

The Plan is... No Plan!



The New York Times

Opinion

Where's Your Climate Plan, Mr. McConnell?

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Why the GOP Shouldn't Do Anything on Climate

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Why the GOP Shouldn't Do Anything on Climate

A Senate resolution to embrace the economy-destroying Green New Deal recently went down to resounding defeat. Every Senator voted. None voted in favor of the Green New Deal — even co-sponsor Ed Markey. Predictably, the Democrats and their media allies immediately cast the issue back onto congressional Republicans, some of whom took the bait.

The *New York Times* published an op-ed by an editorial board member titled, “What’s Your Plan, Mr. McConnell?” The op-ed read in part:¹

The Senate majority leader, like so much of his party, has zero interest in climate change — or rather, he has no interest in pursuing policies to address what many regard as the defining crisis of our time... The Green New Deal is by no means a fully baked proposal for combating climate change. But for all its flaws, it is a more promising first step than the Republican leaders' chosen strategy of inaction and sneering denial.

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Where's Your Climate Plan, Mr. McConnell?

The Senate Republican leader staged a sham vote on a Democratic climate change resolution, embarrassing only himself.

By Michelle Cottle
Ms. Cottle is a member of the editorial board.

March 26, 2019

One Republican to fall for the climate-baiting guilt-trip was Rep. Matt Gaetz (R- FL) who tweeted that “climate change is real” and that “Something needs to be done about it.”



Rep. Matt Gaetz @RepMattGaetz
Climate change is real. Humans contribute. Democrats put forward their radical plan – its time Republicans introduce a plan that encourages real solutions through innovation, not regulation. [@BreitbartNews](#)



Pinkerton: Matt Gaetz Calls for a 'Green Real Deal'
Matt Gaetz is doing the Republican Party a great service by circulating a Congressional resolution calling for a "Green Real Deal."
[breitbart.com](#)

9:47 AM - 28 Mar 2019

Another Republican, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), suggested a Manhattan Project-type effort to address climate.



Sen. Lamar Alexander @SenAlexander

I hope the New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy can become a bipartisan proposal.

Many of its Ten Grand Challenges have also been proposed by the National Institute of Engineering and the [@theNASciences](#). alexander.senate.gov/public/index.c...



1:27 PM - 28 Mar 2019

Our purpose is to explain why no climate plan is needed and why any climate plan is bound to be, at best, a foolish waste of time, money, resources. No climate plan is needed because:

1. Regardless of the science, US emissions cuts don't matter to climate a whit;
2. No one is actually cutting emissions;
3. The only thing certain about CO₂ is that it supports life on Earth; and
4. Pointlessly wrecking the U.S. economy is, not surprisingly, bad politics.

There is absolutely nothing to be gained by legislating climate alarmism. But before discussing the above-mentioned four points, let's quickly review why the Green New Deal was rejected by the Senate. Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore summed up the Green New Deal in this viral tweet:



Patrick Moore
@EcoSenseNow

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Pompous little twit. You don't have a plan to grow food for 8 billion people without fossil fuels, or get the food into the cities. Horses? If fossil fuels were banned every tree in the world would be cut down for fuel for cooking and heating. You would bring about mass death.

10:36 AM - 23 Feb 2019

Embarrassed Democrats and some Republicans often resort to describing the Green New Deal as “aspirational.” Given Moore’s comment, what part of the Green New Deal should anyone aspire to?

Now, on to the four points.

I. Regardless of the science, US emissions cuts don’t matter to climate

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) issued its “Emissions Gap Report 2018” last November.²



The UN report includes two points that underscore the futility of US action on climate:

2. Global greenhouse gas emissions show no signs of peaking. Global CO₂ emissions from energy and industry increased in 2017, following a three-year period of stabilization. Total annual greenhouse gases emissions, including from land-use change, reached a record high of 53.5 GtCO₂e in 2017, an increase of 0.7 GtCO₂e compared with 2016. In contrast, global GHG emissions in 2030 need to be approximately 25 percent and 55 percent lower than in 2017 to put the world on a least-cost pathway to limiting global warming to 2°C and 1.5°C respectively.
1. Total manmade emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases amount to an estimated 53,500,000,000 (53.5 BILLION) tons of CO₂ in 2017.
2. Global manmade greenhouse gas emissions show no sign of going down.

