

Are we making headway in reducing Carbon Emissions?

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Biography

Mike Sheppard worked with Bill Fitzgerald at Schlumberger Cambridge Research and, after Bill left Schlumberger, enlisted Bill's help over many years to introduce Bayesian Techniques for a broad range of oil-field applications including telemetry and event detection. More recently, Mike, in his capacity as Schlumberger Fellow, has worked on Carbon, Climate and Energy and chaired the carbon committee of the US National Petroleum Council whose 2007 report to the US Secretary of State for Energy on the Future of Energy to 2030 represented a watershed in the oil industry's view of carbon emissions.

Abstract

Despite ample warning of the threat of climate and ecological change occasioned by our ever growing emissions of carbon dioxide, most governments are reluctant to address these warnings in any meaningful way, pleading difficulties of technology, politics and economics. I will discuss the magnitude of the problem, which is driven by the world's growing demand for energy coupled with our overriding dependence on fossil fuels, and briefly describe mechanisms of greenhouse warming, the growth in emissions driving this warming, how we might expect climate to evolve, and what we would need to do to mitigate these effects.