

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 16 Issue 1

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

December 2013—January 2014



Gov. Corbett announces \$38 million investment in recreation, conservation and community revitalization projects statewide

Governor Tom Corbett recently announced that Pennsylvanians will benefit from new recreational opportunities, expanded protection of natural resources and locally-driven community projects as a result of more than \$38 million in new grants to be distributed across the state.

The Community Conservation Partnership Program grants will support 201 conservation and recreation projects in 62 counties. The grants will fund a variety of proposals, including 36 trail projects; protecting 2,718 acres of open space; 77 community parks; five river conservation projects; and 35 projects for regional and

statewide heritage area, park, greenway and trail initiatives.

“Pennsylvania’s parks and trails; natural areas; and many opportunities to be active outdoors, on land and on our great rivers and streams, define our communities and make them

(continued on page 2)

The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|----|
| Cow farts a greater problem than EPA previously thought, study says | 4 |
| EPA Proposes Updates to Air Standards for Newly Manufactured Woodstoves and Heaters | 6 |
| Final PA Climate Change Action Plan Update Goes To Governor | 7 |
| Is The EPA Taking Aim At Your Property By Reinventing The Clean Water Act? | 11 |
| Marcellus Legacy Fund Provides More than \$5.2 Million | 13 |
| Record Cold Temperatures Prove Global Warming | 14 |

Bill Protecting Sportsmen's Banquets Signed Into Law

Governor Tom Corbett recently signed into law a bill that updates Pennsylvania’s archaic and overly-burdensome raffle laws. These laws—known as the Small Games of Chance Act—made it virtually impossible

for Pennsylvania sportsmen’s organizations to hold a traditional fundraising banquet.

The U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance (USSA) led a coalition to change the law, and included the National Wild Turkey Federation

and Ducks Unlimited, as well as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Whitetails Unlimited. That effort culminated in a series of amendments to Pennsylvania House Bill 290,

(continued on page 3)

Gov. Corbett announces \$38 million investment in recreation, conservation and community revitalization projects statewide (continued)

places where people want to live, work and play,” Corbett said. “These grants will help our local partners—including municipalities, counties, land trusts and conservancies—to meet the vision they have for their communities and regions.”

DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program combines several funding sources into one grant program. Funding comes from Keystone Fund, which is generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax; the Environmental Stewardship Fund; the ATV/Snowmobile Fund generated through fees for licenses; and federal funds.

Some highlights of funded projects include:

- Quakertown, Bucks County, will receive \$250,000 to further develop Krupp Site Park, a former brownfield, including an amphitheater and trail connections to adjacent sports fields, the library and a neighboring park.
- The City of Philadelphia will work with the Schuylkill River Development Corp. to use \$300,000 to use an abandoned railroad swing bridge to help extend the Schuylkill River Trail across the Schuylkill near Gray's Ferry Ave. and close a major trail gap.
- Capital Area Greenbelt plans to use \$500,000 in Harrisburg, Susquehanna and Swatara townships, Dauphin County, to connect the Greenbelt to Fort Hunter Park and make traffic safety improvements at six intersections.
- Brookville Borough, Jefferson County, will receive \$380,000 for development of a town square to include an outdoor performance venue and walkways.
- Harborcreek Township in Erie County will protect Lake Erie shoreline with \$88,000 for the acquisition of 1.5 acres adjacent to the existing Shorewood Park.
- Northumberland County Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) Authority will further develop the AOAA with \$788,007, to include the construction of off-highway vehicle facilities, trail upgrades and a trailhead.

More than \$3.1 million of the total investment is being provided to Heritage Areas for projects and programs including: conducting an economic impact study on the Heritage Areas program; further development of the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail and D&L and Lackawanna river trails; water trail enhancements, river town assessments; scenic byways; and planning and marketing heritage tourism events.

“Our more than \$38 million investment will leverage at least \$70 million in local, county and private investments, giving every state dollar more power for the public good,” Corbett said.

