

Global cooling vs. global money and power ¹

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28 May 2009

Introduction

This paper is a continuation of my earlier paper, “[Global cooling reality vs. Global warming politics](#)” that I presented last April 22, “Earth Day”, also in another Rotary activity. Hence, the charts and figures there will no longer be repeated here. But readers will get a bigger picture of my arguments if they check and read that paper too (24 pages including charts, references and annexes), posted in MG Thinkers website.

This subject, the politics and huge money involved in global warming hysteria, need to be pursued and exposed. Even if many indicators like the early onset of rains and typhoons in our part of the tropics, and prolonged winter or frigid spring in the temperate regions indicate to global cooling, the proponents of anthropogenic global warming (AGW) keep saying that these new climate patterns are “part of climate change due to AGW”.

Additional inputs about the cooling trend, then the “silent Sun”, will be discussed first. Such discussions will help disprove the AGW theory and the endless blaming of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and human emission for climate change. Then the big money and power involved in the AGW agenda will be explored. By doing this, readers will hopefully appreciate why the AGW theory is still being hyped when the science behind it does not hold water anymore.

And once again, a disclaimer: I am not a climate scientist. I am an economist and free market NGO worker by profession who happened to get exposed to this subject by virtue of our think tank’s affiliation with the [Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change](#) (CSCCC) and my attendance at the [2nd International Conference on Climate Change](#) in New York City more than 2 months ago.

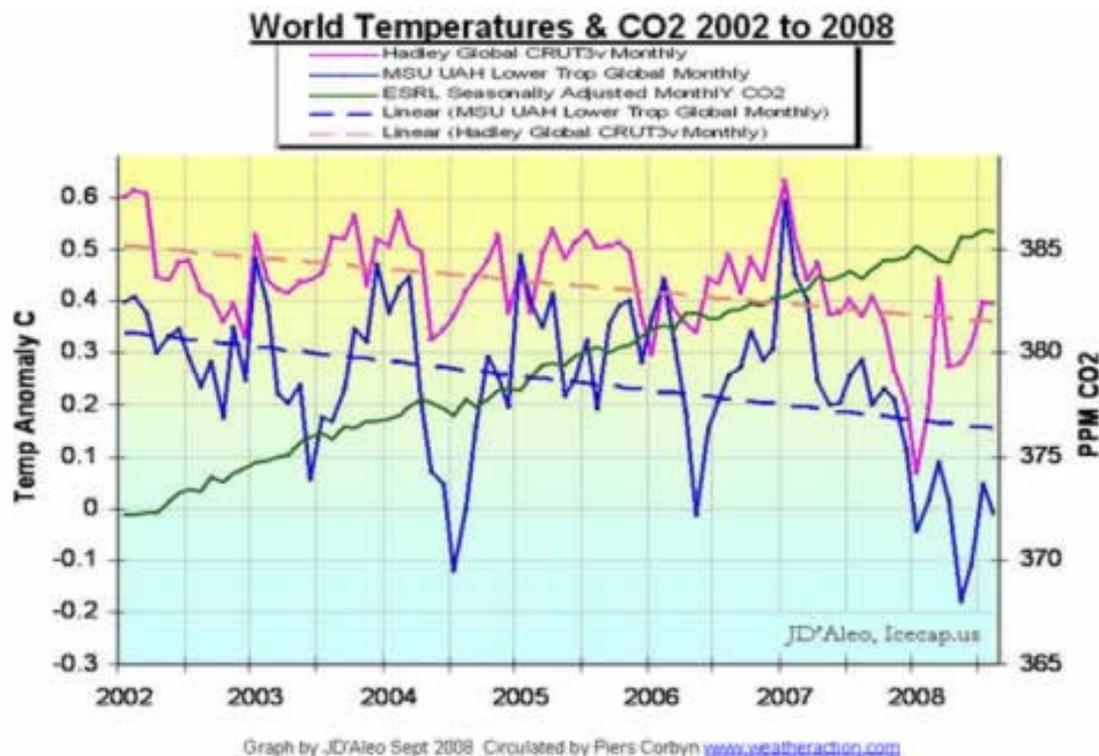
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Global Cooling, more facts

The peak of warming in the past decade was 1998. After that, global temperature fell. There was a rise in 2003-2003, but such rise was still lower than 1998 level. From 2003 up to the present, global temperatures have fallen by about 0.2 Celsius, as indicated in the next two charts.

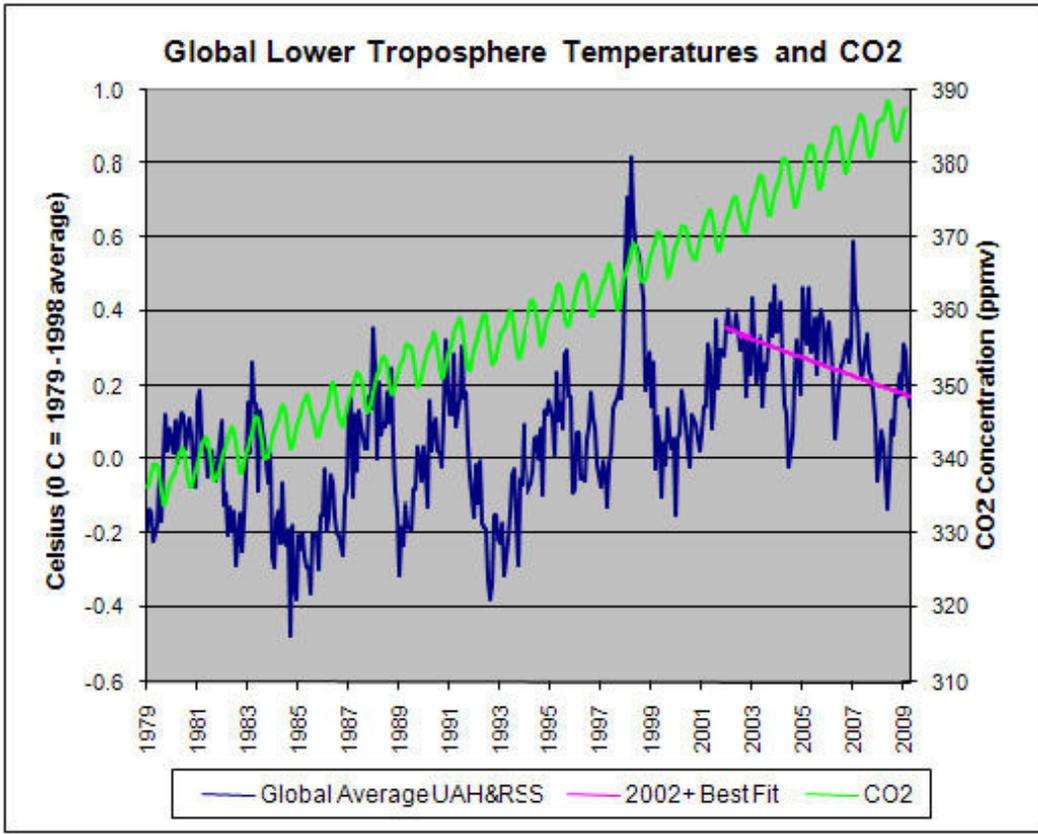
The first chart shows downward trend in global temperatures from 2002 to 2008, whereas carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration kept on increasing. There are two important implications here. First, there is global cooling going on, not warming. And second, CO₂ is innocent, it is not guilty, for all the charges of being the “main” contributor to global warming.



