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# Environmental Effects of Increased Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide

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**ABSTRACT** A review of the research literature concerning the environmental consequences of increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide leads to the conclusion that increases during the 20th and early 21st centuries have produced no deleterious effects upon Earth's weather and climate. Increased carbon dioxide has, however, markedly increased plant growth. Predictions of harmful climatic effects due to future increases in hydrocarbon use and minor greenhouse gases like CO<sub>2</sub> do not conform to current knowledge. The environmental effects of rapid expansion of the **nuclear and hydrocarbon energy industries** are discussed.

Excerpts from the article:

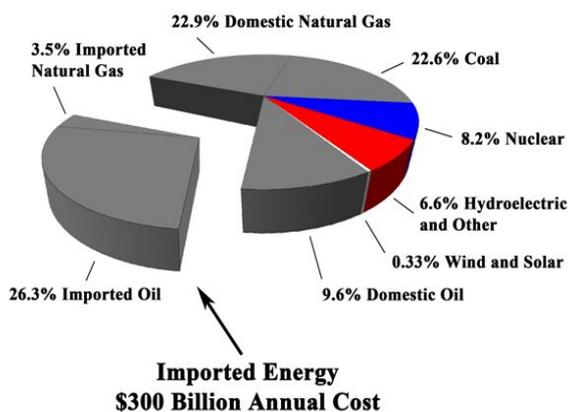


Figure 25: In 2006, the United States obtained 84.9% of its energy from hydrocarbons, 8.2% from nuclear fuels, 2.9% from hydroelectric dams, 2.1% from wood, 0.8% from biofuels, 0.4% from waste, 0.3% from geothermal, and 0.3% from wind and solar radiation. The U.S. uses 21 million barrels of oil per day 27% from OPEC, 17% from Canada and Mexico, 16% from others, and 40% produced in the U.S. (95). The cost of imported oil and gas at \$60 per barrel and \$7 per 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup> in 2007 is about \$300 billion per year.

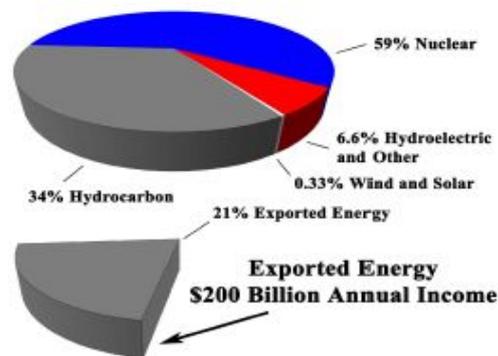
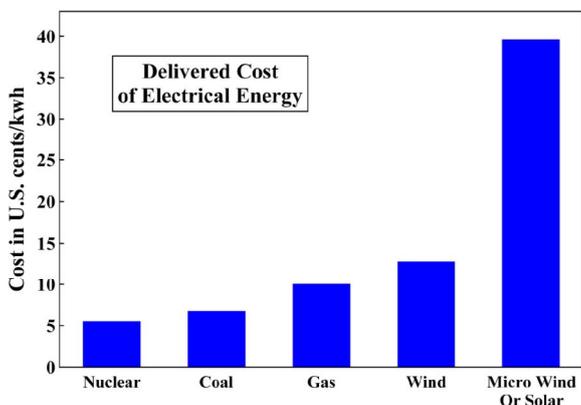


Figure 27: Construction of one Palo Verde installation with 10 reactors in each of the 50 states. Energy trade deficit is reversed by \$500 billion per year, resulting in a \$200 billion annual surplus. Currently, this solution is not possible owing to misguided government policies, regulations, and taxation and to legal maneuvers available to anti-nuclear activists. These impediments should be legislatively repealed.



## CONCLUSIONS

**There are no experimental data to support the hypothesis that increases in human hydrocarbon use or in atmospheric carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are causing or can be expected to cause unfavorable changes in global temperatures, weather, or landscape.**

**There is no reason to limit human production of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and other minor greenhouse gases as has been proposed (82,83,97,123).**

**We also need not worry about environmental calamities even if the current natural warming trend continues.**

**The Earth has been much warmer during the past 3,000 years without catastrophic effects.** Warmer weather extends growing seasons and generally improves the habitability of colder regions.

As coal, oil, and natural gas are used to feed and lift from poverty vast numbers of people across the globe, more CO<sub>2</sub> will be released into the atmosphere. **This CO<sub>2</sub> will help to maintain and improve the health, longevity, prosperity, and productivity of all people.**

The United States and other countries need to **produce more energy, not less.** The most practical, economical, and environmentally sound methods available are hydrocarbon and nuclear technologies.

Human use of coal, oil, and natural gas has not harmfully warmed the Earth, and the extrapolation of current trends shows that it will not do so in the foreseeable future. The CO<sub>2</sub> produced does, however, accelerate the growth rates of plants and also permits plants to grow in drier regions. Animal life, which depends upon plants, also flourishes, and the diversity of plant and animal life is increased. Human activities are producing part of the rise in CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Mankind is moving the carbon in coal, oil, and natural gas from below ground to the atmosphere, where it is available for conversion into living things. We are living in an increasingly lush environment of plants and animals as a result of this CO<sub>2</sub> increase. **Our children will enjoy an Earth with far more plant & animal life than that with which we now are blessed.**