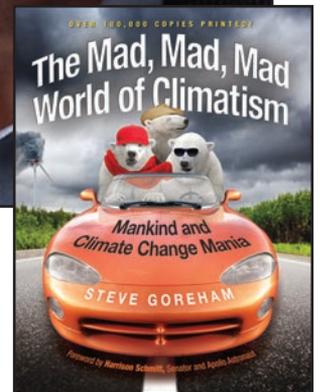
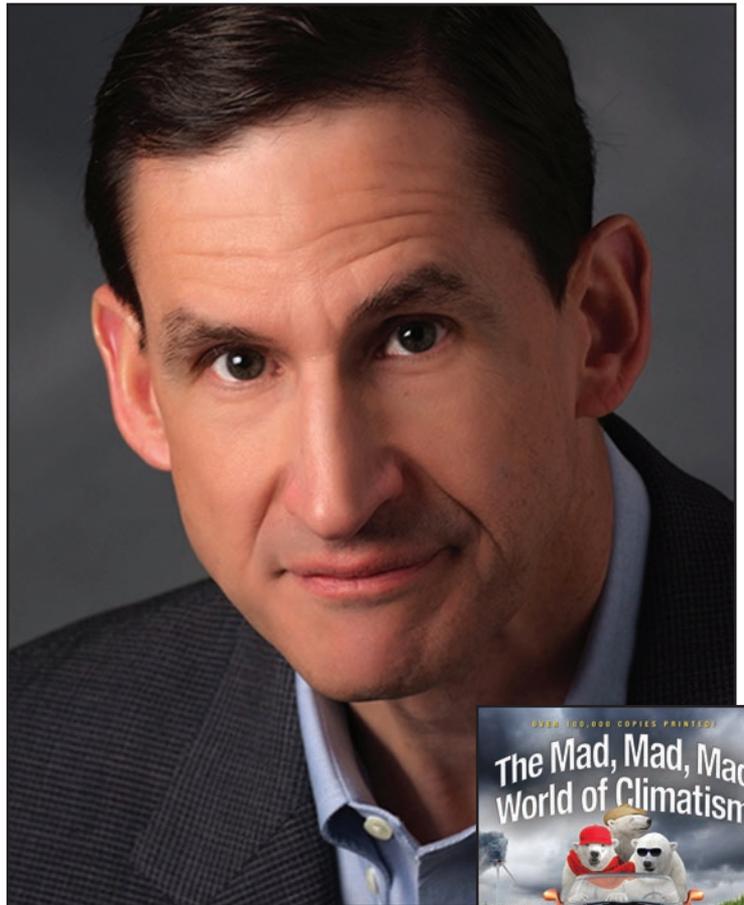


Steve Goreham: 'The World Jumped to a Conclusion'

**Keynote speaker at International
Coal Prep 2016 Conference**

by Debra McCown



"It's my opinion that the world is in the biggest scientific misconception in modern history."

These days, climate-change deniers—people who maintain that the theory of man-made global warming is a case of overblown hype—are sometimes ostracized. But they're right nonetheless, says Steve Goreham, a speaker and author and executive director of the Climate Science Coalition of America.

"I stick to the science and the economics," Goreham says, "and the bottom line is there is no empirical evidence that shows that humans are the primary factor in either global warming or climate change." Yet, there are currently more than 500 national climate and energy laws in place around the world—and thousands more at the state, provincial, or local level, he says. And their collective price tag over the last 15 years has been in the neighborhood of \$1 trillion.

"There is no evidence of any kind that all of that activity—and the more than \$1 trillion that has been spent over the last 15 years—has a measurable effect on global temperatures. Absolutely zero evidence," he says. "It's my opinion that the world is in the biggest scientific misconception in modern history."

Goreham, an engineer by trade, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at

this year's Coal Prep 2016 conference, which will be held April 25-27 in Louisville, KY. He plans to present not only on climate change, but on a variety of big-picture issues impacting the energy industry.

He doesn't doubt the sincerity of climate-change scientists. Yet, he says, the system that's built decades-long careers around billions of research dollars has created an astonishing situation – and makes it difficult for people to step back from long-held positions on climate change, regardless of what the data ultimately say.

The climate-change hype began in the 1980s, Goreham says, when a NASA scientist testified before Congress that he was 99 percent sure the world was warming and humans were to blame.

