Man-made Global Warming is a Non-existent Problem

The looming problem of insecurity of supply is due to our obsessive energy policy focus on fighting global warming* allegedly caused by man-made greenhouse gas emissions (henceforth abbreviated to CO2). This is perverse because man-made global warming is simply not happening. The elephant in the room which green alarmists and politicians don’t see is that there have been just 20 years of global warming in the past 70 years, an insignificant, long ago warming spell which was actually caused by natural oceanic effects, not man-made CO2, as this 2½-page preamble of empirical evidence explains.

* aka “climate change”, although without global warming none of the other threatened climate change scares will come about, i.e. storms, floods, droughts, melting sea ice, etc.

The graph below shows Met Office global surface temperature from 1945, just before global warming caused by man-made CO2 allegedly “took off” according to the UN IPCC. It shows cooling from around 1945 to 1977, warming from around 1977 to 1998 and a temperature standstill (sometimes called “pause”) from around 1998 to the present.

This graph refutes the UN IPCC’s man-made CO2 global warming theory. It shows that rising CO2 has correlated with rising global temperatures for just 20 of the 70 years since 1945. This temperature record and the failure of all the UN IPCC’s post-1988 climate models to predict the current standstill despite ever-rising atmospheric CO2 shows that climate natural variability is much more important than has been acknowledged and that man-made CO2 is not the main driver of climate change which the UN IPCC shamelessly claims it to be, if indeed it has any net effect at all.

On a longer timescale, this graph shows a global warming trend from about 1900 to 1944 which was comparable to the global warming trend of the 80s and 90s. The UN IPCC concedes that this earlier warming was due to natural
climate variability rather than human influence because CO2 levels at that time were too low. This invites the question, why shouldn’t the comparable warming of the 80s and 90s also have been due to the same natural variability? Sure enough, the evidence below (and here) shows that the warming of the 80s and 90s was indeed natural. This means that the duration of non-existent man-made global warming is now at least 137 years, as the natural warming from 1900 to 1944 was preceded by a period of cooling which started around 1878.

The reason why the UN IPCC gets it (deliberately) wrong is that it was purposely set up to study only alleged anthropogenic, not natural, risks of global warming. Hence AGW.

The UK government’s false logic* that “13 of the 14 warmest years on record have occurred in the 21st century” is stated as “proof” that man-made global warming is happening “now”, when all it really shows is that the warming trend of the 80s and 90s, which was fuelled by natural El Niños (see below), lifted the earth’s temperature to a new equilibrium. The next trend is more likely to be cooling than warming based on the repeated natural cycles since 1850, which UN IPCC climate scientists are busy trying to hide through retrospective temperature adjustments. With the PDO in its cold phase and the AMO due to follow, global temperatures are set to fall for decades. Here in the UK, temperatures have already fallen quite sharply over the last decade, with the current HadCET moving average now only slightly above the level of the 1940s.

* There are many more examples of “climate change” disinformation on this web page. Why do governments (and the EU and the UN) wilfully try to mislead the public so?

The spikes and troughs in the above temperature graphs are due to El Niño and La Niña events. These are entirely natural phenomena which have absolutely nothing to do with atmospheric greenhouse gases. They show on NOAA’s Multivariate ENSO Index (below) as red and blue respectively. This index shows that naturally warming, sunlight-fuelled El Niños predominated during the warming trend of the 80s and 90s whereas deep-ocean cooling La Niñas predominated during the cooling trend from the mid 40s to mid 70s. It also shows that El Niños and La Niñas have been roughly in balance since around 1998, which is consistent with the observed standstill in global surface temperatures.
The details of the global warming that has actually happened from the 1980s can be better seen by looking at the sea surface temperatures where these oceanic events originate, graphed below, as they show the clear-cut El Niño/La Niña characteristics better than the more diffused HadCRUT4 global surface (land and sea) temperatures:

This graph shows that the global warming since 1980 has progressed by a series of sudden, natural El Niño warming steps rather than by steadily increasing warming at the rate of 0.2ºC per decade predicted by the UN IPCC’s man-made CO2 global warming theory. A similar analysis of the cooling phase from the mid 40s to mid 70s would no doubt show a preponderance of La Niña cooling steps. This is a knockout debunking of the UN IPCC’s man-made CO2 global warming theory as it is physically impossible for atmospheric CO2 to cause such sudden step changes in sea surface temperatures.

