

The Week That Was: 2013-06-22 (June 22, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *It is a good morning exercise for a research scientist to discard a pet hypothesis every day before breakfast. It keeps him young.* Konrad Lorenz [The Quotations Page]

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Number of the Week: \$250,000 times 10,000

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THIS WEEK:

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

Temperature Debate: Larry Bell's column on Forbes on-line carried a debate between Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon of Texas A&M University and Fred Singer, former director of the U.S. Weather Satellite Service and University of Virginia Professor Emeritus. The issue is: Has there been any global warming since 1978? Nielsen-Gammon asserts there has and Singer asserts there is no convincing evidence since that time. One issue is that there has been warming of the northern part of the northern hemisphere, but is that really global? For example, see the data from satellites prepared by University of Alabama, Huntsville:

http://nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2012/november/trend_Dec78_Nov12_alt.png

Please see link under Science Debate

NIPCC in China: The editors of the two major reports by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) have returned from China. Unfortunately, some commentators saw the translation of the two major reports by a unit of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) as an endorsement of the reports, which it clearly was not. The press release by the CAS stated it was to open dialogue, something sorely missing in many western countries. For that reason, some of the links carried in last week's TWTW were taken down. No doubt, updates will come out this week.

Lack of Science: The Heritage Foundation provided presentations by Patrick Michaels and Harold Doiron, with comments by Harlan Watson on the lack of science within the climate establishment and its publications. Michaels led seven person team, organized under the CATO institute, which evaluated the 2009 US government National Climate Assessment (NCA): *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States*. The report was a principal source cited by the EPA in its finding that greenhouse gases (GHG), particularly carbon dioxide, (CO2), endanger human health and welfare. The new report, *ADDENDUM: Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States*, is laid out in a similar fashion as the earlier one, permitting side by side comparison. The report comes to significantly different conclusions than the prior one on issues such as national impacts of climate change, impacts on crop production and livestock, sea levels, life expectancy and health. On Alaska fisheries, the original report stated conclusions that are directly refuted in the original paper it cites.

Harold Doiron is the leader of The Right Climate Stuff team (TRCS) comprised, mostly, of retired Apollo veterans. Doiron's background is in complex system modeling – what the climate modelers are doing. He developed the guidance software and techniques for the lunar lander. The all-volunteer TRCS team brought in people from both sides of the issue on dangerous Anthropogenic (human caused) Global Warming (AGW) looking into the research and the data.

He said that TRCS team applied the successful methodology used at NASA to find the root cause of the problem (do not assume a cause) and the use of problem definition and root causes analysis for rational decision making. The conclusions are: the science is not settled, there is no reason for alarm, and no convincing physical evidence for catastrophic AGW. The computer models need to be validated, before being used for critical decision making; and do not waste money on running models until the hard work is accomplished to show the models agree with nature.

Doiron was quite harsh on the logic used by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and on the NCA. In essence, the IPCC states that the cause of recent warming must be CO₂, because its unvalidated computer models cannot account for the observed warming unless it assumes strong amplifying anthropogenic warming feedback relations in the models. Doiron bluntly states this is not proof in the school of hard knocks.

To Doiron, the NCA contains a lot of good science, but it is not a valuable scientific document because it is more to push for public policy change (unsupported by validated models). For a link to the video please see Challenging the Orthodoxy. For links to the summary and the full report of TRCS team please see: <http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/SummaryPrelimReport.html> and <http://therightclimatestuff.com/AGW%20Science%20Assess%20Rpt-1.pdf>

Mean Is Meaningless Continued: The post by Robert Brown of Duke on WUWT declaring that the mean shown in the ensemble of climate models has no meaning has caused a stir. Statistician William Briggs states that the mean of the ensemble of models, such as weather models, can have significant meaning. They may be both right, in part. Though Briggs does not discuss this, think of a US carrier fleet which is spread over a large area with airplanes operating hundreds of miles from the fleet. According to a retired naval meteorologist, the ensemble of weather models in such a fleet are being tested and updated constantly. When asked about the longest duration a weather forecast may be reliable, he replied that, on occasion, up to 11 days, provided all the models converged. Here is a critical difference in the treatment of the models. The climate models are not being tested and updated constantly, and they certainly do not converge.

For the statistically inclined, Robert Brown has another post further dealing with the probabilities stated in the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (AR4). Brown states that predictive modeling is difficult, and invites the authors of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of AR4 to "explain in detail how they derived the probability ranges that make it so easy for the policy makers to understand how likely to certain it is that we are en route to catastrophe." Will any of these authors respond? Please see links under Statistical Issues.

Missing from Models: Judith Curry has a provocative post on what is missing in the climate models. It is based on a paper by Stevens and Bony stating that adding complexity to the climate models does not improve the fundamental deficiencies in the models. Curry's conclusions in the post bear repeating:

"However, IMO [In My Opinion] the more fundamental problems with climate models lie in the coupling of two chaotic fluids – the ocean and the atmosphere. The inability of climate models to simulate the evolution of and connections among the teleconnections

[such as the Southern Oscillation] and interannual to multidecadal circulation regimes is the biggest source of problems for understanding regional climate variability.

Taking climate modeling back to basics to address the interplay between atmospheric water and the atmospheric circulation, and the complex couplings between the atmosphere and ocean, require going back to basics and looking at a hierarchy of models and a range of model structural forms. Better understanding and simulation of the climate requires that [we] improve our understanding and treatment of these processes in climate models. It is pointless to worry about aerosols, carbon cycle etc in the context of climate models until these more fundamental issues are addressed.”

Curry seems to agree with Harold Doiron. We will not move forward in understanding the human influence on climate until we understand and can model the natural influences on climate. Adding fluff increases vagueness and wastes money. Please see link under Seeking a Common Ground.

Model Foolishness: Bjørn Lomborg reminds us that 2013 is the 40th anniversary of the **Limits to Growth**, which used state of the art computer models that were not validated to predict that humanity faced a devastating collapse from the lack of food, oil, other commodities, etc. Forgetting this history, The World Bank has come out with a report, prepared by the alarmist Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analytics, which uses state of the art computer models that are not validated to predict that humanity faces a devastating collapse from the use of too much fossil fuels. The title, *4° Turn Down the Heat*, indicates the quality of the report. It assess the impacts of a 1.5°C, 2 °C, and 4 °C rise in temperatures above pre-industrial levels (roughly since the Little Ice Age). All the ills are here: heat extremes, rainfall changes, crashing agriculture production, sea-level rise, etc. It is becoming apparent, that by focusing on the results of computer models that are not validated, the World Bank is becoming an obstacle to alleviating world poverty.

