

CLIMATE

November 2, 2015

Steve Hayward of Power Line provides graphic illustrations of how climate data are manipulated to cause concern and even panic. But, honestly presented facts provide a calm competent contextual understanding.

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Attached to a picture of a small boy in a Mozambique slum, an essay by Bjørn Lomborg suggests the child has little need for solar panels. Lomborg is a serious environmentalist who despairs at the prescriptions of the light-weight trend-surfing greens.

In the run-up to the 2015 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11, rich countries and development organizations are scrambling to join the fashionable ranks of "climate aid" donors. This effectively means telling the world's worst-off people, suffering from tuberculosis, malaria or malnutrition, that what they really need isn't medicine, mosquito nets or micronutrients, but a solar panel. It is terrible news. ...

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According to the World Health Organization, three billion people suffer from the effects of indoor air pollution because they burn wood, coal or dung to cook. These people need access to affordable, reliable electricity today. Yet too often clean alternatives, because they aren't considered "renewable," aren't receiving the funding they deserve.

A 2014 study by the Center for Global Development found that "more than 60 million additional people in poor nations could gain access to electricity if the Overseas Private Investment Corporation"—the U.S. government's development finance institution—"were allowed to invest in natural gas projects, not just renewables." ...

Ed Rogers understands why the upcoming Paris climate change conference is perfect for this president.

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Conference on Climate Change, which will be held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11, could be an event that perfectly matches his skills and interests.

The U.N.-sponsored Paris festival lends itself to unrealistic giveaways and meaningless rhetoric — the more self-righteous and pretentious, the better. The meeting won't produce any particular result, and the day of reckoning where we find out it was all for naught won't be scientifically determined until many years in the future. It seems well-suited for this president.

All Obama has to do is go to Paris, give a vapid speech about saving the planet, capitulate to those who would like to see the United States weakened, pretend that others will fulfill their pledges to reduce carbon emissions and then return home to a round of self-congratulations from his own staff and sycophant appointees. To follow up on his brave proposals, all he has to do is sign a couple of executive orders that slap American businesses with some gratuitous, onerous regulations and declare that a noble deed has been done. And, by the way, the White House will have to do whatever it takes to keep any agreement reached in Paris from being voted on in Congress. ...

The ugly underside of the green movement is examined by [Joel Kotkin](#).

What is the endgame of the contemporary green movement? It's a critical question since environmentalism arguably has become the leading ideological influence in both California government and within the Obama administration. In their public pronouncements, environmental activists have been adept at portraying the green movement as reasonable, science-based and even welcoming of economic growth, often citing the much-exaggerated promise of green jobs.

The green movement's real agenda, however, is far more radical than generally presumed, and one that former Sierra Club President Adam Werbach said is defined by a form of "misanthropic nostalgia." This notion extends to an essential dislike for mankind and its creations. ...Robert Malthus (1766-1834), a Protestant cleric and scholar, believed that rapid population growth would lead to mass impoverishment and starvation.

Paul Ehrlich's 1968 book "The Population Bomb" helped revive the Malthusian ethos, in decline during much of the 20th century, with his hoary predictions of imminent mass starvation in the Third World. Not that he had much hope for richer countries.

"By the year 2000," he predicted, "the United Kingdom will be simply a small group of impoverished islands, inhabited by some 70 million hungry people. ... If I were a gambler, I would take even money that England will not exist in the year 2000."

Good thing Ehrlich is not a professional gambler — and that he didn't control policy apparatus. Among the policies embraced by Ehrlich was the possible feasibility of placing "sterilants" in the water supply, and he advocated tax policies that discouraged childbearing.

*Overall, Ehrlich's dire predictions proved widely off the mark — food production has soared, population growth slowed and starvation declined — but his influence lives on. One of his closest acolytes, John Holdren, is President Obama's top science adviser. **(As once pointed out in Pickings, Holdren is perfect for this administration - an academic who's usually wrong.)***

... Progressive pundits increasingly envision the presidential election in 13 months as a “last chance,” as one put it, to stop “climate change catastrophe.” Even Gov. Jerry Brown, formerly more pragmatic, now uses extreme language about “extinction” – once again peddled by the irrepressible Ehrlich – in connection with climate change. If you believe that Gaia’s reckoning is imminent, after all, you can only accept the most extreme, draconian steps, whatever the effect on living standards and economies. And while you’re at it, bring on those sterilants!

Hillary Clinton’s shift from favoring to opposing the Keystone XL pipeline, despite strong union support for the project, makes clear that climate change policy will be at the center of the campaign, pitting the energy and manufacturing states of the U.S. interior against those controlled by the coastal gentry, among whom climate change has acquired something of a religious aspect.

The only way to break the grip of the Ecotopian fantasy will be for others – including what’s left of traditional Democrats – to join with Breakthrough and other pragmatic thinkers to come up with sensible alternatives to address the climate issue. Rather than accept the intimidating treatment of the greens and their media enablers, mainstream businesses and middle-class voters need to insist on practical ways to preserve the planet without destroying humanity.

American Interest spots this in Great Britain;

Green activists have found a new way to villainize hydraulic fracturing in Britain: claiming that sand, one essential component of the sludge pumped at high pressure into horizontal wells to “frack” shale, will give people cancer. The Times (of London) reports:

[Activist group Friends of the Earth] distributed thousands of leaflets asking for donations to help stop fracking. The leaflets said fracking would expose communities to chemicals that could cause cancer because it involved “pumping millions of litres of water containing a toxic cocktail of chemicals deep underground ... [which] could end up in your drinking water”.

