

Anthropogenic climate change – fact or fiction? an academic’s analysis

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Abstract

The debate over anthropogenic climate change is not settled. More and more scientists are coming out against it and the evidence against it seems to be pouring in. Warnings of global warming and climate change have the appearance of being driven more by an ideological agenda than by science.

Introduction

The Pope has spoken. If the world’s leaders do not agree to halt carbon emissions and stop global warming, it would be suicide. Obama says the Paris climate summit is a strong rebuke to terrorists. Obama also says that climate change is a more important national security issue than Islamic terrorism. This is the same Obama that said ISIS is the Junior varsity of terrorists and that ISIS was contained. Then the Paris attacks occurred, and then the attacks in San Bernadino, California. Just as Obama has been wrong about ISIS, is he wrong about climate change?

A first response to this paper may be to question its need. After all, isn’t anthropogenic global warming (AGW) a fact? The simple answer is that, contrary to the statement of President Obama, the debate over anthropogenic global warming, aka climate change, is not settled. There is a growing body of scientists and academics worldwide who are coming out against the claims that man-made emissions of CO₂ are causing drastic shifts in climate that are behind recent extreme weather events, and against the prediction of more devastation to come unless mankind steps up to stop the harmful emissions. In fact, over 31,000 scientists and academics in the U.S. have recently signed a petition against the claims of AGW and urging the government not to try to pursue an expensive cure for a condition that does not exist (<http://www.petitionproject.org/>).

The debate relates to business practices because the solutions proposed to halt CO₂ emissions could result in higher costs of doing business resulting in higher consumer costs, massive unemployment and sharp spikes in energy costs. Sharp spikes in energy costs will make it more difficult for the world’s workers and the poor to heat their homes in the winter, cool them in the heat of summer, and manage their budgets. The proposals for addressing AGW could devastate healthy economies and throw third world economies further backward.

That the debate over AGW still rages on and is not settled is exemplified by the fact that as this paper was written, the 10th Annual International Conference on Climate Change, an international conference of AGW “skeptics” was held in Washington, D.C. The problem is that world leaders, including the Pope, have so totally accepted the AGW hypothesis, that they are willing to spend billions and trillions of dollars and risk damaging strong economies by enacting policies to limit CO₂ emissions and move away from dependence on fossil fuels to the use of more renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, and other bio-fuels. It is a problem because solar, wind, and bio-fuel technology has not yet advanced to the point that they are economically viable and dependable enough to replace fossil fuels.

The debate has been quite polarizing with those that are proponents of AGW being called “warmers” and those opposed called “deniers.” The “warmers” are preaching AGW and pursuing AGW solutions with almost a religious zeal, and refer to “deniers” in more of a derisive manner, regarding “deniers” as uneducated, ignorant or mentally incompetent. Environmental Protection Agency head, Gina McCarthy, recently implied that skeptics or “deniers” were not normal people

when she said in a speech that “normal people, not skeptics, would eventually win the global warming debate.” (Siciliano, 2015)

“Denier” is probably not an accurate label because the “deniers” do not necessarily deny that climate is changing. What is denied is the magnitude of any claimed changes by the “warmers.” What is denied is that reported extreme weather events are unprecedented and portend more to come as a result of AGW. What is denied is that climate change is caused by man-made CO₂ emissions.

This paper will examine the claims of anthropogenic global warming (AGW) and climate change from a skeptic’s perspective, beginning with the historical and political context in which the movement began and moving to an examination of the AGW claims in the light of known science.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A think tank called the Club of Rome, published a book in the early 70s called *The Limits to Growth* (Meadows, Meadows, Randers, and Behrens, 1972.) This work may have been the precursor to the U.N.’s Agenda 21. Agenda 21, published by the UN Conference on Development and Environment, held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992, is a detailed plan of the United Nations to promote what it calls “sustainable growth.” Agenda 21 claimed that current patterns of consumption by developed countries was not sustainable and that the developed countries had no chance to catch up. It called for a change in consumption, massive redistribution of wealth, slower population growth, and a move from fossil fuels to more sustainable sources of energy.

(<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-4.htm>)

Because the Club of Rome claimed that the earth was destined to collapse socially and economically because of exponential growth in population, consumption, pollution and the exponential growth in the gap between the wealth of developed countries and underdeveloped countries will become a major problem. Such growth, they said, was unsustainable and would lead to world-wide hunger, death from hunger, etc. The Club of Rome would not predict the precise date of collapse other than to say within the next 100 years. It did, however project that we would begin to see the effects of the exponential growth by the year 2000.

