

**the People's Press**

an independent alternative  
newsmagazine



**Contact us at:**

P.O. Box 514  
Manton, CA 96059  
(530) 474-3961 home/fax  
peoplespress@jett.net

**Editor/Publisher**

Suzy Coffee

**Co-Editor/Publisher**

Del Coffee

A special thanks to Laurie O'Connell for her help with proof reading.

**the People's Press** is distributed in:  
Manton, Shingletown, Redding, Red Bluff,  
Chico, Weaverville, Dunsmuir,  
Montgomery Creek, Round Mountain,  
Burney, Mt. Shasta and Hayfork.

**Circulation:** 3,000

**Deadline for submissions:**  
Send them!

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily of **the People's Press**. No reprint of any portion of this publication is authorized without permission from the editors and or authors. All submissions are welcome and will be carefully considered. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, length and libel.

Thank you, to everyone that has made this issue possible.

**Mission Statement**

To provide an alternative voice to corporate media and a forum for local activist groups; to be a vehicle for social and political change where diverse groups can debate issues, build consensus and pull together for the causes of justice and peace.

**It Might Be the End of the World**

by Doug Craig

F. Sherwood Rowland, the Nobel Prize winner who is credited with helping to discover the relationship between manmade CFC's and ozone depletion in the atmosphere is reported to have told his wife one night after work, "The work is going very well but it looks like it might be the end of the world."

Fortunately, for humanity, Rowland and others discovered the truth in time, and in 1987 nearly 60 nations signed the Montreal Protocol banning further production and use of CFC's and forestalling, at least for awhile, the world's end. The lesson from Montreal is that while human actions can have unintended and disastrous consequences on our atmosphere and climate, by trusting science and acting decisively, the world community can work together to avert a cataclysm.

Unfortunately, the human race is once again faced with a planetary crisis, this time not a hole in the ozone but catastrophic climate change, what James Lovelock, the originator of the Gaia Theory, called "a deadly peril, with little time left to escape." While the world's climate scientists now speak with one voice to warn humanity that it is once again responsible for the problem and the solution, so far mankind's response is more lethargic than decisive.

The clearest evidence to date of humanity's developing nightmare was delivered by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on February 2, 2007. According to the London Observer, this fourth report from the IPCC will tell us that "Global warming is destined to have a far more destructive and earlier impact than previously estimated." The report says "the frequency of devastating storms, like the ones that battered Britain recently, will increase dramatically. Sea levels will rise...snow will disappear from all but the highest mountains; deserts will spread; oceans become acidic, leading to the destruction of coral reefs and atolls; and deadly heat-waves will become more prevalent."

The report also warns us that, "The impact will be catastrophic, forcing hundreds of millions of people to flee their devastated homelands, particularly in tropical, low-lying areas, while creating waves of immigrants whose movements will strain the economies of even the most affluent countries."

According to the Observer, the scariest aspect of the IPCC's report is how conservative it is. In other words, the IPCC process works on a consensus model which means that "Only points that were considered indisputable" by "several thousand climate experts" who debated and scrutinized every paragraph "survived this process." The frightening truth is that as bleak a picture that the IPCC report paints, the reality could be much worse.

It tells us that 12 of the past 13 years were the warmest since records began, that cold days and nights and frost are decreasing while hot days and nights and heat-waves are on the increase. While the problems we are already seeing are only due to about a one degree rise, scientists now predict an

*"Global warming is destined to have a far more destructive and earlier impact than previously estimated."*

average increase of 5 to 9 degrees before the end of the century.

In case anyone is still in doubt, the report's authors clearly emphasize that "It is very likely that [man-made] greenhouse gas increases caused most of the average temperature increases since the mid-20th century." Some argue that the world is hotter due to "natural variation in the sun's output" but evidence now clearly shows that "mankind's industrial emissions have had five times more effect on the climate than any fluctuations in solar radiation."

The report also warns that failure to respond could "bring irreversible change to the planet." One of the most frightening scenarios is a "positive feedback loop" where a warmer world creates conditions that serve to further accelerate warming. A good example of this is the melting glaciers. Since glaciers reflect almost all light and heat back into the atmosphere and oceans absorb almost all heat that hits their surface, melting glaciers will decrease reflection, increase absorption

and accelerate warming. In other words, the worse it gets, the worse it gets faster.

And time is running out. It was only four months ago that Dr. James Hansen, a leading U.S. climate researcher, the head of the NASA Institute for Space Studies in New York City, and an adjunct professor in the Earth and Environmental Sciences department at Columbia University said "the world has a 10-year window of opportunity to take decisive action on global warming and avert catastrophe." He warned us that "we will be producing a different planet" if the world continues with a "business as usual" scenario.

While it is unclear whether humanity will respond in time, Peter Cox of Exeter University claims "there is still hope." He said, "We are like alcoholics who have got as far as admitting there is a problem. It is a start. Now we have got to start drying out, which means reducing our carbon output."

Still Elizabeth Kolbert, the author of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change* wrote, "It may seem impossible to imagine that a technologically advanced society could choose, in essence, to destroy itself, but that is (exactly) what we are now in the process of doing."

As Rowland said, "The work is going very well but it looks like it might be the end of the world."

[www.ClimateTruth.org](http://www.ClimateTruth.org)

JETT.NET

Web Hosting • Internet Provider

Macintosh Service & Repair

242•1800