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By this logic, greens ought to be calling for the quarantining of beaches—to hear these activists tell it, the sand you’d be tanning on there would be as big a cancer risk as the UV rays you might be soaking up.

Mark Steyn spots some in the scientific community coming to their senses about climate.

Nine years ago self-proclaimed “climate hawk” David Roberts was contemplating Nuremberg trials for deniers:

"When we've finally gotten serious about global warming, when the impacts are really hitting us and we're in a full worldwide scramble to minimize the damage, we should have war crimes trials for these bastards — some sort of climate Nuremberg."

But in his latest piece, at Vox.com, he's singing a rather different tune:

"Basically, it's difficult to predict anything, especially regarding sprawling systems like the global economy and atmosphere, because everything depends on everything else. There's no fixed point of reference."

Now he tells us.

"Grappling with this kind of uncertainty turns out to be absolutely core to climate policymaking. Climate nerds have attempted to create models that include, at least in rudimentary form, all of these interacting economic and atmospheric systems. They call these integrated assessment models, or IAMs, and they are the primary tool used by governments and international bodies to gauge the threat of climate change. IAMs are how policies are compared and costs are estimated.

So it's worth asking: Do IAMs adequately account for uncertainty? Do they clearly communicate uncertainty to policymakers?

The answer to those questions is almost certainly "no." "

Mr Roberts is almost certainly right. But he's unlikely to find any takers for that line among the warm-mongers at next month's Paris climate jamboree. As I explain in my new book, the IPCC used Michael E Mann's ridiculous hockey stick to sell certainty: 1998 is the hottest year of the hottest decade of the hottest century in, like forever.

Given the zillion-dollar alarmism industry it fueled, it would be asking a lot for its beneficiaries to back away from that to something more qualified. And thanks to the cartoon climatology of Mann's stick, there are millions of starry-eyed activists who now think the very concept of "uncertainty" is a denialist plot. ...

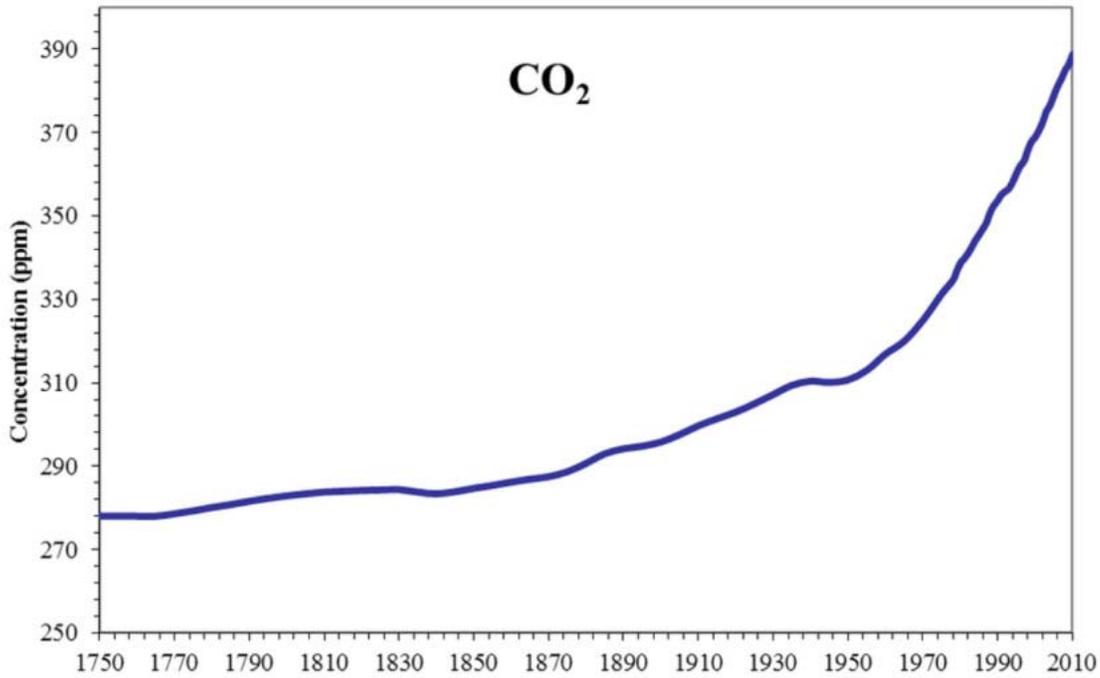


Power Line

[The Only Global Warming Charts You Need from Now On](#)

