

Freedom Matters

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We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

Sustainable Development Is Unsustainable. Part 9. Tinker Toys for Big Girls and Boys

by Bob Bowman

Marsh points out, in his *Primer on Global Warming*, the ignorance underlying and vitiating the theory that rises in atmospheric carbon dioxide are causing global warming. Climate models treat global temperature as a resultant of heat transfer between the fluids of the oceans and atmosphere. Ignored are minor effects of land, but also the possibly major effects of clouds, which latter effects are unknown, and only now being studied, and which could well negate any greenhouse effect from the anticipated rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Moreover, as Marsh notes, historical data suggest that atmospheric carbon dioxide has little effect on global temperature. The Medieval warm period (1000 - 4000 A.D.) and Little Ice Age (1500 - 1700 A.D.) both occurred without known changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide, and the warming at the end of earlier ice ages was **not caused** by a rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide because the warming **preceded** such rises by 500-1000 years.

Climate modelers, using super computers, load in equations for various factors affecting oceanic and atmospheric temperatures. The **variable** of interest is the average temperature of the troposphere (the lower several miles of atmosphere), which is to be calculated (predicted) from knowing various parameters (i.e., other variables or constants). The **parameter** of most interest for global warming is the man-made increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.

Other parameters or constants might include the rate at which the ocean transfers heat to the troposphere above it, or the increase in atmospheric water vapor with increase in atmospheric temperature, or changes in the heat output of the sun (insolation at the top of the troposphere), etc. For each parameter, numerical values must be entered into the computer.

Such a model might consist of simultaneous equations for calculating several variables as affected by several parameters. From such equations and parameters, the modelers calculate the effect of carbon dioxide on the temperature of the troposphere. To do so, the modeler enters chosen values of the parameters, then starts a computer run to calculate the temperature of the troposphere, year by year for a chosen number of years. The results are then compared with the actually measured temperatures for the troposphere, year by year, throughout the period in history being modeled by the computer run.

If the values predicted by the computer simulation **differ** from the temperature data actually observed for the years being simulated, the modelers change the values of the parameters and try again. If still no match, they again change the values of the parameters and try again. So it goes, again and again.

As you can see, the parameters are "fudge factors" manipulated at will to make the model fit the data. If the model cannot thus be made to fit, the modeler might add more factors to it, such as letting insolation vary, instead of using a constant value for the amount of insolation at the top of the troposphere. Or the modeler might add other factors, such as ocean currents, or cloud effects, etc. Then the modeler does a new set of computer runs, again trying all different numerical values of the parameters, each time comparing the results to the actual data.

So it goes, until the predictions match observed data. At that point, the modeler yells "Eureka!" (a traditional but not mandatory cry of scientific triumph). Having thus "proven" the model, the modeler now applies it to predicting the future, such as the next 100 years. Such is the capricious process that underlies the present predictions of global warming.

Marsh quotes physicist Freeman Dyson, who argues that use of "fudge factors" in current climate models invalidates them. Varying the values of parameters until the results fit past data can hide too many ways in which the models are wrong. About 50 years ago, in a heyday of similar mathematical modeling in the field of psychology, it was said that with two parameters, a model could be made to fit an elephant, and with three parameters, the model could be made to wiggle the elephant's tail.

Likewise, Marsh quotes the solar physicist Eugene Parker that "in our present state of ignorance it is not possible to assess the importance of individual factors" in global temperature changes. The problem is that the measurement errors are far greater than the size of the effects the models seek to assess.

Marsh also dismisses concerns that the earth might undergo a "runaway" greenhouse effect such as seen on Venus, where the troposphere is far too hot for organic life. Venus' atmosphere is almost entirely carbon dioxide, so its mass density is far greater than earth's atmosphere. It thus behaves quite differently.

The saddest thing about scientific hysteria over global warming is to see scientists abusing science as if their political desires excuse it. Emotional beliefs or antipathies are no reason for destroying the trust of science. Sadly also, government money corrupts scientists maybe more than any other.

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