

WHEREAS we are at the end of an interglacial period (approximately 10,000 years) and entering a glacial period 70,000 to 110,000 years). This transition (from interglacial to glacial) is triggered by the atmospheric carbon dioxide rising from around 275 ppm during the interglacial to around 300 ppm by 1900 and now 345 ppm, and

WHEREAS the CO₂ is increasing due to dying and destroyed forests, and the use of fossil fuels. The forests are dying mostly from depletion of minerals in the soil (mineral count is down about 25% to 40% from the high levels in the past) as well as dying now from the increasing occurrence and intensity of freezing spells, disease, pests, and fires, and

WHEREAS (a) the snow cover in the northern hemisphere increased 18% from the high recorded in November 1973 to the new high of November 1985 (NASA satellite photograph analysis), and (b) snow cover will increase beyond the point of no return in a few years if (c) we don't bring down the CO₂ and thereby (d) stop the effect of extra carbon dioxide which produces the additional moisture (greenhouse effect), that (e) goes to the northern latitudes and thus increases the cloud coverage and snow fields, increases the massive cold fronts coming down, and the more extreme temperature differentials between the high and lower latitudes causing (f) more extreme weather (such as 50,000 Californians flooded out of their homes, and more to come),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Council meeting in convention in Sacramento, March 14-16, 1986, recommends to the appropriate

CO₂ & CLIMATE

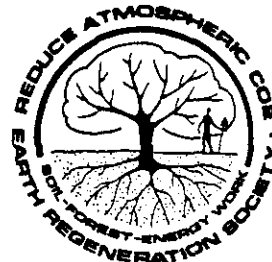
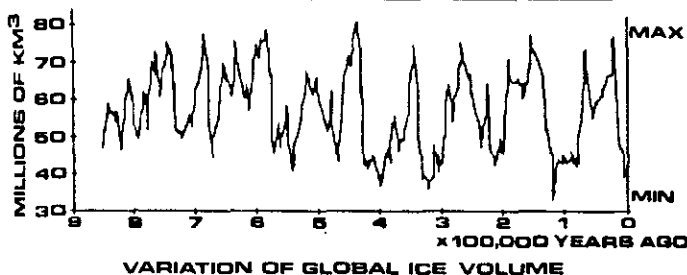
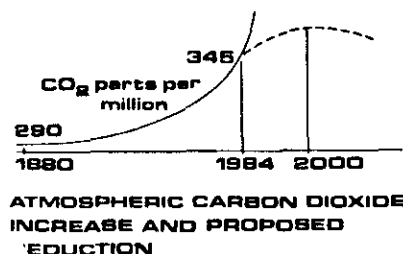
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committees and subcommittees in Congress, each according to its own mission and perspective, that (a) they hold hearings on the interglacial/glacial transition, on crisis management to deal with the growing destruction of food, property and human life, and (b) they produce an emergency phase-in counter program (earth regeneration program of soil, forest and energy work) to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide and work toward climate stabilization — in effect, remineralize soils, reforest, and reduce the use of fossil fuel, and hold off the full impact of the glaciation process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Democratic Council urge each of the above committees and sub-committees to request the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment to make an in depth study of the full ecological system as described above.



A NEWSLETTER ABOUT CYCLES OF GLACIATION, THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF AN INTERGLACIAL/GLACIAL TRANSITION ON LIVING SPECIES, AND A COUNTER PROGRAM.

The following U.S. employment plan is proposed to become part of an emergency international effort to halt the rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide and slowly bring it back to an equilibrium level (from 345 parts per million to around 280 ppm in the earth's atmosphere) and maintain a livable earth-atmosphere balance. We have the numbers, the technology and the education to handle the problem this time. We did not have these assets over 100,000 years ago at the last turn around into glaciation conditions.

New employment of 20 million jobs includes 2m to repair damage from increasing weather intensity, 12m to be employed on soil, forest and energy work within approximately four years from now, and 6m necessary supportive indirect labor throughout the rest of the economy.

Transfer of workers from less to more essential jobs means reduction in coal mining and petroleum (fossil fuel), services, military and government (federal, state and local) sectors offset by increases in remineralization of forests and agricultural land, reforestation, stone quarrying (for remineralization), durable manufacturing, and construction. Estimate: 3.1 million jobs.

Remineralization means gathering or grinding, storage (as necessary), loading, transporting, spreading, plowing in (for some agricultural uses). This refers to a very large number of big and small sources of rock for rock dust and widespread forest and agricultural application. This is highly labor intensive. 6 million jobs.

Reforestation, the rebuilding of forests, is now taken to mean the planting of many species of trees most natural to the habitat in each region (not just one species for lumber), with the goal of fast growing trees to take carbon out of the atmosphere. It means planting a combination of trees, shrubs, grasses to best develop the whole region. It means careful analysis of the conditions of each region. It means widespread involvement in federal lands, state lands, each county and every part of every city as both possible and practical. 2.9 million jobs.

Construction includes large scale damage repair from storms, hurricanes, flooding, fires, and earthquakes. 1 million jobs.

Energy conservation and development of alternative energy technology (solar heating and thermal electric plants, biomass for alcohol fuel and power plant operation, wind electric, hydrogen, and other -- not nuclear, no addition to radioactive contamination). 4.8 million jobs.

Foreign participation means working through the United Nations channels, as part of international teams, to expedite and help bring about the most effective earth regeneration in every region of the world. Regional regeneration plans are required. Above all, this means maximizing reforestation in temperate and tropical zones. Industrialized countries will be working more effectively with third world countries or we are all at risk. They regrow their forests or we too are out. The benefits of earth regeneration in its broadest sense far outweigh the short run returns to military-industrial corporations or companies involved in undesirable fossil fuel burning and destructive forest and soil practices.

Military. Reassignment of resources and duties as part of a basic and essential international arrangement.