington Post, Nov 13, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/john-boehners-discouraging-words-on-climate-science/2012/11/13/bbabc182-2d16-11e2-9ac2-1c61452669c3_story.html

[SEPP Comment: According to the editorial: “the models and the quality of the information that feeds into them have gotten progressively better.” The editorial ignores the fact that there has been no warming for at least a decade.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

What Paleotempestology Tells Scientists about Today's Tempests

By Staff Writers, Boulder, CO (SPX), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/What_Paleotempestology_Tells_Scientists_about_Todays_Tempests_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The study of past storms is now Paleotempestolog?]

Commentary: Sandy's S.O.S.

By Arnaud De Borchgrave, Washington (UPI), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Commentary_Sandys_SOS_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Linking climate change to nuclear testing and wars.]

BBC Special

BBC – the stench of decay

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Nov 12, 2012

<http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2012%20November.htm#stench>

BBC secret exposed: Greenpeace, activists, BP decide what “science” brits see — Hello TwentyEightGate

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 17, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/11/bbc-secret-exposed-greenpeace-activists-bp-decide-what-sciencebrits-see-hello-twentyeightgate/#more-25217>

BBC's 30 "experts" who decided in 2006 that balance on AGW wasn't needed

By Lubos Molt, Reference Frame, Nov 13, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/11/bbcs-30-experts-who-decided-in-2006.html#more>

The List of Names the BBC Did Not Want You to See

Scientist Exposed by Climategate Set BBC Policy

By Guido Fawkes, Order-Order.com, Nov 13, 2012

<http://order-order.com/2012/11/13/the-list-of-names-the-bbc-did-not-want-you-to-see-scientist-exposed-by-climategate-set-bbc-policy/>

[SEPP Comment: We recognize only one bona fide climate scientist in the whole bunch]

Storming Sandy

The Impact of Sandy on Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies Along Its Track

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Nov 11, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/11/inverse-hockey-stick-hurricane-sandy-cools-the-ocean/>

The Moral of Sandy

By Bjørn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Nov 13, 2012

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/the-right-and-wrong-way-to-reduce-hurricane-damage-by-bj-rn-lomborg>

[SEPP Comment: Those who jumped at blaming hurricane / extra-tropical storm Sandy on global warming may be better described as climate opportunists than climate scientists.]

Schumer urges weather agency to keep Sandy labeled a tropical storm

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Nov 11, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/267261-schumer-presses-weather-agency-to-keep-sandy-a-storm>

[SEPP Comment: Insurance deductibles are larger for a hurricane than a tropical storm, thus labeling Sandy as a tropical storm will benefit those whose properties were damaged. The downside is that a tropical storm does not have the same alarmist tone as a hurricane or super storm.]

New York governor seeks \$30 bn in aid after Sandy

By Staff Writers, New York (AFP), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/New_York_governor_seeks_30_bn_in_aid_after_Sandy_999.html

Government Fails In Long Island

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 16, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/11/16/government-fails-in-long-island/>

Changing Weather

Tropical Indo-Pacific climate shifts to a more El Nino-like state

By Staff Writers, Manoa HI (SPX), Nov 15, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Tropical_Indo_Pacific_climate_shifts_to_a_more_El_Nino_like_state_999.html

A Big Picture Look At “Earth’s Temperature” – “Extreme Weather” Update

By WUWT regular “Just The Facts”, WUWT, Nov 10, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/10/a-big-picture-look-at-earths-temperature-extreme-weather-update/>

[SEPP Comment: Extensive compilation of various climate indices in graphs.]

2012 vs . 2011 tornadoes: A study in contrasts

By Jason Samenow, ICECAP, Nov 15, 2012

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/2012_vs_2011_tornadoes_a_study_in_contrasts/

[SEPP Comment: After a promising start for climate alarmists, the 2012 tornado season is a failure.]

Changing Climate

Climate change and the ancient Maya

By Staff Writers, Philadelphia PA (SPX), Nov 14, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Researchers_find_linkages_between_climate_change_and_political_human_impacts_among_ancient_Maya_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Another example that climate change is not a recent phenomenon as alarmist pretend it is.]

