

The Week That Was: 2014-07-05 (July 5, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *Details that could throw doubt on your interpretation must be given, if you know them. You must do the best you can — if you know anything at all wrong, or possibly wrong — to explain it.* Richard Feynman

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Number of the Week: Greater than 15, yet less than 1

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9th International Conference on Climate Change

July 7 – 9 -- Las Vegas, Nevada

Includes the Findings of the New Report by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) *Climate Change Reconsidered II*

<http://climateconference.heartland.org/>

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A message from S. Fred Singer, PhD
Chairman, Science & Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

We are excited to be once again co-sponsoring an International Conference on Climate Change. ICC-9 will be the ninth such assembly of nearly 1000 skeptics from all over the world. These climate realists do not doubt the existence of climate change itself, but are skeptical of the simple-minded proposal to stop the climate from changing -- or even to slow the process significantly -- by replacing coal and oil to generate electric power and run cars with expensive and intermittent wind and solar energy ...

Scientific data demonstrate convincingly that global temperatures have not risen for the past 15 or more years in spite of the measured ten percent rise in atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Yet politicians and many scientists influenced by politics continue to ignore the overwhelming importance of natural causes of global warming and cooling; they --and not skeptical scientists -- are the real deniers. The observed facts will always win out over artificial manmade theoretical models attempting to simulate the real climate on computers.

On behalf of the board of directors of SEPP, I congratulate The Heartland Institute for organizing ICC-9 and for its many important publications about climate change -- especially the series of reports "Climate Change Reconsidered" written by scientists of the Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), available at www.NIPCCreport.org. We also thank the Chinese Academy of Sciences for translating and publishing some of these reports.

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SEPP'S APRIL FOOLS AWARD

THE JACKSON

The nominations and voting has ended. The results will be announced at the conference of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness in July.

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THIS WEEK:

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

Temperature Tiff: The controversy in the climate blogs about the surface temperature record as reported by the US Historical Climatology Network (USHCN) in conjunction with the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) appears to be ending. The main issues include: data adjustments for missing data, the moving of recording stations, the disappearance of recording stations and did Tom Heller, who blogs under the name Steve Goddard, use inappropriate methodology to state that the historic record has been distorted and there has been no appreciable warming trend in the US surface record since the 1930s?

The motivations of the government professional who maintain the records should not be an issue. However, press releases claiming May 2014 is the hottest May ever since the record started in 1880, without explaining the lack of consistency in the record, is very much at issue. Anthony Watts (WUWT) explains his role in the controversy in a way that is worthy of emulation. Joe D'Aleo (ICECAP) discusses stations that are no longer reporting temperatures, but continue in the record with estimates, not measurements, of temperatures. D'Aleo calls these zombie stations. Paul Homewood (Not a Lot of People Know) reports on major adjustments, apparently unwarranted, to a station in Luling Texas. The net effect was a significant cooling of 1934 temperatures as compared with 2013.

All this brings into question the consistency of the US surface temperature record, which is considered among the best in the world. The controversy illustrates why the satellite record of atmospheric temperatures should be the standard for estimating temperature trends. The satellite record is far more comprehensive, it is reported by two independent groups, and is independently confirmed by weather balloon data. It is not sensitive to changes in land use, such as urbanization, and it is in the atmosphere where the greenhouse effect takes place.

To further complicate the issue, Anthony Watts reports that NOAA has quietly changed the hottest month on record for the US back to July 1936, from July 2012. See links under Measurement Issues – Surface Temperatures

Statistical Significance: In a related issue, Andrew Montford (Bishop Hill) states that: “*we are unable to demonstrate a statistically significant change in surface temperatures because of the difficulty in defining a statistical model that would describe the normal behaviour [British spelling] of surface temperatures, a claim that seems to have the support of the Met Office. I don't know of any other metric in which a statistically significant change has been demonstrated.*”

Montford explores the concept that the instrumental surface temperature record is too short to recognize if temperatures are out of the ordinary. The issue of statistical significance of the record depends upon a suitable statistical model of earth's natural temperature variations – something that has not been developed.

A proper statistically model may require temperature variation over the Holocene (about the past 11,700 years). If so, the entire global warming issue would be minimized. Geologists, and others, report that the temperature variation during the Holocene was greater than temperature variation since the Little Ice Age and that there were a number of periods warmer than today. Montford's assertion calls into question the numerous papers that calculate a statistical probability in order to claim current temperatures are unusual. See links under Questioning the Orthodoxy, Seeking a Common Ground, and Measurement Issues -- Statistics

Coral Reefs: Die-back of coral reefs have been called proof that human-caused (anthropogenic) global warming (AGW) is destructive to the environment. We now have three more reports demonstrating that human influence can be destructive, but it is not from a warming, whether or not a human cause can be established. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, released a study on coral reefs in the Caribbean, and found a more than 50% decline in the coral cover from 1970 to 2012. Further, it reported the reefs may disappear within the next 20 years. Alarmists emphasized the disappearance, but ignored the title of the report which emphasized the decline can be reversed, if proper steps are taken. The decline is principally attributed to an overfishing of parrotfish and sea urchins, which feed on algae. The decline in these animal populations has resulted in a growth in algae, which smothers the coral. Another contributing cause is coastal pollution.

In addressing global warming the report states: *“There is a weak but insignificant negative correlation between changes in coral cover and number of (DHWs) [degree heating weeks], regardless of whether the data were analyzed for each warming event or combined or whether we included all the localities or restricted to only localities that experienced at least 8 DHWs. Moreover, the greatest losses coral cover occurred of reef locations with less than 8 DHWs.”* (pp 18-19)

A paper reviewed by NIPCC found that coastal pollution, not temperatures, is causing a decline in the Great Barrier Reef off Australia. Another paper reviewed by NIPCC analyzed natural temperature variation from the El Niño Southern Oscillation and stated this may cause a change in composition of life on the coral reefs off Brazil, but reefs remain healthy. See links under Changing Seas and NIPCC Reports.

