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Lindzen: On the 'Death of Skepticism' Concerning Climate Hysteria

Guest Blogger / 10 hours ago August 7, 2017

Guest essay by Richard S. Lindzen, Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Bill Nye looks forward to the death of skeptics in this [Huffington Post essay](#). There is a sound basis for his wish.

While the politicized climate issue dates back to the 60's, things really took off after the Clinton-Gore administration assumed power and funding for climate increased by about a factor of 15. This was far more than a small backwater and very difficult field could absorb, and led to a vast increase in the number of scientists who claimed their work was related to climate in order to cash in on the windfall. Moreover, the institutional structure for support of alarm was already in place with the United Nations creation of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) – both exclusively

concerned with only human impacts on climate. Added to this were the wild enthusiasm of the well-funded green advocacy movement, and the motherhood nature of environmentalism.

It is, therefore, informative to look at who the skeptics (not of climate change, but of climate catastrophism and the need for specific action) were when this explosion of support began. Here is a very brief set of examples (for those who have died, the year of death is listed):

- William Nierenberg: Director of America's foremost oceanographic research institute, Scripps Oceanographic Institute of the University of California, San Diego. The Institute is located at La Jolla. Nierenberg was also a member of the National Academy and he chaired the massive 1983 NRC (National Research Council of the National Academy) report on climate. He died in 2000.
- Frederick Seitz: Often regarded as one of the fathers of condensed phase physics, he was a professor at the University of Illinois, President of the National Academy of Sciences, and President of Rockefeller University. He died in 2008.
- Jerome Namias: Professor of Meteorology at Scripps and former head of NOAA's long range forecasting. Namias was also a member of the National Academy. He died in 1997.
- Robert Jastrow: First chairman of NASA's Lunar Exploration Committee, Founding director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Upon retirement, the bulk of the institute was moved back to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. However, a rump group headed by James Hansen successfully fought to remain in New York. Jastrow continued as Professor of Earth Sciences at Dartmouth College. Jastrow died in 2008.
- Aksel Wiin-Nielsen: Senior Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Professor of Meteorology at the University of Michigan. Director of the European Centre for Medium Range Weather-Forecasting (Europe's preeminent atmospheric research center), Director General of the World Meteorological Organization, and Professor of Meteorology at the University of Copenhagen. He died in 2010.
- Lennart Bengtsson: Head of Research at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts. Director of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts. Director of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg.
- Henk Tennekes: Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at Pennsylvania State University, Director of research at the Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute. Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. A leading expert on atmospheric turbulence and aviation.
- Reid Bryson: Founder and first chairman of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Meteorology and Center for Climatic Research. He was the first director of the Institute for Environmental Studies (now the Nelson Institute) at the University of Wisconsin. Global Laureate of the

United Nations Global Environment Program. He died in 2008.

- Joanne Simpson: President of the American Meteorological Society, Director of Project Stormfury while chief of the Experimental Meteorology Branch of the Environment Satellite Services Administration's Institute for Atmospheric Sciences. NASA's lead weather researcher. Member National Academy of Engineering. Interestingly, she kept her skepticism private until she retired from NASA. She died in 2010.
- Robert White: Director of the United States Weather Bureau, administrator of the Environmental Science Services Administration, the first administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, and president of the National Academy of Engineering. He also was the first chairman of the World Climate Conference in 1978. He died in 2015.
- Hubert Lamb: Pioneer in historical climatology, Founding Director of the Climatic Research Unit established in 1972 in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia. He died in 1997.
- Paul Waggoner: Chief Scientist, Soils, Climatology, Ecology, Director, and Distinguished Scientist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Member National Academy.
- S. Fred Singer: Professor of Physics and the University of Maryland, the University of Virginia and George Mason University. Founding Dean of the University of Miami School of Environmental and Planetary Sciences. Established the National Weather Bureau's Satellite Service Center. Deputy assistant administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, and chief scientist for the Department of Transportation. He is credited by many for the first prediction of the Earth's radiation belts.