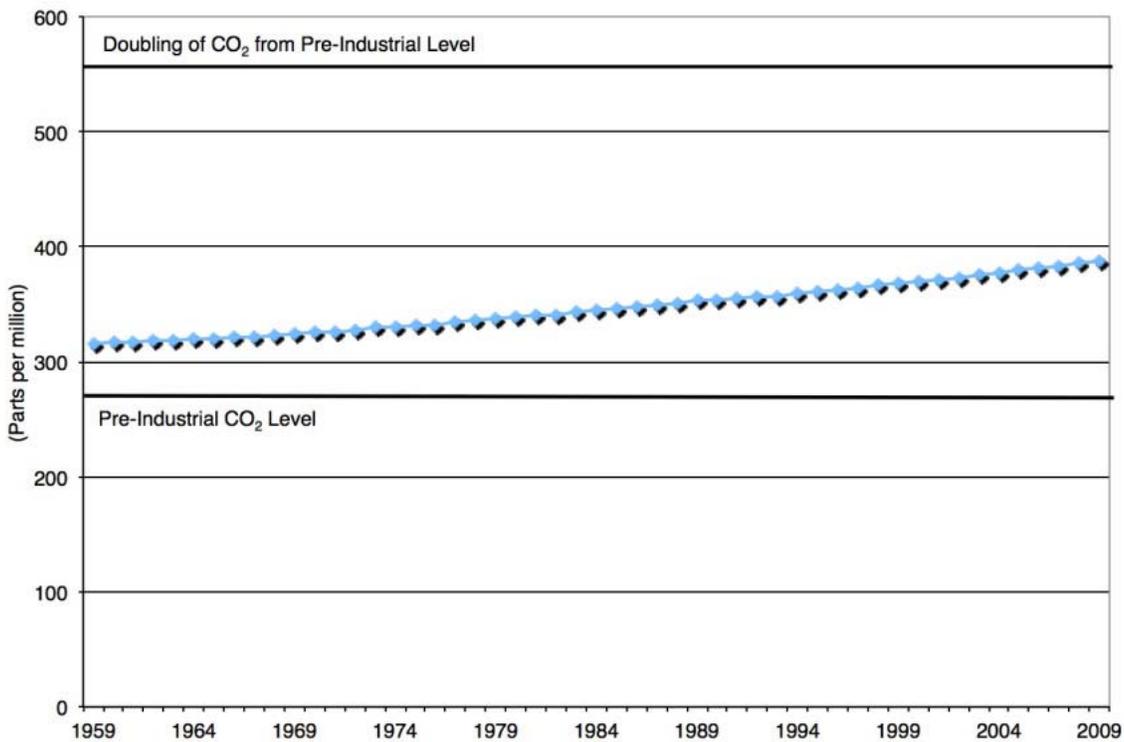
by Steven Hayward

When I make charts and graphs, I generally make it a practice to scale the vertical axis of a chart from zero (0) to the upper bound of the range. Compressing a chart's vertical axis can be grossly misleading. For example, the usual chart the climatistas display of ambient atmospheric carbon dioxide levels looks like this:



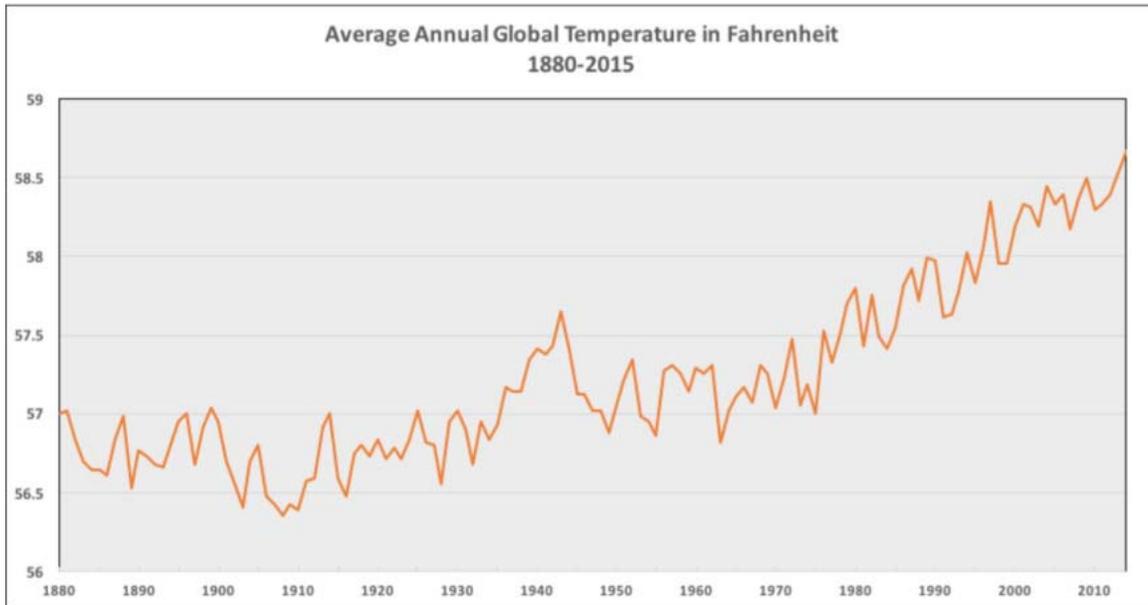
Oooh—that looks scary! Look how fast CO₂ is rising! We’re galloping toward the all-important doubling of CO₂, after which the world will come to an end.

Here’s the chart I typically use when displaying *the same data*, but with the vertical axis starting at zero, and indications of the bounds of pre-industrial CO₂ and where the level of a doubling will be:



