

Carbon budgets in the media

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Carbon budgets

“The simplicity of the concept of a cumulative carbon emission budget makes it attractive for policy.”

Collins et al. (2013) IPCC AR5 WG1 Chapter 12

“Carbon budgets provide one of the simplest and most transparent means of connecting geophysical limits imposed by the Earth system to implications for climate policy.”

Rogelj et al. (2019) Nature

Carbon budgets in the media



REUTERS

Greens draw up " carbon budget " to protect climate.

Rosalind Russell, 2 October 1997

“In a new report, [Greenpeace] has drawn up a "carbon budget" detailing how much carbon dioxide can be released into the atmosphere before the Earth heats up to levels which may cause ‘unprecedented damage to human and natural systems’.”

Carbon budgets in the media



REUTERS

COLUMN-Busting the carbon budget : Kemp

John Kemp, 17 May 2013

“So far, the concepts of a carbon budget and of a maximum amount of fossil fuels that can be burned have not got much traction with policymakers, corporations or the public.”

IPCC carbon budget

Cumulative CO ₂ emissions from 1870 in GtCO ₂									
Net anthropogenic warming ^a	<1.5°C			<2°C			<3°C		
Fraction of simulations meeting goal ^b	66%	50%	33%	66%	50%	33%	66%	50%	33%
Complex models, RCP scenarios only ^c	2250	2250	2550	2900	3000	3300	4200	4500	4850
Simple model, WGIII scenarios ^d	No data	2300 to 2350	2400 to 2950	2550 to 3150	2900 to 3200	2950 to 3800	n.a. ^e	4150 to 5750	5250 to 6000
Cumulative CO ₂ emissions from 2011 in GtCO ₂									
Complex models, RCP scenarios only ^c	400	550	850	1000	1300	1500	2400	2800	3250
Simple model, WGIII scenarios ^d	No data	550 to 600	600 to 1150	750 to 1400	1150 to 1400	1150 to 2050	n.a. ^e	2350 to 4000	3500 to 4250
Total fossil carbon available in 2011 ^f : 3670 to 7100 GtCO ₂ (reserves) and 31300 to 50050 GtCO ₂ (resources)									

IPCC Synthesis Report, 2014

Carbon budgets in the media

The New York Times

U.N. Climate Panel Endorses Ceiling on Global Emissions

Justin Gillis, 27 September 2013

“Going well beyond its four previous analyses of the emissions problem, the panel endorsed a ‘carbon budget’ for humanity – a limit on the amount of the primary greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, that can be produced by industrial activities and the clearing of forests.”

Carbon budgets in the media

IPCC: 30 years to climate calamity if we carry on blowing the carbon budget

Fiona Harvey, The Guardian, 27 September 2013

How to Slice a Global Carbon Pie?

Justin Gillis, The New York Times, 7 October 2013

'Carbon budget' talks urgent, warns Lord Stern

Fiona Harvey, The Guardian, 29 September 2013

Climate change is happening - but it's not too late

Editorial, The Independent, 27 September 2013

A good basis for action on 'carbon budget'

Mukul Sanwal, China Daily, 8 October 2013

Carbon budgets in the media

“Over the last few years, the concept of a global carbon budget has established itself as a key element of the international climate policy debate.”

Oliver Geden, The New York Times, 1 December 2015

Carbon budgets in the media



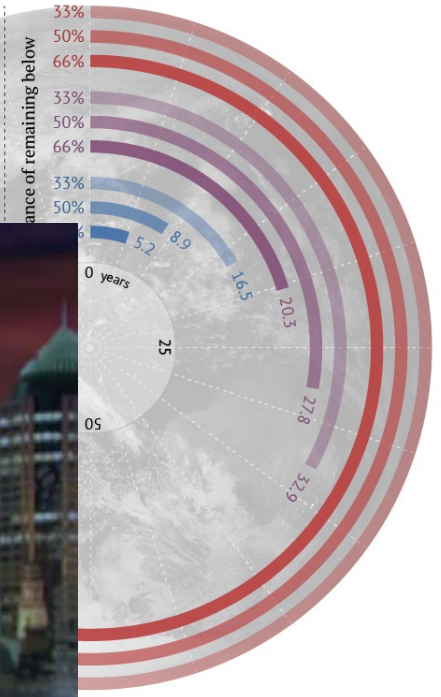
Carbon Countdown

How many years of current emissions would use up the IPCC's carbon budgets for different levels of warming?