The Club of Rome’s warnings and solutions were quite similar to that outlined in Agenda 21. “Sustainable growth” was the goal and theme of both *The Limits to Growth* and Agenda 21. CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels was also mentioned by Meadows, et.al, as a pollutant but they did not go into much detail on it other than to say that the level of emissions was also growing exponentially. The solution offered by the Club of Rome was for the developed countries to slow their population growth, slow the consumption and use of fossil fuels, and transfer more wealth to underdeveloped countries so that their growth could reasonably catch up to the developed countries. Again, the problems and solutions proposed by The Club of Rome are strikingly similar to those found in Agenda 21.

The Anthropogenic Global Warming(AGW) hypothesis has its historical roots in the work of Dr. Roger Revelle (Vance, 2014) Revelle was an oceanographer with the Scripps Institute and was its director from 1950 to 1964. While at Scripps, Revelle began to observe the increase in atmospheric CO₂ and wondered about its impact on the atmosphere and the oceans. He wrote a paper on the increase of CO₂ in the air and postulated regarding its impact on global warming. He had students participate in some of his research, one of whom was Al Gore, Jr.(Vance, 2014) The paper received wide acclaim and set environmentalists on the path to making global warming a key issue. Al Gore was sufficiently impressed with Revelle’s paper on CO₂ emissions that it became the basis for his 1992 book *Earth in Balance* and the resulting slide show *An Inconvenient Truth* (Vance, 2014.)

By 1988, Revelle started to have serious doubts regarding CO₂ being a serious greenhouse gas and began to write papers expressing his doubt, that fell short of repudiating his earlier work. Revelle ultimately apologized for the fact that his research led people in the wrong direction regarding global warming (Vance, 2014). Revelle’s about face on global warming and the role of

man-made CO₂ did not get the same attention. Regardless of what Revelle said now, the environmentalists continued to accept his earlier work as gospel regarding CO₂ and global warming. Besides impressing Al Gore, Revelle's work, blaming CO₂ for global warming, must have impressed someone at the United Nations for, in 1988, the U.N. formed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (<http://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization.shtml>.) The U.N. appears to have found the "hot button" it needed to strengthen its relevance as a world body and help propel the implementation of Agenda 21. The IPCC has been the driving force behind the AGW movement ever since, such that global warming became a key plank in the U.N.'s Agenda 21 plan at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Beginning in 1995, the U.N. has been holding annual climate conferences with the participants of the Rio conference .

Political context

The IPCC and Agenda 21 have become political hot potatoes in the U.S., and other nations, with political conservatives claiming that the U.N. is using the environment as a tool to establish a single world government. While establishing a single world government may be a stretch, it is clear that the U.N. has found a measure of success in using the environment to strengthen its influence on world governments. It seems that most world leaders have accepted AGW as fact and have committed to spending huge sums to combat AGW. After all, no government wants to be known as one that does not care about the environment. At the Rio conference in 1992, the U.N. was able to get most of the world governments, including the U.S. to commit to the principles outlined in Agenda 21. Further commitments were made at the conference in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, known as the Kyoto Protocol. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Climate_Change_conference#1997:_COP_3.2C_The_Kyoto_Protocol_on_Climate_Change)

The commitments being made are to reduce emissions of CO₂. Reducing CO₂ necessitates the reduction of the use of fossil fuels, coal and oil, and switching from fossil fuels to more renewable sources of energy. Some countries have committed to reduce emissions by as much as 30% by the year 2030 and 50% by 2050.

Switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy comes with massive costs. Fossil fuel energy is inexpensive. Solar and wind energy is expensive and unreliable. Switching from fossil fuels will require expensive changes in manufacturing and energy production. Many electricity producers currently use coal in the production of electricity. Switching from coal to other forms of energy to produce electricity will, of necessity, cause electricity prices to rise dramatically. This is already happening in the U.S. Transportation will become more expensive as consumers and businesses are forced to purchase and use vehicles that do not use fossil fuels. The costs of everything that relies on transportation will also rise as transportation costs rise.

In view of the non-legally binding agreements, one of the U.N.'s objectives for the 2015 climate conference in Paris was to get legally binding agreements from the participating countries. President Barack Obama had already stated his intention to sign such an agreement although there is some question whether it could be legally binding on the U.S. if Congress does not vote its approval.

The continuous attempts of the U.N. to get legally binding agreements, brings back the question of the true intentions of the U.N. Is the environment the real concern or is the goal the strengthening of the U.N.'s influence over world governments and the establishment of its ideological framework? Is the push to make the agreements legally binding for the purpose of insuring more control in the hands of the U.N.? The question seems justified when the Agenda 21 document consistently calls for massive transfers of wealth and resources, from developed countries to developing countries, and more "sustainable" use of land and other resources in the developed countries.

