

This article in the Feb. 21 Epoch Times as condensed by Dr. Ken Noll, a worldwide recognized expert on air pollution, and a native of the Fruitport/Grand Haven Area.

The UN's fixation on CO2 emissions ignores the real driver of global temperature, experts say The CO2 and Temperature Debate

by Katie Spence

Each year from 2023 to 2030, climate change sustainable development goals will cost every person in economies such as the United States \$2,026, the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development estimates. In lower-income economies, the per-person annual cost ranges from \$332 to \$1,864.

In total, the global price tag comes to about \$5.5 trillion per year.

Separately, a report from the left-aligned nonprofit Climate Policy Initiative found that in 2021 and 2022, the world's taxpayers spent \$1.3 trillion each year on climate-related projects.

It also found that the "annual climate finance needed" from 2031 to 2050 is more than \$10 trillion each year.

"Anyone who willfully denies the impact of climate change is condemning the American people to a very dangerous future," President Joe Biden said on Nov. 14, 2023, while announcing \$6 billion in new investments through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

"The impacts we're seeing are only going to get worse, more frequent, more ferocious, and more costly."

The trillions of dollars being poured into new initiatives stem from the goals set by the United Nations' Paris Agreement's legally binding international treaty to "substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions" in the hope of maintaining a temperature of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

However, any decrease in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions won't have an effect for hundreds to thousands of years—even under the most restrictive circumstances, according to some experts.

"If emissions of CO2 stopped altogether, it would take many thousands of years for atmospheric CO2 to return to 'pre-industrial' levels," the Royal Society states in a report on its website. The organization describes itself as a "fellowship of many of the world's most eminent scientists."

"The current CO2-induced warming of Earth is therefore essentially irreversible on human timescales."

A frequently asked questions page on NASA's website holds the same position.

"If we stopped emitting greenhouse gases today, the rise in global temperatures would begin to flatten within a few years. Temperatures would then plateau but remain well-elevated for many, many centuries," NASA states.

Other scientists say that's because CO2 isn't the culprit in the first place.

"CO2 does not cause global warming. Global warming causes more CO2," said Edwin Berry, a theoretical physicist and certified consulting meteorologist. He called the Royal Society's position on CO2 "pure junk science."

Ian Clark, emeritus professor for the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Ottawa, agreed that if all greenhouse gas emissions ceased today, the Earth would continue warming—but not because of CO2.

He said that contrary to popular opinion, temperature doesn't follow CO2—instead, CO2 follows temperature, which, itself, is due to solar activity.

Climate Dictated by Sun

"If we completely cut out emissions, CO2 would stop rising at its current rate," Mr. Clark said. "But it would probably continue to rise to a certain point, and then it could come down. But that would be driven by temperature."

Mr. Clark said that in different parts of the world and at different times of the year, CO2 fluctuates "between 15 and 20 percent," and that's driven by the temperature of the seasons.

"If we start having cooler summers and colder winters, those fluctuations would start driving

CO2 further down. But overall, climate is going to do whatever the sun dictates," he said.

"We have a fairly good understanding of the different cycles the sun can go through and how they pile up. Sometimes, they amplify each other. Sometimes they cancel each other. So, we get kind of a chaotic signal, but some come through quite strongly--this 1,000-year cycle seems to be quite strong.

"We had the Roman Warm Period, then the Medieval Warm Period, and now we have the Modern Warm Period; one, two, three. And history and the records tell us they only last a couple hundred years, and we're already a hundred-some-odd years into this one."

In addition to not affecting temperature, Mr. Clark said the attempts to reduce CO2 are dangerous because of the anticipated effect on plants.

"C4 plants, like corn, evolved just 20-30 million years ago. and they evolved in response to the declining CO2 in the atmosphere. So, they're a relative late-comer to our biosphere and reflect the danger of decreasing CO2," he said.

A majority of plants, such as trees, wheat, and rice, are what's known as C3 plants, which thrive at higher CO2 levels of 800 to 1500 ppm.

Mr. Clark said one of the benefits of increasing CO2 is improved global grain yields and the general greening of the planet.

In response to The Epoch Times' request for comment from the Royal Society, Alex Matthews-King, the group's senior press officer, said via email, "This is a peer-reviewed report authored jointly by Fellows from the Royal Society and U.S. National Academy of Science."

He pointed to the report's foreword, which states: "Climate change is one of the defining issues of our time. It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth's climate."

"The impacts of climate change on people and nature are increasingly apparent. Unprecedented flooding, heat waves, and wildfires have cost billions in damages. Habitats are undergoing rapid shifts in response to changing temperatures and precipitation patterns."

Mr. Clark agreed that humans "do have a footprint on this planet, there's no question about that."

But he suggested that the underreported larger effect is being felt in the oceans, where humans have "killed off 90 percent of the fish population, and whales, and all the rest."

He said he believes that the money and resources spent on climate conferences could go to "actually improve environmental problems."

CTUP Study: Almost Every Government Intervention In Response To COVID Was Wrong

by George Rasley, CHQ Editor

Our friends at the Committee to Unleash Prosperity (CTUP) have just released a must-read study of the effects of the United States government's response to the COVID pandemic.

The study shows that the one country, Sweden, that did not surrender to panic and lockdowns had one of the lowest rates of all-cause excess deaths.

These are some of the conclusions by a first-of-its-kind retrospective study by CTUP and co-authored by four of the nation's top experts on the pandemic – Dr. Scott Atlas of the Hoover Institution, economist Steve Hanke of Johns Hopkins University, Casey Mulligan of the University of Chicago, and Phil Kerpen, president of CTUP. The study concludes that many of the government policies had catastrophic social, educational, and economic consequences and that these mistakes should never again be repeated.

Among the ten conclusions are two that stood out to us because they had deleterious national effects that continue to this day:

Lesson #4: Government Should Not Pay People More Not to Work

Lesson #7: Government Should Not Suppress Dissent or Police the Boundaries of Science

We urge CHQ readers and friends to read the entire study, *COVID Lessons Learned: A Retrospective After Four Years*, at committeetounleashprosperity.com/reports.

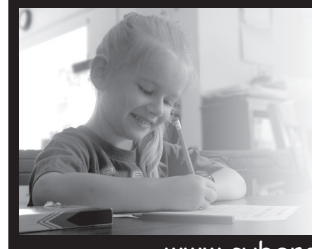
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