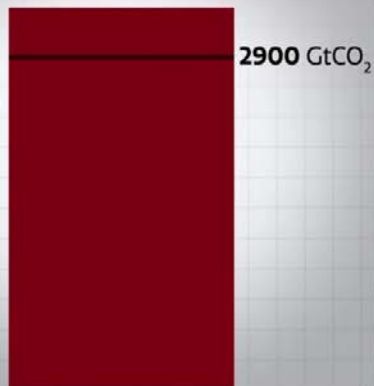
3°C

2°C

1.5°C



Carbon Budget



66% probability of staying below 2°C

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CLEAR ON CLIMATE

ipcc
INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



GLOBAL



CARBON
PROJECT

Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, 4 June 2017

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CLEAR ON CLIMATE

But then...

nature
geoscience

ARTICLES

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Emission budgets and pathways consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 °C

Richard J. Millar^{1,2*}, Jan S. Fuglestedt³, Pierre Friedlingstein¹, Joeri Rogelj^{4,5}, Michael J. Grubb⁶, H. Damon Matthews⁷, Ragnhild B. Skeie³, Piers M. Forster⁸, David J. Frame⁹ and Myles R. Allen^{2,10}

Nature Geoscience, 18 September 2017

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Coverage

Ambitious 1.5C Paris climate target is still possible, new analysis shows

The Guardian

New climate change calculations could buy the Earth some time – if they're right

The Washington Post

This Study Says We Might Actually Avoid Catastrophic Climate Change

BuzzFeed News

Scientists say Paris climate change targets on global warning still possible

Press Association

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CLEAR ON CLIMATE

Coverage



David Attenborough's diaries My run-in with an orangutan

INSIDE TIMES? Men, it's all about your jawline

May tries to rein in Johnson before keynote Brexit speech

Francis Elliott Political Editor
Sam Coates Ottawa Oliver Wright

Theresa May has summoned ministers to a special cabinet meeting at which she will seek to bind Boris Johnson to her vision of Brexit on the eve of a key speech this week.

The foreign secretary has piled on the pressure against a compromise with

the EU. He refused yesterday to rule out resigning as he said that Britain should not have to pay "extortionate" sums for access to the single market, and that a post-Brexit transition should not be "too long". Mrs May rebuked him mildly for setting out his vision before her speech in Florence on Friday.

The prime minister wants to use the speech to restart stalled Brexit talks. Mr

Johnson is said to have broken cover because he feared that she was about to signal approval for a soft Brexit deal.

Visiting Canada yesterday, Mrs May denied that her cabinet was split between Brexiteers such as Mr Johnson and Michael Gove, who want a relationship with the EU modelled on the Canadian free-trade deal, and those like Philip Hammond, the chancellor, who

prefer the Norway model. No 10 does not rule out that she will be flanked by senior ministers in Florence. First she must win the backing of Mr Johnson: both are in New York this week, and are due to hold talks. The foreign secretary said yesterday that his 4,200-word newspaper article on Saturday was a "bit of an opening drum roll".

Lord Hague of Richmond, the Tory

former leader, has warned that Mrs May risks an irreparable split in the party if she does not seek on Friday to unite the cabinet around a plan for Brexit. Writing in *The Daily Telegraph*, he says it is "high time" that senior ministers agree. If they fail, he says, "Jeremy Corbyn will be prime minister." David Davis isolated, pages 8-9 Rachel Sylvester, page 27



Perfect accessories Spring-summer pieces by the British designer Sophia Webster were shown yesterday as part of London Fashion Week. Dresses to impress, page 26

Climate change disaster can be averted, say experts

Scientists admit that world is warming more slowly than predicted

Ben Webster Environment Editor

The worst impacts of climate change can still be avoided, senior scientists have said after revising their previous predictions.

The world has warmed more slowly than had been forecast by computer models, which were "on the hot side" and overstated the impact of emissions, a new study has found. Its predictions suggest that the world has a better chance than previously claimed of meeting the goal set by the Paris agreement

on climate change to limit warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, makes clear that rapid reductions in emissions will still be required but suggests that the world has more time to make the changes.

Michael Grubb, professor of international energy and climate change at University College London and one of the study's authors, admitted that his past prediction had been wrong.

He stated during the climate summit in Paris in December 2015: "All the

evidence from the past 15 years leads me to conclude that actually delivering 1.5C is simply incompatible with democracy." He told *The Times* yesterday: "When the facts change, I change my mind, as [John Maynard] Keynes said. It's still likely to be very difficult to achieve these kind of changes quickly enough but we are in a better place than I thought."

The latest study found that a group of computer models used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had predicted a more rapid

temperature increase than had taken place. Global average temperature has risen by about 0.9C since pre-industrial times but there was a slowdown in the rate of warming for 15 years before 2014.

Myles Allen, professor of geosystem science at the University of Oxford and another author, said: "We haven't seen that rapid acceleration in warming after 2000 that we see in the models. We haven't seen that in the observations." He added that the group of about a dozen computer models, produced by

Continued on page 2, col 3

The secret of happiness lies in a good night's sleep

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

Which would you rather: a 50 per cent pay rise or a good night's sleep? Anyone who puts their happiness first should choose the latter, research suggests.

