

A simple way to check on the assertions of damage from climate change

Wallace Manheimer

Abstract— Many have taken the position that the planet is in danger because of carbon dioxide input to the atmosphere caused by burning fossil fuel, they urge us to stop and consider it a moral imperative. They present specific assertions of the harm this added CO₂ in the atmosphere has done or will do. But how can anyone check out these claims of this harm, actual or potential? With the advent of the Internet, it can be as simple as doing a Google (or other search engine) search. This paper does just that. There is a tremendous amount of information available at the click of a button. This data is not at all controversial; it has no political agenda (i.e. there are many charts available, all about the same). This information is used to check out these claims of gloom and doom. The data presented here indicates that these claims are either wildly exaggerated, or else concern processes that have been occurring at about the same rate since long before CO₂ in the atmosphere increased. Furthermore it also emphasizes the fact that the use of fossil fuel has been, and continues to be, the main cornerstone, which has allowed civilization to advance. It has alleviated abject poverty for billions, and there is no substitute for it at this time. End the use of fossil fuel, and this worldwide poverty returns. Thus there is also a strong moral argument for the use of fossil fuel. If this use of fossil fuel, at some time in the future, does begin to pose a climate risk, the solution is not simply to end it, but rather to balance competing priorities.

Index terms: climate change data, climate change alarmists, data on glaciers, energy for civilization, climate computer calculations

I. INTRODUCTION

One can hardly open a newspaper or turn on the TV these days without seeing claims of the damage carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is doing to the environment. But burning fossil fuels is one of the main things that allows civilization to advance. If we turn off fossil fuel, how will we turn on the lights or drive to work?

This author, and many others, are disturbed that those he calls alarmists are almost always concerned only with ending fossil fuel, but show little or no concern with what would replace it [1]. The replacements they do propose (solar, wind and biofuel) are very unlikely to be sufficient and they show little appreciation for that reality. How will we get the power we need? They are too busy saving the planet; that is someone else's problem! It reminds one of the rhyme from the old Tom Lehrer song about Werner von Braun:

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Once rockets go up, who cares where they come down?
That's not my department, says Werner von Braun!

(Incidentally the author's scientific work has largely been on developing an advanced nuclear concept using the best of both nuclear fusion and fission. Here is a link: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10894-014-9690-9>. With a well supported effort, it might well be able to deliver large quantities of sustainable, economical, carbon free power by about mid century.)

Since the beginning of the industrial age, humans have been burning coal, oil and natural gas, and as such, have been putting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It is a greenhouse gas, which tends to warm up the atmosphere, in a way, which is easily understandable to most scientists. During the industrial age, the CO₂ content of the atmosphere has risen from about 280 to about 400 parts per million. But the atmosphere is very complicated, and there is much more going on than just the greenhouse effect.

Carbon dioxide is an odorless, colorless, harmless gas in small quantities. Every breath we inhale has less than 0.1% carbon dioxide; every breath we exhale, about 4%. It is not a pollutant in the sense of sulfur dioxide or mercury. It is a vital nutrient for plants. Greenhouses generally operate with carbon dioxide rich atmospheres. Without atmospheric carbon dioxide, life on earth would not be possible.

Furthermore, there are claims of great unanimity within the scientific community of the human fingerprint on climate change and global warming. This author asserts that these do not stand up to careful analysis. For want of a better word, I'll call those who believe in human induced climate change believers, or more emphatically alarmists; those who do not, skeptics, or more emphatically deniers. Most of the American mainstream media, New York Times, The Washington Post, NBC and CBS news etc. express the believer's point of view so emphatically, that they sweep away the views of skeptics like so much dust. It is important to note that no skeptic denies climate change; everyone agrees that the earth's climate has been changing for billions of years. What they are skeptical of is the human cause of climate change. Excess CO₂ in the atmosphere is just one of the many things that can cause climate change.

Believers point out that 97% of scientists who publish in the scientific journals on the subject are themselves believers. They get this figure by skimming large number of scientific articles in the major scientific journals, and counting those that see a human finger print on climate change, and those who do not; they come up with the 97% figure. But what are the editorial policies of the journals? As we will see, at least one very prestigious, high impact journal makes no bones

about it; it will not accept articles by skeptics. What about the policy of those in the government who sponsor the scientific research? If you are a scientist and apply for government support of your research, your chance will be slim, if you are a skeptic. This author personally knows of one extremely capable scientist at a major Ivy League university, a skeptic of human induced global warming (<https://paw.princeton.edu/issues/2010/03/17/pages/7940/index.xml>) whose grant was suddenly canceled for whatever reason (<http://www.nature.com/news/trailblazing-cancer-physics-project-accused-of-losing-ambition-1.18122>). Just like oil and coal, green is big business now with lots of very powerful, well-funded interests protecting it.

Many skeptics are retired scientists with impeccable credentials, or else have endowed chairs, so they do not have to worry about their next grant. Skeptics point out that Frederick Seitz, a former president of the National Academy of Science and former president of Rockefeller University, about as prestigious and establishment as one gets, spearheaded a petition among scientists disputing human induced climate change. It garnered 32,000 signatures, among them many members of the national academies and professors holding endowed chairs at such prestigious universities as Princeton. Here is a link (<http://www.petitionproject.org>). To justify the 97% figure, one would have to get approval from one millions other scientists (are there even that many?), all of whom believe. In this author's opinion, the reluctance of the mainstream press to further investigate the validity of these claims of scientific unanimity is one of the greatest examples of journalistic irresponsibility and dereliction of duty he has ever seen.

It most likely is fair to say there is a scientific consensus at this point that humans are causing climate change, but there is nowhere near the unanimity that the mainstream media always claims.

This publication is the attempt of an experienced scientist, although not a climate scientist, to navigate through piles of universally available data so as to evaluate the claims of the human induced climate change believers and alarmists. In other words, let's say somebody says the sky is falling because of our use of fossil fuels, and says that such and such did happen, or unless we stop, will happen. Did it? Will it? This paper attempts to answer these simpler questions. The goal here is to list some of the claims the believers and alarmists have been making, and then use an Internet search to find the appropriate data to check these out. The author used Google, and more often Google images to search for a graph for this or that, or to get a graph for that or this prediction of the future. This is something anyone can do, and the whole idea is to present data in a way that anyone can check up on what is presented here.

However there is one word of caution. A Google search is not constant. Let's say one wants to do a Google image search of, for instance, 'graph of frequency of hurricanes'. You do it, get your result, and a half hour later you check it again, but now a whole different bunch of graphs show up. Usually their conclusions are not that different, just the graphs are. Several instances in course of preparing this paper, I had to eliminate

a graph that seemed particularly convincing and important, because a day or so later, I could not find it again on Google images. However the graphs presented here did seem to occur regularly in the search, but while on Monday one graph may have been the first entry, on Tuesday, it might have been the 73rd. However I have been as careful as possible, and trust no substantial distortion has occurred. It is a simple matter for anyone to check up on what is presented here.

