

CARBON TAXES

4 THINGS EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD KNOW

TAXING CARBON MEANS TAXING EVERYTHING

Carbon dioxide isn't a commodity, a pollutant, or a form of injustice. It's a building block of life that makes up just 0.04% of our atmosphere.

Without it, plants, animals, and humans alike would not exist. Slight increases in carbon dioxide have actually increased plant life and improved crop yields, allowing us to use less land. Science suggests warming is likely to remain mild and manageable, not catastrophic.

Meanwhile, carbon-based fossil fuels have supported unmatched economic prosperity since the Industrial Revolution. Nearly every product we rely on daily is made from fossil fuels. As if Americans don't have to fork over enough of their money to the government already, politicians on both sides of the aisle are floating the idea of a carbon tax in the name of saving the environment. But

carbon taxes won't stop climate change; they'll only increase the cost of electricity and fuel – which means increasing the cost of everything.

TAXING CARBON INCREASES ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

We know what the effects of taxing carbon dioxide-emitting fuel would be in America because we can already see them happening from such destructive policies in Europe where outrageously high prices of basic goods are forcing people to choose between food on the table and heating in the home.

Recent studies indicate that higher home heating costs lead to an increase in wintertime deaths, which Europe is experiencing firsthand.

.04%

of the atmosphere is
carbon dioxide

0.017°

percent temperature
difference by 2050 if all CO₂
emissions banned

TAXING CARBON CAN ACTUALLY INCREASE EMISSIONS

Even more damning is the rise of burning wood for fuel in places like Germany. In its desperation to make these policies look as if they're working, the European Union counts firewood as "biomass" and considers it carbon-neutral. It's not — it releases more carbon dioxide than coal and causes severe respiratory illnesses. Every year, 3.8 million people die from toxic indoor air pollution caused by burning biomass. Ironically, taxes meant to reduce carbon dioxide emissions are creating even more.

Thus far, no carbon tax has meaningfully affected carbon dioxide emissions. In California, one study found that more than half of regulated businesses actually increased their emissions.

Even if a tax could significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions, it wouldn't even put a dent in climate change. If all manmade CO2 emissions were eliminated in 2030, the temperature would decline by just 0.017 degrees in 2050.

CARBON HAS A SOCIAL BENEFIT, NOT A SOCIAL COST

Reliable, affordable electricity has fueled the fastest, most life-changing advancements in the human condition in recorded history. Nearly every indicator of health and quality of life shot through the roof once electricity became widespread — and it's not exaggerating to suggest that health and quality of life are in jeopardy from modern environmental alarmists' proposals.

Increasing use of fossil fuels and economic growth track consistently throughout history, with a correlation of over 95%. As income rises, so does improvement in most indicators of human well-being including hunger, infant mortality, education, child labor, and economic freedom.

Calculating the "social cost" of carbon dioxide emissions in order to tax them ignores the unprecedented benefits reliable, affordable energy provides to humanity by extending lives, fighting disease, reducing hunger, and alleviating poverty.



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At Life:Powered, we believe maximizing human flourishing should be the goal of America's energy and environmental policies. Economic freedom and abundant, reliable, affordable energy are the only path to lasting prosperity and environmental quality.