

COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE: Global Warming/“Energy” (:60)

There's something in these pictures you can't see.¹

It's essential to life.²

We breathe it out.

Plants breathe it in.³

It comes from animal life, the oceans, the earth,
and the fuels we find in it.⁴

It's called carbon dioxide---CO₂.

The fuels that produce CO₂ have
freed us from a world of back-breaking labor,⁵
lighting up our lives,⁶
allowing us to create and move⁷
the things we need, the people we love.

Now some politicians want to label carbon dioxide a pollutant.⁸

Imagine if they succeed.

What would our lives be like then?

Carbon dioxide.

They call it pollution.

We call it life.

¹ Virtual Chembook, “Carbon dioxide is an invisible gas that is harmless to humans,” <http://www.elmhurst.edu/~chm/vchembook/globalwarmA3.html>.

² Wikipedia, “Ultimately, nearly all living things depend on energy produced from photosynthesis for their nourishment, making it vital to life on [Earth](#). It is also responsible for producing the [oxygen](#) that makes up a large portion of the [Earth's atmosphere](#),” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photosynthesis>.

³ Virtual Chembook, “During photosynthesis plants use carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. During metabolism, oxygen is used and carbon dioxide is a product,” <http://www.elmhurst.edu/~chm/vchembook/306carbon.html>.

⁴ Wikipedia, Carbon Dioxide, “Atmospheric carbon dioxide derives from multiple natural sources including [volcanic](#) outgassing, the [combustion](#) of [organic matter](#), and the [respiration](#) processes of living aerobic organisms; man-made sources of carbon dioxide come mainly from the burning of various fossil fuels for [power generation](#) and [transport](#) use. It is also produced by various [microorganisms](#) from [fermentation](#) and [cellular respiration](#),” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_dioxide. Harvard Magazine, The Ocean Carbon Cycle, “Warm waters at the surface can hold much less CO₂ than can cold waters in the deep. . . . This means that when deep ocean waters rise to the surface as part of normal ocean-circulation patterns, the water heats up and actually releases CO₂,” <http://www.harvardmagazine.com/online/1102198.html>.

⁵ Bjorn Lomborg, *The Skeptical Environmentalist* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), pp. 118-119, “By the end of the nineteenth century human labor made up 94 percent of all industrial work in the U.S. Today, it constitutes only 8 percent. If we think for a moment of the energy we use in terms of ‘servants,’ each with the same work power as a human being, each person in Western Europe has access to 150 servants, in the U.S. about 300, and even in India each person has 15 servants to help along. It is indeed unpleasant to imagine what it would be like to live without these helpers.”

⁶ Fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, oil) supply 69% of U.S. electricity consumption, Energy Information Administration (EIA), Energy Basics 101, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/basics/energybasics101.html>.

⁷ Fossil fuels (petroleum and natural gas) supply 96 percent of U.S. transportation energy, EIA, Energy Basics 101.

⁸ Office of New York State Attorney General Elliot Spitzer, “States Sue EPA for Violating Clean Air Act and Refusing to Act on Global Warming,” http://www.oag.state.ny.us/press/2006/apr/apr27a_06.html, “New Jersey Classifies Carbon Dioxide as an Air Contaminant,” Environment News Services, October 25, 2005, http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_kmens/is_200510/ai_n15741054.