source: <http://www.weatheraction.com/displayarticle.asp?a=35&c=1>

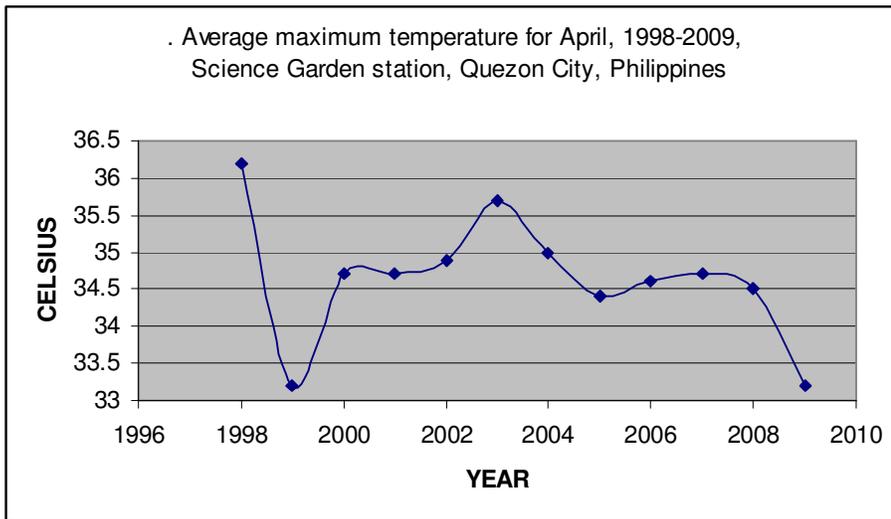
And if you examine what the CO₂ figures mean, it is saying that the current 386 parts per million (ppm), an increase of about 100 ppm over the last one or two centuries, constitutes just 0.04 percent of all particles in the atmosphere. Could such a very small fraction – not even 1/10 of 1 percent – alter the global temperature at the catastrophic levels as painted by the AGW proponents? This does not sound logical.

Another chart from another source, covering a 30 years period, 1979 to 2009, shows the same pattern – CO₂ keeps on increasing while global temperatures fell starting 2003 until the present. The website says they are updating the data and chart every month, so the latest temperature reading there would be April 2009, very recent.



source: <http://www.friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/FOS%20Essay/GlobalTroposphereTemperaturesAverage.jpg>

This trend in global temperature is reflected in the Philippines too. I got this data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the government's main weather bureau.



I chose April temperature because April and May are two of the hottest months of the year in the Philippines and in many tropical countries in East Asia. May 2009 is not yet over, so I can't get the data for this month. Table below are the numbers where the above chart was constructed.

Table 1. Average maximum temperature, April, 1998-2009
Science Garden station, Quezon City, Philippines

YEAR	APRIL	YEAR	APRIL
1998	36.2	2004	35.0
1999	33.2	2005	34.4
2000	34.7	2006	34.6
2001	34.7	2007	34.7
2002	34.9	2008	34.5
2003	35.7	2009	33.2
Ave., 98-03	34.9	Ave., 04-09	34.4

Source: PAGASA/CAB/CADS, www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph

The cooling started in 1999, rose slightly in 2003, and cooling resume in 2004. From April 2007 to April 2008, there was a cooling of 0.2 Celsius. And until April 2009, there was a cooling of 1.3 Celsius compared to year ago level. This is a significant temperature drop.

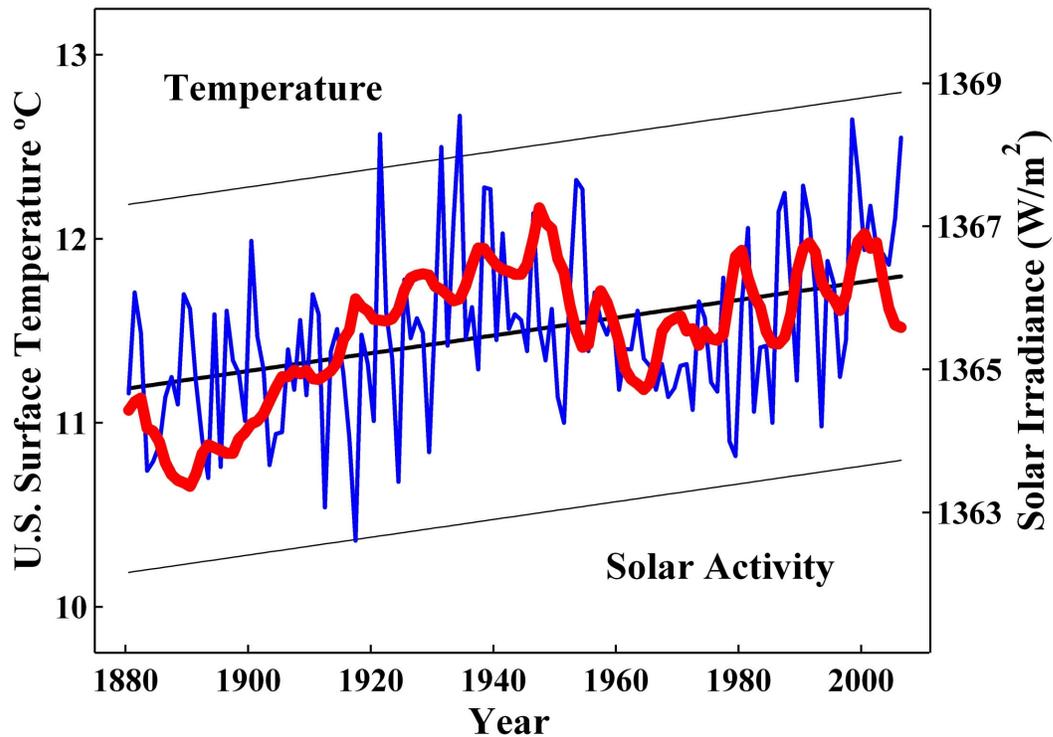
Notice also that the regular rainy season in the country starts in June. But dark clouds in the sky and at least 3x a week rains (at least in Metro Manila) started in middle of April this year. In late April, at least 2 typhoons came, local name "Crising" and "Dante". The latter killed about 24 people in Bicol region, south of Manila. Early this month, the 5th typhoon, local name "Emong" killed about 50 people in western and northern Luzon, north of Manila.