The significance of these two points — made by the UN — is that, for the foreseeable future, 53.5 BILLION tons of CO₂ is the minimum standard (since emissions show no sign of declining) by which we are to measure the significance of claims and promises of emissions cuts. This level of manmade emissions renders anything anyone in the US or, indeed, anything the US does obviously irrelevant to global climate.

Consider these examples:

Example 1: In its most recent Sustainability Report, ExxonMobil claims to have avoided emitting 23.4 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2017. But 23.4 MILLION tons divided by 53.5 BILLION tons means that ExxonMobil spent precious and significant shareholder assets to voluntarily reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by a laughably insignificant 0.044%.

Example 2: Of the 53.5 BILLION tons of CO₂ emitted in 2017, the U.S. share was 13.1%. or about 7 BILLION tons. Imagine that the U.S. went entirely dark and emitted no more manmade CO₂. The rest of the world, which shows no signs of emitting less CO₂, would still emit at least 46.5 BILLION tons of CO₂ every year —and that 46.5 BILLION tons is a figure that is only increasing. Now recall that the goal of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol was to reduce and stabilize CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels of around 35 BILLION tons of CO₂. But even with the US emitting zero, the rest of the world is way above the 1990 goal (46.5 BILLION tons vs 35 BILLION tons) and will only emit more CO₂ and further exceed the 1990 level.

Example 3. If the U.S. stopped emitting CO₂ immediately, the atmospheric CO₂ level would be approximately 29 parts per million (ppm) less by the year 2100.³ Today's atmospheric CO₂ level is at about 412 ppm and is increasing at a rate of a little more than 2 ppm per year. So if emissions don't decrease —and the UN doesn't expect them to —we can expect that atmospheric CO₂ will be at about 412 ppm + (2 ppm/year x 81 years) or 574 ppm by the year 2100. So if the US shut down immediately, atmospheric CO₂ would be reduced to 574 ppm minus 29 ppm = 545 ppm. Based on IPCC modeling, this difference in mean global temperature produced by 574 ppm vs. 545 ppm is not discernibly different.

It's important to keep in mind that, despite decades of climate alarmism, the world is burning more coal, oil and gas than ever before. Even while U.S. utilities plan to shut down a handful of coal plants here and there over the coming decades, the *New York Times* reported on July 1, 2017 that:⁴

Over all, 1,600 coal plants are planned or under construction in 62 countries, according to Urgewald's tally, which uses data from the [Global Coal Plant Tracker](#) portal. The new plants would expand the world's coal-fired power capacity by 43 percent.

Pictured below is the Thar power plant in the Sindh province of Pakistan. The plant sits atop 175 billion tons of (inefficient) lignite coal—one of the largest deposits in the world equal to about 20 years of global coal production. The site will be able to produce 200,000 MW of electricity over the next 100 years.



Not only is all this coal generation coming online, but oil and gas companies plan to produce all of their reserves. Even though Royal Dutch Shell recently announced it was leaving the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers trade group over climate differences, Shell had earlier announced in the wake of the Paris Climate Accords that:⁵

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Royal Dutch Shell expects to pump out all the fossil fuel reserves listed on its balance sheet, its chief executive said, dismissing concerns that production limits in the wake of the Paris climate accord could hit the energy giant's valuation.

For all its arm-waving about no longer financing fossil fuel development around the world, the World Bank is financing four times as much in coal, oil and gas projects as in wind and solar projects — \$21 billion for fossil fuels vs. \$7 billion for renewables.⁶ This is “undermining the Paris Climate Agreement,” according to the German climate NGO, Urgewald.



A unilateral reduction in US emissions will cost a lot of money, jeopardize the reliability of the electricity grid, and wreak havoc on our economy and standard of living — but will accomplish nothing in terms of climate change. That is for sure.

