

## CLIMATE CHANGE & CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) REGULATION

By Kathleen Hartnett White  
Center for Natural Resources

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### THE ISSUE

After a roughly one-degree Celsius rise in global average temperature in the 20th century, fears of catastrophic “global warming” have proliferated in the mass media, classrooms, and legislatures worldwide. Now, with no warming since 1998 and a drop in global temperatures since 2007, “global warming” is being replaced by “climate change” as the cause for concern.

A growing chorus of climate scientists are now speaking out against the unsubstantiated gloom-and-doom predictions propagated by global warming alarmists. Recently, more than 100 credentialed scientists urged the United Nations’ climate change program to alert policy makers of the limitations of plausible but speculative science. No link between man-made CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and accelerated warming has been demonstrated with observational evidence.

Current legislative proposals to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—such as last year’s Lieberman-Warner cap-and-trade bill—do not guarantee any climate-changing benefits but do guarantee a multi-billion to trillion dollar price tag. Once the models for carbon cap-and-trade schemes, the Kyoto Protocol and European Union’s Emission Trading System (ETS) have failed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and have significantly increased energy costs.

For example, between 2000 and 2005, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the original 15 nations of the European Union increased 3.8 percent, while the U.S.’ emissions went up 2.5 percent. According to the Sierra Club of Canada, since 1990, Canada’s greenhouse-gas emissions are up 24 percent, while the U.S.’ emissions are up only 14 percent. According to data (2000-06) from the International Energy Agency, the annual rate of increase for U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is approximately one-third that of the EU.

The developing science of “global warming” and “climate change” is too unsettled and uncertain to justify legislation mandating reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. A ubiquitous by-product of natural processes and human activity, CO<sub>2</sub> is not now amenable to ambitious regulatory reduction. CO<sub>2</sub> is unlike other conventional pollutants harmful to human health at certain ground level concentrations and exposures. Most critically, CO<sub>2</sub> emission control technology is not commercially available. Without available technology to control greenhouse gases, governmental efforts to battle the earth’s climate have the potential to do more harm than good for the earth’s inhabitants.

### THE FACTS

- ★ There is no scientific consensus on the causes of climate change. Science, inherently, is never settled nor beyond dispute but always evolving. Claims that global warming science is beyond dispute are the provenance of dogma and not genuine science.
- ★ The most well-known climate change science (United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 4th Assessment Report) is based on correlations and models. Emerging climate science (NASA) is based on observational satellite measurements of climate variables in the upper atmosphere. Five years of NASA data shows minimal to no impact on temperatures from man-made CO<sub>2</sub>.

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- ★ A slight increase in global mean temperature—roughly one degree Celsius—has been observed over the last century. Yet, there is no proven causal link between increased human-created CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and increased global temperatures.
- ★ By 2020, 75 percent of man-made CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will come from developing countries like China and India, not the U.S. Wholesale elimination of man-made CO<sub>2</sub> from the U.S. would have no impact on climate without massive reductions from the developing world.
- ★ CO<sub>2</sub> is not a pollutant.
- ★ Drastic cuts in man-made carbon dioxide emissions will disproportionately harm Texas' growing economy: reduced gross state product, increased unemployment, reduced household incomes, and higher energy and electricity bills. Texas is the leading U.S. producer of energy and related chemical seedstocks, federally imposed CO<sub>2</sub> reduction mandates will unfairly harm Texas because Texas fuels the nation.
- ★ Commercial availability of carbon control technology is a prerequisite to any effective, economically viable CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ★ Avoid any state legislation mandating regulation of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. The United States Congress and federal agencies are considering comprehensive national programs. Diverse state programs will not further Texas interests and will have no climate changing benefits.
- ★ Remove regulatory impediments to the free market mechanisms—private innovation, technological advancement, long-term focus on clean technologies, and businesses' responses to public demands—that are controlling CO<sub>2</sub> emissions more successfully than cap-and-trade regimes.
- ★ Support market-driven, accelerated development of carbon control technology.

### RESOURCES

- *Global Warming: What Should Texas Do?* by Iain Murray, Texas Public Policy Foundation (Apr. 2007) <http://www.texas-policy.com/pdf/2007-04-RR08-globalwarming.pdf>.
- *Global Warming: Man-Made or Natural?* by S. Fred Singer, Texas Public Policy Foundation (Sept. 2007) <http://www.texas-policy.com/pdf/2007-09-PP24-globalwarming-singer.pdf>.
- *Truth is Conveniently Missing from Global Warming Debate* by Drew Thornley, Texas Public Policy Foundation (Oct. 2007) [http://www.texaspolicy.com/commentaries\\_single.php?report\\_id=1628](http://www.texaspolicy.com/commentaries_single.php?report_id=1628).
- *U.S. Controls Emissions Better than Kyoto* by Drew Thornley, Texas Public Policy Foundation (Jan. 2008) <http://www.texas-policy.com/pdf/2008-01-PB01-CO2-emissions-dt.pdf>.
- *Climate Confusion: How Global Warming Hysteria Leads to Bad Science, Pandering Politicians and Misguided Policies That Hurt the Poor*, by Roy W. Spencer, Ph.D. (Encounter Books, Mar. 2008).
- *Invited Testimony to the Select Committee on Electric Generation Capacity & Environmental Effects* by Kathleen Hartnett White, Texas Public Policy Foundation (Apr. 2008) <http://www.texaspolicy.com/pdf/2008-03-31-Testimony-khw.pdf>.
- *Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1,500 Years* by S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006).
- *Cool It: The Skeptical Environmentalist's Guide to Global Warming* by Bjorn Lomborg, Knopf (2007).
- *The Great Global Warming Swindle*, documentary by Martin Durkin, WAGtv (2007) [www.greatglobalwarmingswindle.com](http://www.greatglobalwarmingswindle.com).
- *Climate Change 2004: Synthesis Report (4th Assessment)*, United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Nov. 2007) [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr.pdf).

