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Closer... closer... closer...

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### **News To Make You Furious**

It's not that they're wrong, it's that they're LYING!

A vertical advertisement for 'Money Saving Programs'. It has a black border and a white background. At the top, it says 'Money Saving Programs' in bold, followed by 'See our website for complete details'. Below this are four colored boxes, each with a program name and a description. The first box is green and says 'Carbon Neutral Program' with the description 'Offset your vehicle's carbon emissions and save 10% off labor costs'. The second box is blue and says 'Labor Lock Program' with the description 'Pay today's prices for the rest of your life!'. The third box is orange and says 'Planned Maintenance Package' with the description 'Get up to a 60% discount by buying your basic yearly maintenance services in advance'. The fourth box is blue and says 'First-Time Clients ONLY!' with the description 'Save \$75 to \$150 on our most thorough inspection!'.

**Money Saving Programs**  
See our website for complete details

**Carbon Neutral Program**  
Offset your vehicle's carbon emissions and save 10% off labor costs

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Pay today's prices for the rest of your life!

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**First-Time Clients ONLY!**  
Save \$75 to \$150 on our most thorough inspection!

## **Moneysaving Programs**

To stretch your hard-earned dollars their farthest



## **Tom's Tidbits** **Speaking of the weather...**

Greetings!

Mark Twain famously said "Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." So, this month I wanted to talk about the weather, and more importantly, maybe even DO SOMETHING about it!

Despite what you hear from the corporate propaganda pump, GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL. The best science available tells us that atmospheric carbon is the leading contributor to the increase of the greenhouse effect, and that 350 parts per million (ppm) is the maximum safe level. As we increase beyond that, the risk of irreversible climatic change increases as well. We are currently at 392ppm. The International Panel on Climate Change is an international group of scientists gathered to review and assess the available data on climate change. By 2001, they had come to the conclusion that climate change is really happening, and is "likely" caused by human action. By 2001, "these conclusions had been reviewed and endorsed by the national science academies of every major nation from the United States to China, along with leading scientific societies and virtually every organization that could speak for a scientific consensus."

But the pump keeps pumping, and the same "doubt" that swirls around evolution now also swirls around climate change. Our representatives can't make the hard decisions or basic societal changes needed to fix climate change without the permission of their corporate masters unless there is a LOUD, UNEQUIVOCAL, DEMAND for change. That's where we all can make a difference.

350.org is the international grassroots organization that has been working on the issues of atmospheric carbon and climate change. Each year, they have a global day of action to draw attention to the importance of 350. People in cities around the world take part to spread awareness of climate issues. This year's event, Moving Planet, will take place on September 24 and Portland's contribution, "Moving Planet- Portland: A Climate Action Fest" will happen outside at the Memorial Coliseum Commons. This year's event is designed to do more than just make people aware of the problem, it will also be a forum to DEMAND THE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE that is so critical and so long overdue.

