

Article on climate change flawed

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Bill Fortier's article on climate change, wildlife and plants was flawed by an unfortunate paragraph: "One of today's big debates is whether climate change is being exacerbated by increased use of fossil fuels. Some scientists and climatologists say that is happening. Others say there have been changes in the climate in the past and more may happen now and in the future." False.

Research climate scientists don't debate climate change's basic facts: scientists know with a high degree of certainty that humans caused most, and probably all, measurable warming since 1950. Legitimizing false debates misleads readers. Even Big Oil acknowledges anthropogenic climate change; they only disagree about how quickly we'll transition to clean energy. ExxonMobil's website says current policies will cut emissions by 15% by 2030. Their CEO thinks we'll still get 80% of our energy from fossil fuels in 30 years.

But scientists say that's inadequate: emissions must drop 80% by 2050. Carbon tax proposals can cut emissions 50% by 2035 and help us reach 80% reductions by 2050.

ExxonMobil's website also says carbon taxes are the best policy for slowing climate change. Shell Oil executives have told Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers that, without carbon taxes, Arctic drilling will stay profitable. These oil executives, focused on their financial responsibilities to shareholders, overlook their ethical obligations to shareholders and society. They should lobby Congress for carbon taxes.

For information on using carbon taxes to make fossil fuels unprofitable, without hurting the economy, please contact CCL.

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