

Hansen's Comments to Obama

28th Dec. 2008

The following are e-mail exchanges on Hansen's comments to Obama.

24th November 2008

Dear [contributor]

Thanks for this, which advocates a carbon tax with a 100% dividend and thorium reactors which eat nuclear waste. The energy group should support him.

Yours John Kapp

24th November 2008

Dear All,

The Hansen report makes grim reading. Sadly, nothing I didn't know, from my own work with other scientists.

Basically, the clock is now ticking.

1: We have less than 70 months before the CO2 levels go past the tipping point, into irreversible climate change.

2: About 30 months ago, the Arctic Sea-Ice cover tipped into irreversible collapse, and is expected to disappear completely by as early as 2012. this will trigger huge weather events shortly afterwards.

3: The Greenland Ice Cap has tipped, and is now breaking up, not just melting. Most will be gone in 100 years, and the climate consequences will be horrific.

4: The Amazon basin rain forest is approaching rapidly a tipping point. No later than 2050, (probably earlier) it will have collapsed completely, and died, leading to massive Northern and Southern Hemisphere climate disturbances. The Congo basin will follow shortly afterwards.

5: The main World glaciers are tipping, and will be gone by 2050. The Indian rivers, for instance, are mostly glacier fed, and will be gone by 2050. Likewise, the Western South American river water resources.

6: Australia is now tipping into massive permanent desertification of the remaining fertile areas.

7: Internal debate and discussion amongst climate scientists is now bluntly expressed in terms of the "Anthropocene extinction" (They mean Us). Coming to a Planet near You, no later than 2100-2150 AD.

Meanwhile:

The Government is greenwashing everything.

Has no proper contingency plans for peak oil, gas, let alone water crisis, food security, alternative energy, etc etc. Most of this seems to be

deliberate. (They don't want to frighten people and risk criticism or unpopularity.) Let someone else deal with it, later.

Organizations which should be campaigning on these issues, like the Green Party, are instead obsessed with trivia, like green light bulbs and composting.... and have no vision or real understanding of events.

What a mess.

Locally: We have to do what we can. Local planning, and preparation, as frequently discussed in the energy group.

Comments?

Graham Ennis

24th November 2008

Dear Graham

Well said. The first thing is to accept these probabilities as you have, rather than denying them, as most do. This ought to be on the agenda for tomorrow.

Best wishes

Yours John Kapp

24th November 2008

Dear John,

Sadly, this is not some disaster movie scenario, but a realistic and hard headed take on what future events will be.

The climate bill was more or less forced down the Governments throat, but they are not enthusiastic.

There is a lot of greenwashing going on.

It's almost impossible to find out what the Government is really doing about events.

Monbiot was able, with threats of court action financed by the Guardian, to discover under FOIA that the government plans for peak oil actually did not exist. The Government was still in denial, and did not believe that there would be any short term shortage in the future.

On pandemics, driven by the medical establishment, we are somewhat better off, with an emergency program re bird flu (Now inevitable, eventually) and which will kill about 5 million UK residents in the first wave, and twice that in the second wave, six months or so later.

As regards food security, nothing, as far as we know.

Ditto, water supplies.

Raw material imports, ditto.

We should be drawing attention to this.

The Government is deliberately avoiding the issue, whilst hoping no one will be persistent enough to force the truth out of them.

I think doing that would be a very good idea.

Regards

Graham Ennis

25th November 2008

Dear Graham

Thanks for this. Then we will have to write the NEDRAP for them, starting at tonight's meeting. Hope to see you there.

Yours John Kapp