Changing Sea Ice

Press Release - Why Antarctic sea ice cover has increased under the effects of climate change

By Staff Writers, British Antarctic Survey, Nov 11, 2012

http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/press/press_releases/press_release.php?id=1967

NASA, BAS agree that the Antarctic ice growth contradicts climate models

By Lubos Molt, Reference Frame, Nov 12, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/11/nasa-bas-agree-that-antarctic-ice.html>

Bipolar disorder – as in the Arctic, the Antarctic sea ice extent is affected by wind, unless of course it's 'climate change'

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 12, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/12/bipolar-disorder-as-in-the-arctic-the-antarctic-sea-ice-extent-is-affected-by-wind-unless-of-course-its-climate-change/>

Changing Earth

Himalayan glaciers will shrink even if temperatures hold steady

Press Release, Brigham Young University, Nov 15, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

<http://news.byu.edu/archive12-nov-bhutan.aspx>

[SEPP Comment: Glaciers will shrink until the next ice age comes. There are significant challenges to the claims of major melt over the next few decades and annual melt water loss.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Danger, hazardous regulations ahead

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Nov 16, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/danger-hazardous-regulations-ahead>

Walker's World: Food crisis again

By Martin Walker, London (UPI), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Walkers_World_Food_crisis_again_999.html

The Political Games Continue

Members Question Use of Secret Email Accounts by Top Obama Administration Officials
Call for Release of Records and Independent Reviews Regarding Conduct of Official Business through Covert Means

Press Release, House Committee on Science, Nov 16, 2012

<http://science.house.gov/press-release/members-question-use-secret-email-accounts-top-obama-administration-officials>

Briefs: Energy Policy in the Lame Duck Session

By Sonal Patel, Energy News, Nov 15, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/5141.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2562950&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Think tank to sue Treasury to make carbon tax proposal emails public

By Mark Tapscott, Washington Examiner, Nov 12, 2012

http://washingtonexaminer.com/think-tank-to-sue-treasury-to-make-carbon-tax-proposal-emails-public/article/2513288?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2011/13/2012&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest#.UKJTn4b5Xrq

Carbon Tax Will Kill The Economy, Boost Inflation

By Steve Milloy, IBD, Nov 13, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-on-the-right/111312-633309-carbon-tax-is-an-economic-loser.htm>

New carbon tax would be folly

Such a levy can't be justified on basis of altering climate; real goal is a revenue stream to fund European-style government.

By Christopher Horner, Orange County Register, Nov 14, 2012

<http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/tax-377765-carbon-new.html>

Brussels moots pollution credit cut to up carbon price

By Staff Writers, Brussels (AFP), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Brussels_moots_pollution_credit_cut_to_up_carbon_price_999.html

Experts believe that the price should be between 24 and 30 euros in order to make investment in clean technologies worthwhile.

EU 'Stops The Clock' On Emissions Scheme For Incoming And Outgoing Flights

By David Jones, Business Travel News, Nov 12, 2012

<http://www.businesstravelnews.com/More-News/EU--Stops-The-Clock--On-Emissions-Scheme-For-Incoming-And-Outgoing-Flights/?ida=Government&a=trans&cid=eltrDaily>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Governors Demand Wind PTC to Cover State Costs

By Lisa Linowes, Master Resource, Nov 16, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/11/governors-ptc-cost-extension/#more-22745>

[SEPP Comment: What Irony! Many states have instituted “feel good” policies of requiring renewable sources such as wind, for producing electricity. Now, governors of some of these states are realizing that these policies are increasing electricity costs in their states. To off-set these costs, they are demanding greater Federal subsidies for wind power. This action is a clear example that wind power increases the costs of electricity to consumers – so much for free energy. It is time that the states bear the costs of their financially irresponsible “feel-good” policies.]

