The Case for Climate Realism

A Q&A for Politicians, Candidates, and Voters

Climate Realists of British Columbia
https://climaterealists.ca

June 2025

Contents

Introduction

This Question & Answer dialogue offers a climate-realist perspective for politicians, political candidates, and voters at all levels of government on the issue of "climate change."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations, its environmentalist supporters, and Canada's Liberal government tell us that climate change is a "looming catastrophe" and that humanity's carbon emissions are the *primary reason* for "global warming" (i.e., that carbon dioxide is the "control knob"[1] or thermostat of climate). Therefore, they say, if we can just lower CO_2 levels, we will lower the temperature and avert climate disaster.

In fact, climate activists claim the "climate crisis" is so pressing that we need a crash program of "sustainable" electrification (Net Zero by 2050[2]) to stop it. By drastically restricting the global use of fossil fuels, they say, Net Zero will reduce carbon emissions and take us toward a much "greener" economic and social system. This means, as you will see in **Q&A**s **18-20**, the end of Western-style industrial and technological civilization in favour of a much less prosperous, global-socialist society.

Climate realists know the planet is warming somewhat at present. But they also know that carbon dioxide has very little to do with this warming (see **Q&A**s **1-6**), and they know that policies like Net Zero by 2050 will have almost *zero effect* in changing "the climate" (i.e., the weather over the next few decades) (**Q&A**s **7-9**).

In fact, even the IPCC now acknowledges that humanity does *not* face a "climate crisis" (**Q&A 2**). But even if we were facing a "crisis," a policy like Net Zero would be absurdly expensive (**Q&A 10**), make all Canadians poorer (**Q&A**s **11-14, 16-17**), accomplish virtually nothing in terms of reducing the global temperature (**Q&A 15**), and risk starving millions and perhaps billions of people (**Q&A 18**).

Net Zero will, however, move us closer to the UN's preferred global-socialist state, where we'll all (except the political and economic elite) be poorer but much "greener" and, presumably, happier (**Q&A**s **19-20**). As an alternative, climate realists argue for a more gradual policy that relies on *adaptation* to climate changes as they occur (**Q&A 21**).

---

[1] Andrew A. Lacis et al., "Atmospheric CO_2: Principal Control Knob Governing Earth's Temperature." *Science*, Oct. 15, 2010, pp. 356-359. Available online but often behind a pay wall, although there are repostings on some public websites.

[2] Net Zero by 2050 aims to balance the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere by 2050. That is, any emissions produced would be offset by an equivalent amount of emissions removed, resulting in a net zero impact on the environment, even though fossil fuels would continue to be used to some extent.

If climate realists are correct, politicians, political candidates and voters should challenge the so-called "consensus"[3] that climate "science" is "settled," "certain" and beyond debate, and confront the claims of a "climate crisis" ahead, including assertions that human "carbon emissions" are the *primary* source of "global warming."

Our questions and answers show clearly that there is no "climate crisis" and that opposing the climate-alarmist policies of the IPCC and UN is the most *realistic* and *scientific* course of action a politician or voter can take on this issue.

Questions & Answers

Q.1: Is there a "climate emergency" based on rising temperatures and increasing levels of carbon dioxide?

A.1: If we are in a "climate emergency" now, then the planet must have been in "emergency" mode for most of the past 600 million years, which is all the time that multicellular life has existed on Earth. Why? Because for *90 per cent* of this 600 million years,[4] as Figure 1 shows, temperatures have been *much higher* than today's—often by 10° Celsius or more. CO_2 levels have also been *much higher* (as much as 7,000 parts per million). Yet, somehow, plant and animal life survived and thrived under much higher temperatures and CO_2 levels. Undoubtedly, humans can, too.

Even more importantly, for the past 2½ million years the Earth has been in an *Ice Age.* In fact, today's temperatures and CO_2 levels are the *lowest* in 500 million years (see lower right corner of Figure 1).[5]

This means the planet is in no danger of "burning up"—we are in much greater danger of "global cooling," in which ice-age glaciers return to crush the northern hemisphere, as they have at least a dozen times in the past two million years. A new Ice Age really would be a "climate crisis" for human civilization!

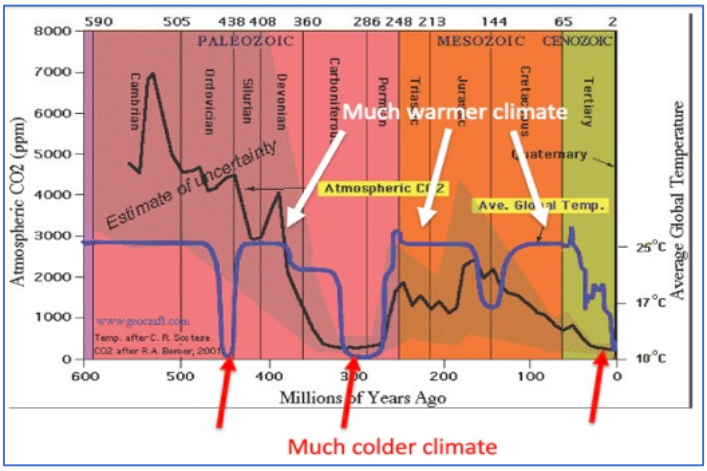

Figure 1: Temperature (blue line) and carbon dioxide (black line) over 600 million years. Top black line is CO2; lower blue line is temperature. As you can see, there is very little correlation between temperature and CO2 over this time.

[3] See, for example, *Wikipedia*, "Scientific consensus on climate change."

[4] Edward Aguado & James E. Burt, *Understanding Weather & Climate*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, 2004, p. 479. This textbook is used in university geography courses; its views are scientific mainstream, not controversial or skeptical of the climate "consensus."

[5] National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), "What's the coldest the Earth's ever been?" *Climate.gov*, Feb. 18, 2021. NOAA writes: "Although it has some competition from cold conditions occurring between 300 and 250 million years ago, the most significant ice age in the last half a billion years may be the most recent."

Q.2: The IPCC tells us we're facing a "climate crisis." Aren't climate scientists the experts?

A.2: Even the IPCC itself now admits that we are **not** facing a climate crisis that requires a crash program like Net Zero by 2050 (see **Q&A**s **10-15** on Net Zero).

The IPCC's claims of a climate crisis ahead are based on the most extreme of the IPCC's five predictive scenarios, RCP8.5. This scenario assumes aggressive "business as usual" carbon emissions leading to very high temperatures (Figure 2).

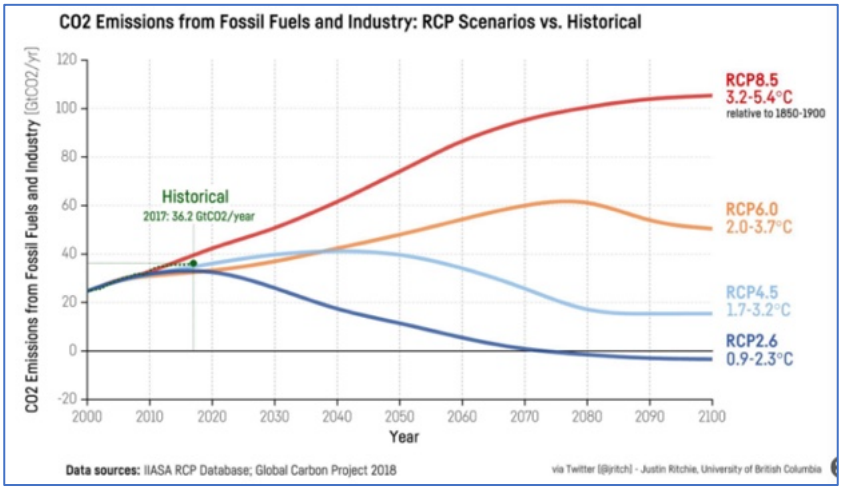

Figure 2: RCP scenarios with expected warming for each scenario

But in its 2022 report, tucked away in an obscure Frequently Asked Questions box, the IPCC notes:

> High-end scenarios (like RCP8.5) can be very useful to explore high-end risks of climate change but are not typical 'business-as-usual' projections and *should therefore not be presented as such*.[6] [emphasis added]

However, political actors like the United Nations and Liberal Leader Mark Carney continue to rely on RCP8.5 for their claims of a "climate crisis" requiring drastic action. In reality, there are climate problems ahead, as there always have been, but there is no "climate crisis" that requires a massively expensive crash program to electrify the planet by 2050.

