

## **Peter Hale, Climate Concern UK**

---

**From:** "Peter Hale, Climate Concern UK" <peterhale@climate-concern.com>  
**To:** "Hideo Tsuji" <hideotsu@ca2.so-net.ne.jp>  
**Sent:** 31 May 2007 19:03  
**Subject:** A Short Update



### **Non-communication?**

Some of you may not have been receiving our "Updates" (OK, you won't lose sleep!) - Wanadoo/Orange has been cutting down batch e-mails as an anti-spam measure, previously without any warning. Proprietary group e-mail software should now overcome this.

### **Shorter messages**

Due to your possible dislike of the time needed to browse a long multiple-item e-mail amongst the many to be digested, stored or deleted every day, they will in future be kept shorter.

For now, here are a couple of things:

### **Speaker Network grows:** [www.climate-speakers.org.uk](http://www.climate-speakers.org.uk)

We now have over 80 speakers around the UK on climate change and related topics. If you are involved with a school or belong to any sort of group which invites miscellaneous speakers to its meetings, please look up your local page on the web site and arrange a talk! - or tell the right person.

### **Scepticism and Channel 4's "The Great Global Warming Swindle"**

One of the big topics of the last two weeks.

Well, the programme certainly gave rise to a lot of commentary, discussion, articles and blogs. It was punchy and will have influenced a lot of people. Let's hope the sceptics are right. But it's unlikely.

The point is often made that we should ignore scepticism, proceed on the basis that the majority science is correct, and concentrate on achieving action. That can sometimes be difficult - with TV programmes like this, not to mention regular sceptical articles in the Telegraph, Mail, blogs and elsewhere, we should be as familiar as possible with the main sceptics' arguments and ready to argue the case.

The programme was misleading, e.g. in a) referring to the mid-20th century **global cooling** while omitting to mention that sulphur particle pollution in the atmosphere is believed to have caused it by reflecting the sun, and b) emphasising that carbon emissions make up only a tiny part of the atmosphere, but ignoring the science established **150 years ago** that it is these trace elements that absorb the heat. And George Monbiot has pointed out in The Guardian that some of the **graphs were doctored**. One of the main contributors, Prof. Wunsch, has strongly complained that his views were misrepresented, that he is not a sceptic, and has since described the programme as **"an out-and-out propaganda piece"**.

There remain uncertainties in climate science and, for all we know, the sun's magnetic effects may yet turn out to be having more influence than currently believed. However, sceptics never acknowledge that greenhouse gas just might be the main influence!

There were a few points made which should perhaps not be rejected out of hand:

A malaria expert stated that this disease is not limited to warm climates and that the IPCC (which he insisted remove his name from the contributors' list) has incorrectly linked malaria increase with carbon emissions.

Referring to computer models, a sceptic claimed that researchers can choose to make adjustments, from a large range of inputs, to get "sensational" outputs. And that only one assumption from hundreds needs to be wrong. Maybe? There may just be an element of truth in the sceptics' accusation that science research bodies, being dependent on "global warming" funding, could be edging things, even possibly without admitting it to themselves, to getting the results they need. It is easy to believe this of human activities. **But such considerations don't disprove the dangers of our carbon emissions!**

The fact is that we are greatly increasing the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gas. Even without hard proof that this is the main cause of climate change, it is the **risk** from our emissions - at worst, uncontrollable runaway warming - that is the main concern and justification for the world to take action to reduce them.

**Keep finding extra ways to "do your bit", feeling good about your reduced-energy lifestyle and influencing others by example.**

Regards  
Peter Hale  
Climate Concern UK  
tel 01325 378452  
[peterhale@climate-concern.com](mailto:peterhale@climate-concern.com)  
[www.climate-concern.com](http://www.climate-concern.com)  
[www.climate-speakers.org.uk](http://www.climate-speakers.org.uk)

*Unsubscribe:* Reply to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.