Several readers have criticized the use of Google to make the point. They asserted that the only way someone can check the data is by reading and absorbing all or most of the original papers, thousands of them. This criticism is without merit. It is not as if I used a Google search to find a subtle, controversial aspect of the radiative properties of clouds with particular impurities, or the nonlinear behavior of Rossby waves in the upper atmosphere. The searches were more like 'price of a kilowatt hour in Germany', or 'world agricultural production', where the data is noncontroversial and has no political agenda. Alarmists have made specific assertions about things like this, and a Google search is a perfectly acceptable way to check them out.

By examining, and presenting here, a great quantity and quality of data, this author has concluded, contrary to the doomsday scenarios, that the available data does not indicate anything remotely like a planetary emergency. The good fossil does, far outweighs the bad, assuming there is anything bad about it at all [2]. Again, the failure of the mainstream media to perform this same, simple investigation will tarnish their reputation for decades to come.

In Section II we examine some of the claims of the climate change believers and alarmists. These are not unimportant people, i.e. presidents, presidential candidates, writers for important scientific journals, large organizations, etc. In Section III we examine the importance of fossil fuel for civilization, and take a look at the actual consequences of when a large fraction of electricity was generated by solar power (i.e. solar thermal, solar photovoltaic and wind). In Section IV we examine the global temperature data, it has changed in some interesting ways in the recent years. Section V we examine data regarding intense storms, tornados, glacial retreats, fires, droughts, food production and sea level rise. In a nutshell, none of this gives any credence to any alarm as regards human induced climate change. In Section VI we look at computer simulations of the climate future. The author, who has spent a large part of his career on numerical simulations of complex physical processes (but not climate), also relates some of his own experience. It does not seem that these simulations are nearly reliable enough to force a change in lifestyle, which will impoverish billions of people. Section VII draws conclusions.

II. THE CLAIMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE BELIEVERS AND ALARMISTS

A good place to start is with President Obama. Apparently he sees a good portion of his legacy as his fight against climate change. On the White House web site,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change#section-clean-power-plan>,

on the section on climate change are the following statements:

THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

The Clean Power Plan sets achievable standards to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. By setting these goals and enabling states to create tailored plans to meet them, the Plan will:

SAVE THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY:

- Nearly \$85 a year on their energy bills in 2030
 - Save enough energy to power 30 million homes in 2030
- Save consumers \$155 billion from 2020-2030

Also, in the summer of 2015, President Obama was in Alaska inspecting the retreat of glaciers, especially on a boat ride in Resurrection Bay. He pointed out the recent retreat of glaciers, arguing that this is proof of climate change caused by fossil fuel, and argued that government action can somehow prevent this in the future.

Now take a look at a December, 2014 speech of Hillary Clinton, who hopes to succeed him as president, to the league of conservation voters.

“The science of climate change is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers may say. Sea levels are rising; ice caps are melting; storms, droughts and wildfires are wreaking havoc. ... If we act decisively now we can still head off the most catastrophic consequences.”

Another claim is in the July 3, 2015 editorial, by Marcia McNutt [3], editor of *Science Magazine*, the prestigious magazine of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

III. THE BEYOND-TWO-DEGREE INFERNO

But now with climate change, we face a slowly escalating but long-enduring global threat to food supplies, health, ecosystem services, and the general viability of the planet to support a population of more than 7 billion people.

The time for debate has ended. Action is urgently needed.To set more aggressive targets, developed nations need to reduce their per-capita fossil fuel emissions even further, and by doing so, create roadmaps for developing nations to leapfrog technologies by installing low-CO₂-emitting energy infrastructure rather than coal-fired power plants as they expand their energy capacity.

Notice that she claims that ‘the time for debate has ended’. Believers often claim that 97% of climate scientists concur that humans are largely responsible for climate change. They get this number by scanning scientific journals that publish on the topic and finding that 97% of the papers do support this view. However there *are* skeptics, many who are prestigious scientists, some in various American national academies, some with endowed chairs in such well-established universities as Princeton and MIT. But in view of her

editorial, can anyone believe that a skeptic would be able to publish a skeptical article in *Science*? Does the 97% really have any meaning in view of her statement? The editorial continues

Contributions (INDCs)] from the world’s nations are insufficient to avoid warming the entire planet by an average of more than 2°C above the preindustrial level. This is a target viewed as the boundary between climate warming to which we can perhaps adapt and more extreme warming that will be very disruptive to society and the ecosystems on which we depend.

Does this make any sense? Can it even pass the laugh test? The temperature has already warmed by 1°C above the preindustrial level, and there has been no major sign or precursor to any calamity; in fact this warming has probably been beneficial. Is it really likely that an additional 1°C will be very disruptive to society and the ecosystems on which we depend? I would think that if a 2°C rise were going to be a calamity, we would all see something pretty bad with a 1°C rise.

But in case anyone still does not get the idea, Dr. McNutt says that skeptics belong in one of the circles of Dante’s inferno. Fig. 1, is her picture of this.



Fig. 1: “where [would]...Dante...place all of us who are borrowing against this Earth...?” Dr. McNutt’s picture of one of the circles of hell where the skeptics of human induced climate change ought to go.

The previous three authorities are moderate. At least they do not seem to insist upon an immediate, or nearly immediate end to the use of fossil fuel. Now let us take a look at a few of the more extreme alarmists.

Another candidate who hopes to succeed President Obama is Bernie Sanders. At the first Democratic presidential debate in

October 2015, the last question asked, was what is the biggest national security threat facing the United States. With China building, claiming, and arming islands in the South China Sea; ISIS killing every American it can get its hands on, blowing up airplanes midflight, and invading major western cities; Russia fomenting wars in Eastern Europe right on the border of NATO members; and nuclear proliferation from Pakistan, North Korea, and perhaps Iran, you would think there would be no dearth of possible answers. However to Bernie Sanders, the *greatest* national security threat the United States faces is climate change!

Another organization that advocates a nearly immediate break away from fossil fuels is 350.org. (web site at www.350.org), an organization led by Bill McKibben. Its goal is to reduce the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million. Considering that it is now over 400, and the CO₂ in the atmosphere lasts for centuries, it is unlikely to achieve this goal any time soon. On their web site, they state:

When world leaders meet in Paris this December, we need a signal that the age of fossil fuels is coming to an end. So far, however, commitments from world governments just aren't adding up — even after the two hottest years in history, and at a moment when renewable energy is becoming a revolutionary economic force that could power a just transition away from fossil fuels.

