

**The Week That Was: 2016-06-04 (June 4, 2016)**  
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**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**Quote of the Week:** *“Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.”* Albert Einstein “The Curious History of Relativity”

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**Number of the Week:** Productivity of less than 1%

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**No TWTW Next Week:** Due to travel, there will be no TWTW next week. TWTW will resume on the weekend of June 18.

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**The Sun & Clouds:** The UN Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), and its followers such as the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) largely ignore Svensmark’s hypothesis that incoming high-energy cosmic rays, modulated by the sun, influence global climate by changing cloudiness. When the sun is active, the envelope of high-energy charged particles making up the solar wind (the heliosphere) expands in the solar system, reducing the high-energy cosmic rays hitting the atmosphere. Cloudiness decreases, resulting in warmer weather. When the sun is dormant, the heliosphere contracts, increasing the high-energy cosmic rays hitting the atmosphere. Cloudiness increases, resulting in cooler weather. According to reports, the major rationale for the IPCC, and others, for ignoring Svensmark’s hypothesis was that the forming of cloud droplets, thus clouds, required sulfur dioxide produced by human emissions and by volcanoes. Thus, according to the IPCC, until the industrial revolution, Svensmark’s hypothesis did not apply to climate change; but, in its recent analysis, the IPCC does not consider climate change until after the industrial revolution.

The rationale is strange for several reasons. One, contemporary 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> European records and paintings (such as those by Pieter Brueghel) show the Little Ice Age was cold and cloudy. Earlier, using tricks such as Mr. Mann’s hockey-stick in 2001, the IPCC has tried to dismiss the Little Ice Age as a local phenomenon, but evidence is compiling that it was global. Two, the reports of the IPCC asserting the dominant influence of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) focus on the period after the industrial revolution, particularly, the period after 1950. During this period there were significant human emissions of sulfur dioxide. The global climate models used by the IPCC consider that sulfur dioxide has a significant cooling effect (independent of cloudiness), partially off-setting the calculated warming effect of CO<sub>2</sub> (and other greenhouse gases).

Thus, it appears that the IPCC, and its followers, only consider sulfur dioxide when it is convenient for their assertions – a strange approach to empirical science.

Researchers at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, performed experiments under the CLOUD program supporting Svensmark’s hypothesis. Now they have performed experiments showing that sulfur dioxide emissions from humans or volcanoes are not needed for water droplets to form – organic vapors emitted emissions from trees, and other vegetation, is sufficient to seed the formation of clouds. The observations that pure organic nucleation of water

droplets to form clouds are supported by observations at the Jungfraujoch observatory as well. Interestingly, to some, the highly oxygenated molecules are known as the "aroma of the trees."

It will be interesting to see how the IPCC and others in the Climate Establishment react to these experiments and observations. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, particularly the comments by Luboš Motl.

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**The Sun & UV:** Among those skeptical of the claim that adding a few molecules CO<sub>2</sub> per 10,000 molecules of atmosphere will cause significant global warming/climate change; there has been a lively debate. Are the dominant natural changes from changes in the sun or changes in ocean circulations? (In addition to orbital changes.) On his web site, P Gosselin translates a recent review of papers by Sebastian Lüning and Prof. Fritz Vahrenholt on the influence of the sun, particularly Ultraviolet Radiation (UV) on atmospheric circulations, including the stratosphere, and, in turn, on ocean circulations. Much of the work is preliminary and statistical, and in need of empirical verification.

This type of work on the natural variations on influencing the earth's climate is greatly needed. The IPCC does not consider the effects of variations in UV. Based on SEPP's analysis, the vast bulk of government funding is going to supporting the Climate Establishment, and its claim that CO<sub>2</sub>, and other greenhouse gases, are the primary cause of global warming/climate change. Yet, the Climate Establishment cannot explain what caused the warming of the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from about 1910 to 1940, and chooses to ignore it. See links under Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

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**European Talks:** During the week of May 23-28, SEPP Chairman Fred Singer gave invited talks on lunar origin and planetary exploration and on climate issues, at the Russian Institute for Space Studies (IKI) in Moscow and at the Physics Department at the University of Vienna, the oldest university in German-speaking Europe. SEPP President Ken Haapala gave talks on issues regarding climate science, climate models, and energy use at both institutions.

The talks were well-received and the discussions that followed were illuminating. Among the salient points was that the speakers were overly critical of the global climate models. As described in the May 21 TWTW, except for the Russian Institute of Numerical Mathematics Coupled Model, version 4.0 (INM-CM4), the models reviewed greatly overestimate the warming of the lower atmosphere, below 50,000 feet (15 km). This part of the atmosphere includes where the pronounced greenhouse effect occurs and where the "hot spot" showing an amplification of the greenhouse effect should occur. Further, it is below the region that is experiencing stratospheric cooling.

A comment asserting that the speakers were overly critical brought up that the mission of the IPCC was to estimate **human** influences on surface temperatures, and the modelers were trying to accomplish that mission. Herein is a critical issue. In its 2014 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers, the IPCC does not discuss these limitations. It does discuss surface temperature change from 1951 to 2010, but the data are sparse (far from comprehensive), and the data is subject to many influences other than greenhouse gases, which the IPCC blames for global warming/climate change.

The IPCC gives no credible rationale for ignoring atmospheric temperature data, which are far more comprehensive, and measure where the greenhouse effect occurs. Yet, the UN is pushing to

control greenhouse gas emissions while ignoring direct measurements of the effect of greenhouse gases – even though the data is publicly available! See link under Defending the Orthodoxy.

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**The Witch Hunt:** The public battles between those who wish to investigate skeptics about the findings of the IPCC and the subjects of the investigations who claim they are defending the civil rights, namely free speech, continue. Some Republican senators on the Judiciary Committee have written to Attorney General Loretta Lynch to demand the US Department of Justice stop “its ongoing use of the law enforcement resources to stifle private debate on one of the most controversial public issues of our time – climate change.” The Justice Department has referred the matter to the FBI, which is subordinate to it.

One of the members of the Judiciary Committee is Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), who called for the investigation. One can wonder if Senator Whitehouse realizes that the global warming fear is based on inferior surface data, that in a fiduciary capacity, could be called substandard or sub-prime? See links under Suppressing Scientific Inquiry – The Witch Hunt – Push-Back

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**Runaway Venus:** A difficult myth often faced by skeptics is the claim that the planet Venus is an example of a runaway greenhouse effect, even though the atmospheric pressure at the surface of Venus is more than 90 times that of the earth. Often, people do not understand the influence of pressure on temperatures as described by the ideal gas law. In discussing Scientism, Willie Soon and Istvan Marko bring up excellent comments by physicist Will Happer on the differences between Venus and the Earth. To make one point, Happer uses the analogy of a diesel engine. Unlike a gasoline engine, a diesel engine does not require a spark plug or an ignition system.

