



Claim: Genetically Engineered Plants Fight Global Warming

Methane lasts in the atmosphere for about 12 years before it is completely broken down into other molecules. Half of it breaks down in just 7 years. Thus, no matter how many 'cow farts' are released today, 100% of the methane will be naturally gone in 12 years. □ *TN Editor*

Methane in the atmosphere is a very potent greenhouse gas. Over a 20-year period, methane traps 84 times more heat per mass unit than carbon dioxide. There is a distinct possibility that large increases in future methane may lead to surface warming that increases nonlinearly with the methane concentration. The concentration of methane in the atmosphere has more than doubled, since the start of the Industrial Revolution, and approximately a fifth of the warming the planet has experienced can be attributed to the gas.

According to Wikipedia; Multiple independently produced instrumental datasets confirm that the 2009-2018 decade was 0.93°C warmer than

the 1850–1900 baseline period. A reasonable linear first approximation would predict that halving total atmospheric methane will reduce global average temperatures by 0.186 °C.

The biggest natural source of methane natural emissions is wetlands. Bacteria that live under low oxygen conditions in waterlogged wetland soils produce methane. Approximately 30% of atmospheric methane comes from that source.

The arctic permafrost and methane ice clathrates under the oceans contain huge amounts of methane.

Climate scientists are worried that as global air temperatures rise it will cause methane ice to vaporize, increasing the release of heat-trapping methane into the air that will in turn cause more methane ice to vaporize and release even more methane in a feedback loop that results in out of control greenhouse warming. The endpoint of that process might be a Venus syndrome scenario that destroys all life on earth but it is more likely that a new equilibrium will come about where temperatures won't exceed the hottest temperatures of the cretaceous era when dinosaurs lived in steaming hot swamps at the north pole and the equatorial regions were vast deserts. Of course, that type of climate will be disastrous for the human race since desertification will cut the food supply and make vast stretches of land too hot to live in.

Cows, pigs and other ruminants have methanogenic bacteria in their stomachs that produce methane in their burps and farts. The manure they excrete contains those same bacteria and goes on producing even more of the greenhouse gas. There are 1.4 billion cattle in the world, and billions of other methane producing ruminant animals. The United Nations report, "Livestock's Long Shadow" claimed livestock are responsible for 18% of Green House Gas emissions. Total agricultural methane releases come to 188 million tons.

Rice paddies are another big source of methane. The flooded swamp-like conditions have low oxygen levels that methane-producing bacteria thrive in. Methane from rice contributes around 1.5 percent of total global greenhouse gas emissions. It is not necessary to grow rice in

flooded fields and there is a movement to grow rice under dry conditions that drastically reduce methane but that also lowers rice yield.

As it becomes clear that the effects of global warming are causing more and more deaths and costly destruction of the world's infrastructure, some environmentalists are proposing radical solutions like restricting cattle farming and the sale of meat. However, there is work on finding feed additives that reduce the amount of methane generated by bacteria in the stomachs of ruminants.

A number of compounds from seaweed were found to reduce the amounts of methane they emit, but the bacteria mutate and adapt to the seaweed compounds and they lose their effectiveness. There are seaweed compounds in tests now that might keep their effectiveness over time, but there are no guarantees that strategy will work.

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Dutch Farmers Launch Massive Tractor Brigade Against The Hague Over Green Fascism

Farmers in The Netherlands are fed up with so-called 'Green Fascists' dictating farming policy from The Hague, and have launched a massive protest that is bringing transportation to a standstill.

Thousands of large tractors formed a tractorcade to storm The Hague, the capital of The Netherlands.

According to [Dutch News NL](#):

The demonstration has been prompted by a suggestion from coalition party D66 that Dutch livestock farming should be slashed to meet commitments on reducing nitrogen emissions. Farming organisations say their members are sick of being described by politicians, the media and activists as polluters and animal abusers.

The Dutch people are supporting the farmers by a margin of 80%.

The green fascist movement wants to destroy factory farming, eradicate the beef and pork industries and basically run farmers out of business. How people would sustain themselves without a robust food change apparently a non-issue with them.

This type of protest might well spread to neighboring nations as well.



Smart Cities Promise Efficiency But Promote Surveillance Capitalism

The more data collected by Smart City technology the greater the risk of it all ending up in the hands of hackers. Lack of security is an existential threat to city inhabitants but only a slight nuisance to Big Tech. □ *TN Editor*

More than a million New Yorkers could soon willingly agree to carry a government-issued tracking device, whether they realize it or not.

That's the [proposal](#) from Mayor Bill de Blasio, who having recently returned from the cornfield-dotted campaign trail in Iowa, is setting his sights on transforming New York City into something out of a dystopian

sci-fi novel. But some critics are [urging caution](#) about the move.

The fuss is about a tiny RFID chip that the mayor wants to embed into each and every municipal ID card for New York residents as part of the “IDNYC” program.

The latest proposal might seem modest, but the reality is that it potentially puts hundreds of thousands of us at greater risk of identity theft, stalking, and (for undocumented New Yorkers) deportation. And sadly it’s part of the global trend towards so-called “smart cities”—a series of high-tech undertakings that claim to improve municipal efficiency at the modest price of stripping us of our privacy and autonomy.

It’d be a dubious trade-off if the technology delivered, but increasingly we see that these systems take more than we feared while delivering far less than we were promised.

Smart cities proponents claim that by integrating the internet of things, artificial intelligence, and networks of sensors that we can make our children smarter, our commutes faster, and even [save lives](#). The outlandish claims don’t end there. Smart cities are heralded as the solution to everything from [the opioid crisis](#) to [de facto school segregation](#). Perhaps the most outlandish claim yet is that knock-off RoboCops will even [prevent crimes before they even happen](#).

The movement is only in its infancy, but smart city programs already include every municipal service from [schools](#), to [hospitals](#), to [sanitation](#), to [law enforcement](#). And those outside major cities aren’t exempt either. Increasingly, [towns big and small](#) are being taken in by the promise of a data-driven society.

MORE DATA, MORE PROBLEMS

The privacy risk is hard to overstate. Government agencies will have increasing amounts of extremely sensitive data about our health, our children’s school performance, and where we spend our free time. Go to the bar? The smart city knows. Go to a protest? It probably knows that too. And so will anyone who hacks in.

Hacking isn't some theoretical risk, it's already happened. As early as 2014, [security researchers starting raising the alarm](#) that critical city systems were unencrypted and completely vulnerable to attack. That same year, the Department of Homeland Security admitted that hackers had [broken into a public utility](#) by simply guessing the password.

More recently, we've seen entire cities held hostage by hackers. Both [Baltimore](#) and [Atlanta](#) saw large swaths of their governments grind to a halt when attackers used ransomware to encrypt government computer systems, demanding a large payment in exchange for the key. Residents lost access to everything from online bill payments, to deed transfers and even court scheduling. In the case of Baltimore, not only was the city out of action for weeks by the attack, but crucial data was [permanently lost](#).

Disturbingly for those whose health and financial data is held in these systems, hackers can just as easily post what they find in public. As [The Wall Street Journal](#) recently noted: "The more connected a city is, the more vulnerable it is to cyberattacks." Even with the best security protections, cities can't eliminate the threat—not as long as we continue to collect the data.

Sadly, for many smart city projects, privacy protections are not just an unwanted expense, but an existential threat. After all, even though these systems are sold with the promise of promoting government efficiency, the true product is often the public itself and all our data. Ventures like [Firefly](#) and [LinkNYC](#) use public location data to do what so many tech ventures have done: better target their ads. Smart cities create a captive, highly segmented audience ready to be told what they need to buy.

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