

The Global Warming Myth

by John Cobin, Ph.D. for *The Times Examiner*
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Are excessive CO₂ emissions from human activities (“greenhouse gases”) really heating the earth and thus jeopardizing our existence? Liberal ideological environmentalists (LIEs) say so, and they will stop at nothing to turn a buck by spreading fear based on false science. Even though there are many whistle-blowing groups and independent scholars who are exposing LIE fraud, LIEs still continue to deceive people.

What is amazing is that LIEs can continue their craft without hard data, and in spite of the fact that their dire predictions are always wrong. “Not a single major prediction of ideological environmentalism has come true,” notes Ronald Bailey, science correspondent with *Reason* magazine and adjunct scholar with Competitive Enterprise Institute. There have been “no global famines, no cancer epidemics, and no resource depletion crisis. Environmental ideologues have been proven wrong because they fail to understand that the economic processes in which humans engage are radically different than the ecological processes that govern other creatures. Human beings not only consume given resources but also make new resources by using their fertile minds” (*Global Warming and Other Eco-Myths*, Prima Publishers, 2002, page xxiii). Some of us are old enough to remember liberal predictions in the 1970s about a coming ice age. As libertarian “Republican” humorist P.J. O’Rourke and Dr. Julian Simon remind us, there were supposed to have been icebergs in San Francisco bay. But the ice flow never materialized and the LIE doomsayers quieted down for a while. Then after a decade of pause, these same LIE doomsayers emerged again—this time harping on a coming catastrophe from global *warming*. If it is not one thing it’s another. LIEs will do whatever it takes to pander to public ignorance, raise fears, and pad their pockets with the contributions of well-meaning but uninformed concerned citizens.

And it seems that LIEs can have their cake and eat it, too. In his online article “Chimera of Global Warming” (April 22, 1999), Patrick Michaels, Senior Fellow of Environmental Studies at the Cato Institute, reminds us that “Ten years ago the Alps endured a virtually snowless winter. Environmentalists blamed global warming. A Swiss lobbying group, Alp Action, wrote in 1991 that global warming would put an end to winter sports in the Alps by 2025. This year [1999] the Alps have had their greatest snowfall in 40 years, according to very preliminary data. Greenpeace has blamed global warming. How in the world can that be?” Well, call it LIE privilege. They get to credit drought or excess precipitation (or any other climatic aberration) on global warming.

But global warming is a dubious ploy. Many scientists, like Dr. John Christy, do not accept the LIE view of global warming. He develop a devastating critique of the idea in his article “The Global Warming Fiasco” (in *Global Warming and Other Eco-Myths*, 2002, pages 4, 20-28). First, he notes that climate and sea level are not stationary. They will vary and always have varied. So we should not be alarmed by small changes in climate or the sea level over any given century. Patrick Michaels concurs: “Climate has to change because the sun is an inconstant star and the Earth is a nonuniform medium whose primary surface constituent, water, is very near its freezing point. Freezing (or unfreezing) water makes the planet whiter (or darker), which affects the degree to which it reflects the sun’s warming rays. A flicker of the sun, therefore, ensures climate change.”

Second, Christy reminds us that even though global surface temperatures can be shown to have risen over the last 25 years, there is no evidence that human activity is the cause (especially since atmospheric conditions have not changed over the same period). Third, if droughts are on the increase, reducing the amount of energy available (in order to reduce CO₂ emissions) will make the drought conditions worse. We would want more energy available during a time of drought than

otherwise. Fourth, America does emit a lot of CO₂ but it also produces about 31% of what the world wants. Just think about the medical advances, food production, defense, and technology that is possible because of American ingenuity. Also consider that plants thrive on CO₂ and thus produce more oxygen with it. In short, the benefits of CO₂ emissions far exceed the costs. Fifth, the best reduction in temperatures that a global proactive public policy would yield, based on LIE recommendations, would be an almost undetectable 0.2°F. Christy asks, “Will democratically accountable governments truly subject their constituents to economic pain for a result that is this miniscule?” (p. 25). He also reminds us that the greatest threat to humanity has not been CO₂ emissions but rather “governments and bureaucracies that have no democratic accountability” (p. 28)—not to mention the bad policies engendered by LIE lobbyists.

Thomas Gale Moore, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, and author of *Climate of Fear: Why We Shouldn't Worry about Global Warming* (1998), argues that despite many dire predictions, global warming—should it occur—would benefit most people. Historical evidence indicates that mankind has “prospered during warm periods and suffered during cold ones.” Yet, notwithstanding the plethora of evidence and logical reasoning to the contrary, the LIE agenda presses on.

The Cato Institute in Washington lists fifty-six studies, books, commentaries, testimonies, and so forth that discredit the global warming thesis (see <http://www.cato.org/current/global-warming/index.html>). And Cato is not alone in the effort to expose this fraud. The Fraser Institute of Vancouver, Canada (<http://www.fraserinstitute.org>), has compiled a group of scientists and scholars who thoroughly debunk the global warming thesis, and has produced forty-eight papers, books, etc. There is, indeed, a mountain of data and well-reasoned written critiques that expose and debunk the LIE's global warming agenda.

Nevertheless, the battle over global warming policy still rages. The left refuses to let go of its profitable enterprise of lies and deception—where global warming plays a key role. In fact, LIEs are presently trying to expand their program. In the August 3, 2004 opinion section of the *Wall Street Journal*, two economists from the University of Virginia and George Mason University, Fred Singer and Michael Krauss, alerted us to the fact that the LIE global warming crowd has now entered the tort liability market with its CO₂ emissions malarkey. Even though everyone knows that CO₂ is nontoxic to humans and beneficial to plants, LIEs want major emitters subdued. Thus, the LIEs are targeting electrical generation companies for tort liability, since CO₂ is the natural by-product of the combustion of fossil fuels that yield electricity.

There is, truly, nothing like American ingenuity for making money, especially where it comes to public policy. But let's be careful to not get caught up in the hype and fraud of the LIEs.