In a normal gasoline engine, after the fuel-air mixture is compressed to 6 to 10 atmospheres, a spark ignites the mixture. In a diesel engine the compression is far greater, between 14 to 23 atmospheres. The compression heats the air sufficiently to ignite the fuel when it is injected into it. Depending on the fuel, it may require a temperature of 210 to 260°C (410 to 500°F). At over 90 atmospheres, no wonder Venus surface is hot. See link under Questioning the Orthodoxy.

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**Wind Speeds:** A blog post discussing the decision by the US Department of Energy to withdraw \$40 million in funding of the Virginia Offshore Wind Technology Advancement Project (VOWTAP) mentioned that the utility, Dominion Virginia Power, had hoped to build wind turbines capable of withstanding Category 3 hurricane winds, which are considerably stronger than the winds for which the wind farms in Europe are designed.

According to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, Category 3 storms have wind speeds of 111-129 mph (178-208km/h) and are not infrequent off the coast of Virginia. Yet, in the discussion of Offshore Wind Energy, by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, US Department of Interior, there were many studies of environmental effects of off-shore electricity generation but no studies on the ability of off-shore wind farms to handle moderate to severe hurricanes. See links under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

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**Energy Return on Energy Invested:** Euan Mearns has a straightforward discussion on Energy Return on Energy Invested (ERoEI or EROI), which is an estimate of the efficiency of any energy gathering or generating system. The concept came from ecology but can be applied to proposed systems of gathering or generating energy, particularly electricity. Traditional systems, such as hydropower, nuclear, and fossil fuels, are quite efficient. But with many other different types of

energy schemes, estimates of their efficiency becomes important. See links under Energy Issues – Non-US

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**SEPP’S APRIL FOOLS AWARD  
THE JACKSON**

SEPP is conducting its annual vote for the recipient of the coveted trophy, The Jackson, a lump of coal. Readers are asked to nominate and vote for who they think is most deserving, following these criteria:

- The nominee has advanced, or proposes to advance, significant expansion of governmental power, regulation, or control over the public or significant sections of the general economy.
- The nominee does so by declaring such measures are necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment.
- The nominee declares that physical science supports such measures.
- The physical science supporting the measures is flimsy at best, and possibly non-existent.

The four past recipients, Lisa Jackson, Barrack Obama, John Kerry, and Ernest Moniz are not eligible. Generally, the committee that makes the selection prefers a candidate with a national or international presence. The voting will close on June 1. Please send your nominee and a brief reason why the person is qualified for the honor to Ken@SEPP.org. Thank you. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness on July 9 in Omaha.

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**Number of the Week: Productivity of less than 1%.** Much was made over the announcement on May 25 that in 2015 more people are employed in US solar energy than in oil and natural gas extraction. Writing in Watts Up With That?, David Middleton uses reports from Bloomberg, BP Statistical Review of World Energy June 2015, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to analyze the employment in units of “millions of tonnes of oil equivalent” (MTOE) of energy produced. He uses 2014 data which is more complete than 2015 data. His conclusion is that in MTOEs, the average worker in the solar industry is less than 1% as productive as the average oil and gas employee.

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**ARTICLES:** The Articles section is now at the bottom of TWTW.

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

***Science: Is the Sun Rising?***

**New Science 25: Seven possible ways the sun could change our cloud cover**

By David Evans and Jo Nova, Her Blog, June 2, 2016

<http://joannenova.com.au/2016/06/new-science-25-seven-possible-ways-the-sun-could-change-our-cloud-cover/>

***Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?***

**Solar Denialists Face Harsh Times ...Flurry of New Studies, CERN, Show Sun’s Massive Impact On Global Climate**

Heavenly Teamwork: How UV Radiation Above The Stratosphere Impacts Climate At The Earth’s Surface

By Sebastian Lüning and Prof. Fritz Vahrenholt (German text translated by P. Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, May 28, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/05/28/solar-deniers-face-harsh-times-flurry-of-new-studies-cern-show-suns-massive-impact-on-global-climate/#sthash.brTTO7DZ.dpbs>

Link to paper: Lagged response of tropical tropospheric temperature to solar ultraviolet variations on intraseasonal time scales

By L.L. Hood, Geophysical Research Letters, Apr 28, 2016

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2016GL068855/abstract?campaign=wolacceptedarticle>

### ***Censorship***

#### **What New Scientist wouldn't print**

By Andrews Montford, Bishop Hill, June 3, 2016

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2016/6/3/what-new-scientist-wouldnt-print.html>

### ***Suppressing Scientific Inquiry – The Witch Hunt***

#### **California Senate sidelines bill to prosecute climate change skeptics**

By Valerie Richardson, The Washington Times, June 2, 2016

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jun/2/calif-bill-prosecutes-climate-change-skeptics/>

#### **Defcon1 Legal Threat: California's near miss on new laws to jail climate skeptics**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, June 3, 2016

<http://joannenova.com.au/2016/06/defcon1-legal-threat-californias-near-miss-on-new-laws-to-jail-climate-skeptics/>

### ***Suppressing Scientific Inquiry – The Witch Hunt – Push-Back***

#### **Senators to Loretta Lynch: No, You Cannot Punish Climate Change "Deniers"**

By Katie Pavlich, Townhall, May 26, 2016

<http://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2016/05/26/senators-to-loretta-lynch-no-you-cannot-punish-people-for-being-against-obamas-climate-change-agenda-n2169357>

Letter from Senators Mike Lee, Ted Cruz, Jeff Sessions, David Perdue, David Vitter, May 25, 2016

[http://www.cruz.senate.gov/files/documents/Letters/20160526\\_ClimateChangeLetter.pdf](http://www.cruz.senate.gov/files/documents/Letters/20160526_ClimateChangeLetter.pdf)

#### **Climate spin: Behind-the-scenes emails show profs evading questions**

By Maxim Lott, Fox News, June 1, 2016

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2016/06/01/climate-spin-behind-scenes-emails-show-profs-evading-questions.html>

#### **GOP senators complain to DOJ over push to 'stifle' climate debate**

By Doug McKelway, Fox, May 28, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/05/28/gop-senators-complain-to-doj-over-push-to-stifle-climate-debate.html?intcmp=hpbt2>

### **Media Denial of Climate Change Thuggery**

By Gayle Trotter, Mediaite, May 22, 2016

<http://www.mediaite.com/online/media-denial-of-climate-change-thuggery/>

“The strategy seeks to replicate the successful shakedown of tobacco companies in the 1990s, which brought a \$200 billion windfall that lined the pockets of plaintiffs’ lawyers, public relations

firms and other rent-seekers who realized significant personal benefits with negligible benefits to public health.”