As part of the UK Government’s National Adaptation Programme, the consulting firm PWC prepared a similar report for the UK. However it was based on a modest 2 °C. The above comments concerning models apply to both reports. Please see links under Lowering Standards, Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up, and Models v. Observations.

NOAA Numbers: NOAA issued a statement that this May was the third hottest since record keeping began in the 1880s. The claim was quickly debunked by Joseph D’Aleo and Anthony Watts. Perhaps the measurements were influenced by the excitement in Washington over rumors that President Obama will make a major climate policy statement in July. Please see links under Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up

Agriculture Issues: Evidence continues to mount that increased CO2 in the atmosphere is a benefit for plants, the environment, and humanity.

Surprisingly, an extensive UK study showed pesticide workers have a longer life span and lower mortality rate from cancer than the general population. These findings will give the EPA and green groups major headaches. Please see links under Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine, and Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

Call for Nominations: The Topical Group on the Physics of Climate of the American Physical Society has issued a call for nominations for three positions on the GPC Executive Committee, one Vice-Chair and 2 at large. Nominations for member at large can be submitted to <http://www.aps.org/units/gpc/governance/nominations.cfm> and for vice chair at http://www.aps.org/units/gpc/governance/nominations_vc.cfm

Amplification and Corrections: Last week TWTW reported on a debate on a proposed carbon tax. Ronald Bailey, the debate moderator, took exception to the statement: *From his questions, it quickly became evident that the moderator...* After re-reading the questions, Mr. Bailey's is correct and the statement should have read along the lines *it was the impression by at least one in the audience ...*

Reader Clyde Spencer points out that as long as the pH remains above 7, reducing the pH of an alkaline solution is not neutralizing it, but making it less alkaline. As always we appreciate those who take the time to provide amplifications and corrections.

Number of the Week: \$250,000 times 10,000 – Patrick Michaels, the editor-in-chief of the CATO team that prepared *ADDENDUM: Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States* reported that the entire effort cost CATO about \$250,000, including printing.

The FY 2012 budget request of U.S. Global Change Research Program is \$2.6 Billion – about 10,000 times more than it cost CATO to do the addendum. The USGCRP budget does not include funds spent by many agencies for USGCRP support, nor the monies spent in support of the UN IPCC, which was about \$2.7 Billion in FY 2011 <http://globalchange.gov/about/budget-documents>

Perhaps USGCRP should hire the CATO team to perform the final review and editing of the upcoming report. It may save the taxpayers considerable sums of money and better serve the public.

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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. German Energy Drain

The green-power push is driving business to the low-cost U.S.
Editorial, WSJ, Jun 14, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323734304578542973009892416.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEFTTopBucket

2. Obama's Keystone Regrets

By Kimberley Strassel, WSJ, Jun 18, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323566804578553350969582808.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEFTThirdBucket

3. The Rationale for Wind Power Won't Fly

Physical limitations will keep this energy source a niche provider of U.S. electricity needs.
By Jay Lehr, WSJ, Jun 18, 2013

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324310104578507242336481504.html?mod=W>
[SJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion](#)

4. California's Cap-and-Tax Grab

Democrats raid carbon-emissions auction revenue to finance more welfare spending.

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 17, 2013

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323734304578541822111512316.html?mod=W>
[SJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop](#)

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Briffa Condemns Mann Reconstructions

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jun 16, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/06/16/briffa-condemns-mann-reconstructions/>

[SEPP Comment: Not directly, but based on McIntyre's analysis of Briffa's work.]

Science Debate

Any Global Warming Since 1978? Two Climate Experts Debate This

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jun 28, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/06/18/any-global-warming-since-1978-two-climate-experts-debate-this/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

The Lack of Science in the Scientific Consensus: The Case of the National Climate Assessment

Video: Lectures by Patrick Michaels and Harold Doiron, Comments by Harlan Watson, Hosted by David Kreutzer, Heritage Foundation, June 6, 2013

<http://www.heritage.org/events/2013/05/national-climate>

Climate Change Deception Easy Because Most Don't Understand

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Jun 17, 2013

<http://drtimball.com/2013/climate-change-deception-easy-because-most-dont-understand/>

[SEPP Comment: Even after changing the label, it is still not correct, just easier to defend.]

John Christy: Climate Change Overview in Six Slides

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, May 31, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/05/31/john-christy-climate-change-overview-in-six-slides/>

Taxing Air

Facts and fallacies about climate change

Announcing a new book by Bob Carter and John Spooner, et al., by Geoff Brown, NCTCS, June 21, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/06/taxing-air.html>

Encompassing Tests of Socioeconomic Signals in Surface Climate Data

By Ross McKittrick, U. of Guelph, Climate Change, In Press

http://www.rossmckittrick.com/uploads/4/8/0/8/4808045/encompassing_preprint.pdf

[SEPP Comment: Previously, McKittrick pointed out a significant association between land surface temperatures and socio-economic development (urban heat island effect). This finding has been dismissed by the IPCC. Now, he proposes testing procedure to compare the existence of such an association against the alternative that one does not exist.]

Two years to a 1740-type event?

By David Archibald, WUWT, Jun 18, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/18/two-years-to-a-1740-type-event/>

[SEPP Comment: An intriguing hypothesis which can be tested, shortly.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Obama calls climate change the ‘global threat of our time’ in Berlin address

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 19, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/306511-obama-climate-change-the-global-threat-of-our-time>

Menon et al Publish Latest Crystal Ball Forecast For Indian Monsoons, Claiming It Is A “Robust Indicator”

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 21, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/06/21/menon-et-al-publish-latest-crystal-ball-forecast-for-indian-monsoons-claiming-it-is-a-robust-indicator/>

[SEPP Comment: The same institute that prepared the World Bank Report!]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Critical Thinking about Climate Change

By Anthony J. Sadar, American Thinker, Jun 20, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/06/critical_thinking_about_climate_change.html

Some model thoughts

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 18, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/6/18/some-model-thoughts.html>

[SEPP Comment: Now some defending the models are calling the results plausible trajectories, not predictions. Have they stated that clearly to the policymakers and the public?]