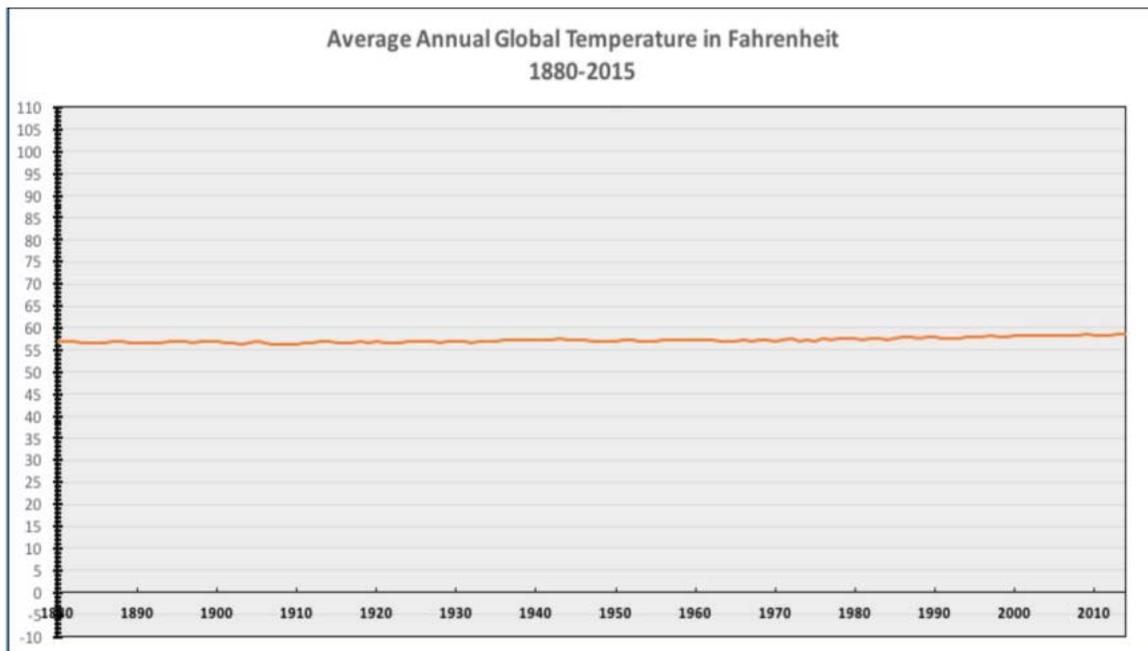
Now that doesn't look as scary, does it? No wonder the climatistas compress the vertical axis to make it look scarier.

Likewise, the typical chart of the global average temperature is usually displayed this way:



Whoa! We're all gonna fry!

But what if you display the same data with the axis starting not just from zero, but from the lower bound of the actual experienced temperature range of the earth? I had never thought of this until an acquaintance sent it along today:



A little hard to get worked up about this, isn't it? In fact you can barely spot the warming. No wonder you need a college education to believe in the alarmist version of climate change. No wonder the data ([click here](#) for original NASA data if you want to replicate it yourself) is never displayed this way in any of the official climate reports.

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WSJ

This Child Doesn't Need a Solar Panel

Spending billions of dollars on climate-related aid in countries that need help with tuberculosis, malaria and malnutrition.

by Bjørn Lomborg



In a slum of Beira, Mozambique, Sept. 28

In the run-up to the 2015 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11, rich countries and development organizations are scrambling to join the fashionable ranks of “climate aid” donors. This effectively means telling the world’s worst-off people, suffering from tuberculosis, malaria or malnutrition, that what they really need isn’t medicine, mosquito nets or micronutrients, but a solar panel. It is terrible news.

On Oct. 9, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim pledged a one-third increase in the bank’s direct climate-related financing, bringing the bank’s annual total to an estimated \$29 billion by 2020. In September, Chinese President [Xi Jinping](#) pledged to match President Obama’s promised \$3 billion in aid to the U.N.’s Green Climate Fund. Meanwhile, the U.K is diverting \$8.9 billion from its overseas aid budget to climate-related aid over the next five years, and France is promising \$5.6 billion annually by 2020, up from \$3.4 billion today. The African Development Bank is planning to triple its climate-related investments to more than \$5 billion a year by 2020, representing 40% of its total portfolio.

All these pledges had their genesis in the chaos of the Copenhagen climate summit six years ago, when developed nations made a rash promise to spend \$100 billion a year on “climate finance” for the world’s poor by 2020. Rachel Kyte, World Bank vice president and special envoy for climate change, recently told the Guardian (U.K.) newspaper that the \$100 billion figure “was picked out of the air at Copenhagen” in an attempt to rescue a last-minute deal. Yet achieving that arbitrary goal is now seen as fundamental to the success of the Paris summit.

This is deeply troubling because aid is being diverted to climate-related matters at the expense of improved public health, education and economic development. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has [analyzed](#) about 70% of total global development aid and found that about one in four of those dollars goes to climate-related aid.

In a world in which malnourishment continues to claim at least 1.4 million children’s lives each year, 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty, and 2.6 billion lack clean drinking water and sanitation, this growing emphasis on climate aid is immoral.

Not surprisingly, in an online U.N. [survey](#) of more than eight million people from around the globe, respondents from the world’s poorest countries rank “action taken on climate change” dead last out of 16 categories when asked “What matters most to you?” Top priorities are “a good education,” “better health care,” “better job opportunities,” “an honest and responsive government,” and “affordable, nutritious food.”

According to a recent [paper](#) by Neha Raykar and Ramanan Laxminarayan of the Public Health Foundation of India, just \$570 million a year—or 0.57% of the \$100 billion climate-finance goal—spent on direct malaria-prevention policies like mosquito nets would reduce malaria deaths by 50% by 2025, saving an estimated 300,000 lives a year.

Providing the world’s most deprived countries with solar panels instead of better health care or education is inexcusable self-indulgence. Green energy sources may be good to keep on a single light or to charge a cellphone. But they are largely useless for tackling the main power challenges for the world’s poor.

According to the World Health Organization, three billion people suffer from the effects of indoor air pollution because they burn wood, coal or dung to cook. These people need access to affordable, reliable electricity today. Yet too often clean alternatives, because they aren’t considered “renewable,” aren’t receiving the funding they deserve.

A [2014 study](#) by the Center for Global Development found that “more than 60 million additional people in poor nations could gain access to electricity if the Overseas Private Investment Corporation”—the U.S. government’s development finance institution—“were allowed to invest in natural gas projects, not just renewables.”

Addressing global warming effectively will require long-term innovation that will make green energy affordable for everyone. Rich countries are in a rush to appear green and generous, and recipient countries are jostling to make sure they receive the funds. But the truth is that climate aid isn’t where rich countries can help the most, and it isn’t what the world’s poorest want or need.