II. No one is cutting emissions

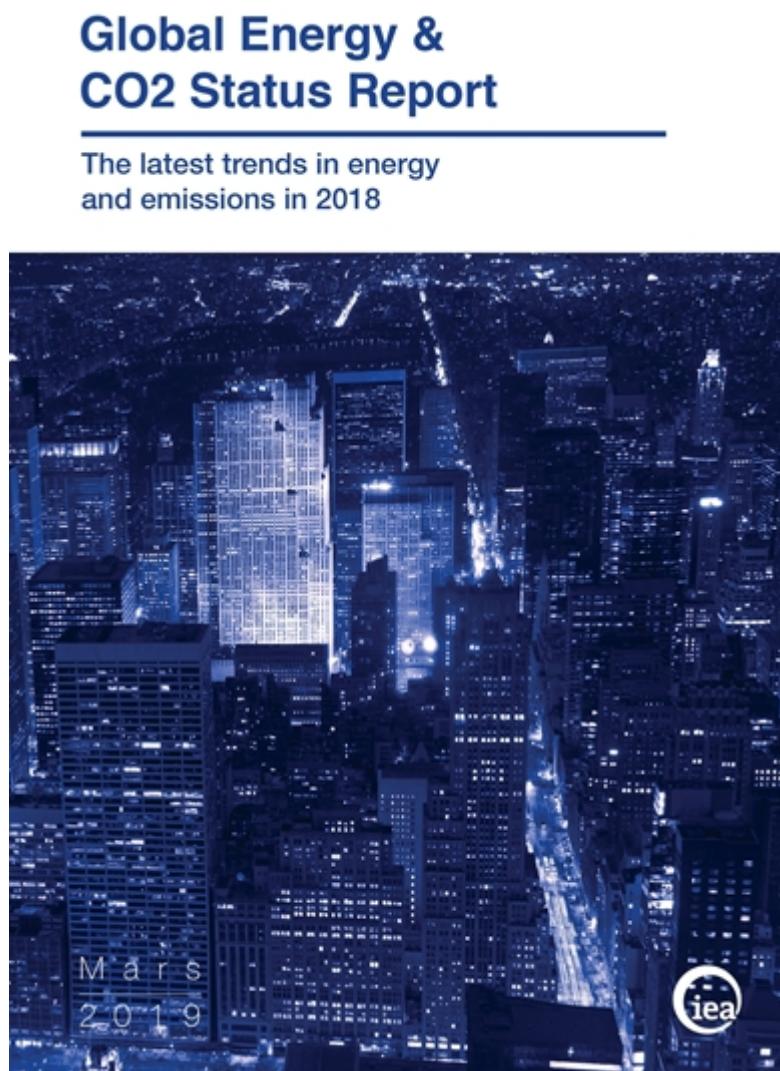
Nineteenth century American essayist Charles Dudley Warner famously quipped words to the effect that:

Everybody is complaining about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

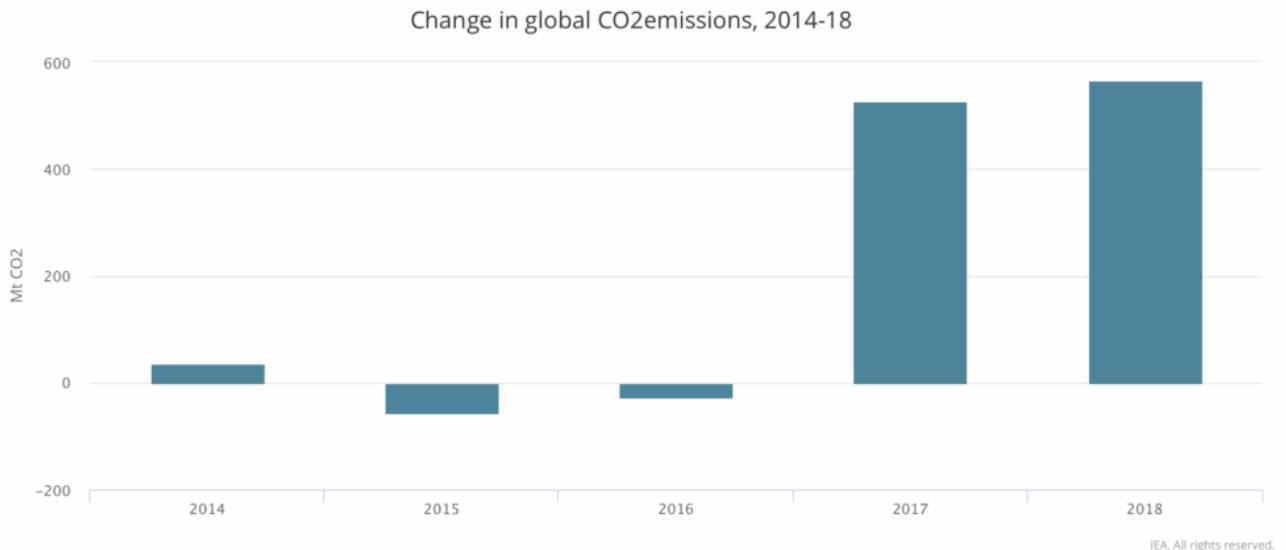
The same can be said of climate and CO₂ emissions. Many say emissions need to be cut. But no one is actually cutting them.