New Rule Could Reenergize Clean-Energy In New Jersey

By Staff Writers, Newark NJ (SPX), Nov 12, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/New Rule Could Reenergize Clean Energy In New Jersey 999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/New_Rule_Could_Reenergize_Clean_Energy_In_New_Jersey_999.html)

Natural Gas Industry Cozies Up to Washington

By Veronique de Rugy, Reason, From NCPA, Nov 14, 2012

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=22574&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

[SEPP Comment: Beyond R & D, there is no justification for subsidizing the conversion of vehicles to natural gas. If it is economical, it will happen.]

EPA refuses to waive ethanol mandate

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 16, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/268453-epa-rejects-bids-to-waive-ethanol-mandate>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Why You Should Care That Courts Overturn EPA's Carbon Pollution Standard

By Marlo Lewis, Forbes, Nov 14, 2012 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2012/11/14/why-you-should-care-that-courts-overturn-epas-carbon-pollution-standard/>

The EPA's Dirty Big Secrets

By Peter C Glover, Energy Tribune, Nov 14, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/65200/the-epa-dirty-big-secrets>

EPA Charged With Lethal Experiments On Hundreds Of Unsuspecting Subjects

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Nov 13, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/11/13/epa-charged-with-lethal-experiments-on-hundreds-of-unsuspecting-subjects/>

New York Misses Out on Natural Gas Revolution as Junk Science Carries the Day

By Kevin Monney, Net Right Daily, Nov 14, 2012

<http://netrightdaily.com/2012/11/new-york-misses-out-on-natural-gas-revolution-as-junk-science-carries-the-day/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

World Energy Outlook 2012

By Fatih Birol et al, IEA, Nov 12, 2012

<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/publications/weo-2012/>

Anti-markets drivel

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Nov 13, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/11/13/peter-foster-anti-markets-drivel/>

Seven essential graphs from the IEA's World Energy Outlook

By Robin Webster, Carbon Brief, Nov 12, 2012

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2012/11/favourite-graphs-from-iea>

[SEPP Comment: Carbon Brief is a European organization promoting the goals of the IPCC.]

Saving Energy is Good

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 13, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/11/13/saving-energy-is-good/>

Quebec minister lashes out against plans to bring Alberta oil to province

By Nicolas Van Praet, Financial Post, Nov 14, 2012

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/11/14/quebec-minister-lashes-out-against-plans-to-bring-alberta-oil-to-province/>

Energy Issues -- US

Shale gas boom rejuvenating US industry

By Staff Writers, Washington Post news group, Nov 16, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.com/Business/201211150234>

Enviros quickly press victorious Obama to nix Keystone pipeline

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 7, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/266401-enviros-quickly-press-victorious-obama-to-nix-keystone-pipeline>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Third Way's Freed discusses policy recommendations for price stability

By Staff Writers, EENews, Nov 15, 2012

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/transcript/1603>

The end of the cheap hydrocarbons era

By Staff Writers, Moscow (Voice of Russia), Nov 13, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/The_end_of_the_cheap_hydrocarbons_era_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The Russian take on the US oil & gas boom. Look for environmentalists to repeat it.]

Arctic project carries Alaska-size challenges

By Jennifer Klouhy, Fuel Fix, Nov 12, 2012

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/11/12/arctic-project-carries-alaska-size-challenges/>

Alaska ice tested as possible new energy source

By Staff Writers, AP, Nov 12, 2012

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/11/12/alaska-ice-tested-as-possible-new-energy-source/>

[SEPP Comment: The headline is misleading. The article discusses the possible use of methane hydrates.]

An American Oil Find That Holds More Than All of OPEC

By Alan Farnham, ABC News, Nov 13, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/american-oil-find-holds-oil-opec/story?id=17536852&singlePage=true#.UKP234eX8Z6>

[SEPP Comment: Two major questions: Can it be extracted at a competitive price and will Washington allow it? Interior has already put a major portion of the formation off-limits.]

Warning issued on 'experimental' fracking

By Staff Writers, Erie, Pa. (UPI), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Warning_issued_on_experimental_fracking_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Academic ignorance! Over 60 years of experience does not give a basis of knowledge? The article does not correctly describe the used techniques.]