"A number of nations began pushing the idea. The United Nations also, which wanted to strengthen its position as a

world environmental leader, in 1988 established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and within two years that panel came out with its first assessment report declaring that humans were the primary cause of global warming," he says.

"Then, at the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, 41 nations in the European Community pledged that they would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. So, in a very short span, the world jumped to a conclusion, and for the last 25 years they've been arguing about when to cut emissions and by how much. Yet, more and more evidence is coming out that we no longer are in a significant warming period, that the sun and the wind and the weather and ocean currents have a much bigger effect on global temperatures. Nevertheless, the world is marching down this path."

In his presentation, Goreham is also planning to discuss other large-scale

trends in energy: misconceptions, global trends, and where some of these issues are ultimately headed.

In addition to climate change, Goreham, says two other big misconceptions are also driving policy: the beliefs that energy use is causing global pollution to rise and that the world is running out of resources. “We have the cleanest air in the United States in many decades. All of the EPA [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency] key pollutants are down since 1980, even though we’re using 30 percent more coal, for example, and we’re driving double the vehicle miles,” he says.

“Our water is also getting cleaner, and this is happening in all of the major developed nations. We still have issues with developing nations like China and others polluting the air, but they will get to the point where they will also begin driving down pollutants. So the lesson is that society handles its pollution as we get [wealthier], and this idea that using energy is causing global pollution is not correct. In fact, nations that use the most energy have the cleanest air and water.”

Goreham says the idea that the earth is running out of resources—especially energy resources—is also incorrect. He says technology, not geology, is the biggest factor in determining the availability of resources. For an example he points to the “energy paradox”—the seemingly contradictory reality of increasing energy resources on a finite planet.

“When you look at the actual data, you’ll find that world reserves of all kinds of hydrocarbons are bigger than they were five years ago, and they continue to rise faster...so we have literally centuries of oil and gas and coal remaining,” he says, pointing to natural gas fracking technology as an example of how this is taking place.

“The reason is the resources available to humans are not primarily influenced by what is in the ground; the primary determinant of resource availability and price is the level of human technology. And as we learn better and better ways to tap resources, whether it be metals or energy, the price goes down and we have more and more abundant resources. We’re in the age of abundant resources, more than any other time in history.”

In terms of big-picture energy trends,

Goreham has three predictions: First, world energy use will continue to grow. Second, thanks to fracking, the world has entered a new era in hydrocarbon energy. Third, the failure of renewables will continue.

World energy use will continue to rise not just because of electrification in developing countries, he says, but also because technology around the world continues to grow. Take smartphones, for example: they use energy not just to power the devices themselves, but also for wi-fi networks, data centers, and all of the other support infrastructure that makes them function.

Fracking, he says, has driven down

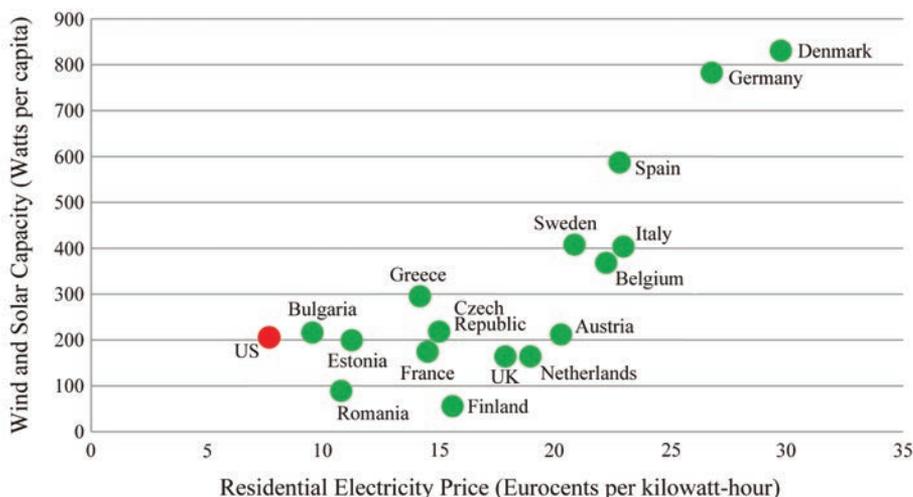
gasoline prices—and that will help to drive a predicted doubling in the number of vehicles in the world, from 1 billion to 2 billion—by 2050.

And Europe’s disastrous experiment with renewable energy – a failure that’s contributed significantly to the continent’s economic woes—is a sign of what will continue in countries foolish enough to subsidize wind and solar projects, he says.