Mr. Lomborg, director of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, is the author of “The Skeptical Environmentalist” (Cambridge Press, 2001) and “Cool It” (Knopf, 2007).

Washington Post

Obama's road to Paris is paved with pretentious hypocrisy

by Ed Rogers

After failing at almost every foreign policy challenge he has been confronted with, perhaps there is now something on the horizon that actually sets up nicely for President Obama. The [Paris Conference on Climate Change](#), which will be held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11, could be an event that perfectly matches his skills and interests.

The U.N.-sponsored Paris festival lends itself to unrealistic giveaways and meaningless rhetoric — the more self-righteous and pretentious, the better. The meeting won't produce any particular result, and the day of reckoning where we find out it was all for naught won't be scientifically determined until many years in the future. It seems well-suited for this president.

All Obama has to do is go to Paris, give a vapid speech about saving the planet, capitulate to those who would like to see the United States weakened, pretend that others will fulfill their pledges to reduce carbon emissions and then return home to a round of self-congratulations from his own staff and sycophant appointees. To follow up on his brave proposals, all he has to do is sign a couple of executive orders that slap American businesses with some gratuitous, onerous regulations and declare that a noble deed has been done. And, by the way, the White House will have to do whatever it takes to keep any agreement reached in Paris from being voted on in Congress.

Let's remember that the Obama administration failed in its pivot to Asia, could not reset with Russia, could not find an opening to the Arab world, could not successfully negotiate with Iran, could not successfully end two wars, could not follow through on its own red lines drawn in Syria — much less change the regime — so forgive me if I am skeptical that this president can go to Paris and save the world. Isn't it a little ironic that the elite will meet in Paris, of all places, to plan the energy scarcity they want the rest of us to endure? The bar at the Hotel George V seems to be the perfect place to decide that Africa will remain energy-starved and the rest of us will have to pay more for the energy we have.

The pious media parade has already begun. The solemn coverage of the "road to Paris" has started, and it almost universally has an earnest, determined and reverent tone that suggests the whole affair should be treated as something almost spiritual. And you can bet it will be a gathering of true believers. No skeptics will be given the microphone. Only the most zealous among the affluent will be allowed to talk and only the most compliant among the poor will be allowed to beg. And oh, by the way, Obama will make commitments to burden the rest of us with higher energy prices and even lifestyle changes that will never apply to him.

Thankfully, a few sober Republican senators, including Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), [are on the case](#), and they are already objecting to the idea that the president could make commitments in Paris that will escape the necessity of a vote in Congress before they take effect.

The 2015 Paris Conference on Climate Change deserves a lot of attention. Insiders will be reading a lot more about it right here. I hope the presidential candidates in both parties will talk about what they would propose for Paris, exactly what it would cost and who would pay.

Orange County Register

Environmental activists turn up the rhetorical heat

by Joel Kotkin

What is the endgame of the contemporary green movement? It's a critical question since environmentalism arguably has become the leading ideological influence in both California government and within the Obama administration. In their public pronouncements, environmental activists have been adept at portraying the green movement as reasonable, science-based and even welcoming of economic growth, often citing the much-exaggerated promise of green jobs.

The green movement's real agenda, however, is far more radical than generally presumed, and one that former Sierra Club President Adam Werbach said is defined by a form of "misanthropic nostalgia." This notion extends to an essential dislike for mankind and its creations. In his book "Enough," green icon Bill McKibben claims that "meaning has been in decline for a long time, almost since the start of civilization."

And you may have thought the Romans and ancient Chinese were onto something!

Rather than incremental change aimed at preserving and improving civilization, environmental activists are inspired by books such as "Ecotopia," the influential 1978 novel by Berkeley author Ernest Callenbach. He portrays an independent "green" republic based around San Francisco, which pretty much bans fossil fuels and cars and imposes severe limits on childbearing. These measures are enforced by a somewhat authoritarian state.

Malthusian roots

"Ecotopia" also draws on the green movement's Malthusian origins, which well predate concerns over climate change. Robert Malthus (1766-1834), a Protestant cleric and scholar, believed that rapid population growth would lead to mass impoverishment and starvation.

Paul Ehrlich's 1968 book "The Population Bomb" helped revive the Malthusian ethos, in decline during much of the 20th century, with his hoary predictions of imminent mass starvation in the Third World. Not that he had much hope for richer countries.

"By the year 2000," he predicted, "the United Kingdom will be simply a small group of impoverished islands, inhabited by some 70 million hungry people. ... If I were a gambler, I would take even money that England will not exist in the year 2000."

Good thing Ehrlich is not a professional gambler – and that he didn't control policy apparatus. Among the policies embraced by Ehrlich was the possible feasibility of placing "sterilants" in the water supply, and he advocated tax policies that discouraged childbearing.

Overall, Ehrlich's dire predictions proved widely off the mark – food production has soared, population growth slowed and starvation declined – but his influence lives on. One of his closest acolytes, John Holdren, is President Obama's top science adviser. Ehrlichian views would not be popular among the nonaffluent electorate, in contrast with more popular approaches that actually improved people's lives, like cleaning up the air and water.

While Holdren may be too politic to embrace naked Malthusianism in the White House, many mainstream environmentalists continue to embrace strong steps to discourage people from

having children. Peter Kareiva, chief scientist for the U.S.-based Nature Conservancy, concluded that not having children is the most effective way for an individual in the developed world to reduce carbon emissions. In the United Kingdom, Jonathon Porritt, an environmental adviser to Prince Charles, has claimed that having even two children is “irresponsible” and advocates that the island nation reduce its population in half in order, in large part, to combat climate change.