An analysis has revealed that quality of sleep has by far the strongest association with wellbeing among elements of our lifestyle that we can control.

Spicing up our sex lives, chatting to neighbours, going for a walk, eating with family and looking up school and university friends are linked to happiness

but sleeping well outweighs them all, the study says. Income had a weak association with wellbeing: a 50 per cent rise in disposable earnings was linked with a fractionally higher happiness score.

The findings come from a survey of 8,250 British adults conducted by the National Centre for Social Research and analysed by Oxford Economics. They were asked about happiness and wellbeing and the results were compared with 18 questions on lifestyle. It did not include things that people are unable to control such as age, gender, ethnicity and education. Health was also excluded.

The research found that people who feel rested had a higher sense of self-worth and were less likely to be anxious. "Better sleep is the biggest single contributor to better living," the report said.

"Over 60 per cent of the group living well felt well rested most or all of the time after sleep but less than 5 per cent of the group struggling felt this way."

Parents with children under five had the strongest sense of wellbeing despite financial worries and poor-quality sleep, however, as living with infants and stronger social and community ties outweighed these pressures. Parents with grown-up children were the next happiest followed by older people without children; those with children aged six to 18 were more likely to be dissatisfied.

The results showed an association between factors but not necessarily a causal relationship, the authors said. The study was carried out for the supermarket group Sainsbury's.

Leading article, page 11

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Climate change

Analysis

government institutes and universities around the world, had been assembled a decade ago "so it's not that surprising that it's starting to divert a little bit from observations". Too many of the models used "were on the hot side", meaning they forecast too much warming.

According to the models, keeping the average temperature increase below 1.5C would mean that the world could emit only about 70 billion tonnes of carbon after 2015. At the present rate of emissions, this "carbon budget" would be used up in three to five years. Under the new assessment, the world can emit another 240 billion tonnes and still have a reasonable chance of keeping the temperature increase below 1.5C.

"That's about 20 years of emissions before temperatures are likely to cross 1.5C," Professor Allen said. "It's the difference between being not doable and being just doable."

Professor Grubb said that the fresh assessment was good news for island states in the Pacific, such as the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu, which could be inundated by rising seas if the average temperature rose by more than 1.5C.

Other factors pointed to more

When 194 nations met in Paris in 2015 and agreed to try to limit the increase in global average temperature to 1.5C, many scientists dismissed the goal as unattainable (Ben Webster writes).

They said it would be politically and economically impossible to cut emissions fast enough

and that the world would have to prepare for worse droughts and heatwaves and islands disappearing beneath rising seas.

Now it turns out the scientists were being too pessimistic and had been led astray by computer models.

Other factors have also contributed to the new, more optimistic assessment, including the cost of

renewable energy and China's emissions growth both falling faster than almost anyone had predicted.

Computer models remain the best way to work out how quickly we need to cut emissions to avoid climate change, but scientists could be nimbler at revising them when actual readings diverge from predictions.

optimism on climate change, including China reducing its growth in emissions much faster than predicted and the cost of offshore windfarms falling steeply in Britain. Professor Grubb called on governments to commit themselves to steeper cuts in emissions than they had pledged under the Paris agreement to keep warming below 1.5C. He added: "We're in the midst of an energy revolution and it's happening faster than we thought, which makes it

much more credible for governments to tighten the effort they put on the table at Paris."

The Met Office acknowledged yesterday a 15-year slowdown in the rise in average temperature but said that this pause had ended in 2014, the first of three record warm years. The slowing had been caused by the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, a pattern of warm and cool phases in Pacific sea-surface temperature, it said.

We were wrong — worst effects of climate change can be avoided, say experts

Scientists admit that world is warming more slowly than predicted

The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

NEWS BRIEFING

Ryanair facing £17m cancelled flights bill

Ryanair could have to pay €20 million (£17 million) in compensation for cancelling the flights of around 100,000 people after "missing up" its winter holiday rota. Michael O'Leary, the low-cost airline's chief executive, apologised for the blun and claimed the company would not argue the "exceptional circumstances", which could have frustrated passengers' attempts to claim recompense for any delays or cancellations.

Business, page 1

Sex and sleep are the key to happiness

For true happiness, look to boosting your time in the bedroom rather than your bank balance. The Living Well Index, developed by researchers at DePaul University, found that sex and sleep were more significant than multiplying your income. Polling carried out by the National Centre for Social Research found that the most rested people scored 15 points higher on the index, while those earning higher salaries gained just two points.

Page 2

Rio, lord of the ring?