Washington's Control of Oil, Gas and Coal

Obama's war on energy is a war on jobs

Natural gas gives the economy much-needed boost

By William Triplett, Washington Times, Nov 15, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/nov/15/obamas-war-on-energy-is-a-war-on-jobs/>

More research on arctic oil spills urged

By Staff Writers, Anchorage, Alaska (UPI), Nov 14, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/More_research_on_arctic_oil_spills_urged_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Another excuse for stopping or slow-rolling drilling. Over 40 years of experience is not enough?]

API's Gerard discusses future of Keystone XL

By Staff Writer, EENews, Nov 14, 2012

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/transcript/1602>

Return of King Coal?

With China and India Ravenous for Energy, Coal's Future Seems Assured

By Peter Galuszka, NYT, Nov 12, 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/13/business/energy-environment/china-leads-the-way-as-demand-for-coal-surges-worldwide.html>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

BP, US reach \$4.5B settlement for Gulf spill

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 15, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/268123-bp-nearing-criminal-settlement-over-2010-gulf-spill>

Guilty plea to cost BP \$4B for explosion

By Jerry Seper, Washington Times, Nov 15, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/nov/15/guilty-plea-to-cost-bp-4b-for-explosion/>

Coast Guard: Two missing in Gulf oil platform explosion

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 16, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/268481-coast-guard-no-reports-of-spil-from-fatal-gulf-oil-platform-explosion>

[SEPP Comment: Another round of political oil bashing from those who demand complete safety which is impossible, even in Congress.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Chernobyl cleanup workers had significantly increased risk of leukemia

By Staff Writers, San Francisco CA (SPX), Nov 13, 2012

http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Chernobyl_cleanup_workers_had_significantly_increased_risk_of_leukemia_999.html

[SEPP Comment: According to the article, 16% of 137 cases of leukemia among 111,000 workers was attributed to Chernobyl. This works out to 22 cases or 0.02% of those studied.]

IEA cuts nuclear power growth forecast

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 12, 2012

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-IEA_cuts_nuclear_power_growth_forecast-1211124.html

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Australia scraps Solar Dawn project

By Staff Writers, Brisbane, Australia (UPI), Nov 13, 2012

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Australia_scraps_Solar_Dawn_project_999.html

Bosch quits Desertec

By Quirin Schiermeier, Nature News Blog, Nov 13, 2012

<http://blogs.nature.com/news/2012/11/bosch-quits-desertec.html>

[SEPP Comment: Among other investors in this huge project is the re-insurance company Munich Re which recently issued a widely cited report claiming dangerous global warming / climate change from carbon dioxide emissions.]

Is Colorado's "new energy economy" still viable in light of recent setbacks in the industry?

No

Green is still unsustainable

By William Yeatman, Denver Post, Nov 11, 2012 [H/t Cooler Heads]

http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_21960082/no-green-is-still-unsustainable

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Vehicles

JD Power study: Electric vehicle economics don't pencil out

By Jerry Hirsch, LA Times, Nov 8, 2012

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-mo-autos-electric-vehicle-costs-20121108,0,4965785.story>

[SEPP Comment: Why should politicians be concerned with consumer economics?]

California Dreaming

Pulling billions out of thin air

California unleashes cap-and-trade scheme

Editorial, Washington Times, Nov 12, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/nov/12/pulling-billions-out-of-thin-air/>

[SEPP Comment: As many organizations are lining up to get part of the “free money” that will cost California consumers dearly.]

Latest tool to fight global warming: an auction

By Michael Gardner, U-T San Diego, Nov 13, 2012 [H/t John Coleman]

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/nov/13/latest-tool-fight-global-warming-auction/?page=1#article>

California Debuts Cap-and-Trade Program Amid Legal Challenge

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Nov 15, 2012

http://www.powernews.com/POWERnews/5144.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2562950&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0

Environmental Industry

Trouble at Brazil mega-dam stops construction for now

By Staff Writers, Rio De Janeiro (AFP), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Trouble_at_Brazil_mega-dam_stops_construction_for_now_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Destroying buildings is just another way for greens to protest.]