### **Misuse of The Law; Another Battle in the Climate Wars.**

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, May 24, 2016

<http://drtimball.com/2016/misuse-of-the-law-another-battle-in-the-climate-wars/>

“In war, truth is the first casualty.” Aeschylus (525 BC – 456 BC)

### **More FOI follies from the George Mason University #RICO20 train wreck: Edward Maibach, ‘legal gymnast’**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 26, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/26/more-foi-follies-from-the-george-mason-university-rico20-train-wreck-edward-maibach-legal-gymnast/>

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

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

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

By Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, NIPCC, Nov 23, 2015

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>

Download with no charge

<https://www.heartland.org/policy-documents/why-scientists-disagree-about-global-warming>

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

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2013

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

Summary: <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2a/pdf/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

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

Idso, Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2014

<http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2b/pdf/Full-Report.pdf>

Summary: <https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-IIb/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

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

#### **CERN experiment points to a cloudier pre-industrial climate**

Press Release, CERN, May 25, 2016

<http://press.cern/>

### **CLOUD@CERN: global warming may have been due to decreasing aroma from trees**

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, May 25, 2016

<http://motls.blogspot.de/2016/05/cloudcern-global-warming-may-have-been.html>

The lesson for "global warming" seems clear: deforestation may decrease the amount of aroma from the trees, and therefore the amount of clouds, and it may therefore lead to global warming.

### **Though Media Refuse To Admit, CERN Results Vastly Strengthen Svensmark’s Cosmic Ray-Climate Theory**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, May 30, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/05/30/though-media-refuse-to-admit-cern-results-vastly-strengthen-svensmarks-cosmic-ray-climate-theory/#sthash.8umPaQve.ADHZxv2s.dpbs>

### **The cloud-climate conundrum**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. June 2, 2016

<https://judithcurry.com/2016/06/02/the-cloud-climate-conundrum/#more-21607>

### **Major Setback for the Climatistas**

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, May 27, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2016/05/major-setback-for-the-climatistas.php>

“Some background: Up to this point, climate scientists—and more importantly their models—assumed, without any empirical evidence, that there were fewer clouds in the pre-industrial era before the slight warming trend of the last 200 years began.”

### **These scientists made their own clouds, and what they found could require us to rethink how fast the earth is warming**

By Ali Sundermier, Business Insider, May 25, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.businessinsider.com/new-climate-change-study-about-clouds-2016-5>

### **A Major Malaise of Climatology is Pervasive in Science**

Guest Opinion; Dr. Tim Ball, WUWT, May 29, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/29/a-major-malaise-of-climatology-is-pervasive-in-science/>

### **3 New Studies: Earth's Climate Not Warming That Fast**

By Greg Richter, Newsmax, May 30, 2016

<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/earth-climate-not-warming/2016/05/30/id/731414/>

### **Another Potential Reason Why Climate Sensitivity is Over-Estimated**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, June 2, 2016

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2016/06/another-potential-reason-why-climate-sensitivity-is-over-estimated/>

### **Another climate model paper in Nature misses a whole class of feedbacks**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 27, 2016

<http://joannenova.com.au/2016/05/another-climate-model-paper-in-nature-misses-a-whole-class-of-feedbacks/>

Link to paper: Differences in the efficacy of climate forcings explained by variations in atmospheric boundary layer depth

By Davy & Esau, Nature Communications, May 25, 2016

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2016/160525/ncomms11690/full/ncomms11690.html>

### **Cherry Picking in Climate Studies**

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, May 25, 2016

<http://drtimball.com/2016/cherry-picking-in-climate-studies/>

“that you had to pick cherries if you want to make cherry pie.”

*[SEPP Comment: Some detail on IPCC shenanigans.]*

### **No significant increase in long-term CH<sub>4</sub> emissions on North Slope of Alaska despite significant increase in air temperature**

By Sweeney, et al, Geophysical Research Letters, June 1, 2016

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2016GL069292/full>

“The lack of significant long-term trends suggests more complex biogeochemical processes are counteracting the observed short-term (monthly) temperature sensitivity of  $5.0 \pm 3.6$  ppb CH<sub>4</sub>/°C.”

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

#### **Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers**

By Staff Writers, IPCC, 2014

[https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5\\_SYR\\_FINAL\\_SPM.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf)

#### **New Tars Sands Impact on Air Pollution Found**

Scientists discover yet more aerosols emanating from oil sands production

By Bobby Magill, Scientific American, from Climate Central, May 25, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/new-tars-sands-impact-on-air-pollution-found/>

[SEPP Comment: Unable to link to paper.]

#### **Review of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Update to the Strategic Plan Document**

Press Release, National Academies Press,

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog/23396/review-of-the-us-global-change-research-programs-update-to-the-strategic-plan-document?utm\\_source=NAP+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=d8aac52d3d-Final\\_Book\\_2016\\_06\\_01\\_23396&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_96101de015-d8aac52d3d-102612249&goal=0\\_96101de015-d8aac52d3d-102612249&mc\\_cid=d8aac52d3d&mc\\_eid=fdb78e2328](http://www.nap.edu/catalog/23396/review-of-the-us-global-change-research-programs-update-to-the-strategic-plan-document?utm_source=NAP+Newsletter&utm_campaign=d8aac52d3d-Final_Book_2016_06_01_23396&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_96101de015-d8aac52d3d-102612249&goal=0_96101de015-d8aac52d3d-102612249&mc_cid=d8aac52d3d&mc_eid=fdb78e2328)

#### **Scientists just discovered dozens of new sources of air pollution**

By Chelsea Harvey, Washington Post, May 31, 2016

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/05/31/scientists-just-discovered-dozens-of-new-sources-of-air-pollution/>

Space-based detection of missing sulfur dioxide sources of global air pollution

By McLinden, et al. Nature Geoscience, May 30, 2016

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2724.html>

“We find that of the 500 or so large sources in our inventory, nearly 40 are not captured in leading conventional inventories. These missing sources are scattered throughout the developing world—over a third are clustered around the Persian Gulf—and add up to 7 to 14 Tg of SO<sub>2</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup>, or roughly 6–12% of the global anthropogenic source.”

[SEPP Comment: Is this disguising the “missing heat?”]