The question of the true purpose of the U.N.'s climate activism was raised by an *Investor's Business Daily* (IBD) editorial on February 10, 2015 quoting Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the U.N.'s Framework Convention on Climate Change, as saying:

"this is the first time in the history of mankind that we are setting ourselves the task of intentionally, within a defined period of time, to change the economic development model that has been reigning for at least 150 years since the industrial revolution."

In other words, it appears, that Ms. Figueres is saying that the goal of the climate change activism is to destroy capitalism. (*Investor's Business Daily*, editorial, February 10, 2015). This, then, begs the question of whether the threat of climate change is real and changing the economic model is believed necessary to save the planet or, has climate change merely been over-hyped so it can be used as a tool to bring about the change in the economic model? If it turns out that the AGW hypothesis and its claims of coming doom are not scientifically supported, then the latter is likely true.

Claims and alarmism

Alarmist warnings by the academic and scientific community, and environmentalists are not new. This writer is old enough to remember hearing warnings on the radio in the 1960s warning of a coming ice age. The age-old story of Chicken Little bespeaks of the fact that alarmism has been around much longer than we would like to think and such alarmist rhetoric is often found to be nothing more than misguided thinking or active imagination. The media is complicit in the alarmism because alarmism brings more attention, sells books and newspapers/magazines, and drives TV ratings.

Claim: more frequent and extreme weather events

The media quickly and repetitively carry the alarmist stories and rarely present stories that weaken the alarm. Every major weather event news story seems to be preceded with the word "unprecedented," and the event is usually blamed on global warming. We hear about the unprecedented flooding in Houston, or the unprecedented heat of 2014, or the unprecedented severity of recent hurricanes. The truth is that these events are not unprecedented. For example, the recent flooding in Houston, Texas was described as unprecedented. However, Houston has had serious flooding events, that matched the 2015 flooding, in 2009, 2006, 2001, 1998, 1994, 1989, 1983, and 1979, to name a few years. The media presented an aerial photo of Houston to show the extent of the 2015 flooding. The problem was that the picture was taken in 2001.

Another example of media hype is the coverage of hurricane Patricia in October of 2015. This storm was hyped as the biggest and strongest to ever hit North America, or the worst tropical storm in history. The reality was something not so remarkable and the storm fizzled when it made landfall. Despite the hype, there have been numerous tropical storms in history that were worse than Patricia. (Harris, T. & Ball, T. 2015).

Politicians and the media love to predict doom and gloom. It has been said that AGW would cause more frequent and more severe hurricanes and tornadoes. It would cause deadly heat waves, drought, and more frequent and devastating forest fires. A *Reuters* article in June, 2015 stated "The direct health impacts of climate change come from more frequent and intense extreme weather events, while indirect impacts come from changes in infectious disease patterns, air pollution, food insecurity and malnutrition, displacement and conflicts."

Reality has proven such predictions wrong. Climatologist and former NASA scientist, Dr. Roy Spencer reported in October, 2014 that we had 3,264 days, nearly nine years, without a major hurricane, cat 3 or above, making landfall in the U.S. The U.S. tornado count has plummeted to record lows for 2011 to 2013 and was on track for a record low count in 2014. (climate depot, 2014). Flooding has not increased in the U.S. over records of 85 - 127 years (Pielke, 2011). The frequency of 90 degree heat days has plummeted with three of the mildest summers occurring since 2004 (Climate science, 2014). 2014 was the quietest fire season of the decade (Morano, 2014). The world-wide percentage of drought has not changed since 1901 (McCabe & Wolock, 2015).

CLAIM: FOOD SHORTAGES AND STARVATION

One group of academics did a study, using a computer model that predicted global food shortages by the year 2040, based on failed agriculture as a result of global warming (climate depot, 2015). The problem with the prediction is that the global warming bias was built into the computer model used to make the prediction. Built into the model was the assumption that warming and increased CO₂ would cause crop failures. What the model fails to account for is the fact that plants thrive on CO₂ and warm weather, such that many commercial greenhouses pump CO₂ into the greenhouses so that the CO₂ ppm is 1000+ (Bright-Paul, 2014).

The alarmist articles do not take into consideration the resiliency of animal life and vegetation. The earth flourished and became more lush with vegetation as it moved out of the ice ages and warmed considerably. Biologically and logically, greater amounts of CO₂ and warming would be more conducive to greater agricultural yields than what the study assumes and projects.