C2ES' Roy discusses expectations for new Senate Energy committee leadership

By Staff Writer, EENews, Nov 13, 2012

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/transcript/1601>

[SEPP Comment: The re-named Pew climate lobbying group defending the EPA.]

Canada's push for dirty tar sands oil is out of step

By Staff Writers, Ottawa, Canada (SPX), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Canadas_push_for_dirty_tar_sands_oil_is_out_of_step_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Green journalism.]

Other Scientific News

Superbug MRSA Identified in U.S. Wastewater Treatment Plants

By Staff Writers, College Park MD (SPX), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Superbug_MRSA_Identified_in_US_Wastewater_Treatment_Plants_999.html

A New Technique to Protect Astronauts from Space Radiation

By Shannon Ridinger for Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville AL (SPX), Nov 12, 2012

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/A_New_Technique_to_Protect_Astronauts_from_Space_Radiation_999.html

Corals attacked by toxic seaweed use chemical 911 signals to summon help

By Staff Writers, Atlanta GA (SPX), Nov 15, 2012
[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Corals attacked by toxic seaweed use chemical 911 signals to summon help 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Corals%20attacked%20by%20toxic%20seaweed%20use%20chemical%20911%20signals%20to%20summon%20help%20999.html)

Other News that May Be of Interest

Research suggests that humans are slowly but surely losing intellectual and emotional abilities

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Nov 15, 2012
[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Research suggests that humans are slowly but surely losing intellectual and emotional abilities 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Research%20suggests%20that%20humans%20are%20slowly%20but%20surely%20losing%20intellectual%20and%20emotional%20abilities%20999.html)
[SEPP Comment: Are we losing our intellectual skills as we cease to be hunter-gatherers.]

Historic coral collapse on Great Barrier Reef

By Staff Writers, Brisbane, Australia (SPX), Nov 15, 2012
[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Historic coral collapse on Great Barrier Reef 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Historic%20coral%20collapse%20on%20Great%20Barrier%20Reef%20999.html)
[SEPP Comment: From development on land.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

That CO2 is powerful stuff, now causes satellites to be threatened in orbit due to lingering space debris

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 12, 2012
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/11/12/that-co2-is-powerful-stuff-now-causes-satellites-to-fall-from-orbit/>

China's endangered pandas face bamboo shortage threat

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Nov 11, 2012
[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Chinas endangered pandas face bamboo shortage threat 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Chinas%20endangered%20pandas%20face%20bamboo%20shortage%20threat%20999.html)
[SEPP Comment: From global warming / climate change, of course.]

Denmark Scraps Much-Maligned 'Fat Tax' After a Year

By Clemens Bomsdorf, WSJ, Nov 11, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323894704578113120622763136.html?mod=ITP_pageone_2
Products such as butter, oil, sausage, cheese and cream were subject to increases of as much as 9% immediately after the new tax was enacted.
[SEPP Comment: According to the article, all products with more than 2.3% saturated fat were subject to the tax. Apparently, Denmark was trying to eliminate the traditional breakfast.]

Love potion #10: Hormonal treatment to ensure fidelity?

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Nov 16, 2012
<http://www.acsh.org/love-potion-10-hormonal-treatment-to-ensure-fidelity/>
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ARTICLES:

1. We'd Like to Write Rosy EPA Letters

By Philip D. Guerin, Letter, WSJ, Nov 11, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324439804578106811022163062.html?mod=ITP_opinion_1

The Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship was formed out of frustration with Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1-New England, and its implementation of the Clean Water Act. The Oct. 30 letters from Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia and William Walker from DC Water have us wondering whether their EPA is in any way related to EPA Region 1.

Their EPA is an agency of common sense, partnership and sensitivity to economic realities. Region 1 brings us bureaucratic tunnel vision, disregard for financial concerns and a "my way or the highway" approach. We long to work with an agency described by Mayor Nutter that "understands that the path to clean water is through collaboration and partnership and by investing limited resources wisely." However, in the New England states the EPA routinely oversteps its bounds, issuing permits without appropriate scientific basis and with no consideration of affordability. Communities get permits that mandate squandering limited local resources on actions producing inconsequential environmental results while aging infrastructure continues to crumble due to lack of funding.

