

## Letters to the Editor

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# Historical records show that there is no man-made CO<sub>2</sub>-induced climate emergency

**Editor's note:** Climate change and the correct response to it are contentious issues. The prevailing mainstream narrative has brought together nations around the world to pledge action, but there remains a considerable number of sceptics, outliers who do not accept the arguments of the majority or the science they rely on. The Jersey Climate Forum has attracted a number of those people locally, and they have called for an open debate in the Island. My view is that while it is wrong to censor the sceptics, their assertions need to be challenged. The JEP therefore invited One Home, which sees climate change as the biggest threat facing us and advises people how to make their homes more environmentally friendly, to respond. If you would like to submit a letter for publication on this subject, please email [editorial@jerseyeveningpost.com](mailto:editorial@jerseyeveningpost.com).  
**Andy Sibcy**

● From Graeme Phipps, president of Jersey Climate Forum.

IN my previous letters I have argued that:

- Climate change is a normal, natural phenomenon.
- CO<sub>2</sub> is not a pollutant and is critical to plant life.
- There is not a 97% scientific consensus that mankind's emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> cause a climate crisis. Many credible scientists state this is not the case.

Science shows that added CO<sub>2</sub> is not causing a climate crisis, and impacts temperature to a very minor and insignificant extent.

1. Mankind thrived under warmer temperatures and suf-



■ "Minoans prospered during the warm Bronze Age followed by mere survival during the Greek Dark Age"

fered during cold spells.

Minoans prospered during the warm Bronze Age followed by mere survival during the Greek Dark Age. Civilisation flourished during the Roman Warm Period followed by the colder, devastating Dark Age. The Medieval Warm Period was much warmer than today (1 to 1.4°C warmer) and agriculture and civilisation flourished. The subsequent Little Ice Age brought severe hardships including crop failures, famine and population decline. These warm periods, when mankind thrived, were all higher by 0.5 to 2°C than today's temperature. The earth is now recovering from a cold period. This warming began long before mankind-induced CO<sub>2</sub> gases. Post-glacial temperature increases, glaciation retreats, and sea level rises have been fairly constant both before and during the recent mankind-induced CO<sub>2</sub> period.

2. The frequency and intensity of severe climate events, like tornadoes, heatwaves and flooding have not recently changed.

3. CO<sub>2</sub> is not the cause of climate change. Over 400 million years of temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> records do not support claimed record high temperatures or CO<sub>2</sub> levels either throughout mankind's existence or when looking back over time.

Global temperatures result from the sun's energy. Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are also natural occurrences resulting from plate tectonics and associated volcanic activity, plus releases from warm ocean currents and soil. Global temperatures and levels of CO<sub>2</sub> have been much higher than today. CO<sub>2</sub> changes have not correlated with temperature changes and, therefore, were not the cause of the change.

Over the past 7,000 to 8,000 years, temperature changes were consistent with past glacial/interglacial periodicity with large temperature changes, going from ice ages to interglacial periods. CO<sub>2</sub> gets very low during ice ages and very high during interglacial periods. However, glacial ice records show CO<sub>2</sub> increases follow temperature increases by about

800 years. Colder and denser water absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>. As temperature increases, warming oceans slowly release CO<sub>2</sub>. CO<sub>2</sub> increases occur in response to temperature increases and do not cause these temperature increases.

These changes in temperatures occurred mostly between subtropical latitudes and the poles, where they are beneficial to life, with little change in tropical equatorial regions.

CO<sub>2</sub> represents only about 5% of total greenhouse gas. Compared to natural phenomena like the sun's energy emission, tilt, rotation of the earth, clouds and ocean effects, adding CO<sub>2</sub> has a minor effect on climate and temperature. Natural events dominate climate variability.

4. Adding CO<sub>2</sub> has an ever-decreasing and minimal impact on temperature change.

Mainstream science is unanimous that the warming impact of CO<sub>2</sub> diminishes logarithmically as it increases in concentration. Every new CO<sub>2</sub> molecule added to the atmosphere has less of a warming effect than the previous one.