CLAIM: GLACIAL MELT AND FLOODING

Catastrophic glacial melting is another claim of AGW that does not seem to be consistent with reality. Six years ago the BBC predicted that the Arctic would be ice free by 2013. It is now 2015 and data shows that Arctic ice is growing, not retreating (Choy, 2013).

Horror stories of glacial melting are often accompanied with film showing a portion of a glacier breaking off and falling into the sea. What the story tellers do not mention is that the breaking off of the portion of the glacier is called calving and is a normal process and indicates glacier growth and has been occurring as long as there have been glaciers. Evidence seems to indicate that glacial melting is cyclical. There was massive melting in the 20s and 30s and then a refreezing that ended in 1979 (Choy, 2013). With the current growth in Arctic ice, some scientists are saying that the earth is in a cooling trend that may extend to the middle of the century (Choy, 2013). In fact, an article was published July 12, 2015, in which UK scientists predict that we will be in a mini-ice age in 15 years, based on solar cycles (<http://www.aol.com/article/2015/07/12/>).

The glacial melting claim also states that such melting will cause sea levels to rise to a level that will cause catastrophic flooding in many coastal areas of the world. The problem with this scenario is that sea ice is floating in the ocean, and just like an ice cube in a glass of water that melts, the melting will not affect the level of the water in the glass nor will it affect the level of the ocean. The fact is that the seas have been rising steadily and slowly for hundreds of years for reasons not known to scientists. There are not enough glaciers to affect the sea level should they melt away. Vance (2014) calculated that it would take 81,800 cubic miles of sea water to raise the seas one foot. He then calculated the amount of sea water that would be generated if the glacier NASA claimed would raise the seas four feet if it melted and found the total amount of sea water from that melt would be 75.6 cubic miles of water. The change in the sea level would be $75.6/81,800 = .000924$ ft. or .0111 inch, not the four feet that NASA claims.

CLAIM: 97% CONSENSUS AMONG SCIENTISTS THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

President Barrack Obama has recently said that global warming/climate change is the greatest security threat facing the U.S. He claimed that there was 97% consensus of the scientific community on global warming/climate change. Such claim is not in step with the facts. Over 31,000 scientists in the U.S. have signed a petition opposing the AGW hypothesis and urging President Obama not to spend money on combating AGW (<http://www.petitionproject.org/>).

At a recent meeting of Nobel Prize-winning scientists, nearly half of the 70 attendees refused to sign a declaration supporting the AGW hypothesis. One scientist at the meeting, Dr. Ivar Giaever went as far as to state that President Obama was dead wrong on global warming/climate change (Bastach, M., 2015).

With the "97% consensus on global warming" apparently falling apart, the question is from where did that claim arise? Adrian Vance, author of *Vapor Tiger* (2014) decided to investigate the

origin of the 97% consensus claim. Vance found that the number came from a study done by Dr. Naomi Oreskes, of the Scripps Institute in 2004. Dr. Oreskes claimed to do a survey of the ISI Web of Science database of 928 papers and found 97% to agree that global warming was real. Vance also discovered that a Dr. Ben Peiser of John Moores University examined the work of Dr. Oreskes and found it lacking. The work had actually been done by students, which was forbidden by all professional journals. The ISI database had actually contained 12,000 papers. The students were told to choose only the abstracts that supported AGW. An examination of the 928 abstracts by Lord Monckton found that less than half of the 928 abstracts actually agreed with the AGW hypothesis (Vance, 2014).

CLAIM: APOCALIPTIC PREDICTIONS FOR 2015

On June 12, 2008, correspondent Bob Woodruff was on ABC's *Good Morning America* to promote an upcoming ABC special on global warming called *Earth 2100*, which would offer predictions of what the world would be like by June 2015 if global warming continued unabated, without any human intervention (Whitlock, S. 2015). *Earth 2100* was aired June 2, 2009. Among the predictions is that New York city would be destroyed by flooding, a "storm of the century" would wipe out Miami, Las Vegas would be abandoned, and there would be flames covering hundreds of miles. It was also predicted that conditions resulting from global warming would cause tremendous inflation of consumer product prices such that a gallon of gasoline would be close to \$9 and a carton of milk close to \$13 (Whitlock, S., 2015).

It is now well past June of 2015 and none of the dire predictions have occurred. Were the "warmers" wrong or did we humans intervene sufficiently to halt global warming? It is probably safe to say that CO₂ emissions have not been reduced in the intervening years, at least not to the extent the "warmers" said would be necessary to stop global warming. Some scientists say the earth has been in a cooling trend for 17 to 18 years while others fiddle with the data to claim we are still warming (Bastasch, M., 2015).