The solutions are obvious: we need to keep at least 80% of fossil fuels in the ground, finance a just transition to 100% renewable energy, and make sure communities on the front lines of climate change have the resources they need to respond to the crisis. This could be a turning point — if we push for it.

To accomplish their goals, they use political pressure and protest marches that have attracted large crowds. But how many come to these protest marches by car, bus, or airplane; instead of by foot, bicycle, or on horseback? How does Bill McKibben get to them? Their emphasis is keeping 80% of fossil fuel in the ground. Since it is likely that 20% of it is already out of the ground, they are demanding a virtually immediate end to the use of fossil fuels.

Another organization advocating a nearly immediate abandonment of coal, oil and natural gas is the Sierra club, whose web site has links to 'beyond coal', 'beyond oil', and 'beyond natural gas', <http://www.sierraclub.org>. Apparently they claim that the world can convert to solar and wind right now, this only being prevented by corrupt coal, oil and gas companies.

Even one of my own parent organizations, the American Institute of Physics seems to support demanding a nearly immediate end to the use of fossil fuels. In the October 2011 issue of its flagship publication, *Physics Today* [4], an article there had the chart shown in Fig. 2 for the time schedule for abandonment of fossil fuels under varying assumptions. In all cases, the use of fossil fuel must end in about 20 years.

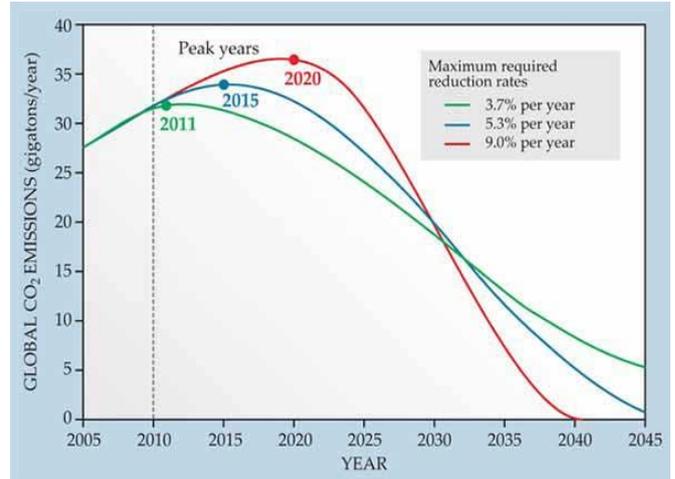


Fig. 2: A graph from Ref. [4] showing their various proposed schedules for the phase out of fossil fuels.

Al Gore, the former American vice president has gone one step further. He is not satisfied with a 20-year phase out of fossil fuel. In 2008, he called for completely ending the use of fossil fuels in 10 years, as reported by *The Guardian* (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/jul/17/algore.energyefficiency>). Namely he called for an end to fossil fuel use by 2018! What about his mansion and private jet?

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF FOSSIL FUEL TO CIVILIZATION AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

But what will replace fossil fuel? This chemical energy replacing, human and animal energy, has proven absolutely vital for civilization and the world economy. Right now, and for at least the next few decades, there is nothing to replace it. To see this, information abounds on the Internet. Shown in Fig. 3 is a plot of the components of world electricity in 2013, along with the link. After 25 years of heavily subsidized development, wind and solar hardly make a dent. Is there any chance that in the next 5, 10 or 20 years, it can possibly reach 100%? This author says no, despite the claims of 350.org and the Sierra Club and Al Gore.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION, 2013

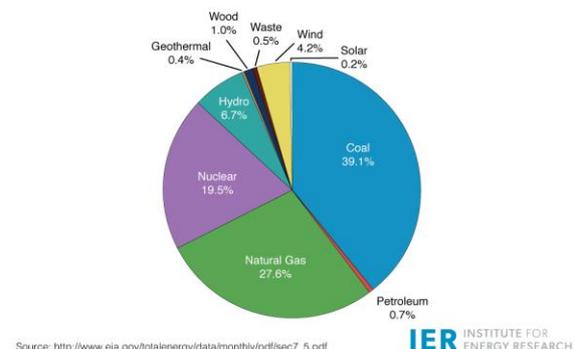
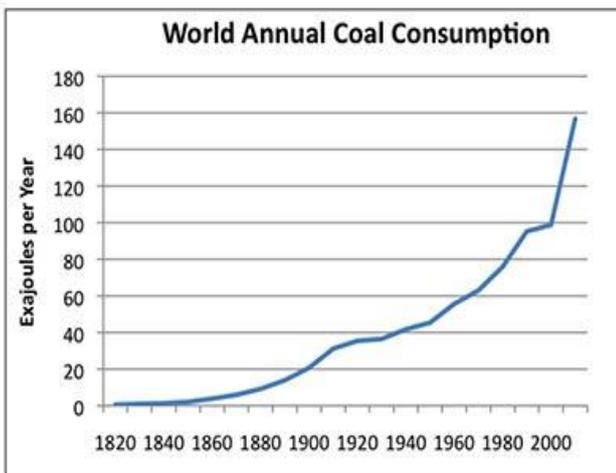


Fig. 3: The fuels used to generate electricity, worldwide in 2013.

If fossil fuels were eliminated, electricity production would be only about 1/3 of the amount generated in 2013. If the antinuclear advocates also have their way only about 1/6 would be available. Think of what this would mean, not only for your own lifestyle, but also for manufacturing and the world economy.

To see how seriously countries take their electrification programs, also shown in Fig. 4 is a plot of coal use, along with the link. All derivatives are positive. The world realizes that taking such extreme measures so quickly would condemn billions to abject poverty. Clearly the world will not listen as we browbeat them to switch from coal to solar to 'save the planet'.



<http://theenergycollective.com/gail-tverberg/107831/long-term-tie-between-energy-supply-population-and-economy>

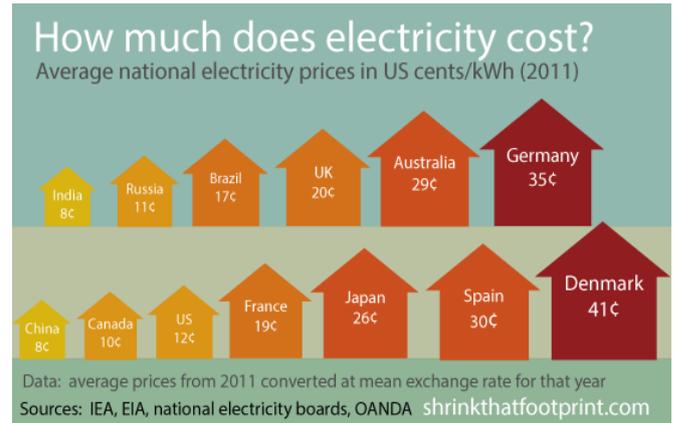
Fig. 4: Coal use over the years. It is currently the fastest growing component of the energy mix.

