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## **Climate Issues**

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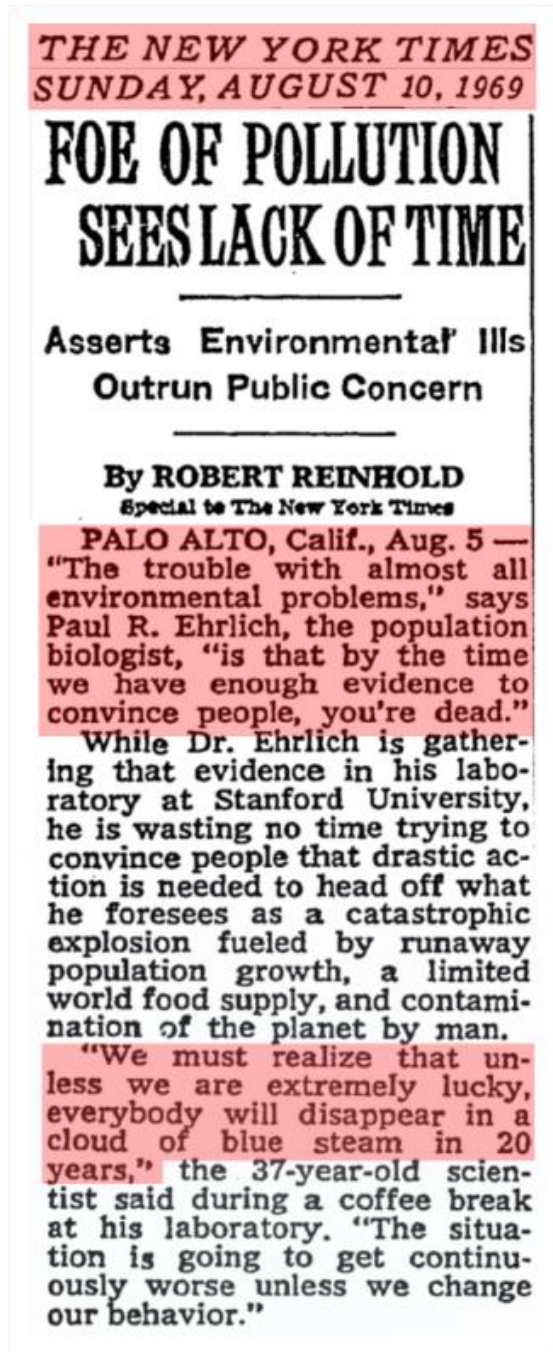
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Few doubt that energy has improved lives and enabled human progress. Yet one of the biggest challenges facing the world is the polarized debate over the future of energy. Facts and economics are too often replaced with assertions and emotions. Discussions about fossil fuels and alternative energy sources often degenerate into a battle to delegitimize the other side. This is a recipe for inaction. And it keeps billions of people trapped in energy poverty. Almost 40% of humanity, or three billion people, have access to only rudimentary forms of energy and a very low standard living. The world expects and deserves better.

Climate policies drive up energy costs through two channels. The first are policies forcing energy companies to replace hydrocarbons with inefficient, inferior lower-carbon alternatives, notably wind and solar. The second channel is by progressively constricting the sources of energy supply thereby increasing the market share of OPEC+.

As we begin 2024, it is interesting to look back at some of the most ridiculous predictions from some climate scientists/activists. Modern doomsayers have been predicting climate and environmental disaster since the 1960s. They continue to do so today. None of the apocalyptic predictions as of today have come true. Yet, we continue to see wild predictions from notable people in government and science. The makers of failed apocalyptic predictions are individuals holding respected positions in government and science. While such predictions have been and continue to be enthusiastically reported by media eager for sensational headlines, the failures are typically not revisited.

In 1996, Paul Ehrlich said: *"If I were a gambler, I would take even money that England will not exist in the year 2000."* Dr. Ehrlich has been predicting climate disaster since the 1960s. As you can see in this 1969 article, Dr. Ehrlich predicted humankind had 20 years to take drastic action to head off what he foresaw as a climate disaster.



A senior United Nations (U.N.) environmental official was quoted in an Associated Press climate report on June 29, 1989 saying entire nations could be wiped off the face of the earth by rising sea levels if the global warming trend is not reversed by the year 2000. Noel Brown,

director of the U.N. Environmental Program (UNEP) said governments had a 10-year window of opportunity to solve the greenhouse effect before it goes beyond human control.

In the name of science, several doom-and-gloom predictions about the climate impacts of business-as-usual have been made in an attempt to shock humanity into immediate legislative and regulatory action and lifestyle changes. From their perspective, they remain the smartest guys in the room.

When political or moral ideologies are insulated from critique, they become dogmas. They become belief systems that are cleaved to, not because they have been tested and discussed in the public sphere, but because their adherents just know that they are right. These are the perfect conditions in which arrogance and intellectual hollowness can flourish, and in which defensiveness and fury become the default responses to any challenge from outside. That is what has happened to environmentalism.

A 2021 report from the Global Energy Institute found that anti-energy activists have prevented at least **\$91.9 billion** in domestic economic activity and eliminated nearly **730,000** job opportunities. In addition, state/local governments have missed out on more than **\$20 billion** in tax revenue.

We have had enough hysteria over important environmental issues thanks to philosophers, linguists, and poets. We need to deal with the facts and the science.

## **Climate Change Reports**

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their latest climate report in August 2023. While the 133 report authors are undoubtedly well accomplished in their scientific fields, they fail to understand the unintended consequences and high taxpayer and consumer costs that come with climate action. They want to drastically cut carbon emissions worldwide to limit global warming by 1.5 degrees over the next few decades. In order to meet the 1.5 degree goal, the IPCC envisions a future where people travel less using buses, trains, hybrid and electric cars. And in order to overhaul agricultural and land-use practices, the IPCC suggest eating less meat. Going all in to limit warming to a degree and a half would mean bilking the poor around the world while increasing other environmental harms.