So what can be concluded? If earth has been in a cooling trend for 18 years and CO₂ levels are still high and climbing, can we conclude that the elevated CO₂ levels have nothing to do with global warming? If we are still in a warming trend, as NASA claims, can we conclude that the warming will not cause catastrophic events as predicted? After all, historical data shows that we had 3,264 days without a major hurricane, cat 3 or above, making landfall in the U.S.; the U.S. tornado count has plummeted to record lows for the last three years and is on track for a record low count this year. (climate depot, 2014); Flooding has not increased in the U.S. over records of 85 - 127 years (Pielke, 2011); The frequency of 90 degree heat days has plummeted with three of the mildest summers occurring since 2004 (Climate science, 2014); 2014 was the quietest fire season of the decade (Morano, 2014); and, the percentage of world-wide drought has not changed since 1901 (McCabe & Wolock, 2015). Probably the safest conclusion to make is that computer models cannot be depended on to accurately predict weather phenomena, and its impact, 5, 10, 20, or even 100 years out. They, often, cannot accurately predict weather three to five days in the future.

The science behind agw

The theory and data evidence

The basic hypothesis of AGW, or climate change, is that CO₂ from the burning of fossil fuels is being dispersed into the atmosphere in excess of what the natural carbon cycle can accommodate. This excess CO₂ remains in the atmosphere and is claimed to do two things. First, it absorbs radiated heat from the earth and radiates it back to earth, which creates additional warming of the earth and the atmosphere close to the earth. Secondly, as a greenhouse gas, CO₂ in the upper atmosphere traps the heat from the earth and lower atmosphere, preventing it from escaping into space. One scientist on TV recently likened this to a closed automobile sitting in the sun. He called it the "hot car syndrome."

The evidence supporting the hypothesis is garnered from historical temperature recordings from the various monitoring sites of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and temperature measurements from satellites of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This temperature data is then averaged to obtain an average global temperature. The average global temperature is then plotted on a graph to determine the trend.

Historical data recordings of measured CO₂ in the atmosphere are also used. Again, the data are graphed to determine the trend and to visually depict what is happening in the atmosphere. Certainly, since the Industrial Revolution, the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere, resulting from the burning of fossil fuels, has risen such that it is now estimated to be 385 ppm. The proponents of the AGW theory have developed their theory from the apparent correlation between the rise of atmospheric CO₂ and the rising global temperatures. NASA has declared in some of its reports that CO₂ is a major driver of climate change. (NASA/NOAA, 2015).

“Evidence” of the impact of global warming is based on computer models and on other data showing such things as glaciers shrinking, sea level rising, sea ice retreating, animal migrations, widening of animal ranges, extreme weather events, unusual animal behavior, and other anomalies. The problem is that the computers are programmed according to the assumption that there is a link between rising CO₂ and global warming, and between global warming and weather anomalies. In other words, the link between CO₂ and warming is programmed into the model so that all of the results of the model will reflect that link. The results and predictions are a reflection of the assumptions programmed into the models. The computer models are not evidence of anything but the assumptions and hypotheses of the warmers. There is absolutely no empirical evidence linking CO₂ to global warming or linking human-caused CO₂ emissions to climate change. The entire global warming/climate change narrative is based solely on the computer models.

In fact the switch from calling their theory “global warming” to calling it “climate change” was done to focus on the impact of the warming, i.e. the changing of climate causing extreme weather events. It seems that any extreme weather event or observed aberrant behavior of animals is offered as evidence of global warming or climate change, including the recent rash of shark attacks in the Carolinas.

Problems with the theory

Skeptics of AGW point out that there are inherent problems with the theory, the first of which is the issue of whether a global average temperature is meaningful. Temperatures vary significantly depending on where you are on this planet, from the extreme cold of the polar areas to the sweltering tropics. When it is hot in one place, it will be below freezing in another. At any place on the earth the temperature is determined by many factors including the tilt of the earth, the wobble of the earth as it rotates on its axis, the relative distance from the sun determined by where the earth is in its orbit around the sun, the terrain, vegetation, elevation, the presence of clouds, whether the location is urban or rural, and the level of solar activity on the sun’s surface. In some parts of the earth we have four seasons and in others just one season, either very cold or very warm. Temperature also changes in any given location through any given day from a variety of natural causes. The point being made is that an “average temperature” is fleeting, at best, and meaningless. The role of CO₂ seems to be overblown. The warmers are quick to mention that we spew millions of tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels, or that the 385 ppm of CO₂ is the highest level it has been in several hundred years but they are negligent to acknowledge that given that, the human-caused portion of CO₂ in the atmosphere is a mere .00016%. NASA has stated that human CO₂ emissions is the major driver of climate change (NASA/NOAA, 2015). The reality is that there is no empirical evidence, whatsoever, linking CO₂, or human-caused CO₂, to any change in climate or weather event.