An Engineer’s Thoughts on Key AGW Questions

By Ronald Voisin, WUWT, Jun 20, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/20/an-engineers-thoughts-on-key-agw-questions/>

[SEPP Comment: Need to read all three parts.]

Climate-change hype turns 25

Shoddy science guided by overheated activism stands exposed

By Anthony J. Sadar, Washington Times, Jun 13, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jun/13/climate-change-hype-turns-25/>

Science Media Centre's casual misrepresentation

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 20, 2013

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2013/6/20/science-media-centres-casual-misrepresentation.html>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

UN climate talks: No consensus on... well, consensus

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jun 15, 2013

<http://www.france24.com/en/20130615-un-climate-talks-no-consensus-well-consensus>

[SEPP Comment: Russia objects to lack of transparency in the UN process.]

UK electricity prices almost twice as expensive as Germany within three years

Electricity prices in Britain may be almost double those in Germany within three years due largely to the impact of a new tax aimed at supporting renewable power generation, a report by bank Credit Suisse has claimed.

By Staff Writers, Telegraph, UK, Jun 19, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10130970/UK-electricity-prices-almost-twice-as-expensive-as-Germany-within-three-years.html>

[SEPP Comment: At one point it was which country could be most green; now it is which country could be most extreme in punishing its citizens with high electricity prices.]

Bonn endgame: Africa rebels as climate talks collapse

By Craig Rucker, CFact, Jun 19, 2013

http://www.cfact.org/2013/06/19/bonn-endgame-africa-rebels-as-climate-talks-collapse/?utm_source=CFACT+Updates&utm_campaign=a21cd9003d-

[Africans rebel wont live poor4carbon6 21 2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaed_b56-a21cd9003d-270048701](http://www.cfact.org/2013/06/19/bonn-endgame-africa-rebels-as-climate-talks-collapse/?utm_source=CFACT+Updates&utm_campaign=a21cd9003d-Africans_rebel_wont_live_poor4carbon6_21_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaed_b56-a21cd9003d-270048701)

A cooling consensus

By W.W. Houston, The Economist, Jun 20, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.economist.com/blogs/democracyinamerica/2013/06/climate-change?fsrc=scn%2Ftw_ec%2Fa_cooling_consensus

Climate Expert von Storch: Why Is Global Warming Stagnating?

Interview by Olaf Stampf and Gerald Traufetter, Trans Ella Ornstein, Der Spiegel, Jun 20, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/interview-hans-von-storch-on-problems-with-climate-change-models-a-906721.html>

Met Office: We Don't Know What We Don't Know

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jun 20, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/met-office-dont-dont/>

[SEPP Comment: What an improvement over asserting knowledge that does not exist.]

More signposts on the road to the post-Climate-scare world

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jun 21, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/more-signposts-on-the-road-to-the-post-climatic-oblivion/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Anatomy of dissent

By Judith Curry, Climate. Etc., Jun 19, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/06/19/anatomy-of-dissent/#more-11843>

It is noteworthy that contrarian scientists tend to be empiricists and physicists (i.e., theoreticians) [SEPP Comment: A long social science post. Curry's comments at the end are noteworthy, we need to go to the theoretical and empirical roots to understand global warming/climate change.]

What are climate models missing?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jun 16, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/06/16/what-are-climate-models-missing/#more-11895>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Various Adaptation Efforts Are Under Way at Key Natural Resource Management Agencies

By Staff Writers, GAO, May 31, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-253>

[SEPP Comment: Basing an adaptation policy on climate model projections is wrong. Adaptation should built on experienced weather events, plus a slight century-long sea level rise.]

UNexpectedly, climate change is a global yawn

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Jun 19, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/06/unexpectedly-climate-change-is-a-global-yawn>

[SEPP Comment: Another poll, valuable only to politicians, but this one is by the UN!]

Lowering Standards

4° Turn Down the Heat

Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts, and the Case for Resilience

The World Bank, By Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analytics, June 2013

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/06/14/000445729_20130614145941/Rendered/PDF/784240WP0Full100D0CONF0to0June19090L.pdf

Questioning European Green

Politicians question the precautionary principle

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Jun 21, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/politicians-question-precautionary-principle>

Coalition divided over wind power: report says 'stop building turbines'

By Staff Writers, Dutch News, Jun 19, 2013 [H/t IWAG]

http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2013/06/coalition_divided_over_wind_po.php

Germany's Green Plan is Crumbling

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Jun 15, 2013

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/06/15/germanys-green-plan-is-crumbling/>

Germany's Siemens completely winds down solar business

By Staff Writers, De Wield, Jun 17, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dw.de/germanys-siemens-completely-winds-down-solar-business/a-16886900>

[SEPP Comment: Further evidence of the correctness of Feynman's statement: For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled. Public relations can fool politicians and the public, but not Nature.]

Wind power has failed to deliver what it promised

The wind-power industry is expensive, passes costs on to the consumer and does not create many jobs in return

Editorial, Telegraph, UK, Jun 15, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/10121584/Wind-power-has-failed-to-deliver-what-it-promised.html>

Tilting at windmills

Germany's Energiewende bodes ill for the country's European leadership

Special Report, Economist, Jun 15, 2013

<http://www.economist.com/news/special-report/21579149-germanys-energiewende-bodes-ill-countrys-european-leadership-tilting-windmills>

[SEPP Comment: Germany's energy change is failing, therefore it should be implemented by the EU?]

Green Job Fantasies

The data is in: more Green jobs means less real ones

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jun 18, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/the-data-is-in-more-green-jobs-means-less-real-ones/#more-28909>

The Green Jobs Fairy Tale

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jun 18, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/06/18/the-green-jobs-fairy-tale/>

Funding Sources

The Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCCI): Budget Authority and Request, FY2010-FY2014

By Richard Lattanzio, CRS, May 28, 2013

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41845.pdf>

International Environmental Financing: The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

By Richard Lattanzio, CRS, Jun 3, 2013

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/210680.pdf>

Since its inception, GEF has allocated \$11.5 billion—supplemented by more than \$57 billion in cofinancing—for more than 3,200 projects in over 165 countries.

International Climate Change Financing: The Climate Investment Funds (CIFs)

By Richard Lattanzio, CRS, Jun 3, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/210682.pdf>

[SEPP Comment on all of the above: US and other countries, especially Japan and the UK, funding of various climate change schemes in developing countries.]

