

The Week That Was: 2014-01-25 (January 25, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: “*The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions.*” Leonardo da Vinci [H/t Climate Etc.]

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Number of the Week: 1 in 100,000 over 70 years

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State of the Union: Last week TWTW incorrectly expressed that President Obama’s State of the Union Address would be at 9 pm on Tuesday, January 21. In fact it will be at 9 pm on Tuesday January 28. The later date was somewhat fortunate for Mr. Obama because January 21 was a cold day with blowing snow in Washington. Between 4 to 12 inches accumulated in various parts around the city. Much of the snow remains because, generally, temperatures have been below freezing.

Many speculate that Mr. Obama will announce dramatic executive actions to fight global warming/climate change. If so, such actions will further illustrate that he is an authoritarian executive who has little regard for legislative processes as called for in the Constitution.

Meteorologist Joe D’Aleo of WeatherBell Analytics informed TWTW that on January 28 every state of the union will have freezing temperatures and parts or all of 27 states will be below zero (-18 °C). The current National Weather Service forecast for Washington is a high of 18°F (-8 °C) and a low of 7°F (-14 °C). The low temperature will be some 21°F (12 °C) below the Washington normal low for mid-January of 28°F (-2 °C). Perhaps the nation would be better off if the President declares his climate action plan is working and no new measures are needed. For an overview of what the week will bring see link under Changing Weather.

EU Retreat? As it appears that President Obama is preparing for war against global warming, it appears that the EU may be considering retreat. The European Commission proposed 2030 climate and energy goals, which indicated priorities may be changing. Competitive and secure energy came first, then low-carbon energy. The goals for renewable energy in 2030 were raised, but after 2020 specific goals will not be binding on individual countries. It is doubtful that the political leadership of many individual states will desire to continue with substantial renewable energy subsidies as consumer electricity prices continue to rise and government budgets are under pressure.

The goals also include reducing CO2 emissions by 40% by 2030, which would require a significant effort from the current goal of reducing CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020, as compared with 1990 levels. How much carbon intensive industry are the EU member states willing to sacrifice or heavily subsidize? Germany, UK, and several other member states recognize that they are in danger of significant de-industrialization as industries are looking elsewhere to expand, given the high costs of electricity and natural gas in Europe.

It will be interesting to see if and how these goals become actual measures. *The Economist*, which considers CO2 emissions a threat to the planet, is calling for bold action in the direction of cap-and-trade and carbon taxes. It even makes the assertion that electricity prices would fall if renewable subsidies are dropped. There should be interesting battles within the EU as member

states face difficult choices, made far more difficult by past commitments to solar and wind power. See links under Questioning European Green and Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes.

Integrity of Datasets: Steven Goddard reports he discovered a spurious warming in the US data set provided by the US Historical Climatology Network (USHCN) and used by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (NASA-GISS). The finding is not new. It has been reported by Anthony Watts, Joseph D'Aleo and others. In general, version 2 of the data set, reduced historic temperatures making recent temperatures to appear warmer than the past. All this makes announcements of a certain year being the X hottest in the historic record highly questionable. Once a dataset is compromised, can its integrity be restored? See links under Measurement Issues.

Maximum and Minimum or Average: The report by Steven Goddard prompted Roy Spencer to update his alternative dataset using the U.S. average Integrated Surface Hourly temperature data (48 states) which he adjusts for changes in population density of the area where the report station is located. The adjustment is to compensate for the Urban Heat Island effect (UHI).

Spencer reports that in 2012 he too discovered a spurious warming in the USHCN dataset around 1998. By averaging four readings of temperatures taken at the same time (00, 06, 12, AND 18 UTC) he calculates a warming trend since 1973 – when there was sufficient hourly coverage of the US. After adjusting for population growth, Spencer shows a warming trend significantly less than that of the USHCN. Further, the spurious warming remains even with no population adjustment. Spencer concludes: *Clearly, adjustments to surface temperature data are at least as large as the global warming signal being sought. Until a transparent analysis of the USHCN methodology is carried out, and alternative methods and temperature datasets are tested, I can't bring myself to believe any U.S. government pronouncements regarding record warm temperatures.* See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

PDO: In a post on WUWT, Don Easterbrook describes how he developed the association between changes in the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), glacial fluctuations on Mt. Baker in Washington State, and global temperature data. Easterbrook came across a paper by Mantua, et al., on the influence the PDO on salmon populations in the Northeast Pacific. There was an almost exact correspondence between Easterbrook's findings of glacial fluctuations on Mt Baker.

Using this association, in 1999, Easterbrook predicted a cooling for the next 25 to 30 years, immediately after the hot El Niño year of 1998. It is likely that few in the audience believed him. Later, Joe D'Aleo added the importance of the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO). Easterbrook extended the research to GISP2 ice cores from Greenland and found a similar match. Of course, this research is poorly received by the climate establishment and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

As Easterbrook states, it is important to realize that the PDO is an index, not a measured value of heat. It is based on about a dozen or so parameters that are related to cyclical variations in sea surface temperatures in the NE Pacific. It has two modes, warm and cool, and flips back and forth between them every 25 to 30 years. The question remains if the climate will cool for 20 to 25 years as Easterbrook predicts.

Easterbrook states that it is not clear what drives these oceanic/climatic cycles. The “correlations with various solar parameters appear to be quite good, but the causal mechanism remains unclear.” See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Communicate with the Public: The climate establishment continues to believe that the growing distrust the public has in global warming/climate change pronouncements is purely a breakdown in communication and not related to the failure of nature to obey human climate models. In discussing the “missing heat,” Judith Curry neatly sums up the issue. *Well, if the scientists don't understand the cause of the pause, and the public is aware of the pause, then exactly what are we to conclude about the public understanding of climate change? Maybe that the public is not sufficiently 'sophisticated' to believe climate model projections that are running much warmer than observations for the past decade?* See link under Seeking a Common Ground.

The Fingerprint: Benjamin Santer complains that independent bloggers profoundly affected him. It is very difficult to have sympathy for this man who, in a hearing before Congress, bragged he changed wording in the final Summary for Policymakers, and Chapter 8, (on Attribution) of the IPCC Second Assessment Report (AR2 – 1995-96) to asserting a discernible human influence on global warming, after it had undergone peer review. He also bragged he discovered the distinct human fingerprint (a hot spot centered over the tropics at about 33,000 feet) which no one can find. Santer accomplished the latter task by truncating atmospheric temperature data, removing data at the beginning and the end of the dataset. These data contradict Santer's findings. See link under Defending the Orthodoxy and an article by S. Fred Singer

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/11/ipcc_s_bogus_evidence_for_global_warming.html

Social Cost of Carbon: Comments on the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) are due on Monday to the Office of Management and Budget. The concept is a construct of an out-of-control bureaucracy. There are a number of models to calculate SCC, using different discount rate. The higher the rate, the lower the SCC.

The science behind EPA's finding that carbon dioxide emissions endanger human health and welfare and its three lines of evidence is imploding. The climate models simply do not work and greatly overestimate the recent warming [no surface warming for 16 years]. There is no reason to believe the climate models are capable of predicting the future climate.