As of July 2018, 197 of the world's 210 nations had ratified the 2015 Paris Climate Accords calling for global reductions in CO₂ emissions.

But consider the March 2019 UN report, "Global Energy and CO₂ Status Report."⁷

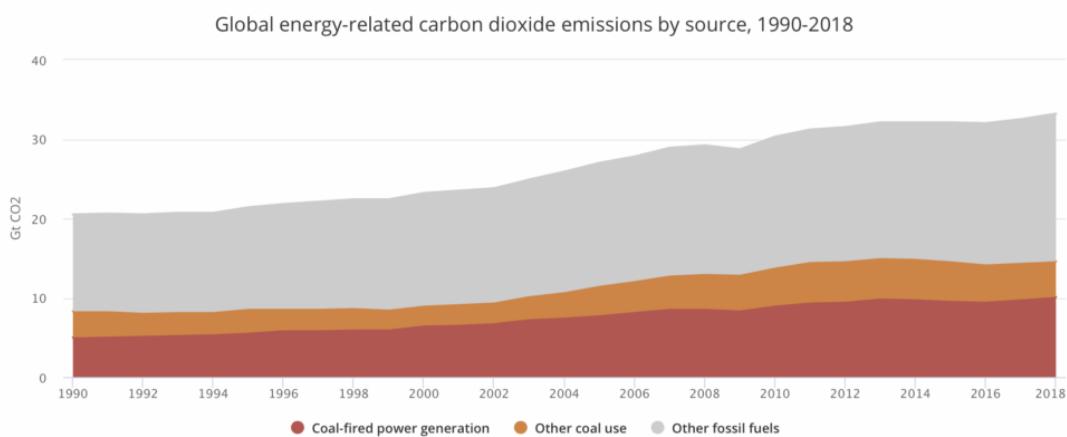


The report shows that despite that 94% of the world's nations have signed onto the Paris Climate Accords, emissions are not being cut. Consider the chart, below.

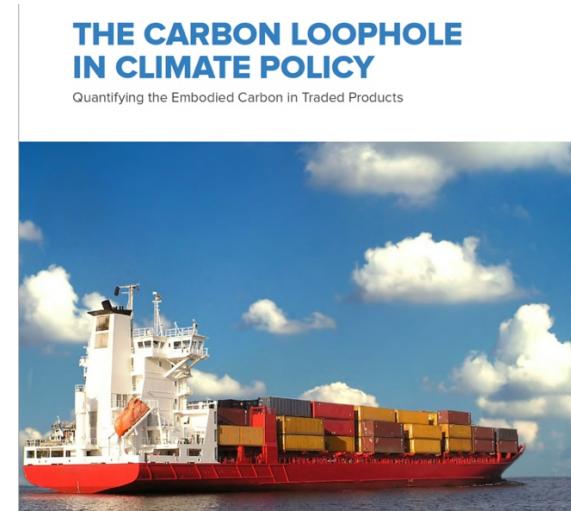


Not only are emissions not declining, they are rising dramatically—in line with the UN statement from its “Emissions Gap Report 2018:”

Global greenhouse gas emissions show no signs of peaking.