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

Crony Environmentalism: Insurance Firms Exploit Climate Fears to Raise Rates

If your rates have gone up, ask if your provider is factoring “climate change” into your bill.

By Tim Ball, PJ Media, Jun 15, 2013

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/crony-environmentalism-insurance-firms-exploit-climate-fears-to-raise-rates/?singlepage=true>

[SEPP Comment: Using climate alarmism to increase profits.]

Climate debate shifting to adaptation

Even Al Gore writes about coping with rising seas and temperatures as well as cutting emissions.

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Jun 15, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.pressherald.com/news/nationworld/climate-debate-shifting-to-adaptation- 2013-06-16.html>

Biologists worried by starving migratory birds, seen as tied to climate change

By Darryl Fears, Washington Post, Jun 19, 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/biologists-worried-by-migratory-birds-starvation-seen-as-tied-to-climate-change/2013/06/19/c04d8a74-d90d-11e2-a9f2-42ee3912ae0e_story.html

[SEPP Comment: Is global warming tacked on in an effort to get government funding?]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Climate change threatens trouble in the near future, World Bank says

By Howard Schneider, Washington Post, Jun 18, 2013 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/climate-change-threatens-trouble-in-the-near-future-world-bank-says/2013/06/18/1ba2bcea-d83d-11e2-a9f2-42ee3912ae0e_story.html

[SEPP Comment: This article clearly illustrates that global warming alarmism is a major impediment to alleviating poverty.]

International threats and opportunities of climate change for the UK

By Staff writers, PWC,

<http://www.pwc.co.uk/sustainability-climate-change/publications/international-threats-and-opportunities-of-climate-change-to-the-uk.jhtml>

May global temperatures third warmest on record: US

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), June 20, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/May_global_temperatures_third_warmest_on_record_US_999.html

[SEPP Comment: What percentage of the measuring sites date back to the 1880s?]

NOAA follies continue: May global numbers out of line with RSS/UAH and even GISS

By Joseph D'Aleo, Weatherbell Analytics, Jun 20, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/in-the-news/noaa_follies_continue_may_global_numbers_out_of_line_with_rss_uah_and_even/

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

NCDC's irreconcilable temperatures in the May 2013 State of the Climate Report

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 20, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/20/ncdcs-irreconcilable-temperatures-in-the-state-of-the-climate-report/>

Have We Run Out of Time Yet?

By Donna Laframboise, NFC , Jun 16, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/06/16/have-we-run-out-of-time-yet/>

[SEPP Comment: Highlighting false claims of looming danger.]

Climate change to threaten UK food supplies

By Staff Writer, RTCC, Jun 17, 2013

<http://www.rtcc.org/climate-change-to-threaten-uk-food-supplies/>

How data revisionism hypes global warming

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Jun 15, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/15/how-data-revisionism-hypes-global-warming/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

The pathologising of climate scepticism

The shoddy science of sceptic-bashing attempts to turn criticism into a psychological illness.

By Ben Pile, Spiked, Jun 18, 2013 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.spiked-online.com/site/article/13716/>

Lewandowsky shows that the academic institutions do not produce dialogue that has any more merit than the petty exchanges — flame wars — that the internet is famous for. Dressing political arguments up in scientific terminology risks the value of science being lost to society — its potential squandered for an edge in a political fight.

Models v. Observations

The Limits to Panic

By Bjørn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Jun 17, 2013

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/economic-growth-and-its-critics-by-bj-rn-lomborg>

Modeling Flaws Plague Climate Science

By Doug Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, Jun 16,, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/modeling-flaws-plague-climate-science>

Statistical Issues

An Ensemble Of Models Is Completely Meaningful, Statistically: Update 2

By William Briggs, His Blog, Jun 20, 2013

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=8394>

Brown out

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 21, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/6/21/brown-out.html>

Changing Weather

NH ski resorts got 2.5M plus visitors in 2012/13

Comment by ICECAP, Jun 19, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/they-said-it/nh_ski_resorts_got_25m_plus_visitors_in_2012_13/

[SEPP Comment: Nature contradicts the scientists who claimed snow is disappearing in New Hampshire.]

Vanishing Snow: Should there be A Law?

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Jun 18, 2013

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/jun/18/vanishing-snow-there-oughta-be-law/>

Britain 'faces decade of bad weather'

By Staff Writers, London (AFP), June 19, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Britain_faces_decade_of_bad_weather_999.html

Global Savings: Billion-Dollar Weather Events Averted by Global Warming

By Chip Knappenberger, Master Resource, Jun 21, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/06/global-savings-from-global-warming/#more-26248>

[SEPP Comment: An amusing twist. If global warming is the cause of an increase intensity and frequency of storms, than the lack of it must be the cause of a decrease in intensity and frequency of storms. Of course, neither need to be true.]

NASA's 2013 HS3 Hurricane Mission to Delve into Saharan Dust

By Robert Gutro for Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt MD (SPX), Jun 19, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/NASAs_2013_HS3_Hurricane_Mission_to_Delve_into_Saharan_Dust_999.html

Washout 2012 summer, melty Greenland 'nothing to do with Arctic ice or warm oceans'

Could have been 'natural variability'

By Lewis page, The Register, Jun 19, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/06/19/wet_summer_and_greenland_not_caused_by_arctic_cap/

Link to paper: Atmospheric and oceanic climate forcing of the exceptional Greenland ice sheet surface melt in summer 2012

By Edward Hanna, et al., International Journal of Climatology, Jun 14, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/joc.3743/abstract>

Changing Climate

Global cooling as significant as global warming

By Staff Writers, Newcastle, UK (SPX), Jun 21, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Global_cooling_as_significant_as_global_warming_999.html

Changing Seas

Forcing The Ocean To Confess

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Jun 19, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/19/forcing-the-ocean-to-confess/>

Study of oceans' past raises worries about their future

By Staff Writers, Montreal, Canada (SPX), Jun 18, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Study_of_oceans_past_raises_worries_about_their_future_999.html

Link to paper: The acceleration of oceanic denitrification during deglacial warming

By Eric D. Galbraith, Markus Kienast & The NICOPP working group members, Nature Geoscience, Jun 2, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo1832.html>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Who Dares to Deny Arctic Warming?

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jun 17, 2013

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/06/who-dares-to-deny-arctic-warming/>

[SEPP Comment: A bit of history.]

