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FACT SHEET - CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂)



Fact 1. "Carbon Dioxide is a colourless, odourless, incombustible gas present in the atmosphere and formed during respiration, the decomposition and combustion of organic compounds and in the reaction with carbonates; used to carbonate drinks, in fire extinguishers and as dry ice for refrigeration. Formula CO₂" And "carbon cycle is the circulation of carbon between living organisms and their surroundings. Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere (with water) is synthesized by plants into plant tissue, which is ingested and metabolized by animals and reduced to carbon dioxide again during respiration and decay." (i)

Fact 2. Clearly CO₂ is not a pollutant but an "Ecologically beneficial trace gas that forms the base of almost the entire planetary food chain and which currently exists at atmospheric starvation levels of 380 parts per million (PPM) compared with up to ten times that concentration and more during the preceding 600 million years of multi cellular life on Earth.(ii) NB By 2014 CO₂, in the atmosphere, had risen from 380PPM to about 400PPM.Recent satellite data shows there has been, roughly, a 14 per cent increase in the amount of green vegetation on the planet since 1982, that it has happened in all eco systems but especially in arid tropical areas and that it is due, in large part, to man made CO₂ emissions. (iii) Any successful action to reduce atmospheric CO₂, will simply reduce the abundance of plant and animal (and ultimately human) life on Earth.

Fact 3. CO₂ does not cause global warming. Its mild warming effect is logarithmic not proportional. Over millions of years, a higher temperature is followed a hundred years or so later, by an increase in CO₂.(iv) Conversely, it is a fact that a lower temperature is followed by a lower level of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Fact 4. CO₂ and other greenhouse gases (Methane, Nitrous Oxide and water vapour) are such a small percentage of the atmosphere (less than 1 per cent) that what happens to them (warming or cooling) is really irrelevant to the temperature of the Earth. (v)

Fact 5. CO₂ is emitted by modern coal fired power stations, using clean coal technology but these power stations are not 'dirty' as they do not now emit sulphur, mercury, arsenic as they once did.(vi)
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References:

- (i) Collins English Dictionary, Wm Collins Publishers Pty Ltd, Box 476 GPO Sydney, 2001.
- (ii) Carter, R M Professor, National Observer, Summer 2008/2009.
- (iii) "Sunny side of global warming: carbon delivers growth spurt" Ridley, Matt, The Australian Newspaper, October 20, 2015.
- (iv) Science Briefs: Do Stormy-Weather Clouds Cool or Warm the Earth? NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, January 18, 2011, <http://www.giss.nasa.gov/research/briefs/tselioudis-01/>.
- (v) Hughes A M et al, About Face – Why the World Needs More Carbon Dioxide – The Failed Science of Global Warming (page 57), Two Harbors Press, Minneapolis, MN 55401, USA
www.TwoHarborsPress.com
- (vi) Hughes A M et al op cit – Clean Coal Technologies (pages 173-174)