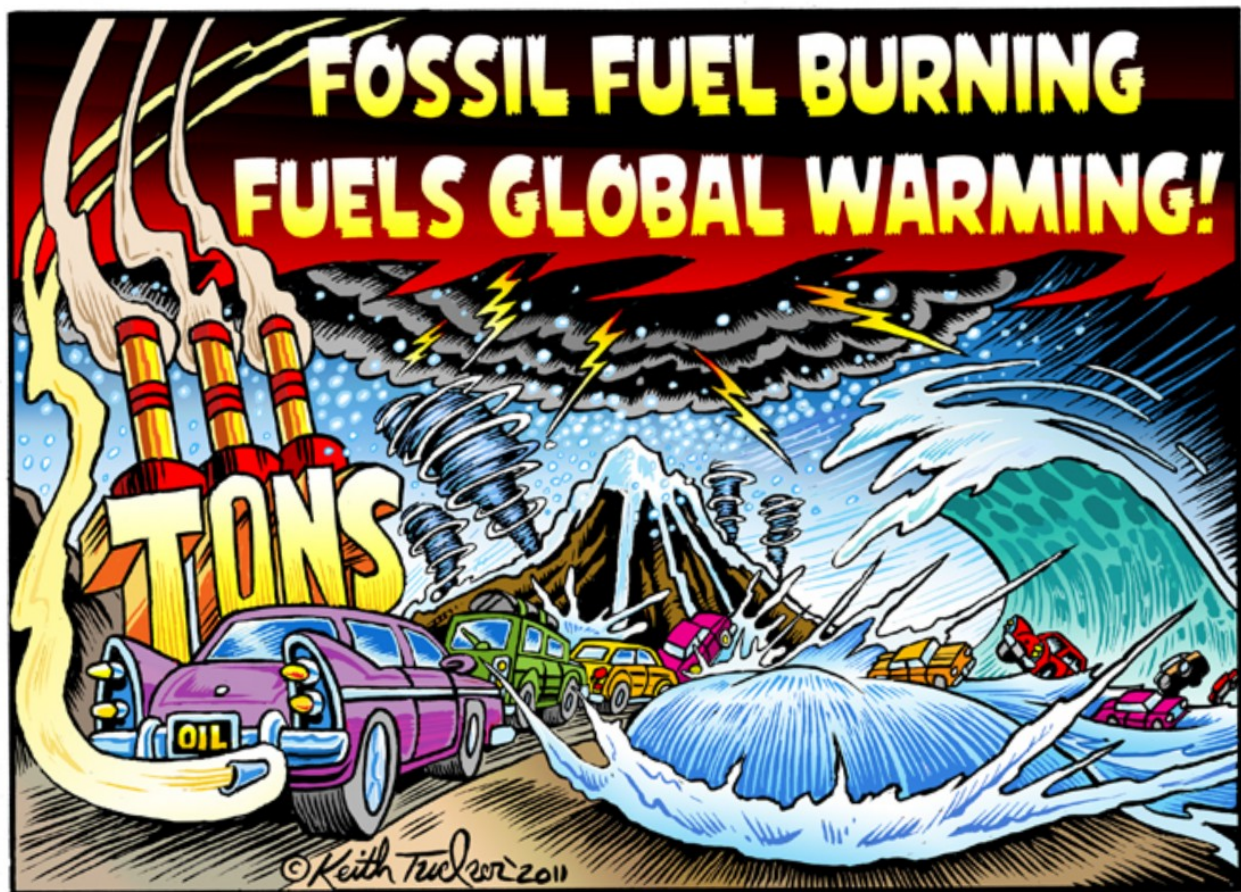
In support of the Moving Planet event, we're making this month's newsletter all about climate change and what YOU can do to help prevent it. From all the details on Portland's Climate Action Fest, to changes to the electric car industry, to how to reduce the carbon footprint of your food, this month we're all about the weather. I hope you'll think about the role of this important issue in your life and the lives of your children, and I hope I see YOU helping to make a difference on September 24.

Make a great day,



**"What NOW?!!" Toons**

You can't see this one anywhere but here



**"WHAT NOW?!!"**

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## **Moving Planet- Portland** **Portland's Contribution to a Global Day of Action**

Almost everyone these days knows at least a little about global warming and climate change. Since Portland is the epicenter of environmental awareness, most people who read our newsletter are also familiar with the international climate action group [350.org](http://350.org). Just in case... 350ppm (parts per million) is the level [determined by scientists](#) to be the maximum safe level of carbon in the earth's atmosphere for maintaining life. We are currently at 390ppm and rising- *not* safe! 350.org was created to highlight this critical number in climate science.



After successful climate awareness events around the world in [2009](#) and [2010](#), 350.org planned an expanded event for this year---Moving Planet Day. It is designed to emphasize the urgency of *moving away* from a carbon-based, fossil-fuel-based society and *moving toward* a more energy-efficient and sustainable future. More importantly, it's designed to demand real action *NOW*, from governments and individuals around the world.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-3pm people from around the metro area will take bikes, buses, trains, skateboards or their own two feet to [Moving Planet- Portland: A Climate Action Fest](#) outside at the Memorial Coliseum Commons. At the event, attendees will have the opportunity to



learn about climate change, alternative energy, and citizen involvement groups they can join through speakers, exhibits, and information stations. Make sure to bring your cameras to interact with some of the exhibit photo opportunities! People will be *motivated* to take action on-site by writing cards to elected officials and making pledges to increase use of greener mobility modes such as carpooling, public transit, walking, and biking. These events have been huge fun in the past. If you'd like to see what you'll be getting in to, you can see hundreds of

photos by [clicking here for 350.org's photo stream](#).

In line with the goals of 350.org and the worldwide Moving Planet event, the aim is to inspire attendees to call upon political leaders, their communities, and themselves to move toward a sustainable way of life. You'll be able to take real action on issues of the environment, climate justice, transit equity, and cleaner transportation.

Of course, climate change isn't just a subject for adults. Our children and grandchildren will be living with the consequences of our decisions, so it's never too early to teach and inspire them. There will be a children's program area with learning opportunities, face painters, crafts, and ways that even little kids can pitch in to help change their world.



