

Green Future or No Future

February 7, 2017

Mark Graffis sent me the link yesterday

Humans could be extinct in 9 years

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSnrDRU6_2g

Thanks Mark !

This 9-year apocalyptic deadline sounds unrealistic to me, especially since it's not backed up by any solid scientific evidence in this RT video. Yet I dugged a bit the Web to see what corroborating evidence I could find...

If you reeaaaaly want to freak out, read...

A degree by degree explanation of what will happen when the earth warms

<http://globalwarming.berrens.nl/globalwarming.htm>

I see [HERE](#) that it was apparently first posted in October 2011 - anonymously.

BTW, without exploring the hellish consequences of a massive sudden methane hydrate release exemplified below, I see that some top-notch scientists seem to concur that at least part of this desert-Earth scenario threat is very real...

OH! and since I'm including everyone in the ERN list and other people as Cc to this post, I should mention that you all ought to make sure you get to the end of this post to read about the neat idea I got in a dream last week... (J'inclus aussi mes correspondants francophones car je ne sais pas si je vais pouvoir trouver le temps de traduire ce qui suit. Vous pouvez utiliser <https://translate.google.com/#auto%7Cen%7C> au besoin.)

Hansen Study: Climate Sensitivity Is High, Burning All Fossil Fuels Would Make Most Of Planet ‘Uninhabitable’

<https://thinkprogress.org/hansen-study-climate-sensitivity-is-high-burning-all-fossil-fuels-would-make-most-of-planet-1a26a072ff3a#.k5yl3gju7>

Other scientists concur...

Nature Bombshell: Observations Point To 10°F Warming by 2100

<https://thinkprogress.org/nature-bombshell-observations-point-to-10-f-warming-by-2100-cbc5b55db99c#.qhay6la6f>

Even ExxonMobil! ... But not the G.O.P.

ExxonMobil Warns of ‘Catastrophic’ 9°F to 12°F Global Warming Without Government Action

<https://thinkprogress.org/exxonmobil-warns-of-catastrophic-9-f-to-12-f-global-warming-without-government-action-d7417f6cfabf#.j0fooen7v>

Here is, as a teaser, the end of this astounding description of what we could be in for - especially with global warming-denying Trump now at the helm of the US...

A degree by degree explanation of what will happen when the earth warm

(...)

BETWEEN FIVE AND SIX DEGREES OF WARMING

Although warming on this scale lies within the IPCC’s officially endorsed range of 21st-century possibilities, climate models have little to say about what Lynas, echoing Dante, describes as “the Sixth Circle of Hell”. To see the most recent climatic lookalike, we have to turn the geological clock back between 144m and 65m years, to the Cretaceous, which ended with the extinction of the dinosaurs. There was an even closer fit at the end of the Permian, 251m years ago, when global temperatures rose by – yes – six degrees, and 95% of species were wiped out.

That episode was the worst ever endured by life on Earth, the closest the planet has come to ending up a dead and desolate rock in space.” On land, the only winners were fungi that flourished on dying trees and shrubs. At sea there were only losers. Warm water is a killer. Less oxygen can dissolve, so conditions become stagnant and anoxic. Oxygen-breathing water-dwellers – all the higher forms of life from plankton to sharks – face suffocation. Warm water also expands, and sea levels rose by 20 metres.” The resulting “super-hurricanes” hitting the coasts would have triggered flash floods that no living thing could have survived.

There are aspects of the so-called “end-Permian extinction” that are unlikely to recur – most importantly, the vast volcanic eruption in Siberia that spread magma hundreds of metres thick over an area bigger than western Europe and shot billions of tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere. That is small comfort, however, for beneath the oceans, another monster stirred – the same that would bring a devastating end to the Palaeocene nearly 200m years later, and that still lies in wait today. Methane hydrate.