Q.3: Isn't carbon dioxide the main driver (the "control knob") of today's global warming?

A.3: Carbon dioxide is a "greenhouse gas" and thus contributes to the warming of the planet. However, physics tells us that this warming effect is strongest when CO_2 levels are, say, 100 parts per million (ppm), and falls exponentially as CO_2 levels increase.[7]

Over 200-300 ppm,[8] the atmospheric layer in which carbon dioxide traps heat gradually becomes almost "saturated," just as a sponge gets saturated as it fills with water and eventually cannot absorb more. Similarly, beyond about 100 ppm, the warming effect of CO_2 gradually diminishes. This means

---

[6] IPCC, Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change: Frequently Asked Questions, FAQ 3.3, "How plausible are high emissions scenarios, and how do they inform policy?" The URL is https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FAQs_Compiled.pdf

[7] R. Lindzen, W. Happer & W.A. van Wijngaarden, "Net Zero averted temperature increase." *Arxiv*, June 12, 2024, p. 4. Available online. The authors write: "Each increment of CO_2 concentration causes less warming than the previous equal increment. Greenhouse warming from CO_2 is subject to the law of diminishing returns."

[8] Dieter Schildkneckt, "Saturation of the Infrared Absorption by Carbon Dioxide in the Atmosphere." *International Journal of Modern Physics B*, Aug. 5, 2020. Available online at Cornell University site https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.00708.

that at the current 427 ppm, more CO_2 can produce only *mild additional warming*.

The saturation effect is a basic law of physics *that is never mentioned in the IPCC reports,* perhaps because it pretty much demolishes the IPCC's case for CO_2 as the main driver ("control knob") of climate.

And even if CO_2 was a main, or major, driver of temperature (it isn't, but if), the *human-produced* contribution to carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere is small compared to the amount of CO_2 generated by nature itself, creating only about **0.12 per cent** of the total greenhouse-gas effect (see Figure 3).

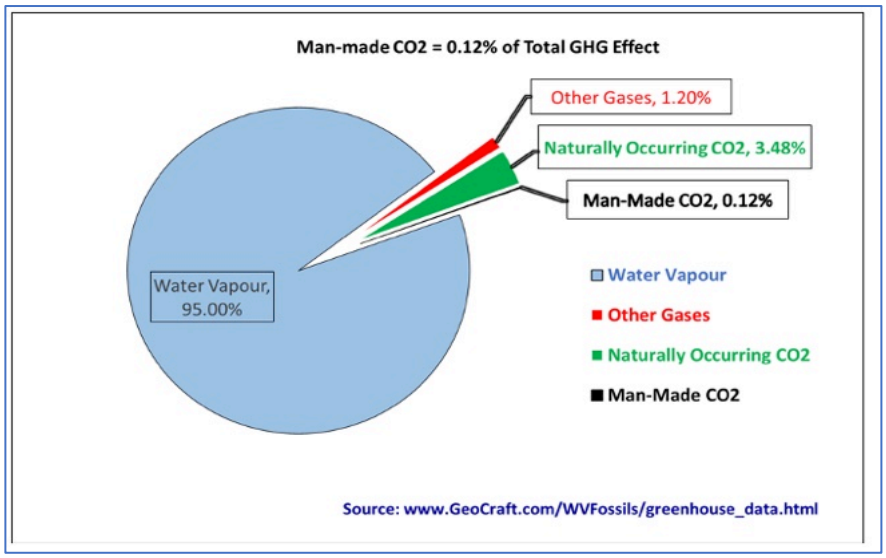

Figure 3: The warming impact of human-generated carbon dioxide is low--just over a tenth of one per cent—compared to water vapor (95%) and naturally occurring CO_2 (3.48%). Source: https://www.geocraft.com/WVFossils/greenhouse_data.html

Q.4: If CO_2 isn't causing "record warmth" of 2023-24, what is?

A.4: We can be certain that the primary cause of the "record" 2023-24 warming *isn't* carbon dioxide. How do we know? Because the main greenhouse gas is water vapour (see Figure 3, previous section)).[9] When water vapour increases in the atmosphere, so does "global warming."

In January 2022, an undersea volcano near the island of Tonga in the Pacific Ocean erupted (see Figure 4), increasing the amount of water vapour in the stratosphere by an estimated *10-15 per cent*.[10] This is more than enough water vapour to raise the Earth's temperature significantly for a few years after the explosion. This warming is temporary as the extra water vapour will be absorbed back into the oceans and water-vapour levels—and temperatures—will return to "normal." Another important non-anthropogenic warming factor was a strong El Niño event in late 2023 and 2024.

And, although the IPCC prefers to focus only on "human-induced" warming,[11] there are *many* other

[9] Greenhouse gases warm the planet by about 33°C from what the temperature would be without them. Water vapour is responsible for about 30°C of this, while CO_2 and the other minor greenhouse gases (methane, nitrous oxide) are responsible for about 3°C of that (see Figure 3 in Q&A3).

[10] Joel Achenbach, "Volcano eruption blew millions of tons of water into space." *National Post*, Dec. 13, 2022. See also *Phys.Org,* "Models show Tonga eruption increases chances of global temperature rising temporarily above 1.5°C." Jan. 25, 2023. There are many other articles online reporting this huge eruption and its effect on warming in 2023-24, exacerbated by the El Niño event.

[11] The IPCC's mission statement reads: "The role of the IPCC is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of *human-induced climate change*, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation." The IPCC's area of investigation, therefore, does not

factors causing "climate change" apart from CO_2. These other factors include (but are not limited to)

- the **Milankovich Cycles** (planetary cycles that alter the intensity of the solar radiation the Earth receives over hundreds of thousands of years. These cycles are the cause of the most recent Ice Age);
- **other variations in the Sun's luminosity** (such as sunspots);
- **variations in the Earth's magnetic field**;
- **variations in cosmic rays** (when cosmic-ray activity is high, more clouds form and cause cooling; when cosmic-ray activity is low, fewer clouds mean more warming[12]);
- **variations in cloud cover** from many non-human causes;
- **cyclical changes in ocean and wind currents** (the primary cause of El Niño events and not caused or affected by human activity);
- the amount of **heat stored in, released from, or transported by the oceans**;
- **volcanic eruptions**;
- and many others.

Human activities such as agriculture and cities (the urban heat island effect[13]) also play a role in warming the planet, but a small role in comparison to natural factors (see **Q&A3** and Figure 3). Presumably, we don't want to do without cities and farming.

In fact, in its 2001 report, the IPCC refers to the complexity of the factors that make up "climate":

> In climate research and modeling, we should recognize that we are dealing with a coupled non-linear chaotic system, and therefore that *long-term prediction of future climate states is not possible*.[14] [emphasis added]

And yet, somehow, the IPCC has concluded that of all the myriad factors in this "coupled non-linear chaotic system," the *prime* factor above all others is human-caused CO_2. This is absurd. CO_2 is at best a minor player in the late 2023-24 "record" warming, and all "global warming" past and present.

Q.5: Doesn't Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* prove that CO_2 change caused temperature change over the past 650,000 years?

A.5: Gore wants his audiences to believe that the ups and downs of CO_2 in his wallchart (blue top line in Figure 5) *caused* the squiggly ups and downs of temperature (lower light blue line) for the past 650,000

include *non-human-induced* climate change.

