

**The Week That Was: 2012-04-28 (April 28, 2012)**  
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**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**Quote of the Week:**

*Moral certainty is always a sign of cultural inferiority. The more uncivilized the man, the surer he is that he knows precisely what is right and what is wrong. All human progress, even in morals, has been the work of men who have doubted the current moral values, not of men who have whooped them up and tried to enforce them. The truly civilized man is always skeptical and tolerant, in this field as in all others. His culture is based on "I am not too sure."* -H.L. Mencken, writer, editor, and critic (1880-1956)

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**Number of the Week:** 12 v 7,520 metric tons (0.16%)

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**Please Note:** There will be no TWTW on May 5. It will resume on May 12.

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**Heartland Conference:** The Heartland Institute's Seventh International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-7) will take place in Chicago, Illinois from Monday, May 21 to Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at the Hilton Chicago Hotel, 720 South Michigan Avenue. The event will follow the NATO Summit taking place in Chicago on May 19-21. The Theme is Real Science, Real Choices. Open to the public, registration is required. <http://climateconference.heartland.org/>

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**The Royal Society:** The Royal Society has taken another step from being a scientific society to becoming an advocacy organization. It has published a lengthy study, *People and the Planet*, which calls for a redistribution of wealth, reduction in consumption by wealthy countries, and population control (by voluntary means). Of course, a key component of the report is controlling carbon-dioxide emissions. According to the press release, this report was in advance of Rio + 20, which is being used to create additional UN bureaucratic control of nations.

If there is an agreement reached at Rio + 20, western nations will dutifully follow it, but most nations will ignore it. Certainly, the leadership of economically fast-growing Asian nations has demonstrated a lack of enthusiasm for punishing their citizenry by curtailing growth.

An examination of fertility rates reveals that Western Nations plus Japan have far lower birth rates, even below replacement rates, than many other nations, particularly Muslim nations. It is doubtful that the leadership of Muslim nations will embrace the call for population controls.

It appears that the Royal Society desires to become a new Club of Rome, with its "Limits to Growth," based upon fallacious assumptions and errors in key definitions such as resources. Similar to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Club used the latest computer technology to make dire predictions. Subsequent economic growth falsified the assumptions and exposed the errors. An article in the *Telegraph* by Tim Worstall, a dealer in the metal scandium, discusses one of the fundamental errors in defining reserves of resources. Reserves are an economic concept, not a physical one.

The theme is familiar, Western democracies must punish themselves for their prosperity and share their wealth with nations controlled by kleptocracies, small groups who enrich themselves at the expense of the

citizenry. The UN, of course, will take a cut of the cash flow. There is no objective reason to believe the report is scientific or even sensible. Please see links under “The Royal Society.”

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**Supernovas and Life on Earth:** Scientists at the National Space Institute, University of Denmark, have hypothesized that high-energy cosmic rays, modulated by the sun, influence cloudiness on earth, which may cause climate change. Increasing cloudiness increases the reflection of visible light from the sun which results in cooling. Conversely, decreasing cloudiness reduces the reflection of solar energy, which results in warming. Even though these effects have been demonstrated by experiments, the hypothesis is not popular among those who declare that carbon dioxide is the main cause of global warming / climate change.

One of the main proponents of the hypothesis, Henrik Svensmark has extended the hypothesis to suggest that exploding nearby stars, supernovae, may affect the diversity of life on the planet as measured by marine biodiversity. He proposes the other major contributor is plate tectonics. The relationships he establishes are statistical and, of course, correlation does not prove causation. However, the idea is bold and if fleshed out may prove to be a major contribution to scientific understanding of life on this planet, or it may not.

The paper is lengthy and dense. The accompanying press release states:

“In the new work, the diversity of life over the last 500 million years seems remarkably well explained by tectonics affecting the sea-level together with variations in the supernova rate, and virtually nothing else. To obtain this result on the variety of life, or biodiversity, he [Svensmark] followed the changing fortunes of the best-recorded fossils. These are from invertebrate animals in the sea, such as shrimps and octopuses, or the extinct trilobites and ammonites.

They tended to be richest in their variety when continents were drifting apart and sea levels were high and less varied when the land masses gathered 250 million years ago into the supercontinent called Pangaea and the sea-level was lower. But this geophysical effect was not the whole story. When it is removed from the record of biodiversity, what remains corresponds closely to the changing rate of nearby stellar explosions, with the variety of life being greatest when supernovae are plentiful. A likely reason, according to Prof. Svensmark, is that the cold climate associated with high supernova rates brings a greater variety of habitats between polar and equatorial regions, while the associated stresses of life prevent the ecosystems becoming too set in their ways.”

Physicist Roger Cohen comments:

“The key step of the aerosol formation has been verified in lab experiments and in the CERN cloud chamber. <http://thegwpc.org/science-news/3699-cern-experiment-confirms-cosmic-rays-influence-climate-change.html>.

I think it is rare that we see well presented arguments for a truly new scientific idea. We don't know at this point whether we are looking at one of those things that changes the way we think about things, or just another idea that didn't pan out.”

For the paper and other commentary please see links under “The Influence of Exploding Stars on Earth?”

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**Sea Ice:** A new study states that the western Antarctic ice sheet is losing mass from underneath due to changes in ocean currents. The study also speculates this loss will trigger land glaciers to slide down and melt, causing sea levels to rise. The latter remains to be observed. The study ignores that the sea ice extent in Antarctica is growing, and in some places is thickening as well.

<http://arctic.atmos.uiuc.edu/cryosphere/IMAGES/current.anom.south.jpg>. [H/t James Rust] As reported in a prior TWTWs, the GRACE satellites show very little loss of ice mass in both polar ice caps. <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v482/n7386/full/nature10847.html>. Please see link under “Changing Sea Ice.”

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**Acidic Waters:** Another alarmist study reports that acidification of ocean waters from increased CO2 is resulting in larval oyster failures in hatcheries. The report states: “the scientists found that increased seawater carbon dioxide (CO2) levels, resulting in more **corrosive ocean water**, inhibited the larval oysters from developing their shells and growing at a pace that would make commercial production cost-effective.”

The abstract of the study states that pH varied between 7.6 and 8.2 – alkaline not acid. The larval oysters did not die, but grew more slowly in mid-stage. The slow growth may have been a result of varying alkalinity of the water rather than the water staying at a particular pH. For example, a sudden lowering of pH can shock an aquarium and reduce growth or even kill animals in it, while a gradual lowering may cause no change whatsoever. The research was funded by the National Science Foundation. Please see links under “Acidic Waters.”