Jet stream changes cause climatically exceptional Greenland Ice Sheet melt

By Staff Writers, Sheffield, UK (SPX), Jun 19, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Jet_stream_changes_cause_climatically_exceptional_Greenland_Ice_Sheet_melt_999.html

Changes in the Arctic: Background and Issues for Congress

By Ronald O'Rourke, CRS, Jun 7, 2013

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/210676.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: Doubtful the author read the book Spencer describes above.]

Changing Earth

Water is no lubricant

By Staff Writers, Potsdam, Germany (SPX), Jun 17, 2013

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Water_is_no_lubricant_999.html

Link to Letter: Small effect of water on upper-mantle rheology based on silicon self-diffusion coefficients.

By Fei, et al., Nature, Jun 12, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v498/n7453/full/nature12193.html>

[SEPP Comment: For plate tectonics; does it apply on the claim that water will cause ice sheets to slide over rough terrain?]

Acidic Waters

Natural Underwater Springs Show How Coral Reefs Respond to Ocean Acidification

Ocean acidification reduces the density of coral skeletons, making them more vulnerable

By Staff Writers, NSF, Jun 17, 2013

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=128243

Unable to find link to paper in PNAS index.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. In fiscal year (FY) 2012, its budget was \$7.0 billion.

[SEPP Comment: In spite of a \$7 billion budget, NSF issues a press release discussing pH without a single pH number.]

Ocean acidification killing oysters by inhibiting shell formation

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Jun 17, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Ocean_acidification_killing_oysters_by_inhibiting_shell_formation_999.html

Link to paper: A developmental and energetic basis linking larval oyster shell formation to acidification sensitivity

By George G. Waldbusse, et al., GRL, May 29, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/grl.50449/abstract>

[SEPP Comment: Again, no specifics.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

How CO₂ helped crops in the severe drought summer of 2012

By Joseph D'Aleo, Weatherbell Analytics, Jun 10, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/how_co2_helped_crops_in_the_severe_drought_summer_of_2012/

[SEPP Comment: Although by Palmer Hydrological Drought Index, the 2012 drought was more severe than the 1988 drought, yields were higher and, measured in 2012 dollars, the losses were less.]

For longer life and less cancer: Pesticides!?

By Gil Ross, ACSH, Jun 13, 2013

<http://hsdispatch.com/2013/06/13/for-longer-life-and-less-cancer-pesticides/>

New report identifies 'regret-free' approaches for adapting agriculture to climate change

By Staff Writers, Bonn, Germany (SPX), Jun 19, 2013

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/New_report_identifies_regret_free_approaches_for_adapting_agriculture_to_climate_change_999.html

Link to report: Addressing uncertainty in adaptation planning for agriculture

By Vermeulen, et al, PNAS, May 21, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/110/21/8357>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

For a full list of articles see www.NIPCCreport.org

How Corals Are Able to Tolerate Significant Seawater Acidification

Reference: Venn, A.A., Tambutte, E., Holcomb, M., Laurent, J., Allemand, D. and Tambutte, S. 2013. Impact of seawater acidification on pH at the tissue-skeleton interface and calcification in reef corals. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 110: 1634-1639.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jun/18jun2013a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: Only observed decrease in calcification was at pH of 7.2, the lowest tested.]

The Effect of Elevated CO₂ on Tomato Plant Lateral Root Growth

Reference: Wang, H., Xiao, W., Niu, Y., Jin, C., Chai, R., Tang, C. and Zhang, Y. 2013. Nitric oxide enhances development of lateral roots in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) under elevated carbon dioxide. *Planta* 237: 137-144.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jun/18jun2013a2.html>

Another Test of CMIP5 Models: What Problems Were Detected?

Reference: Santer, B.D., Painter, J.F., Mears, C.A., Doutriaux, C., Caldwell, P., Arblaster, J.M., Cameron-Smith, P.J., Gillett, N.P., Gleckler, P.J., Lanzante, J., Perlwitz, J., Solomon, S., Stott, P.A., Taylor, K.E., Terray, L., Thorne, P.W., Wehner, M.F., Wentz, F.J., Wigley, T.M.L., Wilcox, L.J. and Zou, C.-Z. 2013. Identifying human influences on atmospheric temperature. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 110: 26-33.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jun/18jun2013a3.html>

Negative Effects of Salinity on Barley: Overcoming the Stress with CO2

Reference: Perez-Lopez, U., Robredo, A., Miranda-Apodaca, J., Lacuesta, M., Munoz-Rueda, A. and Mena-Petite, A. 2013. Carbon dioxide enrichment moderates salinity-induced effects on nitrogen acquisition and assimilation and their impact on growth in barley plants. *Environmental and Experimental Botany* 87: 148-158

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jun/18jun2013a4.html>

Litigation Issues

Environmental, health groups sue over delayed smog rule

By Julian Hattem, The Hill, Jun 19, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/306601-green-health-groups-sue-over-delayed-smog-rule>

How Green Groups Make the EPA Issue New Rules

By suing the agency—which often settles—green advocates have compelled it to issue a raft of regulations.

By Coral Davenport, National Journal, Jun 13, 2013

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/how-green-groups-make-the-epa-issue-new-rules-20130613>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Is a Carbon Tax a Conservative Idea Whose Time Has Come? Thoughts on the R Street – Heartland Debate

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Jun 16, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/06/16/is-a-carbon-tax-a-conservative-idea-whose-time-has-come-thoughts-on-the-r-street-heartland-debate/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Even Big-Oil is begging for Big-Green subsidies

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jun 19, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/even-big-oil-is-begging-for-big-green-subsidies/>

The Ethanol Mandate: Don't Mend It, End It

By Nicolas Loris, Heritage Foundation, Jun 12, 2013

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/06/the-ethanol-mandate-dont-mend-it-end-it?qwerty>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Carbon (And Practically Everything Else) Just Got More Expensive

By David Kreutzer and Katie Tubb, The Foundry, Jun 13, 2013

<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/06/13/carbon-just-got-more-expensive/>

White House, EPA at odds over savings produced by emissions regulations

How much do new regulations cost? It depends on whom you ask.