If you want to help make a real difference in the fight against global climate change, we hope you'll make a special effort to be at this important event. Even if you can't make it on the big day, there's a way you can help... TELL YOUR FRIENDS! The Moving Planet folks have created a Facebook page for the event at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/350oregon/195330607197176>



that is constantly being updated with 350 information. Share it with your friends, and if you can't make it maybe one of them can!

The choices made by our society in the next few years will impact our people and planet for decades and even centuries to come. Each individual's participation matters, and matters NOW. Moving Planet- Portland is designed to make this message clear, and to encourage each person to make all the difference they can. Please, if you can, make plans to be there and make your own difference!



## **Science and History of Climate Change**

**Learn the science without the hype... from either side**

Is climate change real? Despite what FOX tells us, it seems so. "[The] conclusions have been reviewed and endorsed by the national science academies of every major nation from the United States to China, along with leading scientific societies and virtually every organization that could speak for a scientific consensus." That's a strong statement, but climate change deniers will tell you that consensus isn't proof. Sadly, they're right.

Science never proves anything; it only offers better theories of how things work and what we can expect. Climate change deals with complex, interrelated systems humans are only beginning to understand. While there may be genuine grounds for disagreement, unavoidable scientific doubt has been distorted into proof that the whole idea is wrong. But it's not just the right-wing crazies that are guilty of hyperbole. Greenies have seized on the worst case climate scenarios to tell us that global warming inevitably leads to a runaway greenhouse effect that will destroy all life on earth.

So do you understand climate change yourself, or do you just take someone else's word that it's real? Do you know enough to explain climate change to your uncle who knows nothing about science, but believes Sean Hannity does? If a denier has doubts, where could he find unbiased information on the issue? If you don't want to spend twelve more years in school learning everything you need to know to make a real evaluation, then *Your Car Matters* is here to help. This month, we want to tell you about three places you can go for the most unbiased information we could find.

[The Discovery of Global Warming](#), (by Spencer Weart; sponsored by the American Institute of Physics and the Center for History of Physics), is our most highly recommended place to start. Weart has a [book version](#) of the project as well, but that's just a fairly linear story of the history of global warming science. His website is much, much more. The Discovery of Global Warming is an exhaustively researched, incredibly detailed, hyperlinked and cross-referenced guide to the history and science of climate change. The site weaves together more than 30 parallel (and updated) essays, based on over 2400 sources. You can start anywhere, and follow the site down any path that catches your eye. You may choose to start with the History of Climate Change text version or maybe the Timeline, but the hyperlinks in each will take you to definitions, supporting documents,

charts, and other explanations you'll need to understand the issue. The full site is available as a free download (6Mb) for review at your leisure or distribution to that cranky uncle.

One of the links on Discovery of Global Warming takes you to [RealClimate.org](http://RealClimate.org), "...a commentary site on climate science by [working climate scientists](#) for the interested public and journalists." RealClimate is an excellent source for readers of all levels. It breaks information down into four categories..."For complete beginners", "Those with some knowledge", "Informed, but in need of more detail", and "Informed, but seeking serious discussion of common contrarian talking points". Some of the sources they cite are NASA, the National Academy of Science, Pew Center, and the IPCC.

Our final recommendation is from New Scientist, and their special project called "[Climate Change- A Guide To The Perplexed](#)". They start with an article on [how one assesses scientific evidence](#), and then tackle some of the all-time favorite arguments made by climate change deniers "[Antarctic cooling disproves global warming](#)", "[Warming on Mars and Pluto proves global warming is caused by solar activity](#)", "[Global warming stopped in 1988](#)", and many more.

Unless someone has spent their entire life studying climate change, there's no way they can understand the issue. Even those few people who are experts truly only understand their small slice of the pie, and they rely on other experts on other slices for their understanding. We all have to take someone's word for things we don't understand. But no one should trust blindly, and it may be worse to trust lazily. These are some good ways to get educated on what may be (depending on who you trust) one of the most important issues ever to face our planet.

### Secret Climate Change Extra!

Buried in the [Humor section of our website](#) (what, you didn't know we had one?) is a video called "[How it all Ends](#)", in which the idea of risk analysis as it applies to climate change is explained by a geeky science teacher in a strange hat. Sometimes simple is better, though, as he gets across how to plan for a very large, but very uncertain, threat. Great fodder for dinner table conversation, or for seventh grade science classes.