[12] For more information on how cosmic rays affect climate, see Henrick Svensmark & Nigel Calder, *The Chilling Stars: A New Theory of Climate Change.* Toronto: Penguin Books, 2007.

[13] A 2025 paper by climatologists Roy Spencer, John Christy and William D. Braswell, "Urban Heat Island Effects in U.S. Summer Surface Temperature Data, 1895-2023," estimates that 65% of the warming in the United States from 1895-2023 was due to urban and suburban heat island effects, with CO_2 playing a much smaller role. This paper is available online.

[14] IPPC, Third Assessment Report (2001), Section 14.2.2.2, page 774.

years (an Ice-Age period, by the way). But fudges in describing the relationship as "complicated."[15]

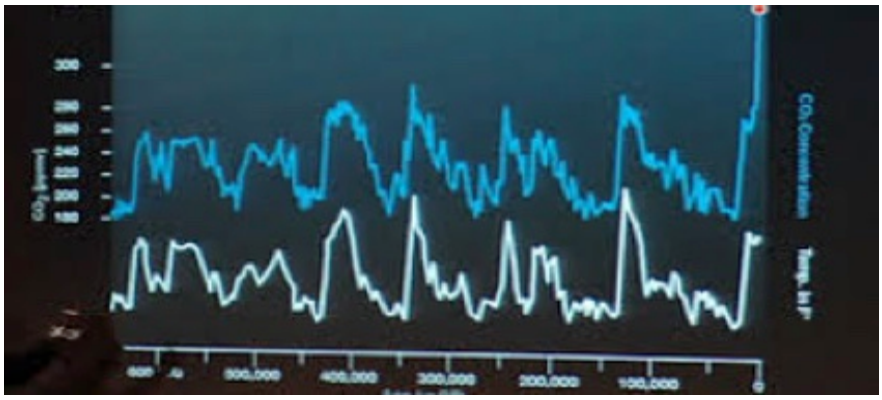

Figure 5: Wallchart in Al Gore's "documentary" An Inconvenient Truth, implying that CO_2 changes caused the temperature changes over 650,000 years. In reality, temperature changes preceded and caused the changes in CO2.

However, even Gore supporters admit that Gore got his correlation wrong. For example, Canada's most prominent climate activist, Dr. Andrew Weaver, wrote in a letter to the editor:

"Yes, temperature changes came before carbon dioxide changes in the recent glacial record. Temperature change was driven by small changes in the Earth's orbit [i.e., the Milankovitch cycles]."[16]

In reality, then, as opposed to propaganda films like Gore's *Inconvenient Truth*, during these 650,000 years, *first* the temperature rose or fell (mainly due to the Milankovitch Cycles) and *then*, centuries later, CO_2 levels rose or fell.

What causes CO_2 to respond to temperature changes? When the planet warms, the oceans release CO_2; when the planet cools, CO_2 is reabsorbed into the oceans. The laws of physics don't change over time. Temperature change *preceded* CO_2 change in past 650,000 years (and much earlier). There is no reason to believe that the laws of physics no longer apply today.

Q.6: Don't the IPCC's climate models all show considerable future warming if we keep emitting CO_2?

A.6: Virtually *all* the IPCC computer models have predicted more warming than *actually occurred* when the models are "hindcasted" (compared in retrospect to real temperatures in past years), as Figure 6

[15] Gore writes: "It's a *complicated* relationship [between CO2 and temperature], but the most important part is this: When there is more CO_2 in the atmosphere, the temperature increases because more heat from the Sun is trapped inside." [emphasis added] Al Gore, *An Inconvenient Truth.* Emmaus, Penn., Rodale Press, 2006, p. 67.

[16] Andrew Weaver, "Climate change is no conspiracy." Letter to the editor, Victoria *Times Colonist,* May 24, 2007.

shows.[17] The red trend line is the model temperature predictions; the green line is the *observed* shows.[18] The red trend line is the model temperature predictions; the green line is the *observed* temperatures.

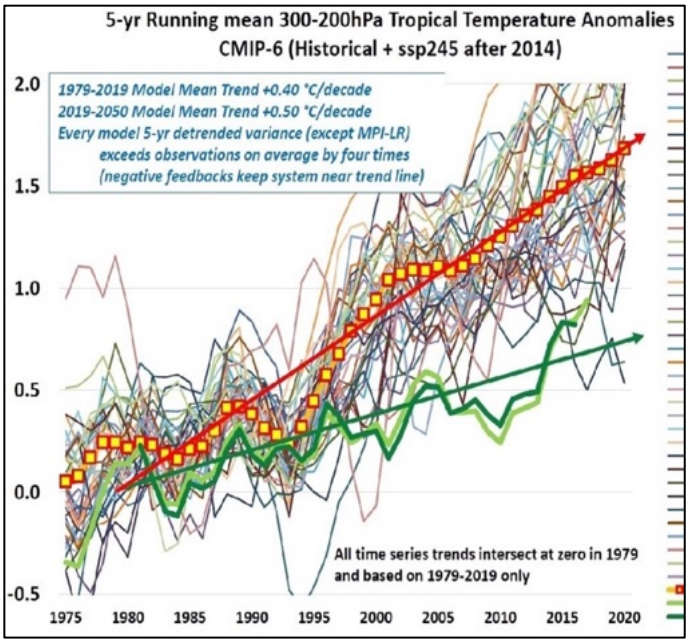

Figure 6: IPCC model predictions compared to actual temperatures. Source: Dr. John Christy, Clintel Organization

In the (false) belief that temperature increases are highly correlated to CO_2 increases, climate modellers have consistently set the "sensitivity" of temperature to CO_2 in their models much too high. This is a sure sign that the climate models are *not* reliable predictors of future "warming" and that an apocalyptic climate future is far from "settled."

Q.7: Isn't carbon dioxide a "pollutant"?

A.7: A "pollutant" is a substance that is dangerous and potentially toxic to human, animal and/or plant health. To call carbon dioxide a "pollutant" makes no sense. Quite the contrary—carbon is essential to plant life and therefore to all life. For example, more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere *enhances plant growth.*[19] This is why greenhouse growers routinely *add* carbon dioxide to their greenhouses. How much CO_2? Often a thousand parts per million or more—more than twice today's atmospheric levels.[20]

Even the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA), a major promoter of climate alarmism, confirms that the recent increases in CO_2 are "greening" the planet:

> From a quarter to half of Earth's vegetated lands *have shown significant greening* over the last 35 years *largely due to rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide*.[21] [emphasis added]

Plants are also more drought-resistant with more CO_2 in the atmosphere.[22] To call CO_2 a "pollutant" is like saying water is a pollutant. On the contrary, increased CO_2 is a boon for plants and therefore all

---

[17] This graph is available at https://clintel.org/new-presentation-by-john-christy-models-for-ar6-still-fail-to-reproduce-trends-in-tropical-troposphere/. The search terms are "clintel.org" "John Christy" "models".

[18] This graph is available at https://clintel.org/new-presentation-by-john-christy-models-for-ar6-still-fail-to-reproduce-trends-in-tropical-troposphere/. The search terms are "clintel.org" "John Christy" "models".

[19] Craig Idso, "Increased Plant Productivity: The First Key Benefit of Atmospheric CO_2 Enrichment." Master Resource: A Free-Market Energy Blog, April 21, 2022. Available online.

[20] See, for example: "Supplemental carbon dioxide in greenhouses." Ontario Government. Dec. 2002.

[21] NASA, "Carbon dioxide fertilization greening Earth, study finds." April 26, 2016.

