

Climate Change or Pollution

by

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In the current political climate where Climate Change Deniers become more outspoken and possibly more influential due to president Trump in the USA. All jumping on as Philip Adams calls it the 'Trumpaline'. Now it becomes even more important to effectively stave off the Climate Change Deniers. During the history of the earth there always has been and will be climate change. For many reasons the causes of the changes are outside human control. But, that should not mean that we humans should not combat anthropogenic causes of changes in the climate. The current anthropogenic Climate Change is the result of *pollution*. Therefore we have to start talking more about something like Global Air Pollution, in order to be more effectively combatting Climate Change Deniers.

It is easier to deny that Climate Change is anthropogenic than to deny that certain human activities pollute. Even though there are some that say it ok as long as the gasses are odourless and colourless.

Then there is fundamental question of what a pollutant is. From the plant kingdoms perspective O₂ is a pollutant, because too much of it in the atmosphere will inhibit plant growth. We humans 'pollute' by exhaling CO₂, however it is doubtful that our exhaled breath would upset the balance of gasses in the atmosphere.

Pollutants are often just naturally occurring toxic substances like Arsenic, CO₂, Cadmium, Methane, Cyanide, Lead, NO_x or SO_x. If they exist in nature at any toxic level we have to accept that. But if we as humans dispose of any of these types of substances in the environment it has to be regarded as pollution and we have firstly the responsibility not to pollute or at least to clean up. I hope it will be hard to find a Climate Change Denier who believes that it is OK to pollute for example drinking water in Flint (Michigan USA) with Lead. If Climate Change Deniers think we should not do something like that, then why do they accept to pollute the atmosphere with CO₂ and other Green House Gasses? In addition to the gasses there is the problem of particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) that are suspended in the air, which are often the result of burning fossil fuels and causing the recent smog epidemics as seen in Beijing and Delhi.

We pay for disposal of solid and liquid waste at the landfill, so why not pay for gaseous waste into atmosphere?

Because of these reasons the Climate Change-lobby should talk more about the polluting aspect of the Green House Gasses and associated compounds and the impact they are having on the Climate. Instead of arguing with Climate Change Deniers if Climate Change is or is not anthropogenic, we should be arguing to that pollution is not a good or a bad action.