### ***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

#### **Modern Debacle Of Wasted Trillions. Consensus: Efforts To Prevent Climate Change “Will Almost Surely Fail!**

Scientific Consensus: “Efforts to curtail world temps will almost surely fail”

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, June 2, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/06/02/modern-debacle-of-wasted-trillions-consensus-efforts-to-prevent-climate-change-will-almost-surely-fail/#sthash.7Z5SHnSv.dpbs>

#### **Bill Nye and Scientism**

By Willie Soon and Istvan Mako, Breitbart, May 24, 2016

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/05/24/bill-nye-scientism/>



### **Three Facts Prove Climate Alarm Is a Scam**

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, May 31, 2016

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/climate-global-warming-ipcc/2016/05/31/id/731497/>

### **You Ought to Have a Look: Smoke, Clouds and Snowfall**

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, Cato, May 27, 2016

<http://www.cato.org/blog/you-ought-have-look-smoke-clouds-snowfall>

### **Introducing the global warming speedometer**

A single devastating graph shows official climate predictions were wild

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, WUWT, May 25, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/25/introducing-the-global-warming-speedometer/>

### **Study Shows Those Who Claimed ‘Climate Debate Over’ Were Wrong**

By David Kreutzer, Daily Signal, May 27, 2016

<http://dailysignal.com/2016/05/27/study-shows-those-who-claimed-climate-debate-over-were-wrong/>

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

#### **Russia Throws a Wrench in Paris Climate Ratification**

By Staff Writers, The American Interest, May 26, 2016

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/05/26/russia-throws-a-wrench-in-paris-climate-ratification/>

### ***The Administration’s Plan***

#### **Obama Raided \$500M for Zika to Finance UN’s Green Climate Fund**

By Sen James Lankford (Oklahoma), Daily Signal, May 23, 2016

<http://dailysignal.com/2016/05/23/obama-raided-500m-for-zika-to-finance-uns-green-climate-fund/>

*[SEPP Comment: Earlier it was reported that the \$500,000,000 came largely from economic development funds.]*

### **UN to Trump: Climate deal is critical to saving planet**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Daily Mail, May 27, 2016

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3613263/UN-Trump-Climate-deal-critical-saving-planet.html>

“The administration of President Barack Obama plans to ratify the Paris accord with an executive agreement, bypassing the Senate and setting up a complex and difficult process for any future president wishing to pull out.”

### **EIA: US carbon emissions to depend on Clean Power Plan**

By Staff Writers, WNN, May 19, 2016

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-EIA-US-carbon-emissions-to-depend-on-Clean-Power-Plan-1905177.html>

### ***The Administration’s Plan – Push-Back***

#### **Collision of Mileage Regulations and Technology**

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, May 31, 2016

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2016/05/31/collision-of-mileage-regulations-and-technology/>

*[SEPP Comment: No doubt the US Global Change Research Program will scrupulously reduce the benefits of auto fuel regulations to include the new lower costs of gasoline.]*

### **Obama's former Assistant Energy Secretary Charles McConnell and senators attack Obama Energy Plans**

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, May 27, 2016

[http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/obamas\\_former\\_assistant\\_energy\\_secretary\\_charles\\_mcconnell\\_and\\_senators\\_att/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/obamas_former_assistant_energy_secretary_charles_mcconnell_and_senators_att/)

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

#### **Elevated CO2 and Temperature Enhance the Grain Yield and Quality of Rice**

By Craig Idso, Cato, June 2, 2016

<http://www.cato.org/blog/elevated-co2-temperature-enhance-grain-yield-quality-rice>

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

#### **Global-Warming Alarmists, You're Doing It Wrong**

By Megan McArdle, Bloomberg, June 1, 2016

<http://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2016-06-01/global-warming-alarmists-you-re-doing-it-wrong>

*[SEPP Comment: Think like an economist?]*

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

#### **Nullius in verba**

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, June 3, 2016

<http://scientific-alliance.org/node/1001>

“Non-scientists often think that scientists deal in facts and certainties, but this is a misrepresentation. All the evidence may support a certain hypothesis, but this can in principle be called into question by a single reliable and reproducible observation.”

“The truth about climate change will continue to evolve and be the subject of intense debate for many years yet. Scientists have a central role in collecting and assessing the evidence for particular hypotheses. Such controversy should be encouraged rather than effectively banned.”

Link to paper: Lessons from technology development for energy and sustainability

By M.J. Kelly, MRS Energy & Sustainability, May 2016

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=10333234&fulltextType=RV&fileId=S2329222916000039>

### **The Republic of Science**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. May 30, 2016

<https://judithcurry.com/2016/05/30/the-republic-of-science/>

*“The professional standards of science must impose a framework of discipline and at the same time encourage rebellion against it. – Michael Polanyi (1962)”*

### **How and Why Scientists Fudge Results, and What We Can Do About It**

By Charles White, Huffington Post, May 23, 2016

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/charles-white/how-and-why-scientists-fu\\_b\\_10106104.html?yptr=yahoo](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/charles-white/how-and-why-scientists-fu_b_10106104.html?yptr=yahoo)

*[SEPP Comment: Questionable practices include selectively reporting hypotheses and excluding data that do not support the hypothesis.]*

## **Is much of our effort to combat global warming actually making things worse?**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. May 23, 2016

<https://judithcurry.com/2016/05/23/is-much-of-our-effort-to-combat-global-warming-actually-making-things-worse/#more-21565>

## ***Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science***

### **How Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Impact a Benthic Foraminifer (single-celled protists with shells)**

Wit, J.C., Davis, M.M., McCorkle, D.C. and Bernhard, J.M. 2016. A Short-term Survival Experiment Assessing Impacts of Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia on the Benthic Foraminifer *Globobulimina Turgida*. *Journal of Foraminiferal Research* 46: 25-33. June 3, 2016

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V19/jun/a2.php>

### **Upper Atmosphere Temperature Trends Models vs Measurements**

Zhao, L., Xu, J., Powell, A.M., Jiang, Z. and Wang, D. 2016. Use of SSU/MSU Satellite Observations to Validate Upper Atmospheric Temperature Trends in CMIP5 Simulations. *Remote Sensing* 8: 10.3390/rs8010013., June 1, 2016

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V19/jun/a1.php>

### **Dying from Heat and Cold Which Extreme is the More Deadly**

Seltenrich, N. 2015. Between Extremes: Health Effects of Heat and Cold. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 123: A276-A280. May 27, 2016

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V19/may/a20.php>

“And, therefore, since Donat *et al.* (2013) report that ‘globally averaged minimum temperature extremes are warming faster than maximum temperature extremes,’ it would appear that current global warming is actually helping to *reduce* the yearly number of temperature-related deaths. Yet, somehow, this *good news* never seems to get reported in the media.”

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

### **Current atmospheric models underestimate the dirtiness of Arctic air**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 25, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/25/current-atmospheric-models-underestimate-the-dirtiness-of-arctic-air/>

## ***Model Issues***

### **Climate Models Don't Work**

Guest essay by Larry Hamlin, WUWT, May 25, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/25/climate-models-dont-work/>

### **The Truth Warming Alarmists Don't Want You To Know About The Climate Models**

By Kerry Jackson, IBD, May 25, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/the-truth-warming-alarmists-dont-want-you-to-know-about-the-climate-models/>

“The global warming alarmists tell us to trust the science. But when it comes to climate studies, there's less science and more accounting going on there.”

