

# Wednesday Wakeup

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May 27, 2026



## CDN Video

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In our latest documentary [“A Modern Miracle Part I: What Oil And Gas Do For Us”](#) we look at the crucial role hydrocarbon energy plays in sustaining our way of life, and the dangerous frivolity of suggesting we could easily get rid of them, let alone that we’d be better off if we did.

## Green Money Machine

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Number 12 in our scornful rebuttal of claims that climate skeptics have all the money is the [Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham Environmental Trust](#), in Boston. Which is not to be confused with the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment, which we featured as #15 on our list. Or maybe it is, because [the former is part of the latter](#) and when you try to go to [the old Trust website](#) you may well get the Foundation instead. And man have they got cash, not least because Jeremy Grantham is the founder of [the Boston investment firm GMO, LLC](#), which manages about \$63.4 billion in assets. (And [you'd better have some too](#) as "GMO offers separately managed accounts to investors who meet minimum investment size guidelines that vary by investment Strategy and range from \$25 million to \$500 million." Alas we left our half-billion in our other suit.) Of course we have nothing against entrepreneurial success or philanthropy including environmental. Provided you're not wacky. But sometimes they are, and they have a lot of clout and connections since, among other things, "The Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham Environmental Trust is a public charity and 509(a)(3) supporting organization focused on reducing and reversing global environmental degradation. Its independent (majority) trustees are the CEOs of Rare, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund US and Rocky Mountain Institute." Wanna start tallying their combined assets and see who's rolling in dough? Meanwhile the JHGET alone [had revenue](#) in 2024 of \$74.7 million and net assets of \$417 million. Fortunately they don't seem to be very effective at using all that cash because we're winning. We seem to make better use of \$75 than they do of \$75 million, so please send us either amount and help us out.

## Climate crisis roundup

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## Affraudability

In many areas of life, the devil is famously in the details. And it presents both an opportunity and a frustration because there is so much out there deserving readers' attention that you can't even follow it all let alone cram it into a newsletter. Including former banking executive Parker Gallant's [vigilance](#) about the absurdities of the power system in the Canadian province of Ontario that the aspiring Conservative premier Doug Ford promised to fix in the 2018 campaign and then has smugly done nothing about. These things might seem uninteresting if you do not live in Ontario... until you realize it's just as bad wherever you live. And when we say bad we mean both the cost and the deviousness with which it is presented to, or hidden from, the public. On this very point we like to quote the late great P.J. O'Rourke that "Beyond a certain point complexity *is* fraud.... when someone creates a system in which you can't tell whether or not you're being fooled, you're being fooled." Which brings us to the shiny new buzzword "affordability" which refers to policies that make everything more expensive and the beneficiaries hide the fraud in tangles of complex bureaucracy.

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## War of the Worlds

When we look at the relentless march of wind turbines we are reminded of H.G. Wells' iconic 1898 scifi novel [War of the Worlds](#) in which the Earth is invaded by vastly smarter and more advanced Martians whose tripod weapons stride through the landscape destroying all obstacles mercilessly with the futuristic energy they create. Others evidently find wind turbines a pleasing alternative to boring old trees, clouds, fields and all that rubbish. But even some of those folks find solar farms a bit unnatural, invasive and generally ghastly. As Canary Media [reports](#), Vermont "needs more clean, cheap power, but Lowell residents – including many who supported a nearby wind farm – tell Austyn Gaffney that the proposed solar array will destroy an invaluable community space. Similar debates are playing out across Vermont, which must balance decarbonization ambitions with concerns about preserving its rural character." Unless of course you don't think filling green spaces with industrial products is "decarbonization" or that getting rid of plant food will help anyone with anything. Or that it's cheap. Or clean. But apart from that, a real dilemma.

