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Common sense on carbon, food, energy and climate.
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The Inaugural Golden Fleece Award

– for Flagrant Fleecing of Community Resources

10 May 2013.

Keywords: Golden Fleece Award, carbon capture and sequestration, London, Los Angeles and Asian smogs, dust, save the Great Barrier Reef, book-burning academics, climatism waning.

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a pdf print-ready copy of this newsletter with all illustrations in place can be downloaded from:*
<http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/golden-fleece-award.pdf>



To view this image in your browser:

<http://www.carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/golden-fleece-money-box.jpg>

The Carbon Sense Coalition has awarded its Inaugural Golden Fleece Award to Kevin Rudd and coal industry leaders for “flagrant fleecing of community savings in futile ‘research’ on Carbon Capture & Sequestration – a costly and complex process designed to capture and bury carbon dioxide gas produced by burning carbon fuels such as coal, oil and gas”.

It is obviously possible, in an engineering sense, to collect, separate, compress, pump and pipe gases, so new “research” is largely a waste of money. Engineers know how to do these things, and their likely costs. But only foolish green zealots would think of spending billions to bury a harmless, invisible, life-supporting gas in hopes of cooling the climate some time in the century ahead.

About 2.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide are produced for every tonne of coal burnt in a power station. To capture, compress and bury it could take at least 30% of the electricity produced, greatly increasing the cost of the limited amount of electricity left for sale - more coal used, increased electricity costs, for ZERO measurable benefits.

We have come to expect stupidity from politicians, but coal industry leaders who agreed to waste money on this should be sued by shareholders for negligence. Maybe they were just drooling at all the extra coal they would sell in order to produce the same electricity?

Kevin Rudd wins this award for “a Flagrant Fleece of \$400 million taken from tax payers to fund the fatuous Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute.” There is little to show for the millions already spent except a lot of receipts for high class salaries, consultants, travel, entertainment and “operational expenses”.

Pumping gases underground is sensible if it brings real benefits such as using waste gases to drive oil recovery from declining oil fields.

Normally, however, CCS will just produce more expensive electricity.

This result is not needed as politicians have already invented dozens of ways of doing just that.

Viv Forbes,
Chairman, The Carbon Sense Coalition

Disclosure: Viv Forbes holds shares in a small Australian coal explorer which may benefit if the carbon tax is raised high enough to make Carbon Capture and Burial “economic”.

Further reading:

<http://www.argusmedia.com/pages/NewsBody.aspx?id=733852&menu=yes>

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/coal-hard-light-of-day-for-dud-scheme-20120617-20hj3.html>

<http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/carbon-capture.pdf>

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2009/07/22/204404/harvard-stunner-realistic-first-generation-ccs-carbon-capture-storage-costs/?mobile=nc>

<http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/take/why-carbon-capture-and-storage-will-never-pay-off/534>

The Warming of the last Century is too Small to Notice

‘The warming we have had the last a 100 years is so small that if we didn’t have had meteorologists and climatologists to measure it we wouldn’t have noticed it at all.’

Lennart Bengtsson, one of Sweden’s leading climate scientist.

See: <http://notrickszone.com/2013/02/03/top-swedish-climate-scientist-lennart-bengtsson-says-warming-not-noticeable-without-meteorologists/>

Clean Coal by Wire

There is a persistent green myth that coal-fired power generation causes city smogs. It does not.

City air pollution is nothing new. King Edward I complained about London pollution in 1306, as did Queen Elizabeth I in 1578, long before the first steam engine operated.

Let’s look at the causes of some famous smogs – London/Pittsburgh, Los Angeles/Santiago, the Dust Bowls and the Asian Smogs.

The London smogs were caused by open-air combustion of newspapers, wood and cheap high-sulphur unwashed coal in domestic fires, stoves and boilers; by coal-burning blacksmiths, brewers and ironworkers in smoky forges, furnaces and coke plants; and by many smoky steam locomotives; all with inefficient combustion and no pollution controls. The smog was slowly eliminated by clean air regulations and by changing to “clean coal by pipe” (town gas) and “clean coal by wire” (electricity).

The Los Angeles smogs were caused mainly by backyard incinerators, vehicle exhausts and natural air inversions. They were reduced by using cleaner fuels, better engines and compulsory pollution-control equipment. Santiago has undergone a similar clean-up.

The Dust Bowl conditions of the Great Plains in USA were caused by drought and wind erosion of newly cultivated soils. Gobi Desert storms produced the Yellow River and the Yellow Sea and contribute to the Asian Brown Cloud today.

