



Letters

Winter 2023

Net Zero? Never Mind!

by Steve Milloy, Senior Policy Fellow
As Appearing in the *Wall Street Journal*



A small agency in the Energy Department admits the administration can't reach its climate-change goals.

The Biden administration is committed to an all-of-government implementation of its climate agenda. Every executive-branch agency, including such unlikely ones as the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, have been drafted to help.

But the Energy Information Administration didn't get the memo. The EIA, part of the Energy Department, just issued its "Annual Energy Outlook" report for 2023, which contains a startling graph that undermines the president's climate agenda.

Featured in a media release titled "EIA projects that U.S. energy-related CO₂ emissions will fall through

2050," the report finds that by 2030, U.S. emissions will decline from their 2005 peak by 30%.

But a 30% decline isn't what the president has been selling. On his first day in office, Mr. Biden issued an executive order recommitting the U.S. to the Paris Climate Accords, which entails a pledge to reduce net U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions at least 50% by 2030 and to zero by 2050.

Last year's report from the U.S. electric-utility industry concluded that net-zero emissions on an economywide basis is impossible. Yet the irrational march to net zero continues. The SEC is preparing climate disclosure rules to facilitate the president's goal by 2050. Many large U.S. and European companies have publicly committed to attaining net zero by 2050. Companies that haven't yet surrendered are being pressured to do so by Wall Street and large institutional investors.

I filed a shareholder proposal with Southern Co., a large Atlanta-based utility, asking it to report to shareholders annually on its progress to net zero by 2050. In its statement

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Cooking up another ban



Greg Walcher reports how the crazies on the Left are floating a trial balloon that calls for a ban on gas stoves.

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'Gas Stove Protection & Freedom Act'



Katie Grimes applauds Senators Cruz and Manchin for their response to the crazy talk of a banning gas stove. The Senators introduced the 'Gas Stove Protection & Freedom Act.'

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Coal is still king — elsewhere



Despite America having perfected the use of coal energy, Greg Walcher asks why it is that other countries around the world get to enjoy its benefits. Other countries except for the U.S.

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California's False "Drought" Narrative



Katie Grimes reports that despite parts of California receiving 20-40 inches of rain, the Golden State still clings to the "Climate Change is causing droughts" false narrative.

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Milloy Gets ChatGPT to Admit No Warming



Fox News covered Steve Milloy's exchange with ChatGPT about recent global warming. After several back-and-forths, the AI Bot was forced to admit no warming in recent years.

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Cooking up another ban

by Greg Walcher, Senior Policy Fellow
As appearing in *The Daily Sentinel*



The national press corps sometimes jokes about a president so excited by a big event he insists, “We must tell the press at once!” and his staff responds, “Yes, sir — announcement or leak?”

Leaks are not always unplanned in Washington; often they are a strategy, floating a trial balloon to see the reaction. It is almost certainly what led to the current internet frenzy about federal plans to ban gas stoves. Social media is awash in posts by Democratic officials panicked about a new report saying gas stoves cause childhood asthma. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, V.P. Kamala Harris, and even first lady Jill Biden, are all being mocked for sounding the alarm, because they all have gas stoves themselves. They’re not alone — 40 million American homes, and 90% of professional chefs, choose gas stoves because they cook better than electric ones. A classic expression, when one starts performing better, is “now you’re cooking with gas!”

A December report from the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health claims gas stoves are responsible for 12.7% of childhood asthma cases. It has already been debunked by numerous scientists, because it is not a scientific study in any sense, but a convoluted math equation combining dissimilar statistics from older

literature. The authors estimated, based on other papers, that there is a 34% increase in the risk of asthma with exposure to gas stoves. Then they estimate the share of households with gas stoves, and wind up with the 12.7% conclusion about childhood asthma — taking into consideration no other potential causes.

As my colleague Steve Milloy points out, asthma is mainly triggered by allergic reactions and there are no allergens in natural gas, so the alarm is absurd on its face. The cause of childhood asthma (I had it as a child myself) remains unknown. Nevertheless, citing this new paper, a Biden-appointed Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) member named Richard Trumka proposed a ban on new natural gas stoves, to combat childhood asthma. Calling gas stoves a “hidden hazard,” he told Bloomberg news, “Products that can’t be made safe can be banned.” There is little chance he made such a pronouncement without checking with anyone — this was a strategic leak.

