

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMICS - 2009

America now has a new President-elect, who has been assembling a cabinet and other associated leadership positions. As I observed this elected man's tendencies prior to the election, I was, to put it bluntly, stunned at some of his positions. The American public also expanded the Democratic party's majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The final outcome of one senate race is unknown at the time of this writing, but indications are that the comedian from Saturday Night Live will defeat Norm Coleman in Minnesota. In the event this comes to pass, "filibuster proofing" the Senate becomes much more difficult. I am deeply troubled by some of the legislation that appears by all indications to be headed down a very fast track, putting America on a very slippery slope to a place, I believe, none of us really wants to go down.

Grassfire.org has produced a booklet entitled "***Living in an Obama Nation***", subtitled '***21 Ways the Obama Presidency Will Impact You and Your Family***'. I share excerpts below.

Item # 10 – Carbon Tax To Save The Planet cites the following: "Under President Obama, the uproven theory of (*manmade*) global warming will be codified into law, costing taxpayers billions, (*if not trillions*) of dollars and placing an enormous burden on the U.S. (*now the world's*) economy. (*emphasis added*)

Item 11 – "Green" Energy Crisis: President Barack Obama will worsen America's energy crisis by rejecting calls for increased domestic oil and gas production while promoting an ideological energy crisis that forces costly "green" solutions on society.

If the Obama administration succeeds in moving forward legislation related to these two items, you can be assured that the country will become very familiar with the terms 'carbon tax' and 'cap and trade'. With respect to the notion of a 'carbon tax', or it's close relative known as 'cap and trade', you can expect one certain outcome: the price paid for energy for all Americans will rise significantly. According to Grassfire, A Massachusetts Institute of Technology study found that restrictions could raise gasoline prices by 29%, electricity prices by 55%, and natural gas prices by 15% by 2015. (*These numbers were produced prior to the current economic crisis*)

With respect to his "green" plan, Obama openly states that his 'cap and trade' CO₂ / global warming energy plan would "bankrupt" anyone wanting to build a coal plant..." Further, Obama states "Under my plan of a cap and trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket...even regardless of what I say about coal is good or bad, because I'm capping greenhouse gases, coal power plants, natural gas...you name it...whatever the plants were, whatever the industry was, they would have to retrofit their operations. That will cost money...they (*energy providers*) will pass that money (*cost*) on to the consumers." (*emphasis added*)

This incoming administration will carry the Al Gore Torch loudly and ***without regard for what the actual scientific data suggest***. It will attempt, through media distortion and avoidance of the opinion of tens of thousands of scientists in America, to place an immeasurable tax burden on every man, woman and child living in this country today -- and as long as the tax machine can survive without bankrupting the entire nation. The clear evidence of this foolhardy policymaking is already proving out in Europe where the "experiment" of the green movement is backfiring in a big way. They are already paying a dear price for this folly.

Let me be very clear. The folly has to do with the attempt to control the output of a *harmless*, colorless, odorless and tasteless gas – CO₂ (carbon dioxide). This folly must be stopped. So, exactly what does the actual climate data suggest? Are the global temperature trends we currently see due mostly to manmade effects? Take a look at Figure 1.

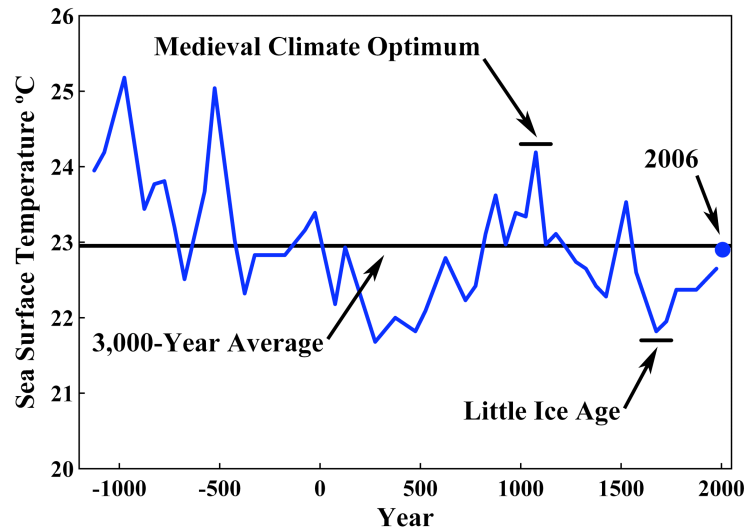


Figure 1: Surface temperatures in the Sargasso Sea, a 2 million square mile region of the Atlantic Ocean, with time resolution of 50 to 100 years and ending in 1975, as determined by isotope ratios of marine organism remains in sediment at the bottom of the sea (3). The horizontal line is the average temperature for this 3,000-year period. The Little Ice Age and Medieval Climate Optimum were naturally occurring, extended intervals of climate departures from the mean. A value of 0.25 °C, which is the change in Sargasso Sea temperature between 1975 and 2006, has been added to the 1975 data in order to provide a 2006 temperature value.