These were hardly fringe scientists (as opposed to Nye who is no scientist at all). On the contrary, they were leading figures whose deep interest in climate long pre-dated the Global Warming Hysteria and the subsequent explosion of support for those endorsing alarm. So, Bill Nye is right. The newcomers are younger, and with death of many of the previous generation, they have come to dominate the field – to the great detriment of the science, itself. Those, among the older generation, who are still alive, are the subject of constant public abuse and libel, leading several of them like Bengtsson and Tennekes to withdraw from the field. Singer went so far as to sue for libel, winning his case and obtaining a public retraction from Justin Lancaster (http://media.hoover.org/sites/default/files/documents/0817939326_283.pdf).

In addition, there are many outstanding scientists who have bothered to actually examine this issue, and have come to the obvious conclusion that there is much less to the story of gloom and doom than is popularly asserted. Many started as supporters of alarm but came to change their minds. Here are a few of them:

- Ivar Giaever: Nobel Laureate in Physics, Member National Academy,

Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Professor Emeritus, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Professor at Large, University of Oslo.

- Freeman Dyson: Distinguished theoretical physicist and mathematician who played a key role in the development of quantum electrodynamics and mathematical methods of quantum field theory. But he also maintained a strong interest in applied science and was one of the designers of the hugely successful TRIGA nuclear research reactor. Freeman spent most of his career at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study. Member National Academy.
- William Happer: An experimental physicist who spent most of his career at Princeton and Columbia Universities. He is the inventor of the sodium guide star that is used in most big modern telescopes to compensate for atmospheric turbulence with adaptive optics. He was a pioneer of medical magnetic resonance imaging with laser polarized noble gases. He served as the Director of Energy Research at the US Department of Energy from 1990 to 1993. Member National Academy.
- James Lovelock: Fellow of the Royal Society, President of the Marine Biological Association, Honorary Visiting Fellow of Green Templeton College, Oxford, Commander of the Order of the British Empire. Lovelock actually endorsed alarmism, but eventually changed his view.
- Daniel Kleitman: Professor of Applied Mathematics at MIT and former chair of the Department of Mathematics at MIT.
- Edward Teller: He was a co-founder of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and was both its director and associate director for many years. Known as father of the H-bomb. Member National Academy. He died in 2003.
- Robert Adair: Former Chair Department of Physics and director of the Division of Physical Sciences, Yale University. Member National Academy.

.....

When, today, one hears of overwhelming support for alarmism and for the control of Carbon Dioxide as the unique and precise solution to a largely unknown and uncertain set of phenomena, we should all realize the individuals promoting such narratives have not studied the underlying science, have decided to cash in on the windfall, are politically and economically motivated, fear expulsion from the ranks of the politically correct, and/or are intent on befuddling the public. In brief, we are in the midst of a very unhealthy situation for both this issue and science in general.



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75 thoughts on “Lindzen: On the ‘Death of Skepticism’ Concerning Climate Hysteria”

Gloateus August 7, 2017 at 1:08 pm

Prince Albert’s AGW mentor changed his mind about CACA, but the Team have tried to cover this fact up. They even recruited his daughter to d@ny it, after his death.

<https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/gores-global-warming-mentor-in-his-own-words?source=policybot>)

Written by Fred Singer.

[Reply](#)

Tom Halla August 7, 2017 at 1:11 pm

Interesting bit of history.

[Reply](#)

Klaus B. August 7, 2017 at 1:15 pm

I also was an alarmist until some years ago and now I 100 % agree with you, Richard Lindzen.

[Reply](#)

McLovin' August 7, 2017 at 4:47 pm

You and me both. What a huge crock of crap it is that's being pushed and it's incredible how many otherwise smart people spend so much effort to ignore it. Many (esp around Cambridge, MA where I live) couldn't speak openly about this w/o losing their peer group.

[Reply](#)

Goldrider August 7, 2017 at 5:42 pm

Ditto.

[Reply](#)

fmims August 7, 2017 at 1:16 pm

This is a superb response to what has become a pseudoscientific paradigm. I addressed the traditional role of skepticism in this space in June (<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2017/06/22/what-happened-to-the-traditional-role-of-skepticism-in-climate-science/>). Thanks to Dr. Lindzen for providing the names of many distinguished scientists who practiced the skepticism once expected of all scientists.

[Reply](#)

Brian Hall August 7, 2017 at 10:24 pm

The contrary of skepticism is, of course, gullibility!

[Reply](#)

Willis Eschenbach August 7, 2017 at 1:16 pm

As usual, Richard Lindzen hits the nail squarely ...

W.

[Reply](#)

to paraphrase

‘The reports of death of the Scepticism are greatly exaggerated.’