Earth Tremors: A flurry of newspaper and other reports occurred stating that hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for oil and gas is causing minor earthquakes in the US. These reports were not accurate. A study released in January by the US Geological Survey (USGS) attributed an increase in minor earthquakes in Oklahoma to the injection of waste water into rock formations. This is a separate issue from the processes used to extract oil and gas.

Disposal of water from geological formations has long been an issue for the oil and gas industry. Waste water from fracking adds to it. This is an issue properly addressed by local officials and the oil and gas industry. See links under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Climate-Smart Development? The World Bank and ClimateWorks [sic] Foundation published a joint report titled “Climate-Smart Development: Adding up the benefits of actions that help build prosperity, end poverty and combat climate change.” It contains some useful proposals, such developing of cleaner stoves in China. Such stoves would significant improve indoor air, and health, in many parts of the globe.

However, there are a number of questionable assertions in the report which give rise for concern. It uses the now trendy term “climate pollutants”, and includes carbon dioxide (CO₂). It lists methane, carbon black, atmospheric ozone, and some hydrofluorocarbons as “short-lived climate pollutants” and asserts these are responsible for 40% of the current warming (which is no longer occurring. The report references the 2012 World Bank report: “Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must Be Avoided.” The 2012 report uses the high end of the estimates of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes (IPCC) of warming from a doubling of atmospheric CO₂, or equivalent. As the disparity between temperature forecasts from the models and

atmospheric temperature observations increases, these high numbers are increasingly doubtful. Perhaps the new report will be a useful guide for improving the lives those in poverty, but, it is how programs are executed that is the deciding factor. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

Questionable Papers: The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published a paper of questionable value. It claimed that heat, not natural disasters, will force people to move. The conclusions were based on a study of moves by 7,000 households over a 15 year period – located in Indonesia. Indonesia straddles the equator with latitude ranging from about 10 degrees S to 5 degrees N. To make generalizations from this study is absurd.

Las Vegas, Nevada is the site of the Ninth International Conference on Climate Change. Census data shows its population grew from 165,000 in 1980 to 583,000 in 2010. The average July high temperature is about 106 deg F. No doubt, most people moved to Las Vegas from a cooler climate. Could it be claimed that heat causes people to move to warmer climates?

Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton University is a co-author of the paper. He is a major influence in the IPCC and in Princeton's climate model that does not accurately forecast temperatures. See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Past Famine: The National Science Foundation funded and published a paper on population changes in the US Southwest from 500 to about 1300. The population grew as farming, needing irrigation, grew. Then it crashed. This finding is not particularly new. Other research suggests that the population crash was the result of a major drought. Strangely, the article does not discuss the drought and is written in a way to imply overpopulation was the cause of the population crash.

What is particularly disturbing is that the article suggests modern civilization will soon suffer the consequences of overpopulation. It is the use of fossil fuels that has freed modern civilization from subsistence farming. A prolonged drought in modern countries may cause changes in food production, but it is doubtful if it would cause a population crash. The real fear is a major cooling period, which would limit production in upper latitudes, particularly the northern latitudes.

Number of the Week: Greater than 15, yet less than 1. The Congressional Budget Office produced a report with a stunning graph – “Projected Use of Cellulosic Biofuels, Compared With the Use Mandated by the Renewable Fuel Standard”. It shows that by 2022 the law mandates that about 15 billion gallons of cellulosic biofuels must be used. But, the Energy Information Administrates projects that less than 1 billion gallons will be produced. A Washington mandate is not sufficient to make something feasible. Is the next step to issue a mandate that wind power be reliable? See link under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy – Other.

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below, please see this week's TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. Climate of Conformity

One of our writers gets sacked for dissenting on global warming.
Editorial, WSJ, Jul 4, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/climate-of-conformity-1404509298?KEYWORDS=Climate+of+Conformity%3A+One+of+our+writers+gets+sacked+for+dissenting+on+global+warming>

2. Birth of a Climate Mafia

Why a green-pork blowout would do more harm than good.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Jul 1, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/holman-jenkins-birth-of-a-climate-mafia-1404254406?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj>

3. California's Cap-and-Trade Revolt

Liberal Democrats worry that carbon limits will hurt the poor.

Editorial, WSJ, Jul 1, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/californias-cap-and-trade-revolt-1403908359>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Award Winning Skeptics and the Ninth International Conference on Climate Change

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 3, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/07/award-winning-skeptics-and-the-ninth-international-conference-on-climate-change/#more-36826>

German Geologist: IPCC Models A Failure, “Have No Chance Of Success”...Sees Possible 0.2°C Of Cooling By 2020

Summary of Sebastian Lüning’s Presentation at the EIKE Conference

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 29, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/06/29/german-geologist-ipcc-models-a-failure-have-no-chance-of-success-sees-possible-0-2c-of-cooling-by-2020/>

IPCC Method Of Proving The “Human Caused Warming (AGW)” Hypothesis Forced Deliberate Creation of Misinformation

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Jun 30, 2014

<http://drtimball.com/2014/ipcc-method-of-proving-the-human-caused-warming-agw-hypothesis-forced-deliberate-creation-of-misinformation/>

Blinded by Beliefs: The Straight Poop on Emperor Penguins

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Jul 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/07/01/blinded-by-beliefs-the-straight-poop-on-emperor-penguins/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

To address climate change, nothing substitutes for reducing CO2 emissions

By Staff Writers, Chicago IL (SPX), Jul 01, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/To_address_climate_change_nothing_substitutes_for_reducing_CO2_emissions_999.html

[SEPP Comment: It would be interesting to ask the good professor what caused past warming periods.]