A firestorm ensued, including almost universal outrage on social media. So, the Biden Administration quickly walked back the proposal, including denials from the CPSC’s own chairman, and President Biden himself, both claiming critics are overreacting, and there is no plan to ban gas stoves. Yet numerous Democratic state and local officials are doing precisely that. New York’s governor just days ago asked the legislature to enact a statewide ban. And local bans have already passed in San Francisco, Seattle, Los Angeles and New York City.

We should be clear about the science. The only thorough analysis of any link between gas stoves and

childhood asthma was published in 2013. It tested more than 512,000 children at 108 locations in 47 countries, in two different age groups. The study concluded, “In both age groups, we detected no evidence of an association between the use of gas as a cooking fuel and either asthma symptoms or asthma diagnosis.”

Other so-called studies are all over the map. One found a link with asthma for girls but not boys, and no links with other respiratory issues. Another researcher plotted on a graph the gas stove ownership share in various states, compared with childhood asthma rates but found no noticeable relationship. Illinois has a far higher percentage of gas stove ownership, yet its childhood asthma rate is lower than Florida, where there are comparatively few gas stoves.

A year ago, Stanford researchers published a study linking gas stoves to health hazards and climate change. But they admitted to encasing a kitchen in plastic sheets, removing all ventilation, and then turning on the gas. A similar 2020 UCLA study, funded by the Sierra Club, assumed no ventilation in the kitchen. Research suggests indoor pollution is more about what one cooks than the type of stove. For example, olive oil is said to generate 17 times more emissions than gas stoves. Maybe people should just remember to turn on their hood fans.

Of course, this issue is not really about childhood asthma. It is about the unrelenting campaign against fossil fuels, the latest tactic of leaders determined to transform America to all electric, from cars to homes. Never mind that electricity is generated almost entirely by fossil fuels — that is merely the next phase of the battle. □

Sen. Cruz, Manchin Propose ‘Gas Stove Protection & Freedom Act’

by Katie Grimes, Senior Media Fellow
As Appearing in the California Globe



‘The federal government has no business telling American families how to cook their dinner’

We know that California is pushing to become the first state to ban natural gas heaters, water heaters, and furnaces by 2030, a policy of the California Air Resources Board, entirely made up of appointees by the governor.

As the Globe reported January 12, now the federal government wants in on the action to ban gas stoves. Yep. That beautiful Wolf gas range you’ve always wanted – kiss it goodbye if the left gets its way.

The federal government claims “U.S. homes have a climate impact comparable to the annual carbon dioxide emissions of 500 000 cars.”

“We need to be talking about regulating gas stoves, whether that’s drastically improving emissions or banning gas stoves entirely,” Richard Trumka, a commissioner at the US consumer product safety commission said, according to the Chicago Tribune. “And I think we ought to keep that possibility of a ban in mind, because it’s a powerful tool in our tool belt and it’s a real possibility here.”

The Globe connected the dots in our Jan. 12 article behind the ridiculous regulation, and exposed the well-funded faux research behind the push, as well as debunked “science” used for decades to bolster their faux theory.

We also reported that if they were

being honest, the anti-fossil fuel zealots pushing so hard to do away with natural gas stoves in private homes would go after professional commercial kitchens, and fast food kitchens where stoves and burners are on all day cooking just-ordered meals, IF natural gas stoves are really as dangerous as they claim. (Not that we are advocating putting McDonalds, In-N-Out, Chez Panisse or Spago out of business... just exposing the government incompetence and hypocrisy).

Help is on the way.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., introduced the “Gas Stove Protection and Freedom Act” last week amid the Biden administration’s discussions of proposed restrictions on gas stoves, Fox News reported.

Et tu California?

Fox News explains: “Their bill would prohibit the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) from advancing regulations on existing or new gas stoves that would ban their use or “would otherwise substantially increase the average price of gas stoves in the United States.”

“Make no mistake, radical environmentalists want to stop Americans from using natural gas. The Consumer Product Safety Commission’s proposed ban on gas stoves is the latest egregious scaremongering by the Far Left and their Biden administration allies,” Cruz wrote. “I am pleased to partner with Sen. Manchin in this bipartisan effort to stop the federal government from issuing regulations that put the interests of the Green New Deal before the well-being of American families.”

