

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES:



Science or Politics?

A Cato Institute Conference
June 5-6, 1991
The Capital Hilton Hotel
16th and K Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

“The notion that global warming is a fact and will be catastrophic is drilled into people to the point where it seems surprising that anyone would question it, and yet, underlying it is very little evidence at all. Nonetheless, there are statements made of such overt unrealism that I feel embarrassed. I feel it discredits science. I think problems will arise when one will need to depend on scientific judgment, and by ruining our credibility now you leave society with a resource of some importance diminished.”

—Richard S. Lindzen



Robert H. Nelson
Author



Patrick J. Michaels
University of Virginia



Richard L. Stroup
Memphis State University



Robert W. Brocksen
Brocksen and Brand, Inc.



Richard S. Lindzen
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology



Wilbur A. Steger
CONSAD Research
Corporation



Robert C. Balling, Jr.
Arizona State University



Edward C. Krog
Committee for a
Constructive Tomorrow



Fred L. Smith, Jr.
Competitive Enterprise
Institute



Donald H. Stedman
University of Denver



Dennis T. Avery
Center for Global Food
Issues, Hudson Institute



S. Fred Singer
Washington Institute for
Values in Public Policy

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

REGISTRATION

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

PANEL I

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

LUNCHEON

12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

PANEL II

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

PANEL III

3:45 - 5:15 p.m.

RECEPTION

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

PANEL IV

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

LUNCHEON

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

DEBATE

2:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Congressional Room

GLOBAL WARMING: CATASTROPHIC? MANAGEABLE CHANGE? BENEFICIAL?

"The Political Science of Global Warming"

Patrick J. Michaels, University of Virginia

"Interpreting the Global Temperature Effect"

Robert C. Balling, Jr., Arizona State University

"Will Rising Atmospheric CO₂ Increase Carbon Accumulation in Terrestrial Ecosystems?"

Bert G. Drake, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

"Critical Issues in Climate Forecasting"

Richard S. Lindzen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"CO₂ Emissions Limits: An Economic Cost Analysis for the World"

W. David Montgomery, Charles River Associates

"Global Warming: Unacceptable Climate Change"

Daniel A. Lashof,* Natural Resources Defense Council

"The Detection of Greenhouse Warming"

Andrew Solow, Marine Policy Center, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN ROOTS OF ECOTHEOLOGY

Robert H. Nelson, author of *Reaching for Heaven on Earth*

STRATOSPHERIC OZONE THINNING

"The Flaws in the Stratospheric Ozone Thinning Hypothesis"

S. Fred Singer, Washington Institute for Values in Public Policy

"The Holes in the Ozone Hole"

Hugh W. Ellisasser, Atmospheric and Geophysical Science Division, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE BRUNDTLAND COMMISSION REPORT

"Political Control versus Sustainable Development"

Richard L. Stroup, Montana State University

"The Road to Sustainable Agriculture"

Dennis T. Avery, Center for Global Food Issues, Hudson Institute

"Our Common Future: Sustainable Development"

speaker to be announced

"A European View of Sustainable Development"

Alain Madelin,* Institut Euro 92

Federal Room

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

REVISITING THE CLEAN AIR ACT

"Acid Rain: Causes, Effects, and Control"

J. Laurence Kulp, Consultant, Environmental and Energy Affairs

"Acid Rain, Forests, and Fish"

Edward C. Krug, Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow

"The Comparative Economics of Acid Deposition Mitigation: Lake Liming"

Robert W. Brocksen, Brocksen and Brand, Inc.

"On-Road Testing: Making the Polluter Pay, Instead of Making America Pay"

Donald H. Steadman, University of Denver

"The Threat of Air Toxics: Real or Imagined?"

John Graham, Harvard School of Public Health

"Are the Clean Air Act and Economic Competitiveness Compatible?"

Wilbur A. Steger, CONSAD Research Corporation

HOW BAD SCIENCE BECOMES PUBLIC POLICY

Fred L. Smith, Jr., Competitive Enterprise Institute

RESOLVED: PRUDENT PUBLIC POLICY DECISIONS TO ENSURE SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH REQUIRE ACTION TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF RAPID CLIMATE CHANGE DURING THE NEXT DECADE

Patrick J. Michaels, University of Virginia vs. *Irving M. Mintzer*,* Center for Global Change

*speaker not confirmed

By Pauline, Director of ICST/PA

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

World Environment Day, June 5, is a fitting time for the Cato Institute's Annual Environmental Conference. A Pandora's box of environmental evils has seemingly been loosed upon the earth: catastrophic global warming, massive sea level rise, planetary biodiversity collapse, skin cancer epidemics, oceanic plankton extinctions, air pollution crises, toxic cancer threats, deadly acid rain. Or so it seems. . . .

The only problem with those scenarios of catastrophe is that they may not be true. Even if they are, the economic costs alone of the proposed "cures" may exceed the costs of the threats. Many may find it surprising that respected scientists challenge all of the media-hyped environmental ills. Certainly policymakers and the public are almost totally unaware of the scientific controversy. Concern about global warming, for example, has become a part of the American psyche—despite scientific uncertainty.