Problems with Risky Climate Projections

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Jul 3, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/07/problems_with_risky_climate_projections.html

Questioning the Orthodoxy

ROHRABACHER: Presidential snow job on global warming

A congressman sets the record straight

By Dana Rohrabacher, Washington Times, Jun 27, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/27/rohrabacher-presidential-snow-job-on-global-warmin/>

Apollo Astronaut: Climate Alarmism Is the ‘Biggest Fraud in the Field of Science’

97% Climate Consensus ‘Most Nonsensical, Stupid Number in the World’

By Craig Bannister, CNS,news, Jul 2, 2014

<http://cnsnews.com/mrctv-blog/craig-bannister/apollo-astronaut-climate-alarmism-biggest-fraud-field-science>

Climate change: The moment I became a climate skeptic

By Zev Chafets, Fox News, Jun 30, 2014 [H/t ACS]

http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/06/30/climate-change-moment-became-climate-skeptic/?cmpid=NL_morninghl

Today’s Climate Scandal

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Jul 4, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/07/todays-climate-scandal.php>

HARRIS: A climate of fear on global warming

Obama’s climate-change orthodoxy is discouraging scientific progress

By Tom Harris, Washington Times, Jun 30, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/30/harris-a-climate-of-fear/#comment-1462892301#ixzz36E64FBjD>

Leading German Daily: “Apocalypse Will Not Take Place”...Richard Tol: “97% Consensus Does Not Exist”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jul 3, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/07/03/leading-german-daily-apocalypse-will-not-take-place-richard-tol-97-consensus-does-not-exist/>

More People Means More Plant Growth

By Kathryn Hansen, Washington DC (SPX), Jul 03, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/More_People_Means_More_Plant_Growth_999.html

The debate at the FST

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jul 2, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/7/2/the-debate-at-the-fst.html>

Link to report: What is the right level of response to anthropogenic induced climate change?

By Mark Walport, et al., Foundation for Science and Technology, Jun 16, 2014

<http://www.foundation.org.uk/>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Effects of Increased CO₂ on Herbaceous Plant Pests

By Staff Writers, CO₂ Science and SPPI, Jul 2, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/effects_of_increased_c02_on_herbaceous_plant_pests.html

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Data Deleted From UN Climate Report Highlight Controversies

New papers debate limitations in international agreements

By Brian Howard, National Geographic, Jul 3, 2014

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/07/140703-ipcc-climate-report-deleted-data-global-warming-science/>

Link to paper: IPCC lessons from Berlin (\$\$\$)

By Brad Wible, Science, Jul 4, 2014

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/345/6192/34.1.summary>

CORRECTED-Australia sees limited G20 appetite on new climate change steps

By Randall Palmer, Reuters, Jul 2, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/03/australia-g20-climatechange-idUSL2N0PE00520140703>

India to strengthen climate change negotiation team

By Staff Writers, Times of India, Jun 30, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/India-to-strengthen-climate-change-negotiation-team/articleshow/37533640.cms>

Act Locally, Wish Globally

Proposed carbon-emission cuts would hobble the U.S. economy but do nothing for global levels.

By Kevin D. Williamson, National Review Online, Jun 23, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/381014/act-locally-wish-globally-kevin-d-williamson>

Leading insurer to close its climate change office, leaving the industry 'mute'

By Evan Lehmann, E&E, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060002064>

Zurich Insurance Group is closing its U.S. climate change office six years after opening it to help persuade companies to press public officials for solutions to climbing disaster losses, according to several sources.

Zurich's decision comes amid a flush of visibility for the office and its director, Lindene Patton, who in recent months helped write the National Climate Assessment, testified before a Senate panel and spoke at the White House.

[SEPP Comment: The US National Climate Assessment is an alarmist document that fails to give solid evidence supporting its claims. It does not even distinguish between natural and human causes.]

Seeking a Common Ground

Where there is harmony, let us create discord

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jul 3, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/7/3/where-there-is-harmony-let-us-create-discord.html>

Overconfident predictions risk damaging trust in climate science, prominent scientists warn

By Roz Pidcock, Carbon Brief, Jul 2, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/07/overconfident-predictions-risk-damaging-trust-in-climate-science,-prominent-scientists-warn/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=1604b2d85c-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+18+7+137+18+2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-1604b2d85c-215218249

Link to paper: Uncertainties in the timing of unprecedented climates

By Hawkins, et al, Nature, Jul 3, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v511/n7507/full/nature13523.html>

Overconfidence(?)

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jul 2, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/07/02/overconfidence/>

Yet not once has overconfidence by actual scientists been demonstrated. You just keep making that up. – Chris Colose

[SEPP Comment: Colose's statement is demolished!]

Consensus angst

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jun 30, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/06/30/consensus-angst/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Modelling Drought Throughout the World

Reference: Trenberth, K.E., Dai, A., van der Schrier, G., Jones, P.D., Barichivich, J., Briffa, K.R. and Sheffield, J. 2014. Global warming and changes in drought. *Nature Climate Change* 4: 17-22.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jul/1jul2014a2.html>

Trenberth et al. ultimately conclude "it is probably not possible to determine reliable decadal and longer-term trends in drought due to climate change without first accounting for the effects of ENSO and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation," the former of which phenomena they describe as "the most common source of episodic droughts around the world." Thus, it would appear there are still numerous significant problems that need to be resolved before the desired results can be obtained. And until this occurs, drought predictions should be looked at with a very jaundiced eye.

What Is the Greatest Threat to Australia's Great Barrier Reef?

Reference: Bell, P.R.F., Elmetri, I. and Lapointe, B.E. 2014. Evidence of large-scale chronic eutrophication in the Great Barrier Reef: Quantification of chlorophyll a thresholds for sustaining coral reef communities. *Ambio* 43: 361-376.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jul/1jul2014a3.html>

Responses of Emergent Intertidal Coral Reefs to a Strong El-Niño

Reference: Kelmo, F., Bell, J.J., Moraes, S.S., Gomes, R.C.T., Mariano-Neto, E. and Attrill, M.J. 2014. Differential responses of emergent intertidal coral reef fauna to a large-scale El-Niño Southern Oscillation Event: Sponge and coral resilience. *PLOS ONE* 9: e93209.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jul/2jul2014a2.html>

The Upside of a CO₂-Induced Decrease in Plant Nutritive Value

Reference: Yin, J., Sun, Y. and Ge, F. 2014. Reduced plant nutrition under elevated CO₂ depresses the immunocompetence of cotton bollworm against its endoparasite. *Scientific Reports* 14: 10.1038/srep04538.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jul/2jul2014a3.html>

Models v. Observations

Models and Temperatures.