[22] Plants need CO_2 molecules for their growth. Plants have small openings called *stomata* on the undersides of their leaves that open to trap CO_2 molecules. At the same time, the open stomata release precious water vapour that the plants also need. With more CO_2 molecules in the air, plants don't have to leave the stomata open as long to get the CO2 they need, while also preserving water (hence, plants are more drought-resistant). And, since CO_2 is more plentiful, plant growth can be enhanced by 33 per cent or more.

beings on the planet (including humanity).

On the other hand, if CO_2 levels fall *below* 150 ppm, plant life cannot survive,[23] which means most of Earth's animal life would perish as well. Carbon-dioxide levels have been falling steadily for the past 140 million years (see Figure 7 and Figure 1). **Earth's plant life is, in fact, starved for CO_2; we need more of it, not less!**

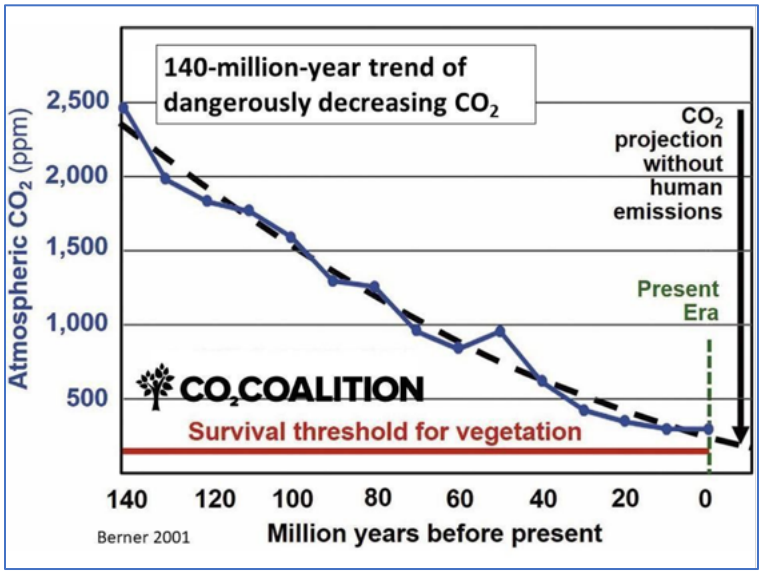

Figure 7: CO2 levels have been falling for 140 million years, to the point where CO2 levels are so low that plant life, and therefore almost all life on Earth, is threatened. Source: CO2 Coalition, Fact #3.

Q.8: How could climate scientists have gotten the facts about climate so wrong? They're *scientists*, after all!

A.8: Unfortunately, climate science isn't the traditional, fact-based science that climate scientists would like the public to believe. Instead, it is a variant called "post-normal" science that is more like the social sciences than the "hard" physical sciences. Here's how Wikipedia describes "post-normal" science:

> Post-normal science (PNS) … is a problem-solving strategy appropriate when "facts [are] uncertain, values in dispute, stakes high and decisions urgent," conditions often present in policy-relevant research. In those situations, PNS recommends *suspending temporarily the traditional scientific ideal of truth, concentrating on quality as assessed by internal and extended peer communities.*[24] [emphasis added]

In its mission statement, the IPCC is clear that its scientific approach is "post-normal," although it doesn't use the term:

> We fully recognize that many of the evaluation statements we make contain *a degree of subjective scientific perception and may contain much "community" or "personal" knowledge*. For example, the very choice of model variables and model processes that are investigated are often based upon *the subjective judgment and experience of the modeling community*.[25] [emphasis added]

---

[23] Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Manitoba, "Greenhouse CO2 supplement." The site offers advice to greenhouse gardeners and notes: "At 100 ppm of CO_2 the rate of photosynthesis would be stopped completely. At 150 ppm the plants begin to respire, and photosynthesis is stopped. At this low level the plant will no longer be able to obtain CO_2 from the atmosphere and photosynthesis is restricted. The plant will eventually use all of the CO_2 present, photosynthesis will stop and the plant will die."

[24] Wikipedia, "Post-normal science."

[25] IPCC, Climate Change 2001: Model Evaluation, "What is Meant by Evaluation?", Section 8.2.2. Available at https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/TAR-08.pdf.

A "science" based on "personal knowledge" and "subjective judgment," and that suspends "the traditional scientific ideal of truth," is not reliable science. Therefore, it's no surprise that climate science has strayed far from the empirical *facts* about how the climate system actually works (e.g., in not accepting that CO_2 warming can become "saturated" and in consistently overpredicting warming). Because post-normal scientists *expect* to see "global warming," they tune their computer models to conform to their ideology rather than real-world observations. As a result, the climate models invariably run too hot.

Q.9: What principles are climate science based on, if not traditional science?

A.9: Climate science is highly *politicized* science. For example, the IPCC's mission statement reads: "Review by experts *and governments* is an *essential* part of the IPCC process."[26] [emphasis added] In what other scientific discipline except, perhaps, science involving national security, is "review by governments" *essential*?

In addition, as noted in **Q&A 4**, the IPCC was created to investigate only the "human-induced" causes of climate.[27] As part of its *political* mission, it deliberately downplays non-anthropogenic factors (such as the Sun), further biasing its process and results.

In accepting "review by governments" over their findings, the IPCC's climate scientists automatically became subject to *political* influence, which undermines any claims these scientists might have to scientific objectivity or integrity. Instead, IPCC-based climate scientists serve the ideologies of their political masters, including the United Nations. We'll say more about the UN's ideology in **Q&A**s **19** and **20**.

Net Zero by 2050: Expensive and futile

The next questions deal with the economic and social effects of the Net Zero by 2050 policy, and reveal that this policy is absurdly expensive and will have little or no effect on "climate." Net Zero will, however, do severe damage to Western-style civilization and values.

Q.10: What will Net Zero by 2050 cost globally?

A.10: Plenty. Globally, the Liberal-friendly McKinsey Global Institute estimates that Net Zero by 2050 will cost US$275 trillion, or about US$9.2 trillion a year.[28] For comparison purposes, the global GDP in 2023

---

[26] IPCC mission statement, "16 Years of Scientific Assessment in Support of the Climate Convention," December, 2004, p. ii. Available online.

[27] Again, from the IPCC mission statement: "The role of the IPCC is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of *human-induced climate change*, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation." [emphasis added]

[28] McKinsey Global Institute, *"The Net Zero Transition: What it could cost—what it could bring."* McKinsey & Company, January 2022, "In

was an estimated US$105 trillion, so Net Zero will cost roughly 10 per cent of the world's GDP each year.

To get an idea of how much a 10 per cent chunk of GDP represents: the Manhattan Project to create an atomic bomb cost the U.S. about 0.3 per cent of its GDP in 1943-45. The Apollo moon project cost only 0.2 per cent of U.S. GDP from 1961-1972.[29] These were massively expensive projects at the time, but Net Zero represents a project that is *much bigger* and *much more costly*.

Q.11: What will Net Zero by 2050 cost Canadians?

A.11: Plenty. Reaching only *75 per cent* of Net Zero by 2050, the Royal Bank of Canada estimated in 2021, will cost Canadians about $2 trillion, or $60 billion (Cdn) a year (figuring from 2020 to 2050). Canada currently spends about $15 billion a year, RBC says, so we'll be paying an extra $45 billion each year.[30]

Liberal leader Mark Carney's "climate plan" is also $2 trillion by 2050, but $80 billion a year (since the spending start date is 2025). This works out to $2,000 per Canadian, $8,000 for a family of four, and that's on top of all other taxes. This expense won't be spread equally, of course: better-off families will contribute more than less-well-off families, so many households will be paying more than $8,000 a year. And even if the money is raised by federal borrowing, this just transfers payment of the debt to our children and grandchildren.

Meanwhile, Carney promises this $2 trillion will make Canadians "better off."[31] How charging Canadians *$80 billion a year* more in taxes and debt interest than they are already paying (the 2023-24 federal deficit was $61.9 billion[32]) could make us "better off" is an economic mystery.[33]

The question arises: If the various levels of government told Canadians how much of their household income they must spend each year on Net Zero climate measures, would most householders agree to giving up $6,000-$8,000 a year or more? It's doubtful.