Perhaps with this in mind, Joseph D'Aleo has an amusing post on one of the social costs of increased atmospheric carbon dioxide. Research funded by the National Institute Drug Abuse has found that *Cannabis sativa* grows best in atmospheres with high concentrations of carbon dioxide, up to the highest level tested, 750 parts per million. See link under Below the Bottom Line.

Additions and Corrections: The system used to send out TWTW does not allow certain formatting methods as customarily used. For quotes, italics are used, but long quotes cannot be indented. In last week's TWTW Judith Curry was quoted extensively regarding Mr. Mann's accusation that her testimony before the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee was unscientific. Some readers were confused about who was being quoted. We shall make every effort to be clear in the future.

Number of the Week: 1 in 100,000 over 70 years. Those visiting California for the first time may think it is the most dangerous place on earth for contracting cancer. Retail establishments selling food, groceries, hardware, building products, gasoline etc. are plastered with signs stating:

"WARNING: This Area Contains A Chemical Known To The State of California To Cause Cancer." The standard used to establish this warning is an example of collective chemical phobia: "at least a 1 in 100,000 chance for any person exposed to the product over a period of 70 years contracting cancer." See Article # 2.

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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. The Inventor of the Global Warming Hockey Stick Doubles Down

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Jan 21, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/01/the_inventor_of_the_global_warming_hockey_stick_doubles_down.html

Professor Michael Mann, if you see something, say something – or maybe just keep your mouth shut

2. Caution: This Warning May Be Useless

A 'right to know' law in California hasn't helped consumers, but it's a big burden on business.

By Michael Marlow, WSJ, Jan 20, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303848104579308393984123358?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

3. California's Cap-and-Trade Awakening

A Democrat discovers the economic costs of anticarbon politics.

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 17, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304549504579320970298575870?mod=djemMER_h

4. California's Water Fight

By Allysia Finley, WSJ, Jan 23, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303448204579338643510693788?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTThirdBucket

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

BBC runs 6 excellent minutes on quiet sun and past correlation with Little Ice Age

By Alec Rawls, WUWT, Jan 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/19/bbc-runs-6-excellent-minutes-on-quiet-sun-and-past-correlation-with-little-ice-age/>

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the report, the cold periods during the Little Ice Age were not confined to Northern Europe.]

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Science is not done by peer or pal review, but by evidence and reason

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 20, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/01/science-is-not-done-by-peer-or-pal-review-but-by-evidence-and-reason/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Nothing left to say

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Jan 19, 2014

http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014_january.htm#nothing

Cause of 'the pause' in global warming

By Don Easterbrook, WUWT, Jan 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/17/cause-of-the-pause-in-global-warming/>

'Big Chill' Expected to Stay Until 2040

Major cooling cycle could match 'Little Ice Age'

By Staff Writers, Interview of Tim Ball, WND, Radio, Jan 21, 2014

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/01/big-chill-expected-to-stay-until-2040/#bXV1Kbu6yeHikqWi.99>

U.S. temperatures, 1973-2013: A alternative view

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jan 24, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/01/u-s-temperatures-1973-2013-a-alternative-view/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Report: Obama can advance climate agenda without Congress

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jan 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/196056-clean-energy-experts-obama-can-advance-climate-agenda-without-congress>

A united call for action on climate change

By Kofi Annan, Washington Post, Jan 22, 2014 [H/t Dennis Manuta]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/kofi-annan-a-united-call-for-action-on-climate-change/2014/01/22/3694fa0c-82c1-11e3-9dd4-e7278db80d86_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend

[SEPP Comment: A reiteration of unsubstantiated claims.]

Former Colo. Gov. Ritter pitches emissions plan based on executive agency action

Transcript by Staff Writers, EETV, Jan 22, 2014

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1769/transcript>

'Neglected Topic' Winner: Climate Change

By Nicholas Kristof, NYT, Jan 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/19/opinion/sunday/kristof-neglected-topic-winner-climate-change.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

[SEPP Comment: The gray lady is becoming a supermarket tabloid for the wealthy.]

How climate blogging 'profoundly affected' Ben Santer

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/18/how-climate-blogging-profoundly-affected-ben-santer/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Chill Out

By John Stossel, Townhall, Jan 22, 2014

http://townhall.com/columnists/johnstossel/2014/01/22/chill-out-n1782430?utm_source=thdailymp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_pm

It could be that climate change just isn't worth worrying about

By Tim Worstall, Adam Smith Institute, Jan 18, 2014

<http://www.adamsmith.org/blog/energy-environment/it-could-be-that-climate-change-just-isnt-worth-worrying-about>

Miss Global Warming Yet? If Not, Just Wait And You Might

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jan 21, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2014/01/21/miss-global-warming-yet-if-not-just-wait-and-you-might/>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Large, older trees keep growing at a faster rate

By Deann Gayman for UNL News, Lincoln NB (SPX), Jan 21, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Large_older_trees_keep_growing_at_a_faster_rate_999.html

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Next 15 years vital for taming warming: UN panel

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Jan 17, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Next_15_years_vital_for_taming_warming_UN_panel_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Some of the draft conclusions on the final volume of AR5 due out in April 2014. Previous reports called the last 10 years vital.]

Seeking a Common Ground

The logic (?) of the IPCC's attribution statement

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 23, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/01/23/the-logic-of-the-ipccs-attribution-statement/>

The Scientific Method and Climate Science

By Vincent Gray, WUWT, Jan 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/21/the-scientific-method-and-climate-science/>

Questions from Congress, Part 2: Responses to Rep. Suzanne Bonamici

By Roger Pielke Jr. His Blog Jan 24, 2014

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2014/01/questions-from-congress-part-2.html>

Questions from Congress, Part 1: Responses to Representative Lamar Smith

By Roger Pielke Jr. His Blog, Jan 24, 2014

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2014/01/questions-from-congress-part-1.html>

The case of the missing heat

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 20, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/01/20/the-case-of-the-missing-heat/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Two Decades of Global Dryland Vegetation Change

Reference: Andela, N., Liu, Y.Y., van Dijk, A.I.J.M., de Jeu, R.A.M. and McVicar, T.R. 2013. Global changes in dryland vegetation dynamics (1988-2008) assessed by satellite remote sensing: comparing a new passive microwave vegetation density record with reflective greenness data. *Biogeosciences* 10: 6657-6676.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jan/21jan2014a1.html>

The Top Ten Problems of the New-and-Improved ECHAM6 Model

Reference: Stevens, B., Giorgetta, M., Esch, M., Mauritsen, T., Crueger, T., Rast, S., Salzmann, M., Schmidt, H., Bader, J., Block, K., Brokopf, R., Fast, I., Kinne, S., Kornblueh, L., Lohmann, U., Pincus, R., Reichler, T. and Roeckner, E. 2013. Atmospheric component of the MPI-M System Model: ECHAM6. *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems* 5: 146-172.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jan/21jan2014a2.html>

Modelling Thermal Characteristics of the Cold Point-Tropopause

Reference: Kim, J., Grise, K.M. and Son, S.-W. 2013. Thermal characteristics of the cold-point tropopause region in CMIP5 models. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* 118: 8827-8841.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jan/21jan2014a3.html>

The "Best Available Tools" for Predicting Climate Change

Reference: Siam, M.S., Demory, M.-E. and Eltahir, E.A.B. 2013. Hydrological cycles over the Congo and Upper Blue Nile basins: Evaluation of general circulation model simulations and reanalysis products. *Journal of Climate* 26: 8881-8894.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jan/22jan2014a4.html>

Models v. Observations

New study says 'robust modeling' predicted Antarctic sea ice to decrease, but the ice defies modeling

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/23/new-study-says-climate-models-robustly-predicted-antarctic-sea-ice-to-decrease-but-the-ice-defies-modeling/>

Link to paper: Climate System Response to Stratospheric Ozone Depletion and Recovery

By Michael Previdi and Lorenzo M. Polvani, Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, Jan 20, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/qj.2330/abstract>

Models Issues

The empty set

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 21, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/1/21/the-empty-set.html>

So the answer is that there are NO MODELS at the intersection of "best lower-tropospheric mixing" and "best simulation of extreme rainfall etc".