By Anthony Cox, ACS, Jul 1, 2014

<http://thelimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/07/models-and-temperatures.html>

Measurement Issues – Carbon Dioxide

NASA carbon observatory finally reaches space: Let the CO2 hunt begin!

By Deborah, LA Times, Jul 2, 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-nasa-carbon-mapping-satellite-20140702-story.html>

NASA satellite to inventory climate-changing carbon from space

By Irene Klotz, Reuters, Jun 29, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/29/us-space-climate-idUSKBN0F40XL20140629?feedType=RSS&feedName=scienceNews&rpc=76>

NASA launches carbon-tracking satellite

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), July 02, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/NASA_launches_carbon-tracking_satellite_999.html

Measurement Issues – Surface Temperatures

The data games - the transition from real data to model/data hybrids

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jul 2, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/the_data_games_the_transition_from_real_data_to_model_data_hybrids2/

The scientific method is at work on the USHCN temperature data set

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 28, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/28/the-scientific-method-is-at-work-on-the-ushcn-temperature-data-set/>

Did Federal Climate Scientists Fudge Temperature Data to Make It Warmer?

Practicing the Dark Art of Trend Adjustment

By Ronald Bailey, Reason.com, Jul 3, 2014

<http://reason.com/archives/2014/07/03/did-federal-climate-scientists-fudge-tem>

Laying the Points Out

By Brandon Shollenberger, IZURU, Jul 2, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://hiizuru.wordpress.com/2014/07/02/laying-the-points-out/>

NOAA's temperature control knob for the past, the present, and maybe the future – July 1936 now hottest month again

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 29, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/29/noaas-temperature-control-knob-for-the-past-the-present-and-maybe-the-future-july-1936-now-hottest-month-again/>

Massive Temperature Adjustments At Luling, Texas

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jun 26, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/06/26/massive-temperature-adjustments-at-luling-texas/>

More NASA GISS temperature tampering, this time in Iceland & surrounding subarctic

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Jun 30, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/06/more-nasa-giss-temperature-tampering.html>

NASA's Arctic Fudge Factory: "More Than Half" Of Claimed Arctic Warming Stems From "Data Adjustments"

Is GISS Also Cheating in the Arctic?

By Ed Caryl, No Tricks Zone, Jul 1, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/07/01/nasas-arctic-fudge-factory-more-than-half-of-claimed-arctic-warming-stems-from-data-adjustments/>

NOAA Reinstates July 1936 As The Hottest Month On Record

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jun 30, 2014 [H/t Deke Forbes]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/30/noaa-quietly-reinstates-july-1936-as-the-hottest-month-on-record/#ixzz36DOGq0II>

Measurement Issues -- Statistics

Lessons from the shop floor

By John Shade, Bishop Hill, Jul 4, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/7/4/lessons-from-the-shop-floor.html>

Changing Weather

Spiegel: Europe's "Gigantic Catastrophe" Happened in 1540 (When CO2 Was 30% Less Than Today!)

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jul 2, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/07/02/spiegel-europes-gigantic-catastrophe-happened-in-1540-when-co2-was-30-less-than-today/>

Link to paper: The year-long unprecedented European heat and drought of 1540 – a worst case

By Wetter, et al., Climate Change, June 2014

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-014-1184-2>

Should We Expect Fewer Hurricanes in the Near Future?

By Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, Jul 3, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/should-we-expect-fewer-hurricanes-near-future>

Climate Change 'Experts' Didn't See This Coming: Rising Water Levels In The Great Lakes

By Hannah Bleau, Daily Caller, Jul 2, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/02/climate-change-experts-didnt-see-this-coming-rising-water-levels-in-the-great-lakes/>

Lake Superior Water Level Sees Fastest Rise in 98 Years

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jun 30, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/06/lake-superior-water-level-sees-fastest-rise-in-98-years/>

El Nino intensity cannot be known beyond two months, says research body

By Alicia Villegas, Undercurrentnews, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2014/06/27/el-nino-intensity-cannot-be-known-beyond-two-months-says-research-body/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=el-nino-intensity-cannot-be-known-beyond-two-months-says-research-body

Eight Misconceptions About El Niño (and La Niña)

By Francesco Fiondella, International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Jun 30, 2014 [H/t Bob Tisdale WUWT]

<http://iri.columbia.edu/news/eight-misconceptions-about-el-nino/>

Is An El Nino Impeding Indian Monsoon Progress At Present?

Madhav Khandekar, The Global Warming Policy Foundation, Jun 7, 2014

<http://www.thegwgf.org/is-an-el-nino-impeding-indian-monsoon-progress-at-present/>

Changing Seas

From despair to repair: Dramatic decline of Caribbean corals can be reversed

Press Release:, IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Jul 2, 2014

<http://www.iucn.org/?16056/From-despair-to-repair-Dramatic-decline-of-Caribbean-corals-can-be-reversed>

Link to report: Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs; 1970-2012

By Jackson, et al, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, No Date

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/caribbean_coral_reefs_status_report_1970_2012.pdf

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Antarctica sets new record for sea ice

By Harold Ambler, Talking About The Weather, Jun 29, 2014

<http://talkingabouttheweather.wordpress.com/2014/06/29/antarctica-sets-new-record-for-sea-ice/>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

GM crops are good for the environment

Fighting pests with genes is better than fighting them with sprays

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Jul 2, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/gm-crops-are-good-for-the-environment.aspx>

And it's gambling with charitable donations! It [Greenpeace] makes Goldman Sachs look like the Angel Gabriel.

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Claim: Putting a price tag on the 2°C climate target no more expensive than fossil fuels

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/07/03/claim-putting-a-price-tag-on-the-2c-climate-target-no-more-expensive-than-fossil-fuels/>

Link to paper: Energy Investments Under Climate Policy; A Comparison of Global Models

By McCollum, et al., Climate Change Economics, Jun 4, 2014

<http://www.worldscientific.com/doi/abs/10.1142/S2010007813400101>

[SEPP Comment: The models used. Integrated Assessment Models (IAM), are based on climate models, which have not been validated. Climate models are forecasting far greater warming than observations show. The results of the IAM models can be no more reliable than the results of the climate models.]

