

Sign in to al.com »
Not a member? Register Now »

Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more...

Brought to you by:



Home News Weather Sports Entertainment Travel Interact Jobs Autos Real Estate Classifieds Shop Place An Ad

Breaking News from The Huntsville Times

Local news updates from Huntsville and surrounding communities

Sponsored By:



Inside

Breaking News from The Huntsville Times »

Browse by category

- Accident
- Airshow
- Alabama Football
- Big Spring Jam
- Breaking News
- Business
- Court
- Crime
- Economy
- Education
- Elections
- Entertainment
- Environment
- Events
- Fire
- Football
- Good people
- Government
- Graduation
- Health
- History
- Hockey
- Holidays
- Housing
- Hurricane
- Immigration
- Inauguration
- Limestone
- Links
- Lottery
- Madison
- Medical
- Military
- NASA
- National news
- News
- Panoply
- Photo slideshow
- Politics
- Public housing

Weather »

Global warming skeptic tells group that cure is worse than problem

By Lee Roop
November 11, 2009, 5:09AM

HUNTSVILLE, AL - Science doesn't support current global warming alarms and, even if it did, current proposals to fix things won't work and might make life worse.

That's the well-known view of Dr. John Christy, a University of Alabama in Huntsville climate scientist, and Christy spelled out the "whys" and "why nots" of his perspective Tuesday to the Huntsville Rotary Club.

"Consensus is not science," Christy began, quoting the late author Michael Crichton. Christy, the state climatologist, is well-known in the global warming debate. He has testified before Congress many times and was an unpaid expert witness for the automobile industry in a federal lawsuit against fleet mileage requirements.

Here's Christy's basic argument:

* The data being used to predict catastrophic warming is suspect.

* Models generated from that data "overstate the warming" actually taking place. The earth is warming, but not that much, and it has warmed and cooled for eons.

* The Earth's atmosphere is nowhere near as sensitive to carbon dioxide as some environmentalists believe.

* Any "solution" to perceived global warming must balance the growing worldwide demand for energy against cutting carbon dioxide output.

Fleet mileage requirements now proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency "would reduce global temperatures by about 1/100th of a degree," Christy said.

You would need to replace 1,000 coal-fired power plants with 1,000 nuclear plants to change global climate even .15 of a degree, he said.

"This is the scale (of global climate) we are talking about," Christy said.

* One cost of mandating harsh energy controls is the migration of industry to areas where requirements are less, Christy said.

In his talk, Christy also took aim at several other widely discussed pronouncements.



Special to The Huntsville Times

Dr. John Christy

Breaking News from The Huntsville Times headlines

- [Snow forecast closes schools, shuts state offices](#) 7:57PM
- [Ex-wife of man accused in murder of 22-year-old Jackson County woman says she was forced to help dispose of body in well](#) 7:39PM
- [Bill could halt new UAH policy on housing](#) 5:16PM
- [Huntsville's downtown dog park to be closed for two weeks](#) 4:31PM
- [Man charged with capital murder in Newson Road killing](#) 4:10PM

More: [Breaking News from The Huntsville Times](#) »

BRETT / ROBINSON DISCOVER
4 for 3 or 5 for 4
Click here for more **FREE** night specials on Alabama's Gulf Coast!

*Restrictions apply. Free nights are not available at Phoenix hotels.

Popular Tags

- Alabama arrest assault burglary crime drugs Guntersville Huntsville Huntsville blotter Huntsville crime Huntsville police Jackson County Madison Madison County Marshall County NASA police robbery Scottsboro shooting snow swine flu The Best theft weather

- [kescue](#)
- [SEC](#)
- [Shared - Birmingham](#)
- [Shared - Mobile](#)
- [Space](#)
- [Special section](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [State news](#)
- [Swine Flu](#)
- [The Best](#)
- [Think Pink](#)
- [Traffic](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [TVA](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Watchdog](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [World news](#)

[RSS Feed](#)

Browse by month

Select a date

* Temperatures in the Arctic have increased over the last 100 years, he agreed, but that's only because 100 years ago "was the coldest it's been in a long time."

* Arctic ice has melted, but ice has grown in Anartica. Between the two, there's about as much ice as always.

* There are more polar bears now, not fewer. Canada issues 800 bear-hunting permits each year, he pointed out.

* Temperatures may be warmer in Greenland, but scientific experiments with ice fields show "that 4,000 years ago, it was warmer in Greenland than it is today."

"Greenland did not melt," Christy said.

Why is the apocalyptic view of climate change so widespread?

"Funding comes if you have an alarming story," Christy said.

He also cited "group think" and said scientists revel in the attention their views about climate brings.

"It's almost a drug," Christy said.

Climate Change

Can we adapt? Will we protect our planet? Explore and discuss at: [AreWeToast.com](#)

Obama Urges Refinance

\$180,000 Refinance under \$846/mo. See Rates- Calculate New Payment! [www.LowerMyBills.com](#)

Global Warming Overview

Global Warming Facts, Info an Links Hoax, Effects, Debate, Statitics [www.TheGlobalWarmingOverview.com](#)

Recommend (0)

[Print this](#) [Email this](#) [Share this:](#)


Previous story: [Huntsville police blotter](#)

Next story: [Huntsville defense contractor, law firm pledge \\$160,000 to Madison County Veterans Memorial](#)

Story tags: [UAH](#)

Comments (11 total) [RSS](#) [Post a comment](#)


Oldest comments are shown first. [Show newest comments first](#)

 Posted by [navvet83](#)
November 11, 2009, 6:45AM

Nice to see at least one reputable scientist isn't playing Chicken Little. Every one of his points is valid and well worth considering. Forty years ago when I was a schoolboy climatologists were predicting an ice age!

