

Climate Chaos Worse than the COP22 is Letting on

Conversations with Guy McPherson, Cory Morningstar and Dahr Jamail. Global Research News Hour Episode 160

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"It's likely that we would need some technologies to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reach that number (1.5C) . It's theoretically feasible but it would mean that we should ...see very dramatic declines in the emissions taking place over the coming years, and that's a question of how prepared the countries are to create such a dramatic emission decline." – Petteri Taalas, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization (November 17, 2016 Press Conference) [1]

"It has always been one degree, the maximum that we should not exceed, and so the whole 2 degree has been a complete reframing. I mean it's not science at all, it's just a mechanism to keep growing the economy and keep the system going for the few that it serves." -Cory Morningstar

"I can pretty much guarantee... we'll get zero-emissions economy by 2050." -Professor Guy McPherson

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While the surprise victory of Donald Trump in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election has dominated headlines, the annual U.N. Climate talks were taking place in Marrakech, Morocco.

The focus of the talks was to implement actionable plans to realize the goals of the previous conference. These involve keeping average global temperatures well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels through a combination of methods, including transitioning away from fossil fuels toward 'renewable' and 'clean' energy. [2][3]

A fundamental rethinking of how our economic system operates appears to be off the table in these international discussions.

Whether or not the international community through these U.N. Summits constitute an authentic response to the climate crisis, there are a number of alarming trends in evidence.

- The annual growth of CO2 in the Earth's atmosphere has reached a record high

of between 3.2 to 3.55 parts per million (ppm) (source: [Dahr Jamail](#), quoting [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data](#))

- According to the [Arctic Institute](#), concentrations of Methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than CO₂, have increased from 715 parts per billion (ppb) to 1840 ppb in 2015.
- According to the University of Maine's [Climate Change Institute](#), fall temperatures over most of the Arctic Ocean were roughly 20 degrees Celsius (36 degrees Fahrenheit) above normal.
- According to the [National Integrated Drought Information System](#), drought has impacted nearly one third of the continental United States during the second week of November 2016.
- According to an [October 2016 paper](#) co-authored by former NASA climate scientist James Hansen and 11 others, global temperatures have reached levels approaching the mean of the inter-glacial period known as the Eemian in which sea levels were several metres higher than they are today.
- The [Nature Bats Last website](#) lists no fewer than 69 self-reinforcing feedback loops (phenomena that enable more heating as the globe warms) active on the planet today.
- According to the most recent [Living Planet report](#) released by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the world's wildlife populations have declined by 58% since 1970 and vertebrate populations could decline by 67% by the end of the decade.

On this week's Global Research News Hour, we check in with three writers and past guests who have analyzed the climate crisis and the way human agencies are responding to the threat.

Guy McPherson holds the title of Emeritus Professor of Natural Resources and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Arizona. He has chronicled and assembled hundreds of articles from the refereed scientific literature which collectively demonstrate his view that human life on Earth will not survive long beyond 2030.

Cory Morningstar is an activist and investigative journalist. She has documented the role of elite private foundations like Open Society and the Rockefeller foundations in manipulating the environmental Non-Governmental Organizations that depend on foundation money for their high profile activities. Her essays and original research is featured at [Wrong Kind of Green](#), [Counterpunch](#), and her own website: [Theartofannihilation.com](#).

In the middle portion of the program, McPherson and Morningstar explore academic resistance to the inescapable dire predictions of actual climate science, the distorted role of mainstream climate activism and who benefits, and meaningful responses humans can muster to address the climate predicament.

Dahr Jamail is an award-winning journalist who first gained notoriety for his unembedded reporting on the Iraq War. His writing on Anthropogenic Climate disruption appears regularly at [Truthout.org](#). Jamail makes an appearance near the end of the hour to update listeners on the current state of the climate and its impacts, and assesses how individuals and communities can respond in the face of the incoming climate change denying Trump Administration.

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Notes:

1) COP22: WMO Full Press Conference (November 2016); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-Y5rIUe4gg>

2) https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/nov/15/global-climate-change-action-unstoppable-despite-trump?utm_content=buffer3e9b2&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer;

3) <http://cop22.ma/en/#whatscop/post/165>

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