Lowering Standards

Isn't it annoying when the inevitable happens

By John Brignell, Number Watch, June 2014 (under title Number of the Month)

<http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014%20June.htm>

The BBC and its scientists

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jul 4, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/7/4/the-bbc-and-its-scientists.html>

The BBC's reeducation programme

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jul 4, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/7/4/the-bbcs-reeducation-programme.html>

BBC spends £500k to ask 33,000 Asians 5,000 miles from UK what they think of climate change: Corporation savaged for 'astonishing' campaign survey on global warming

By David Rose, Mail, UK, Jun 28, 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2673654/BBC-spends-500k-ask-33-000-Asians-5-000-miles-UK-think-climate-change-Corporation-savaged-astonishing-campaign-survey-global-warming.html>

Hoskins vs Lawson: The Climate Debate The BBC Wants To Censor

BBC Transcript by Staff Writers, GWPF, Jun 29, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/hoskins-vs-lawson-the-climate-debate-the-bbc-wants-to-censor/>

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

Clive Palmer and Al Gore become convenient allies

By Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, AU, Jun 30, 2014

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/clive-palmer-and-al-gore-become-convenient-allies/story-fni0ffxg-1226971201707?nk=78608661de70bc139fdd5273dcafe968>

Polar Bear Specialist Group just had another secret meeting

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Jul 1, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/07/01/polar-bear-specialist-group-just-had-another-secret-meeting/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

With climate change, heat more than natural disasters will drive people away

By Staff Writers, Princeton NJ (SPX), Jul 03, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

http://www.terraily.com/reports/With_climate_change_heat_more_than_natural_disasters_will_drive_people_away_999.html

Link to paper: Nonlinear permanent migration response to climatic variations but minimal response to disasters

By Pratikshya Bohra-Mishraa, Michael Oppenheimer and Solomon M. Hsiangc, PNAS, Jun 23, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/06/18/1317166111>

Emperor Penguins In Peril From Computer Models

By Thomas Richard, Climate Change Dispatch, Jul 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.climatechangedispatch.com/emperor-penguins-in-peril-from-computer-models.html>

Link to paper: Projected continent-wide declines of the emperor penguin under climate change
By Jenouvrier, et al., Nature Climate Change, Jun 29, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2280.html>

[SEPP Comment: We do not know what will happen, but it all will be bad for the penguin.]

“Global Warming, the Movie” Starring: Freezing

By Robert Tracinski, Federalist, Jul 1, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://thefederalist.com/2014/07/01/global-warming-the-movie-starring-freezing/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Climate Smart Development

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jul 4, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/07/04/climate-smart-development/#more-16021>

Link to report: Climate-Smart Development: Adding up the benefits of actions that help build prosperity, end poverty and combat climate change

By Akbar, et al., ClimateWorks Foundation and World Bank, No Date

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2014/06/20/000456286_20140620100846/Rendered/PDF/889080WP0v10RE0Smart0Development0Ma.pdf

Questioning European Green

Green energy cost hits record high as expensive turbines built at sea

Annual bill for consumers to subsidise renewable technologies has soared to more than £2.5bn as more plants are built and the cost for each unit of electricity rises

By Emily Gosden and James Kirkup, Telegraph, UK, Jun 28, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/10931986/Green-energy-cost-hits-record-high-as-expensive-turbines-built-at-sea.html>

Green energy budget faces squeeze as power prices forecast to stay flat this decade

Ratings agency Moody's becomes the latest expert voice to question the Government's forecast of rising power prices

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jul 2, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10942168/Green-energy-budget-faces-squeeze-as-power-prices-forecast-to-stay-flat-this-decade.html>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Cost of ‘green’ initiatives is U.S. security

Inhofe: President values climate over military readiness

By Kelly Riddell, Washington Times, Jun 29, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/29/gop-cost-of-green-initiatives-is-us-security/#ixzz36DQEHhY4>

Abbott slams green power industry

By Phillip Coorey and Jacor Greber, Australian Financial Review, Jul 2, 2014

http://www.afr.com/p/national/abbott_slams_green_power_industry_nvaXoRjQCIZARcNBxBxKfO

Green Jobs

Tesla Enthusiasm for Battery Swap Wanes After Subsidies Disappear

By Paul Chesser, NLPC, Jun 30, 2014

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2014/06/30/tesla-enthusiasm-battery-swap-wanes-after-subsidies-disappear>

Non-Green Jobs

Shale-Rich Texas Set to Overtake Opec Major Iraq in Oil Production

By Jerin Mathew, International Business Times, Jul 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/texas-shale-boom-trump-iraqs-opec-status-1455015>

U.S. Fracking Has 'Cut Carbon More Than The Whole World's Wind And Solar'

By Staff Writers, Oil and Gas Online, Jun 30, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.oilandgasonline.com/doc/u-s-fracking-has-carbon-more-whole-world-s-wind-solar-0001>

[SEPP Comment: By cutting CO2, could fracking be considered a green industry?]

Funding Issues

Paris pact hinges on successful \$100 bn Green Climate Fund: Javadekar to French minister

Tells the Green Funds should be used to buy out IPRs of clean technologies to distribute to poor countries

By Nitin Sethi, Business Standard (India), Jul 2, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/paris-pact-hinges-on-successful-100-bn-green-climate-fund-javedakar-to-french-minister-114070200118_1.html

The Political Games Continue

Energy Preferences to Play Big Role in November

By Joel Kotkin, His Blog, Jun 30, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.joelkotkin.com/content/00925-energy-preferences-play-big-role-november>

The Epic Hypocrisy of Tom Steyer, NY Times Edition

By Scott Johnson, Power Line, Jul 5, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/07/the-epic-hypocrisy-of-tom-steyer-ny-times-edition.php>

Litigation Issues

EDITORIAL: Rigged 'science'

The Supreme Court swallows faked global warming data

Editorial, The Washington Times, Jun 23, 2014 [H/t William Readdy]

<http://p.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jun/23/editorial-rigged-science/>

Nine states join lawsuit against EPA climate rule

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jul 1, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/211124-nine-states-join-lawsuit-against-epa-climate-rule>

EPA chief: Bring on the climate fight

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jul 3, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/211302-epa-chief-bring-on-the-climate-fight>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

The Carbon Regulation Bubble

Hank Paulson endorses a carbon tax. But is he right this time?

