

Public Comment :

As most of you know, the vast majority of climate scientists acknowledge that Man's fossil carbon emissions, in the form of CO₂, are increasing the planet's temperature, and that it will take about a thousand years after we stop burning Fossil fuels for the temperatures to drop. Many negative consequences of fossil CO₂ emissions are already unavoidable. Individuals and governments at all levels must act quickly and decisively to keep the damage from becoming even worse. We have to make this a top priority, and we must attack it with all the moral, political, and economic strength we can muster.

Four previous studies, searching published peer reviewed scientific articles over the last 20 years, have found that over 97% of climate scientists that expressed an opinion, agreed about AGW (anthropogenic global warming). Global warming is happening, and we are the cause.

Dr James Powell went through almost 14,000 abstracts covering 20 years, and found only 24 that disagree with the prevailing theory. He recently repeated that search, covering just the last two years, and found only two articles disagreeing out of 24,210, or one author out of 17,352. This is getting down to the percentage of scientists that still believe that the world is flat. A flat earth at the center of the universe was once the consensus of authority figures, but that consensus was never supported by scientific evidence. Solid scientific evidence, viewed and tested by the whole world, is what supports AGW theory.

I have spent many, many hours over the past 15 years, reading everything I could find about global warming. I have made particular efforts to look at those articles and publications that disagree with AGW (including those by Dr. Gould), with dwindling hope of finding any credible science there. It certainly would be nice if all those climate scientists were proven wrong in their dire predictions!! None of the researchers I have read have found a single flaw in AGW theory supported by reproducible data in these articles. My own reading of many papers and abstracts supports this finding. James Powell even offered \$10,000 of his own funds (and \$20,000 of other funds) to anyone who could disprove AGW. No one won the prize. You can see the results and abstracts at jamespowell.org. I also recommend Berkeleyearth.org for a 250 year temperature graph, ironically paid for by the Koch brothers, that shows near perfect correlation of global temperature with the Log of CO₂ concentration.

Increasingly acid seas, resulting from fossil CO₂ man is releasing into the air, are already reducing seafood yields. Climate change is already contributing to the deaths of nearly 400,000 people a year and costing the world more than \$1.2 trillion every year, wiping 1.6% annually from global GDP, according to a study cited here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/sep/26/climate-change-damaging-global-economy>

Several scientists working in Antarctica have recently concluded that we can no longer avoid a 10 to 20 foot rise in sea level which will devastate the economy everywhere.

<http://skepticalscience.com/earths-ice-cover-in-serious-decline.html>

We absolutely must recognize how grave the situation is, and how urgent the need for change. This is difficult, in the face of the entrenched power of the fossil fuel industry, an industry which actively funds and spreads disinformation on the issue of climate change, in order to protect its own short term profitability. It is also difficult for people in general to accept the unpleasant messages of climate science, and to imagine what these messages may mean for their own children, and for future generations. Much easier to believe those voices who try to convince us that "the science isn't settled yet"... We have to grow up, and stop listening to that comforting nonsense. We have to face the unpleasant truth, and we must act.

Some of my ideas :

Stop Global Warming Now, Or Nothing Else We Do Will Matter.

Stop all expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure; instead, install more wind and solar power, and battery storage.

Immediately allow community solar.

Institute a \$20 per ton use tax on coal burned in Connecticut increasing by \$20 per year.

All High School students should be exposed to the science establishing human activity as the source of the observed CO2 increase in the atmosphere, and to the basic physics proving that increased atmospheric CO2 does indeed increase our planet's temperature.

Connecticut should build an Integrated Fast Breeder Reactor (like those on some Russian submarines) at Millstone to "burn up" all the waste fuel stored in the state and generate low carbon electricity.

All state cars that travel less than 50 miles per day should be replaced by electric cars.

All police cars that idle more than 30 minutes total per day should be replaced by hybrid cars.

Allow Tesla to sell its great cars in this state.

Connecticut should divest from all fossil fuel stocks.

Institute a revenue neutral carbon tax on all fossil fuels : <http://www.carbontax.org/>

Stop all transportation of Natural Gas through the state for the purpose of shipping overseas. US citizens are dying because of drinking water contamination caused by fracking – no corporations or foreign countries should profit from this.

Liquefying and shipping LNG releases huge amounts of fossil carbon into the atmosphere. Connecticut should not be a party to the processing or transport of LNG.

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