[Reply](#)

Gloateus August 7, 2017 at 1:30 pm

The old generation of skeptics is sadly dying off, This great man is missing from the list:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_M._Gray

But the alarmist generation is now also dying off in its turn.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Schneider

Science progresses one death at a time.

Skeptics shall rise again. If Trump cuts funding as Dr. Lindzen recommends, that could happen sooner rather than later.

[Reply](#)

Gloateus August 7, 2017 at 1:26 pm

Sister of renowned physicist Richard:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Feynman

[Reply](#)

Eric Worrall August 7, 2017 at 1:30 pm

The climate alarm movement will die the same way previous alarm movements died – when their prescriptions for nirvana don’t work out, and when people get bored and move on to some new scary narrative.

When being green is no longer a major vote winner.

I give it another decade. In the meantime, hopefully we can minimise the damage.

[Reply](#)

rogerthesurf August 7, 2017 at 2:06 pm

Eric you may be correct with respect to climate alarm but there are a host of equally noxious initiatives from the United Nations and other

movements, either poised or actually in the process, to take its place.

To wit. UN Agenda 21 or 2030, ICLEI, the Rockefellers “resilience” campaign just to name a few.

My blog at <http://www.thedemiseofchristchurch.com> outlines a number of these things in my blog.

<http://www.thedemiseofchristchurch.com>

Cheers

Roger

[Reply](#)

Barbara August 7, 2017 at 5:09 pm

Have you delved into the history and activities of UNEP-FI?
Originated about the same time as the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

flynn August 7, 2017 at 2:08 pm

As soon as the mean temp. of the planet drops a little the game will be over...

[Reply](#)

Wharfplank August 7, 2017 at 2:55 pm

True, but the world would need to hear of it...

HotScot August 7, 2017 at 4:20 pm

flynn/Wharfplank

You miss the essential nature of the alarmists.

They would promote global cooling as evidence of their success.

They would distort the truth that CO2 will still rise, whilst temperatures fall.

As they have distorted the true nature of CO2 itself, as a life giving, trace gas.

Their objective is not to win a science argument.

Their objective is to win, irrespective of the cost, or the argument.

And the cost is democracy, not science, or climate change.

The objective is to impose socialist, autocratic domination of an entire planet to deliver a future that suits their ideal, not the ideal of the population.

That is the stated intention, vocalised by a UN member, Christina Figueres.

China and the former USSR are emerging from it, Europe is, once again, descending into it, and America is resisting it.

Trump acknowledges China and Russia's efforts, his hawks don't.

If the western world is not to descend to subservience, and the far east, and eastern bloc not become distorted capitalist global leaders, we can only hope that Trump succeeds in demonstrating that capitalism is the future of humanity.

Not that China and Russia are the problem. They are young democracies, facing many of the problems of conversion the west did in building a democratic, capitalist environment.

The west is the problem, if we continue the blind march to socialism.

For the west will become, what the east was.

And we all lose.

McLovin' August 7, 2017 at 4:52 pm

You would think so. But it's literally cold at night (in early August!) in the Boston area and all you hear from major media outlets is about heat! It's unreal. People love being lied to...so long as the lie fits w/o conflict to their world view, or some deeply held belief. Self-lobotomies are very much the fashion of our day.

Roger Knights August 7, 2017 at 5:27 pm

“ *You miss the essential nature of the alarmists.*

They would promote global cooling as evidence of their success.

They would distort the truth that CO2 will still rise, whilst temperatures fall.

But they won't be able to get away with it, if the drop is

substantial and prolonged. They'll just twist in the wind. This was already starting to happen until the 2016 El Niño came along. The Pause and the Otto paper were having an effect. The El Niño has given the alarmists a second wind, but it may be only temporary. It may be a Last Hurrah.

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 8:01 pm

It already did...and it wasn't. (1997-2014)

The left is "all in" on this

Brian Hall August 7, 2017 at 10:21 pm

Genuine climatology teaches that warming concentrates at higher latitudes, reducing the thermal contrast with the tropics, and hence reducing the extreme weather like the LIA produced. CC-alarmists predicting extreme storms are actually forecasting COOLING!

Resourceguy August 7, 2017 at 1:31 pm

Thank you. This is important.

[Reply](#)

M Courtney August 7, 2017 at 1:32 pm

It matters not which generation believes what.