Massive subsidies for wind and solar have driven up prices, reduced reliability, and left European nations staggering under hundreds of billions of dollars in debt, he says. Meanwhile, the same consumers

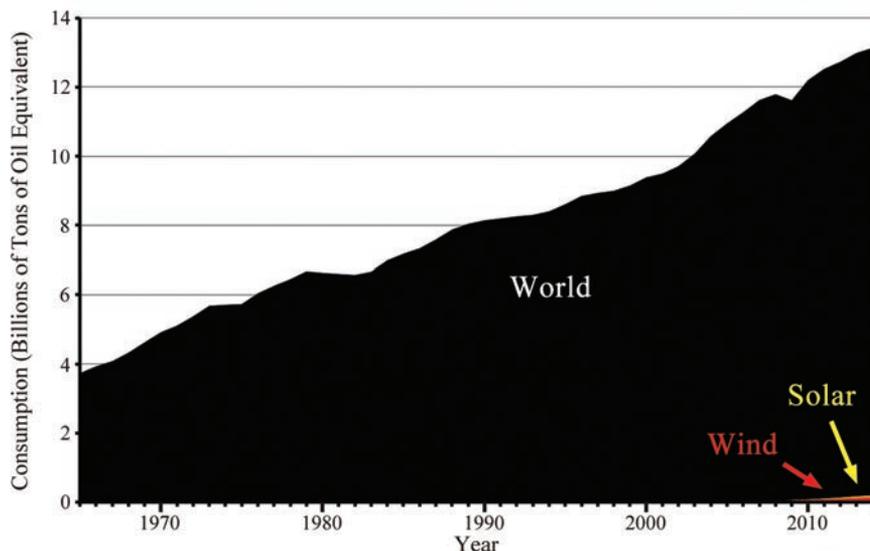
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Wind, Solar, and Electricity Prices in Europe



FAA Financial Advisory AG (2014)

Total World, Wind, and Solar Energy Consumption (1965-2014)



(BP, 2015)

Goreham continued

forced to subsidize renewables are burdened with skyrocketing energy prices that have also driven industry—and jobs—out of Europe. Even renewable energy companies are struggling; the programs have had a negative impact across the board.

“The reason for putting renewables in that everybody’s pushing is twofold: First that you’re going to stop the planet from warming—and there’s no evidence of that [because human impacts are small compared to natural factors]—and second that we’re running out of hydrocarbons, and that is false,” Goreham says. “It’s time to change the ideology. It’s time for business to push back and to have sensible environmental policies.”

He likes to compare the global warming hype to other periods throughout history when humans tried to influence weather and climate, from the human sacrifices performed by the Aztecs to the mass-execution of so-called witches in Europe during the “little ice age” that caused crop failures during the Middle Ages.

Now, he says, people don’t accuse their

neighbors of witchcraft; instead, they point the finger of blame at the vehicles in their neighbors’ driveways.

“People think they’re changing temperatures and causing the climate, and we’ve thought that throughout history,” Goreham says, “Today there’s [still] a lot of superstition involved, I’m sorry to say.”

There are a lot of good, practical, common-sense steps companies can take to be good stewards of the environment, he says, but being forced to pour billions of dollars into programs that try to control the climate is not helpful and could better be put to use doing real good for people.

Eventually, he says, the data will prove global warming fears and predictions unfounded, and people who want to do good for the world will turn back to the real issues: hunger, lack of clean water and sanitation, and the need for prevention and treatment of disease.

“There are about 2 billion people trying to survive on \$2 or less each day,” Goreham says. “We have 1.9 billion without proper

sanitation, 1.4 billion without proper electricity, about 800 million without clean water, and we have millions that die each year from AIDS and diarrheal disease and tuberculosis and malaria, and yet the world is spending hundreds of billions of dollars each year to try and keep the planet from warming. It really is a preposterous misuse of resources.”

It’s time to get back to solving real problems for people, he says, instead of waging a futile crusade on climate change—an effort he says won’t have a measurable effect on global temperatures in any case. And he says it’s time for industry to take a more active role in pushing back against current environmental mantras that, ultimately, do more harm than good for the people of the world.

“It’s very likely that the [global warming] model projections are going to continue to get farther and farther away from what the planet is actually doing,” he says. “So I think this whole thing is going to fold up eventually, or at least the pendulum is going to swing back to something reasonable. And hopefully we’ll go back to solving the real problems in the world.”



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