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

### **May 2016 ENSO Update – The 2015/16 El Niño Has Reached Its End**

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale, WUWT, May 30, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/30/may-2016-enso-update-the-201516-el-nino-has-reached-its-end/>

### ***Measurement Issues -- Atmosphere***

#### **UAH Global Temperature Update for May, 2016: +0.55 deg. C**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, June 1, 2016

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2016/06/uah-global-temperature-update-for-may-2016-0-55-deg-c/>

Link to UAH global report for May: <http://nsstc.uah.edu/climate/>

*[SEPP Comment: With the diminishing El Niño, atmospheric temperatures are falling. The question remains: how low will they go before they roughly stabilize?]*

### ***Changing Weather***

#### **Ocean temps predict U.S. heat waves 50 days out, study finds**

By Staff Writers, AtmosNews, NCAR/UCAR, Mar 28, 2016

<https://www2.ucar.edu/atmosnews/news/20160/ocean-temps-predict-us-heat-waves-50-days-out-study-finds>

Link to paper: Long-lead predictions of eastern United States hot days from Pacific sea surface temperatures

By McKinnon, Rhines, Tingley, & Huybers, Nature Geoscience, Mar 28, 2016

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v9/n5/full/ngeo2687.html>

#### **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale**

National Hurricane Center, NOAA

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php>

### ***Changing Climate***

#### **Body Of Proof: Large Number Of Studies Show Medieval Warm Period “Prominent In Southern Hemisphere”**

Charting the Medieval Warm Period In The Southern Hemisphere

By Dr. Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt (Translated/edited by P Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, May 31, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/05/31/body-of-proof-large-number-of-studies-show-medieval-warm-period-prominent-in-southern-hemisphere/#sthash.ABGGzaHF.dpbs>

#### **Boreal spring precipitation variability in the cold arid western Himalaya during the last millennium, regional linkages, and socio-economic implications**

By Yadavaa, Bräuningb, Singhc, & Yadava, Quaternary Science Reviews, July 15, 2016 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379116301457>

#### **Study: UHI affects the urban growing season**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 26, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/26/study-uhi-affects-the-urban-growing-season/>

### ***Changing Seas***

#### **Great Barrier Reef: scientists ‘exaggerated’ coral bleaching**

By Geoff Brown, Australian Climate Skeptics, June 4, 2016

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2016/06/great-barrier-reef-scientists.html>

Link to report: The facts on Great Barrier Reef coral mortality

By Staff Writers, The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), June 3, 2016

[http://www.aims.gov.au/docs/media/latest-releases/-/asset\\_publisher/8Kfw/content/the-facts-on-great-barrier-reef-coral-mortality?inheritRedirect=false&redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.aims.gov.au%2Fdocs%2Fmedia%2Flatest-releases%3Fp\\_id%3D101\\_INSTANCE\\_8Kfw%26p\\_p\\_lifecycle%3D0%26p\\_p\\_state%3Dnormal%26p\\_p\\_mode%3Dview%26p\\_p\\_col\\_id%3Dcolumn-2%26p\\_p\\_col\\_count%3D1](http://www.aims.gov.au/docs/media/latest-releases/-/asset_publisher/8Kfw/content/the-facts-on-great-barrier-reef-coral-mortality?inheritRedirect=false&redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.aims.gov.au%2Fdocs%2Fmedia%2Flatest-releases%3Fp_id%3D101_INSTANCE_8Kfw%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-2%26p_p_col_count%3D1)

### **Coral bleaching debate**

By Jim Steele, Climate Etc. May 24, 2016

<https://judithcurry.com/2016/05/24/coral-bleaching-debate/#more-21572>

“A good summary statement is provided by Baker et al. ‘flexibility in coral–algal symbiosis is likely to be a principal factor underlying the evolutionary success of these organisms’”.

### **2015 Updated NOAA Tide Gauge Data Shows No Coastal Sea Level Rise Acceleration**

Guest essay by Larry Hamblin, WUWT, May 28, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/28/2015-updated-noaa-tide-gauge-data-shows-no-coastal-sea-level-rise-acceleration/>

Link to NOAA Tides and Currents

[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends\\_us.htm](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends_us.htm)

### **Met Office: Gulf Stream Slowdown Due To Nature Not Climate Change**

By Staff Writers, Reporting Climate Science, May 27, 2016 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.reportingclimatescience.com/2016/05/27/gulf-stream/>

Link to paper: Recent slowing of Atlantic overturning circulation as a recovery from earlier strengthening

By Jackson, Peterson, Roberts, & Wood, Nature Geoscience, May 23, 2016

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2715.html>

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

#### **Study Helps Explain Sea Ice Differences at Earth's Poles**

Press Release, By Staff Writers, NASA, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, CA Instituted of Technology, May 20, 2016

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?feature=6516>

### **Nature – finally “finds” cause of Antarctic pause, will last centuries, tosses “global warming” out**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 31, 2016

<http://joannenova.com.au/2016/05/nature-finally-finds-cause-of-antarctic-pause-will-last-centuries-tosses-global-warming-out/>

Link to paper: Southern Ocean warming delayed by circumpolar upwelling and equatorward transport

By Armour, et al. Nature Geoscience, May 30, 2016

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2731.html>

### **“Old water”: The latest explanation for the Antarctic Ice Anomaly**

Guest essay by Eric Worrall, WUWT, May 31, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/31/old-water-the-latest-explanation-for-the-antarctic-ice-anomaly/>

### **Antarctic Climate Confusion**

By Staff Writers, The American Interest, May 30, 2016

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/05/30/antarctic-climate-confusion/>

“That upwelling helps explain why the surface of the Southern Ocean have warmed by just 0.02 degree Celsius (0.036 Fahrenheit) per decade since 1950, a fraction of the global average of 0.08 degree (0.144F), the study said.”

### **Arctic sea ice loss likely not a factor in recent Northern Hemisphere cold winters, study finds**

By Karlin Vergoth, GeoSpace, May 31, 2016 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://blogs.agu.org/geospace/2016/05/31/arctic-sea-ice-loss-likely-not-factor-recent-northern-hemisphere-cold-winters-study-finds/>

“Arctic sea ice loss warms the usually frigid air masses that occasionally invade midlatitudes, reducing daily temperature variability in those regions and making cold outbreaks less common.”

### **Masato Mori’s Harsh Winter/Shrinking Arctic Sea Ice Hypothesis Flops, Brand New Study Shows!**

Flopped hypothesis: Cold winters not the consequence of shrinking Arctic sea ice

By Dr. Sebastian Lüning und Prof. Fritz Vahrenholt (German text translated/edited by P Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, June 1, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/06/01/masato-moris-harsh-wintershrinking-arctic-sea-ice-hypothesis-flops-brand-new-study-shows/#sthash.zUoLfjZ8.dpbs>

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

#### **Glyphosate under pressure**

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, May 27, 2016

<http://scientific-alliance.org/node/1000>

*[SEPP Comment: The continuing attack of the herbicide generally known as Roundup.]*

### ***Lowering Standards***

#### **Climate Scientists as Activists**

The pursuit of global political solutions to climate change is not for the faint of heart—but it is a matter of civic responsibility.