It only matters what the observations indicate.

The fact that the warming in the first half of the 20th century is of the same rate as the warming in the second half of the 20th century... well that just debunks the "CO2 is dominant" hypothesis.

In the end the politics will have to adapt to the reality. It always does. *Even if that adaptation can be costly (like the failure of eugenics in 1940s Germany). It's failure was still assured by the reality.*

[Reply](#)

Gloateus August 7, 2017 at 1:35 pm

By the reality and a world war in which tens of millions died.

[Reply](#)

That this is Political Science rather than Climate Science should concern us all. What politics is doing to the truth in the 21st century is alarming and they have control of the future generations of malleable minds of mush through public school indoctrination and it will take a complete collapse of government to undo the mess the socialist left has made. Some of the most radical alarmists are the youth. The don't question they just take up arms to defend with religious zealotry.

[Reply](#)

HotScot August 7, 2017 at 4:24 pm

“Some of the most radical alarmists are the youth. The don't question they just take up arms to defend with religious zealotry.”

Therein lies our salvation.

Indoctrinated children grow into sceptical adults.

It may take a generation, but there will be an army of sceptical adults when the planet hasn't changed one jot from what it was 40 years ago.

McLovin' August 7, 2017 at 4:53 pm

Gotta make skepticism cool and sexy...they watch a change come about.

Goldrider August 7, 2017 at 5:46 pm

Don't sell the yutes short. My nephew is 20, and mighty conservative; a skeptic about AGW, genderism and leftist twaddle in general, he attends “the reddest college in the bluest state of the Union.” Go Buccaneers!

jaakkokateenkorva August 7, 2017 at 8:54 pm

The more bovine excrement is deposited, the higher the new shoots sprout above it.

Mat August 7, 2017 at 1:41 pm

Just being the butt of every science joke wasn't paying Bill Nye's rent. So after having landed a couple of cameos on The Big Bang Theory, it was the

perfect time for him to launch himself as yet another climate alarmist slut...

[Reply](#)

Kleinefeldmaus August 7, 2017 at 4:24 pm

The Green Dragon needs to be slayed – it is already gobbling up too much of the world. Lindzen may be just the man to do it.

THE SLAYER OF THE GREEN DOOMSTER



[Reply](#)

Goldrider August 7, 2017 at 5:48 pm

Actually, I think he cooked his gandered goose pretty well with the recent YouTube stunt, flitting through the woods on Beltane, wuzzit? ;-)

[Reply](#)

Jeanparisot August 7, 2017 at 2:13 pm

I'd be tempted to put Michael Creighton's eloquent voice on technology and science. His absence has kept State of Fear from the silver screen; and I'm sure he'd have had more to say.

[Reply](#)

Barbara August 7, 2017 at 2:14 pm

Dr. Lindzen is correct about the Clinton-Gore era.

Check out the White House Archives for January & March 1997. Key words: Maurice Strong + White House Archives.

Have already viewed these Archived webpages.

[Reply](#)

Barbara August 7, 2017 at 5:02 pm

President's Council On Sustainable Development, June 1993 – June 1999

Publications Index: Download or View.

<https://clintonwhitehouse2.archives.gov/PCSD/Publications/index.html>

[Reply](#)

Robert Dillon, M.D. August 7, 2017 at 2:15 pm

These wise, elder scientists studied bicarbonate dissociation, Henry's law, and knew of retrograde temp co2 solubility. Co2, of which 97% is produced by plant decomposition, animal exhalation, and occasional volcanic outgassing, has little if anything to do with determining atm. temperature. High school and college texts do not emphasize this important science, unfortunately.

[Reply](#)

Gunga Din August 7, 2017 at 2:23 pm

Bullseye!

It should also be noted that many of the youngest "alarmist" were taught by those such as Professor Mann.

They aren't "evil". They just haven't yet thought beyond what they were taught.

Many will just as many have.

[Reply](#)

HotScot August 7, 2017 at 4:27 pm

Gunga Din

Very true. Our indoctrinated children are the future sceptics. And there

will be an army of them in the not too distant future.

[Reply](#)

McLovin' August 7, 2017 at 4:57 pm

If they are (eventually) as pissed off as I am about being lied to and having my good faith used, then I should think there could be a spike in productive science that finally washes this garbage down the drain.