What condemns the current plan is the IPCC's acknowledgement that even if the world stopped all industrial GHG emissions tomorrow, there would be no noticeable drop in temperature for thirty years. Will 8 billion people deprive themselves for the next 30 years to achieve net zero, as urged by the IPCC? They won't.

Progressives reacted to the IPCC report in predictable ways: hysterical moralizing, in which those who do not concur with their agenda must be denounced as moral monsters

because there can be no honest disagreement; aggressive indoctrination, in which affirming various aspects of the climate narrative becomes a precondition of participating in educational or business life; ‘lying for justice’; and subverting inconvenient realities.

We’ve all heard politicians and media outlets asserting that “extreme” weather is caused by climate change. And these predictions are nothing new. In 1995, a United Nations report predicted that rising temperatures would cause all the beaches in the Eastern U.S. to disappear by 2020.

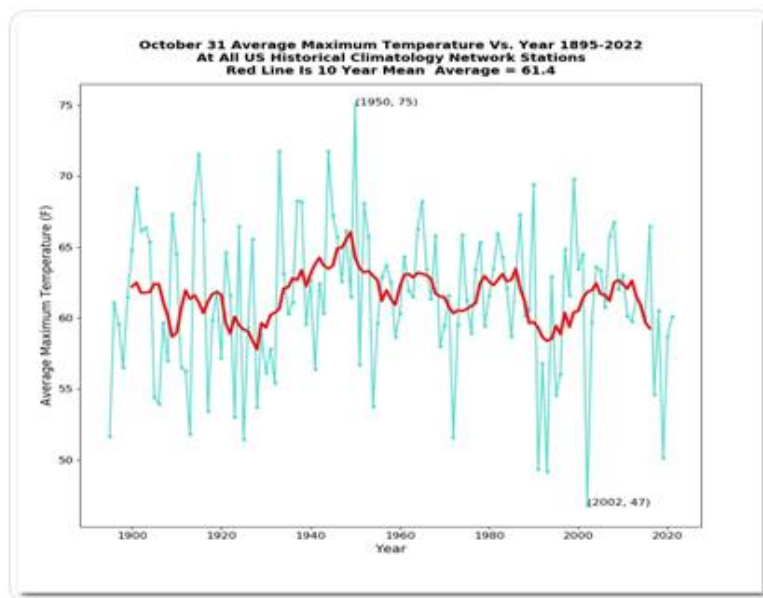
Misinformation and scare tactics like this are used by environmental activists to drive a politicized climate agenda with no apparent regard for the contradictions in their own statements or the costs to American families who need affordable energy to live their lives.

We all want a cleaner environment now and for future generations. But, these over-the-top claims are simply meant to instill fear and are damaging to those of us who want to find real solutions for both our environmental and energy futures.

Fortunately, the true state of our climate is far from disastrous. In fact, both climate science and thousands of years of human history show this is the best time yet to be alive.

The U.N. IPCC latest report fails to acknowledge serious flaws in its data and undermines its own legitimacy by ignoring scientific uncertainties. The IPCC is reporting more of the same climate alarmism but moving the goalposts as its predictions continue failing to come true.

Ample evidence, entirely ignored by the IPCC, suggests that global temperatures were warmer at several other periods in human history. The IPCC has made almost no progress since its last report explaining the causes of warming before 1950 and the pause in warming that occurred for the three decades after that.



The same unreliable data models used to predict mass catastrophe based on faulty and outdated energy trends also show that even totally eliminating U.S. fossil fuel consumption would have nearly no effect. The miniscule benefits of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions do not justify the vast challenges of living with unreliable, unaffordable energy. Policymakers must weigh low climate risk with the numerous more pressing problems facing the American people, including disaster resiliency and the rising costs of energy, health care, and other goods.

## **COP28 Climate Talks**



Global climate summits like the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP 28) held in December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates are nothing more than expensive energy-burning theater. From the air-conditioned comfort of their private jets, climate alarmists fumed that the presence of oil and gas companies at the conference somehow delegitimizes the entire proceeding. They claim that the world's future is their priority, but their actions reveal a disdain for humanity that should undermine any ideas they propose. Their main message is people should use less and do with less.

Like vast numbers of climate 'experts', John Kerry has no education or training in climate science, or any science. There is nothing that qualifies him to instruct the rest of the world on where, or whether, it should get electricity. Experts like Kerry, ivy league politician Al Gore, high school dropout Leonardo DiCaprio, and King Charles with his Cambridge degree in art history, have been lecturing the world on this highly-controversial and poorly understood scientific discipline for years – while they arrive via private jets and live in palaces. And lecture everyone about things that should be banned – things ordinary people depend on in their daily lives.

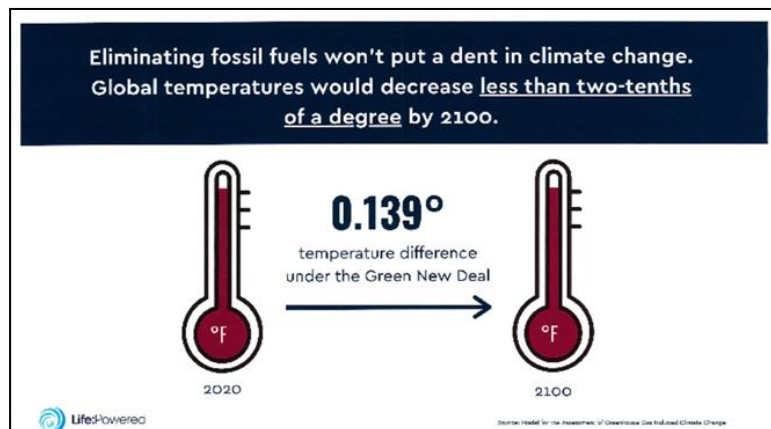
Despite the perspective global warming advocates encourage, the environmental consequences of GHG emissions are based on unsettled science. That makes global climate agreements tough. But since China, like India, has not agreed to global climate emissions cuts, the West will just have to reduce its own emissions even more. Now the USEPA is trying to contort little used regulatory theories to regulate GHG emissions. Harmful, top-down policies that affect the price and availability of energy for every American consumer should not be carried out by unelected EPA officials.