By Steven Ghan, EOS, June 2, 2016 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<https://eos.org/editors-vox/climate-scientists-as-activists>

*[SEPP Comment: The Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, ignores the fact that James Hansen’s predictions have failed and that many advocates ignore vital data – atmospheric temperatures.]*

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

#### **Arctic Ocean methane does not reach the atmosphere**

By Staff Writers, Oslo, Norway (SPX), May 31, 2016

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Arctic\\_Ocean\\_methane\\_does\\_not\\_reach\\_the\\_atmosphere\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Arctic_Ocean_methane_does_not_reach_the_atmosphere_999.html)

“Since methane is the most important greenhouse gas after CO<sub>2</sub>, it is very important to explore why.”

*[SEPP Comment: Water vapor is by far the most important greenhouse gas.]*

### **Five trillion is a red line. Cross it and the environment crashes!**

By Larry Kummer. Fabius Maximus, May 28, 2016 [H/t WUWT]

<https://fabiusmaximus.com/2016/05/28/five-trillion-reasons-to-worry-about-the-environment-97085/>

### **Release the Kraken**

By Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, Cato, May 24, 2016

<http://www.cato.org/blog/release-kraken>

“No doubt, the outcome will be a complex one as is the case behind the observed population increases. Depletion of fish stocks, a release of competitive pressure, and good old-fashioned natural environmental variability, are also suggested as potential factors in the long-term population expansion. But complex situations don’t make for great scare stories. Global-warming-fueled bands of marauding octopuses and giant squid certainly do.”

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.***

#### **Naomi Oreskes Warps History**

By Ron Arnold, Left Exposed, June 1, 2016

<http://leftexposed.org/2016/06/naomi-oreskes-warps-history/>

*[SEPP Comment: More examples of making up facts. In general, TWTW does not link to such personal articles; however, in their unsubstantiated personal attacks on SEPP Chairman Fred Singer and past Chairman the late Fredrick Seitz, Oreskes and Conway earned an exception to the general rule.]*

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

#### **Bulletin of The Atomic Scientists: No Illusions about Germany's "Energy Turnaround"**

By Marlo Lewis, CEI, May 24, 2016

<https://cei.org/blog/bulletin-atomic-scientists-no-illusions-about-germanys-energy-turnaround>

Link to article: Germany’s Energiewende: The intermittency problem remains

By Christine Sturm, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, May 20, 2016

<http://thebulletin.org/germany%E2%80%99s-energiewende-intermittency-problem-remains9469?platform=hootsuite>

### **Germany’s Volatile Power Grid Spinning Dangerously Out Of Control ...Prices Go Negative 25 Times In 2015!**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, May 21, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/05/21/germanys-volatile-power-grid-spinning-dangerously-out-of-control-prices-go-negative-25-times-in-2015/#sthash.quUJ1uUP.dpbs>

### **The Capital Cost of Solar Photovoltaic**

By Staff Writers, GWPF, May 29, 2016

<http://www.thegwpc.com/the-capital-cost-of-solar-photovoltaic>

Link to report: Solar PV cost data

Official Statistics, UK Government, Department of Energy & Climate Change, May 26, 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/solar-pv-cost-data>

*[SEPP Comment: Questioning the subsidies.]*

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

## **Green Energy Doesn't Work Without Energy Storage That Doesn't Exist Yet**

By Andrew Follett, Daily Caller, May 29, 2016

<http://dailycaller.com/2016/05/29/green-energy-doesnt-work-without-energy-storage-that-doesnt-exist-yet/>

*[SEPP Comment: Includes link to “World’s most powerful battery energy storage” in Fairbanks Alaska. (46 MW for 5 minutes).]*

## **Japan developers may cancel 70% of solar on rules, BNEF says**

By Staff Writers, The Business Times, May 27, 2016 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.businesstimes.com.sg/energy-commodities/japan-developers-may-cancel-70-of-solar-on-rules-bnef-says>

## **The Incoherence of Sustainability**

Drive to subsidize renewable energy distorts the realities of market forces and technological advances.

By Benjamin Zycher, US News, May 25, 2016

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2016-05-25/future-generations-resources-dont-depend-on-investment-in-sustainability>

*[SEPP Comment: The market system is not perfect, but it tends to be less wasteful than politicians and bureaucrats.]*

## **You Ought to Have a Look: Ontario’s Energy Plan, Evidence-based Policy and a New Climate Sensitivity Estimate**

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, Cato, May 25, 2016

<http://www.cato.org/blog/you-ought-have-look-ontarios-energy-plan-evidence-based-policy-new-climate-sensitivity-estimate>

*[SEPP Comment: Includes updated chart on equilibrium climate sensitivity.]*

## **Green Jobs**

### **“Clean-Energy Jobs Surpass Oil Drilling for First Time in U.S.” So what?**

Guest post by David Middleton, WUWT, May 26, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/26/clean-energy-jobs-surpass-oil-drilling-for-first-time-in-u-s-so-what/>

“The fact that the United States leads the world in oil & gas production is a bit more significant than the fact that the typical solar industry worker is less than 1% as productive as the typical oil & gas employee.”

## **The revealing numbers on solar employment in the USA.**

By Roger Andrews, Energy Matters, June 1, 2016

<http://euanmearns.com/the-revealing-numbers-on-solar-employment-in-the-usa/#more-14129>

## **Funding Issues**

### **U.S. Congress Aims to Cut Climate Science**

Proposed cuts to NOAA and NASA target climate change research in particular

By Gayathri Vaidyanathan, ClimateWire, Via Scientific American, June 2, 2016

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/u-s-congress-aims-to-cut-climate-science/>

## **The Political Games Continue**



## **It is Increasingly Clear that the Presidential Election Will Determine the Outcome of the Climate Debate**

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics and Science, June 3, 2016

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/2733>

### ***Litigation Issues***

#### **SCOTUS hands down a property rights victory**

By Thomas Lifson, American Thinker, June 1, 2016

[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2016/06/scotus\\_hands\\_down\\_a\\_property\\_rights\\_victory.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2016/06/scotus_hands_down_a_property_rights_victory.html)

*[SEPP Comment: For years a favorite tactic of regulatory agencies has been to “slow-roll” the permitting, hoping to exhaust those seeking approvals.]*

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

#### **Rooftop solar: Net metering is a net benefit**

By: Mark Muro and Devashree Saha, Brookings, May 23, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

[http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2016/05/23-rooftop-solar-net-metering-muro-saha?utm\\_campaign=Brookings+Brief&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=29913625&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8wjoFHMhZcZu1WNFMltcU0ANLcdRFoOoHFk8cnBxd5smw8hV3Xojkv7jib\\_mO-8trm5DMUMoTIOgk4Dlalv3c65cKAXg&\\_hsmi=29913625](http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2016/05/23-rooftop-solar-net-metering-muro-saha?utm_campaign=Brookings+Brief&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=29913625&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8wjoFHMhZcZu1WNFMltcU0ANLcdRFoOoHFk8cnBxd5smw8hV3Xojkv7jib_mO-8trm5DMUMoTIOgk4Dlalv3c65cKAXg&_hsmi=29913625)

“Utilities should have a shot at fair revenues and adequate ratepayers. Solar customers and providers have a right to cost-effective, reliable access to the grid. And the broader public should be able to expect a continued solar power boom in U.S. regions as well as accelerated decarbonization of state economies.”