Editorial, WSJ, Via Hockey Schtick, Jun 29, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/06/wsj-hank-paulsons-carbon-tax-regulation.html>

[SEPP Comment: Sub-prime science is no better than sub-prime finance.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

What happens when the money runs out?

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, Jul 4, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/what-happens-when-money-runs-out>

Consumer energy bills to rise to keep power plants open

Households will fund retainer payments to keep more than 53GW of power stations ready to fire up when needed

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jun 30, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10936948/Consumer-energy-bills-to-rise-to-keep-power-plants-open.html>

“insurance premium against the risk of blackouts”.

Households face paying too much for offshore wind farms

National Audit Office criticises Government for handing out £16.6bn worth of green energy subsidies without competition to push down prices

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10929025/Households-face-paying-too-much-for-offshore-wind-farms.html>

EU Court Ends Salmond’s Hopes For Green Subsidies

By Peter Jones, The Times, Via GWPF, Jul 4, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/eu-court-ends-salmonds-hopes-for-green-subsidies/>

German MPs adopt cuts for green energy subsidies

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jun 27, 2014

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/German_MPs_adopt_cuts_for_green_energy_subsidies_999.html

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Breaking EPA’s Climate Science Secrecy Barrier

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, Jul 1, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2014/07/01/breaking-epas-climate-science-secrecy-barrier-n1857403/page/full>

EPA Harasses Americans

By Robert Gordon, The Daily Signal, Jul 3, 2014 [H/t Roy Spencer]

<http://dailysignal.com/2014/07/03/epa-harasses-americans/>

[SEPP Comment: Demanding the power to garnish wages of non-federal workers, without court approval, for the EPA to levee questionable fines against citizens who have modified the property they own.]

FOIA Request Aims To Revive Fight On Validity Of EPA Climate Risk Finding

By Stuart Parker, Inside Defense, Jun 30 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://insidedefense.com/pdf/201406302475634/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/foia-suit-aims-to- revive-fight-over-validity-of-epa-climate-risk-finding/menu-id-1.pdf>

How the EPA's empire-building got in the way of its science

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Jul 1, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/how-the-epas-empire-building-got-in-the-way-of-its-science/article/2550395?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2007/02/14&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington+Examiner+-+Opinion+Digest+Reoccurring

Bush Agencies Got It Right on EPA

By Larry Bell, NEWSMAX, Jun 30, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Bush-EPA-Climate-change/2014/06/30/id/580070/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Powering the Fight Against Poverty

By Bill Gates, Gates Notes, Jun 25, 2014

<http://www.gatesnotes.com/Energy/Powering-the-Fight-Against-Poverty>

[SEPP Comment: Disagree with the statement “While there is some uncertainty about the exact impact [of increasing atmospheric CO2], there is nearly universal scientific agreement that these effects will be bad.”]

As Poor Nations Grow, Carbon Emissions Rise

By Jack Dini, Canada Free Press, Jul 2, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/64273>

Two Videos That Illuminate Energy Poverty

By Bill Gates, Gates Notes, Jun 25, 2014

<http://www.gatesnotes.com/Energy/Two-Videos-Illuminate-Energy-Poverty-Bjorn-Lomborg>

Winter Is Coming

Europe's Energy Future Looks Bleak

By Walter Russell Mead & Staff, American Interest, Jul 1, 2014

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/blog/2014/07/01/europes-energy-future-looks-bleak/>

Book: Fracking Means Freedom From Russia, OPEC

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jun 30, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/30/book-fracking-means-freedom-from-russia-opec/>

Russia's secret weapons in the energy war

By Vivienne Walt, Fortune, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://fortune.com/2014/06/27/russias-secret-energy-war/>

Would Russia Kill European Fracking to Protect Gazprom?

By Reuben Brewer, The Motley Fool, Jul 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2014/07/04/would-russia-kill-european-fracking-to-protect-gaz.aspx>

Energy Issues -- US

Energy Efficiency Mirage

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jul 4, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/07/04/energy-efficiency-mirage/>

Washington's Control of Energy

Message to the President: data shows 'CO2 Reduction is Futile'

By Ed Hoskins, WUWT, Jul 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/07/04/message-to-the-president-data-shows-co2-reduction-is-futile/>

Obama pleas to China, India to forgo use of coal falls on deaf ears

Far East shuns renewables for cheap energy

By Ben Wolfgang, Washington Times, Jul 3, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jul/3/obama-pleas-to-china-india-to-forgo-use-of-coal-fa/>

Obama Continues his Attack on U.S. Energy

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Jun 30, 2014

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2014/06/obama-continues-his-attack-on-us-energy.html>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Fracking Benefits America

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jul 1, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/07/01/fracking-benefits-america/>

'Small number' of gas drilling wells shaking up Okla., study says

By Javier David, CNBC, Jul 3, 2014

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101811538>

Link to report: Man-Made Earthquakes Update

By Ellsworth et al., USGS, Jan 17, 2014

http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/man-made-earthquakes/

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

As Wind Farm Gets Permit to Kill Eagles, AP's Scott Smith Claims Wind Energy Has 'Exploded' Under Obama

By Tom Blumer, Newsbusters, Jun 28, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/tom-blumer/2014/06/28/wind-farm-gets-permit-kill-eagles-aps-scott-smith-claims-wind-energy-has>

Obama grants wind industry permit to kill eagles, ruffling more than feathers

By Valerie Richardson, The Washington Times, Jul 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jul/2/california-grants-wind-industry-permit-to-kills-ea/>

Renewable energy investments to surge globally by 2030

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jul 1, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/211095-renewable-energy-investments-to-surge-globally-by-2030>

[SEPP Comment: Doubtful! Unable to find report.]