Former England star Ferdinand takes up boxing

Sport, pages 4-5

May must unite Tories on Brexit or lose election, warns Hague

Prime Minister faces Cabinet split over EU deal as she prepares for key speech to set out plan

By Gordon Rayner POLITICAL EDITOR and Christopher Hope in Ottawa

Theresa May must use a landmark speech on Friday to unite the Cabinet around an agreed plan for Brexit or risk an irreparable split in the Conservative Party, Lord Hague warns today. The former party leader says senior ministers "lack co-ordination" 15 months on from the EU referendum and it is "high time" they settle on an agreed plan.

Writing in today's *Daily Telegraph*, Lord Hague says that if Mrs May's landmark Brexit speech in Florence on Friday fails to unite the Cabinet, "Jeremy Corbyn will be prime minister".

As the Prime Minister prepares to set out her vision for post-Brexit Britain in her speech, a fresh Cabinet row has emerged over what sort of deal the Government should aim for.

Boris Johnson, the Foreign Secretary, and Michael Gove, the Environment Secretary, favour a deal similar to the one being negotiated with the EU by Canada, which eliminates 90 per cent of trade tariffs and involves a clean break from Brussels.

But Philip Hammond, the Chancellor, and Amber Rudd, the Home Secretary, are said to favour a Swiss-style arrangement, in which Britain could pay to access the single market.

At a press conference in Canada last night, Mrs May insisted she did not face a "binary choice" between the two models as Britain was pursuing its own bespoke deal.

Following days of in-fighting, Mrs May attempted to regain control of the Brexit process by appointing Oliver Robbins, the UK's chief day-to-day Brexit negotiator, to a new post where he will report directly to her rather than his old boss, David Davis, the Brexit Secretary.

She also landed a put-down to Mr Johnson, described as a "backstab driver" on Brexit at the weekend, by saying: "The Government is driven from the front".

The discord over Brexit was further highlighted when Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, who works closely with Mr Hammond, used a speech in Washington DC to make a



On bond: Boris Johnson and Donald Trump shake hands at the UN headquarters in New York, where Mr Johnson will meet Theresa May later this week

series of gloomy predictions about the effects of leaving the EU. He said the referendum result was "a real shock" about which monetary policy can do little and said it would lead to "weaker real incomes" as well as higher inflation and increased interest rates. He also suggested that "abrupt decreases in migration" could lead to labour shortages that would have a detrimental effect on the economy. Mr Johnson set out the Brexit agenda last week when he set out his own detailed vision for Britain's future in an article for *The Daily Telegraph*, and it has now emerged that he fears that Mrs May will use Friday's speech to signal a Swiss-style deal that would yoke Britain to EU laws and regulations. Swi-



zerland pays for access to the single market but does not contribute to other EU funds such as the Common Agricultural Policy. "It also accepts freedom of movement but is not part of the customs union, its arrangement means it has to abide by vast swathes of EU regulations. According to a House of Commons research paper, such an arrangement would mean Britain paying 40 per cent of what it currently does, or £2 billion per year. Mr Johnson, who met President Donald Trump in the US yesterday, warned that Britain must not agree to pay "exorbitant sums" for access to the single market, adding: "They would not pay us for access to our market." He also said it was "crucial impor-

tant" that any transition period "should not be too long" while consulting that Britain would have to pay what it is "on the hook for" in the short term. Mr Johnson is furious that the Cabinet met behind his back to discuss Brexit while he was in the Caribbean surveying hurricane damage, and believes that Mr Hammond and Ms Rudd used the opportunity to lobby for a Swiss-style deal, known as European Economic Area Mitus, or EEA+. Instead, Mr Johnson and Mr Gove are pushing for a deal that is more akin to Canada's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement on Page 5. Richard Whelan, Page 16 Editorial Comment: Page 12

Bomb ingredients sold together on Amazon

By Kate McCann and Hayley Dixon AMAZON was last night accused of selling bomb makers as the former head of the CIA said that social media comparisons must take a share of the blame for the Parsons Green bucket bomb.

The online retail giant was found to group key bomb components under the "fragramingly together" tab. Although many of the ingredients are innocent on their own, together they can be used to create explosives.

When buying a certain chemical on Amazon the ingredients to make black

powder are offered. The "customers also bought tab" also offered steel ball bearings, push-button switches and battery connectors and cables. Ignition systems and remote detonators are also available on the website, it was found in a Channel 4 investigation which questioned why Amazon should be making bomb components available.

