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Global Warming - Is It Real, and Should We Worry?*

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Over the last century atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have risen steadily, largely as a result of man's activities, and global temperatures have also risen. This association is the basis for the claim that global warming is man-made, and that drastic steps must be taken to reduce CO₂ emissions if further warming is to be prevented. However, it is shown here that the precise effect of rising CO₂ level on climate is still uncertain, and that other factors may also have contributed to the temperature rise. Rising CO₂ level will have clear benefits for agriculture, including higher yields from tropical tree crops, while there is not much support for the claim that rising temperature will have seriously harmful effects. In these circumstances, the imposition of energy policies which could be economically damaging, particularly for the poorest people, does not appear justified.

Keywords: *Global warming, climate change, greenhouse effect, temperature, carbon dioxide.*