



This double-deck Van Hool TD925, operated by Venture Tours of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was photographed in early 2009 at the Snow Shoe Ski Resort in Snow Shoe, West Virginia while on a ski charter. Current information suggests that global temperatures have been falling for several years. In fact, some researchers are predicting a cold spell lasting more than 50 years. VENTURE TOURS.

Is Climate Change Still a “Hot” Topic for the Bus Industry

by Larry Plachno

As we enter a new year and a new decade, the question of whether man made global warming, or any global warming, exists is a major topic in the bus industry. Engine manufacturers must deal with 2010 EPA emission standards while bus builders and bus operators are using cleaner engines as a selling point and marketing topic. Meanwhile, both EPA regulations as well as Cap and Trade are being debated. Where do things really stand? Here are some of the more important items that have come to light.

Climategate

For those who missed the denouement, it came in November when e-mails and data from the Climate Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia in England were posted on the Internet by a whistleblower. The CRU has been regarded as the leading source of data on climate change. Among other things, these records disclosed that computers at the Climate Research Unit and fellow researchers were manipulating figures to show temperature increases where none existed and were hiding information that disproved temperature increases. Worse yet, original raw data has been disposed of and is no longer available. One e-mail message between CRU staff members admitted that temperatures have actually been cooling for several years.

During the last few weeks researchers, scientists and journalists have been looking at various aspects of the global warming farce and what they are finding is somewhere between appalling and terrifying.

Man Made Global Warming

The concept of man made global warming is based on the premise that man made emissions put carbon into our atmosphere. Global warming advocates then claim that the additional carbon in our atmosphere retains heat that warms the earth. However, recent advances in science show that the reality of the situation is that carbon in the atmosphere has very little impact on temperature.

According to Dr. Ferenc M. Miskolczi of Hungary, a major reason for the lack of carbon impact on temperature is that the earth has its own natural air conditioning system. As temperatures increase, water vapor is released from water surfaces around the plant. This water vapor then raises to the upper atmosphere where it releases heat and infrared radiation into space. The water vapor then condenses and returns to earth as rain or snow.

Professor Richard Lindzen of MIT has shown that heat is radiated out into space at a far higher rate than any modeling system to date can account for. He has also shown that our oceans are cooling. Lindzen's work states: "We now know that the effect of CO₂ on temperature is small, we know why it is small, and we know that it is having very little effect on the climate."

Actual carbon in our atmosphere is only something like 350 parts per million. A recent study at the University of Bristol by Wolfgang Knorr of the Department of Earth Sciences found that the airborne fraction of

carbon dioxide has not increased either during the past 150 years or during the most recent five decades.

Global Cooling

Where temperature figures are not being manipulated, researchers are finding years of global cooling. Our oceans have been cooling for at least six years while land-based temperatures show an even longer cooling trend. Some researchers are telling us to expect a cooling period as long as 55 years. Others are suggesting that we are headed towards another ice age.

The Reality of Cap and Trade

Here is an example of Cap and Trade that gives you an insight into reality. Corus, Europe's second-largest steel producer, was purchased in 2007 by Tata, India's largest steel company. They are closing down a United Kingdom steel making plant at Redcar that produced three million tons of hot rolled steel, putting 1,700 people out of work. Tata is investing in a new steel plant in the Indian province of Orissa, which will initially produce three million tons of hot rolled steel.

The European Union is a signatory of the Kyoto Protocols and hence has had a Carbon Cap and Trade system for several years. As a result, Tata could earn as much as \$300 million a year in carbon allowances for closing the Redcar plant in the U.K. Since India does not have Cap and Trade, there is no restriction on opening a new steel plant in

India. So ask yourself, what is the net result of Cap and Trade?

Carbon emissions are not an issue because the U.K. and Indian plant are the same size with the same emissions. Actually, emissions should not be an issue at all since scientists have now shown that carbon has little effect on our climate. Hence, the net result of Cap and Trade is that Tata will be paid millions of dollars to put people out of work in the U.K. while opening a similar plant in India.

Ask yourself if you really want Cap and Trade in the United States?