A report was also released yesterday in which Gen David Petraeus, the former CIA chief, said Google, Twitter and Facebook were failing to tackle online extremism as it emerged jihadist content gets more traffic in Britain than

any other European country. Gen Petraeus, who wrote the forward to a Policy Exchange report calling for a new regulator with the power to fine companies, said last week's attack "merely underscored once again the ever-present nature of this threat" as the device could be built from instructions online. He added: "Social media platforms, internet service providers and other tech companies clearly have central roles to play in the effort to counter extremist groups in cyberspace. I think it is fair to ask whether their efforts

Climate models are 'wrong'

By Henry Bodkin CLIMATE change poses less of an immediate threat to the planet than was thought because scientists got their modelling wrong, a study has suggested.

Research by British scientists found that the world was being polluted and warming up at a slower rate than 10-year-old forecasts predicted, giving countries more time to get a grip on their carbon output.

An unexpected "revolution" in affordable renewable energy has also

contributed to the more positive outlook. Experts now say there is a two-in-three chance of keeping global temperatures within 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, the ultimate goal of the 2015 Paris agreement.

They also condemned the "overreaction" to the US's withdrawal from the pact, announced by Donald Trump in June, saying it is unlikely to make a significant difference.

According to the models used to draw up the agreement, the world ought now to be 1.3 degrees above the

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Forecast errors buy time to slow global warming

Continued from Page 1

mid-19th century average, whereas the most recent observations suggest it is actually between 0.9 to 1 degree above.

The discrepancy means nations could continue emitting carbon dioxide at the current rate for another 20 years before the target was breached, instead of the three to five predicted by the previous model.

"When you are talking about a budget of 1.5 degrees, then a 0.3 degree difference is a big deal", said Professor Myles Allen, of Oxford University, and one of the authors of the new study.

Published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, it suggests that if polluting peaks and then declines to below current levels before 2030 and then continues to drop more sharply, there is a 66 per cent chance of global average temperatures staying below 1.5 degrees.

The goal was yesterday described as "very ambitious" but "physically possible". Another reason the climate outlook is less bleak than previously thought is stabilising emissions, par-

ticularly in China. Renewable energy has also enjoyed more use than was predicted. China has acquired more than 100 gigawatts of solar cells, 25 per cent of which in the last six months, and in the UK, offshore wind has turned out to cost less than expected.

Professor Michael Grubb, from University College London, had described the goals agreed at Paris in 2015 as "incompatible with democracy". But yesterday he said: "We're in the midst of an energy revolution and it's happening faster than we thought, which makes it much more credible for governments to tighten the offer they put on the table at Paris." He added that President Trump's withdrawal from the agreement would not be significant because "the White House's position doesn't have much impact on US emissions".

"The smaller constituencies - cities, businesses, states - are just saying they're getting on with it, partly for carbon reduction, but partly because there's this energy revolution and they don't want to be left behind," he said.

Coverage

By **Collin Fernandez**
Science Correspondent

THE threat of global warming is not as bad as previously thought, climate scientists admitted yesterday.

Warnings made in 2015 at the Paris Climate Change Conference had been too pessimistic, they said.

These were based on projections that suggested nations had already produced too much greenhouse gas to limit global warming to between 2C and 1.5C above 19th-century levels.

This meant drastic and urgent cuts would have to be made in greenhouse gases to stop a climate catastrophe.

But yesterday academics admitted that they had been wrong – and we have a longer time frame to reduce the amount of fossil fuels we burn.

A revolution in solar power, particularly in China, has dramatically cut the amount of carbon dioxide produced, researchers said.

The research by British scientists shows that under the old projections, the world ought now to be 1.3C warmer than the mid-19th century average. In fact the new analysis shows it is between 0.9C and 1C above. Michael Grubb,

'More room than we thought'

professor of international energy and climate change at University College London, accepted that the old projections had been wrong.

He said the new research 'suggests we have more room than we thought', while global emissions, particularly from China, have stabilised earlier than expected, he said.

Myles Allen, professor of geosystem science at the Oxford University, said that if the world followed 'ambitious' reductions of emissions from where things stand today, there would be even odds of meeting the 1.5C goal.

'It's not out of sight, physically, it's not geophysically

Fear of global warming is exaggerated, say scientists



Rutherford: Campaign

BBC's climate rant rebuke

THE BBC has had to give a leading presenter a dressing down after he launched an online campaign against an MP sceptical about climate change.

Geneticist Dr Adam Rutherford, who hosts Radio 4's Inside Science, took aim at Labour MP Graham Stringer after he was re-appointed to the science and technology select committee.

He urged his Twitter followers to lobby to get Mr Stringer blocked. 'We need you [sic] righteous indignation on this. Please write to your MPs. It is

not OK to have science so misrepresented in a democracy,' he wrote and pointed out Mr Stringer was a trustee of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, a sceptical thinktank, saying 'it gets worse'.