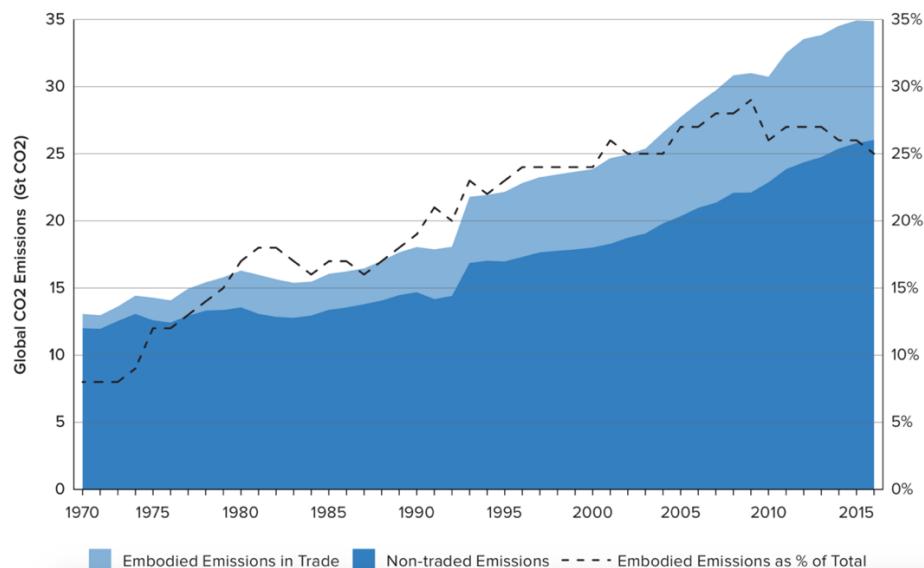
Further, any claims of emissions cuts are most likely false as pointed out in an August 2018 report from the Climateworks Foundation, entitled “The Carbon Loophole: Quantifying the Embodied Carbon in Traded Products.”⁸



Wealthy and formerly heavily industrial nations — e.g., the U.S. and Western Europe — have shifted much of their industrial manufacturing to China, India, Mexico and other countries where labor is cheaper and environmental and workplace regulation is less expensive.

While this outsourcing of energy-intensive industrial manufacturing to other countries necessarily reduces the direct greenhouse gas emissions of the wealthy nations, it has not reduced any actual emissions on a global basis. As “The Carbon Loophole” reports, on a global basis, about 25% of global emissions have simply been shifted between countries.

On average, one quarter of the global carbon footprint is embodied in imported goods. These hidden flows evade most types of carbon policy.



The bottom line is that industrial nations are outsourcing or exporting their emissions vs. cutting them. Emissions are just being moved around, not cut.

A word on the Paris Climate Accords before leaving this section. While 197 countries have signed the Paris agreement, the vast majority of signatories did so in hopes of getting money out of the deal, not because they plan on cutting emissions. India, which is rapidly electrifying and cannot produce enough coal fast enough to meet its needs,⁹ told the UN that it wants to receive “at least \$2.5 trillion” in climate aid from wealthy nations.¹⁰

India's climate actions have so far been largely financed from domestic resources. A substantial scaling up of the climate action plans would require greater resources. A detailed and full scale assessment of international climate finance needs will be finalized at a later stage and would depend on the gap between actual cost of implementation of India's plans and what can be made available from domestic sources. While this would evolve over time, a preliminary estimate suggests that **at least USD 2.5 trillion** (at 2014-15 prices) will be required for meeting India's climate change actions between now and 2030.

For many countries, then, the Paris Climate Accord is all about getting money from wealthy nations, not about cutting CO₂ emissions.

