
CO₂—Greening Earth and Saving Lives

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ABSTRACT

The science of what is causing climate change is very complex, too complex for the average non-scientist citizen or policymaker or, importantly those who consider themselves environmentalists. This scientific complexity causes most non-scientists to immediately lose attention to the scientific data and just go back to listening to the attention getting catastrophes coming from the various media. So my presentation will begin with a low tech review of what CO₂ does for the environment, including the vast amount of empirical data that illustrates CO₂'s great benefits to the environment. For instance, real, peer-reviewed studies show that simply adding 300 parts per million of CO₂ to Earth's atmosphere would raise the productivity of the eight most consumed food crops by 39.3 percent!

Because this news is music to the ears of the true environmentalists, they will begin to tune in to what you are about to tell them about the climate science. After over ten years of lecturing and writing about the causes of climate change, I have found that this soft approach works best for connecting to most audiences.

Regarding the climate science, my verbal and slide presentation will cover the fact that there are at least 22 climate drivers that cause the climate to constantly change and that over the past 500 million years, the changes in CO₂ and temperature are not frequently in lock step. There has been a vast difference between empirical data and the forecasts coming from the unvalidated computer models. The climate model forecasts have been dismal failures but the media, who likes the catastrophic, headline grabbing forecasts, obviously chooses to ignore the real, empirical data that disproves the forecasts coming from the unvalidated models.

Why is the above important? Most people consider themselves environmentally sensitive to one degree or another and they are easy prey to being told that the dirty old oil gas and coal are bad for the environment. All these people vote. We need to show them that the real, empirical data we have can prove to them that they have been on the wrong side of this issue. There are marvelous things that can happen if we simply allow CO₂ to continue to increase in Earth's atmosphere.

One illustration will show that analysis of data from an ice core in Antarctica demonstrates that the changes in atmospheric CO₂ usually FOLLOW, rather than lead changes in temperature. A cause does not follow an effect!

Another illustration will show that data analyzed by statisticians from Cal Berkley and Cal Santa Barbara, two rather liberal universities, indicates that just with the extension in longevity caused by people moving from the north and northeast to Texas, Flori-

da, and Arizona, the average longevity in the United States has increased by at least two percent and possibly seven percent. Those living in the much warmer climates of the south are living considerably longer than the brethren they left in the colder climates. So what is wrong with longer growing seasons and living longer if it is caused by a little global warming, no matter what it's cause.