UN IPCC climate scientists use their flawed computer climate models with their wrong assumptions of positive feedbacks on greenhouse gas warming to bamboozle and scare us with their abstruse statistical calculations of so-called climate sensitivity, the temperature increase which could result from a doubling of atmospheric CO2. However the observational evidence presented above renders climate sensitivity meaningless. Based on the temperature record of the last 70 years, climate sensitivity is zero.

The ongoing 18-year “pause” is a huge problem for climate alarmists, who have been advancing a myriad of different excuses in vain attempts to explain it. At the last count there were 66 different excuses, e.g. the “missing heat” is hiding in the deep oceans (debunked), faster Pacific trade winds (debunked), slower trade winds (debunked). These excuses only show how desperate they are. It’s high time they admitted that their computer climate model man-made CO2 global warming theory is just plain wrong!

Contrary to the assertions of the green activist ‘missionary’ UN IPCC supported by the establishment propaganda machine, man-made global warming is simply not happening. Hence the chances of it happening in the
future must be almost negligible. The steps being taken to mitigate this imperceptible problem are precipitate to the point of irresponsibility relative to any believable climate threat. As Professor Freeman Dyson has said “the remedies are far worse than the disease that they claim to cure”.

The false consensus on man-made global warming is a political fabrication, based on junk science, promulgated for the originally laudable aim of sustainability (Agenda 21). Now it seems to be just a pretext for bossy political control and wealth redistribution, ironically causing the poor to suffer the most, with developing countries being coerced or brow-beaten into not using cheap, efficient fossil fuels to help lift their poor out of poverty, all under a threatened UN world government. The UN's Paris climate summit targets for fossil fuel and concomitant emissions reductions are futile, as shown by the harsh reality of BP’s prediction for 2035 global fuel consumption in the graph in this article (which also explains how our current policies are simply exporting jobs abroad).

The Climate Change Act

Given the above analysis showing that man-made global warming is a non-problem, we should immediately repeal the Climate Change Act as it is hamstringing all our energy policies and isn’t even working. It has been obvious for some time that even the “easy” 2020 targets would not be met. How long can policymakers stay in denial on this issue? If the current global temperature trend continues, by 2020 there will have been only 20 years of global warming in the last 75 years, all of it natural. Do we have to wait until 2025, or 2030 …? The longer the question is ducked, the more rickety our energy infrastructure will become. Our current ineffectual mad dash for so-called renewables needs to be curtailed. A more palatable political option might be to suspend the Climate Change Act rather than repealing it, until such time as potentially dangerous global warming actually starts to shows itself. An EU renegotiation would be needed. Why can’t we just adapt to whatever happens (warming or cooling) as and when necessary?

The Problems with Current Energy Policy

The main justification for wind power is its alleged saving of CO2 emissions but there is no need to save emissions as man-made CO2 global warming is a non-problem. More to the point, the government has provided no credible evidence that wind power saves any meaningful net CO2 emissions. On the contrary, many independent studies show that the inefficient operation forced upon supporting fossil fuel plants by wind intermittency could result in higher overall emissions than using fossil fuel plants alone, i.e. there is no proof that wind power is even sustainable. This appears to be confirmed by the fact that despite all the newly installed wind farms, the carbon efficiency of UK electricity generation flatlined between 2005 to 2012 at 483tCO2/GWh as given by the annual Dukes reports, a figure which incidentally is a million miles away from the fantasy 50tCO2/GWh target of the Climate Change Act. To cap it all, a fleet of “dirty diesel” generators is being deployed to try to keep the lights on when the wind doesn’t blow.
To make matters even worse, wind power is very expensive, particularly when all its external system impacts and constraint payments are factored in, and is very damaging to the environment, to the well-being of nearby householders and to the tourist trade. At the 100% wind penetration planned in Scotland huge amounts of surplus wind power will probably have to be thrown away but still paid for, making fuel poverty even worse.

