

# CARBON DIOXIDE IS ENTIRELY BENEFICIAL TO HUMANS

**CO2 (carbon dioxide) is entirely beneficial to humans, life, and world economic activity; any danger of CO2 is immensely overstated, is completely untrue or advanced for political expedencies that are extremely dangerous. Since Washingtonians will soon decide a carbon tax issue, we need to know the widely-known facts about this miracle gas. We need a truth-telling about carbon dioxide, the purpose of this brief.**

By David Boleneus<sup>1</sup>

## **Economic View and Taxation of CO2**

- Paying a tax on CO2 emitted by fossil fuels is like double taxation; the tax is a penalty for an act that is entirely beneficial and blamed on a substance that is otherwise “innocent” of its crime.
- The tax is counter-productive in that it penalizes a natural substance responsible for increased economic activity and higher food production.
- Development and use of fossil fuels has advanced and maintained a high quality of life, taken for granted, facilitated successive industrial revolutions, annually creates \$70 trillion in world GDP, created the world’s most advanced technology, doubled life expectancy, enabled populations to increase 8-fold, and increased incomes 11-fold.
- Fossil fuels and CO2 strongly influence world GDP increases; no evidence exists that emissions of CO2 from fossil fuels are detrimental.
- Benefits of CO2 clearly outweigh costs by a ratio of 50-to-1 to 500-to-1; costs of carbon (or carbon dioxide) are so small to be lost in the estimation error.
- *Damages* by limiting carbon dioxide are as immense as its benefits, with damage including: loss of jobs, impacts on agriculture, losses in transportation, failure to recognize imagined benefits to climate, lack of sea level rise imagined benefit, lack of imagined temperature rise benefit, and failure to recognize benefit of taxation of CO2 (Australian, Spain’s, Germany’s, English’s, British Columbia, Alberta); negatives or costs of CO2 are well studied while the “plus’s” and benefits are ignored.
- On a global basis, the cost of CO2 taxation (as Australia’s experience) is \$57,000 per capita or 59% of world GDP to achieve a temperature savings of 0.15°C; this example shows it is 36 times more costly to control CO2 by taxation than to take no action, or simply to practice conservation.
- The benefit of ending all of Washington State’s CO2 emissions would be replaced in 35 days from other sources (or 53 days by China alone), would yield a temperature savings of 0.0018°F (unmeasurable) and a sea level rise savings of 0.008 inches (unmeasurable), create household income losses of \$8,200 by 2030, job losses of 82,000 by 2030, increase the gasoline price from \$0.60 to \$1.17 per gallon and reduce State GDP by \$14.7 billion annually.

- Ending all CO2 emissions in the U.S. under Pres. Obama’s *Clean Power Plan* would damage our economy by reducing U.S. economic activity by more than 95% to level below that of Haiti, while continuing to use gasoline and petroleum fuels will facilitate a new U.S. economic golden age.
- Taxing CO2 equals *taxing air*; more than 69% of the CO2 is from oxygen in the air and 31% is from the fuel.
- Governor Inslee’s Executive Order 14-04 commits 12 judgment errors to justify Cap & Trade to Tax CO2.

## **Atmospherically- and Geologically-speaking**

- CO2 does not accumulate in the atmosphere, as scientific evidence shows it is both (1) lost to space from the upper atmosphere and (2) lost to absorption by cold water of polar oceans. From the atmosphere carbon dioxide (CO2) is then recycled to plants, or stored permanently into calcium carbonate (as limestone), or re-emitted to atmosphere from warm tropical waters.
- The key greenhouse gas, water vapor, representing 4% of the atmosphere and the key weather-making substance, is 100 times (or 10,000%) more abundant than natural-plus-fossil fuel-CO2 and is 5,000 times (or 500,000%) more abundant than fossil fuel-CO2 that comes from burning of fossil fuels.
- The supposed “danger” of CO2 conflates (mixes) the natural and man-made sources when the man-made sources are altogether inconsequential.

## **Agriculture**

- CO2 is essential to plant growth and food production.
- Plants cannot exist without CO2, which is crucial to photosynthesis in plants
- More CO2 helps plants grow more and produce more food.
- The level of CO2 today is at a deficit level.
- If the level of CO2 were to decrease below 180 ppm, plants could not exist and die. Animals and humans, which depend on them, would die.
- CO2 is responsible for “greening of earth” where parts of earth have “greened” on a global basis from 1.5% to greater than 20% over recent decades. The southern Sahara Desert, northern South America, the eastern U.S., the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions are most improved.
- The monetary benefit of CO2 to food production during 1961-2011 period added \$3.2 trillion worldwide, a value remaining after subtracting advancements in technology, fertilizers, and new cultivars; we anticipate another \$9.8 trillion CO2 benefit to agricultural to 2050.
- The response of plant photosynthesis and plant weight of important Washington-grown agricultural crops

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increases on average, 52.8% and 49.8%, respectively due to a CO<sub>2</sub> increase of 300 ppm from the level today.