Downsizing humanity

In Callenbach’s “Ecotopia,” the domineering state followed somewhat social democratic lines and emphasized an egalitarian culture. This idea could even work, if California was limited to the wealthy counties around the San Francisco Bay and, perhaps, had millions fewer poor people – including many immigrants – than it does now.

An Ecotopian state seems best-suited to a country that has a relatively homogeneous, wealthy population, like Finland or Norway. Green movements flourish among those who already have a high level of materialism – nice cars, homes, secure retirements – and do not require broad-based economic growth to make their lives better. Their relative wealth allows them to focus primarily on the environment, even at the expense of other people.

But this is not the reality for most of California – or the United States – where income disparities have grown in recent decades, and society has become ever more diverse. This reality may make people less enthusiastic about embracing calls by greens to lower living standards, particularly in the high-income countries.

Adviser Holdren, for example, in the past has called for “dedevelopment,” or the conscious ratcheting down of economy growth. A similar school of thought has risen in a well-organized European political drive to promote “degrowth,” which seeks to limit fossil fuels, suburban development and replace the current capitalist system with a highly regulated economy that would make up for less wealth through redistribution.

Perhaps those most cruelly treated under the neo-Malthusian regime would be developing countries, whose per capita energy use is far lower, something the greens hope to keep that way. Prince Charles, for example, embraces the “intuitive grammar” of ultradense slums such as Mumbai’s Dharavi, which, he claims, have perfected more “durable ways of living” than those in the suburbanized West.

The influential environmental group Friends of the Earth applauds recycling in Dharavi as an “inspiration” for the urban future. California’s environmental pioneer Stewart Brand openly endorses efforts to “Save the Slums” because they will save the planet.

A third way?

Prominent environmental thinkers, like the Guardian’s George Monbiot, maintain that, to save the planet we have to “redefine humanity” in a way that circumscribes opportunity. Some in the West, and even here in California, do seem to be willing, for the sake of Ecotopia, to throw opportunities for middle-class and working-class people under a bus.

But it’s highly doubtful that people like Vladimir Putin, the Iranian ayatollahs, India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi or China’s President Xi Jinping are ready to sacrifice their people’s well-being to please comfortable Western greens. India has no plans to restrict building new coal plants – the country has tripled coal imports since 2008.

In the West, however, green politics increasingly demand not just reductions in, but the elimination of, fossil fuels. The progressive website Common Dreams, for example, proposes eliminating fossil fuels, Ecotopia-style, within five or six years in order to ensure a “reasonable margin of safety for the world.” Another goal is to demonize fossil fuel producers along the lines of what was done to the tobacco industry.

As we can see in California, such steps will greatly increase energy costs and especially hurt middle- and working-class people. Is there any alternative that gets us to reduced carbon emissions without exacerbating poverty? One alternative perspective comes from what has become increasingly defined as eco-modernists, a movement that maintains that “humans are capable of using technological innovation to solve critical environmental problems, such as climate change, at the same time as allowing economic growth to eradicate poverty in developing countries.”

Unlike some conservatives, eco-modernists do not consider climate change irrelevant or simply the product of a vast left-wing conspiracy. Instead, eco-modernists embrace many of the things environmentalists once at least considered, including expanded nuclear power and, most critically, a gradual shift from coal to much cleaner natural gas, which, as the Breakthrough Institute notes, has driven most of the reductions in greenhouse gases in America.

Fundamentally, eco-modernists see using technology, including in conservation, to improve the environment without asking Africans to do without electricity or Californians to do without decent jobs, which seems a cruel and self-defeating way to promote necessary environmental changes. But this approach does not appeal to many mainstream environmentalists like the Guardian’s Monbiot, who, using Robert Bryce’s term, tend increasingly to be “absolutists.”

In the past, one could count on political leaders to find ways to address such conflicts over priorities without undermining the livelihoods of their voters. But it may be too late for that expectation.

Progressive pundits increasingly envision the presidential election in 13 months as a “last chance,” as one put it, to stop “climate change catastrophe.” Even Gov. Jerry Brown, formerly more pragmatic, now uses extreme language about “extinction” – once again peddled by the irrepressible Ehrlich – in connection with climate change. If you believe that Gaia’s reckoning is imminent, after all, you can only accept the most extreme, draconian steps, whatever the effect on living standards and economies. And while you’re at it, bring on those sterilants!

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The only way to break the grip of the Ecotopian fantasy will be for others – including what’s left of traditional Democrats – to join with Breakthrough and other pragmatic thinkers to come up with sensible alternatives to address the climate issue. Rather than accept the intimidating treatment of the greens and their media enablers, mainstream businesses and middle-class voters need to insist on practical ways to preserve the planet without destroying humanity.

Joel Kotkin is the R.C. Hobbs Fellow in Urban Studies at Chapman University in Orange and the executive director of the Houston-based Center for Opportunity Urbanism.

American Interest

Sand Causes Cancer, Say British Fracktivists

Green activists have found a new way to villainize hydraulic fracturing in Britain: claiming that sand, one essential component of the sludge pumped at high pressure into horizontal wells to “frack” shale, will give people cancer. The *Times* (of London) [reports](#):

[Activist group Friends of the Earth] distributed thousands of leaflets asking for donations to help stop fracking. The leaflets said fracking would expose communities to chemicals that could cause cancer because it involved “pumping millions of litres of water containing a toxic cocktail of chemicals deep underground ... [which] could end up in your drinking water”.

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By this logic, greens ought to be calling for the quarantining of beaches—to hear these activists tell it, the sand you’d be tanning on there would be as big a cancer risk as the UV rays you might be soaking up.