Global climate agreements are very difficult to achieve. Even if such global climate initiatives were put into effect tomorrow, they would barely affect global warming. That is because carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) makes up less than 4% of GHG. Water vapor accounts for about 95%.

## Anthropogenic (man-made) Contributions to Greenhouse Gases Expressed as a % of Total (water vapor included)

Based on concentrations (ppb) adjusted for heat retention characteristics	% of Greenhouse Effect	% Natural	% Man-made
<b>Water Vapor</b>	95.000%	94.999%	0.001%
<b>Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	3.618%	3.502%	0.117%
<b>Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)</b>	0.360%	0.294%	0.066%
<b>Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)</b>	0.950%	0.903%	0.047%
<b>Misc. gases</b>	0.072%	0.025%	0.047%
<b>Total</b>	100.00%	99.72%	0.28%

Using the temperature assumptions put out by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), if the U.S. eliminated all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions immediately, it would avert 0.07 degrees of global warming by 2050 and less than 0.2 degrees by 2100. How many lost jobs is that worth?



America leads the world in environmental quality, and we have made unprecedented progress while our population, economy, and energy consumption has grown. Emissions of the six “criteria pollutants” monitored by the EPA are down 77% since 1970. Over the same period USGDP increased by 285%, vehicle miles traveled increased by 195%, population increased by 60%, and energy use increased by 48%. Meanwhile, emissions from the rest of the world have risen by 24%, led by China and India.

President Biden should have taken the opportunity at COP 28 to tout America's successes in reducing emissions. Since 2005, U.S. GHG emissions fell by 10%, and power sector emissions by 27% — as the US economy grew by 25%. Biden should have compared that to China's announcement of 30 new coal-fired power plants and China being the world's biggest polluter. The president should have stood up for his people. Our people.

The fact is poor countries want to grow prosperity and rich countries are finding global climate summits too fiscally onerous. There are no solutions in the realm of the politically possible. So why throw trillions of dollars into “remedies” that won't solve the problem?

The truth of climate summits and energy policy is that people don't want high energy costs or to be cold, and their governments must respond — in China, in Europe, or in America the ramifications of high energy costs and cold citizens are politically dangerous whether they go to the ballot box or have revolutions.

Global warming is a big challenge for sure. But the oil and natural gas industry can help solve it. The 'Net Zero' campaign stops climate change only by increasing widespread global poverty. Inexpensive energy is necessary for economic advancement by the world's poor and for economic recovery. Ideological opposition to fossil fuels is an anti-human stance that views ordinary people not as problem-solving sources of ingenuity, but only as mouths to feed producing environmental damage.

On the other hand, the U.S. has a unique opportunity to show the world how energy abundance can be used as a positive force to lift people up, which is different than a zero-emissions world. We should work to ensure more people have access to safe, affordable, and reliable energy. Because to rise out of poverty and enjoy health and safety, people need more energy, not less.

The U.S. could be energy independent with domestic oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power. But environmental alarmists say fossil fuels contribute to carbon emissions and nuclear power is apparently unacceptable. So instead, we massively subsidize alternative energy development. The technology and efficiencies of alternative energy sources must be improved by an order of magnitude for these sources to become a major factor in the global energy mix. The trade-off is not there yet. Technology decades from now could solve global warming at a fraction of today's costs.

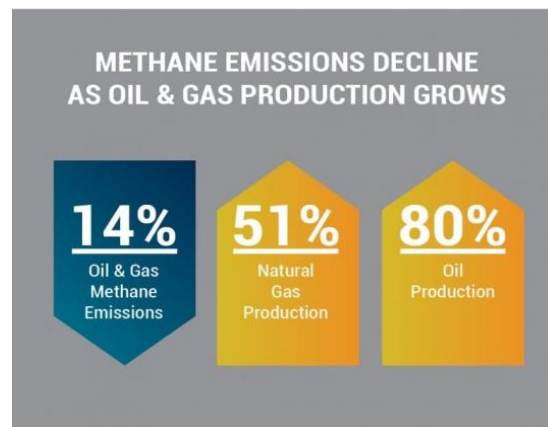
**A Puzzle of Contemporary Society** – The climate of opinion surrounding climate change is a powerful social force. A puzzle of contemporary society is the broad acceptance by young people – Millennials and Generation Z. This climate of opinion acts independently of the facts and the science of climate change. It is nothing short of a calamity for Millennials and Gen Z, yet it is promoted to appeal to them. It grants them a halo of climate victimhood while hiding the truth from them. They are indeed victims. Their prospects are already blighted by the financial crisis and the accumulation of massive public debts, theirs is the generation that will bear the main burden of climate change policies. Decarbonization will greatly diminish already weakened economies. Millennials and their children won't benefit from climate policies; only those born in the second half of this century will begin to see any net benefits.

### Where are we today?

America is a world leader in clean air and water, and we've made unprecedented progress while our population, economy, and energy consumption has grown. Emissions of the six "criteria pollutants" monitored by the EPA are down 77% since 1970. Over the same period U.S. GDP has increased 285%, vehicle miles traveled have increased 195%, population has increased 60%, and energy use has increased 48%.