The warmers seem to ignore the climatological history of our planet. The planet has gone through at least four ice-ages and as many inter-glacial periods. In the inter-glacial periods the earth

warmed and atmospheric CO₂ levels rose considerably, sometimes to levels much higher than we are experiencing now or expect to experience. The net result of this warming and rise of CO₂ was not more devastation of the earth but the opposite. The interglacial periods were periods of tremendous greening of the earth and increased biological diversity of plant and animal life. Glaciers melted, which provided more habitable land for human settlement.

It is taught in every undergraduate course in research methods that one cannot presume causation from correlation. Many of the charts presented by the warmers appear to show a strong correlation between warming and the rise of CO₂. From the apparent positive correlation, the warmers infer that the rise in CO₂ causes warming. However, closer examination of the data shows a poor or negative correlation between warming and CO₂. To infer causation, the cause must precede the effect. Ice core studies, covering 420 thousand years reveal that warming of the earth, during interglacial periods, always preceded the rise in CO₂ levels by 800 years, and the cooling of the earth preceded the drop of atmospheric CO₂ by several thousand years (Petit, J.R., Jouzel, J., Raynaud, D., et.al., 1999). The same ice core studies have also revealed that global warming rose to several degrees higher during the previous four interglacial periods than it has during the current period (Petit, J.R. et. al., 1999).

The AGW hypothesis seems to be inconsistent with known laws of science. The theory says that the sun warms the earth and the earth radiates the heat back into the atmosphere which is absorbed by the CO₂ and re-radiated back to earth, causing additional warming. The second law of thermodynamics states that heat only moves from a warm area to a colder area. For the heat to be radiated back to earth to cause more warming would mean that the CO₂ would have to be warmer than the earth. Also heat transfer stops when there is temperature equilibrium across the two bodies.

Most of the heating of the atmosphere occurs close to the earth and is by the process of conduction. In other words heat is transferred from the warmer earth to the cooler atmosphere in contact with the earth. The heat transfer stops when the temperature of the atmosphere in contact with the earth reaches equilibrium with the temperature with the earth. Because it is at equilibrium, heat cannot be re-transferred back to earth. As the molecules of the atmosphere, including the CO₂, are heated they rise and instantly begin cooling. The cooling occurs at a known rate of 2° centigrade per 1000 feet of altitude. At some point the atmospheric temperature reaches the freezing point. This is called the adiabatic lapse rate. As the CO₂ is constantly cooling as it rises, it is not likely radiating heat back to earth. Also, add to this the fact that the further away from earth the atmosphere gets thinner and thinner. That means that all the molecules in the atmosphere are dispersed further and further apart so that there are much fewer per unit of space than on earth's surface. That is why commercial aircraft must have supplemental oxygen in case of sudden decompression at altitude, and pilots of unpressurized aircraft must be on supplemental oxygen when flying above 10,000 feet.

The idea that the "greenhouse" gases form a shield preventing heat from escaping defies logic. The "hot car syndrome" is an even more illogical analogy. Greenhouses have plastic and other materials that are impermeable. In other words, the air in the greenhouse cannot pass through the material. A car is even worse. It has glass and steel preventing the passage of the hot air out of the car. The plastic of a greenhouse and the glass and steel of a car do not themselves create heat. They merely prevent the heated air from escaping. The heat comes from the Sun's radiation being absorbed by the materials in the car's interior and being heated by that radiation. Remove the source of the heat, the Sun, and the greenhouse and car immediately start to cool.

The atmosphere is an open system made up of gases. Nothing prevents the warmer air below from rising into the upper atmosphere where it gets much colder in accordance with the adiabatic lapse rate. The value of the greenhouse gases is that they filter the radiation of the Sun so that humans, animals, and plants do not cook. The filtering of the greenhouse gases provides a cooler, more hospitable environment for life on earth to survive than it would be without them.

Some say the greenhouse gases also work like a blanket, warming the earth. But a blanket cannot make things warmer. It does not create heat or have its own heat. A blanket only slows cooling. Anthony Bright-Paul(2014) gave an excellent example of a tea kettle. He said you can bring the water to boiling in the kettle, remove the heat source, and put a wool cozie on it. The cozie will not make the tea kettle warmer. It will only slow the cooling. No matter how many cozies are put on the kettle, it will not make the kettle any warmer and the kettle will eventually cool to room temperature. The greenhouse gases work the same way. During the day, in the heat of the sun, they filter the Sun's radiation helping us not get so hot. When night comes, the greenhouse gases, especially water vapor in the form of clouds, help slow the cooling. On a clear night, the earth cools faster. On a cloudy night it cools slower. But it still cools. It does not get warmer. Put a pot of water on a stove and turn the heat on high. If the pot is covered, the water will come to boiling faster because the lid prevents or slows heat from escaping the pot. The lid does not create more heat. The bottom line is that the theory of AGW has received wide acceptance because it seems intuitively true. However, the theory does not stand up to scrutiny.