Mr Stringer, a chemistry graduate and former scientist, complained directly to BBC Director-General Lord Tony Hall, writing: 'It is completely inappropriate for a BBC employee to be running a political campaign...misrepresenting me to the point of defamation.'

impossible,' he said. Professor Allen pointed to China, which had rolled out 100 gigawatts (GW) of solar power, a quarter of it in the past six months, and to tumbling prices of offshore wind power in the UK.

'It is looking more hopeful for these multiple reasons

that we can deliver the Paris goals,' he said.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries submitted national plans for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, with a process to update and increase levels of climate action every five years amid recognition

that current commitments are not enough.

Professor Grubb said: 'We're in the midst of an energy revolution and it's happening faster than we thought, which makes it much more credible for governments to tighten the offer they put on the table at Paris.'

Daily Mail

COMMENT

Scientists' hot air

FOR the umpteenth time, climate change scientists have been proved wrong, with evidence of global warming falling short of their alarmist predictions.

Yet not a whisper of apology do they utter for the swingeing green taxes levied on energy bills – or the landscapes and sea views destroyed by unsightly wind farms – on the strength of their prophecies of catastrophe.

Instead, they say their latest mistake merely means we have longer than they thought to prevent temperatures from rising to a danger level.

Meanwhile, they ask us to believe that their miscalculation can be partly explained by a revolution in solar power, particularly in China.

Nobody believes more strongly than the Mail that we should strive to look after our planet for our children and grandchildren.

But wouldn't it be easier to trust the green lobby, in whose name we're forced to make such huge sacrifices, if just occasionally they got their forecasts right?

CarbonBrief

CLEAR ON CLIMATE

Now that's an inconvenient truth

AL GORE, the US politician and self-appointed champion of the green cause, famously declared that 'the science is settled' on climate change.

It was a claim that revealed far more about the intolerance of the environmental movement than the reality of scientific inquiry.

Research should be founded on critical analysis of the evidence, not on wishful thinking or enforcement of a political ideology.

Now the hollowness of Gore's assertion is exposed again by a vital new report that shows how the apocalyptic predictions of the green lobby have been exaggerated.

In a study just published by the respected journal *Nature Geoscience*, a group of British academics reveals that the immediate threat from global warming is lower than previously thought, because the computer models used by climate change experts are flawed.

According to the models, temperatures across the world should now be at least 1.3 degrees above the mid-19th century average, which is taken as a base level in such calculations. But the British report demonstrates that the rise is only between 0.2 and 1 degree.

'That discrepancy is 'a big deal', says Professor Myles Allen of Oxford University, one of the authors of the study. He is absolutely right.

'The importance of this new investigation cannot be downplayed. It shows that so many of the assumptions behind the imposition of the fashionable eco agenda — such as the creation of vast, subsidised wind farms or the levying of green taxes — are wrong. Yet the environmental warriors show not a shred of embarrassment over these new findings.'

Arrogance

There has been no word of apology, no sign of humility. Remarkably, they carry on preaching their dihard gospel. With their habitual arrogance, they argue that the lower levels of global warming mean that we now have even more time to implement their radical policies.

They don't seem to have considered for a moment that we might consider throttling back on the extreme measures we're told must be carried out to 'save the planet'. They display such certainty because environmentalism increasingly resembles a religious creed.

That has certainly been my experience as a Labour MP who, because of my own knowledge of science, has long been sceptical about the climate change doctrine.

This outlook has made me a target for green campaigners, who seem to think that no voices should be heard but their own.

A disgraceful example of this impulse towards censorship came recently from the genecist and BBC presenter Dr Adam Rutherford, who

A report shows the world isn't as warm as the green doom-mongers warned. So will energy bills now fall? Fat chance!

by **Graham Stringer**



LABOUR MP AND MEMBER OF COMMONS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SELECT COMMITTEE

hosts the Radio 4 programme *Inside Science*.

Taking on the role of latter-day witch-hinder, Dr Rutherford recently launched a campaign to prevent my re-appointment to the Science and Technology Committee of the Commons, on the grounds of my scepticism about climate change.

Through social media, he urged his followers to show their righteous indignation by writing to their MPs.

'It is not OK to have science so misrepresented in a democracy,' he declared.

It was outrageous for a BBC presenter to behave in this manner. The Corporation is meant to be an impartial broadcaster, not a political lobbyist.

Dr Rutherford has absolutely no business trying to dictate who sits on independent parliamentary committees.

Moreover, I do not accept his accusation that I somehow 'misrepresent' science.

I actually have a degree in chemistry from Sheffield University, and before the same a full-time politician I worked as an analytical chemist in the plastics industry.

The BBC has now given him a dressing down and warned him about his future conduct on the social media accounts.

That personalised campaign is not the first time I have had unhappy dealings with

the BBC, which has long been a mouthpiece for environmental propaganda.

