

CLIMATE CHANGE & GLOBAL WARMING[©]

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In my opinion, the persistent “doomsday hype” related to human-induced climate change and global warming, as perpetuated by the media and others, has missed some significant points! The implication that humans are doing very little to reverse the current negative trend related to the increasing levels of atmospheric pollution is simply not true; in fact, human-combating efforts that have been in existence for some time need to be recognized! Just think about the following, as attributed to human concern and ingenuity.

WIND TURBINES

Throughout the world, millions of wind turbines have been installed. Wind power is free and is certainly non-polluting. Research has shown that each 1-megawatt wind turbine versus a coal-fired 1-megawatt generator reduces CO₂ emissions by 1500 tons per year.

SOLAR ELECTRIC/SOLAR HEAT

More and more homes and businesses throughout the world are utilizing solar panels for electricity production and to heat water for multiple uses. Although the initial costs of solar panels, like wind turbines, can be expensive, installed solar panels have no harmful emissions and their power, as derived from the sun, is free.

ELECTRICAL POWER PLANTS

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations requiring a limit on mercury, acid gases, and other toxic emissions from the nations's power plants were passed on March 16, 2015. In response, many of the coal-fired power plants were either retired or modified with emission-reducing controls or were converted to natural gas operations. Natural gas plants produce 40-50% less CO₂ emissions than coal-fired plants. By 2035, most US coal-fired plants will be retired.

SOLAR THERMAL ELECTRICAL POWER PLANTS

Many of these plants are now in existence and use the power of the sun (free) to heat water and drive steam turbines/generators for electrical power production with little or no harmful emissions.

REVERSE DEFORESTATION

This is the planting of new trees that will then absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere versus burning forests that will produce more CO₂ in the atmosphere.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

As of April 23, 2014, the International Atomic Energy Association reported that there are 450 nuclear reactors in operation in 31 countries. These reactors produce heat to generate steam to drive steam turbines/electrical generators. The construction of additional reactors at various world locations is now in the planning stages. As compared to fossil-fueled electrical generation plants, nuclear power plants produce virtually no air pollution.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

Hydro-electric power is produced in at least 150 countries. In 2015, over 16% of the world's electricity was produced from hydro-power; this represents 70% of all power produced from renewable sources! In some tropical areas of the world, dams have trapped trees and other vegetation under water causing it to decay; this releases methane gas into the atmosphere. However, typically in most locations, any emissions into the atmosphere from hydro-electric power plants are minimal.

Beyond all the preceding major human endeavors to do the right thing in contributing to less global pollution, continuing human activity encompasses a wide-range of conservation-related, energy-savings endeavors and many other pollution-reducing activities that include, but certainly are not limited to, the following:

- Design changes to assure maximum efficiency/less pollution from internal combustion (fossil-fuel-powered) engines as installed in today's cars, trucks, trains, etc. This includes the development of "hybrid" gas/electric vehicles!
- Development of purely-electric cars, trucks, and SUV's!
- Increasingly-more-efficient airplane jet engines with less fuel consumption and lesser-and-lesser harmful tailpipe emissions!
- Sanitary landfills that allow capture and use of methane gas in lieu of it being directly dispersed into the atmosphere!
- Increasingly wide-spread use of LED's to replace conventional incandescent and florescent light bulbs - resulting in significantly-reduced electrical power requirements and heat generation!

There are many, many more human efforts to combat global pollution & climate change/global warming that are not mentioned here!

Oh yes! With or without being a signatory to the Paris accords, humans aren't finished doing their part to dispel the "naysayers" and "soothsayer's" myth about the future demise of our planet! In fact, I truly believe that every person in every country on the face of this planet knows very well what they and others in their country are personally contributing to global pollution! So, they need to accept responsibility to identify their own and their country's most significant local pollution problems & take any & all actions necessary to resolve the problems! Thereafter, thanks to everyone's collective efforts, the world will be a better place for everyone for hundreds and thousands of years to come!



**Together We Can Make The World
A Better Place; So, Let's Do It!**