

# Global Warming – the Cause?

Some thoughts by Gerardus Bouw, Ph.D.

We are coming out of a colder-than-average period called *The Little Ice Age*. The glaciers built up during that cold period and its cold weather allowed the plagues to run rampant in Europe. Those of us who live “up north” know that most flu and cold viruses thrive in a temperature range between 20 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. So, on the whole, warmer temperatures are better.

I oppose the notion that man is responsible for global warming. The sun is primarily responsible. I like seeing glaciers, and I know that the disappearance of glaciers from Glacier National Park will cause a decline in the economic climate of the Park's environs, but I also know that such has happened before and people usually move elsewhere. I've never heard of anyone starving under such circumstances.

It is not pleasant to have one's water supply dry up but it is no worse than what happened to New Orleans with a hurricane, or the results of a tsunami or earthquake. We take risks and when we lose, we pick ourselves up and try again.

I think contamination of well water is an infinitely greater problem world-wide than the loss of meltwater from glaciers.

I computed the rise in sea level if all the glaciers on earth except Greenland and Antarctica melted and found it to be less than a centimeter. Since that is negligible relative to wave action along the shore line, there is no cause for alarm.

If Greenland melts, the sea level would go up about a meter, as I recall. That would cause problems for some islands and possibly the Netherlands, though most dikes there are two meters above the water line. We would also gain Greenland's land area.

If the arctic ice sheet were to melt, the sea level would not rise one iota since the ice is already floating – that is, its mass has already displaced as much water as it does as ice.

Recent reports that the Antarctic ice sheet is thinning failed to report that elsewhere it is thickening and that the net result is that it is still increasing in thickness.

Bear in mind, too, that the average temperature of the Antarctic is -40C. A five or ten degree warming would raise that to -30. How much more ice melts at -30 than at -40 ? Melting is not an issue at those temperatures, and sublimation is negligible.

We have an area along Lake Erie that was once a popular place to live. Erosion has hit, and the environmentalists will not allow dikes to be built, which would halt the lake's advancing inland at a rate of three feet per year. Houses are disappearing with the land.

The environmentalists don't care about the people who live there or the fact that in 50 to 100 years that lake's enlargement will inundate a toxic waste dump site. Those are the same people who pretend they know global warming is a threat to the world. The Lake Erie on-going disaster is thoroughly documented, along with how it can be alleviated. I despise such contemptible hypocrits.

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Dr Bouw can be reached by email: [gbouw@bw.edu](mailto:gbouw@bw.edu)