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**EPA:** The EPA continues to make outrageous statements. It has been brought to light that in testimony to Congress last September, Administrator Lisa Jackson claimed that further controls of soot would be as beneficial to public health as finding a cure for cancer. There is little question that prolonged exposure to high concentrations of soot cause health problems such as in lungs and eyes. However, already soot in the US is tightly controlled. To equate additional benefits of additional controls with finding a cure for cancer is outrageous.

A senior EPA official described his view of enforcement of oil and gas regulations as similar to the practice of Roman soldiers crucifying natives of a village they just occupied. Please see Article # 1, and links under “EPA and other Regulators on the March.”

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**Number of the Week:** Patrick Michaels points out that total annual global emissions of mercury (both natural and human) is estimated to be 7,520 metric tons while total from US power plants that actually lands on US soil is estimated to be 12 metric tons (about 0.16% of total emissions). Human emissions are estimated to be 2,320 tons and natural emissions to be 5,200 tons, more than twice human emissions. US power plants emit about 49 metric tons, of 0.65% of total emissions.

According to the EPA web site its new regulations of mercury and other air toxins will save 4,200 to 11,000 Americans from premature deaths, prevent 4,700 heart attacks and 130,000 asthma attacks. In total this would result in financial benefits of \$37 billion to \$90 Billion. Permit us to be skeptical. The web site includes soot which, as mentioned above, is already regulated. Please see link under “EPA and other Regulators on the March” and <http://www.epa.gov/mats/health.html>

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**April Fools’ Award:** Send in your nominees for the proposed SEPP April Fools’ Award to the government official or political leader who has done the most to expand government power, by falsely claiming it is scientifically justified based on the flimsiest scientific evidence.

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## **ARTICLES:**

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: [www.sepp.org](http://www.sepp.org). The articles are at the end of the pdf.

### **1. 'Crucify Them'**

An EPA bureaucrat lets the mask slip.

Editorial, WSJ, Apr 26, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304723304577368292876696550.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_AboveLEFTTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304723304577368292876696550.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop)

## **2. UK Study Shows Little Danger Of Shale Gas Water Contamination**

By James Herron, WSJ, Apr 24, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120424-720760.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Putting an upper limit on the needed separation between the layer to be hydraulically fractured and the aquifer – 600 meters, 1970 feet.]*

## **3. An Economic Approach to the Environment**

Resources are limited. Cost-benefit analysis can inform our decisions.

By Bjørn Lomborg, WSJ, Apr 23, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303513404577356414271425218.html?mod=ITP\\_opinion\\_0](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303513404577356414271425218.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0)

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## **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

### ***The Influence of Exploding Stars on Earth?***

#### **Evidence of nearby supernovae affecting life on Earth**

Henrik Svensmark, National Space Institute, Denmark, April 22, 2012

[ftp://ftp2.space.dtu.dk/pub/Svensmark/MNRAS\\_Svensmark2012.pdf](ftp://ftp2.space.dtu.dk/pub/Svensmark/MNRAS_Svensmark2012.pdf)

### ***The Influence of Exploding Stars on Earth? -- Commentary***

#### **Did exploding stars help life on Earth to thrive?**

Press Release, Royal Astronomical Society, Apr 24, 2012

<http://www.ras.org.uk/news-and-press/219-news-2012/2117-did-exploding-stars-help-life-on-earth-to-thrive>

### **Svensmark's Cosmic Jackpot**

A stellar revision of the story of life

Climate Change: News and Comments and The Svensmark Hypothesis

By Nigel Calder, Calder's Updates, Apr 24, 2012 [H/t Peter Salonijs]

<http://calderup.wordpress.com/2012/04/24/a-stellar-revision-of-the-story-of-life/>

### ***Climategate Continued***

#### **Checking In**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Apr 23, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/04/23/checking-in/>

*[SEPP Comment: McIntyre explaining his recent absence from communicating and his amazement that the reputable science community would take Mr. Mann's latest book seriously.]*

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

#### **Comment On "Levitus Data On Ocean Forcing Confirms Skeptics, Falsifies IPCC" At Niche Modeling**

By Roger Pielke Sr, Climate Science, Apr 26, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/04/26/comment-on-levitus-data-on-ocean-forcing-confirms-skeptics-falsifies-ipcc-at-niche-modeling/>

*[SEPP Comment: Discussion of ocean heat content data that indicates a likely serious error in the 2007 IPCC report: 1) global radiative feedback is less than global radiative forcing, or 2) the estimated anthropogenic radiative forcings and /or the solar radiative forcing are in error.]*

**Government should re-examine the climate data" by ICSC Chief Science Advisor**

By Bob Carter, David Evans, Stewart Franks, William Kininmonth, Australian, Apr 24, 2012

[http://www.climate-science-international.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=678](http://www.climate-science-international.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=678)

**Does the global temperature lag CO2? More flaws in the Shakun et al. paper in Nature.**

By Nir Shaviv, Science Bits, Apr 21, 2012

[http://www.sciencebits.com/Shakun\\_in\\_Nature](http://www.sciencebits.com/Shakun_in_Nature)

*[SEPP Comment: A top Israeli astrophysicist suggests the study is shaky.]*

**Research shows Texas is not warming**

By Forrest Mims III, Express-News, San Antonio ,Apr 23, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/life/article/Research-shows-Texas-is-not-warming-3498409.php>

Why do some scientists insist that Texas is warming when the data show a negligible increase? I don't know. **But I do know that a National Science Foundation program officer told me that applications for atmospheric science grants that do not include a global warming theme stand little chance of acceptance.** [Boldface added – From an expert reviewer of the IPCC.]

***Defending the Orthodoxy***

**Strident Climate Alarmism: Zwick meets Gleick**

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Apr 26, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/04/strident-climate-alarmism-zwick/>

*[SEPP Comment: Slight error, John Holdren is Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.]*

**Mr. Obama needs to show he's serious about climate change**

Editorial, Washington Post, Apr 25, 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/mr-obama-needs-to-show-hes-serious-about-climate-change/2012/04/25/gIQASG1khT\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/mr-obama-needs-to-show-hes-serious-about-climate-change/2012/04/25/gIQASG1khT_story.html)

**State of the Climate Global Analysis, March 2012**

By Staff Writers, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA, Apr 16, 2012 [H/t James Rust]

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/service/global/extremes/201203.gif>

*“March 2012 average global land and ocean temperature was the coolest March since 1999 and the 16<sup>th</sup> warmest March since records began in 1880.”*

*[SEPP Comment: A global map showing the locations of measuring stations in 1880 would be illuminating. About 200 of the 2,592-5 deg by 5 deg grid boxes ideally used for the models were covered.]*

**Public back wind farm subsidies, survey suggests**

More Britons than not regard subsidies for wind power development as a good deal, an opinion poll suggests.