What happens when warming water releases pent-up gas from the sea bed: First, a small disturbance drives a gas-saturated parcel of water upwards. As it rises, bubbles begin to appear, as dissolved gas fizzes out with reducing pressure – just as a bottle of lemonade overflows if the top is taken off too quickly. These bubbles make the parcel of water still more buoyant, accelerating its rise through the water. As it surges upwards, reaching explosive force, it drags surrounding water up with it. At the surface, water is shot hundreds of metres into the air as the released gas blasts into the atmosphere. Shockwaves propagate outwards in all directions, triggering more eruptions nearby.

The eruption is more than just another positive feedback in the quickening process of global warming. Unlike CO₂, methane is flammable. Even in air-methane concentrations as low as 5%, the mixture could ignite from lightning or some other spark and send fireballs tearing across the sky. The effect would be much like that of the fuel-air explosives used by the US and Russian armies – so-called “vacuum bombs” that ignite fuel droplets above a target. According to the CIA, those near the ignition point are obliterated. Those at the fringes are likely to suffer many internal injuries, including burst eardrums, severe concussion, ruptured lungs and internal organs,

and possibly blindness.” Such tactical weapons, however, are squibs when set against methane-air clouds from oceanic eruptions. Scientists calculate that they could “destroy terrestrial life almost entirely (251m years ago, only one large land animal, the pig-like lystrosaurus, survived). It has been estimated that a large eruption in future could release energy equivalent to 108 megatonnes of TNT – 100,000 times more than the world’s entire stockpile of nuclear weapons. Not even Lynas, for all his scientific propriety, can avoid the Hollywood ending. “It is not too difficult to imagine the ultimate nightmare, with oceanic methane eruptions near large population centres wiping out billions of people – perhaps in days. Imagine a ‘fuel-air explosive’ fireball racing towards a city – London, say, or Tokyo – the blast wave spreading out from the explosive centre with the speed and force of an atomic bomb. Buildings are flattened, people are incinerated where they stand, or left blind and deaf by the force of the explosion. Mix Hiroshima with post-Katrina New Orleans to get some idea of what such a catastrophe might look like: burnt survivors battling over food, wandering far and wide from empty cities.

Then would come hydrogen sulphide from the stagnant oceans. “It would be a silent killer: imagine the scene at Bhopal following the Union Carbide gas release in 1984, replayed first at coastal settlements, then continental interiors across the world. At the same time, as the ozone layer came under assault, we would feel the sun’s rays burning into our skin, and the first cell mutations would be triggering outbreaks of cancer among anyone who survived. Dante’s hell was a place of judgment, where humanity was for ever punished for its sins. With all the remaining forests burning, and the corpses of people, livestock and wildlife piling up in every continent, the six-degree world would be a harsh penalty indeed for the mundane crime of burning fossil energy.

To explore scientific articles discussing various aspects of this grim scenario above...

Methane and Global Warming – Updated September 29th, 2016
<http://climatechange12.com/methane-and-global-warming/>

Is it hype or is methane a real threat, capable of accelerating the 6th greatest extinction, including that of mankind? Below is an unbiased collection of source material from respected and accredited sources that present explore these very questions.

Today, current evidence cannot categorically be used to determine future emissions and impact of Arctic methane releases with a degree of certainty. It is important to diligently study the Arctic permafrost and shallow seabeds for any activity and carefully monitor the methane clathrate melt rates. CLIP

Including...

Seven facts you need to know about the Arctic methane timebomb - 5 August 2013

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/earth-insight/2013/aug/05/7-facts-need-to-know-arctic-methane-time-bomb>

Dismissals of catastrophic methane danger ignore robust science in favour of outdated mythology of climate safety

(...) One source of these emissions "may be highly potential and extremely mobile shallow methane hydrates, whose stability zone is seabed permafrost-related and could be disturbed upon permafrost development, degradation, and thawing." Even if the methane hydrates are deep, fissures, taliks and other soft spots create heat pathways from the seabed which warms quickly due to shallow depths. Various mechanisms for such processes have been elaborated in detail.