Problems with the data

The data on which the narrative of climate change is built is not without its own problems. The problems with the data began with the famed "hockey stick" graph that Al Gore presented when he began his crusade against global warming. The graph showed a drastic jump in global temperatures in the last years shown on the graph such that the trend line looked like a hockey stick. The graph was the product of Michael Mann, a climate scientist working with the IPCC. The problem with the graph is that the data was not really temperature data. The data on which the graph was made was from an analysis of tree rings (Bright-Paul, 2014). Tree rings showed changes in rates of growth, presumed to be from changes in rainfall and other climate conditions contributing to the growth rates. The particular tree rings in question showed tremendous growth rate for a period of a few years with biologists attributing the growth to increased rainfall. Michael Mann inferred the increased temperatures from the increased rainfall. Therefore the graph was not showing actual temperature data but guesses of what they thought the temperature might be. Mann's inference defies our own experience that rainfall also tends to have a cooling effect on ambient temperatures. There are two reasons for this. First, the increased cloud cover from rain clouds blocks more solar radiation from hitting the earth. Secondly, there is some cooling from evaporation. It always feels cooler after a rain.

The challenge to the "hockey stick" data was only the beginning.

The source of the temperature data has been subject to intense criticism. In 1990, NASA said that temperature data from satellite measurements was more accurate and should be used as the standard for measuring global temperature (Canberra Times, 1990). In 2015, when satellite measurements indicated that the earth had not warmed in over 15 years, NASA ignored that data and went to ground-based measurements to show warming, or adjusted the satellite data to show warming. It claimed the satellite data was not accurate (Watts, A. 2016). Ground-based measuring stations tend to be biased toward warming because they are largely located in urban areas and pick up additional heat from concrete, asphalt, brick and other materials that absorb and retain heat in much greater measure than natural surroundings. A significant proportion of the earth is not covered by any instrumentation and temperatures for those areas are inferred. In other words, the temperatures attributed to those areas are mere guesses.

At a meeting last year, of Nobel prize winners in science, Dr. Ivar Giaever cast aspersions on the data of global warming by stating "global warming was a non-problem and that there had been no warming in 17 years, but was made to look like a problem because some scientists are "fiddling" with the data to make it show what they want to show." (Bastasch, M., 2015).

Calling it "fiddling" is probably a nice way of referring to it, but others have blatantly called it fraud. From where does this charge come? In 2009, hackers were able to hack into the computers

of the Climate Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. Emails and records were obtained that indicate a rather widespread practice of manipulating climate data in order to show global warming (Moore, 2009). One email that has received much attention is one in which the sender is saying that he just completed using the “trick” of making adjustments to 20 years of data to “hide the decline.” The “decline” being a reference to the real data actually showing a decline in global temperature rather than an increase. Emails and documents also show that the climate scientists were colluding to rig the peer review process where their papers would get the most favorable treatment and the papers of skeptics would be excluded from publication. (Moore, 2009).

In January 2015, NASA/NOAA, in a published article admitted that the global warming trend line had “flattened” for the last 15 years (NASA/NOAA, 2015). “Flattened” means there was no warming trend. Subsequently, NOAA has applied “correction factors” to the data to show a warming trend because it was presumed that the recorded data were wrong (Curry, 2015).

On June 29, 2015, John Casey of the Space and Science Research Corporation (SSRC), a leader in climate prediction, stated in an article on <http://www.spaceandscience.net>, that the SSRC was dropping the U.S.’s ground-based global temperature data set because it was deemed unreliable. Casey said that the data sets of NASA and NOAA lost their credibility because of allegations of data manipulation to support President Obama’s policies on climate change (Casey, 2015). Casey also accused the Obama administration of developing “a culture of scientific corruption permitting the alteration or modification of global temperature data in a way that supports the myth of manmade global warming.(Casey, 2015).” Casey gave an example of the political agenda driving NOAA statements. In June NASA/NOAA came out saying that May 2015 was the warmest May since 1880. SSRC says the statement is not true and that the satellite measurements for May 2015 show May as being in the normal range of temperature for the last ten years.