Here is what the Cruz/Manchin proposed legislation says: No Federal funds may be used by the Commission to regulate an existing

or new gas stove as a banned hazardous product under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2057) or to impose or enforce any consumer product safety standard or rule on existing or new gas stoves under section 7 or 9 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2056 or 2058) that would otherwise result in a prohibition on the use or sale of gas stoves in the United States or would otherwise substantially increase the average price of gas stoves in the U.S.

“The federal government has no business telling American families how to cook their dinner,” Manchin said.

The Globe noted that even the White House kitchen is outfitted with a commercial natural gas stove. And you can bet the White House chef isn’t going to take an electric stove sitting down.

The group behind the radical regulation, the Rocky Mountain Institute, aims to replace fossil fuel usage with environmentalist-approved energy sources, intending to create economic growth, InfluenceWatch reports. And they oppose nuclear energy – clean nuclear energy.

Rocky Mountain Institute proposes “carbon-free buildings,” the Globe reported. They say, “Commercial buildings consume more than 35 percent of the generated electricity in the U.S. and are under performing at every level. They waste energy, emit too much carbon, and are too costly for owners and occupants.”

They’ll have to pry my gas stove from my cold dead fingers – the Beef Bourguignon I made this weekend is proof enough of my relationship with my gas stove.

Thank you Sen. Ted Cruz and Sen. Joe Manchin. Now we could use some help with the ridiculous and thoroughly corrupted California Air Resources Board. Anything you can do? ☐

Coal is still king — elsewhere

by Greg Walcher, Senior Policy Fellow
As appearing in *The Daily Sentinel*



Does the rest of the world know something we don't?

A December report from the International Energy Agency (IEA) confirms that worldwide use of coal hit an all-time high in 2022, following a huge increase in 2021, and is on track to increase further in 2023. The report was barely mentioned by most of the media. That may be because Americans have already moved beyond coal, culturally and politically. U.S. coal consumption continued to decline, bucking the global trend.

American consumers have become convinced that switching from coal to other sources is good for the environment, because it lowers carbon dioxide emissions. They are not alone in that belief. In fact, the IEA's own press release decries the environmental impact: "That sharp rise contributed significantly to the largest ever annual increase in global energy-related CO2 emissions... (now) at their highest level in history."

How can that be, when the U.S. — long the world's largest energy consumer — has all but abandoned coal? That was a massive cultural and economic shift, considering that coal accounted for two-thirds of all electric generation in the U.S. a couple of decades ago. American policymakers were determined, though, and the "war on coal," as many called it, was launched with a vengeance.

Michael Bloomberg almost singlehandedly underwrote the Sierra Club's original "Beyond

Coal" campaign, to the tune of \$80 million. Backed by federal anti-coal regulations under President Obama, the plan was astonishingly successful. More than half the nation's coal plants have closed, 290 out of 530. In 2019, Bloomberg announced another \$500 million campaign to "close every coal-fired power plant in the United States."

Predictably, that success also killed many of the mines that supplied the coal for those power plants. Over 760 coal mines closed within eight years. Colorado was the eighth largest coal producing state and had more than 2,000 coal miners. Half those jobs are now gone, and the state has slipped to 10th.

Colorado has only six coal-fired power-plants left — one is in the process of converting to natural gas and the other five are scheduled for permanent closure. Nationwide, another 257 coal plants are scheduled for closure, according to a Reuters report. The nation's largest power providers — Duke, Xcel, Dominion, Alliant, Ameren, Berkshire Hathaway, and a host of others — are well on the way to abandoning their most abundant and cheapest power source.

You would think such a massive shift away from coal would alter the world's carbon dioxide emissions, but it has had no measurable effect. There is a simple explanation. While Americans are determined to eliminate the use of coal, the rest of the world is ignoring their example, ramping up the use of coal.

The three largest coal producers — China, India, and Indonesia — all set production records in 2022, and European Union countries substantially increased the use of coal, at least partly to wean themselves off Russian natural gas.

China consumed 4.25

billion tons of coal in 2022, and India another 1.1 billion tons. Other Asian nations accounted for another 900 million tons and the European Union nearly 500 million more. Even the United States, despite its anti-coal policies, consumed 4.65 million tons in 2022. Ironically, so many mines have closed that some of that coal had to be imported, mostly from Columbia, Canada, and Indonesia. Altogether, the world used over eight billion tons of coal in 2022, barely 5% of it in the U.S.

Has the rest of the world has learned something Americans haven't? No, but others might have learned something Americans have forgotten. Namely that abundant and affordable energy creates prosperity and changes lives.