The country gets 20 typhoons a year on average. Since 5 typhoons have already come in the "summer" months of April and May, there is a big likelihood that the country will have to endure more than 20 typhoons this year. The rice farming sector is happy with this weather development, but not the summer crops and tourism sectors. It was scary to book a flight in island resorts when there were threats of typhoons and flight cancellations.

The Sun

In my earlier paper mentioned above, I discussed the main driver or determinant of global temperature – the Sun – as discussed by a number of physicists, geologists, and other scientists that I heard during the NYC conference. These two charts below are from my new friend who was one of the keynote speakers in the said conference, Dr. Willie Soon, a known astrophysicist and geoscientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. He is Malaysian-American.

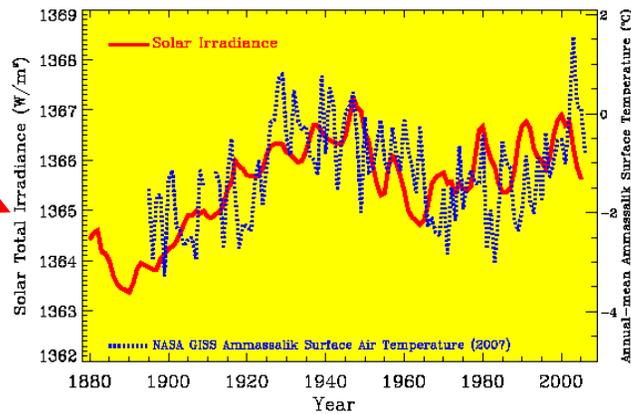
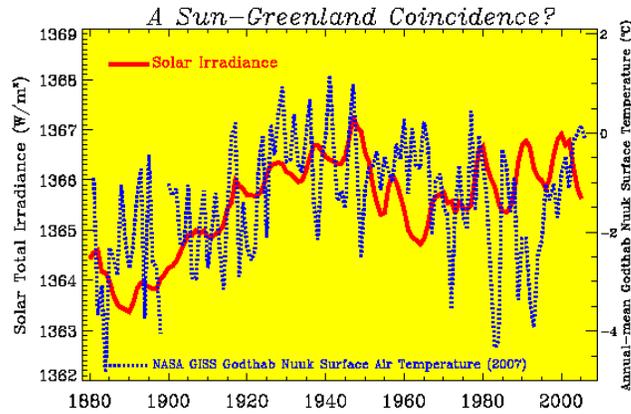
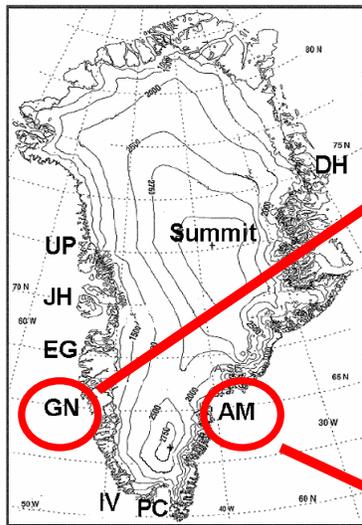
In the first chart below, Dr. Soon plotted US surface temperature data from 1880 to 2000 (120 years period) with solar irradiance. Unlike CO2 concentration that is continuously increasing regardless of rise and fall in cyclical modes in global temperatures, sunspot activities and solar irradiance go in sync with rise and fall in global temperatures. The “coincidence” is not 100 percent fit, but the up-down-up movements of the two factors are very similar. This should be another scientific black-eye to the proponents of AGW.



source: Soon, 2007

The next chart below, Dr. Soon plotted temperature data in two locations in south Greenland, again over a 120 years period from 1880 to 2000. The same observation and “coincidence”.

One may wonder, why have the global warming and climate change campaigners and scientists almost completely shut out the Sun as a possible contributor to changes in global temperature? From a layman perspective, it is very obvious: daytime is warmer because of sunlight, while nighttime is colder because there is no sunlight. So the effect of the Sun can be seen and felt every single day and night in our lives, even if we are non-scientists.



Source: Soon (2007)

I remember that during the 2nd IPCC conference, some scientists were saying that because there is a clear economic and political agenda in producing the AGW theory, scientific models were chosen and tweaked so that they will produce the desired result and theory: that this is a man-made global warming catastrophe. So the policy implication is that human-induced carbon emission and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) should be cut and reduced as deeply as possible, and alternative renewable energy sources and technological inventions should be subsidized as high as possible.

It should be noted also that until about 3 years ago, the operative term that we hear and read was “global warming”. Recently, we hear less and less of such term and we hear more “climate change”. This must be because the AGW proponents have silently recognized that there is indeed cooling that is happening, but their political and economic agenda can not and should not be reversed. There is too much money and power that will be removed from them if all the things that they say – there is global warming, humanity is guilty, carbon and other GHGs should be cut deeply – are proven wrong.

More discussions about the Sun-climate link can be found in Annex 1 of this paper.

Global Money and Power

The past year and this year, there were plenty of UN-sponsored or rich countries-sponsored global meetings, all in preparation for the Copenhagen meeting this coming December. December 2007, thousands of UN and government officials, showbiz

personalities, media and green activists went to Bali, Indonesia for a big global meeting. This was a month after the UN IPCC's 4th Assessment Report (AR4) was released in November 2007. The global warming hysteria was so loud and scary on those last 2 months of 2007.

Then the global meetings resumed in 2008 in various countries, the last was held in Poznan, Poland, December 2008. This year, a deluge of global meetings and carbon horse trading were happening. One in Washington DC last April, then a "World Business Summit on Climate Change" in Copenhagen this month, another meeting starting June 1 in Bonn, Germany.

Last week, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) released the first Negotiating Text of the Copenhagen talks this coming December. The meeting in Germany next week and in succeeding meetings in other countries in succeeding months, environment and energy or climate change ministers of many countries will pressure each other how much the other countries should cut their carbon emission by 2020 and by 2050.

To further appreciate how much money and power are being discussed, explicitly and implicitly in those meetings and political lobbying, consider the following:

One, estimated carbon cap-and-trade business that changed hands in 2007 was \$63 billion, rose to \$120 billion in 2008, EU and Japan alone. The US, Australia, Korea, China, etc. not included there yet. When these countries participate in such emission trading, watch the number to easily reach a trillion dollars per year. One estimate puts the value at \$3 trillion by 2020, assuming that all big emitters, rich and poor countries alike, will sign the post-Kyoto Copenhagen climate

Two, carbon tax revenues. US President Obama's planned carbon tax is nearly \$80 billion/year, federal government alone, and on top of existing environmental and petroleum taxes. Excluded there are carbon tax by some states like California. In Canada, there was a carbon tax election early this month. The rate of carbon tax is 3.6 cents a liter of gasoline by July this year, up to almost 5 cents a liter by 2010.

