

# Energy, Environment and Public Transportation

August 17, 2006 Tony Noerpel





# **Problems and Solutions**



### **The Problem Space**

Environmental degradation Resource depletion Inequality

### **The Solution Space**

**Sustainability** 

**Stewardship** 

Freight trains use 10% of the fuel that trucks use. Light rail and other forms of mass transportation are more efficient and more economic than cars.



## **Example:** Africa



- Debt relief for sub-Sahara Africa will save those countries \$1 Billion per year, however...
- Oil prices of \$55 pbl will cost an additional \$10.5 Billion per year over 2002 average price of \$26.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Desertification and draught caused by global warming threaten all agriculture in region.<sup>3</sup>

 Financial Times, July 2, 2005, p. 2
War of the Future- Oil Drives the Genocide in Darfur by David Morse; TomDispatch; August 18, 2005
Thomas, Knight, Wiggs, "Remobilization of southern African desert dune systems by twenty-first century global warming," Nature, June, 2005

### Scientific Support for the Theory of Anthropogenic Global Warming



- 1995 IPCC Report
- 2001 IPCC Report
- 2005 World Bank Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Arctic Climate Impact Assessment
- The American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Academy of Science
- Pentagon report on global warming "An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for United States National Security"
- Joint Science Academy Statement, 2005



Global Warming Theory



	Peer-reviewed articles in science journals	Articles in popular press
	928	636
Percentage in doubt as to cause of global warming	0%	53%

Naomi Oreskes, "The scientific consensus on climate change", Science 306, 5702 #686, 2004, see also Washington Post Sunday, December 26, 2004





## Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge

**Charles Darwin** 





# Prediction is difficult, especially of the future.

### Niels Bohr



## Patterson's Method



Uranium deteriorates to lead at a fixed rate with a half life of about 4 billion years (uranium-238, thorium-234, protactinium-234, uranium-234, thorium-230, radium-226, radon-222, polonium-218, lead-214, bismuth-214, polonium-214, lead-210, bismuth-210, polonium-210 and finally nonradioactive lead-206). The ratios of lead and uranium have been used not just to determine the age of the Earth but also to date geological ages and past extinction events.



# The evolution of genomic complexity and metabolic pathways during Earth's history.







## Earth Extinction Events



Event	when	severity
Holocene	now	50% of all species – it is also a fast extinction event <sup>1</sup>
Paleocene-Eocene thermal maximum	55	30% of marine species, many mammels
Cretaceous- Tertiary	65	47 percent of marine genera and 18 percent of land vertebrate families
End Triassic	200	22 percent of marine families, 52 percent of marine genera
Permian	251	95 percent of all species
Late Devonian	364	22 percent of marine families and 57 percent of marine genera
Ordovician-Silurian	439	25 percent of marine families and 60 percent of marine genera



# Growth of human population







# Growth of reindeer herd







## Growth of yeast





## **Atmospheric Carbon**

Polar Oi

1930

The recent human influence on the carbon cycle



Sources: Petit et al. (1999) Nature 399, 429-436 and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA

#### Sailing into terra incognita?





## Global Average Temperature



Global Average Temperature °C °F 57.92 14.457.74 14.357.56  $14.2 \cdot$ 57.38 14.1 14.0 -57.2013.957.02 -56.8413.8 13.7--56.66-56.48 13.6 5 year average 13.5--56.30 1880 1900 1920 1940 1860 1960 1980 2000 NOAA/UCAR

# The second secon

Positive Feedback or why global warming is worse than the estimates

- Albedo effect
- Melting of the permafrost in Alaska and Russia results in release of methane (effect unaccounted in 2001 IPCC report)
- Spread of bark beetles and draught causing forest fires releasing huge quantities of carbon into the atmosphere
- Hotter atmosphere is capable of absorbing more water vapor – also a green house gas which acts as an amplifier<sup>1</sup>
- Anthropogenic deforestation not just in Amazon but in West Virginia coal belt

1 Soden et. Al. Science, The Radiative Signature of Upper Tropospheric Moistening, October 6 2005; 10.1126/ science.1115602





#### The General Depletion Picture



# Average daily oil production, by month, from EIA and IEA



30 1950 1970 1990 2010 2030 2050



with 13 month centered moving averages. Believed to be all liquids. Source: <u>IEA</u> <u>Oil Market Reports</u>, and <u>EIA</u> <u>International Petroleum</u> <u>Monthly Table 1.4</u>.



# Profit in Kyoto



	Jap	ban	US	
MPG CAFÉ requirements	4	5	23	
	Toyota	Honda	GM	Ford
% change in market cap 2/05- 11/05	+12%	+3%	-36%	-33%

This is a time where environmental improvement is going to lead toward profitability – Jeff Immelt, CEO, GE



## Our Economy





That was a year ago. As of 1Q, 2006, ratio was 316%.





It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it

**Upton Sinclair** 

## Portage Glacier Alaska



### 2004 copyright Gary Braasch ->





http://www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org/ pages/glaciers.html





Polar Oi

2004

0



© GREEN PEACE/BELTRA







G GARY BRAASCH



### Bark Beetle destruction Alaska – Braasch copyrighter



# ASmaller Ice Cap - NY Times

2

2000



### A Smaller Ice Cap

The ice covering the Arctic Ocean shrank to its smallest size in a century this summer, continuing a trend of decades.

#### EXTENT OF SUMMER SEA ICE

In millions of square miles

a setting the set of t

1940

1960

1980

Edge of summer sea ice, 1979-2000 average

RUSSIA

ALASKA

Edge of summer sea ice, 2005

Arctic Ocean Serving

GREENLAND

CANADA

Sources/ William Chapman and John Walsh (left), National Snow and Ice Data Center (above)





# Victims of Global Warming



930 1950 1970 1990 2010 2030 2050















![](_page_34_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Problems and Solutions**

![](_page_36_Picture_2.jpeg)

### **The Problem Space**

Environmental degradation Resource depletion Inequality

### **The Solution Space**

**Sustainability** 

**Stewardship** 

Freight trains use 10% of the fuel that trucks use. Light rail and other forms of mass transportation are more efficient and more economic than cars.

"Our mothers give us birth, but the land gives us life" Larry Gibson

AL TO FILMEN

THE REAL PROPERTY.