This kind of campaigning isn’t unique to this specific green group, either. It’s part of a pattern of behavior employed by the modern environmental movement, in which sober analysis of important policy decisions is overrun by overwrought and often emotional rhetoric—baseless fear-mongering. For a group that prides itself on being joined at the hip to science, greens show a remarkable tendency to ditch the facts when it’s convenient to serve their point, and this latest sand-causes-cancer campaign is a great example of that.

The world needs a better, smarter green movement. Environmental concerns pervade a wide host of issues, and our planet deserves a better class of champion.

Steyn On Line

The Certainty of Uncertainty

"A Disgrace to the Profession": The World's Scientists on Michael E Mann, his Hockey Stick and their Damage to Science

by Mark Steyn

Nine years ago self-proclaimed "climate hawk" David Roberts was contemplating [Nuremberg trials for deniers](#):

When we've finally gotten serious about global warming, when the impacts are really hitting us and we're in a full worldwide scramble to minimize the damage, we should have war crimes trials for these bastards — some sort of climate Nuremberg.

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Grappling with this kind of uncertainty turns out to be absolutely core to climate policymaking. Climate nerds have attempted to create models that include, at least in rudimentary form, all of these interacting economic and atmospheric systems. They call these integrated assessment models, or IAMs, and they are the primary tool used by governments and international bodies to gauge the threat of climate change. IAMs are how policies are compared and costs are estimated.

So it's worth asking: Do IAMs adequately account for uncertainty? Do they clearly communicate uncertainty to policymakers?

The answer to those questions is almost certainly "no."

Mr Roberts is almost certainly right. But he's unlikely to find any takers for that line among the warm-mongers at next month's Paris climate jamboree. As I explain in [my new book](#), the IPCC used Michael E Mann's ridiculous hockey stick to sell certainty: 1998 is the hottest year of the hottest decade of the hottest century in, like forever.

Given the zillion-dollar alarmism industry it fueled, it would be asking a lot for its beneficiaries to back away from that to something more qualified. And thanks to the cartoon climatology of Mann's stick, there are millions of starry-eyed activists who now think the very concept of "uncertainty" is a denialist plot. In my book, I quote Professor Richard Muller, writing in 2004, very presciently:

Suppose, for example, that future measurements in the years 2005-2015 show a clear and distinct global cooling trend. (It could happen.) If we mistakenly took the hockey stick seriously--that is, if we believed that natural fluctuations in climate are small--then we might conclude (mistakenly) that the cooling could not be just a random fluctuation on top of a long-term warming trend, since according to the hockey stick, such fluctuations are negligible. And that might lead in turn to the mistaken conclusion that global warming predictions are a lot of hooey. If, on the other hand, we reject the hockey stick, and recognize that natural fluctuations can be large, then we will not be misled by a few years of random cooling.

If only they'd listened. Instead, "uncertainty" was banished, with precisely the consequences Muller foresaw.

~Still, there are no uncertainties in Medicine Hat, where David Gue [writes to The Medicine Hat News](#). He certainly has my number:

Thanks to Robert Wallace for his entertaining rant about climate change, acid rain and glaciology. It was meant as a joke, wasn't it?

Perhaps a more accurate headline would have been "Massive evidence for climate change ignored by non-scientist deniers."

Wallace cited two main sources of information for his opinions: Mark Steyn and Chris Horner. Unfortunately, both these gentlemen are masters of "fallacious extrapolations and distortions in data" — the very thing Mr. Wallace scorns.

Mark Steyn is a musician, author, drama critic, DJ and occasional guest host for Rush Limbaugh. He has no known education beyond high school.

Oh, my! You can see why David Gue prefers to get his science from authoritative types like Nobel Laureate Professor Dame Naomi Klein, FRS, PhD.

I may have no known education, but I know some guys who have, which is what the book is all about. I very much enjoyed this review of ["A Disgrace to the Profession"](#) from John Kranz at Three Sources, who [hadn't expected to enjoy it](#):

I mentioned in a Review Corner teaser that I had not intended to read Mark Steyn's [A Disgrace to the Profession](#). I enjoy his wit and style, but a whole book beating up on a single climate scientist sounded a bit much. I grabbed the (generous) Kindle sample to kill some time and found it to be quite "not put downable." Each of the 110 Chapters is only a couple of pages; the temptation to read just one more can last an entire afternoon.

