



The Greening of Planet Earth—*Confirmed!* Video Series

Transcript: [CO₂ Emissions, Fossil Fuel Use and Human Longevity](#)

This video segment discusses the fundamental link between CO₂ emissions and global life expectancy. It is patently false and borderline fraudulent to claim rising CO₂ is enhancing human mortality rates, as many often do, when the data clearly demonstrate there are more people on earth today who are living longer and better lives because of rising CO₂ and fossil fuel use.

The war against fossil fuels gained great momentum in 2009 when the United States Environmental Protection Agency ruled carbon dioxide or CO₂ is a dangerous air pollutant, claiming its atmospheric increase is endangering human health and raising mortality rates all across the globe.

Those of you who have been following our new *Greening of Planet Earth Confirmed* video series, know that nothing could be further from the truth. Fossil fuel use and the CO₂ emissions that are a byproduct of its combustion are not causing a climate crisis, but are instead providing great benefits to humanity and nature alike. In this segment we examine one of the most simple and yet profound examples of such benefits that the US EPA apparently overlooked, or willfully ignored, in its political rush to judgement in declaring CO₂ a pollutant.

This slide plots a two hundred year history of human life expectancy, fossil fuel consumption and atmospheric CO₂ concentration, revealing a high degree of correlation among the three records. Two hundred years ago, the average life expectancy of a child born was a mere 29 years. Health care was relatively non-existent and 43% of the world's newborns died before reaching their 5th birthday. Thereafter, things began to change, though slowly at first. Society began to use fossil fuels on a much larger scale and industrialize. Rising energy production brought economic prosperity and literacy, which helped reduce poverty. Housing and sanitation improved. People ate more and they ate healthier, nutritious foods. A more educated population coupled with fast-developing societies provided fertile ground for key scientific breakthroughs in modern medicine that both saved and prolonged human lives.

Across the 19th century life expectancy changed but little. Then, as fossil energy consumption really took off, so did human longevity, with global life expectancy *doubling* in value over the next ten decades, such that a person born today is expected to live to an average age of 72 years.

The real significance of this monumental accomplishment in human achievement, however, is *not* in the doubling of life expectancy in and of itself, but in *the number of persons who are experiencing it.*

Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change

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Consider, for example, that in 1820 the world population was only 1.06 billion, whereas today it is 7.38 billion. By multiplying the population in each of these years by the corresponding average lifespan at that time, we find that the number of total human life years supported by the planet in 1820 amounted to 30.7 billion, whereas today it is a much greater 527 billion.

Thus, thanks in large measure to benefits from enhanced fossil energy use, our planet now supports an increase in total human life years that is *17-fold higher* than it was just two centuries ago. Such improvements are astounding and will continue in the years and decades to come as long as energy remains accessible, affordable and plentiful.

In light of the preceding material, it is patently false and borderline fraudulent to claim rising CO₂ is enhancing human mortality rates, as the EPA has done, when the data clearly demonstrate there are more people on earth today who are living longer and better lives because of rising CO₂ and fossil fuel use.

Don't be tricked by those who advocate reducing CO₂ emissions and fossil fuel use in the name of saving humanity when the data clearly show such actions will harm humanity. To attack CO₂ is to attack life. *More*, not less, fossil energy is needed for the world's inhabitants to live longer and better lives.

Note: this video was [posted](#) on 9 January 2020