

# Freedom Matters

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Dane County, Wisconsin

Our mission is to restore our constitutional republic and its defense of our unalienable rights as individuals to life, liberty and property.

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## Global Warming Theory Fails Basic Science 101

by Bob Bowman

Does *catastrophic* global warming threaten us? **Yes**, say certain **activist** scientists, scientific leaders, and agenda-driven mainstream media. **No**, says overall scientific literature, and over 30,000 individual avowed scientists. So, who's right?

"Anthropogenic" means "man-made," by which the term **anthropogenic global warming** (AGW) is a fancy way of saying "man-made global warming." AGW's drumbeaters allege that AGW is caused by too much **carbon dioxide** (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted into the air by large-scale burning of fossil fuels (coal and oil). They claim that CO<sub>2</sub> acts as a **greenhouse gas** (GHG), heating the earth via a **greenhouse effect** (GHE).

Consider the so-called *Green House Effect*. Mainstream writers say it is caused by GHGs (Green House Gases) that absorb **heat radiation** (i.e., infrared radiation, IR), thereby warming the earth from a frigid climate to a balmy one.

Those writers err. Here's how. If Earth had **no** atmosphere, like our moon, then, as on the moon, the sun would warm it to about 0 °F. However, Earth **with** its atmosphere is balmy (averaging about 60 °F). But, **suppose Earth had air that had no GHGs**. It would get too hot. Earth holds its air by gravity. The air, being transparent to sunlight, absorbs very little heat. It is **Earth's surface** (land and sea) that absorbs most of the sun's heat. The surface warms the air just next to it via **conduction**. That air expands, losing density. Hence, it rises (convects). Thus, the air pressure on it decreases, expanding it and cooling it by an amount called the **lapse rate**, governed by the weight of air above it. Thus, by gravity, by gas laws, and by thermodynamic conduction and convection, the **lapse rate** of dry air is -28 °F per mile of altitude, right up to the tropopause. There, 6-12 miles up, where water-driven weather stops, Earth radiates its heat off into space.

Now, **put water vapor** into our atmosphere. It's our main GHG and averages 1% of Earth's atmosphere. The average **lapse rate** of moist air is -18 °F per mile of altitude, yielding a tropopause temperature of about -67° F (about -60 C). This is about what is actually observed, leaving room for only trivial effects by other GHGs to occur. Global warming alarmism ignores this basic atmospheric thermodynamics, *thus ignoring the standard scientific model in aeronautics and engineering*.

Now, consider Earth's **scientific** history. Our known universe is about 13.5 billion years old. Our Sun formed about 5 billion years ago, with a supply of hydrogen good for 10 billion years of burning. After its hydrogen burns up, our sun will expand into a red star bigger than Earth's present orbit, and then subside into a white dwarf star. So, Earth, now 4 billion years old, will not last forever, though it likely will outlast humans.

Earth was at first unlivable. Its early atmosphere was mainly carbon dioxide, maybe as much as 80% so. Then single cells on Earth discovered photosynthesis; i.e., the use of sunlight to

change carbon dioxide and water into the carbohydrates that made up their structure, releasing oxygen as a waste product. Such cells led to a diversity of sun-loving plants that eventually consumed so much carbon dioxide, they changed Earth's atmosphere into one dominated by oxygen. Some carbon dioxide thus eaten up was converted to coal and oil deposits in layers of Earth's surface. Some became limestone.

The rise of atmospheric oxygen on Earth began maybe 3.5 billion years ago, and of oxygen-breathing creatures, about a billion years ago. Dinosaurs died off when a large meteor struck Earth about 65 million years ago. Early hominid fossils date to a million years ago, and early human fossils, about 200,000 years ago. Our present human species is about 50,000 years old, and was present in Europe at least 35,000 years ago. The beginning of agriculture, and hence of urban settlements, was about 15,000 years ago, as Earth emerged from its last major ice age. Biblical records go back for the last 6000 years of human development. Christianity is about 2000 years old; Islam, about 1400 years old. Science as an organized enterprise is at most 400 years old. In 1950, some 90% of all scientists who had ever lived were alive, and already showed a wholesale venal and ideological corruption.

Scientists, and I as a scientist, serve a rational, logical, objective discipline open to all data and theoretical positions. We hew to reality. To appeal to authority, rather than to data, is not merely **nonscientific**; it is **anti-scientific**.

By that standard, the AGW theory is corrupt. It is so at the highest level; i.e., a year or so ago, the Editor of *Science*, serving the *American Association for the Advancement of Science*, the flagship scientific association in the United States, editorialized "Game Over." He claimed it was scientifically settled that carbon dioxide emitted by the industrial burning of fossil fuels posed a catastrophic global warming threat, *for which his journal would no longer publish contrary findings*.

Thus he, his journal and association embraced **anti-science**.

Recent issues of *Freedom Matters* examining AGW cite the scientific evidence for and against it. The literature against it comprises more papers, and we gave enough information to allow our readers to access most relevant literature.

The main support claimed by AGW alarmists is 400,000 years of ice core data showing that air temperature and air levels of CO<sub>2</sub> correlate. Glassman powerfully demonstrated that correlation to be due to Henry's Law: the oceans absorb CO<sub>2</sub> at the poles and outgas it in the tropics, whereby the air temperature changes first, then CO<sub>2</sub> changes. Hence, CO<sub>2</sub> is not driving the temperature. It's the other way around.

Another claim, that ice cores establish low pre-industrial CO<sub>2</sub> levels in air is clearly wrong; CO<sub>2</sub> diffuses too much in ice for ice cores to show peak amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>. Also, the claim that post-industrial CO<sub>2</sub> in air mainly drives global temperature is disproved by global cooling seen since about 1998. Thus, AGW is a minor effect, **not** catastrophic.

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