



Only a few leaves remain on this maple tree, located in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Photo by Scott Newton

Benefits

workability and energy impact of many conservation and solar "technical fixes." What is not often stated, but is possibly more important than the increased energy efficiency of implementing conservation and alternate sources of energy, is the economic benefit to the community.

Employment opportunities, a scarce prospect in many Oregon communities, can be greatly affected by the aggressive encouragement of conservation and solar industries. Studies show that thousands of jobs can be created in the next twenty years in the United States in conservation and solar areas at capital investment costs that compare very favorably with other industries. Bonneville Power Administration has concluded that high impact conservation programs will create more jobs than would be created by building new power plants to generate an equivalent amount of energy.

In addition, the skills required for many conservation and solar jobs tend to be easily acquired, thereby

providing quick entry into a job market for many currently unemployed.

Another direct economic benefit of conservation and solar development to local communities is the effect on the flow of money within the community.

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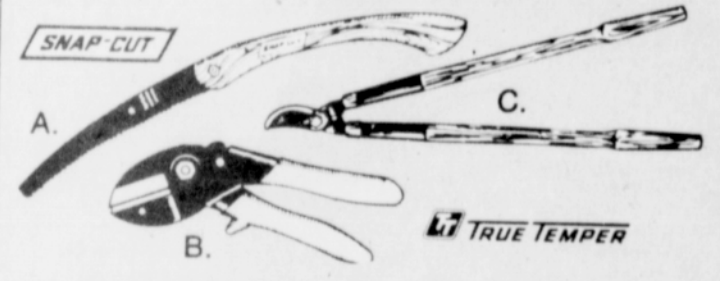
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Carbon dioxide

(Continued from Page 8)

of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere sometime in the next century. The climatic impacts of a CO2 doubling would be so striking around the world, the OSU model shows, that an understanding of them is vital for some international decisions on the continued heavy use of fossil fuels, the source of the CO2 build-up.

Though humans breathe out carbon dioxide, a colorless, odorless gas, carbon dioxide increases in the atmosphere apparently are coming from increased uses of fossil fuels—coal, natural gas and oil, it was noted. Carbon dioxide is produced from the combustion of fossil fuels by the chemical combination of carbon in the fuel with oxygen in the atmosphere to release thermal energy and CO2.

In the atmosphere, carbon dioxide creates the so-called "greenhouse effect," Schlesinger explained. Because CO2 absorbs the long wavelength radiation emitted by the earth's surface and atmosphere, more of the earth's heat is trapped and held in the lower atmosphere.

"Calculations with mathematical climate models of varying complexity indicate that the surface air temperature averaged over the earth will increase anywhere from 2.7 to 8.1 degrees Fahrenheit," Schlesinger noted.

"It is expected, however, that the temperature change at any location may be higher, lower, or even of opposite sign from the globally-averaged change," the OSU scientist stressed. "Also changes in other climatic variables such as precipitation, evaporation, soil moisture, snow amount and cloudiness are likely to occur with the temperature change."

The OSU computer model, for example, points to a warming of about 3.6 degrees F. over most of the United States and the Soviet Union, and by more than 10 degrees in parts of North Africa, but a cooling in central Africa.

"The change in precipitation projections showed slight increases over much of the U.S. and this resulted in an increase in the moisture of the soil. There was, however, a decrease in precipitation

and soil moisture along the West Coast which might have a detrimental effect on agriculture there," Schlesinger observed.

The polar regions would have more warming effects than the equatorial areas, models indicate. Melting of polar snow and sea ice could raise the sea level as much as five meters (15 feet), Schlesinger reported. "It has been estimated that such a rise could inundate about 25 percent of Florida," he added, "and other coastal areas around the world would feel some effects also."

Wind and ocean circulation patterns could be changed with the added CO2 levels too.

The OSU general circulation model being used for the work is unique in that the impact of ocean water warming is calculated in the long-range climatic simulations. "It is the behavior of the oceans that largely determines the climatic response, and we have only just begun to realistically incorporate the oceans into the model," Schlesinger observed.

"It is natural that this and other simulations of CO2-induced climate changes increase our concern about our continuing increased rate of fossil fuel usage," Schlesinger added.

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