- An increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere will conserve water use by common agricultural crops over current needs (vegetables, rice, sorghum, wheat, soybeans, barley, corn, peas, and potato); under the higher atmospheric level of CO<sub>2</sub> conditions, the same crop values and yields can be maintained with less water.

### The Temperature Record

- CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is not linked to warming or cooling; as the total-CO<sub>2</sub> level has increased recently the global temperature has remained constant;
- CO<sub>2</sub> is not related to severe storms; as the total-CO<sub>2</sub> level has increased the recent storm activity has decreased; there has not been a category 3 or larger hurricane in the U.S. for eleven years, a record; and the number of E-4, E-5 tornadoes has decreased while the CO<sub>2</sub> level increases.
- Recent increases in CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere cannot--in any way--be related to temperature either increasing or decreasing; in fact, the U.S. temperature decreased during the 1934 to 1970 period while the level of CO<sub>2</sub> was increasing proving false any idea that CO<sub>2</sub> causes temperature to increase.
- No evidence is available that CO<sub>2</sub> causes global warming or climate change; use of the moniker climate change is a convenient naming choice (re-named from global warming when warming stopped) since climate change has always been happening on earth for 3.5 billion years.
- Evidence for this “month’s” or the “last year’s” recording the highest temperature ever is a result of manipulating historic temperature records to achieve a political temperature result; both NASA and NOAA and other government “temperature custodians” change historic temperature records by depressing temperatures in years before 1940 and elevating temperatures since 1940 to portray a false condition; research grant issuers also complicit in this fraud require grant recipients to “toe the line” to show results to reinforce the false condition as a requirement for receiving money.
- The temperature record in North America also suffers from a 67% loss of weather stations, including an inordinate number of Arctic and sub-Arctic weather stations (from 6,000 in 1970 to 2,000 in 1990) causing a bias by increasing the abundance of stations in warmer temperate and sub-tropical locations.
- Ignored in the reporting of the temperature record is that temperatures during many periods of human history (Minoan Warm Period, Roman Warm Period, and Medieval Warm Period corresponding to Viking colonization of Greenland) have been higher than today’s temperature by as much as 6.3°F; and that the logical explanation of temperatures increasing today is due to a *climb-out* of temperature conditions following the Little Ice Age of 1750-1820 that started before the use of fossil fuels.

- More than 31,000 scientists, including 9,000 with Ph.D.’s (with 665 scientists from Washington State) warn ([www.petitionproject.org](http://www.petitionproject.org)) that limiting greenhouse gases would hinder both mankind and advancements in science and technology while increases in CO<sub>2</sub> benefit humans and environment.
- Warnings of impending climate doom due to CO<sub>2</sub> as trumpeted by Al Gore and company come entirely from computer modeling; Prof. Freeman Dyson, the emeritus physicist who replaced Albert Einstein at Princeton University when it sought the “most brilliant physicist on the planet” warns that “climate models are full of fudge factors”; “their apocalyptic forecasts include assumptions that CO<sub>2</sub> causes clouds to form to produce more warming are entirely untrue and the climate models don’t represent the clouds in any detail”.
- Nobel prize winner in physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic University, Prof. Dr Ivar Giaever mocks president Obama’s warning that “no challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change”...and “2014 was the hottest on record”. He says both are ridiculous statements and calls the president “delusional” on global warming and “dead wrong” on anthropogenic warming.
- 800,000-year climate records from Greenland and Antarctic ice research proves that temperature controls the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, not the opposite.

### Earth and Human History (recent and distant past)

- Human contributions of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere are so tiny that they are overwhelmed by natural CO<sub>2</sub>-producing-mechanisms, as ocean processes, microbial and insect activity, varied soil and terrestrial mechanisms, volcanoes, forest fires, and mammals.
- Human’s contribution of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels amounts to 2% of total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere whereas natural CO<sub>2</sub>-producing mechanisms contribute 98% of all CO<sub>2</sub>.
- The atmospheric level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the last two centuries has been as high as 500 ppm; today its level is 400 parts per million (ppm).
- The level of CO<sub>2</sub> has ranged up to 8,000 ppm during earth’s biologic history or 2,000% above the level today without causing a catastrophe.
- Periods of earth’s history that were “plant- and animal-friendly” always represented the highest levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere; for example, during the time from explosion of life forms to rise of first forests, CO<sub>2</sub> ranged from 7,000 ppm to 4,000 ppm; tropical conditions existing from time of dinosaurs to rise of mammals CO<sub>2</sub> ranged from 2,000 ppm to 800 ppm; CO<sub>2</sub> has been at a low level since the ice sheets advanced during the ice ages for good reason: cold oceans absorb and store more CO<sub>2</sub> than warm oceans.
- Sea levels have risen less than one millimeter annually for 250 years, are falling along the Pacific Coast and have fallen more than two meters since BC 3,000.