From 2005 through 2017, the U.S. has led the way by reducing our carbon emissions by 617 million metric tons. The second leading nation (United Kingdom) coming in far behind the U.S. at 163 million metric tons, less than one-third of what we have accomplished as a nation.

Additionally, according to EPA, American oil and natural gas producers have reduced methane emissions (1990-2017) by 14% while increasing natural gas production by 51% and oil production 80% over that same time frame.

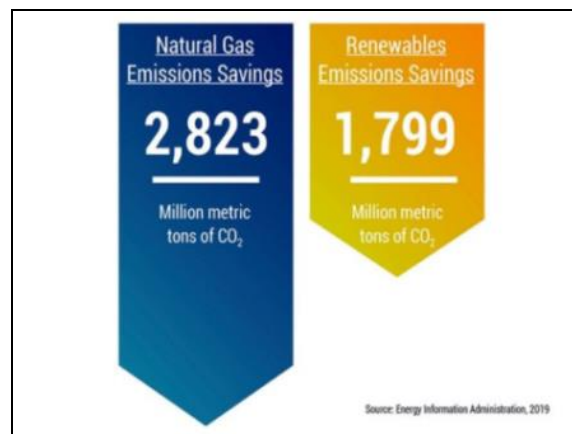


Source: U.S. EPA, U.S. EIA 1990-2017



The fact is our nation's 21<sup>st</sup> century oil and gas market-driven success has helped our nation achieve significant emission reductions. The U.S. emitted 14% fewer energy-related carbon emissions in 2019 than 2005. As a result of technology and efficiency measures, emissions relative to oil and natural gas production were down nearly 70% between 2011 and 2019 and are expected to continue to trend downward.

Energy Information Administration (EIA) data show natural gas is responsible for 2.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emission reductions since 2005. That represents 61% of overall power sector reductions during that time-frame and 57% more than reductions attributable to renewables.



The latest EIA report shows U.S. carbon emissions are the lowest they have been in nearly seven decades. Even more interesting is the fact that U.S. carbon emissions dropped while emissions from energy consumption for the rest of world increased by 1.6%. The U.S. emitted 15.6 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per person in 1950. After rising for decades, it has declined in recent years to 15.8 metric tons per person in 2017, the lowest measured levels in 67 years. European emissions rose 2.5% and Chinese emissions rose 1.6% along with Hong Kong's 7% surge. **America leads the world in environmental quality.**

The men and women of the oil and gas industry reject the stale mindset of last century's thinking peddled by some that oil/gas production and environmental stewardship are not compatible.

A recent research report released last year showed that deaths related to air pollution exposure in the U.S. decreased by about 47% from 1990 to 2010. These improvements in air quality and public health in the U.S took place despite increases in population, energy and electricity use, and vehicle miles traveled. **People are 98.9% less likely to die from a climate-related natural disaster today than a century ago.**

Also, the findings of a recent environmental study published in the journal *Environmental Hazards* reinforces previous findings that when economic growth is taken into account, disasters like hurricanes and wildfires are less costly to society than in the past. The study found that the cost of disasters has actually fallen as a percentage of economic output since 1990.

While many are concerned about climate change, it is essential to balance the statistical uncertainty that the IPCC admits in its report with the well-tested and known dangers of forcing flawed government programs on an economy. The best path forward in addressing both the economic prosperity and environmental preservation is to remove government barriers to competition in the energy sector and beyond.

## **Methane Emissions**

The federal government has set its sights on methane emissions. Methane has become villain #2, right behind CO<sub>2</sub>. Methane has been determined to be an even more potent greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>. But according to the Biden administration, not a single methane molecule must get out, or we are all going to die from climate change. Never mind that methane breaks down a lot more quickly, which diminishes its effect. But that doesn't matter to climate alarmists and overreaching federal regulatory agencies. The Biden Administration seems to see every challenge as an opportunity to impose more burdensome regulations and raise taxes.

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), though CH<sub>4</sub> is far less prevalent than CO<sub>2</sub> and has a much shorter atmospheric life. The real reason methane has become an obsession of environmental activist groups is that it sometimes leaks in nominal amounts when extracting or transporting oil and especially natural gas. Thus methane can be a pretext for interfering with and raising the costs of drilling. But this means willfully ignoring the plunge in U.S. methane emissions. Methane emissions from oil and gas operations declined by 14% from 1990-2017. According to the EPA, oil and gas methane emissions account for only 1.22% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

The EPA ignored the third-party study released in 2022 by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on low-production well emission profiles. The independent DOE study indicates wells producing less than 6 BOEPD emit less than 3 tons per year. KIOGA President Edward Cross was interviewed by *Reuters* and the *Daily Caller* about the EPA proposal. Cross said that EPA's 'one-size-fits-all' approach to regulating oil and gas methane emissions is inappropriate and disproportionately impacts conventional, low-production wells and small businesses.



