

Solutions Needed Now

The world came together 30 years ago in a landmark agreement that led to the phase out of ozone depleting chemicals. NASA just announced that the ozone hole shriveled to the smallest peak since 1988! Thankfully this broad international cooperation worked to solve a global problem caused by chemicals we were releasing into the atmosphere.

Now we face a far greater challenge. Two years ago, all the nations of the world (except Syria and Nicaragua) agreed we need to keep global warming "well below" 3.8 degrees Fahrenheit – hotter than pre-industrial times. This is because the scientific evidence is overwhelming. Since long before humans walked the earth the average carbon dioxide levels in the upper atmosphere have been about 280 PPM.

Scientists warned that above 350 PPM we are risking potentially catastrophic warming. We passed that number years ago, now we've passed 400 PPM and added over 1 degree. This is very dangerous since carbon dioxide locks in heat for decades which means we've already baked in further temperature increases. The longer we wait to reduce emissions the greater chance of hitting tipping points, such as

massive glacial melting that raises sea levels by feet not inches. Since warm air holds more moisture, it's not surprising that as we repeatedly set new temperature records the storms are getting more intense and more costly.

Some folks don't want to "believe" the science on greenhouse gasses, though they believed the science that predicted the ozone hole. Perhaps that's because no one spent hundreds of millions of dollars to create doubts and delays. It's widely documented that fossil fuel companies have supported the merchants of doubt building on tobacco industry tactics. These



millions of dollars have bought a few scientists, lots of marketing, "paid" experts, consultants, media, and they even managed to hijack a political party.

Fortunately, 31 Republicans in the House of Representatives have publicly recognized this problem is not a partisan issue; it's real, it poses a grave threat and it's caused by us. The House Climate Solutions Caucus currently includes 62 Representatives. Our Defense Department calls Global Warming a "threat multiplier" because it contributes to food shortages, political instability, mass migrations, and terrorism. They have also identified risks to many navy facilities due to rising sea levels.

We need a solution that we can all embrace; greenhouse gasses are imposing extraordinary costs on society and we're still subsidizing fossil fuels. Putting a price on carbon breaks this dangerous cycle. A revenue neutral carbon price sends a clear market signal unleashing entrepreneurs and investors in the new clean-energy economy while empowering citizens. The government is not expanded and the market chooses winners and losers. By returning the funds collected to every citizen, we get to decide what to do with the dividends. This is the key to making this something that can be enacted sooner rather than later.

Carbon Fee & Dividend (please see www.citizensclimatelobby.org/about-ccl/) places a fee on carbon-based fuels at the source (well, mine, port of entry) and returns all the money to US citizens as dividends. It is:

- effective - cutting green house gas emissions in half, addressing all sectors and creating over 2.8 million jobs;
- efficient - providing clear price signals and getting the money to citizens for adaptation;
- equitable - all of the money collected is returned to American households, about two-thirds break even or receive more in their dividend checks than they would pay in higher prices due to the fee, protecting the poor and middle class.

Fires and flooding are taking more lives and destroying more property and communities. The White House recently asked for \$44 billion in disaster relief! The number of Americans registering for disaster relief jumped tenfold this year to 4.7 million of us and the year isn't over. Greenhouse gasses stay in the atmosphere for years so this will get worse until we reduce this pollution. Why would anyone want to do this to our children and grandchildren?

John Kondos is a founder of Home-Efficiency Resources, the Monadnock Sustainability Network (whose mission is to promote credible, sustainable practices in the region) and the Monadnock chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby.

Spaghetti Dinner In Winchester

December 16th

A Spaghetti Dinner will be offered on Saturday, December 16th from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Church on Route 119 in Winchester.

The menu includes: spaghetti, sauce and meatballs, salad, Italian bread, and desserts. This event also includes music. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.

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The Clothing Minute
with Ben Wichland

Gifts Under \$100

With holiday gift shopping in full swing, it's time to denounce the notion that haberdashers only sell high-end, tailored clothing. When it comes to Christmas gifts, many haberdashers stock a wide range of exquisite gifts for under \$100.

What might these gifts be, you ask? I offer the following ideas as inspiration for that special man in your life. Socks by Darn Tough, all the rage with distinctive patterns, and sold with a lifetime guarantee (\$20), a bison belt, made in the US (\$75), our own 1844 waffle cord pants (\$85), a cotton flannel sport shirt (\$55), quarter-zip pullover (\$99), or an extra fine merino wood pullover v-neck sweater (\$85). For leisure time, treat him to cotton flannel pajamas (\$75), or a super-spun micro fleece robe (\$95). For work, or a night out on the town, perhaps an Italian silk necktie (\$59), Italian leather cashmere-lined gloves (\$75), Viyella reversible scarf (\$85), or tweed cap (\$90). The truth is, you can get a truly special gift, one that he'll cherish, without breaking the bank this Christmas.

Haberdasher's Tip: with Christmas ranking as possibly the single most important gift-giving time of year, seek out the professionals when choosing a clothing gift. You're bound to learn a number of things about style, trend, color, and fit (all of which change on a regular basis), while making the shopping experience easy and fun!

Ben Wichland is a professional haberdasher with Miller Bros.- Newton on Main Street in Keene. He can be reached at 603-352-3039.

Writers' Group Members Read Their Work On December 16th

The Monadnock Writers' Group concludes the program year with a members' "read-around" on Saturday, December 16th at 9:45 a.m. in the downstairs room at the Peterborough Public Library.

Members are invited to bring short excerpts from their work to read aloud to the group. This is not a critique session, but a sharing one. The public is welcome to attend.

Attendance at Writers' Group meetings are free and membership is open to writers at any level seeking inspiration for their work through fellowship with other writers and encouragement from visiting professionals.

For more details, visit www.monadnockwriters.org.

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