## **Shrinking Your Footprint**

### **What are those carbon offsets you keep hearing about?**

Carbon offsets are a way for individuals and businesses to fund large-scale projects to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere. The "offset" concept is based on the idea that amount of carbon (or other greenhouse gas) the individual or business produces themselves can be offset by funding reduction in carbon in other places.

One carbon offset is the reduction of one metric ton (1000kg) of carbon, or its equivalent in other greenhouse gasses (CO<sub>2</sub>e). For example, if a power plant can install equipment to reduce 100 tons of carbon then it could create 100 carbon offsets, which can then be sold to fund the equipment. Conservation projects also create offsets; for example tree planting can absorb anywhere from 2 to 48 metric tons of carbon (2000kg to 48000kg) of carbon per tree per year, or 2 to 48 carbon offsets.

If you want to offset your personal carbon usage (called being "carbon neutral"), where do you start? The first step is to determine the size of your "carbon footprint" by finding out how much carbon you use. There are carbon calculators all over the web but the one we'll use for this example is from Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and can be found on their [website](#). This particular calculator breaks a footprint into Home, Transportation (car), and Flight. We used the Average US values, and came up with this...

Home-	16,366 lbs/year
Transportation-	10,383 lbs/year
Flight-	5,800 lbs/year (based on 4 roundtrip flights per year)
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,459 (14,723 kg)</b>

...so, the "average" American would need to buy 15 carbon offsets to completely balance out their own carbon footprint.

There are two markets for carbon offsets, the compliance market and the voluntary market. In the compliance market, created by the actions of the [Kyoto Protocol](#), high-carbon-producing companies are forced to either reduce their own output or buy offsets for that output from other companies. The thinking is that overall carbon production will be reduced, clean companies will be rewarded, and dirty companies will either have incentives to clean up or be penalized for staying dirty. The



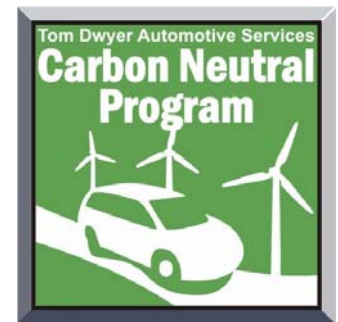
compliance market accounted for about \$5.5 billion of offsets in 2006, or about 1.6 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e reductions. The much smaller voluntary market, worth about \$705 million in 2008, is made up of people who are trying to reduce their personal environmental load. Voluntary offsets are available for either an overall lifestyle carbon contribution, or for individual events like plane flights.

Of course, carbon offsets are only as good as the projects they fund. The carbon offset market is new and there has been a lot of fraud, so companies popped up to certify that the offsets being offered were actually cutting carbon. Many now exist, such as [The Gold Standard](#), [The Chicago Climate Exchange \(CCX\)](#), and [Clean Development Mechanism \(CDM\)](#). [Bonneville Environmental Foundation](#), the company we buy offsets from for our Carbon Neutral Program, uses the [Green-E certification](#) to ensure quality. If you're interested in going carbon neutral it doesn't really matter which certification you use, but make sure the company you're buying from has some kind of third-party approval for the quality of their offsets and the projects they're involved with.

Carbon offsets are not a substitute for living as clean as you can. If you can reduce carbon in your life, then DO IT! Don't depend on outsourcing your own responsibility. However, if you'll be tethered to a carbon producer (like your car) for the foreseeable future then carbon offsets are one way to help you step more lightly on the planet.

## **Our Carbon-Neutral Program- Lower carbon, save money.**

We do our best to make sure your vehicle has the least possible impact on the environment, but even the best internal combustion engines emit carbon into the atmosphere. Keeping your car well-maintained DOES reduce your carbon footprint, but that's not enough to get below 350. In 2007 we started a program that allows our clients to buy offsets for the carbon output of their vehicles and, to make sure folks actually take part we set it up so that you save money at the same time.



As of 2011, the members of the [Tom Dwyer Automotive Carbon Neutral Program](#) (CNP) have been responsible for removing more than 1.4 million pounds of carbon from our air. Not bad, especially when you consider that each one of these members was saving 10% on all their services here at the shop! We want you to be part of this amazing success story, so we make it as easy as possible. Here's the deal...

### **WHAT YOU GET**

**1 YEAR OFFSET** of your vehicle's carbon output  
**10% OFF LABOR COSTS** at Tom Dwyer Automotive  
Cool window cling **STICKER**

### **WHAT IT COSTS**

Cost varies by vehicle type and the number of offsets you need. Hybrids cost about **\$30**, most cars cost about **\$50**, and guzzlers cost about **\$90**.