On one occasion, I made a programme with Conservative MP Peter Lilley and this paper's writer Quentin Letts about the way the Meteorological Office has succumbed to the green orthodoxy.

Though the programme was broadcast, the BBC Trust subsequently decided it had breached editorial guidelines on accuracy and impartiality, which meant it could not be broadcast again, and cannot be found online.

Scandal

Like so many other public institutions, the BBC has adopted its eco posture without any genuine scientific literacy. Most BBC executives and reporters would be clueless about the second law of thermodynamics.

In this highly politicised field, adherence to the correct dogma seems to count more than an open mind.

But it was precisely my willingness to question received wisdom that led to my interest in the subject of global warming.

I was particularly intrigued by the infamous scandal at the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia in 2009, when a series of leaked emails appeared to show that

scientists there had distorted historical research to suit the green narrative. As a member of the Science and Technology Select Committee, I followed the saga closely.

I was therefore disappointed when my colleagues on the Committee, having conducted an inquiry into the 'Climategate' scandal, did not come to a more robust conclusion about the scale of the scientific manipulation of the unit. Too many of them seemed to be following the herd.

But, as the latest report demonstrates, the weakness of the global warmists' case is now obvious. This is not just a question of misused data; it is essentially a matter of broken computer models and a determination to ignore any inconvenient truths.

Phoney

If the environmentalists had it right, we would now be facing global warming, a scorched Earth and rapidly rising sea levels. None of that has happened.

The International Panel on Climate Change warned that the Himalayan glaciers were melting away, a claim that it later admitted was false.

Similarly, it was argued that global warming would bring a new wave of malaria sweeping across the world. The opposite has taken place: global malaria rates are falling.

The triumph of the environmentalists has had an enormous impact on our daily lives. Successive governments have brought in green taxes, hiked fuel duties and pushed up energy bills.

The real price is paid not by the eco justice warriors wallowing in their phoney moral superiority, but by people like those in my Blackley and Brompton constituency, who struggle to meet their household running costs.

An extra £100 a year on electricity and gas might not be much to a BBC presenter, but it is a heck of a sum for someone who lives in the Harpurhey ward of Blackley, which was named in 2013 as the most deprived neighbourhood in England.

Experts also told us we should buy diesel cars because they would help us cut our CO₂ emissions. Now the same vehicles are blamed for killing thousands and repairing them cause real damage to the British economy by driving jobs overseas to India and China, and countries that are building coal-fired power stations at an astonishing rate.

This week's scientific report should mark a return to environmental sanity in place of the current dangerous green fundamentalism.

But given my own experience, I wouldn't bet on it.

As scientists admit they overstated global warming, experts say:

Cut green taxes now!

By **Colin Fernandez**
Environment Correspondent

How much the policies cost YOU

£111 is the cost of green taxes on a typical £1,160 annual dual fuel bill. This includes:

£47 for the 'Energy Companies Obligation and Green Deal', which funds energy efficient home improvements

£30 for the 'Renewable Energy Obligation', which supports solar power and wind farms

£11 for the 'Home Discount', a grant of up to £140 to help poorer pensioners pay for electricity

£8 for EU green targets, which goes to emissions trading system which caps the total amount of gases that can be emitted

£7 for 'feed-in tariff payments', paid to people with solar panels or a wind turbine for feeding electricity into the grid

£5 pays for the Carbon tax, linked to every tonne of carbon dioxide emitted

£3 for installing a new generation of high-tech smart meters

GREEN taxes on energy bills should be cut in the light of a scientific report that said global warming is less drastic than feared, experts claimed yesterday.

Around 10 per cent of a family's energy bill — roughly £111 a year — is used to subsidise renewable energy, according to official figures.

But critics now say this should be reduced because it is based on outdated information. They point out the taxes further push up the cost of living as companies and the public sector pass the costs on to consumers.

Nearly all of the world's governments are signed up to the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aimed to limit global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

Many commentators believed this was practically impossible.

But now a leading group of climate researchers has said the computer projections used in previous studies were too pessimistic and the 1.5C target is achievable, providing strict cuts to carbon dioxide are made.

The Committee on Climate Change, which advises the government on climate policy, claimed there was no reason to change its targets for cutting carbon in the light of the new paper.

But critics said that as these

estimates formed the basis of UK energy policy, it was also time to rethink the green taxes on energy intended to address them.

John Constable, chief executive of the Renewable Energy Foundation, which opposes subsidies to

wind farms said: 'This research has confirmed what a lot of people have known.

'What is significant is establishing figures are now admitting it. [Policy makers] should stop panicking and focus on cutting

costs to consumers.' The researchers, in an article in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, had said the world can emit around 240 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide — around 20 years of current emissions — and still meet the 1.5C target. Michael Grubb, professor of international energy and climate change at University College London, admitted his past prediction had been too pessimistic.