By Richard Black, BBC , Apr 23, 2012 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17783604> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17783604vvvvvvv>

*[SEPP Comment: The poll failed to state the real costs of wind power, including back-up. Great propagandist photo – what is the color of CO2?]*

***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

**Madrid 1995: Was this the Tipping Point in the Corruption of Climate Science?**

By Bernie Lewin, Enthusiasm, Scepticism and Science, Apr 21, 2012 [H/t Bishop Hill]  
<http://enthusiasm scepticism science.wordpress.com/2012/04/21/madrid-1995-was-this-the-tipping-point-in-the-corruption-of-climate-science/#more-616>

### **Biodiversity Bombshell: Polar Bears And Penguins Prospering, But Pity Those Paramecium!**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Apr 22, 2012  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/04/22/biodiversity-bombshell-polar-bears-and-penguins-prospering-but-pity-those-paramecium/>

### **The Highest Authority in Science is the Data**

By David Evans and Jo Nova, Her Blog, Apr 26, 2012  
<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/04/the-highest-authority-in-science-is-the-data/#more-21402>  
[SEPP Comment: Amusing comparison of hierarchy of authority in science, but they failed to include the status of unverified and unvalidated models.]

### **Celebrating Earth Day: Is Another Half-Acid Apocalypse On the Way?**

By Patrick Michaels, Forbes, Apr 20, 2012  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickmichaels/2012/04/20/celebrating-earth-day-is-another-half-acid-apocalypse-on-the-way/>  
[SEPP Comment: Bouncing from one apocalyptic fear to the next.]

### **Earth Day 2012: Top 10 Positive Climate Developments**

By Chip Knappenberger, Master Resource, Apr 23, 2012  
<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/04/earth-day-2012-top-10-positives/#more-19711>

### **Putting Earth Day into perspective**

Editorial, Orange County Register, Apr 20, 2012  
<http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/earth-350322-environmental-government.html#>

### **Consensus Argument Proves Climate Science Is Political.**

By Tim Ball, Different Perspective, Apr 26, 2012  
<http://drtimball.com/2012/consensus-argument-proves-climate-science-is-political/>  
[SEPP Comment: Proves may be too strong a term, but the issue is NOT.]

### **Biodiversity loss: How accurate are the numbers?**

By Richard Knight, BBC News, Apr 24, 2012 [H/t GWPF]  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17826898>

### **Questioning European Green**

#### **Germany Building 17 New Coal, 29 New Gas-Fired Power Stations**

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Apr 23, 2012  
<http://thegwpf.org/international-news/5536-germany-building-17-new-coal-29-new-gas-fired-power-stations.html>

#### **New Report: Green Energy Transition Is Anti-Social**

By Staff Writers, Hannover Zeitung via GWPF, Apr 27, 2012  
<http://thegwpf.org/energy-news/5572-new-report-green-energy-transition-is-anti-social.html>  
[SEPP Comment: The special rates, taxes, etc, intensify income disparity.]

### **Tilting at windmills**

The impact of wind generation on conventional power production is negligible.

Editorial, Telegraph, UK, Apr 26, 2012 [H/t GWPF]  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/9228942/Tilting-at-windmills.html>

### ***Questioning Green Elsewhere***

#### **BLS Green Jobs Report: Less Than Meets the Eye**

By David W. Kreutzer, Heritage, Apr 26, 2012

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2012/04/bls-green-jobs-report-less-than-meets-the-eye>

*[SEPP Comment: The integrity of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is in question. In the 1970s it famously stood up to Richard Nixon when he tried to lower the unemployment statistics. BLS now appears to be producing statistics that are a form of special pleading.]*

### ***Expanding the Orthodoxy***

#### **World Governments Establish Biodiversity Panel**

Scientists from more than 90 countries will unite to create an IPCC-like body to assess Earth's fragile ecosystems

By Natasha Gilbert, Scientific American, Apr 23, 2012 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=world-governments-establish-biodiversity-panel#comment-02>

*[SEPP Comment: The biological equivalent of the IPCC]*

### ***Royal Society***

#### **Royal Society calls for a more equitable future for humanity**

Consumption levels between developed and developing nations must be rebalanced alongside a stabilisation of the world's population by voluntary methods, according to a new report from the Royal Society.

Press Release, Royal Society, Apr 26, 2012

<http://royalsociety.org/news/Royal-Society-calls-for-a-more-equitable-future-for-humanity/>

### **People versus the planet**

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Apr 26, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/people-versus-planet>

### **The Royal Society Takes Another Step Away from Science**

By Ben Pile, Climate Resistance, Apr 26, 2012 [H/t Bishop Hill]

[http://www.climate-resistance.org/2012/04/the-royal-society-takes-another-step-away-from-science.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+climate-resistance%2FwCKX+%28Climate+Resistance%29](http://www.climate-resistance.org/2012/04/the-royal-society-takes-another-step-away-from-science.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+climate-resistance%2FwCKX+%28Climate+Resistance%29)

### **The Royal Society's appallingly bad report on population and consumption**

By Tim Worstall, Telegraph, UK, Apr 26, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/finance/timworstall/100016684/the-royal-societys-appallingly-bad-report-on-population-and-consumption/>

The mismatch between the discussions of economic growth and resource consumption in the report is almost schizophrenic.

### **Earth Day's dark side**

Guardians of Earth, persecutors of humankind

By Robert Zubrin, Washington Times, Apr 20, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/apr/20/earth-days-dark-side/>

*[SEPP Comment: Including salient comments about a new fellow of the Royal Academy – Paul Ehrlich of “Population Bomb” fame.]*

### ***Rio + 20 – World Control?***

#### **Rio Summit must address population growth: scientists**

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), April 26, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Rio\\_Summit\\_must\\_address\\_population\\_growth\\_scientists\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Rio_Summit_must_address_population_growth_scientists_999.html)

### ***Problems within the Orthodoxy***

#### **'Gaia' scientist James Lovelock: I was 'alarmist' about climate change**

By Ian Johnston, MSNBC, Apr 23, 2012 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/04/23/11144098-gaia-scientist-james-lovelock-i-was-alarmist-about-climate-change#.T5YK7aHHxgQ.email>

“The problem is we don’t know what the climate is doing. We thought we knew 20 years ago. That led to some alarmist books – mine included – because it looked clear-cut, but it hasn’t happened,” Lovelock said. ..“The climate is doing its usual tricks. There’s nothing much really happening yet. We were supposed to be halfway toward a frying world now,” he said.