III. The only thing certain about CO₂ is that it is necessary and great for life on Earth

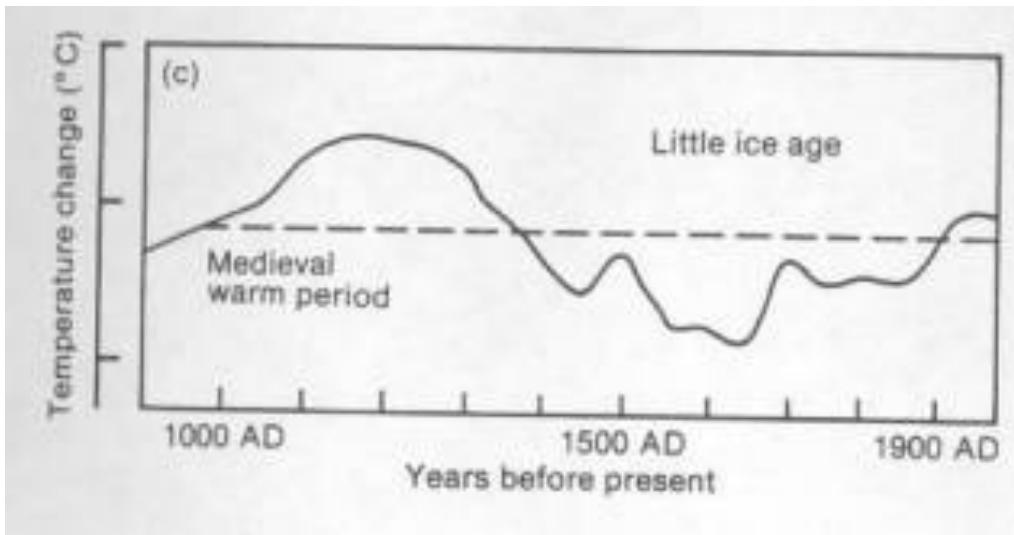
The notion that climate change is *necessarily* bad is just an assumption, and an unfounded one at that.

There is no known or demonstrable “correct” or “optimal” level of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Keep in mind that CO₂ is currently about 0.041% of the atmosphere. At current emissions levels, atmospheric CO₂ would approach 0.06% by the year 2100.

Each additional molecule of CO₂ added to the atmosphere actually has less warming potential than previously emitted molecules. At some point, additional emitted CO₂ has no warming potential at all.¹¹

There is no known or demonstrable “correct” or optimal global temperature. Moreover, average global temperature is merely an arbitrary metric with no physical meaning. There is no place on the planet that exists at average global temperature.

We know that climate is always changing albeit gradually, if not imperceptibly. The UN reported in the first IPCC report (see chart, below) that average temperatures (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) have been warming since about 1650, emerging from a relatively cold period known as the Little Ice Age.



Despite wild claims and predictions made on the basis of climate models, they still don't work as predictive tools.

So the core controversies of the climate debate are chock full of unknowns and unknowables.

In contrast, we know that CO₂, as plant food, is essential for life on Earth. More CO₂ means more plant growth. We know this from scientific experiments like this:



We also know from NASA satellite photos that increased atmospheric CO₂ has “greened” the Earth:



We also have real-world experience with crop yields. A November 2018 study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reported that warming since 1981 has helped increased US corn yield.

Peculiarly pleasant weather for US maize

Ethan E. Butler, Nathaniel D. Mueller, and Peter Huybers

PNAS November 20, 2018 115 (47) 11935-11940; published ahead of print November 5, 2018
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1808035115>

Edited by Inez Fung, University of California, Berkeley, CA, and approved October 4, 2018 (received for review May 9, 2018)

Significance

Over the course of the 20th century, US maize yields have improved by more than a factor of five. Whereas this trend is often attributed exclusively to technological improvements, here, we also identify contributions from improved temperatures during the growing season. More than one-quarter of the increase in crop yield since 1981 is estimated to result from trends toward overall warmer conditions, but with cooling of the hottest growing-season temperatures, and from adjustments in crop timing toward earlier planting and longer maturation varieties.

Warming is also expanding the area for growing crops—like corn in Alberta, Canada—as reported recently in the *Wall Street Journal*:¹²



This is of crucial importance since world population is projected to increase dramatically. According to the UN:¹³

The current world population of 7.6 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100.