Affordability, cost benefit and good science must guide permitting decisions. We seek an EPA that understands that the public's money needs to be spent wisely. We seek an EPA that will evoke praise from not just the mayor of Philadelphia but from mayors across the country. Finally, we seek an EPA that works in partnership with cities rather than against them, that views cities as environmental stewards and not environmental plunderers and that is sensitive to financial hardships of cities and their ratepayers.

2. Saudi America

The U.S. will be the world's leading energy producer, if we allow it.
Editorial, WSJ, Nov 13, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323894704578114591174453074.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Sometimes the revolution politicians seek isn't the one they get. Consider the irony—and the opportunity—in Monday's report that the U.S. is likely to surpass Saudi Arabia as the world's largest oil producer as early as 2020.

In its annual world energy outlook, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) says the global energy map "is being redrawn by the resurgence in oil and gas production in the United States."

The U.S. will increase its production to about 23 million barrels a day in 10 years from about 18 million barrels a day now, the IEA predicts. That's more optimistic than current U.S. government estimates and a change from a year ago when the IEA said Russia and the Saudis would vie for number one.

As readers of these pages know, the key to this U.S. energy boom has been technological innovation and risk-taking funded by private capital. Specifically, the private oil and gas industry pioneered the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) to tap

unconventional deposits such as shale that once were technologically out of reach. It also wouldn't have happened if the industry wasn't able to drill on private land, free from federal regulation.

This is a real energy revolution, even if it's far from the renewable energy dreamland of so many government subsidies and mandates. In his 2007 State of the Union, George W. Bush—the Oil Man President of liberal myth—said America was "on the verge of technological breakthroughs that will enable us to live our lives less dependent on oil."

His main solution: "We must continue investing in new methods of producing ethanol—using everything from wood chips to grasses to agricultural wastes." The wood-chip revolution remains nowhere in sight, though that didn't stop President Obama from doubling down on the taxpayer investment in renewables, with similarly failed results.

The fad also caught on in Britain, with Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron promising a "Green Deal" that was supposed to make the U.K. a world leader in all things green. After two and a half years in office, Mr. Cameron has little to show for it besides rising energy prices for consumers and a burgeoning collection of subsidy-dependent wind farms.

One point to keep in mind is that this U.S. energy revolution wasn't inevitable and could still be undone. The Sierra Club and other environmentalists are demonizing fracking the way they have coal, never mind that increased use of natural gas instead of coal is helping to reduce carbon emissions. They hate carbon energy—period.

New York state has imposed a moratorium on fracking, even while the economy of neighboring Pennsylvania is being transformed by the exploitation of the Marcellus Shale that lies under both states. The French, who import 98% of their natural gas, have also banned fracking, despite sitting on shale reserves estimated to be the second-largest in Europe. The British, unsure of what to do, are supposed to make a fracking announcement sometime next month.

The biggest potential threat may come from federal regulation in Mr. Obama's second term. Though he tried to take credit for the fracking revolution in his second debate with Mitt Romney, his EPA has long wanted to supplant state regulators and will grab any opportunity to do so. Perhaps the election of pro-fracking Democrats like soon-to-be Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota (home to the monster Bakken Shale field) can give the new energy revolution some needed bipartisan buy-in.

Historians will one day marvel that so much political and financial capital was invested in a green-energy revolution at the very moment a fossil fuel revolution was aborning. But politicians failing to spot the trend until they start taking credit for it is an old story. Let's hope they don't ruin it now that they've noticed.

3. The Fracker's Guide to a Greener World

Greenhouse-gas emissions are growing rapidly in the developing world. The only realistic alternative to this trend is natural gas.

By Richard Muller & Mitch Daniels, WSJ, Nov 11, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204712904578093082937646090.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEADTop

[SEPP Comment in the WSJ: Professor Muller's research could be used to support the research of Professor Lars Franzén of the University of Gothenburg, and others, who state that without carbon dioxide emissions the earth would be entering a new ice age. Why is this trade-off not mentioned?]