#### **Gaia Scientist and Hero of the Greens Admits He Was “Alarmist”**

By Walter Russell Mead, American Interest, Apr 25, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/04/25/gaia-scientist-and-hero-of-the-greens-admits-he-was-alarmist/>

#### **Green Rage Against Shale Gas Is Irrational**

By Charles Clover, Sunday Times via GWPF, Apr 22, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/opinion-pros-a-cons/5532-charles-clover-green-rage-against-shale-gas-is-irrational.html>

#### **Do urban 'heat islands' hint at trees of future?**

By Staff Writers, New York NY, (SPX) Apr 27, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Do\\_urban\\_heat\\_islands\\_hint\\_at\\_trees\\_of\\_future\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Do_urban_heat_islands_hint_at_trees_of_future_999.html)

Seedlings did eight times better in New York City's Central Park than at comparable suburban and rural sites.

#### **DNA reveals polar bear's ancient origins**

The polar bear is much older than previously thought, according to new genetic evidence.

By Helen Briggs, BBC News, Apr 19, 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17762196>

*[SEPP Comment: The bear survived periods warmer than today. Of course, the warmists rely on unverified and unvalidated models to claim it will be much hotter in the next 100 years.]*

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

#### **Questionable Research Practices: The "Steroids of Scientific Competition"**

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Apr 25, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/04/questionable-research-practices.html>

*[SEPP Comment: A presentation of a new paper in psychological research on questionable research practices (QRP) such as excluding data inconsistent with the hypothesis. Pielke concludes with the statement: “I think I am on safe ground when I say that the problem of questionable research practices goes well beyond the discipline of psychology.”]*

#### **The Misrepresentation Of Climate Science**

By Roger Pielke Sr, Climate Science, Apr 25, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/04/25/another-example-of-the-misrepresentation-of-climate-science/>

The high elevation data actually shows a cooling and the forest site is only warming in the spring. This should be a red flag that there is more going on than a western U.S. warming, or even if this warming is actually occurring at higher elevation sites.

### **Candid Statement On The Shortcomings Of Multi-Decadal Climate Model Predictions By Early Career Scientists At An NCAR Workshop**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Climate Science, Apr 27, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/04/27/candid-statement-on-the-shortcomings-of-multi-decadal-climate-model-predictions-by-early-career-scientists-at-an-ncar-workshop/>

[SEPP Comment: Discussion of an article reporting a workshop on climate models that included a candid statement – the variation between the models is not fully understood.]

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

#### **An Example of The Misstatement of Fact on Climate Change**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Climate Science, Apr 23, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/04/23/an-example-of-the-misstatement-of-fact-on-climate-change/>

Anthropogenic carbon dioxide is **NOT** the main [dominant] culprit affecting changes in climate. It is just one of a diverse set of human and natural climate forcings.

### **U.S. Says Water Supply At Risk From Global Warming**

By Staff Writers, Judicial Watch, Apr 20, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2012/04/u-s-says-water-supply-at-risk-from-global-warming/>

[SEPP Comment: Water vulnerability is the new rallying cry.]

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

#### **Cut world population and redistribute resources, expert urges**

Nuclear disaster or plague likely unless population shrinks and natural resources are reassigned to poor, says Prof Paul Ehrlich

By John Vidal, Guardian, UK, Apr 26, 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/apr/26/world-population-resources-paul-ehrlich>

### **Did Obama’s EPA relaunch Tuskegee experiments?**

Human trials vainly tried to prove air pollution is deadly

By Steve Milloy, Washington Times, Apr 24, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/apr/24/did-obamas-epa-relaunch-tuskegee-experiments/>

“Yeah, I was briefed not long ago. If we could reduce particulate matter to healthy levels, it would have the same impact as finding a cure for cancer in our country.” Mr. Markey asked her to repeat what she had said. Ms. Jackson responded, “Yes, sir. If we could reduce particulate matter to levels that are healthy, we would have an identical impact to finding a cure for cancer.”

[SEPP Comment: The Administrator of the EPA makes totally irresponsible statements.]

### ***Models v. Observations***

#### **The Overstatement of Regional Climate Prediction Capability**

By Roger Pielke Sr, Climate Science, Apr 26, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/04/26/another-example-of-the-overstatement-of-regional-climate-prediction-capability/>

Thus, while the authors claim that they [the models] are useful for multidecadal water resource planning in the Tampa Bay region, this planning can be directly done with the original real world data. The model

downscaling, other than documenting systematic biases, does not provide added information beyond what is already available from observed data and reanalyses without the model.

### ***Changing Weather***

#### **Extended Range Forecast of Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Activity and Landfall Strike Probability for 2012**

By Philip Klotzbach and William Gray, Colorado State University, Apr 4, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

<http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/2012/apr2012/apr2012.pdf>

*[SEPP Comment: As compared with the 1981 to 2010 record, below normal activity and below average probability for major hurricanes making landfall. However, if you happen to be where one makes a landfall, it could ruin your day. Please note that last December Klotzbach and Gray announced that even though their models for earlier forecasts hindcast well (performed well with existing data) the models did not forecast well. Thus, they dropped their quantitative December forecasts.]*

### ***Changing Climate***

Africa said rich in underground water

By Staff Writers, London (UPI), Apr 20, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Africa\\_said\\_rich\\_in\\_underground\\_water\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Africa_said_rich_in_underground_water_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: At least the article doesn't attribute to human activity the climate change that made the Sahara a desert.]*

### ***Changing Seas***

#### **Where sea-level rise isn't what it seems**

By Mark Lynas, His Blog, Apr 25, 2012 [H/t Climate, Etc.]

<http://www.marklynas.org/2012/04/where-sea-level-rise-isnt-what-it-seems/>

*[SEPP Comment: No trends in sea level but significant variation in sea levels at a Pacific island due to shifts in the El Nino Southern Oscillation.]*

### ***Changing Sea Ice***

#### **Waterworld? Map shows how warm water - not warmer air - is eating away Antarctica's ice shelf and raising world's sea levels**

By Staff Writers, AP, Daily Mail, Apr 25, 2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2135321/Scientists-warn-sea-level-rising-melting-Antarctic-ice.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Many skeptics have pointed out that the recorded changes in measured temperatures in the Antarctic Peninsula are the result of changing ocean currents from changes in the Thermohaline Circulation. The central point of the study suggests the same.]*

### ***Acidic Waters***

#### **Ocean Acidification Linked With Larval Oyster Failure in Hatcheries**

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX). Apr 18, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Ocean\\_Acidification\\_Linked\\_With\\_Larval\\_Oyster\\_Failure\\_in\\_Hatcheries\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Ocean_Acidification_Linked_With_Larval_Oyster_Failure_in_Hatcheries_999.html)

#### **The Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, shows negative correlation to naturally elevated carbon dioxide levels: Implications for near-term ocean acidification effects**

By Alan Barton, Burke Hales, George G. Waldbusser, Chris Langdon and Richard A. Feely *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 57(3), 2012, 698-710 | DOI: 10.4319/lo.2012.57.3.0698

[http://www.aslo.org/lo/toc/vol\\_57/issue\\_3/0698.html](http://www.aslo.org/lo/toc/vol_57/issue_3/0698.html)

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

Arctic marine mammals and fish populations on the rise

By Staff Writers, Montreal (AFP), April 23, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Arctic\\_marine\\_mammals\\_and\\_fish\\_populations\\_on\\_the\\_rise\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Arctic_marine_mammals_and_fish_populations_on_the_rise_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Of course, some slow reproducing animals that have been heavily hunted, such as whales, have not returned to historic levels.]

