



Science News

Share Blog Ci

Time To Lift The Geoengineering Taboo, Experts Urge

ScienceDaily (Sep. 2, 2009) — Hot on the heels of the Royal Society's Geoengineering the Climate report, September's *Physics World* contains feature comment from UK experts stressing the need to start taking geoengineering – deliberate interventions in the climate system to counteract man-made global warming – more seriously.

See Also:

Matter & Energy

- [Energy Policy](#)
- [Organic Chemistry](#)

Earth & Climate

- [Global Warming](#)
- [Climate](#)

Science & Society

- [Environmental Policies](#)
- [Resource Shortage](#)

Reference

- [Consensus of scientists regarding global warming](#)
- [Scientific opinion on climate change](#)
- [Climate model](#)
- [IPCC Report on Climate Change - 2007](#)

Of increased importance, as policy makers and politicians prepare to negotiate binding carbon emission targets at December's United Nation's Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen (CoP15), many feel we need to come up with a plan B as climate mitigation appears to be too little too late.

Authors Peter Cox, professor of climate system dynamics at the University of Exeter, and Hazel Jeffrey, head of strategic management at the UK's Natural Environment Research Council, who were both involved in the Royal Society's new report but writing independently for *Physics World*, examine the potentials of different geoengineering initiatives.

Different schemes for both direct carbon-dioxide removal, such as fertilising the ocean with a nutrient such as iron to enhance the oceanic carbon sink, and solar-radiation

management through, for example, brightening the clouds have different benefits, costs and risks associated.

What sounds like sci-fi could be a crucial alternative to common mitigation, which, even if carbon emission should be cut by as much as 50% by 2050, is unlikely to keep global warming below two degrees this century.

Ads by Google

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Learn how to save 30% off your energy costs from the experts!
schneider-electric.com

The Facts About AB 32

The Global Warming Solutions Act.
News On Clean Energy Economy & Jobs
www.CaBrightSpot.com

Environmental Insurance

Innovative environmental coverage to reduce your risk & exposure.
www.ZurichUS.com

Science and Eng. Festival

Join in celebrating Science@Cal!
Oct 23, UC Berkeley campus
scienceatcal.berkeley.edu

Related Stories

Climate Change: Can Geoengineering Satisfy Everyone? (Sep. 20, 2010) — Reflecting sunlight from the Earth by geoengineering would undoubtedly cool the climate, but would different countries agree on how much to reflect? Research by climate scientists in the UK shows ... > [read more](#)



Can We Offset Global Warming By Geoengineering The Climate With Aerosols? (Feb. 22, 2008) —

Concerned that energy system transformations are proceeding too slowly to avoid risks from dangerous human-induced climate change, many scientists are wondering whether geoengineering (the deliberate ... > [read more](#)

Geoengineering Climate Requires More Research, Cautious Consideration And Appropriate Restrictions (July 22, 2009) —

While more research needs to be done to ascertain the risks and effectiveness associated with these large-scale interventions in the climate system, many geoengineering strategies have a better benefit-to-cost ratio than conventional mitigation methods.

Neither costs nor practicality might be the real reasons behind climate scientists' reluctance to embrace geoengineering, as Cox and Jeffrey highlight. "The primary reason there has been so little debate about geoengineering amongst climate scientists is concern that such a debate would imply an alternative to reducing the human carbon footprint."

Email or share this story: | [More](#)

Story Source:

The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by [Institute of Physics](#), via [EurekAlert!](#), a service of AAAS.

Need to cite this story in your essay, paper, or report? Use one of the following formats:

- APA Institute of Physics (2009, September 2). Time To Lift The Geoengineering Taboo, Experts Urge. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved October 11, 2010, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090901104846.htm>
- MLA

Note: If no author is given, the source is cited instead.

Geoengineering -- deliberately manipulating physical, chemical, or biological aspects of the Earth system to confront climate change -- could contribute to a comprehensive risk management strategy to ... > [read more](#)



Geoengineering Could Slow Down Global Water Cycle (July 28, 2008)

— As fossil fuel emissions continue to climb, reducing the amount of sunlight hitting the Earth would definitely have a cooling effect on surface ... > [read more](#)

Ads by Google

Green Certification

United States Energy Council
Endorsed Program for Businesses
GreenStarCertified.org

GE Greenhouse Gas Service

Fast, cost effective complement to current emission reduction efforts.
ecomagination.com/green_house_gases

Search ScienceDaily

Number of stories archives: 92,4.

Find with keyword(s):

Enter a keyword or phrase to search ScienceDaily's archives for related news topics, the latest news stories, reference articles, science videos, images, and books.

About ScienceDaily® | Editorial Staff | Awards & Reviews | Contribute News | Advertise With Us | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use

Copyright © 1995-2010 ScienceDaily LLC — All rights reserved — Contact: editor@sciencedaily.com

Note: This web site is not intended to provide medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

Part of the **iVillage Your Total Health Network**