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## Tidbits

- In a feature “How to flood-proof cities” *Bloomberg Green* [leads off](#) with “The planet is warming faster than ever, and as it does, extreme weather is intensifying.” But no. That “faster than ever” is fatuous given, to take just one example, the pace of warming at the end of the [Younger Dryas](#) roughly 11,700 years ago, when temperatures leaped upward by at least 3°C and possibly as much as 10°C in a few decades. It’s not a state secret or buried in the appendices of the theory of special relativity. It’s known to anyone who bothers to check. And extreme weather including flooding is not “intensifying”, whether by this term the writer thinks she means becoming more common, more powerful or both. It is a worrying sign of the state of public debate, and not only here, that such assertions are no longer backed even by weak evidence. They are simply shouted over and over.
- The Memorandum of Verbiage limps on. The Canadian federal and Alberta provincial governments have agreed to agree on the disagreements about their agreement to raise the industrial carbon tax now in return for a pipeline never. As *Western Standard* [notes](#), “During a panel discussion at the third annual Energy Connections Canada conference in Calgary, oil and gas industry leaders said the recently announced energy agreement between Prime Minister Mark Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith was a positive signal but still warned major economic and regulatory barriers remain in the way of a new crude oil pipeline being built.” The trouble is, Carney is all signal and no action and, crucially, doesn’t know it’s bad. And what is Premier Smith’s excuse for raising an actual tax in return for a signaled pipeline?
- If you’re curious how this kind of thing works, the Prime Minister [just boasted](#) that “In six months, Canada’s new government has referred 22 projects and transformative strategies to the MPO worth over \$126 billion in investment, including Nouveau Monde Graphite’s (NMG) Matawinie Mine in Saint-Michel-des-Saints, Québec. Today, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, announced that construction is starting on this transformative project just six months after its referral to the Major Projects Office.” What he didn’t mention is that [it’s still sitting in the MPO inbox](#). Oh, or that construction [actually started](#) in 2021. Mind you the government has apparently managed to shovel at least half a billion dollars (“a \$459 million financing package from Export Development Canada and the Canada Infrastructure Bank... builds on a \$113 million strategic commitment from the Canada Growth Fund (CGF), following the CGF’s previous \$35.6 million commitment announced in December 2024” whee cackle free money for all) into this particular money pit. Which seems a lot to pay for a press release.

- According to that same Carney ministry of free money, “The Build Communities Strong Fund is investing \$51 billion in a wide range of infrastructure projects across the country that support economic prosperity, housing, sport, education, health, transit, and climate adaptation. To that end, MP Chris Malette, joined by Mayor Steve Ferguson, announced a federal investment of more than \$20 million in the Wellington Extended Aeration Wastewater Treatment Plant in Prince Edward County, through the Direct Delivery stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund.” In a [May 21, 2026](#) press release from “Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada”. So yes, we really have a ministry of Communities – “[Lonesome No More!](#)”. And it really sells a sewage plant as climate adaptation since obviously until they came along people just dumped it right into the river. And because the point of the upgrade is to let the community get bigger and thus release more GHGs and... uh... hang on...
- From the “oh shut up” file, *Bloomberg Green* has [found a new stick](#) with which to beat Donald Trump and Israel and to assist the mad mullahs of Teheran. “Middle East War Risks Creating an Environmental Disaster, Experts Warn”. Gad. The experts who warn. And what is this disaster? “There’s been an increasing amount of oil slicks.” Oh really. And was the Iranian oil industry clean until now? Indeed, while you’re at it, tell us whether Israel’s, and the United States’s, environmental record since say the first Earth Day compares favourably with that of squalid antisemitic Middle Eastern tyrannies. Because we don’t recall you sounding the alarm about this kind of thing before. Plus you’re just making it up: “The size of the spills are not enormous compared to major disasters”. But Orange Man Bad. Israel bad. Experts say.



– Alert reader A.J. Walker of New Zealand, May 15, 2026

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## Policy Corner

### Greenhouse gaslighting

Climate science means never having to say you're wrong. Or that you spent years misleading the public by calling RCP8.5 a business-as-usual baseline rather than an extreme outlier scenario. But instead of fessing up they're digging in. [Bloomberg Green insists](#) that "the end of the RCP8.5 era is the result not of errors, according to scientists, but of recent research on emissions pathways that have made the old worst-case scenario irrelevant." Which is a significant problem because virtually every word of that statement is false and further undermines the credibility of climate "science" and climate journalism at a time when neither is exactly robust.

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## Hot rocks

Hope springs eternal when it comes to new energy sources. David Gelles of the *New York Times* “Climate Forward” claims there’s gold in them thar hills in the form of [geothermal power](#) which is poised to take off, save the US from the AI power crunch, save the world from the dreaded carbon and make us all rich. Or not, since “A new wave of start-ups are trying to harvest emissions-free energy from inside the Earth, but the industry still faces significant challenges.” Like the part about not really working except in climate-zealots’ imaginations and columns.