By Julian Hattem, The Hill, Jun 16, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/305709-white-house-epa-at-odds-over-savings-produced-by-emissions-regulations->

Energy Issues – Non-US

Most coal must stay in ground to save climate: report

By Staff Writers, Sydney (AFP), June 17, 2013

<http://www.energy->

[daily.com/reports/Most coal must stay in ground to save climate report 999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Most%20coal%20must%20stay%20in%20ground%20to%20save%20climate%20report%20999.html)

[SEPP Comment: *The Australian Climate Commission has spoken! So much for Australia's exports to China.*]

As U.S. production soars, oil companies eye far horizons

By Harry Weber, Fuel Fix, Jun 18, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/06/18/as-u-s-production-soars-oil-companies-eye-far-horizons/>

[SEPP Comment: *Even as knowledge and technology expand, going deep is limited to those with deep pockets.*]

Energy Issues -- US

Energy Policy: 113th Congress Issues

By Carl Behrens, CRS, May 30, 2013

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/210669.pdf>

Washington's Control of Energy

Tell Obama: There's No Climate Change To Fight

Editorial, IBD, Jun 17, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/061713-660284-obama-rolls-out-climate-measures-in-july.htm>

Obama Ready to Emissions Limits on Power Plants

By John Broder, NYT, Jun 19, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/20/science/earth/obama-preparing-big-effort-to-curb-climate-change.html?_r=2&

Railroading the Keystone XL pipeline

An Obama-Buffett connection could keep crude rolling by rail

By William Triplett, Washington Times, Jun 19, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jun/19/railroading-the-keystone-xl-pipeline/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

EPA Covers Up The Safety Of Fracking

Editorial, IBD, Jun 21, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/062113-661014-epa-rejects-peer-review-of-fracking-study.htm?p=full>

[SEPP Comment: The wells in Wyoming were not for deep underground fracturing of shale.]

Fracking is too risky in a national forest

Editorial, The Virginian-Pilot, June 16, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/06/fracking-too-risky-national-forest>

[SEPP Comment: EPA's mission on hydraulic fracturing accomplished – scare the easily frightened.]

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

DOJ, Arkansas sue Exxon for pipeline spill

By Timothy Gardner and David Sheppard, Reuters, Jun 13, 2013

<http://news.yahoo.com/u-arkansas-sue-exxon-over-pegasus-pipeline-spill-192859563.html>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

America Should Learn from Europe on Wind Power

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Jun 20, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=23302&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EnvPD

Houston to buy half its power from renewable sources

By Jeannie Keever, Fuel Fix, Jun 20, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/06/20/houston-to-buy-half-of-its-electricity-from-renewable-sources/>

[SEPP Comment: It will be interesting to see how this works out in summer afternoons and evenings when demand is the greatest and nature does not cooperate, the winds die down.]

Hazy, Lazy Reporting

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jun 18, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/06/18/hazy-lazy-reporting/>

American Lung Association's misguided support for wind energy

By Staff Writer, IWAG, Jun 18, 2013

<http://www.windaction.org/faqs/38608>

Moniz: No worries, the DOE is going to keep “aggressively pursuing” more solar energy projects

By Erika Johnsen, Hot Air, Jun 17, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://hotair.com/archives/2013/06/17/moniz-no-worries-the-doe-is-going-to-keep-aggressively-pursuing-more-solar-energy-projects/>

[SEPP Comment: Cost is only a part of the issue, the major issue is reliability when needed the most. Is DOE going to tame nature?]

The German Solar Disaster: 21 Billion Euros Burned

By Thiemo Heeg, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Trans. Philipp Mueller, GWPF, Jun 19, 2013

<http://www.thegwpc.org/german-solar-disaster-21-billion-euros-burned/>

Special Report Part 3 - Whyalla Solar a lesson in markets

By Tristan Edis, Climate Spectator, Jun 14, 2013

<http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2013/6/14/renewable-energy/special-report-part-3-whyalla-solar-lesson-markets#ixzz2WfCKdR6E>

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

Dam construction to reduce greenhouse gases causes ecosystem disruption

By Staff Writers, Corvallis OR (SPX), Jun 21, 2013

[http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Dam construction to reduce greenhouse gases causes ecosystem disruption 999.html](http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Dam%20construction%20to%20reduce%20greenhouse%20gases%20causes%20ecosystem%20disruption%20999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Belaboring the obvious, whatever the purpose.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Electric Cars: The Environmentalist Paradox

By Staff Writer, NCPA, Jun 18, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=23292&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

California Dreaming

Greenbacks Beat the Greens in Ubergreen California

By Marita Noon, Energy Tribune, Jun 20, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/77836/greenbacks-beat-the-greens-in-ubergreen-california#sthash.SpKAXIOi.dpbs>

Health, Energy, and Climate

Health groups tell Michelle Obama: Conserve land to prevent obesity

By Julian Hattem, The Hill, Jun 20, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/letterscomments/306811-health-groups-ask-michelle-obama-conserve-land-to-prevent-obesity>

[SEPP Comment: Mandatory physical exercise in public schools would be more effective.]

Other Scientific News

The bad science scandal: how fact-fabrication is damaging UK's global name for research

After a string of high-profile cases, a new agreement between scientists and the people who fund them aims to usher in a new era of 'research purity'

By John Lawless, The Independent, Jun 16, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/the-bad-science-scandal-how-factfabrication-is-damaging-uks-global-name-for-research-8660929.html>

[SEPP Comment: Emphasizing the critical need that studies must be independently reproduced before they are accepted as part of public policy.]

Most species originate in the tropics

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Jun 18, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/06/most-species-originate-in-tropics.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: Yet many claim a warming world will be harmful to most species.]

Stone Age technological and cultural innovation accelerated by climate

By Staff Writers, Barcelona, Germany, (SPX) Jun 19, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Stone_Age_technological_and_cultural_innovation_accelerated_by_climate_999.html

China's long march in space

By Zhao Gang, Beijing (XNA), Jun 16, 2013

http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Chinas_long_march_in_space_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Halos and contrails: Is there a connection?

By Cliff Mass, His Blog, Jun 15, 2013

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/06/halos-and-contrails-is-there-connection.html>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Quite possibly the dumbest example of ‘Tabloid Climatology’ ever from Climate Central’s Andrew Freedman

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 18, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/18/quite-possibly-the-dumbest-example-of-tabloid-climatology-ever-from-climate-centrals-andrew-freedman/>

Why you should care about Solar Impulse and renewable energy’s long, long journey

By Dominic Basulto, Washington Post, Jun 18, 2013

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/innovations/wp/2013/06/18/why-you-should-care-about-solar-impulse-and-renewable-energys-long-long-journey/>

[SEPP Comment: A great publicity stunt. Imagine scheduling commercial airline flights on reliably predicting sunshine.]