You may think that global warming is the biggest scam of all time, driven by politicians who want to scare you and scientists who love media attention and increased funding. Or you may think global warming is the greatest threat we face, and that if we don't act immediately we'll leave a tragic legacy for our children and grandchildren.

One of us is a former skeptic, converted by his own research to the conviction that man-made carbon dioxide is the decisive factor in a real phenomenon of climate change. The other is agnostic, willing to be persuaded of human causality but rejecting as ineffective or counterproductive the anti-growth policies proposed by some alarmists. People like us—and all those struggling with the ambiguities of this highly uncertain topic—might come together around policies that make sense whatever the scientific facts ultimately prove to be.

For the sake of argument, let's begin by assuming that the United Nations evaluation is correct in arguing that global warming is real, caused by humans, and going to cause severe disruption to our economies and to our lives. Please bear with us even if you reject this claim; we'll suggest actions that make sense regardless of your position.

China's yearly greenhouse-gas emissions first exceeded those of the United States in 2006, and by the end of this year the Chinese will be emitting twice as much as the Americans. This spectacular rise matches China's economic growth and vast expansion of coal use. For the last seven years, China has been adding more than a gigawatt of new coal power each week, or more than 52 new gigawatts of additional capacity every year. (For comparison, New York City uses 10 gigawatts and isn't increasing its use.) And we can expect Chinese economic and energy growth to continue.

In the U.S., by contrast, emissions are at the lowest they've been for 20 years thanks largely to America's continuing switch from coal to natural gas, which emits half as much carbon dioxide for each kilowatt hour of energy generated.

This means that the future warming projected by the U.N. comes not from the U.S. (or from other developed countries) but primarily from China, India and the rest of the rapidly developing world.

Assuming that the U.N. scenario is correct, the only hope for controlling China's emissions is to reduce its coal growth—a challenge since coal is cheap, China has a great natural supply, and the Chinese currently derive nearly 70% of their electricity from coal.

We suggest a dual approach: profitable conservation and rapid expansion of the natural-gas economy.

The conservation we suggest is technological, meaning it wouldn't depend on individual sacrifice or cultural change. Done right, this conservation can yield large returns on investment.

Install better insulation, for example, and you can save on both heating and cooling. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that close to half of American consumers could get back 100% of their investment over roughly five years. Utility commissions could link the revenue of utilities to their successful implementation of efficiency, as they have done with success in our home states, Indiana and California.

Other ways to achieve profitable conservation include investing in "cool roofs" that reflect heat radiation. These can be cheaper and more efficient than installing solar cell collectors to generate power used by appliances such as air conditioners.

Even more promising is the switch away from coal to natural gas, particularly in the developing world. Natural gas has the huge added advantage of causing far less local air pollution—the kind that, unlike carbon dioxide, is harmful to human health. Coal releases far higher levels of soot and other chemicals that are currently choking China.

One of the factors slowing the world-wide switch to natural gas, however, is shortsighted opposition from some environmentalists in the U.S., Europe and beyond. They argue that extracting natural gas by hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") may pollute local water supplies and leak the powerful greenhouse gas methane, and their arguments affect official and commercial thinking in both the developed and developing worlds.

It is true that fracking has caused some limited, local pollution in the U.S., but this is attributable largely to the wildcatting behavior of the rapidly growing industry. Technology for clean fracking is technically straightforward, and government authorities can promote its use through careful monitoring and large fines for transgressions.

Some environmentalists argue that the best approach to limiting greenhouse-gas emissions is to switch to "renewables." But these energy sources are still far outside the budgets of the developing nations. China last year installed two gigawatts of solar capacity—but that is "peak" power representing only a clear midday when the sun is directly overhead. Average in nights and cloudy days, and the average power these plants can deliver is about 1/4 gigawatt. Meanwhile, China's coal use grows at about 50 gigawatts per year, or 200 times faster than its solar growth. No realistic scenario foresees renewables making more than a marginal contribution in the developing world for many decades.

The dual solution of profitable conservation (beloved by liberals) and clean fracking (touted by conservatives) may not fully satisfy either side. But we hope it can provide a middle ground on which political factions can come together.