The paper then posits the plausibility of a 50 Gigatonne (Gt) methane release occurring abruptly "at any time." Noting that the total quantity of carbon in the ESAS is "not less than 1,400 Gt", the authors wrote:

"Since the area of geological disjunctives (fault zones, tectonically and seismically active areas) within the Siberian Arctic shelf composes not less than 1-2% of the total area and area of open taliks (area of melt through permafrost), acting as a pathway for methane escape within the Siberian Arctic shelf reaches up to 5-10% of the total area, we consider release of up to 50 Gt of predicted amount of hydrate storage as highly possible for

abrupt release at any time. That may cause ~12-times increase of modern atmospheric methane burden with consequent catastrophic greenhouse warming."

So the 50 Gt scenario used by the new Nature paper does not postulate the total release of the ESAS methane hydrate reservoir, but only a tiny fraction of it.

(...) New research led by Prof Antony Vaks published this year in Science analysing a 500,000 year history of Siberian permafrost found that "global climates only slightly warmer than today are sufficient to thaw significant regions of permafrost." The study by eight experts found that there is a tipping point for continuous thawing of permafrost at 1.5C which "can potentially lead to substantial release of carbon trapped in the permafrost into the atmosphere."

(...) All this proves that the \$60 trillion price-tag for Arctic warming estimated by the latest Nature commentary should be taken seriously, prompting further urgent research and action on mitigation - rather than denounced on the basis of outdated, ostrich-like objections based on literature unacquainted with the ESAS.

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Who knows for sure what will happen? A selected portion of surviving humans may have indeed, at some point in the future, to retreat deep underground for millennia if we are not soon much more careful and don't stop ASAP our ever-expanding use of fossil fuels... Releasing the exotic ET zero-point limitless energy production technologies the Deep Government possesses would seem like a sensible thing to do NOW... (Check Wikileaks' Podesta Email Leak Mentions E.T. Disclosure and Zero Point Energy at <http://www.anonews.co/wikileaks-e-t/>)

The solutions do exist...

MULTIPLE SCIENTISTS CONFIRM THE REALITY OF FREE ENERGY – HERE'S THE PROOF

<http://www.collective-evolution.com/2013/10/11/multiple-scientists-confirm-the-reality-of-free-energy-heres-the-proof/>

The collective will is still missing though, because most people have no real clue about the devastating consequences of what we are currently doing to our sole global life-support system, and far too many just care about their immediate needs, being entertained and letting "others" take care of the problems.

Yet, in Canada, Global Ethical Investment is rising fast. According to <http://investingforthesoul.com>

Ethical investment demand outstrips adviser interest. (...) Canadian RI Assets Surpass \$1.5 Trillion, up 49% in two years: Canadian RI Trends Report. "The 2016 Canadian Responsible Investment Trends Report reveals that Canada's responsible investment (RI) market is continuing to experience rapid growth. Responsible investment refers to the incorporation of environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) factors into the selection and management of investments.

(...) Green Bond Giant Awakened by Countries Spending to Save Climate. "Sovereign debt pool of \$44.5 trillion starts going green."

(...) 630 Companies And Investors Tell Washington: Continue Accelerating the Low-Carbon Economy.

"The company signatories, which include DuPont, Gap Inc., General Mills, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Hilton, HP Inc., IKEA, Johnson & Johnson, The Kellogg Company, Levi Strauss & Co., L'Oreal USA, NIKE, Mars Incorporated, Pacific Gas and Electric, Schneider Electric, Sealed Air, Starbucks, VF Corporation, Unilever, among others. These signatories collectively take in nearly \$1.15 trillion in annual revenue, are headquartered across 44 states, and employ about 1.8 million people."

[COMMENTARY] Most American CEOs know that a sustainability/ESG focus assists profits, stock prices, and competitiveness. There is no turning back, especially as renewable energy becomes cost competitive with fossil fuels -- even without any subsidies!

<https://www.ceres.org/press/press-releases/630-companies-and-investors-tell-washington-continue-accelerating-the-low-carbon-economy630>

Companies And Investors Tell Washington: Continue Accelerating the Low-Carbon Economy, press release, January 10, 2017, Ceres, USA.