Measurement Issues

HadCRUT 2013

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 24, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/1/24/hadcrut-2013.html>

The HadCRUT global temperature anomaly for 2013 is 0.486. If so it should be outside the 5-95% bands on Ed Hawkins' famous graph.

That will be more standstill then.

It looks like the 8th warmest year since HADCRUT began and the 8th coldest year in this millenium. Catastrophe looms. Comment By Phillip Bratby

NASA and NOAA Confirm Global Temperature Standstill Continues

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jan 21, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/nasa-noaa-confirm-global-temperature-standstill-continues/>

Given that the IPCC estimates that the average decadal increase in global surface temperature is 0.2 deg C, the world is now 0.3 deg C cooler than it should have been.

Phil Jones 2012 video: Talks about adjusting SST data up ~.3-.5C after WWII

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/17/phil-jones-2012-video-talks-about-adjusting-sst-data-up-3-5c-after-wwii/>

[SEPP Comment: Adjusting sea surface temperatures to make them consistent with land air-surface temperatures?]

Just Hit The NOAA Motherlode

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Jan 19, 2014

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/01/19/just-hit-the-noaa-motherlode/>

[SEPP Comment: Similar to the link immediately below.]

New study shows half of the global warming in the USA is artificial

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 29, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/07/29/press-release-2/>

New paper asks: 'Would the 'real' temperature dataset please stand up?'; finds 'We have no ability to know' the true temperature data

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Jan 19, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/new-paper-asks-would-real-temperature.html>

Changing Weather

And you thought it was cold earlier this month

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jan 24, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/you_thought_it_was_cold_earlier_this_month1/

Australian heatwaves are nothing new

By Viv Forbes, WUWT, Jan 20, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/20/australian-heatwaves-are-nothing-new/>

Air pollution boosts NW Pacific cyclones: study

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Jan 21, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Air_pollution_boosts_NW_Pacific_cyclones_study_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Relatively short periods and unrelated to CO2. Much of the pollution can be controlled using commercially available equipment. No link to study.]

Arctic cyclones more common than previously thought

By Pam Frost Gorder for OSC News, Columbus OH (SPX), Jan 20, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Arctic_cyclones_more_common_than_previously_thought_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Previously thought by whom?]

California declares drought emergency

By Staff Writers, Los Angeles (AFP), Jan 17, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/California_declares_drought_emergency_999.html

Changing Seas

German Review: Sea Level Rise Way Below Projections – No Hard Basis For Claims Of Accelerating Rise

IPCC 1990: “No convincing evidence that sea level rise accelerated in the 20th century”

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, Translated by P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 23, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/01/23/german-review-sea-level-rise-way-below-projections-no-hard-basis-for-claims-of-accelerating-rise/>

[SEPP Comment: Post glacial sea level rise tapered off about 4000 years ago. Except for the Little Ice Age it has been modest since.]

Ocean heat content uncertainties

By Judith Curry, Climate etc. Jan 21, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/01/21/ocean-heat-content-uncertainties/>

[SEPP Comment: Technical analysis of available data questioning claims that the global warming is hiding in the deep ocean.]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Antarctica Has Sea Ice Rabbit Ears, a V for Victory or Maybe It's a Peace Sign?...

By Justthefacts. WUWT, Jan 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/19/antarctica-has-sea-ice-rabbit-ears-a-v-for-victory-or-maybe-its-a-peace-sign/>

1932 Shock News : Melting Polar Ice Caps To Drown The Planet

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Jan 24, 2014

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/01/24/1932-shock-news-melting-polar-ice-caps-to-drown-the-planet/>

[SEPP Comment: Straight from the New York Times.]

Changing Earth

Study: Changing Land-use Not Global Warming to Blame for Increased Flood Risk

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/23/changing-landscapes-not-global-warming-to-blame-for-increased-flood-risk/>

Link to paper: Flood risk and climate change: global and regional perspectives

By Kundzewicz, et al. Hydrological Sciences Journal, Dec 20, 2013

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02626667.2013.857411#UuEn1RAo6po>

[SEPP Comment: Not a surprise for those who are familiar with changing land use.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Soil Microbes Alter DNA in Response to Warming

By Brett Israel for GT News, Atlanta GA (SPX), Jan 21, 2014

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Soil_Microbes_Alter_DNA_in_Response_to_Warming_999.html

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Be prepared: 'Extreme' El Niño events to double, study says

By John Roach, NBC News, Science, Jan 19, 2014 [Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/be-prepared-extreme-el-nino-events-double-study-says-2D11947406>

Get used to heat waves: Extreme El Nino events to double

By Staff Writers, Sydney, Australia (SPX), Jan 22, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Get_used_to_heat_waves_Extreme_El_Nino_events_to_double_999.html

Lowering Standards

How the American Meteorological Society Justified Publishing Half Truths

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Jan 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/21/how-the-american-meteorological-society-justified-publishing-half-truths/>

The Zero-Emissions Imperative

By Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD, Project Syndicate, Jan 24, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/angel-gurr-a-says-that-nothing-short-of-a-post-carbon-economy-by-the-second-half-of-this-century-can-stop-catastrophic-climate-change>

[SEPP Comment: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has outlived its mission and its usefulness. Among other things, the author fails to identify the nations that give the major fossil-fuel subsidies are petro-states such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and OECD member Russia.]

The World Economic Forum gets hijacked by climate alarmism

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Jan 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/24/the-world-economic-forum-gets-hijacked-by-climate-alarmism/>

Climate Comedy?

Apology As Antarctica Rescue Bill Tops \$2.4m

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, Via GWPF, Jan 23, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/apology-antarctica-rescue-bill-tops-2-4m/>

New Details on the Ship of Fools

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jan 21, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/01/21/new-details-on-the-ship-of-fools/>

Guess who won an award for understanding Natural Phenomena?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 21, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/01/guess-who-won-an-award-for-understanding-natural-phenomenon/>

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

Claim: Analysis indicates that North and tropical Atlantic warming affects Antarctic climate

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/24/claim-analysis-indicates-that-north-and-tropical-atlantic-warming-affects-antarctic-climate/>

[SEPP Comment: The AMO may impact on the Antarctic Peninsula. But contrary to the article, the warming is not occurring on the main part of the continent.]