### ***The Political Games Continue***

#### **Tennessee Votes To Teach Uncertainty In Science. Result?**

By William Briggs, His Blog, Apr 15, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=5538>

#### **Arizona House votes to demand return of federally owned lands**

By Staff Writer, Reuters, Apr 24, 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/24/us-usa-arizona-lands-idUSBRE83N00R20120424>

[SEPP Comment: Demanding land with valuable resources that the Department of Interior declared off-limits to mining.]

### ***Subsidies and Mandates Forever***

#### **CAFE, RFS Endanger Convenience Stores, Study Cautions**

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Apr 25, 2012

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2012/04/25/cale-rfs-endanger-convenience-stores-study-cautions/>

[SEPP Comment: Mandating specific fuels can have enormous costs.]

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

#### **EPA'S Toxic Science**

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Apr 27, 2012

<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2012/04/27/epa-toxic-science/#more-537>

#### **EPA's 'Crucifixion' of Energy Sector Exposed**

By Rich Trzupke, Front Page, Apr 27, 2012

<http://frontpagemag.com/2012/04/27/epa-abuse-takes-center-stage/print/>

#### **Where Are the Rolling Heads from NOAA?**

By Mike Johnson, American Thinker, Apr 24, 2012

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/04/where\\_are\\_the\\_rolling\\_heads\\_from\\_noaa.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/04/where_are_the_rolling_heads_from_noaa.html)

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **Gas Wars - shaking up the industry**

By Staff Writers, Power Engineering, Apr 15, 2012 {H/t GWPF}

<http://www.power-eng.com/news/2012/04/25/gas-wars-shaking-up-the-industry.html>

#### **Energy: Refined out of existence**

As petrol prices rise and western demand shrinks, refineries are closing across the developed world

By Gregory Meyer, Financial Times, Apr 9, 2012

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/256f583c-7a83-11e1-8ae6-00144feab49a.html#axzz1t4N476YZ>

#### **North American Shale Gas Gives Russia Serious Headache**

By Walter Russell Bead, Via Meadia, Apr 25, 2012

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/04/25/north-american-shale-gas-gives-russia-serious-headache/>

[SEPP Comment: Link to the Financial Times.]

### **India's energy woes to affect growth?**

By Staff Writers, New Delhi (UPI), Apr 23, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Indias\\_energy\\_woes\\_to\\_affect\\_growth\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Indias_energy_woes_to_affect_growth_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: One-third of the power generated is lost to inefficiency and theft?]*

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

#### **Video warning of green energy 'suicide pact' goes viral online**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Apr 25, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/223747-group-says-enviro-regulations-green-energy-will-cause-america-to-fail>

*[SEPP Comment: Over 1,600,000 hits in less than a week. The video is properly classified as propaganda, an emotional appeal.]*

#### **FERC: Coal Generation Losing Out to Natural Gas**

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Apr 26, 2012

[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4608.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2432158&hq\\_l=4&hq\\_v=5e660500d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4608.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2432158&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0)

*[SEPP Comment: A summary of the annual assessment report produced by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which one of the main Federal agencies regulating energy production and distribution among the states.]*

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

#### **Fracking requires a minimum distance from sensitive rock strata**

By Staff Writers, Durham UK (SPX), Apr 27, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Fracking\\_requires\\_a\\_minimum\\_distance\\_from\\_sensitive\\_rock\\_strata\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Fracking_requires_a_minimum_distance_from_sensitive_rock_strata_999.html)

#### **Obama Fought Oil And Lost; Now It's Back To Reality**

Editorial, IBD, Apr 24, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/609043/201204241902/obama-thinks-green-but-cant-change-energy-reality.htm?p=full>

### ***Washington's Control of Oil and Gas***

#### **Obama's Oil Blindness**

America has the most creative and efficient oil industry in the world. Why doesn't the president understand that?

By Robert Bryce, Slate, Apr 25, 2012

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/politics/2012/04/oil\\_reserves\\_fracking\\_and\\_obama\\_the\\_president\\_doesn\\_t\\_appreciate\\_the\\_innovativeness\\_of\\_the\\_oil\\_and\\_gas\\_industry\\_.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2012/04/oil_reserves_fracking_and_obama_the_president_doesn_t_appreciate_the_innovativeness_of_the_oil_and_gas_industry_.html)

#### **ExxonMobil Deal With Russia Underscores U.S. Oil Folly**

Editorial, IBD, Apr 25, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/609186/201204251909/obama-closes-off-us-oil-development.htm>

#### **Obama Fought Oil And Lost; Now It's Back To Reality**

Editorial, IBD, Apr 24, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/609043/201204241902/obama-thinks-green-but-cant-change-energy-reality.htm?p=full>

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

### **The Return Of King Coal**

IF there is to be a new beginning in global energy, the golden age is unlikely to be powered directly by the wind or sun. Despite high hopes for renewables, the figures show the world to be on the cusp of another fossil fuel boom.

By Graham Lloyd, Australian, via GWPF, Apr 27, 2012

<http://thewp.org/international-news/5575-the-return-of-king-coal.html>

### ***Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences***

#### **Nearly Seven million birds die each year at communication towers**

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX) Apr 27, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Nearly\\_Seven\\_million\\_birds\\_die\\_each\\_year\\_at\\_communication\\_towers\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Nearly_Seven_million_birds_die_each_year_at_communication_towers_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Adds some perspective to the claims of ecological disaster when 2300 dead birds with visible oil were found in the year following the BP blowout in the Gulf of Mexico.]*

#### **NCEAS researchers offer new ecological model for deep-water oil spills**

By Staff Writers, Santa Barbara CA (SPX) Apr 25, 2012

[http://www.energydaily.com/reports/NCEAS\\_researchers\\_offer\\_new\\_ecological\\_model\\_for\\_deep\\_water\\_oil\\_spills\\_999.html](http://www.energydaily.com/reports/NCEAS_researchers_offer_new_ecological_model_for_deep_water_oil_spills_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Understanding what happens is critical to solving the problems.]*