Even foolish Trump wont be able to reverse this trend! So there is still hope... But everything is hanging by a thinning thread and time for Green Action is absolutely NOW.

Talking about Green action, I got the following idea in a lucid dream last week. Governments around the world should start an Eco-Green Card incentivizing program to enlist and stimulate the public's participation into the global effort to steer clear of a global environmental catastrophe, since solely relying on a top-down approach and coercitive measures won't be enough. It would work like this.

Everyone either of voting age or earning enough to pay income taxes would be issued an Eco-Green Card they would present, if they so choose, every time they buy a product or service. As an example : several fidelity cards are issued by chain stores and supermarkets enabling their clients to earn points redeemable for products. Credit card companies also offer similar point-accruing systems, whereas the more you use their credit card, the more bonus dollars you get, which you may use to buy from a list of options.

Eco-green consumers would be rewarded every time they buy anything from a government-approved list of products and services that have received an eco label (a Green Label Certification Program would complement this) as good for the environment and rated according to how beneficial each product/service is for the local and global environment. The certification process of the products and services would not only include their impact (from mildly positive to very positive) on the global commons, but also take into consideration, whenever feasible and relevant, the average distance between the production sites and the stores, if it is contributing to fair trade between the initial product/service providers and the end-buyers, as well as a number of other ethical factors (like not harming animals) that need to be defined and refined, a bit like the current criteria used for ethical investments.

The rewards offered can be modelled on many existing incentivizing programs, like those adopted to stimulate the sales of electric cars, being either direct payments from the governments to reduce the product's cost for the end-buyer, but more preferably, and possibly in addition to immediate rebates, a system of point ratings that would enable the consumers to lower their income tax bracket according to how green or not their overall consumption habits have been in the past year - the income tax rate of every taxpayer would be adjusted yearly based on the category of green consumption they would have qualified for.

Eventually, if the incentivizing program does not give good enough results, the consumers whose consumption habits are below a certain minimal green threshold could see their income-tax rate go up proportionally to how bad their choices have been in the past year, before filling their income tax report. For this rating to be accurate, as non eco-friendly people won't show their green card for eco-detrimental purchases, information about the rate attributed to each product could be incorporated in the code bar of each product sold and thus simultaneously scanned at every sales point as the price code bar is read, and this data will have to be tied somehow with each customer's ID – but this is more tricky and would have to be designed in a way that the privacy of each person as to what they buy is protected. And of course, cash-only payments and black market transactions would remain under the radar. Also, to prevent this more coercitive version of the Eco-Green Card Program from being perceived as a dictatorial encroachment on the freedom to choice of individual consumers, it would have, before its implementation, to pass the test of a national referendum after a strong enough promotional and explanatory campaign to ensure, hopefully, a wide enough social acceptance of the need to adopt it – if a referendum is deemed to be a unworkable option.

Otherwise, it should start as an opt-in program whereas there would be no coercitive higher tax rate imposed on the eco-laggard, but only an incentive-based system, as described above, rewarding those who have decided to be part of the Solution instead of the Problem. And that would need no referendum. In many countries, the level of public awareness of the need for a global push to save the Earth is already strong enough to ensure the immediate success of this program. Of course, in those cases,

to offset the depletion of income from eco-virtuous taxpayers, governments would have to increase their tax levies on fossil fuel and other eco-detrimental corporations. But likewise, eco-friendly corporations would also be rewarded with their own system of tax rewards. Cancelling the billions in subsidies still enjoyed by fossil fuel industries would easily compensate for the loss of income tax revenues from eco-friendly corporations – at least in the short term.

Of course, this is all a rough sketch of this idea I got in my dream, but I recall that the level of enthusiasm it was creating in everyone's mind and heart (in my dream's vision), that finally everyone had a clear incentive to contribute in saving the Earth, was a really powerful boon to most people and a cause for great hope for a brighter future.

Feedbacks are welcomed and, of course, there is no copyright of this Eco-Green Card idea. So if you feel like using it and helping to implement it, you are most welcomed.

Jean Hudon