The graphic in figure 1 is similar in general context to many others from different sources of input data. Prior to the invention of the Fahrenheit thermometer in 1724, and the Celsius scale in 1742, we have no direct record of temperature, so we rely on ‘proxies’ such as that drawn upon here. Proxies are imperfect, but they are based on recorded physical conditions and are very good indicators of temperature and other environmental factors, such as CO₂ concentration.

So, what is a proxy? A proxy acts in place, to the best of its ability, of information that is not presently available, for whatever reason. The direct information is not available, or a direct vote is not available, so a substitute is appointed or established. A proxy is a legal substitution.

I suggest that on the basis of the above evidence, mankind has had very little to do with current global temperature trends.¹ While this data relates to isotope ratios of marine organism remains on the sea bottom², the relationship is at least as credible as any you will find elsewhere in the literature with respect to long-term temperature trends based on proxies.

During the Medieval Climate Optimum (MCO), Greenland had widespread agriculture. That came to a relatively abrupt halt shortly thereafter, when animals and humans perished due to the severity of the downward temperature trend. That condition persisted until the nadir of the Little Ice Age, and we have been gradually warming as a planet ever since.

But, note where we are today relative to the MCO, and further note where we are relative to the indications at around 1000 BCE. Have you heard of ANY reports of worldwide population demise or catastrophic heating contemporaneous with the Chinese developing gunpowder?³ No, you have not. And, I suggest, you will never hear of population demise due to overheating. Trust me, it is far more difficult to survive (impossible, given the evidence we see from Greenland) in cold weather climates than in warm.

[I want to digress and elaborate briefly on CO₂, and then about “greenhouse” gases. The current best guess concentration in earth’s atmosphere (below the troposphere) is about 380 parts per million (ppm). This is up from about 320 ppm since around the beginning of the 20th century.

Should we be concerned about this factor? Is it due primarily to human activity? Do we need to reduce it to protect our longevity?

Emphatically, the answers are NO, NO, and NO.

Let’s translate 380 ppm. This is equivalent to 0.04%, that’s right, four one-hundredths of one percent. For comparison, nitrogen makes up about 78% of our atmosphere, oxygen about 21%, leaving the remaining 1% to gases like hydrogen, argon, helium, etc, finally our friend CO₂. Commercial greenhouses routinely increase concentrations to about double that amount to enhance plant growth. It is believed that human beings may experience a significant health risk if the concentration reaches around 6000 ppm.

Kansas’ governor Kathleen Sebelius, and her Secretary of Health and Environment want to ‘protect’ the people of Kansas from the potential damaging effects of this by product of steam generation at one of the state’s many coal-fired power plants. I am very pleased that Sunflower Electric Cooperative has filed suit in federal court to turn back the nonsense related to attempting to control the output of CO₂, and classifying it as a “pollutant”. Do not be fooled by the action taken by the United States Supreme Court, which has granted to the EPA the power to attempt to regulate emissions of this gas. They are flat out wrong, and they should have studied the data more carefully. But they didn’t, so here we are.

‘Greenhouse’ gases are that subset of the overall atmosphere which help us moderate the incoming radiation from the sun. About 96% of the greenhouse gas mix is made up of water vapor (clouds); second place at about 3.5% is our friend CO₂; the remainder is split among methane (natural gas), chlorofluorocarbons (ozone), and other trace amount gases.

One of the questions about CO₂ is what percentage of the 3.5% comes from anthropogenic (man-made) sources, like cars, planes, feedlots, etc? Current best guesses place it at about 3.5 – 5% of the 3.5%. That translates to about 0.1% of the greenhouse due apparently to human-induced effects. That means that about 99.9% of the greenhouse effect is due to fundamentally natural sources of CO₂, such as the oceans, volcanoes, plant life, on and on. The FACT of the matter is that **mankind’s influence as to CO₂ is virtually inconsequential**. Furthermore, the action of CO₂ in the atmosphere is virtually inconsequential.

Climate models that attempt to override this reality are *fraudulent* and without basis in the facts. *Any attempts to control it, reduce emissions related to it, etc, are fruitless and simply do not acknowledge the overwhelming influence the sun has on our atmosphere and every living function on planet earth.*

I will reiterate that Sunflower Electric has an excellent case against those who have attempted to thwart business activity, and deprive Sunflower of its constitutional right to operate a business, due to a fallacious misrepresentation of scientific data. In this brief summary I will not attempt to delve much deeper, where additional scientific data exists to further buttress every element of the above argument. Trust me, there are volumes more waiting to be unloaded to the American populace, but the large majority of it is being suppressed. Controllers in the ‘scientific’ elite have absolutely no interest in allowing the average American citizen access to this quashed debate.

But, I assure you that is about to change. Those tens of thousands of American scientists, like me, who have seen the evidence, will absolutely not lay down on this issue. **There is no consensus, and we will be heard.** If we have to go to the National Mall at the Smithsonian Institution, and land at the steps of the U.S. Capitol, we will be heard. Enough is enough.]

So, are the glaciers receding?

