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IS CO2 ACTUALLY FILTHY?

By Steve Bakke  January 28, 2019



A recent USA Today/News-Press editorial described a serious existential threat, the existence of atmospheric CO₂. “Air is filthy with CO₂.....” told the story as if the blanket of CO₂ around our globe has the human race in an evil stranglehold. “.....a pollutant that threatens the future of the planet.....wraps around the globe like a heat-trapping blanket.”

Can we find any redeeming features for this “grim reaper”? Consider:

- CO₂ is one greenhouse gas that provided the warm atmosphere necessary for life formation on our planet.
- CO₂ comprises only .041% of the atmosphere. Oxygen, nitrogen, argon, water vapor and methane make up most of the balance.
- Considering just greenhouse gases, water vapor ranges from being 25 to over 100 times more plentiful than CO₂, and is responsible for most of the greenhouse gas effect.
- The atmosphere is interconnected. Methane reacts with oxygen to produce CO₂ and water vapor. Photosynthesis, essential for most plants to exist, requires water and atmospheric CO₂ to interact, and this usually produces oxygen as a “waste” byproduct. Oxygen is essential for human life. On and on the cycle goes.

CO₂ isn't coal dust and traces of mercury. Let's not ignore the big picture as we reach for improvement.