#### **Can sound science guide dispersant use during subsea oil spills?**

By David Malmquist, Gloucester Point, VA (SPX) Apr 23, 2012

[http://www.energydaily.com/reports/Can\\_sound\\_science\\_guide\\_dispersant\\_use\\_during\\_subsea\\_oil\\_spills\\_999.html](http://www.energydaily.com/reports/Can_sound_science_guide_dispersant_use_during_subsea_oil_spills_999.html)

#### **Scientists find higher concentrations of heavy metals in post-oil spill oysters from Gulf of Mexico**

By Staff Writers, Los Angeles CA (SPX), Apr 27, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Scientists\\_find\\_higher\\_concentrations\\_of\\_heavy\\_metals\\_in\\_post\\_oil\\_spill\\_oysters\\_from\\_Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Scientists_find_higher_concentrations_of_heavy_metals_in_post_oil_spill_oysters_from_Gulf_of_Mexico_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Measurements were not given, so it is impossible to tell if this is alarming or not.]*

### ***Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind***

#### **Windpower Reconsidered: Testimony before the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee**

By Lisa Linowes, Master Resource, Apr 25, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/04/windpower-testimony-house-linowes/#more-19755>

#### **Progressive Energy vs. “Renewable” Energy**

By Alex Epstein, Master Resource, Apr 27, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/04/progressive-energy-vs-renewable-energy/#more-19821>

“Renewable energy” has two fundamental conceptual flaws. It’s not really renewable, and it’s not really energy.

#### **Green Energy Girds For Dark Times As Subsidies Expire**

By Tom Gray, IBD, Apr 27, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/609326/201204270802/green-energy-faces-big-drop-in-subsidies.htm?p=full>

**Folly of Ontario's Renewable Energy Program Provides Warning for Other Governments; Ontario Households to Pay Extra \$285 Million Annually for Electricity**

By Staff Writers, Fraser Institute, Apr 12, 2012 [H/t John Droz, Jr.]  
<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/fraser-institute-folly-ontarios-renewable-energy-program-provides-warning-other-governments-1642974.htm>

### **Wired for wind: Re-tuning the US grid**

By Dan McCue, Wind Energy Update, Apr 20, 2012  
[http://social.windenergyupdate.com/operations-maintenance/wired-wind-re-tuning-us-grid?utm\\_source=WEU%2BE-Brief%2B2404&utm\\_medium=WEU%2BE-Brief%2B2404&utm\\_campaign=WEU](http://social.windenergyupdate.com/operations-maintenance/wired-wind-re-tuning-us-grid?utm_source=WEU%2BE-Brief%2B2404&utm_medium=WEU%2BE-Brief%2B2404&utm_campaign=WEU)

[SEPP Comment: *The need to compensate for the inherent unreliability of wind.*]

### **Va. study makes economic case for renewable energy**

By Steve Szkotak, Bloomberg, Apr 25, 2012  
<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-04/D9UC59900.htm>

[SEPP Comment: *Using wind and solar for new capacity requires at least 80% reliable back-up from other sources. Why not build the back-up and forget the solar and wind with its huge capital costs? Virginia tried biomass burning in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries resulting in the denuding of the land, including the mountains. The study director stated: We couldn't reasonably expect to have a nuclear reactor up and running and filling this demand gap by 2035.*"]

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

#### **The Folly Of E15 Anti-Hydrocarbon Policies – OpEd**

EPA's E-15 ethanol plan is bad for our pocketbooks, environment and energy policy

By Paul Driessen, Eurasia Review, Apr 24, 2012

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/24042012-the-folly-of-e15-anti-hydrocarbon-policies-oped/>

### **Ocean Renewable Power to Secure Nation's First 20-Year PPA for Tidal Power Project**

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Apr 26, 2012  
[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4612.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2432158&hq\\_l=11&hq\\_v=5e660500d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4612.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2432158&hq_l=11&hq_v=5e660500d0)

[SEPP Comment: *When a public utilities commission directs that utilities purchase very expensive electricity from politically favored sources, the commission no longer serves the public.*]

### **Analysis raises atmospheric, economic doubts about forest bioenergy**

By Staff Writers, Corvallis, OR (SPX), Apr 23, 2012  
[http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Analysis\\_raises\\_atmospheric\\_economic\\_doubts\\_about\\_forest\\_bioenergy\\_999.html](http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Analysis_raises_atmospheric_economic_doubts_about_forest_bioenergy_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: *Coal use brought western nations out of bioenergy.*]

### **Rivers flowing into the sea offer vast potential as electricity source**

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Apr 23, 2012  
[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Rivers\\_flow\\_into\\_the\\_sea\\_offer\\_vast\\_potential\\_as\\_electricity\\_source\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Rivers_flow_into_the_sea_offer_vast_potential_as_electricity_source_999.html)

### **Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles**

#### **Cheap Fracked Gas Could Help Americans Keep on Truckin'**

Companies and researchers are working on infrastructure and technologies to help bring the nation's growing stock of natural gas to fuel tanks, including those of long-haul vehicles

By David Biello, Scientific American, Apr 23, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=natural-gas-as-alternative-transportation-fuel>

[SEPP Comment: *Many will argue that natural gas is not an alternative fuel for vehicles.*]

### **Increased natural gas use could free up crude for exports**

By Yadullah Hussain, Financial Post, Apr 24, 2012

[http://business.financialpost.com/2012/04/24/increased-natural-gas-use-could-free-up-crude-for-exports/?\\_lsa=d9494adf](http://business.financialpost.com/2012/04/24/increased-natural-gas-use-could-free-up-crude-for-exports/?_lsa=d9494adf)

[SEPP Comment: An analysis of a possible shift from oil to liquefied natural gas for heavy trucks in Canada.]

### **Carbon Schemes**

#### **Tough Road Ahead To Realize Potential of Carbon Capture And Storage**

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Apr 24, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Tough\\_Road\\_Ahead\\_To\\_Realize\\_Potential\\_Of\\_Carbon\\_Capture\\_And\\_Storage\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Tough_Road_Ahead_To_Realize_Potential_Of_Carbon_Capture_And_Storage_999.html)

### **Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC**

For a full list of articles see [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org)

#### **Effects of Ocean Acidification on Deep-Sea Corals and Seamount Megabenthos**

Reference: Thresher, R.E., Tilbrook, B., Fallon, S., Wilson, N.C. and Adkins, J. 2011. Effects of chronic low carbonate saturation levels on the distribution, growth and skeletal chemistry of deep-sea corals and other seamount megabenthos. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 442: 87-99.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/24apr2012a4.html>

Data from a new study clearly suggest, in the words of the researchers, that "a change in carbonate saturation horizons per se as a result of ocean acidification is likely to have only a slight effect on most of the live deep-sea biogenic calcifiers," which is a most reassuring result.