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

The Renewable Fuel Standard: Issues for 2014 and Beyond

By Staff writers, CBO, Jun 26, 2014

http://www.cbo.gov/publication/45477?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_content=812526&utm_campaign=0

This Standard Is One Reason the Price of Gas Will Increase

By David Kreutzer, Daily Signal, Jun 30, 2014

<http://dailysignal.com/2014/06/30/standard-one-reason-price-gas-will-increase/>

EPA's ethanol mandate for 2014 behind schedule

By Christopher Doering, Des Moines Register, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t Deke Forbes]

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/06/27/epa-ethanol-mandate-weeks-away-gas-supply-congress-renewable-fuel-standard/11447021/>

Environmental Industry

Greenpeace Loses Credibility In The Wake Of Huge Scandals

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/27/greenpeace-loses-credibility-in-the-wake-of-huge-scandals/>

League of Conservation Voters brings in climate muscle

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jul 3, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/211261-league-of-conservation-voters-brings-in-climate-muscle>

Other Scientific News

Hearing danger: predator vibrations trigger plant chemical defenses

By Roger Meissn., Univ of Missouri, Jul 2, 2014

<http://decodingscience.missouri.edu/2014/07/hearing-danger-appel-cocroft/>

Other News that May Be of Interest

Second coming of Nigel Lawson: The former Chancellor on fracking, global warming and why David Cameron has blown it in Europe

Three decades after his glory years as Margaret Thatcher’s longest-serving Chancellor, the irrepressible Lord Lawson is revelling in his political twilight

By Jane Merrick, Independent, UK, Jun 29, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/profiles/second-coming-of-nigel-lawson-the-former-chancellor-on-fracking-global-warming-and-why-david-cameron-has-blown-it-in-europe-9563360.html>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate change could stop fish finding their friends

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 3, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/07/climate-change-could-stop-fish-finding-their-friends/#more-36818>

Kudzu can release soil carbon, accelerate global warming

By Staff Writers, Clemson SC (SPX), Jul 03, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Kudzu_can_release_soil_carbon_accelerate_global_warming_99.html

Scientists chart a baby boom--in southwestern Native Americans from 500 to 1300 A.D. Southwest U.S. experience holds lesson in over-population

By Staff Writers, NSF, Jun 30, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=131869&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

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ARTICLES:

1. Climate of Conformity

One of our writers gets sacked for dissenting on global warming.

Editorial, WSJ, Jul 4, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/climate-of-conformity-1404509298?KEYWORDS=Climate+of+Conformity%3A+One+of+our+writers+gets+sacked+for+dissenting+on+global+warming>

As loyal left-wingers go, Caleb Rossiter is a trouper. He's supported every left of center cause going back to the Cold War, but lately he's become a partial dissenter against the new religion of climate change. And now he's been put out in the cold.

The Institute for Policy Studies terminated Mr. Rossiter's fellowship two days after he wrote a May 5 op-ed for these pages. Mr. Rossiter, who is also an American University adjunct professor of math and statistics, argued that the computer modeling used to support claims that the earth is headed for a climate catastrophe is far from definitive. But more important from a moral point of view, he wrote that limiting fossil fuels would make it harder for Africa to escape poverty.

In a May 7 email, IPS Director John Cavanagh and Foreign Policy in Focus co-director Emira Woods informed Mr. Rossiter that, "Unfortunately, we now feel that your views on key issues, including climate science, climate justice, and many aspects of U.S. policy to Africa, diverge so significantly from ours that a productive working relationship is untenable."

So after a 23-year association, Mr. Rossiter got the boot. Some readers may recall IPS as a stalwart opponent of U.S. policy during the long twilight struggle with the Soviet Union. Mr. Rossiter says he agrees with the institute on almost everything and calls it "the only anti-imperialist think tank in D.C."

Mr. Cavanagh says the termination was "a respect issue": Mr. Rossiter "didn't reach out to the people who work on those issues and he implied in the piece that if you didn't agree with him you wanted Africans to be without electricity in the dark. That's not our position."

Mr. Rossiter says his support for fossil fuels for Africa was well known at IPS even before his fellowship began. There is a "right to development," he told us, and when the developed world is "denying, even to South Africa which is a democratic government, that right, it strikes me as cultural imperialism." He says his "biggest problem" with climate-change theory "is with the certainty that people express. For years I have tried to get people at IPS to come to my classes where I teach statistics. I think they don't come because they think it lends credence to the other side if you debate the topic."

When Mr. Rossiter pushed for a climate debate this spring, Mr. Cavanagh replied in an email: "My opposition to a future based on fossil fuels goes way beyond the math. It is rooted in one of Emira's arguments, that as long as we're dependent on fossil fuels, we'll keep building bases in other countries to grab their oil. And, I'm watching what fossil fuel extraction has meant to indigenous peoples, to the people of Alberta."

He's referring to the oppressed self-governing people of Alberta, Canada.

Think tanks can support whoever they want, though we thought they were supposed to let people "think." Mr. Rossiter's fate is further evidence of the left's climate of intellectual conformity. If you disagree with the orthodoxy on climate change, you aren't merely wrong, you must be banished from public debate.

2. Birth of a Climate Mafia

Why a green-pork blowout would do more harm than good.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Jul 1, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/holman-jenkins-birth-of-a-climate-mafia-1404254406?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj>

Can something good come from a U.S. splurge of climate pork that, in itself, would have no discernible effect on global climate or atmospheric carbon dioxide?

A probable answer is no. It would actually end up making our putative carbon challenge worse.

But Paul Krugman and others say a carbon tax is politically impossible, and that we should settle for President Obama's "second-best" approach. The problem with subsidies and mandates is that they create vested interests in inefficient renewable energy. Warren Buffett already is collecting millions for what he admits is hopelessly cost-ineffective solar energy in California. State mandates for renewables favor in-state providers, discouraging competition that would lower costs.