A much better idea would be to encourage the world to switch from coal to natural gas, as Britain and as the United States is in the process of doing. Natural gas emits about 60% of the CO₂ that coal does per unit energy produced, and it is very economical and reliable. Better still, switch to nuclear, as France has done, and as even Japan is starting to do once again. This produces no global warming. Best of all, continue the increases in energy efficiency and increases in dollars of GDP per Watt of power which has occurred over the past century or so [1,5].

What about President Obama's claim that reducing CO₂ input into the atmosphere by 30% will save the average American family \$85 on their energy bill by 2030 and will save the country \$155 billion between 2020 and 2030. How can we judge this assertion?

A useful data point here is Germany. It has decided to embark on an *energiewende*, or energy transition. It has heavily subsidized solar and wind power; not only that, it has decided to phase out its 17 nuclear reactors. It has succeeded in transitioning about 25-30% of its electrical power to solar and wind, just as President Obama hopes to do in the United States. But despite the large government subsidy, the price of electricity in Germany is now at least triple its price in the United States, and it is rising fast. Shown in Fig. 5 is a plot of

the price of a kilowatt-hour of electricity in many different countries, along with the link.



<http://www.theenergycollective.com/lindsay-wilson/279126/average-electricity-prices-around-world-kwh>

Fig. 5: Cost of a kilowatt hour of electric energy in various countries.

Based on this, the author believes that with President Obama's plan, it is much more likely that the American consumers will be hit with large price hikes, just like their brethren in Germany.

But even with the *energiewende*, Germany has not especially decreased its carbon input into the atmosphere. It still needs coal-fired power for when the sun does not shine, the wind does not blow, or to replace lost nuclear power. Shown in Fig. 6 is a plot, along with the link, of per capita carbon input into the atmosphere of a bunch of countries. German carbon input is considerably greater than that of its European neighbors.

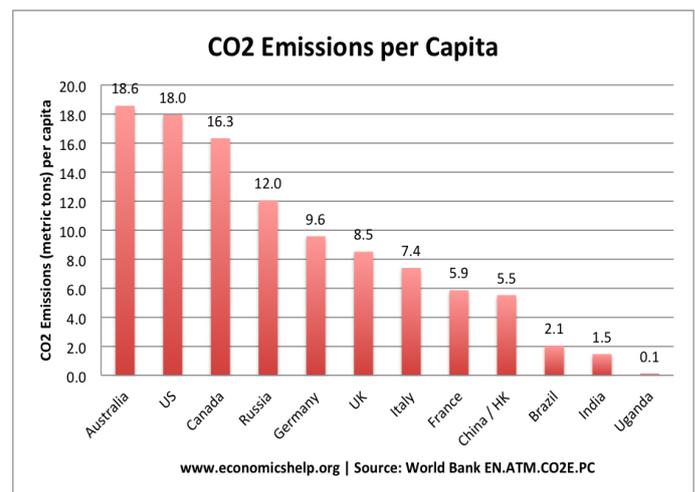


Fig. 6: Per capita CO₂ input into the atmosphere for various countries.

But Germany is a rich country. If it wants to price itself out of the market, it can do so.

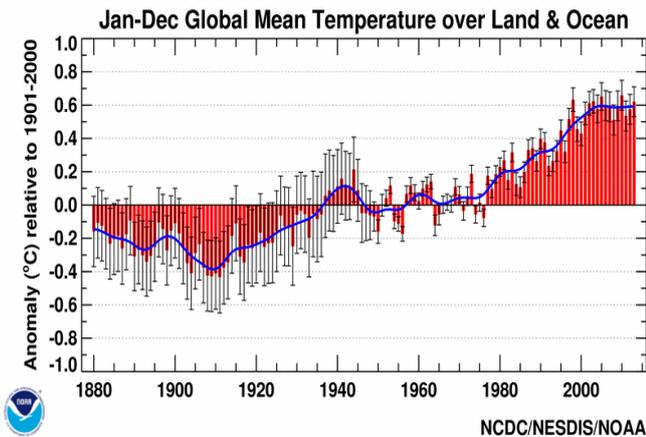
What about India, or Mexico, or Nigeria, can they afford their own *energiewende*? This author's answer is no. The cost of electricity is a vital consideration for most of the poorer, less developed world, which is struggling hard to provide a decent life for its citizens. If reducing CO₂ in the atmosphere is the

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goal, isn't France, which is largely nuclear, a better model for the world than Germany? The French pay about half for a kilowatt-hour, and its per capita CO₂ input into the atmosphere is about 2/3 of Germany's.

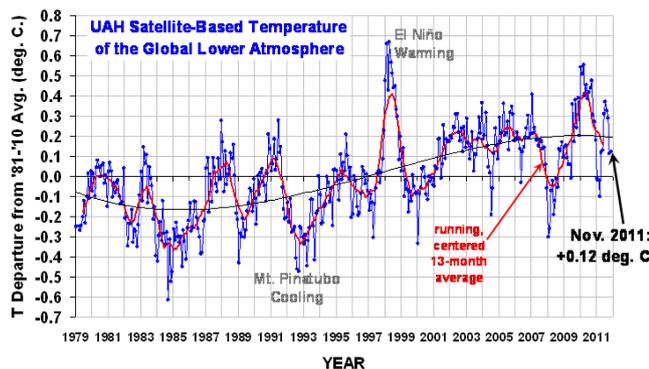
V. GOOGLE DATA ON WORLD TEMPERATURE

About a year ago, the author looked into the rise in world temperature and published a preliminary analysis [6]. Here we give more detail. Graphs of NOAA measured ground-based temperature since about 1880, and NASA space-based temperature measurements since 1979, archived at the University of Alabama Huntsville, presented in [6], along with the links are shown in Figs. [7] and [8]:



<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/303>

Fig. 7: NOAA data on ground based world wide temperature measurements



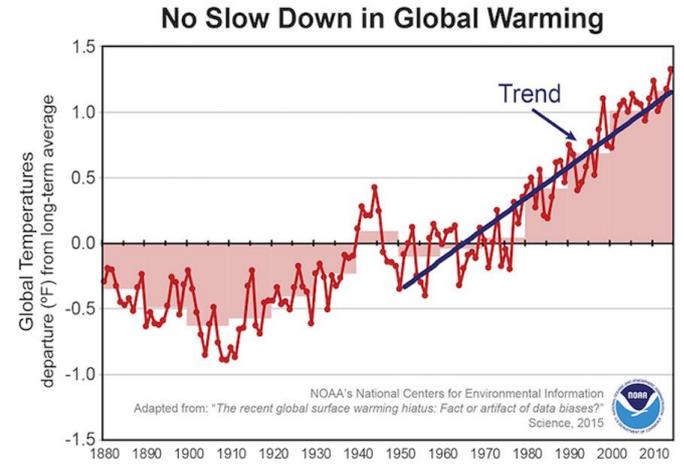
[Latest Global Temps « Roy Spencer, PhD](http://www.latestglobaltemps.com)

Fig. 8: NASA data on space based temperature measurements. Raw data is in blue, a 13 month average showing a rough 5 year oscillation is in red, and a rough 40 year oscillation in black.