[SEPP Comment: This research contradicts testimony by Penn State researchers to a Congressional Committee on the subject.]

#### **Whither ENSO?**

Reference: Vecchi, G.A. and Wittenberg, A.T. 2010. El Nino and our future climate: where do we stand? *WIREs Climate Change* 1: 10.1002/wcc.33.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/24apr2012a3.html>

"the ENSO variations we see in decades to come may be different than those seen in recent decades," and admitting that "we are not currently at a state to confidently project what those changes will be."

#### **The Hawaiian Corals of Oahu's Kaneohe Bay**

Reference: Shamberger, K.E.F., Feely, R.A., Sabine, C.L., Atkinson, M.J., DeCarlo, E.H. and Mackenzie, F.T. 2011. Calcification and organic production on a Hawaiian coral reef. *Marine Chemistry* 127: 64-75.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/24apr2012a2.html>

#### **Transgenerational Plasticity: A Third Way of Adapting to Climate Change**

Reference: Salinas, S. and Munch, S.B. 2012. Thermal legacies: transgenerational effects of temperature on growth in a vertebrate. *Ecology Letters* 15: 159-163.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/25apr2012a3.html>

#### **Genetic Study Reveals the Polar Bear is Old Enough to Have Survived Several Glacial Cycles**

Reference: Hailer, F., Kutschera, V.E., Hallstrom, B.E., Klassert, D., Fain, S.R., Leonard, J.A., Arnason, U. and Janke, A. 2012. Nuclear genomic sequences reveal that polar bears are an old and distinct bear lineage. *Science* 336: 344-347.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/25apr2012a5.html>

An analysis of nuclear genes suggests that the polar bear is old enough to have survived through several periods that were warmer than today between the Middle Pleistocene and the early Holocene.

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

#### **Mann's End**

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Apr 25, 2012 [H/t Anne Debbeil]

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/04/25/manns-end/>

*[SEPP Comment: Why are Mr. Mann and the once proud University of Virginia fighting so hard to prevent the release of the emails? The University freely released emails of other professors? The video at the link may provide an answer.]*

### ***Environmental Industry***

#### **Indoctrination of American Youth via the National Park Foundation**

By Dennis Ambler, SPPI, Apr 26m 2012

<http://sppiblog.org/news/indoctrination-of-american-youth-via-the-national-park-foundation#more-7541>

#### **Mother Mexico & the Jackals**

How are green groups different from yesterday's colonial powers? Their global agenda is paramount, their lack of empathy for ordinary people breathtaking.

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Apr 21, 2012

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/04/21/mother-mexico-the-jackals/>

#### **Earth Day: Less About Hugging Trees, More About Bringing America to Her Knees**

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Apr 22, 2012

[http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2012/04/22/earth\\_day\\_less\\_about\\_hugging\\_trees\\_more\\_about\\_bringing\\_america\\_to\\_her\\_knees](http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2012/04/22/earth_day_less_about_hugging_trees_more_about_bringing_america_to_her_knees)

#### **Report says 40 percent of the public breathes unhealthy air**

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Apr 25, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/223711-report-40-percent-of-the-public-breathes-unhealthy-air>

*[SEPP Comment: Results of EPA funding of ALA?]*

#### **Big Green pushes for EPA power grab to stop Pebble Mine**

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, April 26, 2012

[http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2012/04/big-green-pushes-epa-power-grab-stop-pebble-mine/538796?utm\\_source=Opinion%20digest%20-%2004/27/2012&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest](http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2012/04/big-green-pushes-epa-power-grab-stop-pebble-mine/538796?utm_source=Opinion%20digest%20-%2004/27/2012&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest)

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

#### **Hinode and SOHO paint an asymmetrical picture of the sun**

By Staff Writers, Greenbelt MD (SPX), Apr 23, 2012

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Hinode\\_and\\_SOHO\\_paint\\_an\\_asymmetrical\\_picture\\_of\\_the\\_sun\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Hinode_and_SOHO_paint_an_asymmetrical_picture_of_the_sun_999.html)

#### **Diversity aided mammals' survival over deep time**

By Staff Writers, Nashville, TN (SPX), Apr 25, 2012

[http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Diversity\\_aided\\_mammals\\_survival\\_over\\_deep\\_time\\_999.html](http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Diversity_aided_mammals_survival_over_deep_time_999.html)

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

#### **Meat eating led to earlier weaning, helped humans spread across globe**

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Apr 23, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Meat\\_eating\\_led\\_to\\_earlier\\_weaning\\_helped\\_humans\\_spread\\_across\\_globe\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Meat_eating_led_to_earlier_weaning_helped_humans_spread_across_globe_999.html)

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**BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

**Earth Day 2012 - Measuring Cow Farts**

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, April 22, 2012

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2012/04/earth-day-2012-measuring-cow-farts.html>

[SEPP Comment: It's even attached on the wrong end to measure methane!]

**"Warming hole" delayed climate change over eastern United States**

By Caroline Perry, Harvard Press Release, April 26, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.seas.harvard.edu/news-events/press-releases/warming-hole-delayed-climate-change-over-eastern-united-states>

[SEPP Comment: The air in eastern US has become cleaner over the past 40 years. As the air became cleaner, particulate pollution increased, causing cooling?]

**ScienceShot: No Letup in World's Warming**

By Richard A. Kerr, Science Now, Apr 20, 2012

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2012/04/scienceshot-no-letup-in-worlds.html>

Ninety-three percent of the heat trapped by increasing greenhouse gases goes into warming the ocean, not the atmosphere.

[SEPP Comment: A new theory of greenhouse warming, it takes place in the oceans.]

**Postal Service + Wind Farm + Electric Vehicles – What could possibly go wrong?**

**By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 25, 2012**

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/25/postal-service-wind-farm-electric-vehicles-what-could-possibly-go-wrong/#more-62076>

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**ARTICLES:**

**1. 'Crucify Them'**

An EPA bureaucrat lets the mask slip.

Editorial, WSJ, Apr 26, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304723304577368292876696550.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_AboveLEFTTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304723304577368292876696550.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop)

It's no secret that the bosses at the Environmental Protection Agency hate fossil fuels. But few are as candid as Al Armendariz, the regional administrator who says the agency's "general philosophy" is to "crucify" oil and gas producers.