Resourceguy August 7, 2017 at 2:53 pm

Who better to praise the death of skepticism than Bill Nye, the narrator for a fraudulent science project intended for young people that was faked in post production video editing by Gore's team. The only thing you can learn from that is serial bad behavior becomes predictable with lack of remorse or punishment. Now you can add Huffington Post as an accessory to science fraud.

[Reply](#)

Kleinfeldmaus August 7, 2017 at 2:53 pm

Lindzen is truly valiant – take it to them.

THE SLAYER OF THE GREEN DOOMSTER



[Reply](#)

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 7:55 pm

Dragons cause global warming. Did you see Game of Thrones? That nasty blond chick was frying everything

[Reply](#)

Joe - the non climate scientist August 7, 2017 at 2:57 pm

Skepticism over at skeptical Science –
SkS has a post from yesterday showing number of days various major cities will have with temps over 105f. The post specifically cited Dallas DFW. I pointed out that based on current warming trends that average summer temp will need to increase by 6degrees F between now and 2050. I also pointed out that that rate of warming is 3x the current rate.

The “corrected” my back of the envelope computation by stating that the Experienced climate scientist obviously know more than I do.

Is it science or is it a religion?

[Reply](#)

co2isnotevil August 7, 2017 at 3:48 pm

Definitely a religion at SkS. I'm surprised that you can post there. If you challenge their dogma and offer better alternatives, you're instantly excommunicated (banned from posting).

[Reply](#)

Dan Pangburn August 7, 2017 at 5:14 pm

Been there. Done that . . .

Goldrider August 7, 2017 at 5:49 pm

Absolutely any prognostication extrapolating linear trends is pure poppycock and should be dismissed out of hand by anyone who's made it out of the 8th Grade.

[Reply](#)

tomo August 7, 2017 at 3:03 pm

“ as opposed to Nye who is no scientist at all

Not that I set that much store by status – more on verifiable evidence me but Nye struts and scolds and presumes to authority in a way that is exceedingly tiresome as is his brazen revisionism – it would be of little importance ere it not for his prominent position as a pop-sci “communicator” poisoning the well.

The mendaciousness, conceit and plain nastiness of many “climate communicators” in the alarmist crew is the cherry on the putrid cake of ideologically driven evidence making that the eco movement has baked and is trying to force on everybody.

[Reply](#)

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 7:53 pm

I would ignore Bill Nye except that he is played ad naseum in my daughter's classroom at school. Government indoctrination is a powerful thing.

[Reply](#)

michael hart August 7, 2017 at 3:10 pm

I recall my supervisor cautioning his research group that he didn't expect infusions of federal cash by the dumpster-load any time soon, and that we should behave accordingly.

By contrast, that is exactly what seems to have happened to climate researchers. It must have quite unnerving initially, until they were calmed by the alpine mists and flower meadows of their first 'working' trip to the Bernese Oberland, which is a fantastic way to justify any expenditure.

[Reply](#)

John Bell August 7, 2017 at 3:19 pm

The present climate alarmism will not die for a long time, they have really sunk their teeth in to this, it is the MOTHER of all eviro-leftist issues and they will beat the horse long after its death.

[Reply](#)

Gunga Din August 7, 2017 at 3:22 pm

Until something else "sticks against the wall".

[Reply](#)

Goldrider August 7, 2017 at 5:51 pm

Next thing's going to be "mass extinction," possibly via asteroid.

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 7:51 pm

"Next thing's going to be "mass extinction," possibly via asteroid."

Nah... you can't blame humans for that. The new religion of Mother Earth Worship demands that humans are sinners. Asteroids are natural so won't work for the religious crowd.

co2isnotevil August 7, 2017 at 3:40 pm

Richard,
Skepticism will never die because the absurdly high sensitivity claimed by the IPCC conflicts with the requirements of first principles physics and the physics will always prevail. The unfortunate thing is that for all the many reasons you cite that sent climate science into the abyss, we will waste trillions of dollars mitigating a problem that can never occur.

The next, inevitable, ice age will change minds, as a km thick glacier bearing down on the North-East US, Northern Europe and Russia will be a

lot more inconvenient than a few cm of sea level rise or an insignificant increase in the global average temperature which by then will be all that will have been attributable to CO2 emissions. An event that will happen sooner than this will occur around 50-100 years after we eventually run out of fossil fuels and mankind's biggest concern will be how to enhance atmospheric CO2 in order to prevent the crash of agriculture. If the alarmists have their way, this could be sooner than later.