Today’s Asian smogs have many sources –

- forest fires in Indonesia; open air cremations in India;
- dust from volcanic eruptions and desert storms;
- soot, ash and other pollutants from millions of domestic rubbish fires, mosquito fires, cooking fires and heaters using anything combustible – cow dung, wood, paper, cardboard, plastic or cheap unwashed coal; and
- soot and unburnt hydro-carbons from millions of vehicles, many with engines needing maintenance and no pollution controls.
- Soot, smoke, ash and SOX and NOX pollutants from old boilers, smelters and furnaces using dirty coal without modern pollution control equipment.

Beijing today combines the 1950’s problems of both London and Los Angeles.

The Asian smog is **NOT** caused by producing electricity in modern power stations with closed boilers, pollution controls and using high-quality washed coal such as exported by Australia to Asia. The “power station pollution” pictured so eagerly in ABC and Green propaganda is actually steam from the cooling towers.

The main products released by modern coal-fired power stations are water vapour and carbon dioxide – both are essential life supporters. Neither one is toxic, polluting or dangerous, and carbon dioxide is invisible. Both make our climate more liveable, but the contribution of carbon dioxide to climate is tiny. And the extra carbon dioxide produced by burning coal has done more to encourage the growth of plants and the greening of planet Earth than Greenpeace will ever do.

“Clean coal by wire” into every home is the one thing that could solve much of the Asian air pollution.



A Cartoon Commentary on the above statement by the Australian Financial Review, 2 May 2013

The New Cold War

(with thanks to Bob Greenelsh)

The media is at last acknowledging the raging debate about the so-called “settled science” on man-made global warming.

This looks like becoming the New Cold War.

On the one side are Russian Realists and other sceptics blaming the sun for the coming global cooling. Opposing them are American Alarmists and European Doomsters blaming Chinese industry for warming (or standstill, or cooling, whichever comes next).

And the rest of the world is having a bet each way – “we want to collect carbon credits from rich westerners, but we will not hobble our industries with their silly carbon taxes”.

And all the while, Earth’s temperature keeps changing naturally, as it always does.

The Great Barrier Reef:

Have we Really Lost Half of It?

It was all over the news - unless action is taken to improve water quality the Great Barrier Reef could be placed on the World Heritage list of sites in danger and by the way, there has already been a 50% decline in coral cover at the Great Barrier Reef.

No wonder the average person is concerned about the environment! Such casual reporting that we have already lost a full half of the Great Barrier Reef!

This publicity is all part of a campaign to stop the development of new port facilities along the Queensland coastline. But rather than just come out and say they don’t want more development– that in fact they despise industry– the activist scientists dress it up as the end of the Great Barrier Reef as we know it.

Read more:

<http://jennifermarohasy.com/2013/05/the-great-barrier-reef-have-we-really-lost-half-of-it-part-1-water-quality/>
<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/10/reef-alarmists-jump-the-shark>

Meanwhile, two professors advocate a revival of

the medieval practice of book Burning.

See: <http://www.freedomworks.org/blog/joncgabriel/two-professors-rekindle-their-love-of-book-burning>

The Beginning of the End

Climatism Waning

Suddenly the global warming tide is turning – here are just a few recent events:

- *Japan kills climate agenda, turns back to coal, and abandons emissions targets.*
- *Europe's anti-green majority declines to save their Carbon Emission Trading Scheme from collapse.*
- *Climate sceptics make major gains in UK local government elections.*
- *Russians scoff at global warming forecasts, and warn of global cooling caused by a waning sun.*
- *Germany is building 20 new coal fired power stations.*
- *Suntech, the huge Chinese solar module maker, was declared bankrupt.*
- *Meanwhile in America "The Climate Circus leaves Town" :*

See: http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/climate-circus-leaves-town_718070.html

UK and Australia, however, remain mired in the green swamp. Australia now has the highest carbon tax in the world, and Britain is still wasting billions on intermittent power from the wind. In both countries, investors are discouraged or prohibited from investing in real power generation from coal, gas or nuclear.

And the Coalition spokesman for the environment agrees with all tenets of the global warming religion - they would just worship differently. We still have a big job ahead. It is a battle for public opinion, because no party can win without pandering to public opinion.

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"Carbon Sense" is an independent newsletter produced for the Carbon Sense Coalition, an Australian based organisation which opposes waste of resources, opposes pollution, and promotes the rational use of all energy resources including carbon energy.

Literary, financial or other contributions to help our cause are welcomed. We get no government grants and unlike many of our opponents, we do not pose as a charity and in fact pay GST and income tax on our operations. We live on subscriptions alone.

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