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## Simple physics

A frequent claim by climate alarmists is that global warming due to man-made GHGs is “simple physics”. And it is true that some parts of it are simple, for instance that if more heat is coming in than is getting out the planet will warm. But most of those making this claim are not, to put it gently, well-placed to judge what is simple and what is not. Very early in CDN’s career, for instance, we did a video “[The ‘Simple Physics’ Slogan](#)” in which we interviewed, of all things, a physicist, William van Wijngaarden of York University, who among other things discussed the various “transitions” whereby five key greenhouse gases, CO<sub>2</sub>, ozone, methane, nitrous oxide and crucially water vapour, absorb heat rather than permitting it to escape the atmosphere, explaining “we’ve considered several hundred thousand different transitions.” And we want to ask most in the “simple physics” crowd what they make of, for instance,  $\Delta E = hv = hc/\lambda$ . (From p. 14 of *Theories and Predictions on Ozone Depletion and Climate Change*) by Professor Qing-Bin Lu of Waterloo, with whom we just did a webinar.) But of course it’s a difficulty for less dogmatic people as well that complex mathematics can be hard to follow. So it’s important that everyone keep an eye on something that is simple: regardless of how elegant or intimidating the math, the crucial test of a theory is whether it explains known current phenomena and predicts knowable future ones. In the case of Prof. Lu’s theory, the key empirical data is that temperature records from the last half-century fit exceptionally well with atmospheric concentrations of CFCs, not CO<sub>2</sub>. And as Jim Mason [wrote in an article](#) in *C2C Journal* in the fall of 2024 to which our attention was just drawn, there are good physics reasons to doubt that CO<sub>2</sub> could explain temperature, let alone that it correlates sufficiently to justify the enforced orthodoxy of the “ruling paradigm” that it does so.

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## Say what?

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**“Canada’s new climate finance pledge faces COP31’s credibility test/ Countries that are precise about how finance is delivered, who it reaches, and what it achieves will carry greater influence in a process that depends on trust.”**

– *The Hill Times* [May 20, 2026](#)

## Things of a number

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### #DoEDeepDive: The scale problem

Wrapping up our look at last summer’s DOE [contrarian climate report](#), which is looking less contrarian and [more prescient](#) as time goes by, we turn to Chapter 11 on the global impact of US emission policies. The chapter begins by explaining the scale problem: unlike local air pollution, where emissions and concentrations are tied closely together, aka if a chimney is belching soot it hits the people who are close by and downwind and hits them pretty much right away, when it comes to CO2 levels the carbon cycle is big, slow-moving and global. So this year’s emissions hardly change the global concentration and thus this year’s emission reductions have minimal impact. Even if half the countries in the world cut emissions, it would take decades for the global CO2 level to change. Also, because CO2 does not respect borders, if the other half increase emissions in response, the global level would never change whereas if Los Angeles dealt with its own smog generation its local air pollution would fall dramatically, and did after the 1960s, even if cities in China were becoming enveloped in a toxic haze as many were. All of which should come as [no surprise](#) to CDN readers. But needed saying anyway, along with another key point.

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### Declines in US extreme temperatures since 1899

A few years ago we ran an “[Everybody Knows](#)” series going over all the mistaken climate clichés that journalists glibly state without checking because they figure everybody knows, at least everyone they know, so it must be true. We can now add to the list the claim that extreme temperatures in the US are getting worse and worse. According to a [new study](#) by University of Alabama climatologist Dr. John Christy, while extreme heat episodes have risen since the 1960s, over the whole of the past 126 years, measures of both extreme heat and extreme cold have declined in the US. The American climate is getting less extreme not more.

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## The effect of additional CO2 on Orobranche minor

From the [CO2Science.org archive](#): What would be a worse name for a plant to go through life with than Broomrape? Well, arguably “Lesser broomrape”. But believe it or not this week’s specimen is also known as Hellroot. Understandably, as it’s a [parasite](#), a pest, a prohibited plant and apparently a problem that afflicts plants around the planet, so if you happen to see it growing near you call your local farm protection bureau and ask them to bring napalm. Fortunately our carbon sins don’t seem to benefit Broomrape. In 1999 there was an experiment exposing it to an additional 300 ppm CO2 and there was no recorded increase in its growth. What the Hellroot?

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## Noteworthy Links

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For additional news, science and opinion on climate change we recommend meteorologist Anthony Watts’ [Watts Up With That](#) site, and its companion “[Everything Climate](#)” site that offers information on various common claims in the climate debate.