The obvious conclusion is that there has been a nearly 20 year hiatus in the increase of the world's ground based temperature measurements, and that the space based measurements have

been dominated roughly by a series of oscillations of various periods.

However the situation may have changed. NOAA now claims that there is no pause in global temperature rise. Doing a Google image search of "Pause in global warming" turns up the new NOAA graph in Fig. 9, along with the link

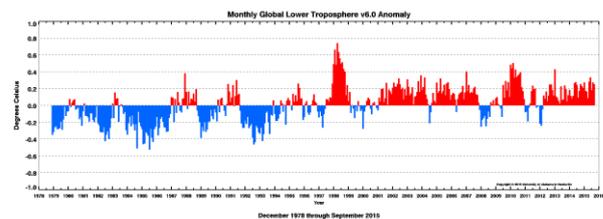


Contrary to much recent discussion, the latest corrected analysis shows that the rate of global warming has continued, and there has been no slow down.

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/collidescape/2013/04/08/about-that-global-warming-pause/#.VkhZFoRhNSU>

Fig. 9: New NOAA graph showing a recent rise in temperature of about 0.17°C per decade

In attempting to find Fig. 8, the author discovered that it is no longer shows up on Google images (or is buried deep below the other images). Instead the University of Alabama at Huntsville has decided to present its data differently. Their data is now presented as in Fig. 10.



<http://nsstc.uah.edu/climate/>

Fig. 10: More recent presentation of UAH space based temperature measurements. Their text claims a warming of about 0.11°C per year.

Author comments:

Note that some temperatures are in Centigrade, some in Fahrenheit. The temperatures we quote have all been converted to Centigrade.

While the latest NOAA graph shows a recent temperature rise of about 0.17°C per decade, this same graph also shows a

0.22°C rise per decade between about 1910 and 1945, when CO₂ input into the atmosphere was not an issue.

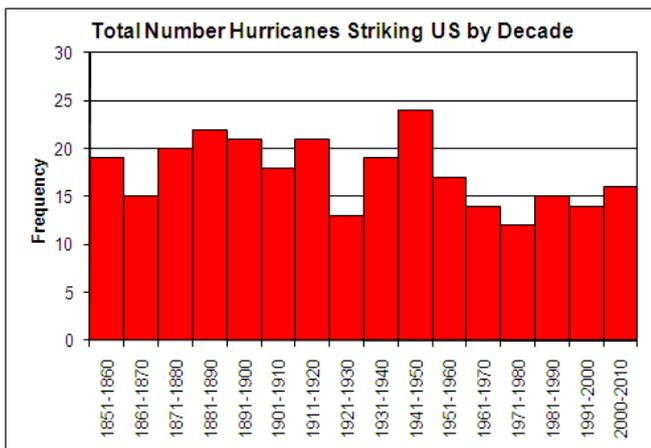
This latest graph shows data which does present a convincing case that man made global warming might well be happening. But what is striking to this author is that after nearly 20 years of measurements, NOAA decided that its measurements are incorrect. It suddenly presents new measurements much more in line with the attitude of its political bosses. Notice that both Figs. 7 and 9 have a NOAA seal affixed. We have all seen enough cop and court shows on TV to know that when a witness or defendant changes his long held 'story', warning flags go up all over the place. How many times have we heard the TV cop say: "So is this the story you are sticking with?" To this author's mind, NOAA has lost all credibility. The ground based temperature measurements cry out for reexamination by an independent agency, an agency not wedded to a particular ideology regarding climate change. Perhaps there has been a hiatus in world temperature increase, perhaps not. However it will take more than the changing NOAA data to convince at least this observer.

NASA seems to have mostly deemphasized the interpretation of space based temperature measurements as a series of oscillations of varying periods. However a careful examination of Fig. 10 show that the data has not changed, it is still consistent with a 5 and 40 year oscillation. But now the emphasis seems to be to confirm a steady rise in temperature. However the rate of rise is about 2/3 of that of the most recent ground based measurements.

Measuring worldwide temperature as a function of time is a complex undertaking.

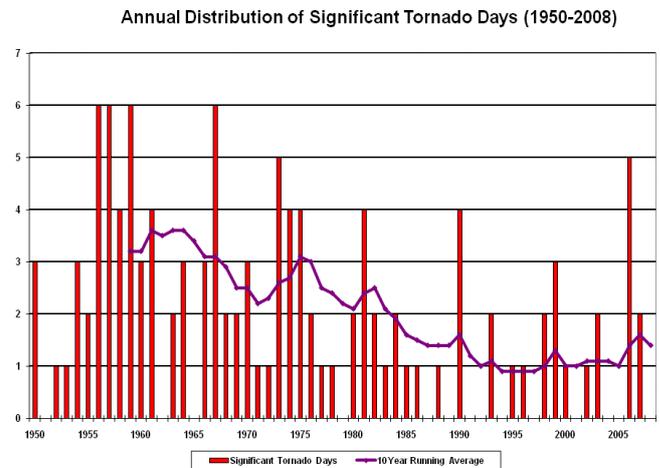
VI. GOOGLE DATA ON OTHER ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

As we saw in Section II, Hillary Clinton has mentioned that The science of climate change is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers may say. Sea levels are rising; ice caps are melting; storms, droughts and wildfires are wreaking havoc... This is easy to check, Figures () show hurricanes by decade, tornados by decade and sea measured sea level rise over the past century.