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ARTICLES:

1. German Energy Drain

The green-power push is driving business to the low-cost U.S.

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 14, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323734304578542973009892416.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEFTTopBucket

Germany's Christian Democrats unveil their campaign platform later this month ahead of September's federal election, and energy policy is expected to feature prominently. The CDU-led coalition government has accelerated the country's push toward green energy during a period in which German industry has flourished relative to its European peers. Unfortunately for Germany, this energy transformation has also spurred a flight of German industry outside the country—not least to the United States.

"The U.S. has become much more attractive to companies than Europe," Martin Wansleben, the head of the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, told the Handelsblatt newspaper last month. "Germany is in the process of getting sandwiched between Eastern Europe with its low labor costs and the U.S. with low energy costs."

Wholesale electricity prices have been sliding in Germany, but as with so much else in Europe higher taxes and fees have caused retail prices to swell. In 2012, German households paid more than 2.5 times their American counterparts for residential electricity, according to the research firm GlobalData.

The cost gap between the two countries can be even greater for industry—and energy-intensive firms are taking note. BMW is readying a second production line at its factory in Moses Lake, Wash., which opened in 2011. The Munich-based chemical maker Wacker is expanding capacity at its facility in Calvert City, Ky., and has twice increased production plans for a new plant it's building in Charleston, Tenn. The chemical and energy group BASF which is based in Ludwigshafen, is expanding its facilities in Wyandotte, Mich., and Monaca, Pa. In February BASF held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new plant in Freeport, Texas.

Low labor costs pulled industry toward Asia over the last two decades. Low energy costs may draw it westward again.

The back-story here is Germany's increasingly frantic push to increase the share of renewables in its energy mix. Berlin has subsidized renewable energy since 2000, and Chancellor Angela Merkel took office in 2005 promising to encourage green sources while maintaining nuclear and fossil-fuel power. The CDU's energy agenda went radical in March 2011 when, following Japan's nuclear catastrophe, Mrs. Merkel announced that Germany was abandoning nuclear power. Eight nuclear plants were closed immediately, and all nine remaining reactors will be shuttered by 2022.

Nuclear supplied a quarter of the country's electricity in 2011, and the lost capacity is supposed to be replaced by doubling down on renewables. Since 2010, Berlin's target has been for 35% of Germany's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020, 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. That means filling the gap left by nuclear but also reducing reliance on coal and gas, which together supply 62% of German electricity.

Three years later, the spiraling costs of Germany's push for renewables have turned electricity prices into a political problem and economic liability. Industry bears less of the burden of renewable subsidies than consumers do, but even they are starting to feel the pinch. Speaking at a conference in Berlin on Wednesday, Mrs. Merkel promised that "very clear suggestions" for reform are forthcoming. But so far the talk has mostly centered on improving the electricity grid to better deploy the surging volume of solar and wind production that has resulted from subsidies.

There's a lot riding on getting reform right—for both the German and euro-zone economies. IG Metall, Germany's most important metalworkers' union, warned Thursday that 200,000 jobs are in danger if energy costs aren't brought under control. "The fact that German electricity prices are among the highest in Europe, despite relatively low wholesale prices, must serve as a warning signal," says International Energy Agency (IEA) executive director Maria van der Hoeven.

The IEA's latest review of German energy policy also recommends that "greater thought" be given to natural gas. The country is a big importer of gas from Russia and Norway, but exploration at home, including in a promising basin in Lower Saxony, is raising hopes for a shale

boom like the one that has transformed America's energy future. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that Germany has recoverable shale-gas reserves of 230 billion cubic meters—less than France or Poland, but more than the U.K. or Spain.

None of it will matter if Berlin follows Paris and bans hydraulic fracturing. A draft Bundestag bill to allow and regulate fracking was abruptly withdrawn last week after some coalition lawmakers raised environmental concerns. The CDU says the issue is on the agenda for after the election.

Mrs. Merkel is a cautious politician, and she may hope that promising some tweaks to ease the burden on consumers will get her through September without a potentially divisive battle over fracking or the broader wisdom of the green-power push. But the Chancellor is more likely to succeed in opening the door to unconventional gas if she builds a case for it before she goes to the polls. The power of the German economy may depend on it.

2. Obama's Keystone Regrets

By Kimberley Strassel, WSJ, Jun 18, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323566804578553350969582808.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEFTThirdBucket

If President Obama once thought it politically savvy to kick the Keystone XL pipeline decision down the road, he's surely rueing that strategy today. The delay has allowed the environmental community to elevate the project into a litmus test of his environmental fealty—so much so that some of Mr. Obama's biggest supporters are now vowing to turn his base against him if he moves ahead with a win-win project that will boost the economy.

The ultimatum was expressed clearly in an open letter to Mr. Obama on June 3 from Thomas Steyer, the billionaire climate activist. Mr. Steyer has been a loyal Obama ally, speaking at the Democratic National Convention in 2012 and donating generously to the president and his party.

In his letter, Mr. Steyer nonetheless made clear that he and his NextGen political action committee will turn their force on the president if he approves Keystone. "NextGen Action is going to be working with friends and allies who are opposed to the development of Keystone XL to intensify our efforts in communicating what is the right policy choice for your Administration," the letter reads. "On June 20, in Washington, D.C. we will announce a campaign that will specifically focus on communicating to those Americans across the country that supported your re-election in 2012."

That vow comes alongside the green community's plans to launch a new phase of rowdy summer activism against the project. The group 350.org is planning "mass action," including a demonstration at the White House on July 27 to pressure the president to keep climate "promises" that have "fallen by the wayside." Groups like CREDO Action and the Rainforest Action Network are pushing a "Keystone XL Pledge of Resistance," asking Americans to "engage in serious, dignified, peaceful civil disobedience that could get you arrested." More than 20 activists were arrested on Monday in Chicago, where the Rainforest Action Network deliberately organized a protest in Mr. Obama's hometown. Environmentalists have also—amusingly—been blasting Mr. Obama's Organizing for America group, furious that it hasn't jumped into the pipeline fight.

One clear message to the president is that the environmental community won't be placated by the administration's expected July announcement of a climate policy. Quite the opposite, many green groups are now claiming the only measure of Mr. Obama's climate devotion is his willingness to kill the pipeline.