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)

 Posted by [newbubba](#)
November 11, 2009, 8:16AM

Hmmm. For every 1 John Christy, there are 10 just as qualified who are very concerned. Think about all the clean air that would come about from addressing global warming. It is a win win scenario. The lungs of Birmingham, one of THE worst cities for air pollution for a number of reasons, will benefit. Cleaner air... ALWAYS a good idea.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)

Most Commented on al.com

The stories you're talking about

460 comments [Auburn's Aairon Savage upbeat about his return to football](#)

209 comments [Auburn recruiting: A very early look at 2011](#)

123 comments [Police investigate two afternoon deaths in southwest Birmingham](#)

104 comments [Saban Rule comes back to bite Muschamp](#)

103 comments [Crimson Tide looks to add a second Kouandjio in 2011 signing class](#)

From Our Advertisers

- [Tired of looking? Click for Used Car Specials.](#)
- [2600 Highland, Birmingham's finest condo with concierge service](#)
- [BIG#1 Motorsports Half Off Accessory Sale](#)

[Advertise With Us »](#)



Posted by **dividebyzero**
November 11, 2009, 8:31AM

Christy has no credibility in the scientific community on global warming - he's just another industry hack, bought and paid for by the big polluters: the earth is flat, smoking doesn't cause cancer, and there's no such thing as global warming.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by **banker924**
November 11, 2009, 9:57AM

You need to provide evidence and facts before you make this tye of accusation. This guy has more credibility and knowledge on this topic than you have demonstrated.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by **ifr4**
November 11, 2009, 8:46AM

No, it's not a win win, newbubba? Every one of these over-the-top clean air restrictions will drive prices on vehicles sky high, drive energy costs sky high, and drive what little industry the US has left to China (who, BTW, couldn't care less about global warming, or their environment).

That does not mean that global warming skeptics are for polluting the air or the environment. That's assinine. We should care for our environment and we should have REASONABLE clean air laws. But, what this administration and the environmental wackos are proposing will cripple this nation and punt us back to the stone age.

I'm not against solar power, or wind power, but these technologies have not progressed to the point where they can power the entire nation.

And how do you propose to dispose of the batteries contained in all these electric and hybrid vehicles? They don't last forever, and they'll have to go somewhere.

And BTW, carbon dioxide IS NOT A POLLUTANT! If you took 7th grade science, you'll remember that trees need carbon dioxide to live.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by **roadkillinms**
November 11, 2009, 8:51AM

newbubba & dividebyzero - please list your educational credentials and the research papers authored....or just admit you're a believer of Gore's book, Earth in the Balance....which if submitted as an 8th grade science paper and graded on scientific methods would FAIL. Idiots are why our energy costs are so high...congratulations.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by **panabamian**
November 11, 2009, 8:55AM

dividebyzero- if your coment were true (which it isn't), the first ones to tell the emperor he has no clothes always lack credibility - for a while. I didn't hear you try to refute any of his points directly. The science around CO2 warming is very complex and has been horribly botched, while many other more significant factors such as PDO and solar cycles were ignored. Also, read "superfreakonomics" for a really interesting take on this.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by **alageezer**
November 11, 2009, 9:21AM

Interesting that the Church of Gore always demeans and personally attacks any & all who dissent from their catechism. Their "scientific debate" is rather like the medieval church when it used the inquisition to suppress views they found heretical. In point of fact many quite reputable

climatologists find the "end of the world as we know it" view of climate change as grossly over-stated.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by **sbx419**
November 11, 2009, 1:06PM

"Hmmm. For every 1 John Christy, there are 10 just as qualified who are very concerned. Think about all the clean air that would come about from addressing global warming. It is a win win scenario. The lungs of Birmingham, one of THE worst cities for air pollution for a number of reasons, will benefit. Cleaner air... ALWAYS a good idea. " You didn't read the article. The main point is that numerous so-called scientists (not necessarily climatologists) have joined the Al Gore bandwagon. It's also a win-lose scenario. Increased energy and product costs. Lost jobs. Less flexible transportation alternatives. You can only do so much to clean the environment - and the you reach the point of diminishing returns on investment. Being the "worst cities" is a relative thing. Cleaner air is a good thing - but to impose all kinds of unreasonable limits on industry and individuals is not beneficial.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by **mayday96**
November 11, 2009, 1:07PM

I thought Al Gore was the expert?

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by **willysunday**
November 11, 2009, 3:26PM

The man with the mustache is like a cancer doctor who chain smokes unfiltered camels. HACK, HACK. HACK.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)

You must sign in to post a comment.

Sign in to al.com

Username Password

Don't have an account? [Register Now!](#)

We've upgraded our community features on al.com
[Learn more! >>](#)



Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more...

[Site Map](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact us](#)
[Make us your home page](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Travel](#) | [Interact](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Shop](#) | [Place an Ad](#)

- [Your Photos](#)
- [Your Videos](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Music](#)

- [Post a Job](#)
- [Post a free classified ad](#)
- [Sell your car](#)
- [Sell/Rent your Home](#)
- [Apartments & Rentals](#)
- [Claim your Business Listing for Free](#)

- [Alabama Business News](#)
- [US & World News](#)
- [Obits / Death Notices](#)
- [Weddings & Celebrations](#)
- [Lifestyle News](#)
- [Good Deals & Frugal Living](#)

- [Subscribe to our content \(RSS\)](#)
- [Newsletters](#) | [Text alerts](#)
- [Follow @aldotcom on Twitter](#)
- [Friend al.com on Facebook](#)
- [al.com mobile site](#)

Special home delivery offers! [The Birmingham News](#) | [The Huntsville Times](#) | [Mobile Press-Register](#)

© 2010 Alabama Live LLC. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#). [Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site. [Contact interactivity management](#).