Congressional committees rarely seek the views of the dissenting scientists. National legislation and even international treaties proceed as if scientific truth were irrelevant. A "politically correct" scientific view, which supports a "need" to force social change and to transform Western society, now dominates the policy debate.

Environmentalism's traditional values have been abandoned. The principle that the polluter should pay has been replaced by the cynical principle that those with the deepest pockets should pay. No longer should we "think globally, act locally"; that invites public derision. Perhaps most disturbing, even leading scientists quoted in *Science* magazine recently suggested that we have become dangerously addicted to the pursuit of science rather than the development of public policy. Those quoted in the *Science* story criticized the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program's scientists for too diligently attempting to discover and understand the causes and effects of acid precipitation and warned against overemphasizing the role of science in reaching solutions to the even more complex issue of global climate change.

As the major United Nations World Conference on Environment and Development scheduled for Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 approaches, we are seemingly marching toward a new world order of population control, economic planning, and "sustainable development." The economic, societal, and personal consequences of such changes have been ignored.

Instead of accepting more regulation and possibly jeopardizing our common future, Cato is bringing together those scientists and policy analysts who offer alternative perspectives on environmental crises in the interests of rational and humane decisionmaking. In the tradition of public policy debate we have also invited respected spokespersons for the conventional paradigm to ensure a balanced debate on the crucial issues that are shaping our future.

To explore those issues, the Cato Institute is sponsoring a conference, GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES: SCIENCE OR POLITICS? on Wednesday and Thursday, June 5 and 6, 1991, at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. For further information, contact Julie Riggs, conference director, Cato Institute, 224 Second Street S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; telephone (202) 546-0200, fax (202) 546-0728.

GUEST ROOM RESERVATION REQUEST

Name _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Address _____
 City _____

Reservations received after June 1, 1991, subject to availability. Rooms will be held until 6:00 p.m. on the date of arrival unless we are otherwise advised. Please mail directly to the Capital Hilton.

Arrival Date _____ Hour _____ A.M. P.M.
 Departure Date _____ Hour _____ A.M. P.M.

Room Rate: \$140 single, \$160 double.
 Credit Card (MasterCard or VISA only) _____ Exp. Date _____

Account # _____
 Signature _____

The Capital Hilton
 16th and K Streets N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
 Attn: Reservations
 (202) 393-1000 Fax (202) 393-7992

Cato Institute, June 5-6, 1991

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration Fee (includes all sessions and lunches)
 By June 1 \$250
 After June 1 \$300
 \$150

Individual and corporate
 Academic, nonprofit, and government
 Enclosed is a check payable to the Cato Institute for \$ _____
 for _____ registration(s). Bill my VISA MasterCard

Account # _____ Signature _____
 Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Phone (____) _____
 Affiliation _____
 Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____
 Cato Institute, 224 Second Street S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003
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“A system providing each successive generation better health, a cleaner environment and more real income is practicing sustainable development. Market economies, employing technological advances and pushed by the rising demand for environmental quality generated by rising incomes, have delivered these things. Economies where the government controls the means of production have seldom delivered sustainable development. It would be ironic if market economies were steered into collectivism in search of what collective systems of control cannot, by their very nature, deliver.”

—Richard L. Stroup

“The conventional wisdom among scientists, environmentalists, and politicians has blamed acid rain for the acidification of lakes and the depletion of game fisheries in the Adirondacks. Yet recent research suggests that acid rain has little or nothing to do with these problems. Fossil records in lake sediments reveal that many lakes that are acidic today have been highly acidic for centuries, except for several decades in the late 19th century and early 20th century when they were unnaturally alkaline.”

—Edward C. Krug

About the Cato Institute

Founded in 1977, the Cato Institute is a public policy research foundation dedicated to broadening the parameters of policy debate to allow consideration of more options that are consistent with the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, and peace. Toward that goal, the Institute strives to achieve greater involvement of the intelligent, concerned lay public in questions of policy and the proper role of government.

The Institute is named for *Cato's Letters*, pamphlets that were widely read in the American Colonies in the early 18th century and played a major role in laying the philosophical foundation for the revolution that followed. Since that revolution, civil and economic liberties have been eroded as the number and complexity of social problems have grown. Today virtually no aspect of human life is free from the domination of a governing class of politico-economic interests. A pervasive intolerance for individual rights is shown by government's arbitrary intrusions into private economic transactions and its disregard for civil liberties.

To counter this trend the Cato Institute undertakes an extensive publications program dealing with the complete spectrum of policy issues. Books, monographs, and shorter studies are commissioned to examine the federal budget, social security, regulation, NATO, international trade, and a myriad of other issues. Major policy conferences are held throughout the year, from which papers are published thrice yearly in the *Cato Journal*.

In order to maintain an independent posture, the Cato Institute accepts no government funding. Contributions are received from foundations, corporations, and individuals, and other revenue is generated from the sale of publications. The Institute is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational foundation under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.