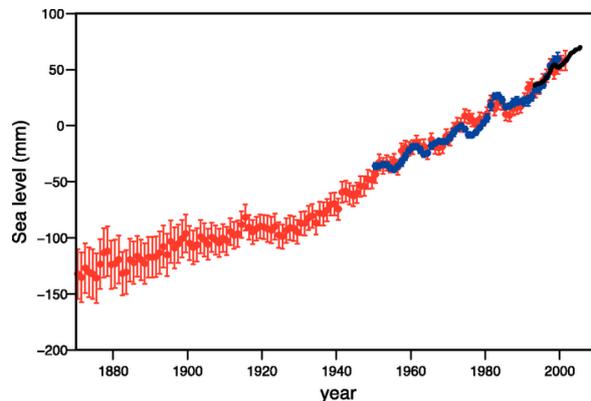
<http://buzzardsbay.org/hurricane.htm>

Fig. 11: Hurricanes in the United States decade by decade



http://www.weather.gov/lx/tor_climatology

Fig. 12: Year by year tornados in the United States. The ten year average shows a decreasing trend.



https://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/figure-5-13.html

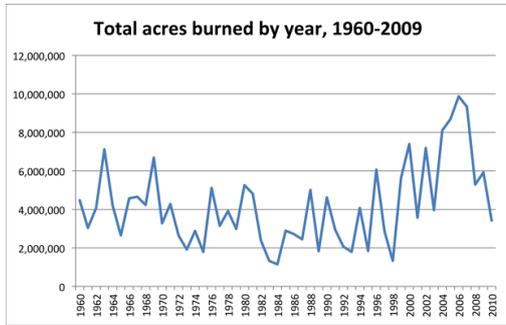
Fig. 13: Sea level over the past century. It has been rising at a steady 20 cm per century.

Clearly neither man made climate change, nor anything else has caused any increase in hurricanes or tornados, in fact their occurrence seems to be gradually *decreasing*. Regarding sea level rise, Fig. 13 shows that it has been rising at about 20 cm per century for decades, at least since about 1925 with no recent increase. The earlier decades of this rise clearly cannot be due to man made CO₂ input into the atmosphere. For there to be the 4-6 meter raise in sea level by century's end, swamping many low level islands, as many claim with absolute certainty; the rate of rise would have to increase by about a factor of 25 immediately; the curve would become nearly vertical. There is no indication from Fig. (13) that this is about to happen. Furthermore, notice also that this is IPCC

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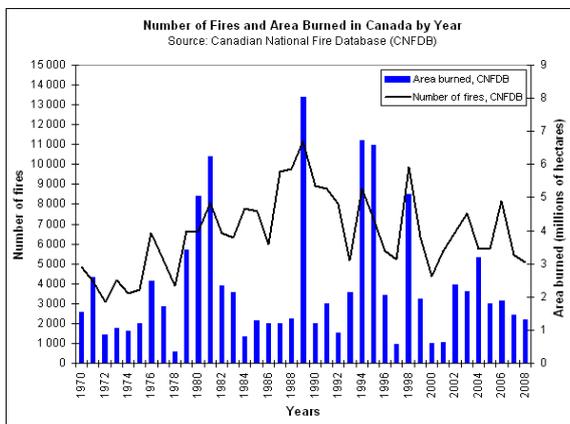
data, the very data the UN and alarmists use to justify their assertions of imminent gloom and doom.

Ms Clinton also said that wildfires are also wreaking havoc. Again, this is easy to check, simply Google image “area burned by wildfires” and lots of graphs will turn up, all about the same. Fig. 14 is a graph for the United State; Fig. 15, for Canada, along with the links.



<http://whyfiles.org/2011/wildfire-2/>

Fig. 14: Data on acres burned by wildfires in the United States since 1960



<http://archive.sciencewatch.com/inter/ins/10/10octNRCpt21/>

Fig. 15: Data on acres burned by wildfires in Canada since 1970

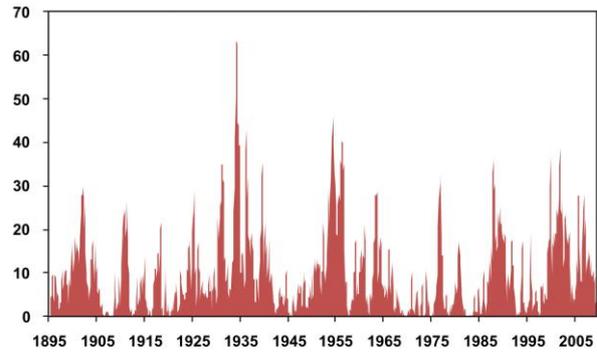
Clear there has been no increase in wildfires that can be attributed to man made climate change. In the United States, the rate has been about constant except for a peak between about 2004 and 2008. From 1960 to about 1984 there has been a slight dip. Then from 1984 to the present there has been a slight increase up to the 1960 level except for the aforementioned jump from 2004 to 2008. In Canada, these peaks appeared earlier, in the early 1980’s and 1990’s, but otherwise there has been no upswing in either country.

Now let’s take a look at data for droughts, which she also claims is wrecking havoc. It is simple enough search Google

image drought information and get drought statistics. An example is Fig. 16, which shows the percentage of American land suffering extreme drought over the past century. The worst droughts were in the 1930’s and 1950’s. Other than that, there has been no particular, observable increase in droughts, at least up to now.

Percent Area of the United States in Severe and Extreme Drought

January 1895–February 2010

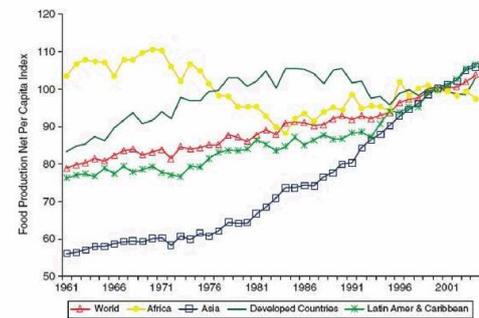


Based on data from the National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

Fig.16. History of extreme droughts in the United States.

What about Marcia McNutt [3]? In addition to preemptively rejecting a paper like this for the journal *Science*, and saying that this author belongs in one of the circles of Dante’s Inferno, she also said that man made climate change will cause slowly escalating but long-enduring global threat to food supplies. Let’s see what the data says. It is simple, just Google image “world food production graph”. All graphs appearing are about the same. One graph is shown in Fig. 17.

Per capita food production index 1961-2005



Source: Ugarte 2007

http://www.zanran.com/q/Per_capita_food_production_index

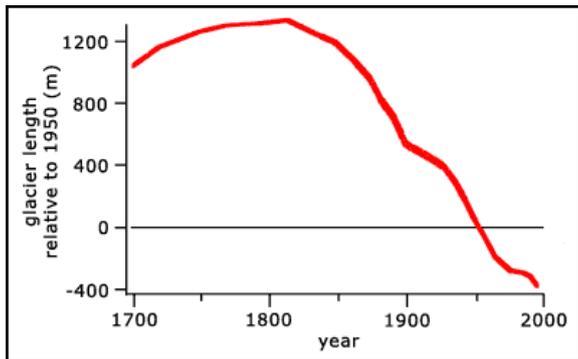
Fig. 17: A graph of per capita food production from 1961 to 2005.

