



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©
* *Knights of Malta* *

Chancellor's Update July
2023

Climate Control... Its Cost?

The following facts were presented at the Hillsdale College National Leadership Seminar on April 24, 2023, in Irving, Texas by Bjorn Lomborg. He is the president of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution, former director of the Danish government's Environmental Assessment Institute and a person worth listening to. There are rigorous scientists using hard data and robust models to address the phenomenon. This scientific group also includes Michael Schellenberger, Steven E. Koonin, Bruce C. Bunker, M. J. Sanger, and many more.

“How many people die overall as a result of climate, i.e., because of floods, droughts, storms, wildfires, and extreme temperatures? In the 1920s, about 500,000 people died each year, on average, due to climate. Looking at the averages in subsequent decades- the number fluctuates quite a bit from year to year-there has been a dramatic decline. In the 2010s, the average number of people dying each year as a result of climate was 18,000, and in 2022, that number dropped to about 11,000. This downward trend doesn't fit the alarmist narrative, so of course we never hear about it.” Yes, the climate has always changed.

Here are some more facts. Let's get one thing clear. The climate does change. It always has.

During the Medieval Warm Period (950 AD to 1250 AD) the Vikings had farms and settlements in Greenland. Today, those settlements are covered in ice. From 1300 AD to 1850 AD, Europe and parts of North America experienced the Little Ice Age (not a true ice age but a distinct cooling period). The Thames River routinely froze and Londoners held frost fairs on the river itself with merchants' booths filled with goods for sale. Locals could cross the river on ice without using a bridge.

Another fact, because New York City is approximately the southern-most point of glaciation during the last ice age (the Pleistocene glaciation) that ended about 11,700 years ago. Glaciers are ice flows that push rocks to either side.

When the glaciers melt, the rocks remain in a formation called moraine. Long Island Sound has a rocky shore because it was a glacier that melted. Today you can fish, swim and sail in the Sound. That's climate change. But it took thousands of years to unfold.

Mr. Lomborg and his other scientific friends point out there are many other factors to consider. They point to other causes, including solar cycles, ocean salinity, ocean currents like El Nino and La Nina, cloud cover, aerosols, volcanoes, agricultural practices, and natural methane release. There are also numerous official reports that reach the same conclusion, although you may have to scan the footnotes to discover that; official reports produce scary headlines heavily diluted by detailed content. The single most important contribution of real scientists is to demonstrate how badly flawed the models used by the climate alarmists are.

“There are lots of current policies, on the other hand, that don't work. Many people today have a very unrealistic expectation regarding renewable energy. In 1800, it is estimated that renewable sources produced 94 percent of the world's energy. One exception to this was Britain, which was beginning its industrial revolution and was turning to coal for its energy. For the following two centuries, most countries transitioned away from renewables. Why? Because renewables are hard to predict, difficult to harness, and produce a relatively small amount of power...”

“To begin to think smartly about climate change, we have to understand climate-related economics. There are costly damages associated with climate change. But there are also costly damages associated with climate policies. Too many politicians and the media focus only on the former. They are constantly telling us that we have costly climate problems, and that is true. But they don't tell us about or report the fact that the policies we enact also have costs.”

“One of those was the European Union's 2020 policy, which included a goal to reduce CO2 by 20 percent and increase the use of renewable energy to 20 percent of total energy consumption by 2020. That policy had a huge cost while failing to cut very much CO2. The net economic result was that every dollar the EU spent on climate led to a reduction of three cents in world-wide climate damages. If the EU would simply have given the dollar away, it could have done 97 cents more good.”

“Likewise, when it comes to climate change, our focus should not be on policies that cost a lot, deliver little, and in the end likely don't even work. Rather, we should focus our efforts on developing new technology and encouraging innovation that will lead to the production of affordable and dependable green energy. It is possible for us to have a sensible climate policy without breaking the bank and without sacrificing the amazing opportunities delivered by cheap and abundant energy.”

It is our opinion that the new renewable green energy source is in the Micro Nuclear Chain Reactors.

Copyright 2023 by the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Inc. All rights reserved. The O.S.J. Messenger and the Chancellor's Update are among the authorized publications of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Inc. and the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem-Knights of Malta. World Headquarters and Convent of the Order are located in Hughesville, Maryland in the United States of America.



Jerusalem 1048-1291, Cyprus 1291-1310, Rhodes 1311-1523, Malta 1530-1798, Russia 1798-1907, U.S.A. 1908-

<http://sovereignorderofsaintjohnofjerusalemknightsofmalta.org/>