

Editorial

Climate change is not destroying our planet - too many humans are!



One of the current “hot button” topics in the protection of our environment is climate change, closely followed by the impact of plastics in our

environment. Politicians make claims of doing their part by coming up with schemes to tax us for **producing** carbon (1). They then turn around and allow for the building of pipelines whose foot print will **produce** tons and tons of carbon (2). Even the push towards electric cars may **produce** up to four times more carbon emissions when ‘dirty’ coal based electric power supplies are used to power their batteries (8). I believe the highlighted word ‘**produce**’ is what everyone is forgetting when trying to control the amount of carbon humans produce. Around the world politicians talk about controlling the output of carbon to levels that will prevent any further rise in global temperatures but this is not preventing its production (5). Carbon comes from almost anything that humans use or produce. It has been calculated that to be sustainable (ie not affect the world environment) each human should produce only 3 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year. However, the production of carbon per person globally is 4.5 tons per year (7). Therefore each person globally would have to reduce their carbon output by 33 percent. This has proven to be difficult as climate change is still not widely accepted by certain countries or politicians and the means to do so is filled with uncertainty (3). The only option left to control climate change is to stop the over population of humans.

The carbon cycle is a complicated, interconnected series of systems that are dependant upon each other. For instance, trees help to ‘store’ carbon until humans or a naturally caused fire (ie lightning) releases this stored carbon. The ocean is another huge ‘sink’ for carbon of which algae plays a large role in capturing it, thereby maintaining a

healthy environment (6). When humans destabilize an ecosystem within our oceans we create an imbalance that does not control carbon as it should. In a ‘balanced’ healthy ecosystem, carbon is maintained in a neutral state and would not contribute to climate change. However, humans have interfered with this balance and subsequently we are directly responsible for our current predicament. Our insatiable need for more technology or employment in areas that create huge amounts of carbon exceeds the capabilities of our environment to ‘store’ any further human-made carbon.



All of this comes down to the fact that the billions of humans on our planet continue to produce carbon that is changing our environment. Efforts such as putting a tax on carbon or using these taxes to fund green energy projects does not prevent the production of carbon - it is only mitigated. Does it not bother people that to fund green energy projects through taxes on carbon that we create carbon in the process? Building more pipelines not only produce a huge amount of carbon but also increase the risk of environmental disasters when these pipelines leak, which may take decades for our environment to recover from. I believe everyone is afraid to state the real cause behind climate change and the unsustainable damage to our environment. There are



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just too many humans on this planet.

Our planet and our environment can only support so many humans and the destructive manner in which we live. We are quickly polluting the land, air and oceans with our industries and life choices. We are emptying our oceans and seas to feed the ever increasing numbers of humans being born. We affect our lives and the lives of future generations by removing natural methods (ie deforestation) to help curb the effects of carbon, thereby creating uncertainty for the various ecologies and millions of species.

Politicians will continue to argue about how much carbon can be 'safely' produced and build seawalls to protect cities from the effects of climate change. Humans will still over populate our world, in essence assuring that the damage to our planet will continue, leading to a future filled with uncertainty. In 1998, writing about how many people will the earth support, Joel E. Cohen wrote: "Lack of certainty about future constraints and choices does not justify lack of action now." (4). The only certainty I see is that the inactions we have made as humans up until now foreshadow the ever increasing destruction of our environment in the future.

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