Note: For a complete list of grants by county, visit:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/brcinteractivemapping1/grantannouncements/index.htm>

Bill Protecting Sportsmen's Banquets Signed Into Law (continued)

introduced by Rep. Michele Brooks (R-Greenville).

The pro-sportsmen amendments (carried by Senator Jake Corman R-Bellefonte) modernize the state's raffle laws to ensure sportsmen and conservation organizations are able to utilize the standard banquet model, including raffles, games and drawings, which are the lifeblood of these events across the country.

Without the changes made in HB 290, these organizations, and the great work that they do, would be faced with losing their primary method of fundraising.

"These changes were vitally necessary to conservation organizations across the state that raise substantial portions of their budgets through these events," said Evan Heusinkveld, USSA vice president of government affairs. "Hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of dollars for wildlife conservation projects come directly from these banquets."

Source: The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA)

Big methane burp: Cow farts a greater problem than EPA previously thought, study says

The United States is spewing 50 percent more methane — a potent heat-trapping gas — than the federal government estimates, a new comprehensive scientific study says. Much of it is coming from just three states: Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

That means methane may be a bigger global warming issue than thought, scientists say. Methane is 21 times more potent at trapping heat than carbon dioxide, the most abundant global warming gas, although it doesn't stay in the air as long.

Much of that extra methane, also called natural gas, seems to be coming from livestock, including manure, belches, and flatulence, as well as leaks from refining and drilling for oil and gas, the study says. It was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

The study estimates that in 2008, the U.S. poured 49 million tons of methane into the air. That means U.S. methane emissions trapped about as much heat as all the carbon dioxide pollution coming from cars, trucks, and planes in the country in six months.

While the world has a good handle on how much carbon dioxide is pumped into the air, scientists have been more baffled by methane emissions.

That's more than the 32 million tons estimated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration or the nearly 29 million tons reckoned by the European Commission.

"Something is very much off in the inventories," said study co-author Anna Michalak, an Earth scientist at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Stanford, Calif. "The total U.S. impact on the world's energy budget is different than we thought, and it's worse."

EPA spokeswoman Alisha Johnson said her agency hasn't had time to go through the study yet, but hopes it will help "refine our estimates going forward."

While the world has a good handle on how much carbon dioxide is pumped into the air, scientists have been more baffled by methane emissions. They have had to use computer models to estimate how much methane is going into that air.

This study, however, was based on nearly 13,000 measurements from airplane flights and tall towers, the most used in any such research.

The information was collected in 2008, right at the beginning of the natural gas boom from hydraulic fracturing. So these measurements, which will be repeated for 2012, don't include much impact from fracking, Michalak said. Studies recently have shown conflicting results about how much methane escapes during fracking and other forms of fossil fuel drilling.

(continued on page 5)

Cow farts a greater problem than EPA previously thought (continued)

Outside experts praised the study. Robert Howarth at Cornell University called "it very compelling and quite important. This is the most comprehensive study yet."

Michalak said because of the way they measured methane — just looking for it in the air as opposed to tracking it from a source — it is hard to say what is putting more methane into the air. But she said by looking at concentrations — especially within Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas — the scientists have a good idea: Cows, oil and gas.

Nearly one-quarter of the U.S. methane emissions came from those three states. Texas is by far and away the No. 1 state for refineries that turn oil into gasoline. Texas and Oklahoma have been big oil and gas drilling states and Kansas is a big cow state.

Cows seem to be spewing twice the methane that scientists previously thought, Michalak said.

While burps and flatulence are part of the methane emission from cattle, University of California Santa Barbara professor Ira Leifer said a bigger factor is manure.

"If you shovel it into an artificial lagoon you are creating the perfect production for methane, but it cuts down on the smell and your neighbors complain less," he said.

Source: Associated Press

EPA Proposes Updates to Air Standards for Newly Manufactured Woodstoves and Heaters

Updates would make the next generation of woodstoves and heaters significantly cleaner and more efficient

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing standards for the amount of air pollution that can be emitted by new woodstoves and heaters, beginning in 2015. The agency's proposal would make the next generation of stoves and heaters an estimated 80 percent cleaner than those manufactured today, leading to important air quality and public health improvements in communities across the country. The proposal would affect a variety of wood heaters manufactured beginning in 2015 and will not affect heaters and stoves already in use in homes or currently for sale today.

