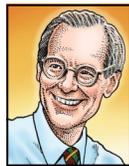


POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

It's all about physics

Who would have thought, three years ago, that a pandemic would upend our economy and kill 960,000 Americans?

Who would have thought Russia would brutally invade Ukraine and rekindle a Cold War that seemingly ended 30 years ago?



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

Who thinks even greater catastrophes await the human race because of climate change?

The international scientific community does.

Last week, the United Nations issued an updated report on global warming, stating it will soon be too late to prevent irreversible catastrophe.

Coastal cities like New York underwater. Wildfires. Violent storms. Droughts. Species extinction.

Scientists say the nations of the world will need to cut their greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 — just eight years from now — and altogether by 2050.

It would take unprecedented worldwide cooperation for that to happen, and right now we're just trying to avoid World War III.

In 1992, representatives of more than 150 countries met in Rio de Janeiro and agreed to stabilize emissions of carbon dioxide and other

greenhouse gases to prevent climate change.

It's been 30 years since then, and there have been scores of conferences and studies and warnings, and still greenhouse gas emissions are increasing, not declining.

As one scientist explained, "Civilizations have marched blindly to disaster because humans are wired to believe that tomorrow will be much like today."

But it won't be. The pandemic and the Ukraine invasion are proving that.

All the incredible technology humans have developed is practically nothing compared to vast powers of the universe.

As physicist Stephen Hawking said, "It is clear that we are just an advanced breed of primates on a minor planet orbiting around a very average star in the outer suburb of one among a hundred billion galaxies."

The earth is ruled by the laws of physics and chemistry, not humans.

The earth doesn't care about dictators and democracies. It doesn't care about vast armies and nuclear missiles. It doesn't care about love and hate, good and evil.

It doesn't care, frankly, whether the human race thrives or dies.

If we want to survive the next 100 years, we have to play by the earth's rules. Perhaps shock of the Ukraine invasion and the solidarity it's engendered in the West will carry over to the greenhouse gas challenge.

