

Carbon Dioxide: A Global Problem in Search of a Rational Global Solution¹

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Abstract: This paper focuses on the facts concerning rising carbon dioxide levels in relation to fossil fuel utilization and its impacts upon global climate, the global economy, and the world population. Factors essential to understanding potential solutions to the problem include: the global nature of CO₂ emissions; the global impacts of fuel consumption; the importance of global electrical power supply; the actual ability of renewables to replace fossil fuels; the length of time for renewables to significantly reduce carbon emissions; assessment of other solutions that could impact CO₂ emissions; and impacts to the world population and human standards of living necessary to reduce carbon emissions. It contrasts: (1) the impacts of current popular notions in the media and the US regulatory community that fossil fuels are an “evil” that must be prohibited and that renewables actually have the potential to replace fossil fuels in the near term versus (2) the utilization of common sense to assess how to best use and advance currently available science and technology. It focuses on the need for rational global solutions that recognize the international trends in national electrification, the huge infrastructure changes necessary to reduce carbon emissions, and the highly unsubstantiated predictions of massive conversions to renewables. It highlights best available control technology (BACT) that could reduce the man made contribution of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in a way that does not bankrupt the global economy and jeopardize the global population.

Additional Key Words: Carbon Emissions, World Population, Fossil Fuels, Coal Utilization, Electric Power Generation

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