As global population inexorably grows, so will demand for our plant-based food supply. Plants entirely depend on ample CO₂ in the atmosphere. More CO₂—especially in combination with warmer temperatures—means more plant life, more agricultural production, and more food to meet the demand of a growing global population.

That is what is *known* about CO₂.

IV. Pointlessly wrecking the U.S. economy is bad politics

Advocating economically harmful climate policy has always been and remains a political loser. Consider the following:

- **1993.** Bill Clinton's "BTU" tax, perhaps the first CO₂ tax ever voted on, passed the Democrat-controlled House but failed in the Democrat-controlled Senate. Many House democrats blamed their 1994 election defeats on their votes for the BTU tax.
- **1997.** The Senate voted 95-0 to express opposition to the Kyoto Protocol.
- **2000.** Vice President Al Gore campaigned on global warming but lost to Texas oilman George W. Bush.
- **2008.** Though Barack Obama campaigned on global warming and won against Sen. John McCain, McCain had repeatedly introduced climate bills with co-sponsor Sen. Joe Lieberman in 2003, 2005 and 2007. There was not much, if any, daylight between Obama and McCain on climate.
- **2009.** The Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill squeaked by in the House with a mere eight Republican votes. The bill failed to advance in the Senate. In the 2010 election, Democrats lost control of both houses of Congress in part because of cap-and-trade (derided as "cap-and-tax").
- **2010 – 2016.** Republicans won and maintained control of Congress in part by campaigning and often voting unanimously against the Obama war-on-coal.

- **2016.** Donald Trump actively campaigned against the global warming “hoax” and on a promise to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Accord. He defeated Hilary Clinton who campaigned on a platform of climate alarm.
- **2017.** Of the 30 Republicans who had joined the bi-partisan congressional Climate Solutions Caucus, Democrats targeted 24 of them for defeat in the 2018 election.¹⁴
- **2018.** Of the 45 Republicans who had joined the Climate Solutions Caucus, more than one-third (including GOP-co-chair Carlos Curbelo) were defeated in the November election.¹⁵
- **2019.** No Senator voted for the Green New Deal, including Green New Deal co-sponsor Sen. Ed Markey.

That is not a track record of political success.

Climate consistently polls poorly against other issues and as a low priority in the minds of voters. In a March 2019 CNN poll, climate was the most important issue for only 2% of those polled.

	March 14-17, 2019		March 14-17, 2019
IMMIGRATION (NET)	20%	RIGHTS/IDENTITY (NET)	5%
Immigration	15%	Women's rights/equality	1%
Wall/Border security	6%	Human rights	1%
Trump immigration policies	*	Better treatment of women/minorities	1%
ECONOMY (NET)	16%	Racial equality/racism	1%
Economy general	11%	Equality (general)	1%
Poverty	1%	Concern/Care for all Americans	1%
Trade/Foreign trade	1%	Reparations	*
Jobs	1%	GOVT SPENDING (NET)	5%
Help middle/working classes	1%	Taxes	3%
Wages	1%	Federal budget/deficit	1%
Economic inequality/income inequality	*	FOREIGN AFFAIRS/SECURITY (NET)	4%
CANDIDATE ATTRIBUTES (NET)	11%	Foreign affairs/Foreign policy	2%
Honesty/truthfulness	4%	National security	1%
Unite the country/Not a divider	2%	Military/Veteran support	1%
Competence/qualifications	2%	Security (general)	*
Integrity/credibility	1%	Stance on Israel	*
Experience	1%	ENVIRONMENT (NET)	4%
Ethics/morality	1%	Climate change/Global warming	2%
Character	*	Protect environment (general)	1%
Leadership	*	Green New Deal	*
Candidate/VP gender	*	GUNS/SECOND AMENDMENT	3%
Fairness/Fair treatment of all	*	EDUCATION	2%
HEALTH CARE (NET)	8%	ABORTION	2%
Health care	6%	GOVT MANAGEMENT (NET)	2%
Medicare	1%	Smaller government	1%
Medicare-for-all/Healthcare-for-all	1%	Upholding Constitution/Freedom/Democracy	1%
Rx prices/Cost of care	*	Transparency in govt	*
ISSUE POSITIONS/IDEOLOGY (NET)	6%	SENIOR ISSUES (NET)	2%
Anti-Socialist	2%	Social Security	1%
Working for good of country	2%	Support for seniors/the elderly	1%
Moderate/Centrist/Middle	1%	VOTING ISSUES (NET)	1%
General issue positions	1%	Voting security/ID	*
Bipartisanship/Cooperation	1%	Voting rights	*
Pro-Democrat	*	OTHER DOMESTIC (NET)	4%
Anti-Democrat	*	Marijuana	2%
Common sense	*	Social issues (general)	1%
Conservative/Not liberal	*	Criminal justice reform	1%
Pro-Republican	*	Campaign finance/Money out of politics	1%
CANDIDATE SPECIFIC (NET)	6%	Drugs/opioids (general)	*
Anti-Trump	3%	Infrastructure	*
Pro-Trump	2%	All important/Can't choose	*
Pro-Sanders	1%	None	1%
Depends on candidates running	*	Other	10%
		DK/No opinion/Refused	7%

