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Green Sheet

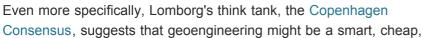
Bjorn Lomborg: We Need To Spray Water Into The Air To Cool The Globe

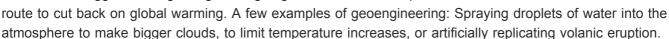
Jay Yarow | Aug. 7, 2009, 12:52 PM | ■ 16

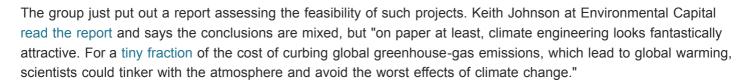
Tags: Garbage, Emissions, Water, Carbon, Cap And Trade, Alternative Energy, Energy, Solar, Wind, U.S. Government, Politics, Oil

In the Financial Times, climate pundit Bjorn Lomborg reiterates his argument that the current policy tacts for combating climate change are expensive and unlikely to do much.

So what's a better alternative? The FT says Lomborg advocates, "tackling sources of climate change other than carbon dioxide, such as methane and soot; investing in new technologies; adapting to the effects of climate change; planting more forests; and weighing up whether emissions cuts are cheaper to do now or later."







While the government has paid lip service to the idea of geoengineering, we see almost no chance of this happening. If it can't sell a carbon tax, and cap and trade brings a tooth and nail fight, imagine trying to get the public, as well as politicians around the world, on board with a grand global experiment with the environment.

We have a hard time imagining the president standing before the public saying, "We've decided to use fake volcanic eruptions to eradicate global warming." Also, as Johnson points out, who the hell knows what the side effects of this would be.

Besides, geoengineering wouldn't attack the root cause of global warming. Carbon emissions would keep growing.

Anyway, just because this first round of solutions from the Copenhagen Consensus sounds dubious, doesn't mean the next round will. The group, which has five senior economists, and three Nobel laureates, is working on a big package of solutions which it will deliver in September, just in time for the cap and trade bill debate in the Senate.

Hopefully, we'll see some better ideas than the convoluted cap and trade bill. It really wouldn't take much.

And for all the global warming skeptics out there, Lomborg has a message in the FT: "the basic scientific questions [on climate change] have been answered pretty unequivocally," and he now says of fighting global warming, "It's incredibly important. We need a global deal on the climate."

