Vice Mayor Shaffer, members of Council,

I believe that expedience requires you to empower Mr. Brake tonight with the ability to sign a new aggregation contract at his discretion, in real time, according to the pricing at the moment that the decision must be made. Nevertheless, our community must decide whether or not the default position will continue to be the renewable option.

As the climate crisis continues to become worse during the next 5 to 10 years, our children will be asking us what we did to stop it. There are people in high positions that will tell you that global warming is a hoax, but actually the fundamental physics is quite simple.

If you are comfortable lying in bed with two blankets on, that is because the heat your body is generating is exactly equal to the heat escaping through the blankets. If someone throws a third blanket on you, less heat will escape, and you will start to get warmer. If you could not throw off the extra blanket, the temperature would continue to rise until the heat escaping was again in balance with the heat your body generated, but the temperature would be much higher.

That is an exact parallel to what is happening in our atmosphere. Earth wears one blanket of carbon dioxide during ice ages, at 180 ppm. During warm periods, it wears two, about 280 ppm. From the beginning of the industrial age around 1700 up until the year I was born, in about 250 years, the burning of fossil fuels added an additional 35 or so ppm. During my lifetime, that extra CO_2 has quadrupled, adding an additional 110 ppm – with about 2/3 of that during my own sons' lifetimes. That is a third blanket. We haven't come close to reaching thermal equilibrium yet for that and we are still adding more carbon dioxide, effectively starting to add a fourth blanket when we should be removing the third.

More carbon dioxide has been added during my lifetime than the normal variation between ice ages, and at a much faster rate than the changes that occur in nature, and to a level far above what has occurred in nature for millions of years while our current biosphere has evolved.

I would remind you that our civilization, and the fragile agriculture that barely feeds Earth's 8 billion people, has only arisen during the current warm period of about 10 thousand years.

We, as a community, can do something about the climate crisis, by continuing to support the deployment of renewable energy. I think that's worth an extra one or two dollars a month on each of our electric bills.

David Carpenter
607 Hills Miller Rd, Delaware, OH

March 24, 2025