The Guardian November 20 2011

Rich nations 'give up' on new climate treaty until 2020
Ahead of critical talks and despite pledge for new treaty by 2012, biggest economies privately admit likelihood of long delay

GENEVA, 21 November 2011 (WMO) – The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a new high in 2010 since pre-industrial time and the rate of increase has accelerated, according to the World Meteorological Organization’s Greenhouse Gas Bulletin. It focussed special attention on rising nitrous oxide concentrations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CO₂ (ppm)</th>
<th>CH₄ (ppb)</th>
<th>N₂O (ppb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global abundance in 2010</td>
<td>389.0</td>
<td>1808</td>
<td>323.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 abundance relative to year 1750</td>
<td>139%</td>
<td>258%</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009–2010 absolute increase</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009–2010 relative increase</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean annual absolute increase during last 10 years</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Green vertical bar is estimated 95 percent confidence range.

Later this century, we will see:

- Extreme droughts and floods
- Extensive die off of forests
- More and larger storms
- Rapidly rising seas
- Urban heat emergencies
- Declining food production
- Widespread water scarcity
In this new world, what should we do?

**Pascal’s Wager: Making the Right Bet**

Do we bet that climate change isn’t a serious problem, and invest our resources in other things?

*If we’re right, we save some money now; but if we’re wrong, the consequences could be catastrophic for our children.*

Or do we bet that climate change is a serious problem, and invest to prevent it?

*If we’re right, we might prevent catastrophe for our children; but if we’re wrong, we lose some money now.*

**We Can Cope with Carbon**

Strategies from conventional to radical (assuming a significant carbon price)

- Efficiency and conservation
- Renewables
- Natural gas and coal with CCS and nuclear
- Unconventional technologies (UCG, stratospheric windmills, enhanced geothermal)
- Atmospheric carbon capture
- Geoengineering
GET READY FOR A GPT TRANSITION
GPT = General Purpose Technology
  Railroads
  Electricity
  Internal combustion engine
  Personal computer
  “Green” energy technologies?