I don't think it will even take that long as the high sensitivity claimed by the IPCC is readily falsified, the errors in their foundational science are readily identified and all that's missing is a more definitively settled explanation for quantifying the sensitivity and this is where the incontrovertible and immutable laws of physics come in to play.
George

[Reply](#)

Gary Pearse August 7, 2017 at 3:51 pm

And of course, the much more modest but hugely effective warriors for truth and integrity in science, education, politics and for freedom of expression, our own Anthony Watts who created the best science blog in the world for which he has received multiple top international awards in a 'climate' that largely favors his detractors and adversaries in high places. I hope this could still happen in the future.

[Reply](#)

M Seward August 7, 2017 at 4:13 pm

“the motherhood nature of environmentalism”

Actually 'the nannyhood nature of environmentalism' imo.

A mother genuinely wants her child to grow and prosper into a happy and fulfilled adult whereas the 'enviro-mentalists' want the child to remain a child for them to nanny forever 'cos that's their daily bread and they have no other purpose.

[Reply](#)

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 7:48 pm

Actually, to me it appears to be a new religion.

Mother Earth Worship.

- ...suffering
- ... tithing
- ... sacrifice

... repentance for sin
... intolerance of dissent,
etc

[Reply](#)

Rob Dawg August 7, 2017 at 4:20 pm

I am far more swayed by the thousands of “engineers” at the pinnacle of their respective fields who all share the rare ability to understand “systems” who nearly all reject the CAGW premise.

[Reply](#)

Rick C PE August 7, 2017 at 4:48 pm

I would respectfully suggest adding Dr. Robert (Bob) Carter to the list of real scientists who have persuasively communicated the skeptical view.

[Reply](#)

Janice Moore August 7, 2017 at 6:12 pm

Yes, Rick. Here’s one of the many articles/talks by Dr. Carter which proves you are right:

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/10/25/bob-carter-with-a-down-under-view-of-climate-science/> . And here is an WUWT obituary article for him: <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/19/dr-robert-carter-scientist-climate-skeptic-pioneer-friend-r-i-p/> .

Also, the late Hal Lewis: <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/10/16/hal-lewis-my-resignation-from-the-american-physical-society/> .

And also:

- the late John Daly
- Nicholas Drapela, Ph.D., Chemistry (fired for opposing AGWists at O.S.U.)
- James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., Physics (Dismissed from the Univ. of California for blowing the whistle on junk science used by CARB)
- Christopher Essex, Ph.D., Mathematics
- Murry Salby, Ph.D., Environmental Dynamics (focused on upper atmospheric wave propagation)
- Dr. Willie Soon, Ph.D., Aerospace Engineering (2014, awarded “Courage in Defense of Science award” from the George C. Marshall Institute)
- the late Dr. William Gray was mentioned above

And the list goes on and on — just mentioning a few more, briefly, who have been persecuted by the Cult of AGW:

- Dr. Roy Spencer
- Dr. John Christie
- Professor Jim Steele
- Dr. Susan Crockford
- our own “MarkW” — fired from a major U.S. laboratory for his skeptical stance on AGW
- Dr. Judith Curry

And I’ll bet WUWT readers can add many more names.

[Reply](#)

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 7:45 pm

There are thousands like me... working in the private sector outside the field of climate ...but educated in atmospheric science. We have no publications and no “credentials” beyond our collegiate degrees. But almost all my college peers that are NOT working for universities of government just roll their eyes at climate hype.

J. Philip Peterson August 7, 2017 at 8:11 pm

I would add Dr. Patrick Moore...
and S. Fred Singer: Professor of Physics, should be on the 2nd list as he is very much alive and well as far as I know...