*[SEPP Comments: Another study ignoring the eventual costs to the consumer of mandates and subsidies.]*

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

#### **The magic of the EPA's benefit/cost analysis**

By Benjamin Zycher, The Hill, June 3, 2016

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/282079-the-magic-of-benefit-cost-analysis-at-the-epa>

*[SEPP Comment: According to the EPA, one miniscule (unmeasurably small) benefit plus another miniscule benefit is worth \$100 Billion!]*

#### **IG: EPA Still Blocking Access to Investigations Agency ‘continues to impede’ access**

By Elizabeth Harrington, Washington Free Beacon, June 1, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/ig-epa-blocking-investigations/>

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **ERoEI for Beginners**

By Euan Mearns, Energy Matters, May 25, 2016

<http://euanmearns.com/eroei-for-beginners/>

#### **The Energy Return of The Three Gorges Dam**

By Euan Mearns, Energy Matters, June 3, 2016

<http://euanmearns.com/the-energy-return-of-the-three-gorges-dam/#more-14133>

*[SEPP Comment: The very rough calculation shows a very high return on energy invested.]*

## **Old world oil order collapses as OPEC struggles for relevance**

By Jeremy Warner, Telegraph, UK, June 2, 2016

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2016/06/02/old-world-oil-order-collapses-as-opec-struggles-for-relevance/>

*[SEPP Comment: Somewhat extreme, but the world oil markets have changed with hydraulic fracturing.]*

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

### **Don't Doubt the Strength of U.S. Shale**

By Staff Writers, American Interest, May 24, 2016

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/05/24/dont-doubt-the-strength-of-u-s-shale/>

### **'Foolish' refusal to back fracking will cost Scotland thousands of jobs, says MSP**

By Gareth McPherson, The Courier, UK, May 30, 2016

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/scottish-politics/181332/foolish-refusal-back-fracking-will-cost-scotland-thousands-jobs-says-msp/>

“Unless it can be **proven beyond doubt that there is no risk to health**, communities or the environment, there will be no fracking or UCG (underground coal gasification) extraction in Scotland,” she said. [a spokeswoman for the new minister for business and energy. Boldface added.]

*[SEPP Comment: Establishing an impossible standard].*

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

### **Changing the climate on fossil fuels**

Rather than the problem, coal is the solution

By Anthony Sadar, Washington Times, May 30, 2016

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/may/30/anthony-j-sadar-changing-the-climate-on-fossil-fue/>

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

### **Compact tokamaks: the approach to bring fusion energy within reach**

By David Kinghan, CEO of Tokamak Energy, WNN, May 31, 2016

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/V-Compact-tokamaks-the-approach-to-bring-fusion-energy-within-reach-3105164.html>

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

### **A Really Big Wind Boondoggle**

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, June 3, 2016

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2016/06/03/a-really-big-wind-boondoggle/>

### **Offshore Wind Arrives in U.S. Waters**

By the end of this year, the nation's first offshore wind farm should begin generating electricity

By Daniel Cusick, ClimateWire, Via Scientific American, May 31, 2016

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/offshore-wind-arrives-in-u-s-waters/>

*[SEPP Comment: For a frank financial assessment see link immediately above.]*

### **A Major Setback for Virginia Off Shore Wind**

By James Bacon, Bacon's Rebellion, May 27, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.baconsrebellion.com/2016/05/a-major-blow-to-virginia-offshore-wind.html>

### **Offshore Wind Energy**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, (US Department of Interior), Accessed June 4, 2016  
<http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/Renewable-Energy-Guide/Offshore-Wind-Energy.aspx>

### **AWED Energy & Environmental Newsletter: May 31, 2016**

By John Droz, Jr. Master Resource, May 31, 2016  
<https://www.masterresource.org/alliance-for-wise-energy-decisions/awed-energy-environmental-newsletter-may-31-2016/>

### **Solar Energy's Real Problem**

By Ryan Yonk and Devin Stein, American Thinker, May 26, 2016  
[http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/05/solar\\_energys\\_real\\_problem.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/05/solar_energys_real_problem.html)  
[SEPP Comment: Ivanpah solar plant cannot meet minimum performance standards.]

### ***Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy -- Other***

#### **World's first grid-connected tidal array almost complete**

"OpenHydro, DCNS and EDF have worked hand in hand to deliver this milestone," said OpenHydro CEO James Ives.

By Brooks Hays, UPI, May 31, 2016  
[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2016/05/31/Worlds-first-grid-connected-tidal-array-almost-complete/7291464723309/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2016/05/31/Worlds-first-grid-connected-tidal-array-almost-complete/7291464723309/)

#### **Why Waste Food To Replace Something We Already Have Too Much Of?**

By Marita Noon, Oil Pro, May 24, 2016  
<http://oilpro.com/post/24609/why-waste-food-to-replace-something-we-already-have-too-much>  
[SEPP Comment: Sufficient oil would be more accurate than too much oil.]

### ***Health, Energy, and Climate***

#### **We need to defeat one particular mosquito before it gets us**

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, June 3, 2016  
<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/zika-and-mosquitoes/>

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

#### **Mark Steyn files to push Mann trial forward**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, June 2, 2016  
<http://joannenova.com.au/2016/06/mark-steyn-files-to-push-mann-trial-forward/>

### ***Environmental Industry***

#### **Georgia lawsuit claims Greenpeace 'is a global fraud'**

By Carla Caldwell, Atlanta Business Chronicle, June 1, 2016 [H/t Jim Rust]  
[http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/morning\\_call/2016/06/georgia-lawsuit-claims-greenpeace-is-a-global.html?ana=e\\_du\\_pap&s=article\\_du&ed=2016-06-01&u=u9sqVaXrL9%2BU9OgmvIpFSA0de4ab40&t=1464812688&j=73666522](http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/morning_call/2016/06/georgia-lawsuit-claims-greenpeace-is-a-global.html?ana=e_du_pap&s=article_du&ed=2016-06-01&u=u9sqVaXrL9%2BU9OgmvIpFSA0de4ab40&t=1464812688&j=73666522)

**The Name Game: How Unethical Environmental Groups and Toxic Fanatics Scare You With Words**

By Staff Writers, ACSH, May 27, 2016

<http://acsh.org/news/2016/05/27/the-name-game-how-unethical-environmental-groups-and-toxic-fanatics-scare-you-with-words/>