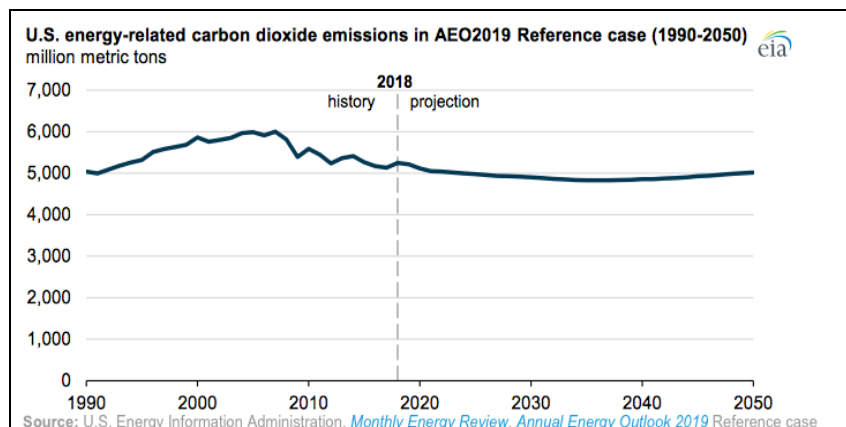
The U.S. EPA finalized new rules expanding methane emission regulations for the U.S. oil and natural gas industry in early December 2023. The new rule will impose strict new standards on releases of methane by the oil and gas industry, including, for the first time, emissions from existing sources nationwide. Once the rule takes effect, the EPA's new policies will also ban flaring of natural gas that is produced by new oil wells, require companies to monitor for leaks from well sites and compressor stations and implement reductions to emissions from high-emitting equipment like controllers, pumps, and storage tanks.

There will likely be legal challenges to the new EPA oil and gas methane rules.

### What about climate change?

Although global temperature has risen about one degree Celsius since the start of the industrial revolution, this has not wholly been caused by industrial warming gasses linked to the economic growth that has increased the world's wealth, health, and life expectancy so dramatically. Atmospheric physicists on both sides of the debate over potential climate catastrophe agree that the first half of the rise, before 1945, was largely caused by natural sources like long-term cycles or solar fluctuations. At that point, emissions were too low to have much of an impact. The substantial feedback warming that many climate models have predicted from fossil-fueled heat in the form of increased humidity and hence water vapor, the primary natural warming gas, has not yet been observed.

**Emission Facts** - Carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. energy consumption will remain near current levels through 2050, according to projections in the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook. The EIA projects that U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions will be 5,019 million metric tons in 2050, 4% below their 2018 value.



Studies show that EPA methane rules would reduce global warming by 4 one-thousandths of one degree (0.004) by the year 2100. More studies show that eliminating fossil fuels entirely would only reduce warming by less than two-tenths of a degree by 2100.

Climatology is mostly guesswork. There is no way to conduct a controlled experiment to ascertain scientific validity. Climatologists have learned a lot about climate and weather in the past century, but actually controlling the climate is something else entirely.

Climate science conventional wisdom is flawed, relies on alarmist scenarios, and exaggerates economic impacts.

For many years, the world seemed to have reached a climate consensus about the growing threat to the environment. With the support of an overwhelming majority of world-renowned scientists, various treaties have been signed.

However, some top-level scientists have come out to refute these claims. One of them is Dr. John Clauser, a renowned physicist and Nobel Prize winner. He vehemently opposes the notion of a man-made climate crisis.

The Nobel Laureate is strongly joined by the founder of the Weather Channel, John Coleman. The now-late veteran weatherman who has spent most of his life analyzing weather changes has something interesting to say. "Climate change is not happening; there is no significant man-made global warming now, there hasn't been any in the past, and there is no reason to expect any in the future," he declared.

Just recently, another leading dissident voice joined the party. American climatologist Judith Curry is making her doubts known loud and clear. In over a hundred scientific papers, Georgia Institute of Technology professor Emerita has described the consensus as "manufactured."

Professor Curry has also bravely opened a can of worms concerning the science world. She has exposed what she described as a "climate change industry" where scientists have become puppets of politicians and moneybags.

She admitted to being recruited to fuel the climate hysteria. "I was adopted by the environmental advocacy groups and the alarmists, and I was treated like a rock star. They flew all over the place to meet with politicians. Like a good scientist, I investigated," she said.

Professor Curry has been involved in years of research involving aspects such as atmospheric modeling, hurricanes, remote sensing, climate models, and lots more. She claims that her departure hasn't come without a price. Scientists who do not play ball will miss out on millions of dollars in grants as well as recognition. According to her, the "industry" only rewards scientists who are ready to raise the false alarm. Every year, the UN, as well as other bodies, fork out billions of dollars to organize climate change conferences.

Scientist Patrick T. Brown recently acknowledged having “left out the full truth” in regard to climate change, pushing the blame on human causes in order for his study to be published in a reputable journal.

The Johns Hopkins University lecturer and doctor of earth and climate sciences said that he had molded his studies’ results to gain the approval of editors at Nature and Science.

In The Free Press, Brown wrote, “And the editors of these journals have made it abundantly clear, both by what they publish and what they reject, that they want climate papers that support certain preapproved narratives—even when those narratives come at the expense of broader knowledge for society.”

The study in Nature magazine claimed that climate change impacted the extreme wildfires such as those in California and Maui.

Brown, however, has admitted that he “focused narrowly” on the human causes of such fires, rather than focusing on other “obviously relevant factors.”

The scientist casted blame on this deception to the pressure that people in his position are under when it comes to getting their studies published with respected organizations.

Brown’s confession caused a stir in the science community, as it exposes the dangerous reality of pushing specific narratives on the American people in regard to climate change

## **Pro-Freedom Policy CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions**

America is taking a “punish America” approach to reducing CO<sub>2</sub>, making our energy more expensive and less reliable while China, Russia, and others increase their emissions.

The only moral and practical way to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is innovation that makes low-carbon energy globally cost-competitive. So long as fossil fuels are the most cost-competitive option for people, especially in developing nations, they will (rightly) choose to emit CO<sub>2</sub>.

The US causes < 1/6 of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions - and falling. The main reason global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are rising is because billions of people in the developing world are bringing themselves out of poverty by using fossil fuels to power factories/farms/vehicles/appliances.