Janice Moore August 7, 2017 at 8:29 pm

Indeed, Ms. Brown. And I think it highly likely that these scientists would agree with you and your colleagues:



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P. DESYÉ M. KNUDSEN W.L. BRAGG H.A. KRAMERS P.A.M. DIRAC A.H. COMPTON L. de BROGLIE M. BORN N. BOHR
I. LANGMUIR M. FLANCK Mme CURIE H.A. LORENTZ A. EINSTEIN P. LANGEVIN O.E. GUYE C.T.R. WILSON O.W. RICHARDSON
Absent: Sir W.H. BRAGG, H. DESLANDRES et E. VAN AUDEL

Foti Faig

And they would have stood **firmly** behind the following:

“ When, today, one hears of overwhelming support for alarmism and for the control of Carbon Dioxide as the unique and precise solution to a largely unknown and uncertain set of phenomena, we should all realize the individuals promoting such narratives:

- have not studied the underlying science;
- have decided to cash in on the windfall;
- are politically and economically motivated;
- fear expulsion from the ranks of the politically correct; and/or
- are intent on befuddling the public.

In brief, we are in the midst of a very unhealthy situation for both this issue and science in general.

As would Galileo and Brahe and Newton and

Gary Pearse August 7, 2017 at 5:44 pm

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2017/08/07/lindzen-on-the-death-of-skepticism-concerning-climate-hysteria/comment-page-1/#comment-2574290>

“... mitigate a problem that can never occur...”
+100 . I’ve put out an idea after consideration of the fixed notion of doom that has burdened humanity for perhaps millennia, but certainly since Malthus at the turn of the 19th Century, fears that never materialize.

Considering also a) the magnitude of the earth, b) the age of the earth and the unbroken 2billion year chain of life, 3) the massive bolides that have smashed into the earth 4)temperatures that have swung only 10-15C (or so) over at least half the age of the earth, despite the worst that nature and the solar system have thrown at this modest, undeterred obiter of a modest star.

My conclusion with all this evidence is an Axiom:

Humankind is incapable of doing permanent or even lasting damage to the planet and its systems. His damage is always localized and temporary.

Hiroshima was leveled by an atomic bomb, to be sure a terrible event for its citizens. However, before a year was out, radiation was back down to background levels and they rebuilt it and its a healthy pleasant city.

Chernobyl was a local disaster despite fears of a multitudinal nation hell hole. Today it is Europe's Serengeti game park and local old ladies have been gathering mushrooms there for a couple of decades (polluted metadata keep fake news alive on the internet).

I've concluded that doomsters are suffering from an undiagnosed psychiatric disorder. Lewandowski, whose "recursive fury" blinded him from seeing what should be the golden age for psych research. He chose to analyse individuals on the side of sober reality rather than the phenomenon of the most remarkable pseudo scientific/politico/ cultic malfeasance ever perpetrated. It almost brought down civilization. Fortunately it has been curtailed and is in the aggressively athletic but terminal flipping and leaping chicken with head chopped off phase.

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Steven Mosher August 7, 2017 at 6:12 pm

a vigorous red team effort may just overwhelm great grandpa.

[Reply](#)

Pamela Gray August 7, 2017 at 6:42 pm

Proof that scientific advances...and dark ages...advance one death at a time.

[Reply](#)

observa August 7, 2017 at 6:50 pm

The fly in the ointment is their prescriptions. Unfortunately I live in one of them in South Australia but there is some solace in watching them panic now with the results of their prescriptive medicine. That is their great

unscientific undoing and they'll never shake off the correlation in the long run.

Running around like headless chooks installing diesel generators. What! Not more windmills and solar panels Premier? Look over there at our unicorn Tesla battery folks.

[Reply](#)

Richard M August 7, 2017 at 7:07 pm

I suspect the end of alarmism will occur in the Arctic. If we see large gains of sea ice it will destroy their “canary in the coal mine”. This could occur when the AMO goes negative which is likely happen in the 2020s, the analog to the 1960s and 1970s cooling.

Before then we could see the pause reestablished during the coming solar minimum if we get a strong La Nina. The key is keeping the UAH data set intact and showing the RSS 4.0 data to be questionable. Pruitt could help in this manner by calling for a review of the RSS changes by his red team.

[Reply](#)

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 7:38 pm

Thanks for the article and for your contributions to science, Dr. Lindzen

I got my degree in what is now called “climate science” in the 1980s. At Penn State, the nation’s largest for atmospheric sciences, we only had ONE climatologist. He had essentially no funding. Now, seemingly half the university thrives off the climate money. The hype is out of control and if you want to thrive at the school, you don’t dare speak ill of the goose that has laid the golden egg.

But many of my old professors are appalled at the climate hype. I wish more had spoken out after retirement like you have.

