

**KEYBOARD
RANTINGS**



**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

How can EPA come up with one number for fifty states without undoing nature and wrecking local budgets trying to comply?... If you feel like running off at the keyboard, don't write me, write your legislators. If more of us did that, we could clear up some of that gloom and doom.

Happy New Year and I mean it. I'm tired of all this gloom and doom stuff. Here's some extemporaneous explanations of the world's current status.

CARBON FOOTPRINT – This has been a man-made problem since Cro-Magnon man began tracking ashes from the cooking fire all around the cave. The Neanderthals were “greener” because they didn't have as much fire, but then they also couldn't live in those European caves and cross the Siberian Peninsula until the glaciers receded, and wasn't that before man started burning lots of wood?

CLIMATE CHANGE – I'll guarantee you it will get colder this winter and it will warm up in the spring and summer. Always has and always will. We will have some years with more hurricanes and some with less. Always have and always will. The people who chose to build homes and live on coastal islands formed by eroded and water-borne sand

particles or in river flood plains will be flooded and washed out again. Always have and always will. Come to think of it the more things change the more they stay the same.

TREE RINGS AND GLOBAL WARMING – As long as the planet was in a warming cycle global warming scientists correlated the warming by measuring tree ring width. When the tree rings started getting narrower and suggested a change to a cooling cycle, the global warming advocates cut down the trees and made them into hockey sticks to use as graphs to perpetuate their theory. In real hockey you get penalized for high sticking. Our leaders need to review the rules before they put us all in the penalty box.

SCIENCE IS NOT A FOUR LETTER WORD – Dear environmental activist, Show us your data gathered by using the scientific method and subjected to rigorous independent peer review and we'll show you ours. By the way data is a four letter word. You quote lots of data, but you never show us the verifiable science behind it.

BIG BROTHER LANDSCAPE COMPANY – Otherwise known as the EPA. It's not enough that water management districts and authorities across the USA monitor their watersheds and aquifers and impose water use restrictions based on real time pressures on local aquifers. No the EPA is seeking to issue a uniform 50-state watering restriction of twice per week.

To further intrude into private property matters, EPA is proposing all new homes only have 40 percent of their landscape in irrigated turf. Not satisfied with those intrusions into local governance and homeownership, the EPA says it will issue a magic number to limit the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in all U.S. water bodies with Florida being the guinea pig model.

Where will EPA get the data to make such a determination for every creek, river, lake and bay in the U.S.? They'll get it from the states of course or not use it all, if their crystal ball isn't on the fritz. According to data gathered by our FLDEP over the past ten years, current nutrient levels in our waterways vary tremendously depending on the region, rainfall patterns, soils and potential nutrient inputs. How can EPA come up with

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one number for fifty states without undoing nature and wrecking local budgets trying to comply?

I see I'm in danger of going over my word budget for this column. While going over budget seems to be a trend for congress, I could get in real trouble with our publisher. If you feel like running off at the keyboard, don't write me, write your legislators. If more of us did that, we could clear up some of that gloom and doom. ■