The developing world overwhelmingly uses fossil fuels because that is by far the lowest-cost way for them to get reliable energy. Unreliable solar and wind can’t come close. That’s why China and India have hundreds of new coal plants in development.

The only way to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and benefit America is to promote innovation that makes low-carbon energy truly reliable and low-cost. Are China and India going to stop using fossil fuels so long as they are the lowest-cost option? They won’t and they shouldn’t.

Fortunately, there are low-carbon energy technologies with great promise. For example, nuclear energy provided low-cost, reliable electricity in the 1960s and 1970s, and has shown great promise for providing industrial process heat as well as power for heavy-duty transportation.

What promising low-carbon energy technologies need above all to become cost-competitive is freedom to innovate. Entrepreneurs need to be free to rapidly test, implement, and evolve their ideas.

Instead of low-carbon energy evolving to become more cost-effective than fossil fuels, we are seeing huge government preferences for solar and wind “solutions” that make electricity more expensive and less reliable.

Our ineffective and self-destructive approach to low-carbon energy has 2 main causes:

1. Unquestioning obedience to the anti-development “green energy” movement.
2. The false view that rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels are a “climate emergency” requiring desperate, crash measures.

Low-carbon energy policy has been dominated by the “green energy” movement, which is an outgrowth of the anti-development green movement. This movement is hostile to all development because of development’s impact on nature, and therefore is hostile to every form of cost-effective energy.

The anti-development “green energy” movement’s enthusiastic support for solar and wind is phony. Just as it opposes fossil fuels, nuclear, and hydro for their impact, in practice it opposes the massive mining, construction, and transmission-line-building “green energy” requires.

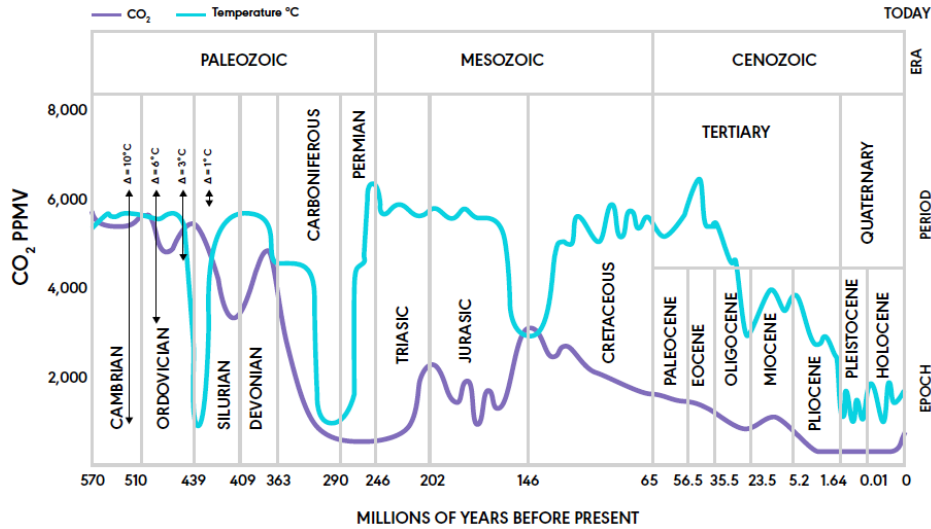
Low-carbon energy policy has also failed because it has been dominated by the false idea that the climate impact of rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels from fossil fuel use constitutes a “climate emergency” requiring desperate, crash programs that inevitably punish America.

The latest example of the desperate approach to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction was the *Inflation Reduction Act*, which was rushed through Congress without any real discussion—and which in practice will enrich the green lobby while devastating our grid.

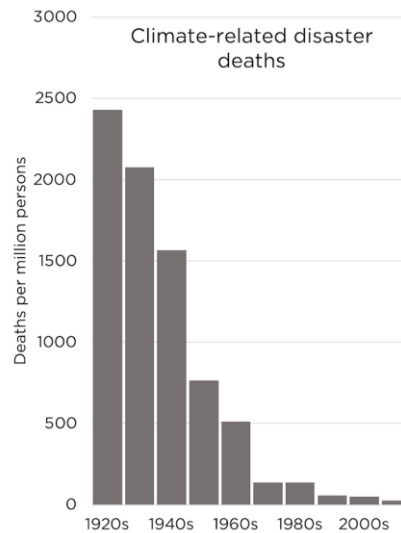
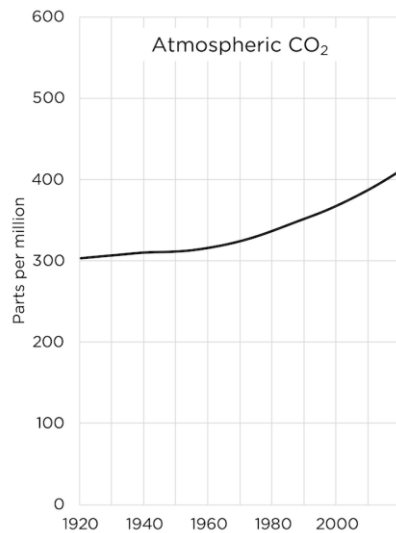
While “climate change”—humans impacting climate—is real, “climate emergency” is not. The world is slowly becoming warmer—at a cold point in geological history, when many more people die of cold than of heat. This doesn't at all justify rapidly restricting global fossil fuel use.

The truth is that fossil fuels' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have contributed to the warming of the last 170 years, but that warming has been mild—1° C, mostly in the colder parts of the world. And life on Earth thrived (and was far greener) when CO<sub>2</sub> levels were at least 5X higher than today's.

Geological Timescale: Concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> and Temperature Fluctuations



Fossil fuels actually overall make us far safer from climate by providing low-cost energy for the amazing machines that protect us against storms, protect us against extreme temperatures, and alleviate drought. Climate disaster deaths have decreased 98% over the last century.