This puts Mr. Obama in a tough position. The vast majority of Americans are supportive of Keystone, seeing it as a sensible and obvious job-creation project. Yet the Obama strategy for success in next year's midterms—in which he hopes to reclaim the House—is to use his special-interest supporters (including environmentalists) to get his base out to vote. Maybe if he'd green-lighted Keystone back before it became a household term, he could have avoided all this.

3. The Rationale for Wind Power Won't Fly

Physical limitations will keep this energy source a niche provider of U.S. electricity needs.

By Jay Lehr, WSJ, Jun 18, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324310104578507242336481504.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

To understand the folly that drives too much of the nation's energy policies, consider these basic facts about wind energy.

After decades of federal subsidies—almost \$24 billion according to a recent estimate by former U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm—nowhere in the United States, or anywhere else, has an array of wind turbines replaced a single conventional power plant. Nowhere.

But wind farms do take up space. The available data from wind-power companies, with which the Environmental Protection Agency agrees, show that the most effective of them can generate about five kilowatts per acre. This means 300 square miles of land—192,000 acres—are necessary to generate the 1,000 megawatts (a billion watts) of electricity that a conventional power plant using coal, nuclear energy or natural gas can generate on a few hundred acres. A billion watts fulfills the average annual power demand of a city of 700,000.

Taxpayer support for wind energy will eventually come to an end, I optimistically predict. The only question is how soon. My pessimistic guess is it will take another decade—by which time the number of wind turbines, currently about 45,000 according to the American Wind Energy Association, could more than double.

It is unclear whether very many wind-energy firms have sufficient monetary reserves to cover dismantling these behemoth lawn sculptures once the tax credits wind down or disappear. If not, the result will be a scene from a science fiction movie—as though giant aliens descended onto our planet only to freeze in place.

The promise that wind and solar power could replace conventional electricity production never really made sense. It's known to everybody in the industry that a wind turbine will generate electricity 30% of the time—but it's impossible to predict when that time will be. A true believer might be willing to do without electricity when the wind is not blowing, but most people will not. And so, during the 30% of the time the blades are spinning, conventional power plants are also spinning on low, waiting to operate during the other 70% of the time.

Importantly, the amount of electricity the wind can generate per acre of land is unrelated to the size of the turbines. Yes, by doubling the turbine's blade length you double the turbine's power output. The problem? If the turbines are big and tall you need fewer of them, but they must be more widely separated. If they're smaller you need more of them, closer together.

Another inescapable problem for electricity grids: The power generated by a wind turbine varies with the cube of the wind speed. When the wind speed doubles—say from 10 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour—the energy output increases eightfold ($2 \times 2 \times 2$). Someone, or some computer, has to balance these huge variations on the grid by calling on standby generators to produce more or less power to maintain the stability essential to the grid.

So, you might wonder, do high winds make turbines really hum? No. Turbines must be shut down in high winds because centrifugal force would begin to tear the blades apart. Also, the world has learned from experience in Europe—whose wind sculpture gardens may one day dwarf ours—that a one-millimeter buildup of bugs on the blades reduces their power output by as much as 25%.

There are other problems. Thousands of turbine breakdowns and accidents have been reported in recent years. The basic concrete foundations are suffering from strains, as reported by industry sources and on the wind-farm construction website windfarmbop.com.

And there are environmental factors. Annoying, low-frequency noise produced by wind turbines, particularly large turbines, is driving some people away from their homes, according to numerous press reports. (Low-frequency noise regulations are already in place in Denmark while the phenomenon is the subject of continuing research.) The Audubon Society now estimates bird deaths from turbines exceed a million per year.

Wind is at best a niche player in energy. Grandiose claims made on behalf of wind-generated electricity are rubbish, whether or not renewable-energy advocates admit it. Wind-power developers will milk taxpayers across the world out of a few billion more dollars, euros or pounds in subsidies, tax credits and the like, but sooner or later the public will wise up.

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4. California's Cap-and-Tax Grab

Democrats raid carbon-emissions auction revenue to finance more welfare spending.

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Democrats in Sacramento are taking a victory lap for balancing this year's budget without raising taxes (not counting the \$6 billion retroactive hike voters approved at political gunpoint in November). The dirty little secret is they're instead tapping California's new cap-and-trade program.

California expects to generate \$500 million this year from auctioning off permits to emit carbon, and between \$2 billion and \$14 billion annually by 2015. This rich new vein of revenues was supposed to flow to green programs (e.g., solar subsidies), but Governor Jerry Brown cut a deal with Democrats in the legislature to seize this year's proceeds to finance more generous welfare and Medicaid benefits. Environmentalists are suddenly stunned to discover that they're not exempt from Sacramento's generally accepted accounting principle of raiding internal accounts to backfill the budget.

Mr. Brown has vowed to repay the \$500 million cap-and-trade "loan" in short order. But as a matter of law, he has until the California Air Resources Board (CARB) says it needs the cash to administer the cap-and-trade program. That may be never since CARB's expenditures are discretionary, and the quarterly auctions will produce gushers of revenues that guarantee the cap-and-trade fund never runs dry.

The board's chairwoman Mary Nichols, who's endorsing the raid, has tried to quell enraged environmentalists by reminding them that "the part about the cap-and-trade program that is reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it's the cap," and "not the revenue that we get from the allowances."

Good point, and one which businesses are making in a lawsuit that contends the state is levying an unconstitutional tax under the guise of a "regulatory fee." California's Prop. 13 (1978) requires a supermajority vote of the legislature to raise taxes. CARB circumvented this requirement in 2011 by setting up a state-run auction to sell permits and calling the profits "regulatory fees" that would be used to mitigate emissions.

But as the state Supreme Court underscored in its 1997 Sinclair Paint Co. opinion, regulatory fees cannot "exceed in amount the reasonable cost of providing the protective services for which the fees are charged" or be imposed for "unrelated revenue purposes."

California has never quantified the "reasonable cost" to protect the public from carbon emissions, and it's hard to argue that spending cap-and-trade dollars on welfare checks advances environmental objectives. The state doesn't need to auction off permits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It could achieve its emissions targets by giving away permits for free and ratcheting the cap down over time.

In short, California Democrats are proving that the real point of cap and trade is to give politicians another revenue stream for income redistribution while dodging accountability for raising taxes. That's worth keeping in mind when liberals resurrect the scheme for the entire U.S.

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