The similarly disastrous deployment of biomass power (n/a so far in Scotland) is said by David MacKay, the former government chief scientific advisor on energy, to produce more greenhouse gases than burning coal, on top of being very expensive because of the process inefficiencies and the green subsidies. The use of biomass is nothing more than a carbon accounting fiddle, and pointless since CO2 emissions do not affect the climate.

The hoped-for deployment of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is similarly not required given that CO2 emissions have no adverse impact on climate. The technology (non-EOR) is scathingly criticised in this article. If CSS could ever be made to work at scale it would be hugely expensive and the extra energy demands of the process would require an increased consumption of our finite fossil fuel resources, some say by up to 25%.

The market share of gas-fired plants is being “stolen” by intermittent wind which receives higher grid priority, rendering them uneconomic. Fossil fuel plants are essential for grid balancing yet our contradictory policies use the carbon floor price tax to try to force them out of business while at the same time using the capacity market mechanism to subsidise them to keep going, pushing our bills up ever higher. The recently announced shutdown of the 900MW Killingholme gas-fired power station exemplifies the problem. No company is going to build a large new power plant in Scotland under such a regime.

It is largely because of the deployment of expensive, unreliable wind power to the exclusion of almost all other fuels that we are facing a security of supply crisis. During cold midwinter when the entire UK is becalmed (not uncommon anti-cyclonic conditions) we could be facing rolling electricity blackouts lasting for days or even weeks on end. Once Longannet has gone, Scotland will face a shortfall of about 3GW on peak demand of 6GW, rising to about 5GW if hydro gets depleted and our two nuclear plants have closed without replacement as is the current plan (and sooner if one or other of these ageing plants breaks down). This is a shockingly bad position for any country to be in and quite frankly incredible for one whose government wants it to become independent. Even assuming the grid were able to cope and the English were still willing to help us, there are severe doubts as to whether England will have enough spare capacity to bail us out.

It is mindboggling that an advanced country like ours has been sleep-walking into such a disaster with politicians saying they are forced to follow these futile and damaging energy policies because of a faked consensus on fictional man-made global warming. These politicians perhaps even (misguidedly) think they are “saving the planet” but their perverse policies are dragging us
all down into a low-efficiency, high cost, anti-science, anti-growth, de-industrialised, jobs-sparse future, all to no useful purpose.

Professor Richard Tol has said: “Politically correct climate change orthodoxy has completely destroyed our ability to think rationally about the environment”. Politicians urgently need to shake themselves out of their groupthink climate fantasising.

My Proposals

My solution* is to repeal the Climate Change Act and all its unattainable targets, disband the Committee on Climate Change and the DECC and put proper engineers in charge of energy policy instead of naïve green activists and politicians. I would stop and preferably reverse the deployment of expensive, unreliable, ineffectual wind power by abolishing renewables subsidies. I would also remove the green taxes on fossil fuels. This would allow essential new fossil fuel plants to be commissioned at affordable prices. I would not object to continued use of coal because its higher CO2 emissions do not affect the climate. I would rather have cheap coal-powered electricity and a bit of pollution than where we are heading at present, i.e. fuel poverty increasing, businesses being made uncompetitive and the lights going out. I would encourage the use of nuclear for grid baseload, not so much because it is emissions-free but to save on finite fossil fuel resources which will eventually start to run out. Removing the sky-high renewables subsidies will hopefully allow new nuclear to be commissioned at more affordable prices.

I would also stop funding the subversive UN IPCC and rely instead on a small group of unbiased experts to study climate change in the round, i.e. natural as well as alleged anthropogenic, as proposed by Labour MP Graham Stringer (Hansard column 159WH).

* See this April Fools spoof of an imagined political adoption of these proposals!