So long as America follows the anti-development “green energy” movement and the “climate emergency” narrative, it will continue to adopt senseless policies that punish America while doing nothing to bring about globally cost-competitive low-carbon energy.

The only moral and practical way to reduce emissions long-term is liberating innovation that makes low-carbon energy globally cost-competitive—while ending all policies that punish America via rapid short-term emissions reduction.

Some key policies:

- **Reject the false idea of “climate emergency.”**

Our government’s disastrous anti-fossil fuel policies are justified by the disastrous conflation of “climate impact,” which is real, with “climate emergency,” which is not, given today’s unprecedented safety from climate danger.

- **Withdraw from the Paris Agreement and encourage others to do the same.**

The Paris Agreement is an immoral agreement that calls for rapidly eliminating fossil fuels, which are the only near-term way to provide reliable energy for billions of people at prices they can afford.

- **Reject and eliminate all carbon taxes.**

Carbon taxes increase our energy costs based on the false premise that the “negative externalities” of fossil fuels’ CO<sub>2</sub> emissions outweigh the “positive externalities” of the uniquely low-cost, reliable energy they provide for billions.

- **Amend the Clean Air Act to explicitly reject the bogus “endangerment finding.”**

Much of today’s “punish America” CO<sub>2</sub> policy is rooted in EPA’s “endangerment finding,” which treats fossil fuel use as a net harm to “public health and welfare” even though it radically improves both.

- **Decriminalize nuclear energy.**

The overregulation of low-carbon nuclear verges on criminalization, making nuclear costs 10X higher than they need to be. Decriminalizing nuclear, including radical reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Environmental Protection Agency, will make energy far cheaper, safer, and cleaner.

- **End all preferences for unreliable electricity.**

Today’s electric grids are being ruined by systemic preferences for unreliable electricity, which causes prices to rise and reliability to decline. Eliminating them can help make America a leader in low-cost, reliable electricity.



- **Allow free-market competition for EVs.**

The proper policy toward EVs, which are promising but not cost-effective for the vast majority of Americans, is 1) let them compete on a free market and 2) make sure we have plenty of low-cost, reliable electricity.

**What about the Trade-offs?** – Climate alarmists rarely consider trade-offs that arise from their solutions. Electric cars are a good example. The manufacture and disposal of car batteries is not exactly eco-friendly. It might make WOKE Californians feel better to pretend that buying an electric car can help reduce the average yearly temperature of the world. Yet California has only five hundredths of one percent of the world population. No matter how large California's share of new electric car sales becomes, the overwhelming bulk of all light vehicles in the U.S and the world through 2040 will not be electric.

Apart from blighting the landscape, windmill blades kill birds and insects that pollinate fruit-bearing trees. Furthermore, as wind and solar grow their share of electricity production; many more connections to the electricity grid are occurring. These connections are using the most powerful greenhouse gas known to humanity – Sulphur hexafluoride (SF6). Cheap and non-flammable, SF6 is a colorless, odorless, synthetic gas used to insulate electrical installations and is widely used across the renewable energy industry. SF6 is 23,500 times more warming than CO<sub>2</sub>. Just one kilogram of SF6 warms the earth the same amount as 24 people flying roundtrip from New York to London. It also persists in the atmosphere for a long time, warming the earth for at least 1,000 years. SF6 is within wind turbines specifically.

Powering the entire nation on wind and solar would require 42 million acres of land. Such a massive land clearing effort would mean renewable energy isn't as environmentally friendly as it sounds and would require significant eminent domain seizure.

Going vegan may be good for bovines (and possibly humans as well), but it would require chopping down forests to make room for millions of acres of croplands, and no synthetic fertilizer. What are the effects on welfare when massive subsidies for solar power raise electricity prices, which weigh more heavily on the poor?

## Energy Policy

In the last 200 years, global life expectancy has doubled. Extreme poverty has dropped from 90% of humanity to 10% and falling. The growth in human liberty and the dramatic increase in available energy are likely the two main catalysts for this tremendous progress.

We should avoid energy policies driven by a zero-sum philosophy for energy that says we must have less fossil fuel so we can have more of something else. History has shown that short-sighted energy plans often fail because they start with a preferred resource and work backwards. The Biden Administration's energy plan promises to repeat the Obama/Biden legacy of failed energy policy, but this time he intends to spend more taxpayer money on what will likely be another failed enterprise.

According to the U.S. EPA and U.S. EIA, the U.S. decreased energy related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions more than any other country. America leads the world in environmental quality.

It doesn't make sense to place unnecessary political and legal obstacles in the way of responsible American oil and natural gas production, cancel oil pipelines, discourage investment in fossil fuels, stimulate demand through outlandish spending, and then beg OPEC+ (where oil is produced under much less-strict environmental standards) for more oil to contain inflation.

The oil and gas industry has done such a good job of creating abundant, affordable, always-available energy that the world takes it for granted. Energy is so woven into our daily lives that few question whether it will be there, or where it comes from. Because energy is so reliable and available, the public believes they no longer require it.

We often encounter this paradox anytime we engage in a conversation about energy and the environment. Some folks assume that we don't need fossil fuels anymore. A stark example is anyone who wants to end oil and gas production while still benefitting from oil and gas based materials and fuels.

Economic prosperity allows countries to invest in new technologies and policies that improve not only environmental health but also the well-being of the people. Thus, if we want to continue to improve our relationship with the environment and human progress, we should be more supportive of economic growth and the entrepreneurship that drives it. We should all work together to ensure more people have access to safe, affordable, and reliable energy, no matter which state, nation, or continent they reside.

