



The Freedom Association's Campaign Briefing
Keeping a Cool Head on Climate Change

This briefing sheet is intended as a short introduction to The Freedom Association's sceptical view of the climate change consensus. It can also provide the framework for letters to the press and useful arguments in debate on the issue.

The scientific debate is not over

- "Climate change" is itself a misleading term. Of course the climate is changing; that is what the climate does by its nature. Climate change alarmists often try to paint sceptics as not believing that the climate is changing – this is a straw man. What is really at question is the scale, direction and most crucially the *cause* of climate change. Catastrophic global warming has not been proven, and nor has the fundamental claim that it is anthropogenic – caused by human activity.
- The clear correlation of higher CO₂ levels causing a rise in global temperature has not been proved. The oft-cited graph that Al Gore claims shows a clear correlation *does* show a pattern, but not the one he might like. CO₂ levels lag *behind* global temperature by around 800 years. It is possible that temperature is in fact influencing CO₂ levels.
- Due to the vast scale of earth's climate, and the hugely long timescale over which it and other factors such as solar activity operate, it is highly questionable to be producing short-scale models based on partial data and claiming to be able to predict the climate's future. Remember back in the 1970s when the big scare was Global Cooling, with the ice caps advancing swiftly across Northern Europe and North America? The alarmists got it badly wrong then, and there is no reason to believe they have not got it wrong again.
- NASA has even observed global warming on Mars, where the polar ice caps are melting. Yet strangely, no 4x4s have yet been observed on the surface of the red planet.

The future

What not to do:

- The Freedom Association believes it would not only be unjustified but deeply wrong to take the Luddite approach that many in the environmentalist movement support. Kneejerk opposition to modern technology could be hugely damaging. Electricity, beneficial

innovations such as cheap international travel and all the amenities that have improved the human standard of living should not be abandoned in a green crusade, especially one based on shaky “facts”.

- TFA is also opposed to attempts to invade personal freedom and the free market. There can be little doubt that this issue is seen as a convenient excuse by many of the familiar suspects on the Left to restrict personal freedom and to attack the free market economy. For example, monitoring personal carbon emissions has *already* been wheeled out as a supposed use and justification for ID cards.

What to do:

- We do believe that it is necessary to move away from reliance on gas and oil. This is both because they are clearly limited resources and, more urgently, because that reliance is a risk to British national security. Depending for the functioning of essential parts of our economy and infrastructure on energy sources from the Middle East and Russia gives undue leverage and power to deeply unstable regimes and others who are clearly a threat to British freedom.

- The future of energy production, though, will not come by naively turning off the fossil fuel power plants and hoping for the best. The most practical solution that should be immediately pursued to plug the energy gap is nuclear power. Much more reliable and secure in supply than fossil fuels – raw fuel can be sourced from reliable allies such as Australia and the USA – it even satisfies the environmentalists’ demands of low CO₂ emissions. That they are so opposed to it, despite it also being a solution to many of their stated concerns, is a clear indication that their motives are far more anti-freedom and anti-capitalist than anti-CO₂.

- As before when mankind has faced challenging situations, we will deal with the need to move away from fossil fuels – and even catastrophic global warming, if it does occur – through technological innovation. Work on hydrogen fuel cells, electric vehicles, nuclear fusion and sustainable forms of electricity generation such as wave power are continuing apace and this must be the future, rather than a regression from modernity.

- The Third World ought to be allowed to industrialise and develop. One of the greatest sins of the environmental movement is that it opposes modern industrial development and the growth of free market capitalism in the Third World. What could bring jobs, money, food and improved standards of living is discouraged to satisfy the Green guilt complex.

Some Useful Facts and Figures

- It is often claimed that historic CO₂ levels were far lower than the 370 parts per million by volume (ppmv) of today. However, the average level in the 19th Century was 335 ppmv; leaf analysis shows that almost 10,000 years ago the level was 348 ppmv.

- CO₂ does fluctuate, but is it causing warming? It is worth considering that around 50 million years ago the atmospheric CO₂ level seems to have been around 2000 ppmv, or six times that of today, and yet temperatures were only around 1.5 °C higher.

- Climate change alarmists often pick figures from the top of the scale of even their own predictions. The International Panel on Climate Change predicted warming during the 21st Century of between 1.1°C and 6.4°C – a huge range. Whilst most alarmists will quote the 6.4°C figure, the majority of their 254 computer models actually predicted below 2.5°C.
- Even if there is a global warm period on the way, it is wrong to claim it is “unprecedented” and undoubtedly caused by modern human industrial activity. There was a Medieval Warm period circa 800 AD to 1200 AD, and the Romans are well-documented as having been able to grow vineyards in Northern England. Greenland gained its name by being fertile where now it is only permafrost. There was also a cool period during the 15th to 19th Centuries that was dubbed the Little Ice Age.
- Statistically, global temperatures have been static or falling since 1998.
- Between 2003 and 2005 the oceans suddenly cooled, losing 20% of the heat they had gained in the previous 50 years.



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