That's how EPA chief Lisa Jackson's point man for Texas, Oklahoma and other south-central states put it in 2010 lecture. Mr. Armendariz explains that his staff's "philosophy of enforcement" is "like how the Romans used to conquer little villages in the Mediterranean. They'd go into a little Turkish town somewhere, they'd find the first five guys they saw and they would crucify them. And then you know that town was really easy to manage for the next few years." The point is to "make examples" of alleged lawbreakers.

Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe released video of the speech on Wednesday as part of his investigation into the EPA's now-discredited claims of water contamination due to hydraulic fracturing, including in Parker County, Texas. In that case Mr. Armendariz's shop targeted Range Resources, a driller that has

since been exonerated, and his remarks about executions raise questions not only about his own work but the EPA's larger impartiality and judgment.

Julius Caesar probably would have suggested a different remedy, but Mr. Armendariz's resignation would suffice.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **2. UK Study Shows Little Danger Of Shale Gas Water Contamination**

By James Herron, WSJ, Apr 24, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120424-720760.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Putting an upper limit on the needed separation between the layer to be hydraulically fractured and the aquifer – 600 meters, 1970 feet.]*

LONDON (Dow Jones)--There is little danger that the technique used to produce shale gas, which is known as hydraulic fracturing, could contaminate ground water provided wells are sufficiently deep, according to a research report published by the U.K.'s Durham University Wednesday.

This conclusion is the second piece of good news in a week for the U.K.'s nascent shale gas industry, which has struggled to overcome public fears about its environmental safety. A report published by the U.K. government's Department of Energy and Climate Change last week said hydraulic fracturing could safely resume in the U.K., despite having caused earth tremors in the north of England last year.

Hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, releases natural gas trapped in shale rocks by forcing a mixture of water, sand and chemicals underground at high pressure. Much of the opposition to the technique, which has spurred a boom in gas production in the U.S., centers around fears that chemicals could move through rock and contaminate ground water.

The research conducted by Durham University, in conjunction with Cardiff University in Wales and the University of Tromso in Norway, studied records from eight different fracking sites in the U.S., Europe and Africa. Of the thousands of fractures studied, "none were found to exceed 600 meters, with the vast majority being much less than 250 meters in vertical extent," the report said.

This means that, "the likelihood of contamination of drinking water in aquifers due to fractures when there is a separation of more than a kilometer is negligible" because there is no path for fracking water to reach ground water, the report said.

This is already the case for most fracking operations, because for shale gas, "geological conditions are optimal at 2-3 kilometers depth," said Richard Davies, director of Durham Energy Institute in an interview with Dow Jones Newswires.

On the Bowland shale in Lancashire, where Cuadrilla Resources Ltd. believes it has found a major shale gas resource, fracking occurs more than 1,800 meters below the aquifer, according to a presentation from the company.

In Poland, the other major hope for shale gas in the Europe, BNK Petroleum Inc. (BKX.T) has been drilling rock formations between 3,000 and 4,000 meters below the water table.

There are examples of where fracking at shallower depths has resulted in ground water contamination, notably the Pavillion field in Wyoming in the U.S., Davies said.

For this reason, "we believe that it may be prudent to adopt a minimum vertical separation distance for stimulated fracturing in shale reservoirs," Davies said. "It should be significantly in excess of 0.6 kilometers."

In deeper shale formations in the U.S., such as the Marcellus under New York and Pennsylvania, and the Barnett in Texas, "the chance of fractures going into aquifers is incredibly low," he said.

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### **3. An Economic Approach to the Environment**

Resources are limited. Cost-benefit analysis can inform our decisions.

By Bjørn Lomborg, WSJ, Apr 23, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303513404577356414271425218.html?mod=ITP\\_opinion\\_0](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303513404577356414271425218.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0)

Economists haven't enjoyed much popularity since the financial crisis, with their profession painted as recklessly focused on flimsy mathematical models over common sense. But in tackling humanity's biggest challenges—climate change, malaria, natural disasters, education—we need more economic science, not less. Cost-benefit analysis, in particular, is a far more effective and moral approach than basing decisions on the media's roving gaze or the loudness of competing interest groups.

In our time of austerity, policy makers are reducing spending across the board. This makes it especially vital that the money we do spend achieves as much as possible. Cost-benefit analysis can seem cold—a hard-nosed, money-focused, GDP-is-God approach. But a world of scarce and competing resources requires it, and proper cost-benefit analysis encompasses much more than simple economic costs.

Take civil war. Cost-benefit analysis doesn't just measure the costs of weapons or of houses bombed. It also estimates the damages of disruptions to lives and societies, and not just while the war is raging but also over the years of patching up.

Likewise it doesn't measure only the number of lives lost to violence. Many more people die because war-ravaged economies contract or collapse, leaving individuals with fewer resources to treat disease and overcome adversity. Proper cost-benefit analysis also attempts to measure other impacts, such as reduced livelihoods, increased health-care costs, and spikes in violent crime—all of which can long outlast a formal civil war.

When economists can identify more of these factors more clearly, decision makers can better weigh competing uses of funds and identify the most promising.

My think tank, the Copenhagen Consensus Center, promotes the use of cost-benefit analysis to yield smarter, better-prioritized spending on global challenges. We have consistently found that the investments highlighted by rigorous cost-benefit analyses are the same ones highlighted by those in the world's most vulnerable communities—though they are often not the investments making headlines or earning celebrity endorsements.

In 2004 and 2008, we commissioned panels of more than 50 world-class economists—including several Nobel laureates—to assess responses to global problems based on volumes of new cost-benefit analysis research. In 2004, the project recommended (and thereby helped catalyze) greater spending on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. In 2008, it led to more investment in the delivery of micronutrients to malnourished populations.

This May, for our 2012 project, more than 60 economists (including four Nobel laureates) will examine the latest cost-benefit evidence on many issues, such as protecting the world's biodiversity. This is a

challenge we hear much about. But while environmental campaigns trying to focus attention on cute animals or areas of natural beauty may be good for political attention, they are rarely the best way to do long-term good.

In new work for the Copenhagen Consensus 2012, researchers have prepared unorthodox proposals that could be substantially more effective. For example: Since one of the main reasons we cut down natural habitat is to increase farming output for a growing population, one proposed policy is to increase agricultural yields through research and development, making it possible to feed more people with less land. This is a controversial answer to the challenge of the loss of biodiversity, but one which might do more, at lower cost, than our current efforts.

Of course, calculations of GDP and cold cash aren't the only relevant factors in making decisions about war and peace, global health and the like. But smart, sober economic analysis can be used a lot more, and it can improve countless lives.

*Mr. Lomborg is the author of "The Skeptical Environmentalist" (Cambridge Press, 2001) and "Cool It" (Knopf, 2007). He directs the Copenhagen Consensus Center and is an adjunct professor at Copenhagen Business School.*

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