



CLEARING THE AIR

News from the NCPA's E-Team Project

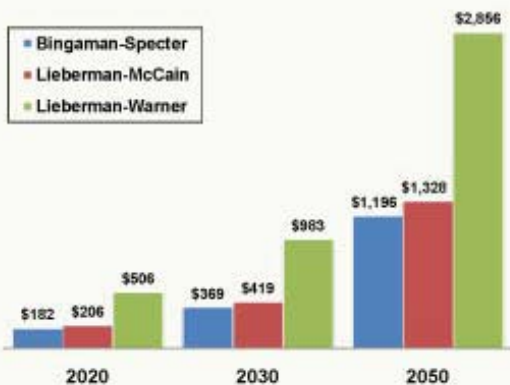
Cap-and-Trade Proposals Harm Economy, Poor

Cap-and-trade proposals under consideration in Congress would harm the U.S. economy, disproportionately hurt the poor and fail to produce promised environmental benefits, according to a new NCPA Brief Analysis.

“Cap-and-trade bills will substantially raise prices for gasoline and electricity, inflict severe economic losses on the U.S. economy and lower living standards for lower-income Americans,” said NCPA Senior Fellow H. Sterling Burnett, co-author of the NCPA Brief Analysis.

Analyses by the EPA and Science Applications International show that three bills, which carry sponsors such as Sens. John Warner (R-VA), Arlen Specter (R-PA), John McCain (R-AZ), Jeff Bingaman (R-NM) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) could raise electricity prices by as much as 129 percent and gasoline prices by as much as 144 percent. The CBO estimates that if cap-and-trade lowers emissions by 15 percent by 2010, the disposable incomes of lower-income Americans would be reduced by 3.3 percent compared to 1.7 percent for the richest citizens.

Projected Annual Cost of Three Cap-and-Trade Bills
(billions of 2005 dollars)



“The benefits promised by cap-and-trade schemes are unlikely to materialize since none of these proposals includes developing nations, like China and India,” said D. Sean Shurtleff, NCPA graduate student fellow and co-author of the analysis. “These proposals will harm not only the U.S. economy but also its most economically vulnerable citizens.”

Psychotherapists: Don't Breathe!

The New York Times reports that treatments are being developed for people who are excessively worried that their own carbon emissions are causing global warming.

In fact, *The Times* reports that more than 120 therapists are now listed as specialists in the field and colleges and universities such as Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon have created courses for counseling those patients.

The Ice Age Cometh?—Maybe So, Maybe No

NASA Astronaut and physicist Phil Chapman says we may soon see another Ice Age because sunspot activity has not resumed after hitting an 11-year low in March of last year, cooling the world quickly between January of last year and January of this year.

“If the temperature does not soon recover, we'll have to conclude that global warming is over,” he told *The Australian*.

Chapman places the odds that we will see significant cooling in the coming decades are now 50:50.