The water cycle amplifies abrupt climate change

By Staff Writers, Potsdam, Germany (SPX), Jan 21, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/The_water_cycle_amplifies_abrupt_climate_change_999.html

Link to paper: Delayed hydrological response to Greenland cooling at the onset of the Younger Dryas in western Europe

By Rach, Brauer, Wilkes, Sachse, Nature Geoscience, Jan 19, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2053.html>

[SEPP Comment: What an abuse of the findings of the paper as stated in the abstract!!]

Massive Antarctic glacier uncontrollably retreating, study suggests

By Laura Poppick, NBC News, Jan 16, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/massive-antarctic-glacier-uncontrollably-retreating-study-suggests-2D11942467>

'Modest' EU climate targets criticized

Planned greenhouse-gas cuts for 2030 might not be enough to avoid disastrous temperature rises.

By Quirin Schiermeier, Nature, Jan 22, 2014

http://www.nature.com/news/modest-eu-climate-targets-criticized-1.14573?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=ab55f52a9b-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+18+7+137+18+2013&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-ab55f52a9b-215218249

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

NASA Finds 2013 Sustained Long-Term Climate Warming Trend

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Jan 23, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/NASA_Finds_2013_Sustained_Long_Term_Climate_Warming_Trend_999.html

"Long-term trends in surface temperatures are unusual and 2013 adds to the evidence for ongoing climate change," GISS climatologist Gavin Schmidt said.

[SEPP Comment: No trend is now a trend!]

Photo shopped

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 21, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/1/21/photo-shopped.html>

Amstrup repeats starving polar bear nonsense, features “Ursus bogus

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Jan 21, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/01/21/amstrup-repeats-starving-polar-bear-nonsense-features-ursus-bogus/>

Bushfire predictions in 2070 are nonsense on stilts. Models can't predict rainfall

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 24, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/01/bushfire-predictions-in-2070-are-nonsense-on-stilts-models-cant-predict-rainfall/>

Climate change could jeopardize future Winter Olympic games

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jan 24, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/196307-climate-change-could-jeopardize-future-winter-olympics>

[SEPP Comment: "If the globe continues to warm at its current rate..." The current rate is zero, all sorts of disasters will happen.]

Neil Young's Hiroshima – Exhibit #10 in the Drama Queen Files

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jan 20, 2014

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2014/01/20/neil-youngs-hiroshima-exhibit-10-in-the-drama-queen-files/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

The Temperature Standstill And Its Dismissal

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jan 22, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/temperature-standstill-dismissal/>

[SEPP Comment: According to Professor Lowe, climate scientists quoted in last week's Nature magazine essay on the pause are deniers!]

Expanding the Orthodoxy

NASA: Cracked Sea Ice Stirs Up Arctic Mercury Concern

By Carol Rasmussen for Earth Science News, Pasadena CA (JPL), Jan 22, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/NASA_Cracked_Sea_Ice_Stirs_Up_Arctic_Mercury_Concern_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Will this hypothesis survive?]

Questioning European Green

Back from the brink?

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Jan 24, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/back-brink>

Will the EU's decision to dilute green energy targets significantly help European business?

Yes -- By James Sproule, NO By Benny Peiser, City A.M., Jan 23, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.cityam.com/debate/1390438696/will-eu-s-decision-dilute-green-energy-targets-significantly-help-european>

Don't miss the EU transformation on renewable energy

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 24, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/01/dont-miss-the-eu-transformation-on-renewable-energy/#more-33007>

[SEPP Comment: Excerpts from different sources.]

EU energy costs widen over trade partners

By Pilita Clark and Christian Oliver, Financial Times, Jan 20, 2014

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/2d259852-8201-11e3-87d5-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=uk#axzz2r4R6JltN>

EU: Re-Industrialization More Important Than Climate Change

By Florian Eder, Die Welt, Translation Philipp Mueller, GWPF, Jan 20, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/eu-re-industrialization-important-climate-change/>

EU scraps targets forcing Britain to build wind farms: UK free to go nuclear and use fracking

By Ben Spencer, Mail, UK, Jan 22, 2014 [H/t Jan 22, 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2544315/EU-scraps-targets-forcing-Britain-build-wind-farms-UK-free-nuclear-use-fracking.html>

EU sets out leaner 2030 climate and energy vision

By Charlie Dunmore, Reuters, Jan 22, 2014

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/01/22/us-eu-climate-idUKBREA0L0V120140122>

Energy Bills To Hit £1,500 As Green Taxes Double

By Tim Webb, The Times, Via GWPF, Jan 22, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/energy-bills-hit-1500-green-taxes-double/>

EU could cut emissions by 40 percent at moderate cost

By Staff Writers, Potsdam, Germany (SPX), Jan 20, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/EU_could_cut_emissions_by_40_percent_at_moderate_cost_999.html

Link to article: Beyond 2020 - Strategies and costs for transforming the European energy system.

By Knopf, et al, Climate Change Economics, No Date

<http://www.worldscientific.com/doi/pdf/10.1142/S2010007813400010>

"Still, most model calculations optimizing the change of the electricity system project energy from biomass to expand threefold, and from wind even sevenfold by 2050." This would have to be reflected in a potential future EU target on renewable energy.

[SEPP Comment: Massive expansion of electricity from wind, which is unreliable and needs back-up. This will be at moderate cost?]

Europe's New Emissions Goals

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Jan 22, 2014

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2014/01/europes-new-emissions-goals.html>

The graph indicates that achieving a non-nuclear, renewables-based energy system in Germany, while also reducing emissions to 40% below 1990 levels, will remain a formidable challenge. For now, Germany is building more coal plants and moving away from that 2030 target.

“The Road To De-Industrialisation”: Steel Industry Slams Proposed Energy & Climate Targets

By Staff Writers, Steel Times International, Jan 22, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.steeltimesint.com/news/view/the-road-to-de-industrialisation-eurofer-slams-eu-commission-energy-and-cli>

UK must cut green goals back in line with Europe's, manufacturers say

European Commission proposes 40pc cut in carbon emissions by 2030 and scraps legally-binding renewable energy targets

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jan 22, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10590895/UK-must-cut-green-goals-back-in-line-with-Europes-manufacturers-say.html>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Warmists Pivot to Climate Adaptation

By Peter Wilson, American Thinker, Jan 22, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/01/warmists_pivot_to_climate_adaptation.html

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the article, Bjorn Lomborg is not a skeptic of the concept humans are causing significant global warming.]

Funding Issues

Government Money for Innovations

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jan 21, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/01/21/government-money-for-innovations/>

[SEPP Comment: Innovation is not the final goal, it may be a means of improving human welfare.]

DOE loan program chief Davidson discusses new round of clean tech funding

Transcript by Staff Writers, EETV, Jan 23, 2014

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1770/transcript>

[SEPP Comment: Another \$8 Billion on top of \$16 Billion from the Stimulus Bill and \$8 Billion in advanced auto. What is the rate of return on the investment (ROI) on the DOE portfolio?]

