

Life on Earth and CO2

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The Letters Editor

Photosynthesis is a process which collects light from the sun, and converts carbon dioxide and the sun's energy back into mass in the form of living plant life. The process needs a minimum of about 250 ppm of atmospheric carbon dioxide, which is plant food. The process then discharges oxygen to the atmosphere.

Photosynthesis occurs in green plants, sea weeds, algae, and certain bacteria, all of which are essential to all life on earth.

Plants use much of their self manufactured carbohydrate, as an energy source to build leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds. They also convert glucose to cellulose, the structural material used in their cell walls.

The atmosphere now contains about 385 parts per million of CO₂. Scientists in the field have shown that up to 5,000 parts per million is quite safe, and up to 15,000 parts per million can be safely tolerated.

At present we have political control freaks, who are bent on reducing the use of electricity and the CO₂ content of the atmosphere. They claim CO₂ is a pollutant and a danger to all life, coral reef systems and national parks. They plan to tax all carbon dioxide producing industries.

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." So said H. L. Mencken.

That is precisely what is happening here and now.

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