Smoke from residential wood heaters, which are used around the clock in some communities, can increase toxic air pollution, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide and soot, also known as particle pollution, to levels that pose serious health concerns. Particle pollution is linked to a wide range of serious health effects, including heart attacks, strokes and asthma attacks. In some areas, residential wood smoke makes up a significant portion of the fine particle pollution problem. EPA's proposal would work in concert with state and local programs to improve air quality in these communities.

The agency's proposal covers several types of new wood-fired heaters, including: woodstoves, fireplace inserts, indoor and outdoor wood boilers (also called hydronic heaters), forced air furnaces and masonry heaters. Many residential wood heaters already meet the first set of proposed standards, which would be phased in over five years to allow manufacturers time to adapt emission control technologies to their particular model lines. Today's proposal does not cover fireplaces, fire pits, pizza ovens, barbecues and chimineas.

When these standards are fully implemented, EPA estimates that for every dollar spent to comply with these standards, the American public will see between \$118 and \$267 in health benefits. Consumers will also see a monetary benefit from efficiency improvements in the new woodstoves, which use less wood to heat homes. The total health and economic benefits of the proposed standards are estimated to be at \$1.8 to \$2.4 billion annually.

EPA will take comment on the proposal for 90 days after it is published in the Federal Register. The agency will hold a public hearing Feb. 26, 2014 in Boston. EPA expects to issue a final rule in 2015.

For more information, visit:

<http://www2.epa.gov/residential-wood-heaters>

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Final PA Climate Change Action Plan Update Goes To Governor, General Assembly

On December 31, DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo forwarded the final version of the PA Climate Change Action Plan Update to Gov. Corbett and members of the Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees.

The Plan Update transmittal letter, the Plan Update and the Appendices containing individual sector options for future actions are available online.

"As this plan shows, Pennsylvanians can be proud of the progress we are all making toward improving air quality and addressing climate change," DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo said. "Much of this success can be attributed to expanding the use and availability of renewable and alternative energy sources, higher standards for mobile and stationary sources of emissions and DEP's continued commitment to effective programs.

"Each one of us can play a role in helping to reduce our emissions footprint," Abruzzo said. "Pennsylvania is committed to working with other states and nations to address this global issue."

The final version of the Plan Update was reviewed by DEP's Climate Change Advisory Committee, but the contents of the report are a combination of recommendations made by Committee members and DEP. There was no overall vote by the Committee to endorse the Plan. Any differences between Committee members and DEP are noted in the Plan Update and Appendices, according to DEP.

The Appendices to the Plan Update also include comments on the Plan submitted by individual Committee members starting on page 232.

Overview

The Plan notes there have been significant changes to Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas emissions since the base year of 2000 used in the Plan resulting in the estimate that overall climate changing emissions from the Commonwealth will be lower in 2020 than in the base year.

The reduction in the use of coal for power generation and the switch to natural gas alone will result in emissions savings of about 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually.

The Plan concludes: "Pennsylvania CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions have fallen dramatically, in large part because Pennsylvania is generating more electricity with natural gas instead of coal. However, other factors, including improved energy efficiency standards from consumer products and automobiles have contributed to the decline in carbon emissions. Pennsylvania continues to be a leader in reducing methane emission from the natural gas industry and solid waste landfills.

(continued on page 8)

Final PA Climate Change Action Plan Update Goes To Governor, General Assembly (continued)

Moreover, further reductions are occurring, and future reductions will occur, through new regulatory requirements like the Tailoring Rule, NSPS, and MACT (new air quality regulations).”