Litigation Issues

Future of US Arctic operations in question after court ruling

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jan 22, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/196175-future-of-us-arctic-operations-in-question-after-court-decision>

[SEPP Comment: The amount of economically recoverable oil may have been greatly underestimated, requiring a new environmental review – more government control!]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

European climate policy: Worse than useless

Current policies are a mess. Here's how to fix them

Editorial, The Economist, Jan 25, 2014

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21595002-current-policies-are-mess-heres-how-fix-them-worse-useless?fsrc=nlw%7Cchig%7C1-23-2014%7C7609132%7C152586780%7CNA>

The 20 largest European energy utilities have lost a jaw-dropping €500 billion in market value since 2008

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Colorado Consumers Paying Steep Price for Renewable Power Mandates

By James Taylor, Environment & Climate News, Jan 15, 2014

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2014/01/23/colorado-consumers-paying-steep-price-renewable-power-mandates>

Energy Tax Reform: Scrap the Baucus Proposal (Part IV: Negative Wealth Effects)

By Glenn Schleede, Master Resource, Jan 22, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/01/baucus-energy-tax-reform-4/#more-29375>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Dirty Science in EPA's War on Coal

By Larry Bell, News Max, Jan 21, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/EPA-War-Coal-Obama/2014/01/21/id/548112>

EPA Administrator Says Coal Rules Necessary Because of 'Devastating Impacts on the Planet'

But Gina McCarthy tells GOP lawmakers she can't answer climate-change questions: "I just look at what the climate scientists tell me."

By Rodrigo Sermenio, PJ Media, Jan 20, 2014

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/epa-administrator-says-coal-rules-necessary-because-of-devastating-impacts-on-the-planet/>

Global Warming Fraud Exposed – Under Oath!!

By Staff Writers, Turner Radio Network, Jan 22, 2014 [H/t Bob Dillon]

<http://www.turnerradionetwork.com/news/211-global-warming-fraud-exposed-under-oath>

A New Year's Gift from the Department of Energy

By James Broughel, Mercatus Center, Jan 2, 2014

<http://neighborhoodeffects.mercatus.org/2014/01/02/a-new-years-gift-from-the-department-of-energy/>

Coal leaders: Obama's 'social cost of carbon' flawed

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Jan 22, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/196165-coal-leaders-obamas-social-cost-of-carbon-flawed>

Link to study: The Social Costs of Carbon? No, the Social Benefits of Carbon

By Staff Writers, Management Information Services, Inc. Jan 2014

http://www.americaspower.org/sites/default/files/Social_Cost_of_Carbon.pdf

The EPA's Agenda: Undermine Capitalism and America

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Jan 23, 2014

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-epas-agenda-undermine-capitalism.html>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Alberta premier to challenge Gore on oil sands 'myths'

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jan 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/195995-alberta-premier-to-take-on-al-gore-over-oil-sands-myths>

Canada: From Energy Supplier to Competitor?

By Geoffrey Styles, Energy Tribune, Jan 23, 2014

<http://www.energytribune.com/79912/canada-from-energy-supplier-to-competitor#sthash.j26PAvBH.dpbs>

Germany's energy revolution on verge of collapse

By Fred Pearce, New Scientist, Jan 22, 2014

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn24914-germanys-energy-revolution-on-verge-of-collapse.html#.UuFFiBAo6po>

High energy prices hold Europe back

US gains huge competitive advantage from EU muddle

Editorial, Financial Times, Jan 21, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3bda00a2-8299-11e3-8119-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#axzz2r4R6JltN>

Soaring electricity prices zap struggling Spaniards

By Staff Writers, Madrid (AFP), Jan 19, 2014

[http://www.energy-](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Soaring_electricity_prices_zap_struggling_Spaniards_999.html)

[daily.com/reports/Soaring_electricity_prices_zap_struggling_Spaniards_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Soaring_electricity_prices_zap_struggling_Spaniards_999.html)

Energy Issues -- US

Climate-Change Busyness

The president's initiatives yield higher energy costs and no environmental benefit.

By Nicolas Loris, National Review, Jan 17, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/368717/climate-change-busyness-nicolas-loris>

[SEPP Comment: Ideology replacing concern for the economy in an authoritarian government.]

Energy Efficiency Commonsense

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jan 24, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/01/24/energy-efficiency-commonsense/>

[SEPP Comment: Addressing a maxim that is not true.]

NTSB warns of 'major loss of life' without tougher regs on trains carrying crude

By Keith Laing, The Hill, Jan 23, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/196231-ntsb-warns-of-major-loss-of-life-in-oil-train-crashes>

Washington's Control of Energy

Canadian foreign minister demands Keystone decision

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP) Jan 16, 2014

[http://www.energy-](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Canadian_foreign_minister_demands_Keystone_decision_999.html)

[daily.com/reports/Canadian_foreign_minister_demands_Keystone_decision_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Canadian_foreign_minister_demands_Keystone_decision_999.html)

Keystone Cop-Out

Obama should give Canada an answer, already.

By Charles Krauthammer, National Review, Jan 23, 2014

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/369312/keystone-cop-out-charles-krauthammer>

TransCanada calls Keystone XL 'safest pipeline to date'

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jan 22, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/196133-transcanada-calls-keystone-xl-safest-pipeline-to-date>

Federal Oil Lands Lockdown: Disingenuous Obama at Work

By Paul Driessen, Master Resource, Jan 24, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/01/federal-oil-lands-lockdown-disingenuous-obama-at-work/#more-29437>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Russia Wakes Up and Smells the Shale

By Staff Writers, American Interest, Jan 19, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/blog/2014/01/19/russia-wakes-up-and-smells-the-shale/>

Azle Residents Take Their Earthquake Concerns to Austin

By Staff Writer, CBS, DFW, Jan 20, 2014 [H/t Paul Sheridan]

<http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2014/01/20/azle-residents-take-their-earthquake-concerns-to-austin/>

[SEPP Comment: No discussion of actual measurements.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Winds Hit 115 mph in the Columbia Gorge

By Cliff Mass Weather Blog, Jan 21, 2014

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2014/01/winds-hit-115-mph-in-columbia-gorge.html>

[SEPP Comment: From Jan 18 to Jan 25, wind produced virtually no electrical power. The installed wind capacity is 4515 MW as of April 10, 2013]

<http://transmission.bpa.gov/Business/Operations/Wind/baltwg.aspx>

[Graph last viewed on Jan 25, 2014 17:01 local times]

Breezes That Will Never Beat The Heat

By Ray Evans and Tom Quirk, Quadrant, Jan 21, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/01/breezes-will-never-beat-heat/>

[SEPP Comment: Wind turbines do not do well on frigid winter nights in eastern US either.]

China sets duties on US solar materials

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Jan 20, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/838522.shtml#.Ut7rsBAo6pp>

[SEPP Comment: Solar wars?]

Green energy giant runs out of cash

German wind energy giant Prokon filed for insolvency on Wednesday, leaving tens of thousands of investors worried about their money. The company advertised itself as a safe bet offering eight percent returns.

By Staff Writers, The Local, Jan 23, 2014

<http://www.thelocal.de/20140123/german-green-energy-giant-prokon-insolvent>

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

Boeing Finds Significant Potential in "Green Diesel" as a Sustainable Jet Fuel

By Staff Writers, Seattle WA (SPX), Jan 17, 2014

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Boeing_Finds_Significant_Potential_in_Green_Diesel_as_a_Sustainable_Jet_Fuel_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Competitive with government incentives? What is the cost without government incentives?]