Perhaps this is why Ottawa and the provinces prefer to focus on how much climate "damage" we will avoid and the economic benefits of a "green" economy—benefits that have so far not appeared in the European economies that have taken aggressive "green" measures, causing electricity prices to go through the roof.[34]

---

brief," p. viii. Available online and in PDF format.

[29] Vaclav Smil, "Taming the Climate is Far Harder Than Getting People on the Moon: Decarbonization is a project with no clear beginning or end." *IEEE Spectrum*, Sept. 29, 2022. Available online.

[30] Royal Bank Special Reports, "The Net Zero opportunity," *The $2-trillion transition: Canada's Road to Net Zero*. October 20, 2021.

[31] Mark Carney webpage, "A New Climate Plan," https://markcarney.ca/climate.

[32] Finance Canada, "Annual Financial Report of the Government of Canada Fiscal Year 2023-2024."

[33] Net Zero supporters like Carney claim we will be "better off" because of unspecified reduced "climate damages." It's more likely that we will be spending considerably less than $2 trillion by 2050 if we focus on focused engineering measures to *adapt* to climate events.

[34] Bjorn Lomborg, "Solar and wind power are expensive." *National Post*, March 25, 2025. For example, Lomborg notes that in countries without aggressive "green" policies, electricity costs 16 cents/kilowatt hour. Citizens in Germany, which has embraced Net Zero policies, are paying 43 cents/kilowatt hour, almost three times as much.

Q.12: What will Net Zero measures cost British Columbians?

A.12: Plenty. The Business Council of British Columbia analyzed what the province's "CleanBC Roadmap to 2030" program would cost the B.C. economy. The Roadmap aims at reducing carbon emissions by 40 per cent by 2030.[35] The Business Council found, using the province's own Roadmap figures, that each year up to 2030 the province's GDP will *decline* by billions of dollars; by 2030 the fall in GDP would total **$28.1 billion**, or about 10 per cent of B.C.'s estimated GDP of $289 billion in that year (see Figure 8).[36] In other words, British Columbians will be about *10 per cent poorer* with CleanBC than without it.

Table 1: Government's modelling results of the economic impact of CleanBC policies

	GDP: Reference Scenario				GDP: CleanBC Scenario				Difference		
Unit: billion 2015 $	2015	2020	2025	2030	2015	2020	2025	2030	2020	2025	2030
TOTAL[1]	233.8	264.1	297.8	317.2	233.8	263.0	284.1	289.1	-1.1	-13.7	-28.1
FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY	8.4	8.9	15.6	16.5	8.4	8.8	14.6	13.6	-0.1	-1.0	-2.9
ELECTRICITY	3.9	4.6	5.4	5.7	3.9	4.7	5.6	6.5	0.1	0.2	0.8
TRANSPORT	16.6	19.2	21.2	22.1	16.6	19.0	19.4	18.6	-0.2	-1.8	-3.5
HEAVY INDUSTRY	6.7	7.7	8.4	8.9	6.7	7.6	7.6	7.1	-0.1	-0.7	-1.7
BUILDINGS / services	165.6	186.1	206.8	222.4	165.6	185.5	199.1	207.4	-0.6	-7.7	-15.1
AGRICULTURE	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.5	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
LIGHT INDUSTRY	30.8	35.8	38.3	39.1	30.8	35.6	35.7	33.5	-0.2	-2.6	-5.6

Notes:

For more information on the model, assumptions, and methodology used to produce this forecast, see *Modelling CleanBC: 2022 Methodology Report*.

1. Values are outputs of Navius' gTech model and may differ from historic values published elsewhere.

Figure 8: CleanBC policy will reduce B.C. GDP by $28 billion in 2030. Source: B.C. Business Council and B.C.'s CleanBC Roadmap to 2030

Q.13: Does Canada have the electrical capacity to achieve Net Zero by 2050?

A.13: No. Not a chance. For example, the federal government has mandated that all new cars and trucks sold by 2035 in Canada must be electric. However, a Fraser Institute study concludes that to meet this target, Canada would need new generating power equal to 10 new mega-dams, each the equivalent of B.C.'s Site C Dam, or 13 large new natural-gas plants (see Figure 9).[37]

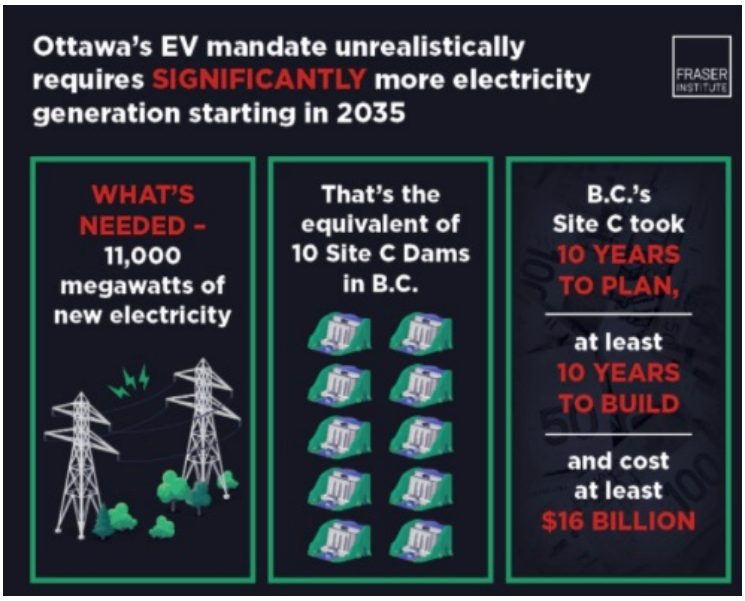

Figure 9: Additional electrical capacity needed to meet Net Zero goals for Canada by 2035. Source: Fraser Institute.

Environmentalist opposition to Site C delayed that project for more than 40 years

[35] B.C. Government, "CleanBC: Roadmap to 2030." Available online.

[36] Ken Peacock & Denise Mullen, "Government's own modelling shows its CleanBC plan will dampen economic growth and set B.C.'s prosperity back more than a decade." *Business Council of B.C.,* Aug. 9, 2023. Available online.

[37] G. Cornelis Van Kooten, "Electric Vehicles and the Demand for Electricity." *Fraser Institute*, March 14, 2024. Available online.

(it will come online in 2025), and the total cost ballooned to $16 billion. Is it likely that a "green" federal or provincial government would approve *ten* new Site-C-type dams, or 13 large natural gas plants, much less build them, in 11 years? The idea that we'll all be driving EVs and heating all our homes and buildings with electricity by 2035 is simply absurd, and another example of the governmental magical thinking that pervades (and clouds) the climate issue.

Q.14: If Net Zero is so unrealistic, how do governments expect us to achieve it?

A.14: The government literature on achieving Net Zero rarely offers detailed plans on *increasing* electrical capacity (apart from solar panels and wind farms). Instead, the government aims for concerted efforts to *reduce* electrical demand. In other words, the various levels of government expect us to use less electricity, not more, and therefore diminish our lifestyles. For example, the Royal Bank of Canada study discussed in **Q&A 11** is enthusiastic about the good things that the new "green" economy of Net Zero will bring the economy and us, but warns:

> The challenge is getting people to change. A low-carbon lifestyle can be *more expensive, harder, and less convenient than the status quo*. While getting nearly 40 million Canadians to accept *less convenience in their daily lives is daunting*, design and innovation could make things easier.[38] [emphasis added]

In practice, governments are using legislation to *force* citizens to buy EV cars and install electrical heating in buildings instead of cheaper (and more sensible in a cold climate) natural-gas heating. In a free society, consumers should be making these purchasing decisions, not governments. So Net Zero means we're all being given *less choice* in what we buy. Net Zero will make all of us not only *poorer* ("a low-carbon lifestyle can be more expensive") but *less free,* while having almost zero effect on the climate (**Q&A 15**)

This is the first time in history, outside of wartime, that *democratic governments* and *scientists* have deliberately adopted policies that will make their citizens *less well-off* and *less free.* Yet we are not "at war" with the climate, nor is the climate "at war" with us. Climate activists, however, are "at war" with Western-style civilization and its values (see **Q&A**s **19-20** for more details).