### **HOW TO JOIN**

Just call the shop at **503-230-2300** and talk to a Service Advisor. They'll take your information and we'll handle the rest. It's just that easy!



## **Shop Talk**

**We're PPO certified. Why should you care?**

It's easy to greenwash a company. Hire a PR firm, stick a few recycling boxes in the lunchroom, hand out water bottles at a Sierra Club meeting, give a bus pass to the employees, and BAM! they're Mother Nature in a business suit. But maybe you're one of the growing number of people who want assurances that the companies you're dealing with are really trying to conduct their business in an environmentally and socially responsible way. Nike is introducing outside audits of their labor practices and Home Depot relies on FSC certification of their wood supplies, but how do you certify an automotive shop is environmentally friendly? Once again Portland is ahead of the curve... we have the [Portland Pollution Outreach](#) Team (PPO).



Founded in 1996, PPO developed the [EcoBiz Program](#) (Ecological Business Program) to create standards to audit and certify the environmental practices of [Automotive](#), [Landscape](#), and most recently [Car Wash](#) businesses. The program is completely free and voluntary for the companies that participate. As of June 30, 2011, the PPO has recognized 139 auto services shops, 12 landscapers, and 21 carwashes as environmental leaders. The EcoBiz program is the first automotive services certification program of its type in the nation. The auditing and certification process is very rigorous. The complete [application form](#) is available online with all the details of the inspection process. It makes pretty dry reading, but if you want to be assured that it's more than checking the lunchroom recycling boxes then this will put your mind at ease.

Companies participate in the EcoBiz program because they want to ensure that they are meeting the highest environmental standards, and because they want their customers to know that their environmental commitment is more than greenwashing. If this is important to you in the companies you deal with, then you might want to check out the [Ecobiz website for a directory](#) of companies that have achieved and maintain this high standard.



## **Health Notes-**

### **Climate change gets personal**

When we think of climate change we usually think about change of the planet only, and on a global scale. But climate change can have effects on individuals as well, and the individual effects are gradually becoming known. While the EPA (Environmental Protection Administration) notes an upside for climate change: it's "expected to bring a few benefits to health, including fewer deaths due to exposure to cold", most of the other effects aren't so rosy.

*(The following is condensed from "[Climate Change - Health and Environmental Effects](#)", US Environmental Protection Agency, April, 2010)*

The EPA breaks down the potential health effects of climate change into 5 broad categories...

**Direct Temperature Effects-** Climate change means hotter summers and less extreme winters. In the US, Chicago is expected to get 25% more frequent heat waves, and LA can expect four to eight times as many heat wave days. While just uncomfortable for most people, people with heart problems, asthma, the very young and very old, and the homeless can be injured or die from the extreme heat.

**Extreme Events-** Extreme weather events, be they hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, blizzards, heat or cold waves, or fires, are projected to increase as the climate changes. Ask anyone who's lived through a tornado- all these events represent serious threats to an individual's health.

**Climate-Sensitive Diseases-** Many diseases, or the vectors that carry them, are sensitively dependent on climate to thrive. Malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, lyme disease, and encephalitis are just some of the diseases expected to become more common as increased heat, rain, and humidity expands their viable territories. Algae blooms, especially in areas with polluted water, can increase the frequency of diseases like cholera.

**Air Quality-** Globally warmer temperatures affect the air's ability to hold or cleanse pollutants. Warm air increases the frequency of smog or ground-level ozone, resulting in increases in respiratory disorders. Ground-level ozone can also damage lung tissue, increasing the problems for people with asthma and other chronic lung diseases. Another pollutant of concern is particulate matter, a mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. Particulates go to the deepest parts of the lungs when inhaled, and are linked to a variety of significant health problems. Particle pollution also is the main cause of haze in cities and national parks. Climate

change can affect particulate concentration by increasing the particulate carrying capacity of the air, or by adding particulates indirectly through fires or dust storms.

**Other Health Linkages-** Less direct linkages exist between climate change and human health. For example, regional climate change impacts on agricultural yields are likely to grow over time, which increases the number of undernourished people globally and leading to complications in child development. Other, more subtle effects of climate change such as water scarcity will have similar indirect but serious effects.

### **Digging Deeper-**

There are many scholarly and general interest articles and research concerning the health effects of global warming. Here are just a few to get you started...