The plan highlights several of Pennsylvania's emission-reduction efforts, including:

- DEP implementing new, more stringent requirements for the natural gas industry that are reducing methane emissions. Pennsylvania is the first state to require leak detection and repair over the entire well site to minimize emissions.
- Gov. Corbett signing Act 13 of 2012, providing \$20 million from natural gas operator impact fees for the purchase or retrofit of heavy-duty vehicles to operate on natural gas. It is projected that these projects will displace 3.67 million gallons of gasoline each year.
- DEP providing, through the Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant Program, \$3 million for Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) rebates for Pennsylvania consumers since 2011. In addition, another \$1 million has been committed for AFV rebates in 2014 to support plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and electric vehicles as well as other AFVs purchased and registered by Pennsylvanians.
- DEP reimbursing \$5.5 million in solar rebates to homeowners and small businesses, resulting in energy savings, reduction in heating fuel consumption and reduction in GHG emissions since January 2013.
- Providing \$46.5 million, since 2011, through the Keystone Home Energy Loan Program to Pennsylvania homeowners looking to implement energy efficiencies.
- Preservation of forests and open space through forest protection easements and acquisition. Act 13 provided the first infusion of money into the Growing Greener Program since 2005, as well as providing over \$20 million annually in new park, open space and recreation funding.
- Due to Pennsylvania's efforts over the last decade, according to EPA's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, the state's GHGs are expected to be lower in 2020 than in 2000, with reductions in the residential, commercial, transportation, agriculture and waste sectors.

Policy/Program Recommendations

The Plan Update provides options in several sectors--

(continued on page 9)

Final PA Climate Change Action Plan Update Goes To Governor, General Assembly (continued)

- **Electricity Production, Transmission and Distribution:** Act 129 electricity use reduction, coal mine methane recovery, surface mines and non-gassy underground mines, gassy underground mines, combined heat and power, reducing methane leakage from natural gas infrastructure, waste-to-energy digesters, beneficial use of municipal solid waste (waste-to-energy facilities), nuclear capacity uprates, manure digesters and sulfur hexafluoride emission reductions from the electric power industry;
- **Residential, Commercial and Industrial:** building commissioning, demand side management- natural gas and water, high-performance buildings, re-roof Pennsylvania, re-light Pennsylvania, industrial electricity best management practices, heating oil conservation and fuel switching, improved efficiency at wastewater treatment facilities and increased recycling initiative;
- **Land Use and Transportation:** alternative fueled transit bus, taxicab fleets, cutting emissions from freight transportation; and
- **Agriculture and Forestry:** durable wood products, forest protection easements, forestland protection initiative-acquisition, urban forestry and no-till farming.

Legislative Changes

The Plan Update includes recommendations for legislative changes made by DEP in several areas--

- **Carbon Capture Liability:** Address long-term liability issues associated with carbon capture and sequestration;
- **Carbon Capture Incentives:** Provide incentives for the capture and use of coal mine methane;
- **DSIC Program Effectiveness:** Evaluate the effectiveness of the DSIC (Distribution System Improvement Charges) Program for utilities to determine the impact accelerated natural gas distribution infrastructure replacement has on decreasing fugitive methane emissions;
- **Expand Natural Gas Use:** Enact legislative incentivizing and directing natural gas utilities to expand existing service territory to un-serve customers in a cost-effective manner;
- **Alternative Fueled Vehicles:** Provide additional incentives for the use of alternative fueled vehicles, including electric and LNG/CNG, particularly by large fuel consumption fleets;
- **Energy Use Profiling:** Consider legislative mandating or encouraging energy use profiling for commercial buildings, similar to the City of Philadelphia ordinance;

(continued on page 10)

Final PA Climate Change Action Plan Update Goes To Governor, General Assembly (continued)

- **Competitive Energy Markets:** Expand competitive electricity markets to foster and encourage renewable and alternative energy suppliers to enter Pennsylvania's market;
- **Support AEPS:** Continue to support the implementation of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards; and
- **Add New Waste-To-Energy To AEPS:** Amend the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to permit the inclusion of additional waste-to-energy facilities.

Climate Impact Assessment

In addition to the Action Plan Update, DEP released a Climate Impacts Assessment Update in October prepared by professors and students at Penn State University's Environment and Natural Resources Institute.

For more information, visit DEP's Climate Change Advisory Committee webpage.