Link to pdf: The Name Game

By Josh Bloom, ACSH,

[http://acsh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ACSH\\_NameGame\\_Web\\_20160525.pdf](http://acsh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ACSH_NameGame_Web_20160525.pdf)

### ***Other Scientific News / Issues***

#### **Hydrothermal vents, methane seeps play enormous role in marine life, global climate**

By Staff Writers, Corvallis OR (SPX), Jun 01, 2016

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Hydrothermal\\_vents\\_methane\\_seeps\\_play\\_enormous\\_role\\_in\\_marine\\_life\\_global\\_climate\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Hydrothermal_vents_methane_seeps_play_enormous_role_in_marine_life_global_climate_999.html)

Link to paper: Hydrothermal Vents and Methane Seeps: Rethinking the Sphere of Influence

By Levin, et al, *Frontiers in Marine Science*, May 19, 2016

<http://journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fmars.2016.00072/full>

#### **New Paper: Catastrophes of the 21st Century**

By Roger Pielke Jr. His Blog, May 24, 2016 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<https://rogerpielkejr.com/2016/05/24/new-paper-catastrophes-of-the-21st-century/>

“There are few ways to better display our ignorance than by speculating on the long-term future.”

#### **Antarctic fossils reveal south was not safer during dinosaur extinction**

By Staff Writers, Leeds, UK (SPX), May 27, 2016

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Antarctic\\_fossils\\_reveal\\_creatures\\_werent\\_safer\\_in\\_the\\_south\\_during\\_dinosaur\\_extinction\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Antarctic_fossils_reveal_creatures_werent_safer_in_the_south_during_dinosaur_extinction_999.html)

#### **Compulsory Courses for Any Curriculum; The Science Dilemma**

By Tim Ball, *A Different Perspective*, May 25, 2016

<http://drtimball.com/2016/compulsory-courses-for-any-curriculum-the-science-dilemma/>

#### **In dramatic statement, European leaders call for ‘immediate’ open access to all scientific papers by 2020**

By Martin Enserink, *Science*, May 27, 2016 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/05/dramatic-statement-european-leaders-call-immediate-open-access-all-scientific-papers>

#### **What Organic and Chemical Actually Mean: A Glossary of Hijacked Terms**

By Alex Berezow, ACSH, May 24, 2016

<http://acsh.org/news/2016/05/24/what-organic-and-chemical-actually-mean-a-glossary-of-hijacked-terms/>

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

#### **Most Weather-Related Wildland Firefighter Deaths Can Be Prevented: Here's How.**

By Cliff Mass, *Weather Blog*, May 23, 2016

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2016/05/most-weather-related-wildland.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Communications, solid weather forecasts, and no heroics to save remote buildings.*]

#### **Washington State is Losing Its Signature Views. Can We Restore Them?**

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, May 30, 2016

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2016/05/washington-state-is-losing-its.html>

[SEPP Comment: Also, many once great viewing areas in the Appalachian Mountains have been lost due to tree growth.]

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### **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

#### **Scientists find evidence of global warming on Mars**

By Valerie Richardson, The Washington Times, May 31, 2016

[http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/may/31/mars-also-undergoing-climate-change-ice-age-retreat/?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/may/31/mars-also-undergoing-climate-change-ice-age-retreat/?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS)

[SEPP Comment: From your SUV?]

#### **Your planet needs you!**

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, May 31, 2016

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/6286>

*“David McKnight (“Climate change at the helm of Labor’s next big idea”, April 23) rightly points out that preventing climate change will depend on stopping business as usual, and that this will also mean stopping politics as usual.*

*This will require us to accept that unabated climate change is an existential and relatively imminent threat – something akin to a war.*

*Sydney Morning Herald, 26 Apr 2008 – screen copy held by this website”*

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### **ARTICLES:**

Please note that articles not linked easily or summarized here are reproduced in the Articles Section of the full TWTW that can be found on the web site under the date of the TWTW.

#### **1. California’s Cap-and-Trade Bubble**

The carbon-credit market sputters, as it also has in Europe.

Editorial, WSJ, May 30, 2016

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/californias-cap-and-trade-bubble-1464643546>

The editorial states: *“When carbon cap and trade flopped in Europe, liberals blamed design flaws and hailed California’s embryonic program as a better regulatory model. But cap and tax is struggling in the Golden State too.*

*“A mere 2% of the carbon emissions credits that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) put up for auction in May were sold. The quarterly auction raised only \$10 million of the \$500 million that CARB projected. That’s awful news for Democrats in Sacramento who planned to spend the windfall on high-speed rail, housing and electric-car subsidies.*

*“Each year, CARB ratchets down the statewide emissions cap. Most energy-intensive businesses including refiners, manufacturers and fuel suppliers must cut their carbon output or buy credits for exceeding the cap.*

*“In 2005 the European Union launched its Emissions Trading System, which the Obama Administration and even some Republicans hoped to copy before Rust Belt Democrats revolted. Europe’s cap-and-trade bubble has since burst as sluggish economic growth and heavily subsidized renewables have produced a glut of credits. By 2013 the roughly €30 price per ton that was putatively needed to reduce use of coal had plummeted to a few euros. Politicians have been*

*reluctant to withdraw credits to prop up the price because they don't want to handicap struggling businesses. Regulatory uncertainty has amplified price fluctuations.*

*"As Europe went, so heads California. CARB's auctions kicked off in 2012 with robust demand and have raised nearly \$5 billion. But demand has shrunk this year amid regulatory and legal risks. The California Chamber of Commerce has challenged the auctions as an illegal tax that CARB imposed without the constitutionally required two-thirds vote of the legislature.*

*"Cap-and-trade revenues are supposed to fund only projects that reduce emissions, and the state Legislative Analyst's Office has questioned whether the funding recipients are doing so. For instance, the bullet train will release more carbon over the next three decades.*

*"The legislature will likely also have to reauthorize cap and trade beyond its 2020 expiration date, and many Democrats will want changes. In 2014, 16 Assembly Democrats exhorted CARB to exempt transportation fuels. CARB estimates that cap and trade increases the price of gasoline by about 12 cents per gallon.*

*"While a Sacramento superior court has upheld the program, an appellate court last month appeared more skeptical. Traders who hoped to flip allowances at a higher price have since been offloading credits and undercutting CARB's auction floor.*

*In 2014 then Senate President Darrell Steinberg warned that cap and trade was 'asking the trading market to enter directly into the energy segment again and that brings back bad memories' of rolling blackouts and electricity price spikes last decade. Reading Europe's tarot cards, he told the Los Angeles Times that 'this is an experiment that is yet unproven.'*

*CARB says this spring's auction bust is no big deal and regulators can withhold credits until the price rises. Unlike their European counterparts, California's climate crusaders don't seem to care if their businesses and consumers suffer.*

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