

Introducing
***The Carbon Sense
Coalition***

Introduction.

The Carbon Sense Coalition (“Carbon Sense”) is a voluntary group of individuals concerned about the extent to which carbon and carbon dioxide are wrongly vilified in Western societies, particularly in government, the media, and in some business circles. We aim to restore balance and reason to the carbon debate, and to explain and defend the key role of the carbon group in production of most of our energy for heat, light, and transportation, and all of our food.

Members and supporters include:

- consumers concerned about the future availability and cost of energy and food.
- taxpayers concerned at the spiraling costs of subsidies for fixing non-problems in the carbon cycle or propping up inefficient alternatives to carbon fuels.
- those who understand, support, work in, or invest in the carbon industries - farming, fishing, forestry, food, coal, oil, gas, transport and energy.
- farmers who know about the important role of plants, soil and carbon dioxide in naturally recycling carbon from the atmosphere to plants and back to our food chain.
- people with knowledge and understanding of the dominant influence of the sun, oceans, clouds, volcanoes and cycles in the solar system in affecting climate and weather on earth.
- people alarmed at the politicization of science and who want our young people to grow up in a world in which truth and science are valued.

- people concerned at the way this issue is being used to fill our children with fear and loathing and our adults with guilt and anger.

Carbon Is Our Key Resource

Carbon is the most important resource on earth for all mankind. It is the essence of:

- all food - proteins, fats, carbohydrates, sugars and alcohols
- all hydrocarbon fuels - coal, petroleum and natural gas
- all humus and organic matter in the soils
- all life on land, in the soil, and in the rivers and oceans (apart from strange creatures around volcanic vents in ocean deeps).

Carbon dioxide is a non-toxic, colourless gas that forms a tiny proportion of our atmosphere. Man’s contribution to atmospheric carbon dioxide is small and dwarfed by natural emissions from the oceans, volcanoes and from other natural sources such as decaying vegetation, wild animals, insects, termites, bacteria and bush fires.

The Battle for Carbon

Life on earth has always been a battle for carbon. Carbon compounds form the bodies and provide all internal energy for all living things.

All life relies on four key atmospheric gases – oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water vapour.

All are crucial to life; none is a pollutant in the atmosphere.

Plants extract carbon dioxide and emit oxygen in order to grow; animals extract oxygen and emit carbon dioxide in order to grow. Carbon is stored in the soil, the oceans, the atmosphere, in living bodies of plants and animals, and in dead animal

and plant material such as fossil fuels, construction timber, stored food, dead leaves and dead bodies.

Carbon dioxide is the chief agent for recycling carbon resources. Without carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the cycle of life would quickly run down - all plants would die, and then all animals would starve.

The carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere is always changing, mainly in response to changes in surface temperature which then affects the vigour of plant and animal life and affects the carbon balance of the oceans.

The surface temperature of the earth is always changing, and current conditions are neither extreme nor unexpected. The changes are driven mainly by external factors such as the sun.

Changing surface temperature is the governor of life – warm oceans expel carbon dioxide held in solution: the ocean warmth also causes more evaporation of water. These three atmospheric conditions (more moisture, more warmth and more carbon dioxide) cause an explosion of plant life on land and sea. This then triggers an explosion of herbivores and carnivores, predators and parasites – mainly the animals. Cooler temperatures will reverse all that.

We live today in one of the usually short warm periods that separate the regular and longer Ice Ages that punctuate earth's history. These warm periods are the Golden Ages of history where all life flourishes (including man). While temperature, moisture and carbon dioxide are supplied in abundance, the Golden Age will continue. If solar variations cause earth's temperature to fall, moisture and carbon dioxide will also fall, and Ice Age conditions will return.

Man does not control these global events, but he will be shaped by them.

The Greenhouse Effect

The sun provides most of the earth's surface heat, but does not distribute it evenly. The equator gets more heat than the poles, and the heat arrives by day and leaves again by night. The main agents for moving heat around are ocean currents, atmospheric winds and radiation of heat between oceans, land, atmosphere and space.

A real greenhouse has a glass roof that allows the sun's heat in and prevents most of it from leaving. While the sun is shining, the main greenhouse process is physical - the roof totally prevents heat loss by convection ie the hot air cannot escape. The glass roof also retards the other method of heat loss – radiation of heat into space, but the prevention of convection is the key process in a real greenhouse.