But what about that 97% consensus of scientists?

All the foregoing is fine and dandy, you may be thinking, but what about the alleged 97% consensus of scientists who supposedly believe that manmade emissions of CO₂ are going to destroy the planet?

First, you need to re-read the foregoing. The whole premise here has been, “regardless of the science.” Even if you believe in a CO₂-caused climate apocalypse, there is nothing the U.S. can do alone and the rest of the world is not doing anything to reduce CO₂ emissions. The alleged consensus is largely irrelevant.

If you remain concerned or curious, you should inquire as to exactly who and what the alleged 97% consensus is supposedly made up of. Who are these scientists? What exactly do they agree on? What is the origin of 97% consensus claim? You might just find out that claims of a 97% consensus are so much hot air.¹⁶

And while we’re talking “consensus,” don’t forget: The now-discredited pseudoscience of eugenics was the (U.S. progressive-heralded) disastrous scientific consensus of 100 years ago.

In its heyday, eugenics was championed by many of the same philanthropies, institutions and corporations that push climate today. The Rockefeller Foundation, for example, helped found the German eugenics program and even funded the program that Josef Mengele worked in before he went to Auschwitz.¹⁷ No need to further discuss how all that turned out.

Remember: Science is not an opinion poll. Science is not derived by consensus.

Disagree?

If you still disagree, we are happy to debate any point made here. Billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer objected to a Wall Street Journal op-ed making these very points, but has yet to accept an invitation to debate or offer any substantive counterpoints.¹⁸



Wanna debate... or are you a scaredy TomKat?

Tom Steyer @TomSteyer

The amazing thing is not that @JunkScience wrote this, it is that @WSJopinion printed it on the very top of the opinion page. Regurgitating the lies of the climate denial movement is irresponsible. wsj.com/articles/the-c...

12:02 PM - 12 Apr 2019

Conclusion

There is no doubt that much noise is made by a variety of sources on climate. Consider this “Stop Capitalism” sign from the March 15, 2019 “kids” climate strike.



Some voices are well-intentioned but wrongheaded. Some voices use climate as a stalking horse for their real agenda — i.e., system change to socialism. Some see business or “rent-seeking” opportunities in climate alarm. Some go along with climate out of political correctness.

As we have shown — and have done so exclusively through the voices and reports of climate alarmists — there is absolutely no reason for any Republican to offer a plan to “combat climate change.” Such a plan, if enacted would accomplish nothing good for American or the climate.

In the end, if you’re worried about climate, we suggest the response of Sen. Mike Lee to the Green New Deal as the only sensible path forward.



Mike Lee @SenMikeLee

Follow

▼

The solution to climate change is not this unserious resolution, but the serious business of human flourishing – the solution to so many of our problems, at all times and in all places: fall in love, get married, and have some kids.

lee.senate.gov/public/index.c...



1:04 PM - 26 Mar 2019

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**1350 Beverly Rd., #115-445
McLean, VA 22101
202-810-2001
Info@eeaction.org**