Q.15: How much will Canada's Net Zero measures reduce the rise in temperature?

A.15: Sensible people only spend huge sums of money (deliberately make themselves poorer) if they are sure of getting a worthwhile result. This is called a basic cost-benefit analysis.

Logically, then, Canadians should be asking how much our $80 billion a year ($2 trillion by 2050) under the Carney plan will reduce the global temperature (using the IPCC's estimates). And, on the global scale (**Q&A 10**), how much will **US$9.3 trillion** a year (**$13 trillion CDN**), for a total of **US$275 trillion ($390 trillion CDN),** actually reduce "global warming" by 2050?

---

[38] Royal Bank Special Reports, "The hardest thing to change: Ourselves." In "The Net Zero opportunity." *The $2-trillion transition: Canada's road to Net Zero*. October 20, 2021.

Political scientist Bjorn Lomborg (The Skeptical Environmentalist) has estimated, using the assumptions of the IPCC's own computer models, that if all nations fully met their 2015 Paris Agreement obligations, the temperature rise averted by 2100 would be a mere **0.04° Celsius**.[39]

Another estimate, by three prominent physicists, predicts that strong global action on Net Zero could reduce warming by **0.07°C** by 2050.[40] A temperature change of **0.04°C-0.07°C** is not perceptible by the human body,[41] so this seems like an extremely low climate bang for our bucks.

Meanwhile, Canada's carbon emissions are only about *1.5 per cent* of global emissions (see Figure 10). So how much will Canadians' Net Zero sacrifices promote "global cooling"?

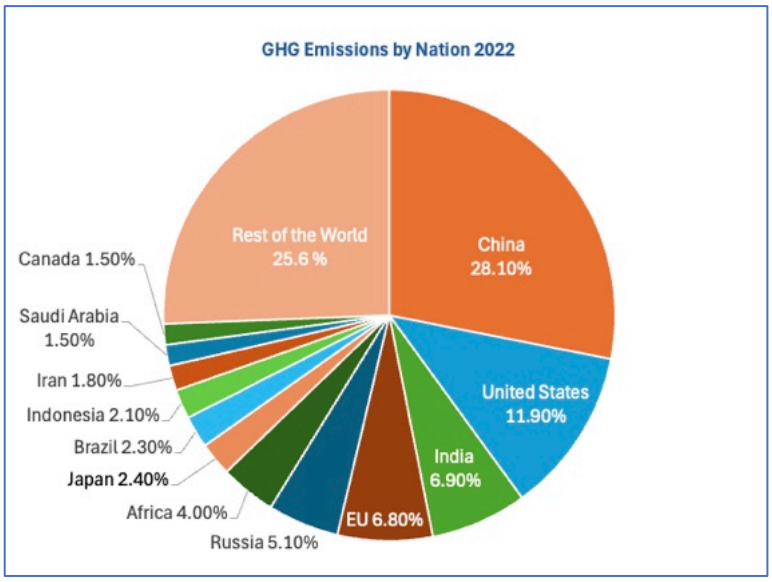

Figure 10: Percentage of global emissions by nation in 2022. Source: Our World in Data

Doing the math, and even using the "generous" 0.07°C estimate, by 2050 Canada's $2 trillion will have reduced the global temperature by **0.0015°C**. (1.5% X 0.07°C). In what universe is a temperature fall of 0.0015°C a worthwhile investment of $2 trillion over the next 25 years?

Looking at this in another way: The Paris Accords aim to keep global temperatures from climbing to 2°C above the "pre-industrial" level by 2100, and ideally not above 1.5°C. So Canada's Net Zero trillions are being spent to help avoid **0.5°C** in warming. If Canada's contribution to global carbon emissions is 1.5 per cent then, under Carney's plan, Canadians will have **spent $2 trillion** to avoid **0.0075°C** (1.5% X 0.5°C) in warming. This is absurd.

Q.16: But if Canadians don't try to stop climate change, why should the other nations?

A.16: Most developing nations are not impacted by the Paris Agreement and will continue to use fossil fuels until their people are lifted out of poverty (which could be decades away, if ever). For example, China and India are, and will remain for many years, the largest carbon emitters in the developing world

---

[39] Bjorn Lomborg, "Section 7.3: Costs and benefits: Paris agreement." In "Welfare in the 21st century." *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, Vol. 156, July 2020, 119981. Available online. For the sake of argument, Lomborg is accepting the IPCC claim that reducing CO_2 levels will actually affect the climate in any material way.

[40] R. Lindzen, W. Happer, W. A. van Wijngaarden, "Net Zero Averted Temperature Increase." *arXiv,* June 2024. They add that if (highly theoretical) "feedbacks" are included, the "saving" in temperature could be 0.28°C, still a small amount for such a huge expense.

[41] Battistel, Laura, et al., "An investigation on humans' sensitivity to environmental temperature." *Nature: Scientific Reports,* 13, Dec. 21, 2023. This article suggests the human body's Just Noticeable Difference is between 0.38°C and 0.95°C, depending on conditions.

(as Figure 10 shows)—China alone is reportedly building two new coal-fired power plants a week.[42]

This means that on a global scale, Canada's carbon emissions "savings" will be wiped out by the increased emissions of the still-developing nations in a week or two. We will have spent $2 trillion, and made major sacrifices to our standard of living and our freedom, to accomplish virtually *nothing* in terms of fighting "global warming."

Q.17: Won't we be out of step with other nations if we don't have a carbon tax?

A.17: Most other nations have no carbon tax or a tax much lower than Canada's, a fact that harms our ability to compete with those nations in trade. For example, Canada's chief trading partners are the U.S., China, Great Britain, Japan and Mexico.[43] Neither the United States nor China has a national carbon tax; Britain's carbon tax is **US$23/**tonne; Japan's is **US$2/**tonne; Mexico's tax is **US$3.50** ($5CDN).

Canada has (temporarily?) "cancelled" the "consumer" carbon tax, but the carbon tax on industry, natural resources and other "large polluters" continues and is currently **$80CDN** (**US$57**) a tonne, rising $15 a year to $**170** (**US$122**) a tonne by 2030. The tax means Canadian products are much more expensive to export to countries with a low or no carbon tax.

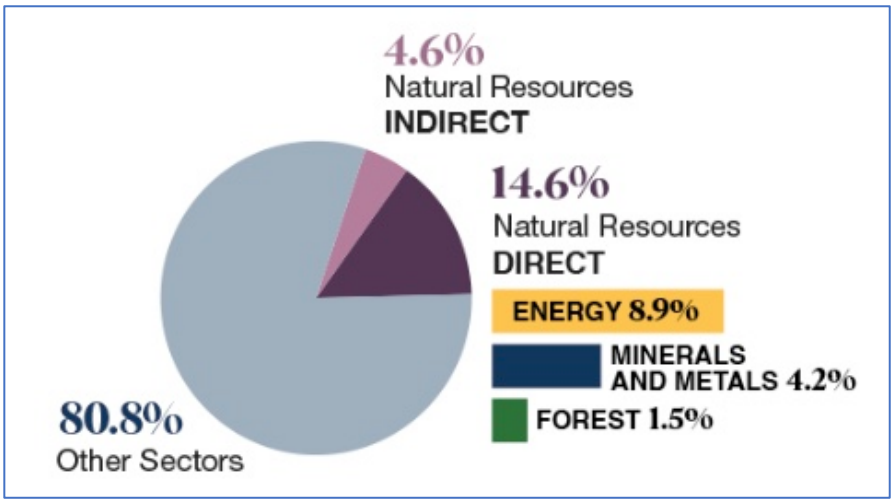

Figure 11: Natural resources as a percentage of Canadian GDP. Source: "10 Key Facts on Canada's Natural Resources." Natural Resources Canada.

