

NZCLIMATE TRUTH NO 193

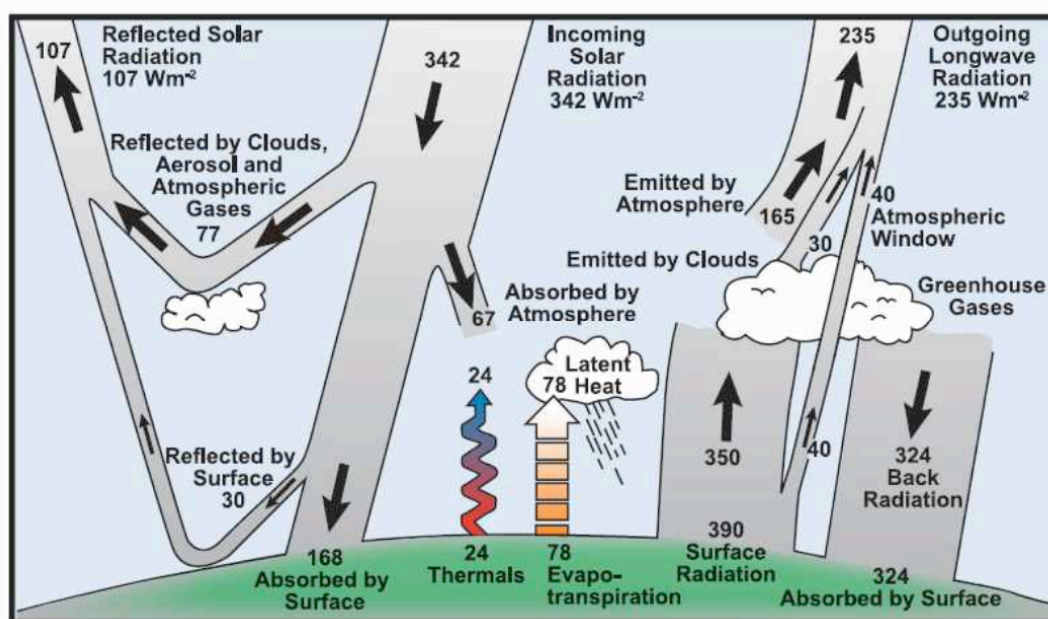
8 DECEMBER 2008

THE EARTH'S "BALANCED" ENERGY

Computer models of the climate all begin with the belief that the amount of energy coming from the sun to the earth exactly equals the amount that returns by infra red radiation from the earth. The supposed effect of increases in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is to upset this "balance" and thus induce additional warming which is bound to increase as the emissions rise. The entire world is now engaged in legislation and negotiations to cut these emissions; otherwise warming will become intolerable.

This belief has been imposed on the world by the attached diagram showing the components of this "balance", originally published by Kiehl and Trenberth, at

Kiehl J. T. and K. E. Trenberth 1997. Earth's Annual Global Mean Energy Budget. Bull. Am. Met. Soc. 78 197-208.