The Ethanol Mandate: Don't Tweak, Abolish (a costly fuel without a public purpose)

By James Griffin, Master Resource, Jan 23, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/01/ethanol-mandate-abolish/#more-29424>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Vehicles

Study: Electric vehicles have little impact on US pollutant emissions

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/21/study-electric-vehicles-have-little-impact-on-us-pollutant-emissions/>

Another factor is that passenger vehicles make up a relatively small share of total emissions, limiting the potential impact of EDVs in the first place. For example, passenger vehicles make up only 20 percent of carbon dioxide emissions.

Carbon Schemes

DOE Formally Commits \$1B to FutureGen 2.0 CCS Project

By Sonal Patel, Power Magazine, Jan 23, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/doe-formally-commits-1b-to-futuregen-2-0-ccs-project/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2819287&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Is this an example of a commercially available product? Why does it need more money?]

Health, Energy, and Climate

Excess Winter Deaths in England and Wales

By Euan Mearns, Energy Matters, Jan 17, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://euanmearns.com/excess-winter-deaths-in-the-england-and-wales/>

[SEPP Comment: Declining with prosperity.]

Latest buzz on bee colony collapse disorder: a virus, NOT a pesticide, is the problem

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jan 22, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/01/latest-buzz-bee-colony-collapse-disorder-virus-pesticide-problem/>

Environmental Industry

Global warmists aim to disempower America

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Jan 23, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/global-warmists-aim-to-disempower-america/article/2542789?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%2001/24/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Sold Up the River

By Ron Pike, Quadrant, Jan 23, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/qed/2014/01/sold-river/>

Other Scientific News

Realtime global wind, temperature, cloud, rain, pressure map

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Jan 23, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/01/realtime-global-wind-temperature-cloud.html>

Link to global wind map by Cameron Beccario

<http://earth.nullschool.net/>

A Decade in the Dust

By Aaron L. Gronstal for ASTOR, Moffett Field CA (SPX), Jan 19, 2014

http://www.marsdaily.com/reports/A_Decade_in_the_Dust_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Literacy and Academic Freedom at UNC

By Roger Pielke Jr, The Least Thing, Jan 21, 2013

<http://leastthing.blogspot.com/2014/01/literacy-and-academic-freedom-at-unc.html>

Japan researchers use cosmic rays to see nuclear fuel

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (AFP), Jan 23, 2014

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Japan_researchers_use_cosmic_rays_to_see_nuclear_fuel_999.html

UM Study Finds Wolf Predation of Cattle Affects Calf Weight in Montana

By Staff Writers, Missoula MT (SPX), Jan 24, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/UM_Study_Finds_Wolf_Predation_of_Cattle_Affects_Calf_Weight_in_Montana_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Who would have thought? Certainly those in the Federal government who insisted on the re-induction of wolves in Montana.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate Crazyness of the week: Guardian's Damian Carrington 'glass half full' moment

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 22, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/22/climate-crazyness-of-the-week-guardians-damian-carrington-glass-half-full-moment/>

“The atmosphere right now is half-full of carbon dioxide”.

[SEPP Comment: At about 4 molecules per 10,000?]

Superbowl, Cannabis and CO2

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jan 22, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/superbowl_cannabis_and_co2/

[SEPP Comment: How to logically defeat your cannabis smoking global warming friends.]

Has Polar Vortex/Brutal Winter Affected Northern Virginia Real Estate Market?

By Ritu Desal, Samson Properties, Jan 22, 2014

http://www.enovahomes.com/blogs/nova_market/archive/2014/01/22/has-polar-vortex-brutal-winter-affected-northern-virginia-real-estate-market.aspx

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ARTICLES:

1. The Inventor of the Global Warming Hockey Stick Doubles Down

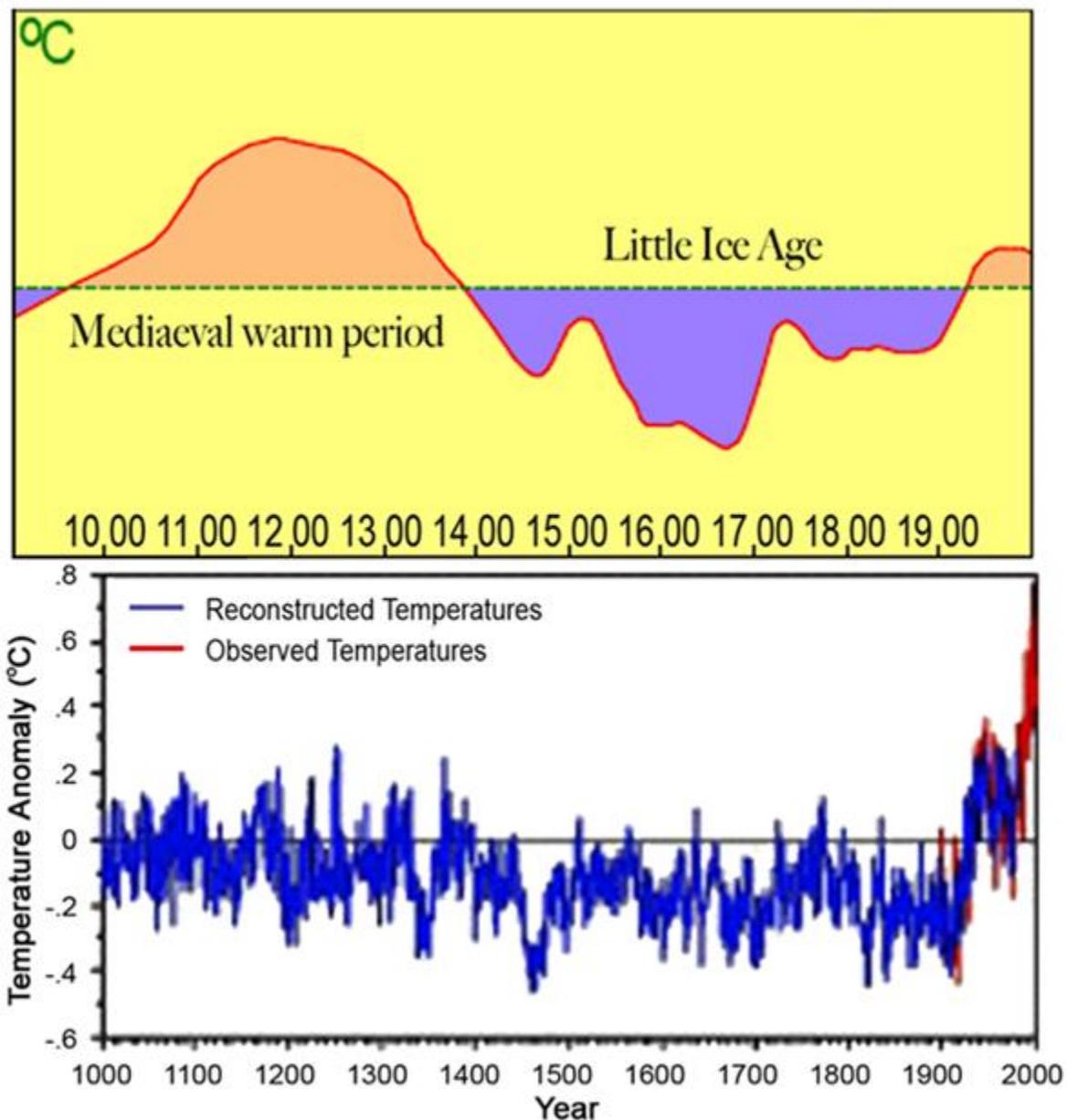
By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Jan 21, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/01/the_inventor_of_the_global_warming_hockey_stick_doubles_down.html

Professor Michael Mann, if you see something, say something – or maybe just keep your mouth shut

Professor Michael Mann, the inventor of the Hockeystick temperature graph, had a contentious editorial essay in the January 17th issue of the New York Times. [The Hockeystick graph purports to show that temperatures of the last thousand years declined steadily -- until the 20th century, when there was a sudden large rise.]