**What is the best energy policy going forward?** - Debate continues across the country on our nation's energy future. What is our best energy policy going forward?

Even during periods when much of the world suffers economic stagnation, most of us would agree that we still have a very high standard of living. Compared to previous generations, we are wealthier, healthier, have better technology, more mobility, and many more opportunities for a better life.

Several factors contribute to a higher standard of living, but one of the most important is access to reliable and inexpensive energy. Affordable energy is essential for almost every aspect of our modern lives. Affordable energy is needed to run the hospitals and laboratories that improve our health. Affordable energy is required to deliver electricity to our homes and put fuel in our vehicles. And it supports the millions of jobs associated with all of these things.

**Concerns About Carbon** - In general, the most affordable forms of energy come from fossil fuels, such as oil, natural gas, and coal. Compared to these energy sources, alternative fuels such as solar and wind power are considerably more expensive and less reliable.

Burning fossil fuels to generate electricity or provide power necessarily releases carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a gas we exhale every time we breathe. Erupting volcanoes, decaying trees, wildfires, and the animals on which we rely for food all emit CO<sub>2</sub>. This by-product, which is essential for plant life and an unavoidable aspect of human life, is at the center of today's climate change controversies.

There is vigorous debate about what effects carbon emissions may or may not have on our future climate. Recent studies suggest that future warming is likely to be substantially lower than computer model-simulated projections on which many climate scientists rely. Using the temperature assumptions outlined by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), eliminating all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the U.S. immediately would only reduce global temperatures a negligible 0.07 degrees by 2050 and 0.2 degrees by 2100. But the damage to our economy and the well-being of American families would be enormous.

Those who believe that increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions inevitably lead to global warming believe this change is directly attributable to the widespread use of fossil fuels. Because they believe further warming will have catastrophic effects, they have waged a war on carbon for many years. They advocate restricting carbon-based fuels in favor of subsidized alternative energy and encourage policymakers to make fossil fuels more expensive in hopes of discouraging their use.

**Beware of Crocodile Tears** - All too often state and federal proposals to tax carbon directly or launch new carbon tax schemes have much more to do with raising revenue than helping our environment. For those who prefer higher taxation to spending cuts, having an entirely new source of revenue is appealing. However, taxing carbon only takes more resources from the private sector to support swelling state and federal government.

A recent study analyzed probable effects of a U.S. carbon tax that starts at \$20 per ton and then rises 4% per year, which is in line with recent proposals. The study suggested that such a tax would decrease household consumption, due to the increased cost of goods. The average household would pay 40% more for natural gas, 13% more for electricity, and more than 20 cents per gallon extra for gasoline. Costs would rise even more in subsequent years.

Price hikes like these can only mean lower standards of living and less opportunity. Families that spend a bigger portion of their household income on transportation, utilities and household goods are hurt, not helped, by such schemes.

Over the past 25 years, nearly 1.2 billion people around the world have been lifted out of poverty, while both malnutrition and the risk of death from air pollution have decreased. Taken together, these achievements are nothing short of a miracle. But, government's pursuit of hugely-expensive climate mitigation policies is threatening to slow momentum in reducing poverty. The German government, for example, plans to spend \$44 billion over 4 years to help the country cut its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Such measures will likely reduce the global rise in temperature by 0.00018 degrees in a hundred years – an immeasurably small gain for such a huge cost. History has shown conclusively that making people richer and less vulnerable is one of the best ways to strengthen societies' resilience to challenges such as climate threats.

Over 80% of the energy that the peoples of the world use to survive come from fossil fuels, because that is the cheapest, most plentiful, most reliable source ever developed. More than a billion people around the world face challenges for adequate food, clean water and protection from heat and cold due to a lack of access to energy. Anyone who cares about our environment and climate recognize that cheap, plentiful, reliable energy is essential.

**A Better Way** - There is a better way. Just a few years ago, no one would have imagined the U.S. could increase production of oil and natural gas while cutting greenhouse gas emissions, which are now near 25-year lows. The oil and gas industry has proven that over the long-term it is possible to lead in energy production and in environmental stewardship. By focusing on more efficient use of energy, it is possible to lower emissions without imposing even more environmental restrictions. An American energy policy that values innovation over regulation can turn energy policy challenges into great opportunities for economic growth and energy security. This approach is not just good business, it's good stewardship and a much better strategy for improving the quality of life for all.

## **Conclusion**

EPA greenhouse gas regulatory proposals are a sweeping example of regulatory power that disproportionately harms low-income families across the U.S. Inevitably, energy costs radically rise as companies try to cope with the new costs associated with unrealistic mandates on emission levels. An increase in energy costs would most impact low-income families. These families would see larger percentages of their incomes lost to soaring energy bills.

Climate change is an appealing boutique issue for some liberal billionaires and some movie stars because “saving the planet” appeals to their vanity. But, if you are not a liberal billionaire, you’re trying to stay afloat not because the oceans are rising but because family incomes are flatlined. Climate change is a luxury issue most Americans can’t afford.

President Biden said climate change was our nation’s biggest threat. President Biden uses climate change as a distraction to dodge the real problems our nation faces and avoid critiques of his performance.

President Biden and activists want to exercise control over the energy sources Americans use every day. Energy innovation drives American progress. Real growth comes from individual Americans figuring out more efficient and reliable ways of doing things, not from Executive Orders written in Washington, D.C.

Climate change remains a critical challenge for America. Unfortunately, President Biden wants to repeat the Obama legacy of failed energy policies. We should seek climate policies that provide America with the energy security and the industrial development it needs to provide for future jobs and economic growth.

The U.S. has a unique opportunity to show the world how energy abundance can be used as a positive force to lift people up, which is different than a philosophy of embracing a zero-emissions world.