Max Planck scientifically proved this by delineating the spectrum of radiation from warm bodies showing that the impact of doubling CO<sub>2</sub> from 400ppm to 800ppm, according to this basic physics, is only 0.71°C of warming. Doubling CO<sub>2</sub> would only increase temperature by 0.35°C reducing further as more CO<sub>2</sub> is added. This is proven when we look back at the earth's history which experienced CO<sub>2</sub> levels up to 5,800ppm which was 14 times higher than today's levels of 420ppm, while average temperatures were up to 10°C higher, and life developed

and thrived under these warmer temperatures. Claims of reaching a "tipping point" with runaway temperatures are not supported by historical records.

5. Computer-generated climate models haven't replicated past climate changes and, therefore, are not reliable for making future predictions.

The science of climate change is not closed. Science is never closed:

- Climate always changes.
- People benefit from warmer temperatures, not cooler ones. There is nothing magic or dangerous about a further 1 to 2°C temperature increase.
- Plants greatly benefit from more CO<sub>2</sub>.

Attempts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> are costly and ineffective. The recent volcanic eruption in Iceland has, in just four days, negated every effort made in the past five years to control CO<sub>2</sub>. When the volcano Mt Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, it spewed out more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the entire human race had emitted in all its years on earth. China and India continue to expand their coal-burning electricity generation plants more than offset any CO<sub>2</sub> reductions elsewhere.

Scientific fundamentals and historical records show there is no man-made CO<sub>2</sub>-induced climate emergency.

These statements are supported by scientific facts and records. I propose a science-based open debate on this subject with well-known and qualified scientists from each side of this argument being invited.

The Glade, Rue du Champ du Rey, St Martin.

## Global warming is undoubtedly caused by human activities – primarily burning oil and gas

● From Angela Terry, chief executive officer, One Home, Master of Science Environmental Technology, Imperial College, London, and former water quality monitor for Jersey beaches.

CLIMATE change is happening at a speed that is unprecedented and damaging to our economy, wildlife and communities.

Global warming is undoubtedly caused by human activities, primarily burning oil and gas, which releases the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, that traps the sun's heat. This is why temperature measurements for heat in the sea and on land are increasing every year, because of pollution.

Every country in the world – even oil-producing countries like Saudi Arabia – agree this is a terrible situation and that the quicker we transition to clean energy sources, such as wind power and solar, the less harm is done. This is the basis of the UN Paris Agreement that every nation in the world signed up to.

However, conversely, the more we pollute the planet, the hotter the world becomes. There are no benefits to global warming and the harm caused is irreversible and rises exponentially the warmer the oceans and atmosphere become.

Therefore, delaying action to go green is

costly, particularly for small islands like Jersey where citizens and infrastructure are extremely vulnerable to sea-level rise and extreme weather events, such as super storms and drought.

Jersey's economy depends significantly on agriculture and tourism, both of which are sensitive to extreme weather and Jersey has seen record-breaking rising temperatures.

The year I took my family to visit Jersey on holiday. Beaches were closed due to jellyfish and a storm was expected to sweep away the seaside coffee hut we used. We all have a part to play in tackling climate breakdown and sitting back and continuing to pollute as the oil majors would love to happen is certainly not an option if we want to secure a bright, safe future for the Channel Islands.

The good news is that clean technology, such as renewables, electric cars and heat pumps, is generally cheaper, superior and increases energy security. It is literally a win-win for the economy, people and nature.

Occasionally, I encounter someone who won't change their view on this topic despite the record-breaking heat waves, floods and wildfires unfolding before our eyes. No amount of scientific evidence or stating the simple laws of physics will

convince them otherwise, but their position is not only wrong, it's extremely harmful.

For example, those who say global warming is good for plants need only to talk to farmers who have experienced land so wet this year they couldn't sow crops or scientists who dispelled this rumour long ago. Numerous studies have proven other limiting factors to growth, such as water supply or nutrient availability and, crucially, when yields are low, the price of food increases for all of us.

The overwhelming majority of citizens in Jersey, the UK and around the world want to do what is right to safeguard our future for the sake of all our children and generations to come. Not only are citizens increasingly wise to the disinformation campaigns that seek to delay climate action, Russia's war in Ukraine highlighted how vulnerable we all are to imported, and expensive and volatile fossil fuel prices to heat our homes and fill up our cars.

High energy bills are just one reason, among many, to go green and with the cost of renewable energy and batteries falling every year, there are no more reasons left not to embrace progress and ensure fossil fuels stay firmly in the ground where they belong with the dinosaur relics from time gone by.



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