[Analyses of the Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human Systems \(SAP 4.6\)](#), US EPA (Environmental Protection Administration), May, 2010

[Climate Change - Health and Environmental Effects](#), US EPA, April, 2011

[Climate Change and Health Fact Sheet](#), WHO (World Health Organization), January, 2010

[Climate change and human health - risks and responses](#), WHO, 2003

[Climate and Health Program](#), US CDC (Center for Disease Control), Nov, 2010

[Health Problems Heat Up: Climate Change and the Public's Health](#), Trust for America's Health, Oct 2009

[Highlighting Health Effects of Climate Change Could Inspire Action](#)  
Kathleen Blanchard, July, 2010

[WHO Stresses Health Impact at Copenhagen Climate Event](#), Deborah Mitchell, Dec 2009

[The Health Benefits of Tackling Climate Change](#), The Lancet, Nov 2010

[Impact of regional climate change on human health](#), Jonathan Patz, Nature, 2005 (Scholarly article, frequently cited.)

[Health Effects of Climate Change, Andy Haines](#), JAMA, Jan 2004





## **Drew's Kitchen**

### **Cucumber soup with melon salad**

One of the problems with climate change is that the issue is so big it can seem daunting. "What can ONE person possibly DO?" is the most common question people have. You might not be ready to give up your car or move into a zero-carbon commune, but there is at least one simple, painless, and even pleasurable step that YOU can take to reduce your carbon footprint... think about your food.

Virtually all of the food in our supermarkets is trucked in from sources across the country or even around the world. Tomatoes come from Mexico and Canada, beef comes from Brazil, potatoes come from Italy. These products are treated with chemical and industrial processes to make them easier to transport and to look better in the store, not to make them taste better or be healthier. The large-scale industrial agriculture needed to produce food for world-wide markets squashes out smaller farmers in the market. And, when it comes to climate change, the production and especially the transportation of these foods has a HUGE carbon footprint.

Why not buy locally produced food, from local farmers? It takes less carbon to transport, has fewer added chemicals, is less industrially processed, supports small farmers, keeps your money working locally, and some even say it tastes better.

[The Global Warming Diet](#) is a good place to go if you want more information on food and its impact on the environment. If you're already ready to make the leap to local, then [Edible Portland](#) and [Organics To You](#) are two local resources that can bring you fresh, seasonal food from right here in our area. Here's a recipe to get you started on the road to local cuisine, borrowed from Allen Routt of the Painted Lady restaurant in Newberg (reprinted from Edible Portland).

### **Cucumber Soup with Melon Salad-** Makes 4 servings

2 Yukon gold potatoes, boiled whole in salted water  
till tender

1 English cucumber, peeled and seeded

1 cup honeydew melon, chopped

1 clove garlic

1 Tbsp lemon juice

2 tsp sea salt

2 drops Tabasco

2 Tbsp Nancy's plain yogurt

1 Tbsp chives, chopped

1/4 cup each: honey dew, cantaloupe, watermelon  
and cucumber (use small melon ball scoop)

1/4 lb smoked wild salmon

#### **SOUP**

In a blender combined 1 Yukon potato, cucumber, honeydew melon, garlic, 2 tsp lemon juice, sea salt, Tabasco, and yogurt. Blend until smooth, strain thru a mesh colander, check seasoning and chill.

#### **GARNISH**

Chop 1 Yukon potato and add 1 tsp lemon juice and chives. Check seasoning.

#### **ASSEMBLY**

In four bowls place 1/4 of the potato salad in the bottom. Top each salad with 1/4 of the melon/cucumber balls and then top with 1 oz of smoked salmon. Pour chilled soup around the salads and smoked salmon. Serve right away.



## **Sellwood Bridge Update**

Closer... closer... closer...

It seems like a dream, but the Sellwood Bridge construction is actually creeping closer to a beginning. Here's the bridge news-you-can-use for this month...