I am using the word “inventor” on purpose, since the Hockeystick is a manufactured item and does not correspond to well-established historic reality. It does not show the generally beneficial Medieval Warm Period (MWP) at around 1000AD, or the calamitous Little Ice Age (LIA) between about 1400 and 1800. In the absence of any thermometers during most of this period, the Hockeystick is based on an analysis of so-called proxy data, mostly tree rings, from before 1000AD to 1980, at which point the proxy temperature suddenly stops and a rapidly rising thermometer record is joined on.



Since its publication in 1998 and 1999, the hockeystick graph has had a turbulent history. It was adopted by the IPCC (UN-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) in its 3rd Assessment Report (2001) to support the claim of a major anthropogenic global warming (AGW) during the 20th century. Since then, the IPCC has distanced itself from the graph, which has been completely discredited. It not disagrees not only with much historic evidence that shows a MWP and LIA, but also with other analyses of proxy data. Most of the criticism has come from the work of two Canadian statisticians, Steven McIntyre and Ross McKittrick, who have uncovered a misuse of data, a biased calibration procedure, and fundamental errors in the statistical methods.

McKittrick, an econometrician at Guelph University in Canada, has a pungent comment on Mann's op-ed, which had been titled "If you see something, say something."

"OK, I see a second-rate scientist carrying on like a jackass and making a public nuisance of himself."

I have added my own comment as follows: *"OK, I want to say something too: I see an ideologue, desperately trying to support a hypothesis that's been falsified by observations. While the majority of climate alarmists are trying to discover a physical reason that might just save the AGW hypothesis, Mann simply ignores the 'inconvenient truth' that the global climate has not warmed significantly for at least the past 15 years — while emissions of greenhouse gases have surged globally."*

Of course, this is not the first time that "hide the decline" Mike has done this. Remember his "Nature trick" — so much admired by his 'Climategate team' mates? [For those who don't remember the 2009 Climategate scandal: It consisted of a leak of some thousands of emails from the University of East Anglia, involving mainly Michael Mann and several of his English colleagues, documenting their completely unethical attempts to suppress any contrary opinions and publications from climate skeptics by misusing the peer-review process and by pressuring editors of scientific journals— unfortunately, with some success.]

We don't quite know yet what the "Nature trick" refers to — until we get Michael Mann to tell us why he has refused to reveal his never-published post-1980 proxy data. We may have to wait until we have him on the witness stand and under oath. But I strongly suspect that it has to do with absence of any temperature increase after 1980; its publication would have created a conflict with the reported (and problematic) thermometer data and with the assertion by the IPCC that humans are responsible for such a temperature rise.

In actuality, we now have adequate proxy data from other sources, most particularly from Fredrick Ljungqvist and David Anderson. Their separate publications agree that there has been little if any temperature rise since about 1940! However, there was a real temperature increase between 1920 and 1940, which can be seen also in all the various proxy as well as thermometer data.

Anti-Science

Michael Mann saw something he didn't like in the Senate testimony (Jan 16, 2014) of fiercely independent climate scientist and blogger, Georgia Tech professor Judith Curry; so he decided to say something in his NYT op-ed. He forgot that often it is better to say nothing than to accuse Curry of peddling anti-science.

Curry has lost no time in taking Mann's challenge and turning the tables on him:

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/01/18/mann-on-advocacy-and-responsibility/#more-14347>

“Since you have publicly accused my Congressional testimony of being ‘anti-science,’ I expect you to (publicly) document and rebut any statement in my testimony that is factually inaccurate or where my conclusions are not supported by the evidence that I provide.

During the Hearing, Senator Whitehouse asked me a question about why people refer to me as a ‘contrarian.’ I said something like the following: Skepticism is one of the norms of science. We build confidence in our theories as they are able to withstand skeptical challenges. If instead, scientists defend their theories by calling their opponents names, well that is a sign that their theories are in trouble.

Curry’s final message to Mann: “If you want to avoid yourself being labeled as ‘anti-science’, I suggest that you are obligated to respond to my challenge.”

War on Coal

It is interesting that Mann now plays the role of the victim in purported persecution by powerful interests, darkly identified as the fossil-fuel industry. Actually, the reverse may be the case. Mann has become a strong proponent of emission controls on carbon dioxide, which fits in very nicely with the ongoing War on Coal conducted by the EPA and the White House – and with the editorial policies of the NY Times — coal being the most prolific source of CO₂.

It is ironic that while coal use is increasing rapidly in China and India, it is also increasing in Europe where governments have been anti-CO₂ fanatics in the past but have decided to stop nuclear power, which emits no CO₂ whatsoever.

In the United States, requirements are being set up to capture CO₂ from smoke stacks of power plants and store it underground. Carbon Capture and Sequestration is a difficult and costly undertaking, and has never been demonstrated on a commercial scale. There have even been calls for sucking CO₂ out of the global atmosphere, which sounds like an impossible task — and in any case, would be very, very expensive.

And to what purpose? As pointed out many times, CO₂ is beneficial for agriculture. As a natural fertilizer, it accelerates the growth of crops. Czech physicist Lubos Motl has calculated that if it were indeed possible to reduce CO₂ levels to their pre-industrial value, global agriculture would suffer a strong decline and billions of people would starve to death.

But perhaps this level of population control is what the climate fanatics are really after. They have always maintained that the Earth suffers from over-population and that the number of people needs to be reduced to protect natural values –a truly misanthropic scheme. In 1974, the ‘Club of Rome’ group published a detailed study, predicting that a billion people would die of starvation, beginning in the 1980s and peaking in 2010. One of the proponents of this thesis is now the White House science adviser.

2. Caution: This Warning May Be Useless

A 'right to know' law in California hasn't helped consumers, but it's a big burden on business.

By Michael Marlow, WSJ, Jan 20, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303848104579308393984123358?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

For more than 25 years Californians haven't been able to pump gas, go to the grocery store or even buy coffee at Starbucks without seeing a sign with wording such as: "WARNING: This Area Contains A Chemical Known To The State of California To Cause Cancer." Environmentalists cheered when the state passed Proposition 65, which required such warnings. But has the law done any good?

Proposition 65 (the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986) requires the state government to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive harm and businesses to post warnings. Since Californians have been warned of possible carcinogens for more than 25 years, you'd expect to see a decline in cancer rates compared with other locations that did not adopt similar "right-to-know" laws.