It is still conceivable that global warming isn't caused by greenhouse gases, that the theory and the computer models are wrong, and that the match between the temperature curve and carbon-dioxide emissions is accidental. Even so, profitable conservation makes business sense, and a natural-gas economy would reduce smog and improve public health. It is worth facilitating China's shift from coal to natural gas for humanitarian reasons alone.

Mr. Muller, a professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, is the author of "Energy for Future Presidents" (Norton, 2012). Mr. Daniels, the governor of Indiana, will assume the presidency of Purdue University in January.

4. Can Medieval Heat Cool Warming Worries?

By Matt Ridley, WSJ, Nov 9, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204349404578100862654023702.html>

A flurry of recent scientific papers has tried to measure the warmth of the "Medieval Warm Period" (MWP) of about 1,000 years ago. Scientists have long debated whether it was cooler or warmer than today, and whether the warmth was global or regional. The point for nonscientists: If recent warming has precedents, some might find it less alarming.

If recent warmth has precedents, some might find it less alarming.

Until the late 1990s, researchers generally agreed that the MWP was warmer than today and that the "Little Ice Age" of 1500-1800 was colder. Then in 2001 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change adopted the "hockey stick" graph devised by Michael Mann at the University of Virginia and colleagues.

Using temperature indicators such as tree rings and lake sediments, the graph rewrote history by showing little warmth in the 11th century and little cold in the 17th, but a sharp spike in late-20th-century temperatures. That graph helped to persuade many people (such as me) that recent temperature rises were unprecedented in scale and speed in at least 1,400 years.

But critics of the graph pointed out that it used a statistical technique that overemphasized hockey-stick shaped data from unreliable indicators, such as tree rings in bristlecone pine trees and Scandinavian lake sediments influenced by 20th-century land-use changes. Four recent studies have now rehabilitated the MWP as a period of unusual warmth, though they disagree on whether it was as warm or warmer than today.

Jan Esper of the University of Mainz and his colleagues looked at pine wood densities from Sweden and Finland and found "evidence for substantial warmth during Roman and medieval times, larger in extent and longer in duration than 20th-century warmth." Bo Christiansen of the Danish Meteorological Institute and Fredrik Ljungqvist of Stockholm University looked at 32 indicators across the Northern Hemisphere and found the level of warmth during the peak of the MWP "in the second half of the 10th century equaling or slightly exceeding the mid-20th century warming."

Thomas Melvin of the University of East Anglia and colleagues reanalyzed one of the tree samples from Sweden used in the "hockey stick" and concluded: "We can infer the existence of generally warm summers in the 10th and 11th centuries, similar to the level of those in the 20th century."

A fourth study of creatures called diatoms in Chinese lake sediments found that the period "between ca. A.D. 1150 and 1200 was the warmest interval of the past 1,000 years."

Taken together, these studies cast doubt on the IPCC's conclusion in 2007 that "the evidence is not sufficient to support a conclusion that [Northern] hemispheric mean temperatures were as warm, or the extent of warm regions as expansive, as those in the 20th century as a whole, during any period in medieval times."

But was the medieval warm period confined to the Northern Hemisphere?

I consulted a database of papers collated by the climate-skeptic website CO2Science.org, run by the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, a nonprofit research center in Tempe, Ariz. The database contains numerous published studies of isotopes and other indicators in caves, lake sediments and other samples from Chile, New Zealand, South Africa and Antarctica that find the MWP warmer than today. Two Antarctic studies, for instance, concluded that current warming "is not yet as extreme in nature as the MWP" and that "the present state of reduced ice on the western Antarctic Peninsula is not unprecedented." A far smaller number of studies, such as one from Lake Tanganyika, found the MWP cooler than today.

It remains possible that today's warming is different from that of the Middle Ages. For example, while summers might have been warmer then, winters might be warmer today (if today's warming is caused by carbon dioxide, that should be true). And of course, it is the future, not the past, that scientists expect to be dangerous. Nonetheless, the evidence increasingly vindicates the scientists who first discovered the Medieval Warm Period.

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