Certainly, just as they should be during a broad warming period. But, how has man, specifically his fossil-fueled economic activity, influenced the global temperature? Take a look below to see the indications of the actual data.

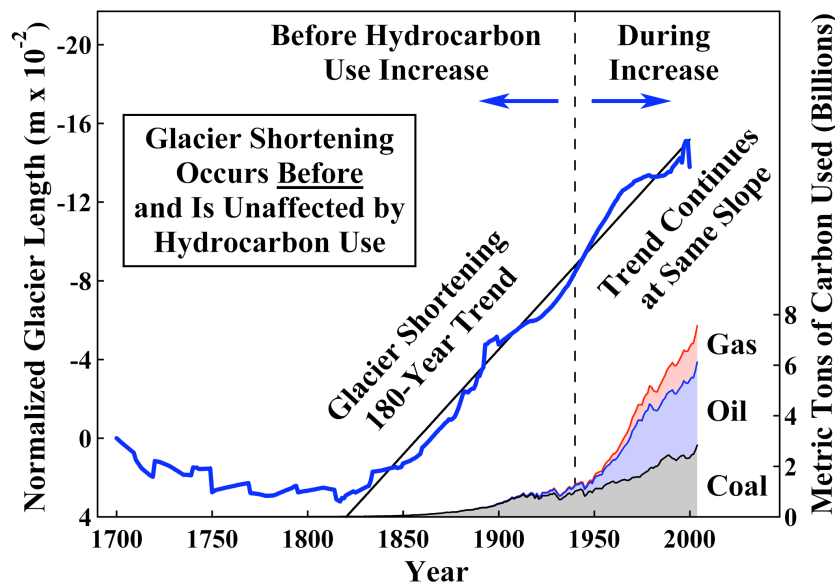


Figure 2: Average length of 169 glaciers from 1700 to 2000 (4). The principal source of melt energy is solar radiation. Variations in glacier mass and length are primarily due to temperature and precipitation (5,6). This melting trend lags the temperature increase by about 20 years, so it pre dates the 6-fold increase in hydrocarbon use (7) even more than shown in the figure. Hydrocarbon use could not have caused this shortening trend.

Figure 2 represents a compilation from a peer-reviewed publication by Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics researcher Willie Soon, and co-authors A. Robinson and N. Robinson⁸. I suggest the data indicates virtually zero correlation between glacial shortening (global warming) and hydrocarbon use. The glacial shortening (recession) trends were established well in advance of hydrocarbon consumption trends, and the trend continues today.

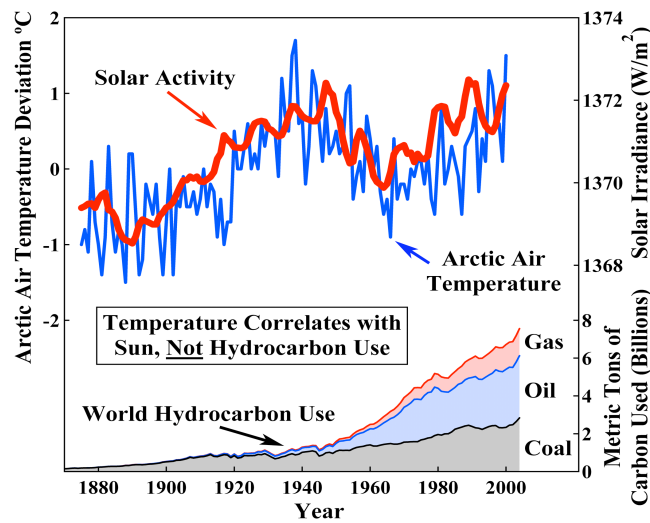


Figure 3: Arctic surface air temperature compared with total solar irradiance as measured by sunspot cycle amplitude, sunspot cycle length, solar equatorial rotation rate, fraction of penumbral spots, and decay rate of the 11-year sunspot cycle (8,9). Solar irradiance correlates well with Arctic temperature, while hydrocarbon use (7) does not correlate.

Finally, Figure 3 presents a very clear, and I suggest a nearly unequivocal data compilation relating solar activity to Arctic air temperature. These are actual data measurements that leave very little doubt as to the overwhelming influence our sun has on earth temperature. Furthermore, the data substantially refutes the notion that global hydrocarbon usage has any material influence on temperature. It is very troubling that ‘scientists’ actually working on research related to climate change deliberately choose to ignore the relationships demonstrated by the actual data.

I hope you will study the data indicated graphically, as well as the references below. In contrast to what has been suggested by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, I suggest to you that the data very strongly indicates that the dominant force behind planetary climate variation is the star at the center of our solar system. **There is no credible data** that supports the notion that mankind and his hydrocarbon energy production, consumption and management has anything other than a minor, generally imperceptible impact on this planet.

If you, the reader, believe that a ‘carbon tax’, or the notion of ‘cap and trade’ are good for the American economy, I beg to strongly disagree. Furthermore, I would invite you, or any representative of your choosing, to an open debate, at a location of your choosing.

If interested, I would be happy to provide additional fundamentally significant reference works which focus on the scientific facts pertinent to this subject matter.

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