However, I recently examined cancer rates and discovered no evidence that Proposition 65 has lowered cancer incidence among Californians. There isn't a single empirical study that demonstrates any public-health benefits.

Why not? For starters, the list published by the state is enormous, comprising about 860 chemicals. And while businesses are required to warn consumers whenever products carry risks of at least a 1 in 100,000 chance for any person exposed to the product over a period of 70 years contracting cancer, the law doesn't prohibit businesses from using those chemicals.

The law's "right-to-know" intent was to enable citizens to make informed decisions about protecting themselves from toxic exposure. In practice, however, Proposition 65 is a government regulation that provides little practical guidance. Californians are not provided toxic chemical names, their prevalence, means of exposure, "safe" handling guidance or importantly, told how great (or small) the risk of harm actually is.

Many businesses protect themselves by posting warnings on any product containing even trace amounts of listed chemicals. It's easy to see why. Proposition 65 has a "special" enforcement mechanism that enables "concerned" groups to bring lawsuits and collect a portion of civil penalties. Civil penalties of up to \$2,500 a day for each violation are allowed, with one-quarter of the penalty going to the parties—often referred to as "bounty hunters"—bringing the lawsuits.

For these "bounty hunters," Proposition 65 has morphed into a government regulation-driven money machine. Between 2000 and 2011, there were 2,381 settlements costing \$178,699,905, exclusive of plaintiffs' legal costs or court costs. Most settlement dollars today go to plaintiffs—the California government has received less than 15% of settlement costs in recent years.

Two common-sense reforms would help curtail these lawsuits and increase the effectiveness of Proposition 65. First, California lawmakers must change the burden of proof so plaintiffs must prove significant exposures. This would significantly decrease the number of frivolous lawsuits brought by "bounty hunters" counting on quick settlements by businesses seeking to avoid litigation costs.

Gov. Jerry Brown last year signed a law that gives businesses a two-week grace period and smaller \$500 fine per facility. But this fix narrowly targets relief toward restaurants and bars serving alcohol, coffee shops and parking garages, and is only a baby step in the right direction.

Second, it's time to discontinue warnings for low-probability risks. By warning consumers of even a 0.001% chance of contracting cancer, it desensitizes individuals to warnings of actual threats to their health.

Proposition 65 has been rife with problems: Businesses have had to bear testing and labeling costs, as well as lost sales from consumers spooked by warning signs, reformulated products, withdrawn products or bad publicity stemming from lawsuits. Workers suffer lower income or job insecurity in affected businesses. And the California government has had to spend taxpayer money for administrative and court costs relating to the law.

The only winners from Proposition 65 are the attorneys who bring lawsuits. But their greater wealth has not improved Californians' health.

Mr. Marlow is professor of economics at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. His paper on cancer rates and Proposition 65, "Too Much (Questionable) Information?" is forthcoming in the Cato Institute journal Regulation.

3. California's Cap-and-Trade Awakening

A Democrat discovers the economic costs of anticarbon politics.

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 17, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304549504579320970298575870?mod=djemMER_h

Democrats in California needed to pass cap and trade to find out what's in it. At least that's the take-away from state Senate president Darrell Steinberg's epiphany in the Los Angeles Times this week.

Cap and trade is "asking the trading market to enter directly into the energy segment again and that brings back bad memories," Mr. Steinberg said, harking back to the state electricity crisis in 2001. That crisis culprit was a hasty change in state law, which energy traders exploited. "When you're allowing for trading beyond our borders," the state Senate leader added, "you may be reducing pollution in another state or country, but that doesn't reduce pollution in California."

Maybe Mr. Steinberg has forgotten that the 2006 state law that created the cap-and-trade program was entitled the "Global Warming Solutions Act"—not the "California Air Pollution Reduction Act."

Cap and trade's actual purpose was to raise revenue for the state by auctioning permits to emit carbon and to indirectly subsidize California green businesses. Refiners, fuel suppliers, manufacturers and other energy-intensive industries must adopt green technologies to comply with the emissions cap or buy permits from the state and "greener" companies.

Mr. Steinberg's real beef seems to be that out-of-state businesses are again gaming California's quarter-baked policies. The California Air Resources Board allows in-state businesses to comply with the cap by buying "offsets" from out-of-state enterprises such as forest conservation projects and methane digesters. The offsets, which are cheaper than permits, were intended to help businesses and prevent a jobs exodus.

California this year also merged its cap-and-trade program with Quebec's. The state's goal all along was to broaden cap and trade to neighboring jurisdictions. But the upshot is that money is flowing from California businesses to out-of-state green companies. Meantime, energy costs will rise when the cap hits fuel suppliers next year. "I worry about what it could do to energy costs," said Mr. Steinberg.

It's nice to see the politicians who passed cap and trade admitting reality, but the complaints mean nothing unless Mr. Steinberg is willing to push for repeal.

4. California's Water Fight

By Allysia Finley, WSJ, Jan 23, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303448204579338643510693788?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTThirdBucket

California Gov. Jerry Brown has declared a drought. The declaration isn't much more than a hortatory statement to conserve water, but then it's real aim is to provide some political relief for his fellow Democrats.

The California Department of Water Resources announced last year that water districts south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta will receive only 5% of their contractual water allocations. Farmers in the Central Valley are planning to leave hundreds of thousands of acres fallow. As production falls, unemployment could spike. Joblessness remains above 12% in the state's interior due to years of scaled-back production.

Most farmers haven't received all the water they're due since 2006, two years before federal regulators began restricting water exports from the Delta to residents in the south to protect "threatened" fish such as smelt and salmon. Instead, millions of acre-feet of water have been flushed into the Bay. So there's been no surplus of water even during wet years. As a result, reservoirs are running dry.

Last week, Rep. Jim Costa of Fresno—one of the Central Valley's few remaining Democratic congressmen—and Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein wrote a letter asking President Obama to "appoint a drought task force and federal drought coordinator to parallel efforts at the state level." Establishing a presidential task-force allows politicians to posture while ensuring that a problem doesn't get fixed.

To be sure, the Democrats also urged the feds to "exercise their discretion in regulatory decision-making within the confines of the law to deliver more water to those whose health and livelihoods depend on it." But it's doubtful that a fix can be accomplished within the confines of federal environmental laws or that green groups would stand for it.

In 2011, House Republicans proposed legislation (the San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act) that would have waived some portions of the Endangered Species Act and the 2009 San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act to increase water exports. Senators Feinstein and Boxer called the bill "dramatic overkill" that would "seriously set back California's ability to resolve its water challenges" and "eviscerate state and federal environmental laws and water rights."

Well, it also would have mitigated the current water crisis. Precipitation was 145% of normal levels in 2011. Had the House legislation passed, surplus water could have been banked for dry years.

Republican Congressmen Kevin McCarthy, David Valadao and Devin Nunes—all of whom represent districts in the Central Valley—on Wednesday proposed similar legislation that would increase water pumping at the Delta and end river "restoration flows" for salmon for the next two years. In essence, the legislation would ensure that water starts flowing to farmers once its rains.

Incredibly, Californians are now being asked (and in some jurisdictions forced) to conserve water for fish. Farmers are getting restless, and this being an election year, Democrats are worried that they'll be the targets of the pitch forks

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