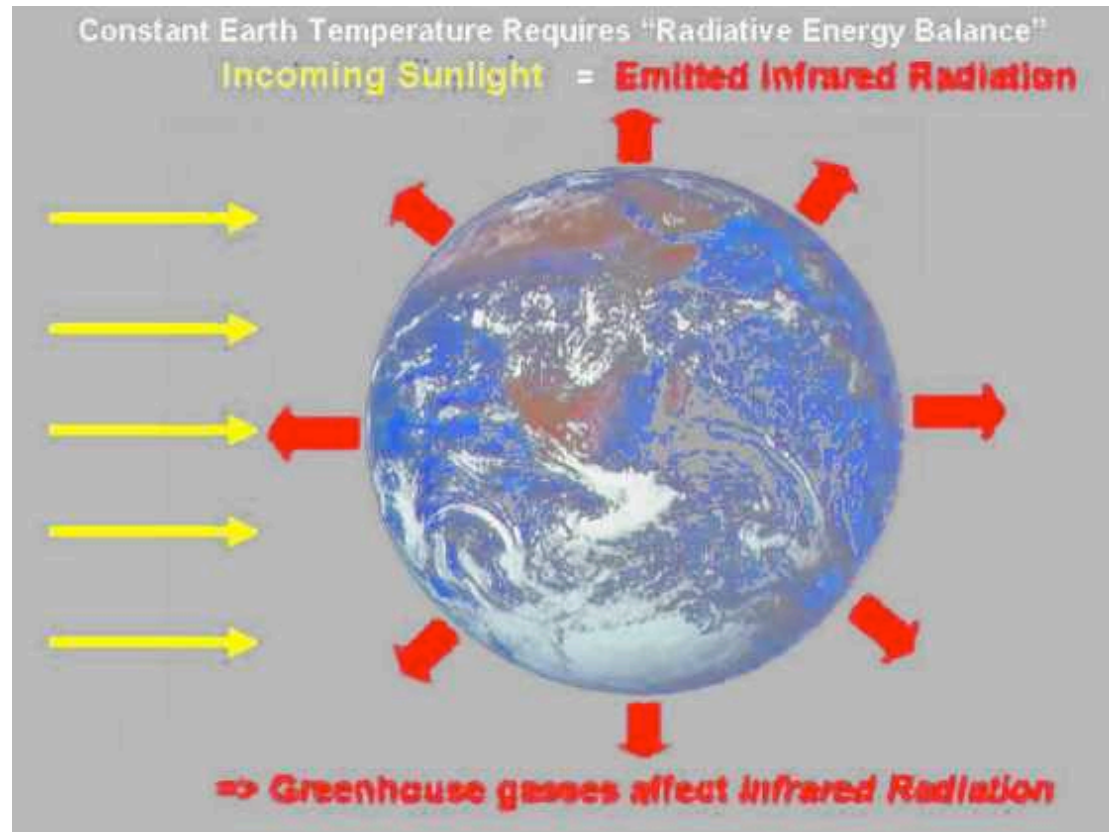
Nobody ever seems to ask the awkward question of what period is involved. Is there a balance every second, every hour, every day, every year, century, millennium? Or is there ever such a balance?

The idea of a balance has been accepted by almost everybody, including many who are sceptical of the claims for global warming.

A few moment's thought will show that it is certainly not every second, or even every hour. During the day there is more energy received than emitted. At night it is the reverse.

My friend Roy Spencer, who still accepts the "balanced" energy concept, has published a more realistic picture of the earth's energy in the second attachment from

<http://tinyurl.com/yqzhu8>



He shows that the earth is round, not flat, that the sun shines on only one side at a time, and it is hotter in the summer quarter than in the winter quarter. On top of that there are the sunspots, the changes in the sun's orbit from the larger planets and the ocean oscillations and atmospheric disturbances. Then there are the changes in water, rain and ice. Then, various changes caused by humans such as forestry, agriculture, buildings, and even greenhouse gas emissions.

But, all the same, as he announces at the top of the diagram, he believes that the energy coming from the sun on one side exactly equals the energy being emitted on the other side. How does he know? How does the dark earth know how much is being supplied over the other side, so that it can emit an exactly equal amount?

The answer is that it cannot. The two situations are completely different, and largely independent. The earth has a large thermal capacity. There are surely fluctuations, some regular and some irregular, with periods over every time scale.

Many "cycles have already been identified. See

"Unstoppable Global Warming" by S Fred Singer and Dennis A Avery 2007 Rowman and Littlefield Publishers (Available from Amazon.com.

and the various papers by myself and others showing Pacific Decadal Oscillation and ENSO cycles. Under the influence of such irregularities and cycles possible human influences, including greenhouse gas emissions become impossible to disentangle. Our only sensible policy is to accept the world as it is and adapt to it.

There can be no doubt that the earth's energy is never balanced, not even on the millennium scale, and that all climate models based on the assumption that it is are bound to fail.