Three, India, China, S. Africa and other developing countries are gearing up for the \$300 billion climate change fund (about 1 percent of rich countries' GDP). The amount is a new round of foreign aid for the developing world's climate adaptation and mitigation programs.

Four, banks and financial institutions positioning in cap and trade business. In some of the recent public hearings in the US Congress on cap and trade bill, many of their guests were bankers – Goldman Sachs, Bank of America/ML, AIG, Morgan Stanley, etc. After the recent housing bubble, a new carbon bubble will be emerging soon.

Five, a system of carbon trading and offset is slowly expanding involving medium and large corporations. Table below is an example.

Table 2. Examples of carbon traders and sellers

CarbonOffsetList.org, <http://innovation.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=23994>

Project Name	Retailer	Project Type	Description	Location	Vintages
DANC landfill	Carbonfund.org BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Collects and flares methane gas from a landfill in Rodman, north of Syracuse.	New York	2006, 2007
Greater Lebanon landfill	TerraPass BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Captures methane at a landfill in Lebanon, PA, then burns it in generators or flares it.	Pennsylvania	2008
Greater New Bedford landfill	e-BlueHorizons BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Captures methane at a landfill in New Bedford, then burns it to supply electricity through NSTAR.	Massachusetts	2003 - 2007
Greater New Bedford landfill	Carbonfund.org BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Captures methane at a landfill in New Bedford, then burns it to supply electricity through NSTAR.	Massachusetts	2003 - 2007
Greenville County landfill	Sterling Planet BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Captures and destroys methane at a landfill in the western part of the state.	South Carolina	2007
IdleAire	Carbonfund.org BUY »	Truck stop electrification	Connects long-haul trucks to the power grid, so they don't idle their engines.	Arkansas	2006
IGRS Niagara Landfill	The CarbonNeutral Company BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Captures methane at a landfill in Niagara Falls, Ontario, then burns it in generators or flares it.	Canada	2006, 2007
Inland Empire Dairy Methane	Carbonfund.org BUY »	Animal waste methane capture and combustion	Changes waste management practices so methane can be captured and destroyed.	California	2003, 2005
Irani wastewater methane	EcoSecurities BUY »	Wastewater methane mgt.	Avoids methane release at a pulp and paper mill in Santa Catarina.	Brazil	2007, 2008
Newton-McDonald landfill	3Degrees BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Captures methane at a now-closed landfill in Neosho, in the south of the state.	Missouri	2007
North Country landfill	e-BlueHorizons BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Destroys methane emitted from North Country landfill.	New Hampshire	1998 - 2008
Upper Rock Island landfill	Renewable Choice Energy BUY »	Landfill gas destruction	Prevents methane emissions from a landfill in East Moline, near the Iowa border.	Illinois	2006, 2007

Five, tax perks and subsidies for renewable energy producers. Solar farms and wind farms are reaping huge benefits from government subsidies and carbon credits even if they produce very little electricity. In the US, despite several billion \$ of government support and subsidy to renewable energies like solar and wind since the 70s, such energy sources currently produce only about 0.6 percent of total US energy production.

Here at home, the local ethanol and biodiesel businesses will be making plenty of money as Filipino motorists will be required to buy ethanol 10 percent (E10) and gasoline 90 percent mixture starting next year I think. Also biodiesel 5 percent (B5). The conversion of some agricultural land in the country from food crops and animal feeds to ethanol and biodiesel production partly contributed for the recent food price spikes. This trend is expected to continue in the coming years.

The bureaucratic maze of carbon cap and trade

The cap and trade for carbon is a parasitic scheme being imposed on everyone in this planet. The scheme would look like this.

After each government has determined their carbon emission cap or limit by 2020 to 2050, environmental bureaucrats in each country will come in. For instance, in the US they will say something like this:

"Delta Air, Continental, American and other airlines; AT&T, Verizon and other telecom companies, these are your respective carbon cap for 2012, these should go down to xx level by 2020, and further down to yy level by 2030, and down to zz level by 2050. Hilton, Hyatt, Mandarin, Intercon and other hotel chains; Walmart, Boeing, Amtrak, Greyhound, etc.; GM, Ford, Toyota, Honda, BMW, etc., these are your respective carbon limits. We expect these carbon emission limits to be constantly declining until 2050. Now, if you exceed your cap, you can buy from other companies, here or abroad, which have carbon surplus or sell carbon offset. Or we will penalize and tax you."

Of course there is also the name and shame game by media, corporate rivals, politicians and green NGOs, for companies that do not comply with their carbon caps.

Imagine the army of new government personnel who will be hired to monitor each of the several million big and medium companies in America alone, who will get penalized, new "green" courts to be created or expanded to settle rising number of environmental lawsuits, new financial regulators to "prevent" the emergence of carbon bubble involving trillion dollars, and so on.

There is also one observation in the US where "in the disbursement of this enormous windfall gain (carbon permits), the House proposes to reward favourites, such as regulated utilities, and punish villains, notably the oil companies. Some emitters will receive more permits in relation to their needs than others. This would create a perpetual struggle for political advantage. If you wanted to promote corruption, this would be a good way." (Financial Times, May 18 '09)

Now, where will companies get the money to buy excess carbon credits from other companies? From their consumers and the public. For those who did not exceed their carbon cap, where will they get the money to buy expensive technologies to drastically cut their carbon emission? From their consumers and the public. Where will the government get money to hire those big army of new environmental bureaucrats? From the taxes of the public.

And the public end up paying more and more, prices of almost everything becoming more expensive, companies will be scrimping on other production costs like labor just to survive, unemployment will rise. Will this "save" the planet, the real goal? Not a bit.

The carbon offset and Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) schemes are part of the cap and trade business. Companies buy carbon offset to buy emission reduction and reduce their carbon footprint, while they purchase RECs if they want to buy "green power".

Concluding notes

If current cooling will worsen – and some physicists and geologists are projecting that the cooling will last for a few decades – then later we might be encouraged to produce more carbon emission. But this is not likely to happen. So many governments, NGOs, companies, even scientists, have already taken huge personal and political stake in global warming hysteria. There is big money and big power that will be removed from them if the world will realize that all those warming hysteria and political schemes are not true.

It is important, therefore, to dispel the global warming hysteria because it is no longer true. So much of our energy and resources are spent on preparing for global warming, on fighting a non-existent enemy, because of climate science becoming political science by the UN, national governments, certain business interests and international green NGOs intent on pushing ecological central planning.

Renewable energies should proceed, but they should not get subsidies from taxpayers' money. Since many people proclaim that they wish to “save the planet”, then they should buy renewable energy even if these are expensive. This way, demand for “non-renewable and dirty” energy will decline, and no tax money that are forcibly collected from the citizens will be spent in politically-motivated energy funding.