This tax imbalance is already harming Canadian exports and is one reason why Canada's economy is currently flailing,[44] to the point where even the *Wall Street Journal* refers to Canada's "lost decade" under Liberal economic policies.[45] Removing the carbon tax and other Net Zero fetters on fossil fuels, mining, and other natural resources, *which represent over 20 per cent of Canada's GDP* (see Figure 11), would help return Canada's economy to fiscal health.

Q.18: Could Net Zero policies doom many in the developing world to starvation?

A.18: In 2021, Sri Lanka instituted a "green" government policy of making the country's agriculture "100 per cent organic" by eliminating artificial fertilizers. The result? Rice production fell by 20 per cent, food

[42] Helen Davidson, "China continues coal spree despite climate goals." *The Guardian*, Aug. 29, 2023.
[43] "Canada's top export partners," *Pangea*.
[44] James Thorne, "Why Canada's economy is on the ropes." *Globe and Mail*, Sept. 17, 2024.
[45] "Has Canada learned from its Lost Decade?" Editorial, *Wall Street Journal*, March 11, 2025.

prices soared, and a farmers' revolt forced Sri Lanka's president into exile.[46]

What went wrong? Fossil fuels are an essential ingredient in artificial fertilizers and in mechanized farming. Without them, the world's eight billion people (and counting) cannot be fed (see Figure 12).

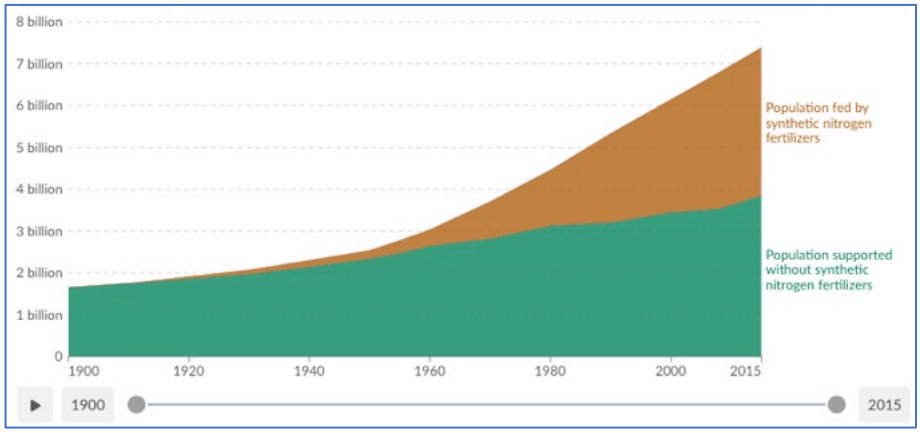

Figure 12: Almost half of world's population is currently fed using synthetic nitrogen fertilizers (brown shaded area). Source: Our World in Data, "How many people does synthetic fertilizer feed?"

Similarly, "green" governments in some developed countries, including Canada, also have plans to ban artificial fertilizers and even force farmers to severely cull their cattle herds, which will reduce food production and farmers' incomes, while also making citizens poorer due to higher food costs.

The "green" attack on artificial fertilizers and industrial farming, based on fears of "climate change," *can only mean reduced food production.* In the less-developed countries, this policy can only lead to *hunger and in some cases starvation*, perhaps of millions.[47] The Net Zero policy truly deserves the name "anti-human."

Q.19: Why, then, are governments promoting this economically ruinous policy?

A.19: Undoubtedly, many backers of climate alarmism, like Mark Carney, *sincerely believe* we are facing a "climate crisis" and that they are "saving the planet"; it wouldn't be the first time millions of people, including scientists and politicians, have sincerely believed in theories based on faulty or no evidence. However—and this may sound like conspiracy theory—the goal of the climate crusaders appears to be much broader than simply "stopping climate change"; the "climate crisis" is just the cover story for a much more radical economic and social agenda.

For example, a lead IPCC author, Ottmar Edenhofer, stated in a 2010 interview with a Swiss newspaper:

> One must say clearly that *we redistribute de facto the world's wealth by climate policy.* … One has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is

[46] Tunku Varadara-jan, "Sri Lanka's Green New Deal Was a Human Disaster." *Wall Street Journal*, July 15, 2022.

[47] Richard Lindzen, William Happer, & Steven Koonin, "Submission to Court of Appeals, The Hague." Nov. 30, 2023. Available at https://CO_2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Lindzen-Happer-Koonin-Affidavit-30-Nov-2023-1.pdf. The submission notes (p. 24): "There will be disastrous consequences for the poor, people worldwide, future generations and the West if fossil fuels and CO_2 emissions were reduced to 'net zero,' including mass starvation and loss of reliable and inexpensive energy."

> environmental policy. *This has almost nothing to do with environmental policy anymore.*[48] [emphasis added]

It appears that the climate activists' ultimate aim is a massive reordering of human society and economies toward what can only be called global socialism, with a strongly Marxist bent, including a massive redistribution of the developed world's income to the less-developed world[49] under the guise of helping them cope with "climate change."

Marxism was exposed as *politically* and *economically* unworkable when the Soviet Union fell in 1991. This meant the Marxist movement needed another vehicle and environmentalism fit the bill; they became "watermelons"—green on the outside, red on the inside. Henceforth, the Marxist program was disguised under a "cloak of green,"[50] including the campaign against "climate change."

Q.20: Are you saying the Net Zero movement hopes to destroy Western civilization?

A.20: An assault on Western civilization's values can be found throughout the United Nations' publications. For example, a 2021 report from the United Nation's Environmental Program (UNEP) argues that environmental degradation has gotten so bad that we need radical "transformative change":

> With successful *transformative change,* the consumption of resources would decrease in wealthy contexts and increase sustainably elsewhere. … Human ambitions for a good life *would no longer be centred around high levels of material consumption, but around rich relationships involving people and nature*, in keeping with diverse traditions throughout the world.[51] [emphasis added]

But what about those unenlightened people who want both "rich relationships" *and* "high levels of material consumption"? They must learn to think differently, UNEP tells us.

Similarly, a report by Canada's Public Health Agency includes interviews with several anonymous health professionals. One of those quoted, with the *implicit approval* of the report authors (and therefore the Canadian government), says:

> Ultimately, there are three core values in Western society, and for that matter, in global society, that have to change. One core value is about ***growth and materialism***. The second core value is ***liberty and individualism***, which has to be rethought because the kind of individualism that is preached by neo-liberals is part of the problem. It advances the

---

[48] Interview with Ottmar Edenhofer, "IPCC Official: 'Climate Policy Is Redistributing The World's Wealth'.", *Neue Zürcher Zeitung,* Nov. 14, 2010.

[49] For example: Associated Press, "UN climate talks reach deal to give developing countries $300B US a year." *Times Colonist*, Nov. 24, 2024. The developing countries were asking for $1.3 trillion a year.

[50] This term is based on the 1995 book *Cloak of Green* (Lorimer Publishing) by Canadian writer Elaine Dewar, which exposes the roots of the environmentalist movement as Marxist-inspired.

[51] "Making Peace with Nature," *United Nations Environmental Program*, p. 29. Available online.