[Reply](#)

sabretruthtiger August 7, 2017 at 8:04 pm

A lot of skeptical scientist deaths in recent times. It would be interesting to do a study on alarmist and skeptical scientist deaths with relative ages to see if there’s a massive disparity. If there is foul play may be involved. (Physiological stress from going against the establishment wouldn’t account for it)

[Reply](#)

sabretruthtiger August 7, 2017 at 8:06 pm

I guess they're very old though. Also RIP bob Carter, I met him once, a great man.

[Reply](#)

Dr. Strangelove August 7, 2017 at 8:08 pm

Prof. Lindzen,
Was Edward Lorenz a skeptic? Add Patrick Moore, co-founder of Greenpeace, among the converts. If they were alive today, I bet John von Neumann and Richard Feynman would be skeptics. Other notable skeptics: Harrison Schmitt, the only scientist on the moon, and Burt Rutan, the brilliant aerospace engineer (sorry Elon you've been outclassed) I believe there are more closet skeptics in the academe afraid to come out because of constant harassment by the AGW activists.

The All-Star Red Team:
Richard Lindzen
Judith Curry
Roger Pielke Sr.
John Christy
Freeman Dyson

Cheers!

[Reply](#)

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 8:19 pm

I know a bunch of the closeted academics. I'll leave them in the closet.

[Reply](#)

Dr. Strangelove August 7, 2017 at 9:52 pm

The two men responsible for AGW were actually skeptics. Arrhenius and Roger Revelle are the fathers of the greenhouse effect. Arrhenius invented the GHE theory in 1896 and the first to calculate climate sensitivity to CO₂. Revelle was the professor and mentor of Al Gore. He taught him AGW but Gore was a poor student and just imagined catastrophes beyond science. Arrhenius said global warming is good. Revelle believed the science for greenhouse warming is too uncertain to justify drastic actions.

[Reply](#)

Mary Brown August 7, 2017 at 8:18 pm

I first heard of the whole issue as a graduate student in the 1980s. Frankly, acid rain was a much bigger issue at the time.

In 1998, I started paying attention. Temps were soaring and Hansen's 1988 forecasts were spot on. I was unaware of the el nino connection.

Ironically, that is when I first heard "skeptical" opinions. But I mostly dismissed them. Nonetheless, I can't say I was really worried. I just said I was. I always remember that because I often wonder if alarmists now are actually worried...or just say they are.

Then when Al Gore hit it big... 2006ish... things got ridiculous. Since then, the ridiculousness has amplified.

Slowly, as the temps flat-lined, I began to realize the whole thing was one part science, ten parts hype. In the last decade, this has been the perfect issue for leftists. Everything they have ever dreamed of fits neatly into the global warming narrative. Environmentalism. socialism, taxes, world government, etc.

This has been hard on me because I'm a true liberal. But science is science and this is a crock. My lefty friends are shocked when I speak out. But I try hard to stick to the science and encourage them to move on. This will be a horrible loser and the butt of jokes in 2040. Or hopefully 2030.

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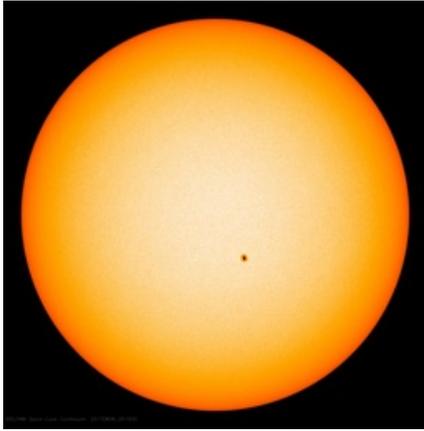
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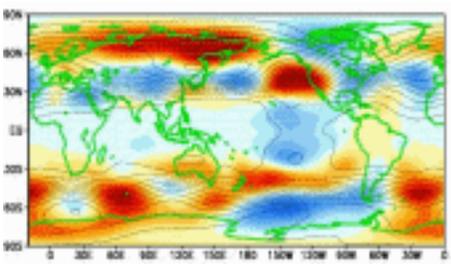
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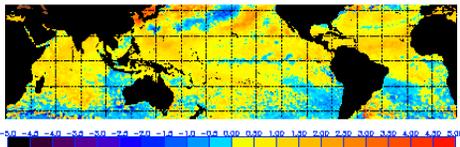


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