We should continue having clean air, clean surroundings, clean water, for its own sake, and not say to “save” the planet because the Earth is not in danger of “man-made” global warming or climate change. We should not create new government measures that coerce everyone to follow like mandatory deep emission cuts, mandatory subsidies to renewable but expensive energy sources while making cheaper energy become more expensive through carbon tax and related measures.

And we should not create new government agencies and bureaucracies to “fight” a non-existent enemy. Governments should spare our pockets from more taxes and fees. People need more money in their pockets and bank accounts to adapt to global cooling, like more sturdy houses and vehicles against more rains, more typhoons, prolonged winter.

Again, governments and the UN should get out of the on-going scientific debate between the climate alarmists who peddle the AGW scare, and the climate realists who have more science than politics in their research work. Governments and the UN should stop invading our pockets and pay checks to finance their expensive and frequent global and national meetings, and creating expensive national and international bureaucracies to “fight” a non-existent enemy.

Annex 1. News stories on Sun-climate link and global cooling

(Note: Most of these news stories in Annexes 1 to 3 are lifted from CCNet, a scholarly electronic journal edited by Dr. Benny Peiser. Thanks Benny!)

(1) ON THE THREAT OF GLOBAL WARMING

by the Geological Science Committee, Polish Academy of Sciences
<http://www.staff.livjm.ac.uk/spsbpeis/PAS.htm>

...Experiments in natural science show that one-sided observations, those that take no account of the multiplicity of factors determining certain processes in the geo-system, lead to unwarranted simplifications and wrong conclusions when trying to explain natural phenomena. Thus, politicians who rely on incomplete data may take wrong decisions. It makes room for politically correct lobbying, especially on the side of business marketing of exceptionally expensive, so called eco-friendly, energy technologies or those offering CO₂ storage (sequestration) in exploited deposits. It has little to do with what is objective in nature. Taking radical and expensive economic measures aiming at implementing the emission only of few greenhouse gases, with no multi-sided research into climate change, may turn out counterproductive.

The PAN Committee of Geological Sciences believes it necessary to start an interdisciplinary research based on comprehensive monitoring and modelling of the impact of other factors -not just the level of CO₂ - on the climate. Only this kind of approach will bring us closer to identifying the causes of climate change

Wroclaw-Warsaw, 12 February 2009

(2) THE MISSING SUNSPOTS: IS THIS THE BIG CHILL?

The Independent, 27 April 2009
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/the-missing-sunspots-is-this-the-big-chill-1674630.html>

Scientists are baffled by what they're seeing on the Sun's surface - nothing at all. And this lack of activity could have a major impact on global warming. David Whitehouse investigates

The disappearance of sunspots happens every few years, but this time it's gone on far longer than anyone expected - and there is no sign of the Sun waking up...

The disappearance of sunspots happens every few years, but this time it's gone on far longer than anyone expected - and there is no sign of the Sun waking up. "This is the lowest we've ever seen. We thought we'd be out of it by now, but we're not," says Marc Hairston of the University of Texas. And it's not just the sunspots that are causing concern. There is also the so-called solar wind - streams of particles the Sun pours out - that is at its weakest since records began. In addition, the Sun's magnetic axis is tilted to an unusual degree. "This is the quietest Sun we've seen in almost a century," says NASA solar scientist David Hathaway. But this is not just a scientific curiosity. It could affect everyone on Earth and force what for many is the unthinkable: a reappraisal of the science behind recent global warming....

(3) VERY LOW SOLAR ACTIVITY CAUSES SOME TO SPECULATE ABOUT A NEW DALTON MINIMUM

Associated Content News, 21 February 2008

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/615061/very_low_solar_activity_causes_some.html?cat=58

In 2004, NASA scientists started looking forward to a new solar minimum. In 2005, it began. At this time most scientists expected the new solar cycle 24 to begin in late 2006 or early 2007 with a following ramp up in solar activity.

But 2006 and 2007, according to NASA data, passed without any sign of a new solar cycle. During this time, the sun remained unusually quiet. Then, in early 2008, scientists finally found what they were waiting for -- a single sunspot with a reversed magnetic polarity. As a switch in magnetic polarity usually presages an increase in sunspot activity building up to a new solar maximum, scientists around the world proclaimed the new solar cycle had finally begun.

Now, nearly two months later, NASA observations show the sun is still unusually quiet. Day after day, the sun displays few, if any, sunspots. Even coronal holes are curiously absent. The long solar minimum now stretching into its third year coupled with curiously low solar activity even for a solar minimum is causing some scientists to speculate if the sun is entering a period of anemic activity like the most recent Dalton Minimum...

(4) NEW STUDY: EARTH MAY FACE SOLAR MINIMUM FOR MUCH OF 21ST CENTURY

Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Volume 71, Issue 2, February 2009, Pages 239-245

<http://tinyurl.com/c38965>

Forecasting the parameters of sunspot cycle 24 and beyond

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Abstract

...We find that the system is presently undergoing a transition from the recent Grand Maximum to another regime. This transition started in 2000 and it is expected to end around the maximum of cycle 24, foreseen for 2014, with a maximum sunspot number $R_{max}=68\pm 17$. At that time a period of lower solar activity will start. That period will be one of regular oscillations, as occurred between 1730 and 1923. The first of these oscillations may even turn out to be as strongly negative as around 1810, in which case a short Grand Minimum similar to the Dalton one might develop. This moderate-to-low-activity episode is expected to last for at least one Gleissberg cycle (60-100 years).

FULL PAPER at <http://tinyurl.com/c38965>

(5) QUIET SUN: WHO SAW IT COMING?

Climate Research News, 25 April 2009

<http://climateresearchnews.com/2009/04/quiet-sun-who-saw-it-coming/>

The Sun has hit a 100-year low in sunspot activity, a 50-year low in solar wind pressure and a 55-year low in radio emissions. Who predicted this would happen? A couple of papers spring to mind:

Fairbridge, R. W. and Shirley, J. H. (1987): Prolonged minima and the 179-year cycle of the solar inertial motion. *Solar Physics* 110, 191-220.

Abstract:

... The progression of the inertial orientation parameter is controlled by the 900-yr "great inequality" of the motion of Jupiter and Saturn, while the precessional rotation parameter is linked with the 179-yr cycle of the solar inertial motion previously identified by Jose (1965). A new prolonged minimum of solar activity may be imminent.

Landscheidt T. (2003): New Little Ice Age Instead of Global Warming? *Energy & Environment*, Volume 14, Numbers 2-3, 1 May 2003, pp. 327-350(24)

Abstract:

Analysis of the sun's varying activity in the last two millennia indicates that contrary to the IPCC's speculation about man-made global warming as high as 5.8°C within the next hundred years, a long period of cool climate with its coldest phase around 2030 is to be expected. It is shown that minima in the secular Gleissberg cycle of solar activity, coinciding with periods of cool climate on Earth, are consistently linked to an 83-year cycle in the change of the rotary force driving the sun's oscillatory motion about the centre of mass of the solar system. As the future course of this cycle and its amplitudes can be computed, it can be seen that the Gleissberg minimum around 2030 and another one around 2200 will be of the Maunder minimum type accompanied by severe cooling on Earth. This forecast should prove 'skilful' as other long-range forecasts of climate phenomena, based on cycles in the sun's orbital motion, have turned out correct, as for instance the prediction of the last three El Niños years before the respective event.