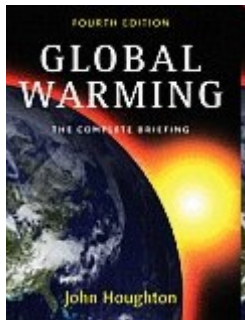
- **Budget**- In the wake of May's Clackamas County vote not to raise their licensing fees, the project stood at \$290M (million dollars) with a \$42M shortfall. New numbers look somewhat better, with a \$265M cost and "only" a \$20M shortfall. The savings is coming from several sources. With the design process now 60% complete, more accurate numbers are available and estimates are better. Some of the costs to acquire right-of-way have also dropped (especially with the closing of Staff Jennings), but most of the savings is from the switch to the "Shoo Fly" option for a temporary bridge during construction. The County also has more grants pending with the State and Feds, so more money may be coming in soon. The [Daily Journal of Commerce had a great article](#) on this in August.
- **Timeline**- There's a couple dates coming up soon that are important. The change to the Shoo Fly required new permits to be issued, and they're in the pipeline. They must issue by Oct 15 with "no room for flexibility". Assuming they come, then in-water construction on the temporary construction bridges can start Dec 1, 2011. This is another time-critical date, because if construction can't start Dec 1 then the entire project will be delayed and all the money saved so far will float back out the window.
- **Design**- The final design is coming together bit by bit. The contractors are approaching 60% complete on their part of the design, and citizen groups are putting the finishing touches on their contributions. The [CAC \(Community Advisory Committee\) finalized their recommendations](#) for lighting, path details, gateways, benches, and more in a public meeting on Aug 29. These recommendations will go on to the Public Stakeholders Committee for final review.

If you're a bridge junkie, then you'll find all the latest info at the County's [Sellwood Bridge Project Website](#), including a [new computer-animated video showing the entire Shoo-Fly process](#). Pretty cool!



## **Book Spotlight**

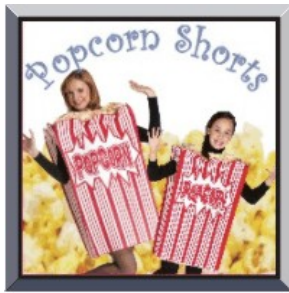
John Houghton, "Global Warming: The Complete Briefing"



### **[Global Warming, The Complete Briefing](#) by John Houghton**

Global warming and the resulting climate change is one of the most serious environmental problems facing the world community. Global Warming: The Complete Briefing is the most comprehensive guide available to the subject. A world-renowned expert, Sir John Houghton explores the scientific basis of global warming and the likely impacts of climate change on human society, before addressing the action that could be taken by governments, by industry and by individuals to mitigate the effects. The first two editions received excellent reviews, and this completely updated new edition will prove to be the best briefing the student or interested general reader could wish for.

John Houghton's market-leading textbook is now in full color and includes the latest IPCC findings, making it the definitive guide to climate change. Written for students across a wide range of disciplines, its simple, logical flow of ideas gives an invaluable grounding in the science and impacts of climate change and highlights the need for action on global warming. Is there evidence for climate changing due to human activities? How do we account for recent extremes of weather and climate? Can global electricity provision and transport ever be carbon free? Written by a leading figure at the forefront of action to confront humanity's most serious environmental problem, this undergraduate textbook comprehensively explores these and other issues, allowing students to think through the problem, assess the data and draw conclusions on the action that should be taken, by governments, by industry and by each and every one of us.



## **Popcorn Shorts**

Cool or important stuff that's too short for a big article



### [40 facts about the ex-middle class](#)

The Limbaughs of the world deride the Left for "waging class war", but as Warren Buffett famously said "There IS class war in America. My class is waging it, and we're winning." This happy little slideshow will show you some of the casualties in the war, from the average length of unemployment to the size of jobloss in post-war recessions to the ratio of employee compensation to the GNP. You may know you're being squeezed; this will tell you how badly.



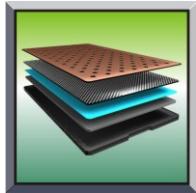
### [Video: Change to win](#)

If wonky statistics and graphs aren't your thing, then maybe cartoons are. This decidedly low-tech animation tells a grim story of America, from the "dawn of the Industrial Age" through today. In simple terms, it lays out the promise of America, what it looked like when it was being fulfilled, and what's happened to turn it into the sham it's become. And, it tells you one way you can help bring it back.



### [A link between climate change and extreme weather? Never!](#)

We shake our heads at the devastating floods in Alabama and Missouri, the wildfires in Texas, and the hurricane that just flooded the East Coast. All horrible events in themselves, but these things seem to be coming more often. Is it because of the 24-hour news cycle? Is it a liberal conspiracy to make the weather look worse than it is? Or is it evidence (not proof) that the global warming guys are right? Watch this video, but try not to make any connections.



### [ReVolt aims to jumpstart the electric car industry](#)

Just one of the problems facing the electric car industry (and many other green industries) is an affordable, dependable, durable, high-capacity battery technology. In its effort to become the greentech hub of America, Portland has brought a whole range of companies to the area to solve exactly this type of problem. ReVolt is a Swiss company that is an offshoot of a Norwegian R&D organization. Here's a chance to meet our new neighbors!



