

Peter Goodman's column on global warming is full of hot air

By Robert W. Endlich
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Peter Goodman's 8 July 2012 guest column in the Sun-News has the headline "Global warming deniers same as those who argue that tobacco is good." Using specifics, numbers, observations and data, let me rebut this uneducated bloviation.

Goodman says, "widespread high temperatures and record storms"... are indicators that "our climate is changing in dangerous ways and that our activities at least contribute to this change."

In 1970, CO₂ was about 325 Parts Per Million; today it is about 395 PPM, and much of the increase comes from burning fossil fuels.

Since 1895 there have been about 373,000 correctly recorded maximum temperatures in the USA. About 84 percent of them were set when CO₂ was below 350 PPM.

About 3,000 new record maximum temperatures set in the past few weeks, inconsequential when compared with the total.

This was a "garden variety heat wave episode," nothing remarkable when compared with all U.S. weather records.

Record high temperatures occur with high pressure systems at the surface and aloft, a frequent summertime occurrence over continents.

This pattern brings subsiding air, little precipitation, and, frequent record high temperatures.

These features can not be controlled by mankind.

There was not a single state maximum temperature record set with this heat wave episode in the U.S., not one!

From the National Climatic Data Center, the 1930s were the hottest decade for record state high temperatures, 1950s and the 1910s decades were the next hottest. There has been only one new state temperature record set since the year 2000.

Look at the number of days over 100 degrees.

In New York City here were about

10 days over 100 per decade in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, but in the 12 years after the year 2000 there have been only three occurrences.

At Des Moines, Iowa, there were 34 days over 100 in 1934; today it has been nine years since temperatures hit 100!

Now let's look at Goodman's "Record Storms" and "Dangerous Climate Change."

Is he talking about violent tornadoes?

The National Climatic Data Center data on violent tornadoes are at ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/images/tornado/clim/EF3-EF5.png.

The greatest number of severe tornadoes occurred in 1974; second greatest number was in 1965.

The sixth-most active violent tornado year was 2011.

Remember the extremely cold winter of 2011, only 18 months ago?

Frozen pipes, extensive gas and electricity failures happened then, and frozen dead palm trees are still visible.

Is Goodman talking about hurricanes? Dr. Ryan Maue's web page: http://policlimate.com/tropical/global_running_ace.png is useful.

"Accumulated Cyclone Energy" uses the same kinetic energy we learned in high school physics, in a "time series" data plot which shows that current hurricane and tropical storm activity is the lowest since 1979 despite the fact that CO₂ in the atmosphere is now about 395 PPM.

Clearly Peter Goodman can't be talking about hurricanes, tropical storms or tornadoes, so what are the "record storms" of which he speaks?

Goodman's ranting also mentions urban "heat islands" as if they did not exist.

I measured the heat island effect from the El Paso Airport to rural Doña Ana County on I-10 and found it to be 11 degrees on a good number of occasions. Within Las Cruces I routinely measure a 5 degree urban heat island from Las Cruces' downtown mall to Las Alturas, but on 11 July it was 8 degrees!

The urban heat island really exists; you can measure it directly with any

car equipped with a dash thermometer.

The global warming alarmists are concerned about the rise in global temperatures, on the order of 0.6 degrees Celsius, during the last half of the 20th century.

How many temperatures, influenced by an 11F or 6C urban heat island would lead to a mistaken computation of "Global Warming," by the IPCC, or folks easily mislead, such as Peter Goodman?

Goodman says "our activities at least contribute to this change," and welcomes increases in taxes on fossil fuels as a panacea.

He misses the point — how much does CO₂ affect temperatures? The data are clear, not very much.

We can see that cries "widespread high temperatures and record storms"... are indicators that "our climate is changing in dangerous ways..." are alarmist garbage if you look at the data. Why has the mainstream media not called out these cries of "Wolf!" that they so often report, without the slightest curiosity?

Climate warms and cools and CO₂ has only the slightest effect on the climate.

Not only is Peter Goodman's logic flawed, but his blathering is ridiculous in the face of fact, measurement, observation and data.

Peter Goodman should be held up to ridicule!

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