



# Arizona Scientists Devise \$500 Billion Plan to Refreeze The Arctic Polar Cap

Taxpayers ignorantly foot the bill for state university scientists to come up with this stuff. Climate religionist Al Gore would be happy to provide the windmills. □ TN Editor

Physicist Steven Desch has come up with a novel solution to the problem that now beset the Arctic. He and a team of colleagues from Arizona State University want to replenish the region's shrinking sea ice - by building 10 million wind-powered pumps over the [Arctic](#) ice cap. In winter, these would be used to pump water to the surface of the ice where it would freeze, thickening the cap.

The pumps could add an extra metre of sea ice to the Arctic's current layer, Desch argues. The current cap rarely exceeds 2-3 metres in thickness and is being eroded constantly as the planet succumbs to climate change.

“Thicker ice would mean longer-lasting ice. In turn, that would mean the danger of all sea ice disappearing from the Arctic in summer would be reduced significantly,” Desch told the *Observer*.

Desch and his team have put forward the scheme in a paper that has just been published in *Earth's Future*, the journal of the American Geophysical Union, and have worked out a price tag for the project: \$500bn (£400bn).

It is an astonishing sum. However, it is the kind of outlay that may become necessary if we want to halt the calamity that faces the Arctic, says Desch, who, like many other scientists, has become alarmed at temperature change in the region. They say that it is now warming twice as fast as their climate models predicted only a few years ago and argue that the 2015 Paris agreement to limit global warming will be insufficient to prevent the region's sea ice disappearing completely in summer, possibly by 2030.

“Our only strategy at present seems to be to tell people to stop burning fossil fuels,” says Desch. “It's a good idea but it is going to need a lot more than that to stop the Arctic's sea ice from disappearing.”

The loss of the Arctic's summer sea ice cover would disrupt life in the region, endanger many of its species, from Arctic cod to polar bears, and destroy a pristine habitat. It would also trigger further warming of the planet by removing ice that reflects solar radiation back into space, disrupt weather patterns across the northern hemisphere and melt permafrost, releasing more carbon gases into the atmosphere.

Hence Desch's scheme to use wind pumps to bring water that is insulated from the bitter Arctic cold to its icy surface, where it will freeze and thicken the ice cap. Nor is the physicist alone in his Arctic scheming: other projects to halt sea-ice loss include one to artificially whiten the Arctic by scattering light-coloured aerosol particles over it to reflect solar radiation back into space, and another to spray sea water into the atmosphere above the region to create clouds that would also reflect sunlight away from the surface.

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