### [Kids look at the future- Entries from our "Car of the Future" contest](#)

If you ever want to be surprised, ask a kid their opinion. For the past three years at the Sellwood Park Concerts our "Car of the Future" contest has asked kids what cars will look like in the future, and we haven't been disappointed yet. This year's entries are up for your review. See the winning designs, and see what the drivers of the future are thinking today. You may be surprised, too!



### [LEAP works to make sure the power stays on](#)

What would happen if Portland was hit by a major earthquake? We know we'd need to mobilize heavy construction equipment, and Portland has set aside plenty for the purpose. Unfortunately, they store them under one of the major bridges and would have to dig them out to use them. LEAP is a Portland agency that is doing the planning now that will avoid these mistakes when it's too late.





## News To Make You Furious

It's not that they're wrong, it's that they're LYING!

Science does not promise truth, and it never has. Science gives the best possible explanation of reality, though that explanation is always subject to revision. On climate change, there is a scientific consensus that it is real, human-caused, and increasing. The consensus does not prove it is true. The consensus is there because the evidence supports it. Basic open-mindedness is necessary for the function of science, but reasonable skepticism doesn't imply doubt about the thrust of a theory.



But then there's FOX News, Exxon, the Koch Brothers, and more who'll be glad to tell you about the sliver of scientists who criticize climate change. Is this a case of lonely scientific voices being silenced by a bloated scientific orthodoxy?

No, they're lying. We wanted to be a little open-minded, but it's just that simple... they're not wrong, they're lying. They're lying about one of the most critical issues possible, something that will affect humanity for centuries. They're lying about issues that will leave people dead, starving, ill, homeless, and warring. They're paying billions of dollars to put these lies out day after week after year. And they're lying ONLY because they make money off the lies. Ready to get your blood boiling? Then settle in for this month's News to Make You Furious...

[DeSmogBlog](#) is written by a PR professional, and tracks the lies of the Denial Movement. From the author... "There is a line between public relations and propaganda - or there should be. And there is a difference between using your skills, in good faith, to help rescue a battered reputation and using them to twist the truth - to sow confusion and doubt on an issue that is critical to human survival."

[Climate Cover-Up: The Crusade to Deny Global Warming](#) by James Hoggan- If you like the DeSmogBlog, you'll like this book by one of the bloggers.

Michelle Bachman, among many others, is fond of pointing out all the "Nobel Prize Winning" scientists who are global warming doubters. When the Heartland Institute published a list of 500 of these doubters, the [outraged response from many](#) was to ask that their names be removed. Oops.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-01-03-exxonmobil-global-warming\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-01-03-exxonmobil-global-warming_x.htm) Scientists say oil company misinforms public on global warming

Short [article from the Seattle PI](#) lists some of the companies involved in funding climate change denial, and the strategies they use to make it happen.

You probably noticed that Climate Change isn't the first issue to receive the "scientific doubt" treatment. [Merchants of Doubt](#) describes the whole sordid story of how this strategy has been consciously applied from cigarettes through nuclear winter, acid rain and the ozone hole. If you're interested, there's an in-depth review of the book [here](#).

One of the most widely circulated "documentaries" on doubts in the theory of climate change is the [Great Global Warming Swindle](#). This [website takes it apart](#) piece by piece.

James Hansen, head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York, is widely respected as one of the world's leading climate scientists. [Here's his inside look](#) at how politics is influencing science, and how the public loses in the end.

Is there a way to fight back? Turns out there is, and sadly it's the lawyers that can lead the way. A [similar strategy to the tobacco lawsuits](#) can hold companies responsible for a pattern of conscious, active, destructive lying.

Greenpeace says a US [oil company donated millions](#) to climate sceptic groups... hello, Koch Bros!

A story about [scientists offered cash to dispute](#) climate studies

[Industry Ignored Its Scientists](#) on Climate

What does it actually look like when politicians meddle in science? Read the [full version of the White-House-Edited CDC Climate Report](#) - with highlights!

### **What Can You Do?**

FIGHT BACK! Don't sit by passively when you hear someone lying about climate change. Educate yourself, know the science behind the issues and the typical arguments used against it. UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE! And when you understand it, call your representatives and let them know how you feel. Join 350.org, Sierra Club, GreenPeace, or one of the many other organizations fighting for this important issue. What can YOU do! Don't just get furious... GET INVOLVED!