Outlook:

"We need not wait until 2030 to see whether the forecast of the next deep Gleissberg minimum is correct. A declining trend in solar activity and global temperature should become manifest long before the deepest point in the development. The current 11-year sunspot cycle 23 with its considerably weaker activity seems to be a first indication of the new trend, especially as it was predicted on the basis of solar motion cycles two decades ago. As to temperature, only El Nino periods should interrupt the downward trend, but even El Ninos should become less frequent and strong. The outcome of this further long-range climate forecast solely based on solar activity may be considered to be a touchstone of the IPCC's hypothesis of man-made global warming."

(6) FELIPE FERNANDEZ-ARMESTO: IT'S BEEN A LONG, COLD, LONELEY WINTER BUT, HERE COMES THE SUN. (AND YES, IT'S ALL RIGHT)

The Independent on Sunday, 26 April 2009

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/felipe-fernandezarmesto-its-been-a-long-cold-lonely-winter-but-here-comes-the-sun-and-yes-its-all-right-1674263.html>

The last time solar activity slowed this much, whole empires fell. But the past few days' activity may augur well

No wonder people treat the Sun as a god, distributing life and death with a capricious hand. When he flares, as if with anger, he burns forests and shrivels crops. When he hides his face, we shiver and suffer....

So far, the evidence suggests a freakish interruption of a normal cycle, rather than its suspension or reversal. If we are in for a cool spell it will probably be a short lurch, whereas warming is the long-term trend. Anxiety, however, is salutary in one respect: it reminds us that we rely absolutely on the Sun. The future of the world really does depend on what happens next 93 million miles away.

(7) POLISH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES JOINED CLIMATE SKEPTICS

The Reference Frame, 24 April 2009

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2009/04/polish-nas-joined-climate-skeptics.html>

It took us two months to learn that the Committee for Geological Sciences of the Polish National Academy of Sciences has joined the climate realists. In their February 2009 statement (<http://www.staff.livjm.ac.uk/spsbpeis/PAS.htm>) they enumerate dozens of examples of natural processes that have been changing the climate from the birth of our planet, at all time scales, locally and globally.

It explains why the recent changes were small in comparison with the historical evolution and why the most recent measurements do not offer us enough data to validate complex models. The scholars agree that the greenhouse effect is real and identify water vapor as the key greenhouse gas. They emphasize that the climate must be studied in its entirety, including the geological context, and the focus must shift away from CO2.

(8) UNCLE TOM'S CABIN AND THE DALTON MINIMUM

We are transitioning into Solar Cycle (SC) 24 and the sun has become fairly quiet. During most of the last century (SC 16-23) the sun has been in a "Grand Maxima". As a result the Earth has experienced warming. But with SC 24 the sun is again changing states. From the peak year 1998, the lower Troposphere temperatures globally have already fallen around 1/2 degree Celsius. This is despite the fact that during that same time period, atmospheric carbon dioxide has risen 5% from 367 ppm to 386 ppm. Several solar scientist are predicting the sun will slide into a "Dalton Minimum" event in SC 25, about a decade from now. If that happens, the Earth will experience some bitterly cold winters for several decades. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was written shortly after the "Dalton Minimum" (1790-1830) came to a close. At the time the book was written, the earth had become a little warmer. If the sun again goes quiet and fall into another "Dalton Minimum", then we will once again see the mighty Ohio River freeze solid in the winter.

James A. Marusek

<http://gcdailyworld.com/story/1533819.html>

(9) GLOBAL COOLING EXPECTED SOON, RUSSIAN CLIMATE SCIENTIST PREDICTS

ITAR-TASS, 28 April 2009

<http://www.itar-tass.com/level2.html?NewsID=13885520>

“Predictions of global warming in the foreseeable future may not be justified.” This opinion was expressed today in an interview with Professor Lev Karlin – the director of the St. Petersburg Hydro-Meteorological University, a regional hub of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

An analysis of geophysical evidence leads some scientists to believe that all these factors have subsided during the last three or four years and that the global warming trend is on its way to reverse into gradual cooling. "There is every reason to assume that the projections of future warming may not be justified: in the next decade we are likely to return to the climatic norm of the 1970s", the director of the University of Hydrometeorology claims.

(10) On ice shelf break-up and sea level rise

April 30, 2009, The Australian, letter to Editor,

Your front-page article states that Peter Garrett claimed the break-up of the Wilkins ice shelf in West Antarctica indicated sea level rises of 6 metres were possible. His claim includes two basic errors. Firstly, shelf ice is floating, because it is less dense than seawater. When floating ice melts, there is no change in sea level. This is a bit of elementary physics known as Archimedes' Principle.

Secondly, the breakup of ice shelves is normal and inevitable. Ice caps grow by precipitation in the uplands, flow at depth, and at the ice front the ice either melts or breaks off as icebergs. The ice never simply keeps flowing to the equator. Icebergs are produced in both times of climate warming and times of cooling, so they tell us nothing of climate change.

Prof. Cliff Ollier
School of Earth and Environment
University of Western Australia
Nedlands, W.A. 6009

(11) ANTARCTIC ICE INCREASING

Eco-World, 30 April 2009

<http://www.ecoworld.com/blog/2009/04/30/antarctic-ice-increasing/>

.... As the above table prepared by researchers at the University of Illinois indicates, the actual sea ice surrounding Antarctica is well above average. The black line represents the last 12 months of sea ice area, based on satellite data. You can see the sea ice reached a peak of 15 million square kilometers around September, during the peak of the southern winter. You can see it dropped to a low of 2 million square kilometers in mid-February, at the height of the southern summer. Currently the sea ice surrounding Antarctica is 7 million square kilometers and rising. The red line, however, is what is significant, because the red line indicates whether or not the sea ice is above or below the historical norm. And as you can see, as of May 2009, Antarctic sea ice is about 1.0 million square kilometers above normal.

Dr. Roger Pielke Sr., a climatologist at the University of Colorado whose blog www.climateci.org is one of the most balanced forums and respected sources of technical information on global climate anywhere. In response to my inquiry, he wrote the following:

“The sea ice around the continent is far above average (ref. UIUC). Also, note the colder than average sea surface temperatures around Antarctic (ref. NOAA). If the media is going to discuss the Wilkins Ice Shelf, they should also discuss this other data. The expansion of the sea ice coverage implies a cooling.”

(12) RE: ANTARCTIC SEA ICE INCREASING

There is a paper discussing the possibility of increasing Antarctic sea ice coverage with (modest) increases in surface temperatures.