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/climate_change_advisory_committee/10412

Source: PA DEP

Is The EPA Taking Aim At Your Property By Reinventing The Clean Water Act?

A proposed draft rule from the Environmental Protection Agency could expand the number of waterways covered under the Clean Water Act. The proposal is eliciting strong opposition from property owners and conservative legislators who say the rule would pave the way for Federal oversight of small-scale building projects and private land use on private property.

The EPA is denying that this is the case, claiming the new proposal doesn't aim to expand the Federal agency's jurisdiction or reach farther than the Clean Water Act presently does.

Technically, that appears to be true. But the devil is in the details.

A 2006 Supreme Court ruling called for the EPA to demonstrate more thorough scientific documentation in claiming protection under the Clean Water Act for small waterways or isolated lakes, ponds and wetlands. In order for the EPA to halt development of such a site, it should demonstrate that the isolated waterway is in fact located within the "significant nexus" of nearby protected navigable waters.

"Significant nexus" — what a phrase.

The proposed rule, supporters claim, simply follows through on the court's interpretation of the law. But, by leaving all of the interpretative leeway of that phrase in the hands of the EPA, it's not difficult to envision the agency claiming new oversight of ravines, seasonal creeks and other runoff points on private lands because, under the new interpretation, the Clean Water Act of 1972 really gave the EPA jurisdiction over all those things in the first place.

That already doesn't sit well with the agricultural industry, and some Congressional Republicans say it shouldn't sit well with anyone who owns rural property.

National Hog Farmer magazine reports that the rule is facing strong opposition from the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), which represents farmers who fear they will soon face a new and costly layer of Federal regulation just to continue doing business as they've always done.

NPPC says the draft regulation would bring under CWA [Clean Water Act] jurisdiction man-altered and man-made water bodies, including farm ditches, tile drainage and field filter strips. Even wetlands that are "many miles away" from jurisdictional water could be regulated, according to NPPC.

The Supreme Court has limited EPA's and the Corps' jurisdiction under the CWA in several instances, ruling that it cannot be based on a mere connection to a navigable water or extend to waters far removed from navigable waters.

(continued on page 12)

Is The EPA Taking Aim At Your Property By Reinventing The Clean Water Act? (continued)

If the draft rule becomes final in its current form, NPPC says that EPA and the Corps [of Engineers] could potentially have jurisdiction over large tracts of state and private lands, and CWA permits would be required for a host of activities on them. Farmers could be required to obtain permits to apply manure, fertilizer or pesticides, for example.

All water flows downhill. If the EPA can retroactively extend the meaning of the Clean Water Act to include, as *Bloomberg's* Amena H. Saiyid phrased it, "all natural and artificial tributary streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands that affect the chemical, physical and biological integrity of larger, downstream navigable waters," there's really not a square inch of land open to any use at all without first clearing a new set of hurdles.

And, an expansion of EPA jurisdiction could also give environmental groups standing to file lawsuits against any activity of any scope — from barn raising to small-scale organic farming to rock crushing — if it can claim anything on the land falls under Federal protection. In theory, someone who's been raising a small brood of hens at his hilltop farmhouse could find himself at the defending end of an environmental lawsuit if watchdog groups can find incriminating levels of nitrates anywhere beneath the land.

"A draft rule obtained by the Science Committee is a massive expansion of EPA regulatory authority over private property, giving the agency jurisdiction over almost all man-made and natural streams, lakes and ponds in the U.S.," wrote Representative Lamar Smith (R-Texas) earlier this month. "[S]uch a power grab undermines states' rights and increases federal control of private property that 'could lead to the EPA telling us what to do in our own back yard.'"

Source: by Ben Bullard

Marcellus Legacy Fund Provides More than \$5.2 Million for Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment

Governor Tom Corbett announced that the Commonwealth Financing Authority approved \$5.2 million in funding to support 12 abandoned mine drainage abatement and treatment projects throughout Pennsylvania.

The funds were a part of the \$28.5 million made available over the past two years to fund six Marcellus Legacy Fund programs administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA).