Clearly world wide per capita food production is rising, not falling; with a particularly dramatic rise in production in Asia. The red graph shows a gradually increasing per capita food supply worldwide. If there is to be any escalating but

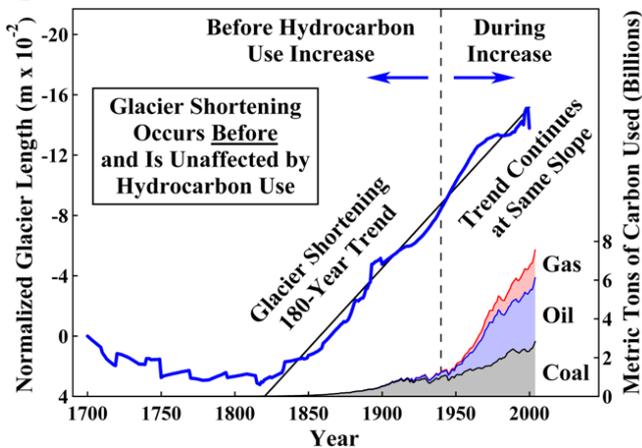
long-enduring global threat to food supplies, there is no evidence of it yet.

In addition to his scheme to reduce fossil fuel by ~30% while lowering energy costs, President Obama also noted that glaciers are retreating and accused human induced climate change.

However doing a Google image search on “graphs of 300 years of glacier retreat” tells a different story. The pages were dominated by recent history, but earlier history did show up. Figure 18 shows 2 graphs, along with the links, of glacial retreat going back to 1700. The author found no other graphs going back 300 years, which contradicted these. The conclusion then must be that the retreat of glaciers has little or nothing to do with man made climate change.



<http://blog.heartland.org/2014/05/glaciers-and-global-warming/a>

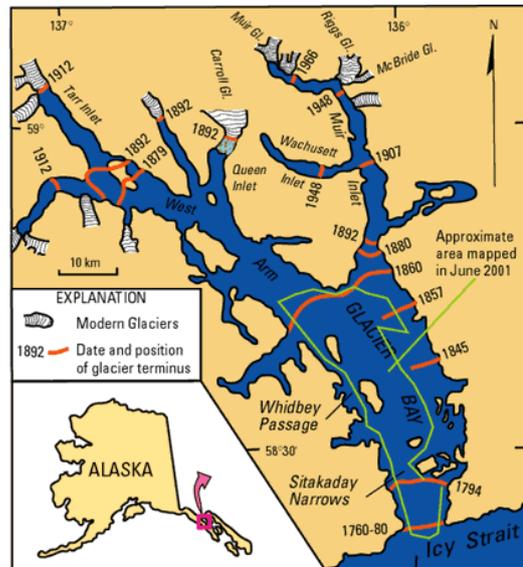


<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/04/the-debate-continues-dr-glikson-v-joanne-nova/>
b

Fig. 18 a and b: Two graphs showing glacial retreat over about 300 years. Clearly the trend toward melting glaciers has been proceeding at about the same rate since about 1825.

As an example of a single glacier system, there is a great deal of evidence for the yearly retreat of glaciers in Glacier Bay, Alaska, obtained by various voyages there over the years. To see this, simply Google image “graph of glacier history of glacier bay AK”

Fig. 19 shows such an annotated map, along with the link.



<https://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/07/19/alaska-most-famous-glacier-retreated-eight-feet-per-day-between-1794-and-1897/>

Fig. 19: Map of Glacier Bay, Alaska showing the glacier edges at various times in history. The red lines mark the glacier boundaries at the various years shown.

Clearly, most of the glacial retreat in Glacier Bay occurred before 1907, and has little or nothing to do with man made climate change caused by burning fossil fuels.

VI. GOOGLE DATA ON COMPUTER SIMULATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The author has spent a good part of his career developing and using computer simulations to model complex physical processes. Accordingly he now gives a brief explanation of what computer simulations can and cannot do. He sees 3 categories of difficulty in computer simulations.

For the simplest category, let us say that the goal is to develop an antenna system for radar operation at some particular frequency. The equations describing the propagation of the radiation in the vacuum or in air are known, (Maxwell’s equations, in a vacuum or using the dielectric constant of air), and the interaction of the radiation with the antenna is also known, (the reflectivity, dielectric constant and conductivity of the antenna material). While well known, the equations are complicated; and the design of any but the simplest antenna would be very difficult without a computer solution of them. Fortunately there are numerous computer codes to handle this problem, codes which are publically available or for sale. They work and are used all the time.

Let us now go up to the next level of difficulty. Let us say that the configuration is well known, but the relevant physics is not. An example is the National Ignition Facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab in Livermore California. The lab built a gigantic laser, costing billions, (in a building

A simple way to check on the assertions of damage from climate change

hundreds of meters in each direction) which produces about a megajoule of light energy in a pulse lasting several nanoseconds. This light is focused on a target about a millimeter in size. The idea is that this light is absorbed by the target, compresses and heats it, so that fusion reactions take place. That is the target becomes a mini hydrogen bomb. LLNL has done many computer calculations of the process and concluded that fusion energy should be ten times the laser light energy. When they did the experiment, they found, to their dismay, that the fusion energy was about 1% of the laser energy on a good day. They missed by a factor of 1000!

What went wrong? The problem is that there is a great deal of physics going on in the target, which is not understood well. For instance there are instabilities of the target driven by the interaction of the laser with the target plasma; instabilities of the fluid implosion, generation of a small number of extremely energetic electrons, generation of a small number of extremely energetic ions, generation of intense magnetic fields, unpredicted mixing of various regions of the target,... Don't get me wrong; LLNL is a first class lab, which hires only the very best scientists and computer engineers. The problem is that the physics is too complex, or as Hillary Clinton would put it, 'unforgiving'.

However there is hope that they can ultimately get it right. Given sufficient resources they can perform many variations of the experiments on a target. Furthermore they can use the information from their experiments to see where they went wrong in their computer simulation. They may or may not succeed in getting fusion, but ultimately it is extremely likely, given sufficient resources, that they will figure out the physics and get their computer simulations to reproduce what is going on. The key is that it is possible (assuming the sponsor does not lose patience and pull the plug) to keep doing experiments and iterate between their experimental results and computer codes and in doing so learn the physics of the process.