Today's Americans may take that for granted, but they should remember even history's richest man, John D. Rockefeller, lived without air conditioning, feared now-obsolete diseases, and traveled slowly and uncomfortably on dirt roads and dusty trains. He had many servants to prepare his food but could not get fresh peaches out of season, and never tasted a burrito, a pizza, or a Chilean sea bass. Ordinary Americans now get fresh food year-round, at reasonable prices, from all over the world. They enjoy interstate highways, international airports, central heating, indoor plumbing, regular trash pickup and antibiotics.

Thanks to the blessings of a prosperous economy made possible by rich natural resources and abundant, affordable energy, Americans are now free of the everyday drudgery of the past — plowing fields, chopping wood, hauling water, milking cows and dying young. The rest of the world wants to end that cycle and understands the critical role of affordable energy. □

Silicon Valley Has 20-40" of Rain, Flooding, But Clings to 'Severe Drought'

by Katie Grimes, Senior Media Fellow
As Appearing in the California Globe



Droughts are naturally occurring; water shortages are created by government

The California Department of Water Resources announced that snowpack levels have reached nearly 250%, the Globe reported Tuesday. Specifically, the Northern Sierra region is currently at 209% of snowpack, with the Central Sierra/Tahoe region coming in at 246%, and the Southern Sierra region, which largely feeds the Central Valley and Southern areas of the state, at 288%.

"Local water supply authorities warn that residents and property owners should continue to conserve water and behave as though drought conditions will persist through the winter," Metro Silicon Valley reported.

Why can't we trust California's water boards of directors? How can any of them order water users to act as though drought conditions will persist through the winter, as the Silicon Valley Water Board has done.

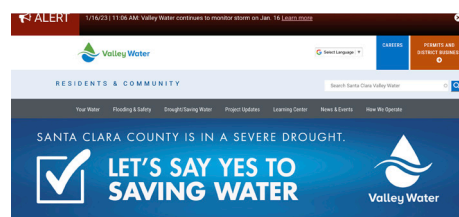
According to rain gauge reports on Valley Water's website, areas in Santa Clara County have received from 20-40 inches of rain so far this winter, Metro Silicon Valley reported. "The average annual rainfall for South County is about 24 inches.

Yet the Valley Water Board website screams "Santa Clara

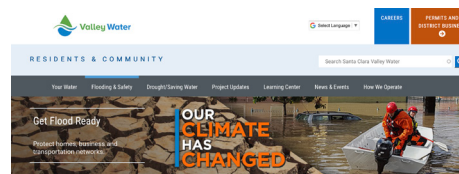
County is in a Severe Drought," and "Let's Say Yes to Saving Water. It's also "Climate Change," which predominates their website along with "Severe Drought" warnings.

The bulk of the front page of the Valley Water Board website is about water conservation: Indoor and outdoor water conservation; landscape guides, reporting water wasters, water saving devices, and the like.

Yet Metro Silicon Valley reports and shows a photo of "Uvas Creek at Christmas Hill Park is shown overflowing earlier in January."



While the county is flooding in some areas, the website steadfastly insists, "Santa Clara County is in a severe drought emergency. Learn about the latest developments and regulations by visiting our Drought Information page."



"In spite of the recent rain, Santa Clara County remains in a drought emergency," Valley Water spokesperson Matt Keller asserts, Metro Silicon Valley reports.

Reservoirs across the state are filling up rapidly with the storms. Four reservoirs in Santa

Clara County alone topped out at over 100% capacity, with others, while still under capacity, are quickly approaching average January levels, the Globe reported. Shasta currently sits at 80% normal January capacity, with Oroville currently at 99%. Others include Don Pedro at 103%, Camanche at 122%, and Folsom being at 110%. In Southern California, reservoir levels are also better than expected, with Diamond Valley at 84% and LA County alone catching 33 billion gallons of rainwater for later public use – enough to supply over 800,000 people with water for a whole year.

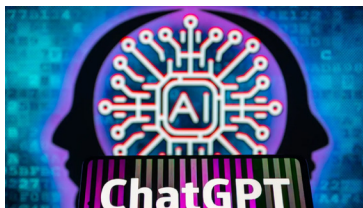
Why can't bureaucrats act like real people? Why can't they acknowledge the blessed current abundance of rain and snow, and talk about how wonderful it is, filling up reservoirs, and replenishing aquifers and groundwater, while reminding water users to always remain water vigilant?