“We established these programs to ensure a portion of the funds collected goes back to local communities to support environmental enhancement and conservation programs,” Corbett said. “The first round of funding will provide more than \$5.2 million to remediate abandoned mine sites and clean our streams.”

The Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Abatement and Treatment program provides grants for projects which involve the reclamation of abandoned mine lands to treat AMD, new AMD site remediation and the repair of existing AMD project sites. The program also supports the operation and maintenance of current AMD remediation sites through the establishment of a trust fund to ensure ongoing maintenance and monitoring of water quality is achieved.

The 12 approved AMD abatement and treatment projects are located in Allegheny, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Indiana, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Somerset, Venango, Tioga and Westmoreland counties.

In addition to the AMD Abatement and Treatment program, the CFA also approved five additional programs under the Marcellus Legacy Fund, which include Watershed Restoration and Protection, Water Quality Data, Greenways, Trails and Recreation, Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging and Flood Mitigation programs.

Act 13, which Corbett signed into law in 2012, authorized counties to impose an impact fee on unconventional natural gas wells.

To date, the fee has generated more than \$400 million that is benefitting every Pennsylvanian. The majority of the revenues are distributed to local governments where drilling is taking place, with the remainder of the money used for statewide initiatives.

The programs are administered jointly by the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Department of Environmental Protection, under the direction of the CFA.

For more information about the Act 13 Programs, the CFA or a complete list of approved projects, visit www.newPA.com or call 1-866-466-3972.

Source: PA DEP

Record Cold Temperatures Prove Global Warming

*Oh, the weather outside is frightful.
But for Obama, it seems delightful!
Since he knows we've no place to go,
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*

*Greens show no signs of desisting,
As Gore's malarkey's persisting.
So the power's turned way down low.
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*

*It's so cold in here that you need mittens.
And, my dear, your nose is frostbitten.
But as long as Greens shovel the dough,
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*

My father used to say: "Make hay when the sun is shining!" It carried meaning, because we really did cut and bail hay on our 80-acre farm.

Such common sense is lost on the Greens. Even if hell were freezing over, they would think only of making more money for themselves via what used to be called global warming. (The new term is "climate change.") I believe a Green like former Vice President Al Gore could be caught in a blizzard and before succumbing to hypothermia would Tweet contributors, begging for more money and influence before the oceans swallow the land, before more polar bear cubs drown.

How else can you explain last week when President Barack Obama's global warming task force huddled together during a blizzard in Washington that closed down the Federal government's offices?

CNSNews.com reported: "Neither snow nor sleet could keep members of the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience from their appointed round at the White House."

Wait a minute! Obama, aka Big Brother, has had to change some wording. The words "global warming" are nowhere to be found in the task force's name. That's no big deal for a dictator, really; Josef Stalin did it all the time.

Never mind that Obama embarrasses himself each week with either his ego (taking a selfie at Nelson Mandela's memorial) or his habitual lies (Obamacare, Benghazi, etc.). But he had a "global warming" task force meeting during a blizzard that even Captain Robert Falcon Scott, who led a doomed expedition to the South Pole, would have refused to attend.

(continued on page 15)

Record Cold Temperatures Prove Global Warming (continued)

Recently, we've seen record cold temperatures. That's bad PR if you're on the Green Team. People might jump to the conclusion that, in fact, there is no global warming. Thus, the Greens quickly proclaimed: From now on, "global warming" will be called "climate change."

Such a savior the President is for the Greens, who have backed him these past six years. It used to be that you could identify global warming only if there was a heat wave or a relentless drought. Then, environmentalists changed the definition to include hurricanes and tornadoes (both also absolute proof of global warming).

All of those things covered on the endless 24-7 news cycle indicated our planet was boiling over, that our children and our grandchildren were going to die like dehydrated camels limping across the scorched Sahara.

But it's not global warming; and it isn't limited to heat waves, drought, hurricanes and tornadoes. It is any weather change, including record low temperatures and, especially, blizzards. How stupid of me to believe it was a cold winter! Big Brother tells me it is climate change.