Lobbies that form around such favors are quietly unfriendly to interstate power lines that would force expensive local energy to compete with cheaper renewables elsewhere. In Germany, where vast subsidies flow to wind and solar, coal has become the fuel of choice for utilities struggling to provide backup power. Result: German carbon-dioxide output is growing not shrinking.

Most glaring is the renewable lobby's opposition to fracking—never mind that fracking, by displacing coal, has done more to reduce carbon output than renewables have. As for cap-and-trade, check out the Senate testimony two weeks ago by Joseph Mason, of LSU and the Wharton School, on how easily such schemes have succumbed to fraud and corruption.

A straight-up, revenue-neutral carbon tax clearly is our first-best policy, rewarding an infinite and unpredictable variety of innovations by which humans would satisfy their energy needs while releasing less carbon into the atmosphere.

Failing that, our second-best policy might well be to do nothing, skip the green pork bonanza, and hope that new energy technologies emerge out of the already-ample natural incentives to do so. Why? One thing that can be safely predicted is that renewable energy that becomes addicted to

subsidies in order to survive will not meaningfully replace fossil energy that remains cheaper in real terms.

Now the new entrants in the climate policy derby: Robert Rubin and Henry Paulson. Impressive is the fanfare greeting the former Treasury secretaries and their splashy, economically focused climate lobby, the "Risky Business Project." Unfortunately, they trod a well-worn path by trying to scare the American people into compliance.

Their emphasis on "extreme weather" is an especially tired piece of foolishness. Whatever the human impact on climate, the overwhelming reason storms are becoming more destructive is the simple fact that more people and property stand in their way.

Their unnaturally specific forecasts of rising sea levels and heat waves are based on the same speculative climate models that do such a poor job of explaining even the present and recent past—and whose limits the report doesn't even mention in a footnote. The principals clearly want their assertions about the future to be taken as facts, not as extrapolations from simulations whose credibility they are wholly unprepared to defend.

Their assertion that the U.S. can shame China and India into giving up carbon energy is no more plausible in their mouths than in anybody else's. But Mr. Paulson's policy heart is in the right place—a carbon tax. He has explicitly rejected the climate cronyism of the Krugman-Obama school.

Sadly he and the passel of worthies behind his group (including Michael Bloomberg and hedge-fund impresario Tom Steyer) colossally fumble their 15 minutes by adopting the hectoring, frighten-the-public approach that Al Gore, Bill McKibben and James Hansen have so reliably demonstrated leads nowhere, produces no results and ultimately discredits the cause.

They should have focused on tax reform first—on hope, growth and opportunity. Tax reform already has quietly been climbing the nation's agenda—even President Obama has paid lip service. A tax reform that restored dynamism to the U.S. economy is an example that other countries could adopt out of self-interest, not because they are shamed into doing so by the overpowering moral gigantism of Al Gore. The one impeccable finding of climate science is a 40% increase in atmospheric carbon, even if our ability to detect its impact on climate is hampered by extraordinarily noisy weather data and the inadequacies of climate modeling. That increase in atmospheric carbon is reason enough many voters might accept a modest carbon tax that would be offset by reduced payroll and income taxes. And if a technologically superior answer to our energy needs is in the cards, tax reform is a better way to help elicit it than anything else government might do.

By the way, if we had to bet, our bet (not preference) would be that humanity will not organize a coherent and meaningful carbon policy. The worst-case climate scenarios will prove overdrawn. Fossil energy will be outmoded over some period by cheaper alternatives. To boot, the world will discover that climate change is not the greatest challenge facing it after all.

3. California's Cap-and-Trade Revolt

Liberal Democrats worry that carbon limits will hurt the poor.

Editorial, WSJ, Jul 1, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/californias-cap-and-trade-revolt-1403908359>

President Obama has mocked Republicans who oppose his climate agenda as flat-earthers. Perhaps he'll be more charitable to Democrats who are protesting California's cap-and-trade program as an undue burden on the poor.

Last week 16 Democratic Assembly Members—about 30% of their caucus—signed a letter urging California Air Resources Board chairwoman Mary Nichols to delay or redesign the state's cap-and-trade program. "We are concerned about the impact of the AB 32 cap-and-trade program on our constituents," they write, adding that "many of the areas we represent are still struggling with double digit unemployment."

Large manufacturers and power plants must now either purchase permits or cut their emissions to comply with a state-mandated cap, which over time will be ratcheted down. Starting next year, transportation fuel suppliers will also have to pony up for permits.

Assembly Democrats fear that applying cap and trade to fuels "will cause an immediate jump in prices at the pump." While estimates vary, "an increase of about fifteen cents per gallon is likely and a much larger jump is possible." Senate President Darrell Steinberg has warned that gas prices could shoot up by 40 cents per gallon..

California's gas prices, which typically run 40 to 50 cents above the national average, are already the highest in the continental U.S. due to the state's fuel blending requirements and taxes—which also top the other 49 states. The Boston Consulting Group predicted in 2012 that cap and trade and the state's carbon fuel standard would drive up gas prices between \$0.49 and \$1.83 per gallon by 2020. These green regulations are intended to raise the cost of gas to encourage people to drive less or buy electric cars.

But as the Assembly Democrats point out, cap and trade is "hurting the most vulnerable members of our communities." Most of the letter's 16 signatories represent heavily minority and low-income regions in Los Angeles, the Central Valley and Inland Empire. Nine are black or Latino.

As they explain, cap and trade's carbon permitting "was not intended to be a funding mechanism for massive, new State efforts at GHG [greenhouse gas] reductions." They don't identify any programs by name, but this year's budget appropriates \$250 million of the proceeds from carbon permit auctions, and 25% of all future revenues, for high-speed rail. The state budget analyst predicts the auctions will raise between \$12 billion and \$45 billion in revenue by 2020.

These Democrats are now echoing an argument that the California Chamber of Commerce makes in its lawsuit against the state's Air Resources Board. To wit, cap-and-trade revenues constitute an illegal tax.

It's nice to see some California liberals place the interest of their poor constituents over the party's rich, Tesla-driving friends. If only Governor Jerry Brown and President Obama would do the same.

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