> individual over the collective, it says as long as I get what I want, bugger you, and it leads to a huge number of problems, and *it undermines the collective process*. A third core value that has to **change is around our separation from nature**, and [that] somehow, we're separate and apart from nature.[52] [emphasis added]

So, the Net Zero activists are asking us to renounce "growth and materialism" and "liberty and individualism," and thereby overcome our "separation from nature" (presumably through some unspecified mystical practices).

In short, the Net Zero climate movement's ultimate goal is economic, social and political "transformative change" in which we not only give up the values of Western civilization (individuality, freedom, economic growth) but also *change our human nature*.

This radical kind of "transformative change" has been tried in communist countries like the Soviet Union and its European satellites, Communist China, North Korea, Cuba, Cambodia, and Albania. These countries not only deprived their citizens of basic "liberty and individualism" and "growth and materialism," but imprisoned, tortured, and murdered tens of millions of people who couldn't make the necessary psychological "transformative change." The Net Zero approach is fundamentally Marxist and "anti-human" and we need to recognize it as such.

Q.21: The planet is currently warming, somewhat. How *should* we respond to these changes?
A.21: "Climate change" is presented to the public as a huge amorphous problem—similar to, say, psychological anxiety—that can only be controlled by huge changes like Net Zero (in effect, trying to somehow "stop" climate change, which is impossible). However, the way to deal with apparently amorphous problems (as any psychotherapist can testify) is to break the big, scary situation down into a series of smaller *concrete and specific* problems and deal with each of the problems as it comes up.

If the climate problem is flooding or sea-level rise, then we should be bolstering our flood-control measures, building dikes, or as a last resort moving threatened populations to higher ground. If the problem is forest fires, then we must improve our fire-control systems.

If we fear periods of extreme heat, then we can respond with measures such as "cooling stations," more urban tree canopies, and the like (billions of people currently live in countries where the heat is "extreme," and millions more flock to warm U.S. states like Florida and California, and somehow they cope).

At the same time, if we truly wish to go beyond dependence on fossil fuels while maintaining "growth and materialism" and "liberty and individualism"—in other words, continuing to enjoy the benefits of an advanced Western-style industrial and technological civilization—then we need to reassess our fears of nuclear power.

---

[52] Heather Castleden, et al., "What We Heard: Perspectives on Climate Change and Public Health in Canada." *Public Health Agency of Canada,* 2023. Available online.

"Sustainable" power sources like windmills and solar panels may be part of the future power mix, but they are intermittent. If the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow, they don't provide power. The recent electricity blackout in Spain and Portugal was ultimately caused by too much reliance on "sustainable" power sources.[53]

To avoid blackouts and brownouts, at least for the foreseeable future, a *reliable* power supply will always require major dependence on fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) in addition to hydro and nuclear power. Power from wind and solar can only be a small bonus, at huge cost.

If we want reliable power, then the Net Zero policy means building and maintaining *two* power systems: wind/solar and the parallel backup using fossil fuels, hydro and/or nuclear power. This two-system approach is absurd and ridiculously expensive. That said, if we want to reduce the use of fossil fuels, while maintaining a developed economy, then nuclear power is the most likely solution.

Conclusions

Humans are the most adaptable animal on the planet, and our response to "climate change," which has been occurring on our planet for billions of years and will continue for billions more, is to *adapt*!

As Bjorn Lomborg notes, we have been following this pragmatic, adaptation-based approach with great success for many years:

> Throughout history humanity has tackled major challenges, not by imposing restrictions, but with transformative technologies. We didn't address L.A. air pollution by banning cars. We invented the catalytic converter. We didn't combat global hunger by getting people to eat less. We undertook a "Green Revolution" that brought high-yielding varieties and grew much more food.[54]

Lomborg's sensible suggestion is to use the trillions earmarked for "green" energy and spend it on research and design of "sustainable" technologies that are so inexpensive people will *want* to use them, rather than being forced to use them.

As part of this adaptation, we must recognize that, based on the evidence we've presented here, there is no "climate crisis" and the current (mild) warming is *not* being caused by increased CO_2, human-

[53] Gabriel Calzada & Manuel Fernández Ordóñez, "How the lights went out in Spain." *Wall Street Journal*, May 1, 2025.
[54] Bjorn Lomborg, "Three smart ways to fight climate change." *National Post*, April 29, 2025.

generated or otherwise (in part because CO_2-based warming is almost "saturated").

The IPCC's alarming claims, based on the now-discredited climate scenario RCP8.5 ("business as usual"), are intended to frighten the public into hasty action, without adequate thought or preparation, and thereby stampede us toward the United Nations' preferred global-socialist political, economic, and social system.

If there is no "climate crisis" (and there isn't), then humanity has the time and resources—if we don't squander those resources on futile Net Zero programs—to identify the *real* climate problems, as opposed to the amorphous so-called climate "emergency." We can then respond intelligently with the appropriate engineering solutions, adapting to whatever climate changes we experience, now and in the future.

To fashion this *realistic* response, though, we need the political will to fight the Net Zero advocates and their anti-human policies. That means politicians, political candidates, and voters need to back political parties that actively support a *realistic* response to climate issues, which includes a gradual, engineering-based policy of *adaptation* to climate changes. We could start by getting rid of all "carbon taxes," which serve no practical purpose as far as climate is concerned but only make governments richer and citizens poorer.

The alternative to climate realism is the UN's "solution," in which personal and political freedom and a prosperous lifestyle are sacrificed in the name of "stopping climate change." This is an impossible dream based not in climate *facts* but on what can only be called magical thinking and a Marxist-inspired political ideology.

Climate Realists of British Columbia is an association of professionals, including scientists and engineers as well as economists, lawyers, journalists, military officers, politicians and business executives, who draw on a wide range of skills and experience to examine the climate issue in depth.
Our website is https://climaterealists.ca.

Climate Realists
of British Columbia

Reliable sources of climate information

These websites offer balanced, accurate information on climate and "climate change."

Climate Realists of B.C.: https://climaterealists.ca
Friends of Science: http://friendsofscience.org/
Climate Discussion Nexus: http://www.climatediscussionnexus.com/
Canadians for Sensible Climate Policy: https://sensiblechange.ca/#start
Science and Environmental Policy Project: http://www.sepp.org/
Net Zero Watch: http://www.netzerowatch.com/
Watts Up With That: http://www.wattsupwiththat.com/
Bjorn Lomborg site: https://lomborg.com/
Heartland Institute: https://heartland.org/
CO2 Science: http://www.co2science.org/index.php
Clintel: https://clintel.org
Judith Curry site: https://judithcurry.com/
Roger Pielke, Jr., site: https://rogerpielkejr.com/
Climate Audit: http://climateaudit.org/
Polar Bear Science: https://polarbearscience.com/
Jennifer Marohasy site: https://jennifermarohasy.com/
Roy Spencer site: https://www.drroyspencer.com/
Joanne Nova site: http://joannenova.com.au/
Real Climate Science: https://realclimatescience.com/

These books offer a realistic approach to "climate change." Other sources can be found in the footnotes.

Paul MacRae, *Through the Looking Glass: A Citizen's Do-It-Yourself Guide to Climate Science*. Climate Realists of B.C., 2023. Available at Amazon.ca.

Paul MacRae, *False Alarm: Global Warming Facts Versus Fears*. Spring Bay Press, 2010. Available at Amazon.ca.

Ron Davison, et al. *Energy & Climate at a Glance: Facts on 22 Prominent Topics.* Citizens for Sensible Climate Policy, 2024.

Anthony Watts, et al., *Climate at a Glance: Facts on 30 Prominent Climate Topics.* Heartland Institute, 2022. Available on the Heartland Institute website.

Bjorn Lomborg, *False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet.* New York: Hachette Book Group, 2021.

Steven E. Koonin, *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters.* BenBella Books, 2021.

Ian Plimer, et al. *Climate Change: The Facts.* Stockade Books, 2015.

Jennifer Marohasy, ed., *Climate Change: The Facts 2020.* Arden, 2021.