

Climate Change Worse than Expected: A Conversation with Guy McPherson

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“We’re in a really dire situation right now! People don’t realize this is the warmest planet we have occupied with civilizations present. If we get much warmer, especially given the rapid rate of change that we’re experiencing right now, we’re done! It’s game over!”

– Guy McPherson (from this week’s interview).

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“Today’s IPCC Working Group 1 Report is a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk. Global heating is affecting every region on Earth, with many of the changes becoming irreversible.”[1]

Those were the opening words by the UN Secretary General António Guterres in reaction to the release of Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, the contribution to the Sixth Annual Assessment Report from Working Group I. This report comes from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It was forged by 234 scientists in 66 countries. Among the clear and present dangers listed:

- Human influence has warmed the planet at rate unprecedented in at least 2,000 years.
- CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere higher than any time in the last 2,000,000 years.
- Greenhouse gases methane and nitrous oxide higher than at any time in 800,000 years.
- Global mean sea level has risen faster since 1900 than any previous century in at least 3,000 years.

- Evidence of an increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts, heat waves, heavy precipitation, and tropical cyclones, and their attribution to human influence has strengthened.
- The thawing of permafrost, the loss of seasonal snow cover, the melting of glaciers and ice sheets, and the loss of summer sea ice are all being amplified.[2]

This devastating news and calls for an emergency however do hold onto the assurance that these changes can be restricted, and possibly avert a disaster of untold proportions. Pressure rests on the public now to apply pressure to reduce our emissions as fast as possible.

“Stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO₂ emissions. Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate,” said IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair Panmao Zhai. [3]

So a dark future is in store, but we can save it if we act NOW!

Missing from this assessment and somewhat countering its conclusions are the prospects of multiple [self-reinforcing feedback loops](#) (eg forests burning more frequently, leading to more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, leading to more wildfires, etc). There is also the reality of the [aerosol masking effect](#). The same processes that burn fossil fuels also liberate tiny particles of dust and soot which blanket sun against sunlight. So if you restrict carbon rich fossil fuels, the heat of increased sunlight more than makes up for the reduced CO₂!

Few people, for whatever reason, seem to see these details as anything more than “pernickety.” One exception is the person who has shown up on the Global Research News Hour many times. His name is Guy McPherson.

Professor McPherson, who typically grounds his work in the peer reviewed journal literature, comes on the show this week to review the aspects of the climate the IPCC doesn’t mention. He comes to the conclusion that the threat of rapid acceleration is not coming decades from now, but mere years or even months away. And aggressive fossil-fuel elimination from industrial activities will contribute to a rapid rise in temperature. McPherson also talks about the faulty IPCC conclusions, the flaws of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties coming in two weeks time, the role of the billionaires in using the situation in their interests, and a possible strategy he is pursuing which provides him with any promise of rescuing our home from ultimate biological annihilation.

Dr. Guy McPherson is an internationally recognized speaker, award-winning scientist, and the world’s leading authority on abrupt climate change leading to near-term human extinction. He is professor emeritus at the University of Arizona. His published works include more than a dozen books and hundreds of scholarly articles. Dr. McPherson has been featured on television and radio and in several documentary films.

(Global Research News Hour Episode 328)

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Notes:

1. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/secretary-generals-statement-the-ipcc-working-group-1-report-the-physical-science-basis-of-the-sixth-assessment>
2. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097362>
3. ibid

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