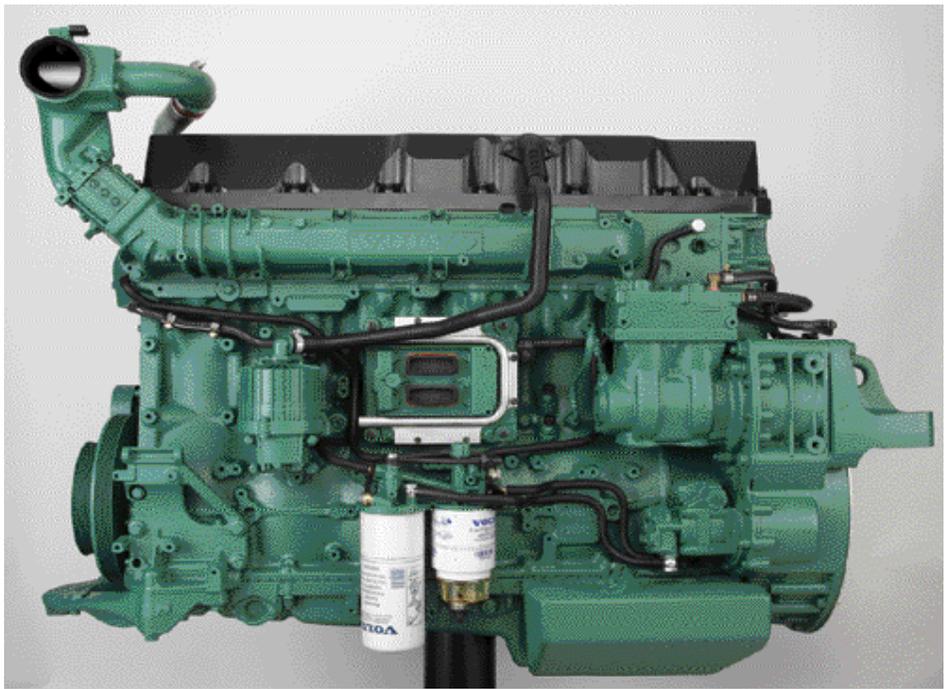
Who is in Charge Here?

The Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change calls itself the "leading body for the assessment of climate change." The IPCC was established by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Membership is open to all member countries of UN and WMO. Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, the chairman of IPCC, has recently come under fire from Lord Monckton of the U.K. and others for his practices.

For years, the IPCC has been using a defective diagram that supposedly shows increasing global warming. However, Lord Monckton and others call this a case of cherry picking data. It has been proven that the world has climate cycles. For example the years 1860-1880, 1910-1940 and 1975-1998 are similar because they represent the increasing temperature side of the world climate cycles. Hence, if you look at data that starts before an upward trend and ends at the top of the upward trend, you see temperatures going up. However, if you were to look at data near the top of an upward trend and continue into the downward trend, you would see temperatures going down.

A second complaint lodged against the IPCC is the lack of adequate review. Like the CRU, Lord Monckton noted that IPCC materials are not peer-reviewed in the accepted sense. Not only is much of the reviewing done by reviewers who support global warming but it is the authors and not the reviewers who have the final say. In particular it was noted that 53 percent of reviewers were critical of the important chapter in the 2007 report that attributed most of the global warming since 1950 to humankind. In spite of the fact that more than half of the reviewers objected, the authors let their conclusion stand.

The latest revelation from Lord Monckton is that Dr. Rajendra Pachauri has also been the chairman of the Tata Energy Research Institute (TARI) for many years. Lord Monckton goes on to mention that a year after Pachauri was appointed chairman of the IPCC, the Tata Energy Research Institute was renamed as The Energy Research Institute.



One of the major bus industry concerns over the issue of man made global warming revolves around EPA regulations on bus engine emissions. Recent research is increasingly showing that there is little or no connection between carbon in the atmosphere and temperatures. Shown here is a new Volvo D13 engine. PREVOSTCAR.

Hence, the individual who is advising the UN and numerous countries on climate change and on Cap and Trade, is a long time

employee of the same company that stands to make millions of dollars annually for putting British workers out of work because of Cap and Trade. Where I come from, we would call that a huge conflict of interest.

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As researchers dig into information on possible climate change, they are finding people who continue to support global warming in spite of the evidence against it in order to protect their jobs and scientific grants. A huge number of people have been willing to modify the truth in order to make money or hold well-paying jobs at the expense of taxpayers and other people.

It will be interesting to see what happens with EPA regulations and Cap and Trade in the United States. q