



June 13, 2009

Global warming ‘balance’

As you can see

(<http://www.freep.com/article/20090612/BLOG2506/90612052/1068/opinion/Climate+change?+No+worries+here+>here> and

[\), I found a global warming skeptic to do a set of blog entries for us, and](http://www.freep.com/article/20090613/BLOG2506/90612075/1068/opinion/Climate+change?+Check+this+data)

although he's not from Michigan, he's at least from an adjacent area code and presumably knows

what a trout is – although I think he's far too cavalier about what's involved in the survival of some of our more temperature-sensitive species and crops here in Michigan.

I don't think of this as exactly providing balance, because over the course of time, I'm sure we at the Free Press editorial page will devote far more words – online and in print – to the need to combat global warming/climate change. But it's also foolish to ignore the fact that there are critics and skeptics. If they're willing to put their assumptions and logic and data out there for others to analyze, I'm willing to give them an occasional forum. Personally, I give much more credence to the enormous number of scientists who are making the case that the buildup of CO2 and other greenhouse gases is reaching a point that we need to take action.

Over the long haul – which is what we're talking about, after all – I'm actually even more fervent about transitioning away from fossil fuels for energy reasons. Carbon-based fuels like coal, oil and natural gas have built up in the earth over millennia; if we use them up in a couple of centuries, what are we leaving for the generations that follow us? The Nation has a pretty dire [about the Energy Information Administration's latest oil projections, for example.](http://www.thenation.com/doc/20090629/klare)

Basically, we're in the process of moving all the carbon that's been stored underground back up into the air in the form of carbon dioxide. Sometimes it seems absurd to think we humans could really alter things like the climate, but then I think about how fast and how much we've disrupted a cycle that's gone on for a long, long time on this planet. If you want to talk about what's balanced and what isn't, that's where it counts.