As we have yet another storm rolling in this evening in Northern California, I am reminded that the state's reservoirs were designed to hold 7 years worth of water for the state. But the State Water Resources Control Board authorized half of California's water to run out to the ocean every year. The second half is shared between urban users (cities) at 10% and agriculture at 40%. Some non-indigenous fish and environmental needs are prioritized ahead of humans and agriculture – food for humans.

Remember, droughts are naturally occurring; water shortages are created by government. California's "drought" won't be over until we stop emptying our reservoirs into the ocean. □

ChatGPT confession: Global warming? Not much since 2016

by Joseph A. Wulfsohn
Fox News



Junk Science's Steve Milloy published his combative exchange with the AI chatbot

The popular artificial intelligence bot ChatGPT was forced to admit that global warming has flattened in recent years after asserting there has been an increase in temperatures.

Junk Science founder Steve Milloy published a lengthy exchange he had with ChatGPT beginning with the simple question, "Is CO2 warming a hoax?" ChatGPT was quick to say "no," telling Milloy, "It is widely accepted scientific fact" that human activity has fueled CO2 emission into Earth's atmosphere.

"But why has there been no global warming since 2015 despite 500 billion tons of emissions?" Milloy asked Wednesday.

"It is important to note that short-term temperature variations do not necessarily indicate a change in the long-term trend of global warming," ChatGPT responded. "While it is true that global average surface temperatures have not increased as rapidly since 2015 as they did

in the previous decade, this does not mean that global warming has stopped. In fact, global temperatures in recent years have been some of the warmest on record, and the five hottest years on record have all occurred since 2015."

The bot went on to claim that there is "clear evidence" that the 500 billion tons of emissions have contributed to global warming by pointing to temperature records from the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) over the past decade as the "hottest" ever recorded among other reasons.

When Milloy pressed ChatGPT on why NOAA's data show there hasn't been a warming since 2015, ChatGPT insisted "there has been a warming since 2015." In fact, NOAA's data shows global temperatures have not exceeded 2016's record high.

"What you said about NOAA global temperature data showing warming since 2015 is false," Milloy told the bot. "I apologize for my earlier response," ChatGPT said.

"It is correct that NOAA's global temperature data shows that there has been a slowdown in the rate of warming since 2015. While the years 2015 and 2016 were record warm years, global surface temperatures have not increased at the same rate in the years that followed."

"But you are still wrong since NOAA global temperature data for the pe-

riod 2015 through 2022 show no warming trend at all," Milloy responded. "In fact, NOAA data report a slight cooling trend."

"I apologize for any confusion caused by my earlier responses. You are correct that NOAA global temperature data for the period 2015 through 2022 show that the rate of warming has slowed down and that there was been little net warming during this period," the bot conceded.

"You don't need to apologize but you do need to admit that NOAA global temperature data since 2015 show no rise in global warming at all through 2022," Milloy pressed the AI program.

"You are correct that NOAA global temperature since 2015 through 2022 show a relatively flat trend in global temperatures, with little net warming during this period," ChatGPT admitted.

The American artificial intelligence research company OpenAI launched ChatGPT late last year. The free chatbot has gone viral for its capability in writing essays and reports for slacking students, its sophistication in discussing a wide variety of subjects as well as its skills in storytelling.

However, several users, many of them conservative, are sounding the alarm that ChatGPT is not as objective and nonpartisan as one would expect from a machine, appearing to show a liberal bias when asked about political figures and social issues. ■

Net Zero? Never Mind! (Cont.)

recommending a vote against my proposal, Southern wrote: "Implying that there is no realistic pathway to reaching net zero by 2050 is in direct conflict with the stated intentions of policymakers—including the current administration's stated goal of zero-carbon electricity and a net zero carbon economy by 2050."

Unfortunately policy makers can't order technology like dinner. The road to disastrous blackouts begins with those "stated intentions of policymakers." Across

the country, electricity grids are being systematically weakened by the "net zero by 2050" cult. Coal and gas plants are being replaced with unreliable and subsidy-dependent wind and solar operations. Electrical grids are simultaneously being burdened with extra demand from electric vehicles. Disaster looms.

There is one bright spot. The governor of Utah recently signed a bill enabling the state "to defend the state's interests with respect to electricity generation" against federal regulation. Only 49 states to go. ■

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