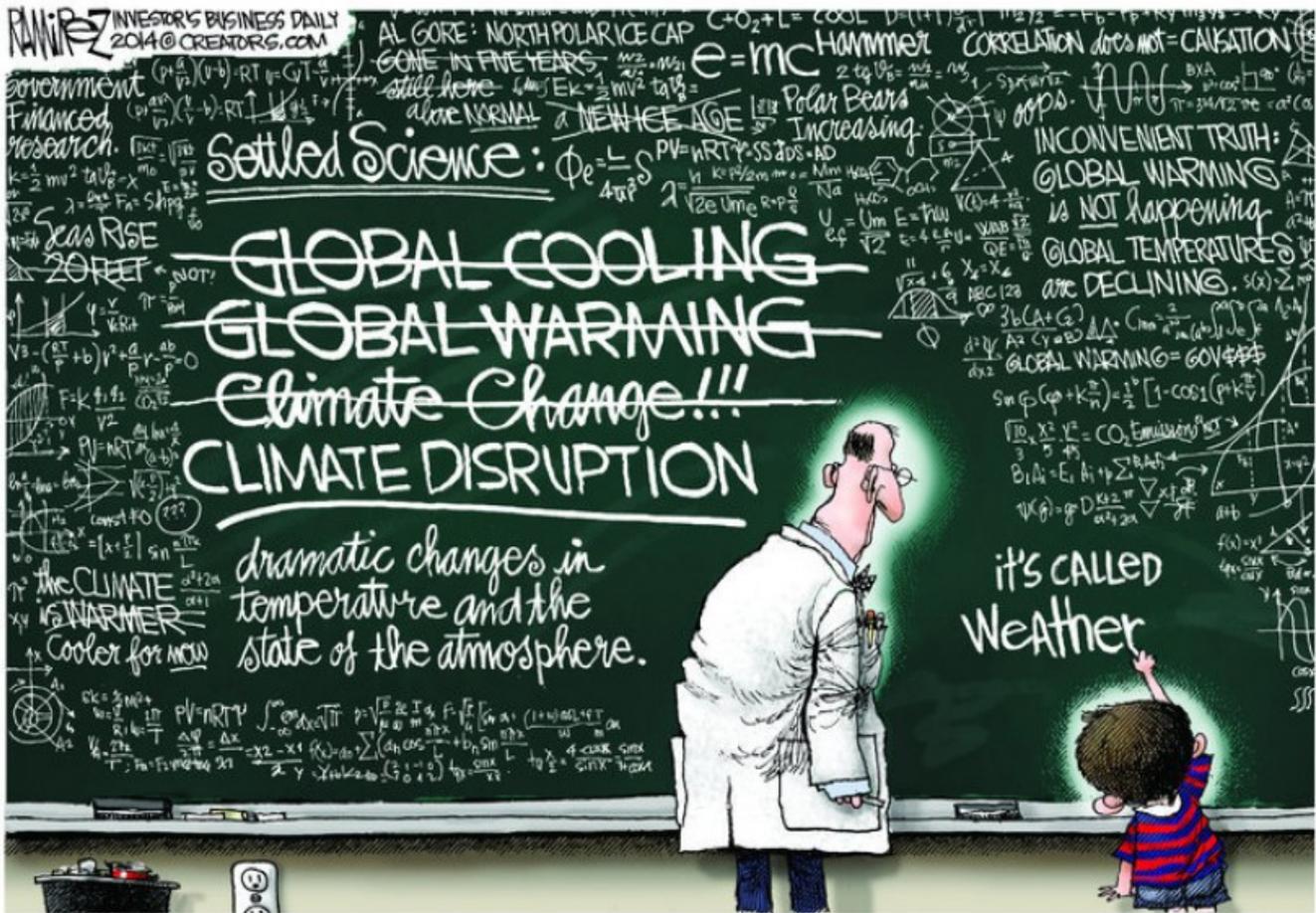
Each of these brief chapters introduces a highly credentialed source -- Steyn admits he felt besieged by typing so many letters after people's names. Most are in the field of climate science, and most, if not quite 97%, accept and are quite concerned about anthropogenic climate change. There's a small smattering of "deniers," but the bulk are peers of Dr. Mann who feel that his work hampers the cause. Steyn simply collects these, sets up the story, and quotes them.

The total effect is totally damning -- I hope to never cheese Mr. Steyn off enough that he writes a book attacking me.

"Five stars for Mr Steyn," writes Mr Kranz, who brings us back to uncertainty:

It is refreshing to see 100 or so scientists care enough about integrity and science to push back. But it is an open question how much the concern goes away if the hockey stick graph received the public discrediting it deserves. Most of the sources remain all in (as am I), but the public was brought on board with the hockey stick: the IPCC (3rd), VP Gore's movie, and some credulous young people accept that as truth. Without it, much uncertainty is restored.

You can have "uncertainty", which is what scientists believe, or you can have the cartoon climatology of the hockey stick, which is what the alarmism industry and its dupes believe. My bet is that the Paris conference has no interest in uncertainty.



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A Brief History of SETTLED SCIENCE

THE EARTH IS FLAT.



THE EARTH IS THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.



HEAVIER BODIES FALL FASTER THAN LIGHT ONES.



THE ATOM IS THE SMALLEST PARTICLE IN THE UNIVERSE.



GLOBAL COOLING!



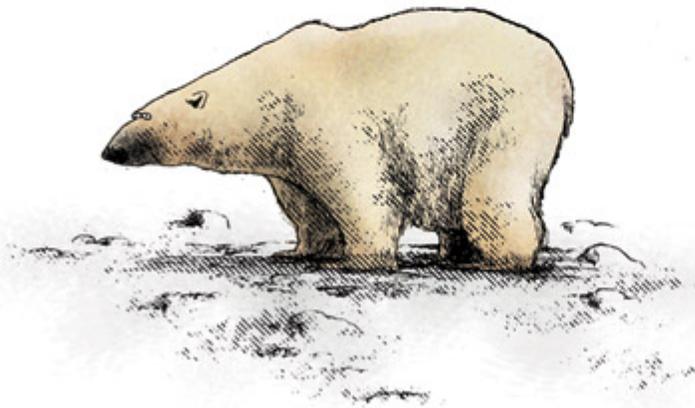
GLOBAL WARMING!



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Q: Which one is *really* an **ENDANGERED SPECIES** in the **GLOBAL WARMING** debate?

A.



B.

The **TRUTH**



THE E.P.A. IS FINALLY
TAKING DOWN THE
COAL INDUSTRY.



OUR ELECTRIC CAR
RUNS ON COAL.





GLOBAL WARMING

Who says all of it is bad?

19th century scientist

I must find the
explanation for this
phenomenon in order
to truly understand
Nature...



21st century scientist

I must get the
result that fits my
narrative so I can
get my paper into
Nature..





**I TURN VEGETABLES
INTO BACON**

**WHAT'S YOUR
SUPER POWER?**