Zhang, J. (2007), Increasing Antarctic sea ice under warming atmospheric and oceanic conditions, *Journal of Climate*, 20, 2515-2529.

http://psc.apl.washington.edu/zhang/Pubs/Zhang_Antarctic_20-11-2515.pdf

The basic mechanism proposed in the paper goes like this: warmer surface temperatures increases upper ocean temperatures and reduces ice growth. This decreases salt rejection from new ice and a drop in upper ocean salinity. Warmer ocean surface temperatures and lower salinity leads to reduced ocean surface water density, i.e. fresher, less dense ocean surface waters. This in turn increases the upper ocean stratification as the less dense water reduces convective mixing of the upper ocean waters. The reduced mixing reduces the upward ocean heat transport (remember that, as ice is formed, the air temperature is below freezing and the ocean water is warmer than the air above it) and decreases the ice melting by ocean heat. Hence, the net ice production is increased and sea ice increases as well.

Jos de Laat
The Netherlands.

(13) NO EVIDENCE OF ACCELERATING SEA LEVEL RISE IN THE AEGEAN SEA

Geomorphology, Volume 107, Issues 1-2, 1 June 2009, Pages 10-17

<http://tinyurl.com/d5o9rp>

Sea-level rise trends in the Attico–Cycladic region (Aegean Sea) during the last 5000 years

Serafim E. Poulos, a, , George Ghionis a and Hampik Maroukian a

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Conclusions

The main phase of rapid sea-level rise in the Central Aegean region ended prior to 5500 BP with the sea level being 4–5 m below its present stand. Subsequently, the sea level continued to rise slowly at a rate of 0.9 mm/a towards its present level, but without ever exceeding it. Due to the tectonic stability of the Attico–Cycladic Massif (central Aegean Sea), the rise of sea level within historical times is attributed to eustatic factors, with thermal expansion being the dominant one, followed by residual melting of glaciers and ice-caps. Hence, the current transgressional phase during the last interglacial period has not reached its optimum yet. No signs of accelerated sea-level rise in recent years are detectable from the available data for the Central Aegean region. The estimate of sea-level rise in the Aegean Sea for 2100 AD, on the basis of the Attico–Cycladic curve and presuming that the present trend will persist, is approximately 9 cm, which is

significantly lower than the 49 cm, predicted by the IPCC (2001). Thus, any excess of the natural increment (i.e. 9 cm) during the coming decades would be attributed to the Global Climatic Change induced by human activities.

FULL PAPER at <http://tinyurl.com/d5o9rp>

(14) ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT COSMIC RAY-CLIMATE LINK USING COMPUTER MODEL

The Resilient Earth, 10 May 2009

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/attempt-discredit-cosmic-ray-climate-link-using-computer-model>

... Theory that cosmic ray levels affect the creation of clouds in Earth's atmosphere. This theory was first proposed in 1997 by physicists Henrik Svensmark and Eigil Friis-Christensen of the Technical University of Denmark in Copenhagen. They reported that Earth's cloud cover seemed to vary in step with galactic cosmic rays-high-energy charged particles from outer space-striking Earth's atmosphere. The more cosmic rays, the more cloud cover, the more cloud cover the fewer warming rays from the sun reaching Earth's surface to affect the climate.

One of the reasons that the cosmic ray theory is so intriguing is that, to a significant extent, the sun's activity regulates the volume of particles impacting Earth, thus providing a mechanism for variation in the sun to impact earthly climate in ways other than irradiance (direct solar radiation). If Svensmark and Friis-Christensen's theory is correct, changes in solar activity are responsible for a large portion of climate variation, greatly diminishing the importance of greenhouse gases like CO₂. This assault on climate change orthodoxy, combined with the fact that Svensmark and Friis-Christensen are not members of the climate change fraternity, have singled them out for attack by global warming true believers.

(15) Canada has a frigid May after a cool winter

May 27, 2009

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/05/27/canada-has-a-frigid-may-after-a-cold-winter/#more-8048>

By Joseph D'Aleo, CCM, ICECAP

May has been frigid slowing the planting and emergence of the summer crops in Canada. Late freezes and even snows are still occurring regularly and can be expected the rest of the month.

Parts of central Canada (Churchill, Manitoba) are running 16 degrees F below normal for the month through the 26th (map ends 24th). Every day this month has seen lows below freezing in Churchill and only 6 out of the first 26 days had highs edge above freezing. The forecast the rest of the month is for more cold with even some snow today in Churchill and again this weekend perhaps further south.

Parts of the south central region were also cold in April averaging 3-5 F below normal. The winter (December to March) was a cold one for southwest and central Canada but warmer in the far northeast.

Annex 2. News stories on huge money aspect of carbon trading

(1) SOUTH AFRICA DEMANDS \$200 BILLION P.A. FROM RICH NATIONS

Fair Home, 30 April 2009

<http://www.fairhome.co.uk/2009/04/30/south-africa-demands-uk-to-cut-emissions-75-by-2020/>

Together with China and India, South Africa also demanded \$200 billion a year from rich world countries to combat global warming.

The three countries - some of the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters - told the UN they need the money to invest in solar power, wind turbines, and other clean technologies.

(2) IT'S A BARGAIN! BRITISH CLIMATE BILL MAY ONLY COST £20,000 PER FAMILY

Daily Mail, 5 May 2009

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1177274/Ed-Milibands-global-warming-law-cost-20-000-family.html>

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband admits the cost of laws aimed at tackling global warming has soared to £404 billion. Laws aimed at tackling global warming could cost every family in Britain a staggering £20,000 - double the original forecast. Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband admitted the bill for introducing legislation to cut greenhouse gases had soared from £205 billion to £404 billion between now and 2050.

(3) U.S. GREENS WORRIED ABOUT CARBON TAX ELECTIONS IN CANADA

British Columbia Local News, 7 May 2009

http://www.bclocalnews.com/surrey_area/surreyleader/news/44532337.html

...."By raising prices gradually it encourages everyone in the province to squeeze carbon out of the energy system," Alan Durning, founder of Seattle-based Sightline Institute, said. Durning estimates B.C. would have to shut down a huge swath of industry – eliminating 60,000 manufacturing jobs – in order to hit the NDP's target for emission cuts from industry alone.

The carbon tax went into effect last July at a rate of 2.4 cents on a litre of gasoline. It rises to 3.6 cents this July and will reach 4.8 cents by 2010. Diesel and heating fuels such as natural gas are also covered by equivalent amounts based on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted.

(4) CLIMATE BILLIONS FROM RICH COUNTRIES NECESSARY FOR COPENHAGEN DEAL, DANISH MINISTER SAYS

The New York Times, 7 May 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2009/05/07/07climatewire-money-from-richer-countries-may-be-the-key-t-12208.html>

.... Options could include a tax on bunker fuel, or even a global \$2 tax on CO2 emissions, as was recently proposed by Switzerland. But Hedegard said that while she is cognizant of the

reluctance of the public in rich countries to commit more money to something in the midst of a global financial crisis, financing for Third World adaptation could be the impetus for a breakthrough at the final round of the U.N. climate talks.