'When the facts change, I change

my mind, as [economist John Maynard] Keynes said. It's still likely to be very difficult to achieve these kind of changes quickly enough but we are in a better place than I thought,' Dr Grubb told *The Times*.

Bjorn Lomborg, author of the *Skeptical Environmentalist*, said: 'What we really need to [ask] is how do we spend our money, how much should we spend on cutting CO₂, compared to all the other things we should spend on [such as] the NHS. Are we spending too much on achieving too little?'

The Government has ordered a review of energy bills, headed by Oxford academic Professor Dieter Helm, although detailed recommendations of tax cuts do not form part of his brief.

Dr Constable added: 'Given the uncertainties of the impacts, it was irrational to send so much money on trying to reduce emissions quickly. Instead we should attempt through invention and innovation to bring emissions down in cost and reduce carbon emissions without heavy economic penalties.'

Chris Rapley professor of climate science at UCL, said: 'Whereas the indications have been up until now that limiting average global warming to 1.5C was high on impossible, the new analysis shows that if global actions are intensified, the limit could still be — just about — feasible.'

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The inconvenient truth

GRAHAM STRINGER: PAGE 16

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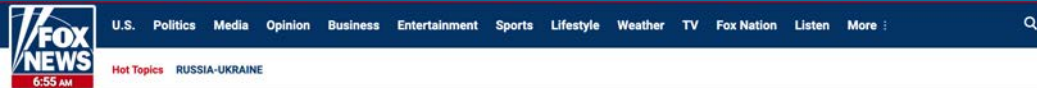
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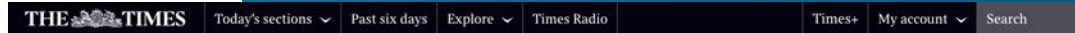


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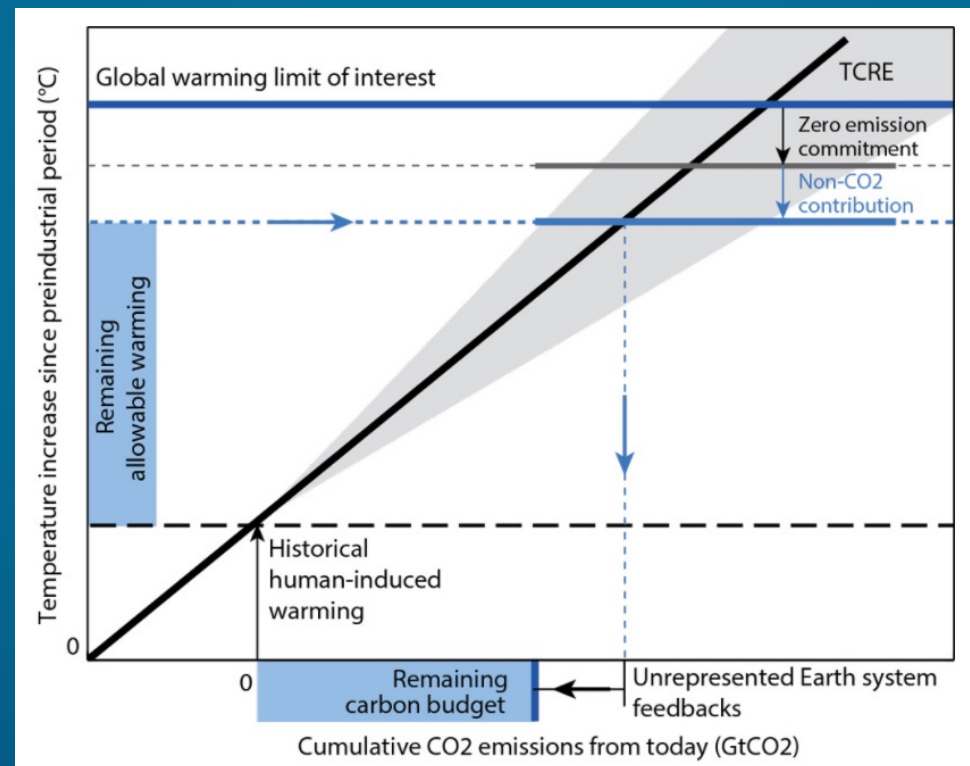
GUEST POSTS | 19 January 2021 ⌚ 17:10

Guest post: Refining the remaining 1.5C 'carbon budget'

Aftermath

“The concept of a ‘carbon budget’ has proved to be both elegantly simple and stubbornly complicated.”

Rogelj & Forster, Carbon Brief, 2019



Rogelj et al. (2019) Nature