PROBLEMS WITH THE SOLUTIONS TO AGW

The proposed solution to AGW, according to the U.N. is to cut back human-caused emissions of CO₂. The goal appears to be to cut CO₂ emissions by 30% by year 2030. The Obama administration is using the Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) to aggressively pursue regulatory action to help reduce emissions. It was recently reported that the EPA has forced the 200th U.S. coal plant to shut down (Bastasch, 2015). EPA regulations and fines are making it much too expensive for coal plants to operate profitably, thereby causing them to slowly close.

Besides the immediate loss of jobs, when a plant shuts down, there is a huge ripple affect across the economy. To start, it impacts the ability of producers of electric power, to provide low-cost electricity because many of those producers use coal energy to generate electricity. The electricity producers are having to transition from low-cost coal to more expensive energy sources. This, in turn, drives up the cost of electric power for businesses and consumers. Home and business electric bills could easily double in the next few years. This additional cost will also affect the cost of consumer goods, such as groceries and other products as the cost of electricity is passed on in higher prices of those goods. This inflationary spiral will put a greater squeeze on the budgets of the middle class and the poor (Richard, 2015.)

Other EPA mandates could be on the horizon. Mandates in vehicle and other engine emissions could severely impact transportation throughout the country from the family car to the transportation of goods via truck and rail. Manufacturing emissions would need to be under greater control.

Conclusion

The debate over global warming and climate change is certainly not over and the science is not settled, and does not favor the AGW hypothesis. There is evidence that the earth has not warmed in 15 years or more, as confirmed by NASA/NOAA(2015). There is increasing evidence

that we may be heading into another mini ice age because the Sun is moving into its cyclic period of low solar activity (AOL.com, 2015). The polar ice caps are growing, not shrinking (Choy, 2013), and the polar bear population is thriving (Bastasch, 2015). There is no evidence of a positive link between increased CO₂ levels and climate change. As one will learn in any college course on research methods, correlation is not causation. If correlation does show causation then the increase in CO₂ would be caused by increased warming since the evidence shows that warming spikes preceded any rise in CO₂ (Bright-Paul, 2014). And, there is evidence of widespread tinkering or manipulation of data to insure that the studies showed global warming/climate change.

In the face of increasing and conflicting evidence, the question is why is the U.N., President Obama, the Pope, and other world leaders so set on spending billions of dollars to stop global warming/climate change instead of preparing their citizens for a coming ice age? Marc Morano, founder of Climate Depot offers the following insight:

“the “global warming” movement was never about the science behind the issue; it was always about creating a global system of controlling energy production and consumption.” (Unruh, 2015).

Morano went on to say:

“that’s why, despite the facts, America is on the verge of cap and trade, carbon taxes, renewable energy mandates and more. President Obama’s agenda on renewable energy has been aggressive, often times at the expense of the U.S. taxpayers. We’re being imposed the same regulations [as global warming legislation would] through the EPA. These regulations will be codified and solidified into law. The ultimate goal is centralized planning (Unruh, 2015).”

Morano’s statement is consistent with the statement made by Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the U.N.’s Framework Convention on Climate Change, when she said:

“this is the first time in the history of mankind that we are setting ourselves the task of intentionally, within a defined period of time, to change the economic development model that has been reigning for at least 150 years since the industrial revolution.” (Investor’s Business Daily, editorial, February 10, 2015).

If the AGW movement is more about the agenda than the science, that would explain the attempts to silence and marginalize the skeptics and “deniers,” because the skeptics could derail the agenda.

In a statement made at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, on 12/06/2006, Dr. David Deming, geophysicist with the University of Oklahoma, said the following:

“There is an overwhelming bias today in the media regarding the issue of global warming. In the past two years, this bias has bloomed into an irrational hysteria. Every natural disaster that occurs is now linked with global warming, no matter how tenuous or impossible the connection. As a result, the public has become vastly misinformed on this and other environmental issues.

Earth’s climate system is complex and poorly understood. But we do know that throughout human history, warmer temperatures have been associated with more stable climates and increased human health and prosperity. Colder temperatures have been correlated with climatic instability, famine, and increased human mortality.

The amount of climatic warming that has taken place in the past 150 years is poorly constrained, and its cause--human or natural--is unknown. There is no sound scientific basis for predicting future climate change with any degree of certainty. If the climate does warm, it is likely to be beneficial to humanity rather than harmful. In my opinion, it would be foolish to establish national energy policy on the basis of misinformation and irrational hysteria.” (Deming, D. 2006.)

Given the evidence that the AGW narrative may be inconsistent with known laws of science, and given that it may be an agenda driven narrative fraught with data manipulation, a good dose of skepticism is in order, especially when the proposed solutions to AGW could wreck many economies and put additional burdens on the poor.

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