With the name change, Obama can make hay when it's raining and even if it's snowing. Obama can bet red or black at the roulette wheel and come up a winner. For the White House those killer blizzards that swept across most of North America recently are indisputable evidence of climate change.

No wonder business is booming for Greens like Gore. Losing the Presidential race has been lucrative for Gore. After inventing the Internet, Gore reinvented himself as the living conscience for all life forms on Earth. *Bloomberg* estimated Gore's net worth at \$1.7 million in 1999. Today, Gore's fortune "may exceed \$200 million." That begs the question: Just how big a carbon footprint is Gore making? In "the world according to Gore," you can never be too rich or too Green. They go hand in hand like a dead chicken and a sharp hatchet.

The Washington Post pointed this out in a headline on Nov. 25: "Al Gore: Climate change should be media's 'No. 1' story." The article quoted Gore: "Simply assuming that this is an interesting controversy that we should check in on occasionally is not correct. The survival of human civilization is at risk. The news media should be making this existential crisis the No. 1 topic they cover."

"Climate change" is all a bunch of made-up nonsense from mad scientists, crooked politicians and the liberal media, which backs both. That became apparent when the problem was no longer called "global warming." And it became obvious when scientific data showed that Antarctica registered an unofficial record low temperature of minus 135.8 degrees Fahrenheit — the coldest temperature ever recorded on the planet.

(continued on page 16)

Record Cold Temperatures Prove Global Warming (continued)

But remember, global warming is now climate change, which includes global cooling. For Gore, all weather is a game changer for the planet. But people who still think for themselves and don't believe everything the mass media tells them know better. That was pointed out on *Town-hall.com* by Krista Kafer, a senior fellow at the Independent Women's Forum and the executive director of the Colorado Future Project:

The global warming movement may be less a scientific endeavor and more a political game plan for the redistribution of wealth, higher taxation and government regulation, severe limits on oil and gas production, and restrictions on personal freedoms. Perhaps the alarmism isn't a delusion but a tactic. How else does one explain why the prophets of global warming among the Hollywood and DC elite decline to live the lifestyle they advocate for others? As Al Gore heats his 10,000 square foot house for one on this chilly afternoon, does give a thought to the contradiction between his beliefs, his actions, and the weather outside?

Who in the world loves lying, rich liberals more than Obama? No doubt, Obama understands the game plan that Gore used and wants to capitalize on it when he takes leave of the Oval Office. In order to do so, Obama must continue to forget his oath of office and concentrate on what he does best: looking out for himself. So the President has swung into action using his Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Roll Call reported last week: "Communicating about climate change in a way that helps citizens understand how it affects them is one challenge inherent in the Obama administration's three-pronged climate action effort."

Replace "communicating" with "brainwashing" and then replace "climate action effort" with "higher taxes," and you understand what the EPA has planned.

It is not just Federal agencies that Obama has on his side when it comes to saving humans, whales, elephants — all God's creatures great and small. He also has the support of a lot of rich activists. Billionaire Tom Steyer had the President's back when he told a Washington summit earlier this month: "Keystone XL fails his climate test and certainly is not in the interests of the United States."

That's hardly a shock. Last summer, Obama himself said of the pipeline, which would carry oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast: "Our national interest will be served only if this project doesn't significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution."

If only just one reporter would ask Obama what will satisfy America's national interests when it comes to energy! What would be the President's answer? Is it Saudi Arabia, which is on the verge of imploding? Or Iraq, which has imploded?

(continued on page 17)

Record Cold Temperatures Prove Global Warming (continued)

Perhaps it's Iran, which may or may not want to build and use nuclear weapons, but may sell us oil in the future? Perhaps all three would be his answer, because they are all Muslim nations and Obama loves Islam.

Then again, does Obama really care? Gore is rich. After serving out his second term, Obama will be ultra-rich. And if there is no oil from Canada, that's just tough luck for Americans huddled in frigid rooms, as far as Obama is concerned.

As for the politicians we trusted, they will be in their exclusive mansions, living it up and eye-balling their portfolios. Come Christmastime, they might gather together and sing: "Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!"

Yours in good times and bad,

Source: —John Myers