(5) EDITORIAL: CAP AND HORSE TRADING WILL CORRUPT USA

Financial Times, 18 May 2009

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7db40a5e-43d3-11de-a9be-00144feabdc0.html>

... During the campaign for the presidency, Mr Obama promised that all permits would be auctioned. His first budget counts on revenues from that source to finance his "Make Work Pay" tax credits for the low-paid - to the tune of more than \$600bn over 10 years. The House committee's current proposal chooses to give 85 per cent of the permits away.

That is not all. Predictably, in the disbursement of this enormous windfall gain, the House proposes to reward favourites, such as regulated utilities, and punish villains, notably the oil companies. Some emitters will receive more permits in relation to their needs than others. This would create a perpetual struggle for political advantage. If you wanted to promote corruption, this would be a good way.

(6) INDIA GEARS UP FOR BATTLE OVER \$300 BILLION CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

Live Mint, 19 May 2009

<http://www.livemint.com/2009/05/18233338/India-gears-up-for-battle-on-c.html?h=B>

...A key issue is a proposal for "long-term cooperative action" that would spell out the action to be taken by developing nations to reduce emissions. The mitigating action is to be funded by advanced countries held responsible for most of the emissions responsible for global warming.

But this is where agreement is elusive. Not only are the sources of finance unclear, because of the global recession, but the process of financing and the agencies to be used to channel the funds are also under debate....

(7) THE CLIMATE-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

The Wall Street Journal, 22 May 2009

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124286145192740987.html#mod=djemEditorialPage>

By Bjorn Lomborg

...We are told that very expensive carbon regulations are the only way to respond to global warming, despite ample evidence that this approach does not pass a basic cost-benefit test. We must ask whether a "climate-industrial complex" is emerging, pressing taxpayers to fork over money to please those who stand to gain.

...Al Gore, who actually represents all three groups: He is a politician, a campaigner and the chair of a green private-equity firm invested in products that a climate-scared world would buy. Naturally, many CEOs are genuinely concerned about global warming. But many of the most vocal stand to profit from carbon regulations. The term used by economists for their behavior is "rent-seeking"....

(8) With Billions at Stake, Trying to Expand the Meaning of ‘Renewable Energy’

By [FELICITY BARRINGER](#)

Published: May 24, 2009

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/25/business/energy-environment/25renew.html?_r=1&hpw

The definition of renewable energy seems clear cut: The sun continues to shine, so [solar energy](#) is renewable. The wind continues to blow, so [wind turbines](#) churn out renewable power.

But industries are now pushing to have a growing number of other technologies categorized as renewable — or at least as environmentally advantageous. They include nuclear power plants and the burning of garbage and even the waste from [coal](#) mines.

The lure of the renewable label is understandable. Federal tax breaks for renewable energy have been reauthorized, and quotas for renewable energy production have been set in 28 states, accompanied by extensive new grants, loans and other economic advantages....

With billions of dollars at stake, legislators have been besieged by lobbyists eager to share in the wealth.

Annex 3. Some projected effects of cap and trade

(1) EMISSIONS TRADING DRIVES GERMANY INDUSTRY ABROAD

Handelsblatt, 23 April 2009

<http://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/deutschland/emissionshandel-treibt-industrie-ueber-die-grenze;2248402>

Emissions trading will burden German energy companies considerably while its competition in France will be able to attract industrial consumers with lower energy prices as a result of rules adopted by the EU. The relocation of German industries could be the result. This is the result of calculations by the consulting firm Energy Environment Forecast Analysis (EEFA).

(2) CAP AND TRADE COULD RESULT IN 3 MILLION JOB LOSSES

Workforce News, April 30, 2009

<http://www.workforce.com/section/00/article/26/39/11.php>

Greenhouse gas cap-and-trade legislation such as that proposed by the Obama administration and under discussion in the House could result in the loss of more than 3 million jobs by 2030, according to a recently released report.

In addition, the legislation could cost the average household \$2,100 annually, according to the report compiled on behalf of the Coalition for Affordable American Energy, which receives funding from more than 180 business groups.

“This study proves that the pending bill will be a massive weight on an economy that is barely treading water,” said Bruce Josten, executive vice president of government affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. “All consumers and businesses would face steep increases in energy costs, leading to a spike in the cost of goods and services throughout the U.S. economy.”

The study concludes that by 2030, natural gas and electricity costs will increase by more than 50 percent and motor fuels costs by 78 cents a gallon. Taken together, the combined effects of increased energy costs and dollars spent on carbon reductions will force industry to reduce productivity.

The findings are in contrast to a recent EPA estimate that climate legislation could cost each household \$98 to \$140 per year.

(3) EMISSIONS TRADING 'MAY BANKRUPT POWER STATIONS'

The Australian, 1 May 2009

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/business/story/0,28124,25411880-5005200,00.html>

The National Generators Forum told a Senate committee yesterday that many power stations would simply not be able to afford the 100 to 200 per cent increase in operating costs under the current plan to require them to buy more than 80 per cent of necessary emissions permits. This would leave some insolvent and all struggling to find \$50 billion in new and refinancing capital over the next five years.

The forum said the \$3.9 billion compensation in free permits on offer fell short of the \$10 billion or more in asset value loss they would suffer.

(4) GREEN HARAKIRI: NO WONDER JAPAN'S INDUSTRY IS LOSING ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE

Reuters, 14 May 2009

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/behindTheScenes/idUKTRE54D1MF20090514?sp=true>

Japan's power firms paid a combined 100.1 billion yen, or \$1 billion, for carbon credits in the year that ended on March 31, their annual earnings reports showed, giving investors a rare glimpse into how much utilities are spending to offset their own carbon emissions.

The inclusion of carbon credit figures in earnings statements, effective from 2008/2009, gives investors information that is otherwise largely hidden, on how each firm strikes a balance among burning relatively cheap coal, funneling money abroad through carbon credits and investing in costlier but cleaner alternatives at home.

Japan's No.1 utility, Tokyo Electric Power Co, and five others, spent a combined 75.6 billion yen on credits for redemptions in the past year as part of efforts to help Tokyo to meet its goals for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.

(5) JAPANESE MEDIA WARN OF REPEAT OF 'KYOTO FOLLY'

The Yomiuri Shimbun, Editorial, 18 May 2009

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/editorial/20090518TDY04309.htm>

.... For Japan, which already has advanced energy-saving systems, it is difficult to achieve the reduction of 6 percent from the 1990 level as stipulated in the Kyoto Protocol. Despite its strained fiscal situation, the nation has set aside about **200 billion yen over the last four years** to purchase emission quotas from other nations in order to cover the shortfall in the reduction target.