The atmosphere is not a greenhouse – there is no physical roof, so convection (wind) is free to move heat from the surface and the equator to cooler areas and the Upper Atmosphere.

Some atmospheric gases (referred to as Greenhouse gases) have the ability to absorb some heat escaping from earth and to radiate it back to earth. This blanketing effect makes the earth's surface more livable – otherwise we would fry by day and freeze by night.

The major atmospheric gas with greenhouse properties is water vapour, which 3 times more effective and 100 times more abundant than carbon dioxide.

The Greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide is not proportional to the atmospheric content of this gas – its effect declines as the content rises. Even if carbon dioxide content doubled, the greenhouse effect of this would be far less than the current content causes.

This whole Greenhouse controversy thus boils down to a panic about a minor but beneficial effect on surface temperature, by a minor but beneficial atmospheric gas.

Is today's Temperature of Concern?

The temperature of the earth's surface varies greatly from hour to hour, from day to day, from season to season, from place to place and from century to century. At any given time and place, temperatures are always rising or falling for many reasons. To speak of "earth's temperature" and to report it to tiny fractions of a degree, is like measuring the diameter of a rusty pipe with a highly accurate micrometer – each turn of the micrometer screw knocks off another piece of rust and gives another different reading, measured to high accuracy.

Most alarmist forecasts of future warming are based on models and theories of how the myriad things that determine earth's temperatures will interact for decades ahead.

However, similarly complex computer models and theories are unable to forecast the weather with any accuracy beyond 5 days, and forecasts for tomorrow are seldom more accurate than a constant forecast that said "Tomorrow's weather will be very similar to today's".

Even scarier is the fact that economic "Solutions" to global warming (such as a long term price/tax for carbon) are being designed by economists who are no better than weather forecasters at forecasting commodity prices.

Before we embark on a massive forced contraction and dislocation of our whole carbon based economy, we need not theories, not models, but **EVIDENCE**.

The best evidence available, from ice cores, tree growth rings, historical records and direct measurements suggests that neither surface temperatures nor carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere are at extreme levels. Moreover, past trends of these two variables suggest that rising surface temperatures seem to occur well **BEFORE**

the carbon dioxide content rises ie rising temperature probably causes rising levels of carbon dioxide, not the other way around.

What does the Carbon Sense Coalition stand for?

We believe that vested interests, sensation seeking media, a frightened public and vote seeking politicians are moving the western world swiftly towards extreme solutions that will be very costly in job prospects and future prosperity and very difficult to reverse. In particular:

- we oppose carbon taxes because they are unnecessary and they will push up the cost of energy, electricity, food and transport for all consumers.
- we oppose subsidies for favoured energy sources – these will raise taxes and make our economy less able to compete with more enlightened economies.
- we oppose legislation mandating shares for any particular energy source such as solar, wind, gas or ethanol. All consumers and investors should be free to choose which technology to support, but they should not use legislative means to impose their value judgments on all the rest of us.
- we believe public policy should encourage the development of the most efficient energy sources free of the distortions of all discriminatory taxes, subsidies or mandated shares.
- we oppose statutory limits on emissions of man-made carbon dioxide because we believe carbon dioxide plays a wholly beneficial role in our atmosphere. It is **NOT** a pollutant, nor does it drive global warming.

- we oppose the discrimination in favour of trees at the expense of grasses and crops. Both plant forms extract and store carbon dioxide, but the grasses on land and in the ocean are far more important to the food supplies for the human race than the trees. To use discriminatory taxes, subsidies or regulations to favour one plant form over the other has no justification. Those plant forms valued by humans for food, fibre, timber, shelter, leisure or pleasure will be conserved and protected. The rest are “weeds” and have proved quite capable of looking after themselves.
- we support market-based conservation of resources and oppose harmful pollution of water, land or atmosphere.
- we support the right of all individuals to use their own funds or skills to discriminate in favour of or against any energy resource or food for any reason.

Our Activities.

The Carbon Sense Coalition aims to:

- publicise information on the key role played by carbon in providing food and energy for mankind.
- encourage, conduct and publicise research into all factors that affect global temperatures and climate.
- produce discussion papers on sound long term public policies for the energy and food industries.
- encourage carbon policies which are based on sound science and good long term economics.

Advisory Committee.

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Mr James Hawes
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