Now let us go to the third level of difficulty. There are cases where neither the configuration, nor the basic physics needed for a simulation is well known. Add to that the fact that it is not possible to repeat experiments in any controlled way. When this author first got to NRL, the problem we were all working on was to figure out plasma processes going on in a on a nuclear disturbed upper atmosphere, or High Altitude Nuclear Explosions (HANE). When a nuclear bomb, or multiple nuclear bombs explode in the upper atmosphere, the atmosphere forms ionized plasma. With the strong flows generated there, the behavior is not governed by conventional fluid mechanics, but by the nonlinear behavior of plasma instabilities. The key was to work out a theory of these extremely complicated processes. This theory would then be put into the other computer codes used in the radar, tracking, communication, and electronic warfare etc. simulations. An unclassified version of our conclusions is in [7].

Is our theory correct? Who knows? Will anyone ever do the experiment? Hopefully not. If the experiment is done and the theory does not work, will there be an opportunity to continue to work on it and improve it? Nobody will be alive to do it.

This author makes the case that the climate computer simulations, on which the governments have spent billions,

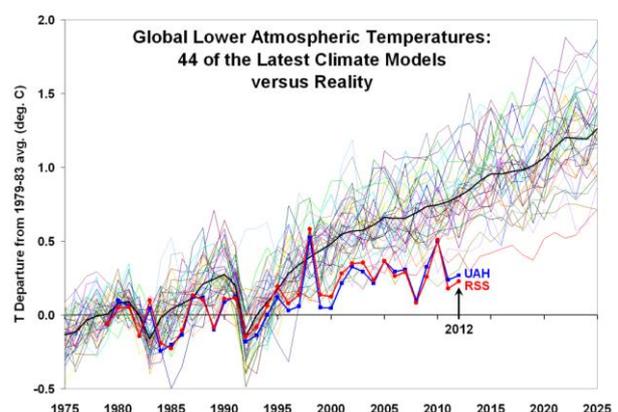
are of this third level of complexity. Also the basic physical system is almost certainly much more complicated than the LLNL laser target configuration. The scientists at Livermore at least know what they are starting out with. First of all, there is there is the fact that these are computer simulations involving the entire earth. To do the simulations, the earth is broken up into a discrete grid, both around the surface and vertically. Since the computer can only handle a fine number of grid points, the points are dozens of miles apart horizontally (perhaps the distance from Washington to New York would be handled by 2 or 3 grid points). But many important atmospheric effects are on a much smaller scale. For instance cities are usually warmer than the surrounding countryside, so the computer calculation would have to somehow approximate this effect since it occurs on a space scale smaller than the grid spacing. Then there is a great deal of uncertain physics. The effect of clouds is not well understood, and they are parameterized in one way or another. Also what effects do the deep ocean, aerosols and their content and size, cosmic rays, variations in solar radiation, and solar flares have? What impurities are in the atmosphere and where and when were they here or there

Add to all of this uncertainty, the fact that one does not know very well the conditions, globally, which one needs to initialize the computer calculation, and that it is impossible to do repeated controlled experiments and compare with the calculations. Mix in the fact that the atmospheric fluid is in many places turbulent. Turbulence still is one of the great-unsolved problems of classical physics.

Here is Richard Feynman on the subject: 'Turbulence is the most important unsolved problem of classical physics.'

Here is Horace Lamb, a British hydrodynamicist, about a half century earlier: 'I am an old man now, and when I die and go to heaven there are two matters on which I hope for enlightenment. One is quantum electrodynamics, and the other is the turbulent motion of fluids. And about the former I am rather optimistic.'

With that introduction to what computer simulations can and cannot do reliably, let's Google image: computer calculation of world temperature. Figure 20 is the result of a series of many different computer predictions of of a series of many different calculations in the literature, along with the actual measurements, along with the link.



<http://www.attivitasolare.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ClimateModelsVsReality-1024x768.png>

Fig. 20: A compendium of many different numerical simulations of predictions of global temperature rise. The actual measurements are also shown as the red and blue solid lines with the dots.

All of the calculations shown in Fig. 20 show more temperature rise than were measured from 1975 to 2012 (i.e. the present). Perhaps the believers and alarmists would say this makes their case; all calculations show warming; none show cooling. To this author, the wide variation emphasizes the fact that the physics and knowledge underlying the simulations is itself uncertain, the computer grid is likely too coarse and could miss many important effects, and there is no capability to do multiple controlled experiments and compare with simulation. To this author, Fig. 20 makes the case that climate computer simulations have a long way to go before one can base public policy on them, especially public policy that would have a major effect on the lifestyle of billions of people.

VII. CONCLUSION

So where are we now? Ground based temperature measurements show that the temperature has increased by about one degree centigrade in the past century. Perhaps there has been a recent 20-year pause in the warming, perhaps not. Earlier NOAA data showed a long pause in temperature increase. Yet recent NOAA data shows a steady 50-year temperature increase. The ground-based measurements involve collecting data from thousands of measuring stations in hundreds of countries. The measurement techniques have not essentially changed or advanced in the last few years, it is a question of interpreting and reinterpreting piles of data. This may be a genuine correction, or alternatively, it may well have been forced on NOAA by pressure from above. Undoubtedly there is lots of room for finagling this vast quantity of data. Certainly this data should be reinterpreted by another independent agency, an agency not wedded to any particular ideology on global warming. Space based measurements; show a lesser increase, and perhaps show instead an oscillatory behavior. These are worldwide measurements taken by several devoted orbiting instruments. There is no need to normalize measurements from thousands of sources to a single number. It is not at all clear to what extent any increase was caused by human intervention in the climate system, maybe none of it, maybe all of it, most likely some of it. Regarding other data, storms, sea level rise, fires, drought, loss of agricultural land, glacial retreat; it *all* contradicts the assertions of the believers and alarmists of imminent gloom and doom, caused by additional atmospheric CO₂. At this point, the computer simulations used to predict the future, cannot even predict the present.

So the question is why is there such a forced attempt by so many influential people to switch to solar or wind power? Why force such a gigantic lifestyle disruption for billions of people based on such scanty evidence? This is a lifestyle change, which would impoverish billions of people. A switch of this magnitude would be extremely expensive and

disruptive for the richer parts of the world, and would be a crushing setback for the poorer parts, which are just beginning to get on their feet, but still have a very long way to go before they can enjoy a reasonably affluent life style.

Global warming at some point may be a serious concern, but there is no planetary emergency. Even if the worse fears of the alarmists prove to be true, it cannot be a matter of simply turning off fossil fuel, it is too important for civilization. It would have to be a matter of balancing competing priorities. The fossil fuel, which they wish to eliminate or greatly reduce has lifted billions out of abject poverty, and has the possibility of lifting up billions more. It is extremely unlikely that solar and/or wind power can replace fossil fuels at anywhere near the quantity and price necessary to fill in the gap they are attempting to create. When a substitute energy source, most likely nuclear, becomes available, at about the same quantity and price as fossil fuel, one can then reasonably choose to eliminate or reduce fossil fuels.

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