



Climate Change: The Unconventional Strategy to Preserve Sea-Ice in the Arctic

Description

Written by Mark Poynting, a distinguished BBC News climate reporter, this in-depth piece explores the audacious measures that a group of researchers are employing to attempt to combat global warming. Their approach involves a daring and contentious experiment conducted in the icy environments off Canada's northern coast. Their objective may sound straightforward; but in reality, it is laden with myriad complexities and contentious debates.

Here, our brave scientists, draped in layers of parkas, monitor a contraption pumping out saltwater over the frozen ocean. Their ambitious goal is none other than curbing global warming. This experimental approach stems from the understanding that as the sea ice disappears, the darker ocean surface becomes adept at absorbing more of the Sun's energy, thereby causing a surge in warming. Consequently, if the ice were made thicker, it would withstand melting, ergo slowing down the warming process. This falls squarely in the domain of geoengineering, a scientific field that revolves around intentional interventions in the Earth's climatic systems to counterbalance the adverse ramifications of human intervention.

However, such experimental measures are considered audacious, if not outright, reckless by many in the scientific community. A vast array of scientists firmly oppose such attempts, cautioning that they merely serve as distractions from the essential task of cutting down carbon emissions, and could potentially trigger more harm than benefits. Nonetheless, a small coterie of advocates argue that these approaches offer the planet a much-needed respite while humanity attempts to curb its act.

A significant endeavor of this Arctic experiment is to thicken sea ice sufficiently to stifle, or possibly reverse, the escalating melting, as per Dr. Shaun Fitzgerald from the University of Cambridge's Centre for Climate Repair, who spearheads this project. Nevertheless, their audacious venture sparks controversy, with critics labeling it as 'insane'. Dr. Fitzgerald himself candidly admits that currently, our scientists lack adequate knowledge to determine whether this daring plan is a boon or a bane for our nature.

Amid freezing conditions, researchers are battling harsh conditions in Cambridge Bay, a minute Canadian village in the Arctic Circle. Here, temperatures plummet to -30C, exasperated by a brutal wind chill factor dropping it further to -45C. This team is persevering in these biting conditions, drilling holes in the sea ice formed naturally during winter, and pumping approximately 1,000 litres of seawater per minute across the surface.

Despite their apparently successful endeavors in thickening the ice on a small scale, we need to remain cautious, for it's premature to conclude whether their methodology would significantly impact the accelerating decline of Arctic sea ice. Leading glaciologist, Martin Siegert, is skeptical about the feasibility of this project, highlighting the challenges associated with scaling up this project to a meaningful level.

All things considered, those behind these experiments emphasize that they aren't touting their methods as a panacea to climate change. While they admit it could potentially be a component of a broader solution, they assert their primary goal at present is to understand this technology and its potential implications. This



brings us to the undeniable truth that while these daring attempts are worthy of attention, the underpinning message remains clear - curbing carbon emissions and fossil fuel usage remain paramount in combating climate change, and no audacious geoengineering projects should distract us from this critical mission.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Audacious** // (adjective): Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.
2. **Contentious** // (adjective): Causing or likely to cause an argument controversial.
3. **Geoengineering** // (noun): The deliberate manipulation of environmental processes in order to counteract climate change.
4. **Respite** // (noun): A short period of rest or relief from something difficult or unpleasant.
5. **Skeptical** // (adjective): Doubtful about a particular thing.
6. **Feasibility** // (noun): The degree to which something is possible or achievable.

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What word describes something that is attractive or tempting?
Option: Encircling
Option: Enticing
Option: Deterioration
Option: Contentious
2. Which word means deserving praise or admiration?
Option: Seminal
Option: Commendable
Option: Dismissal
Option: Fervently
3. What term refers to a state of relying on someone or something else?
Option: Dependence
Option: Behemoth
Option: Exceedingly
Option: Dependency
4. Which word best describes something fascinating or interesting?
Option: Feasibility
Option: Intriguing
Option: Amalgamation
Option: Geoengineering
5. What term describes something that speeds up a process or activity?
Option: Respite
Option: Accelerator
Option: Skeptical
Option: Protostar
6. Which word means likely to cause arguments or controversies?
Option: Contentious
Option: Fervently
Option: Amplifies
Option: Constituents
7. Which term refers to the likelihood of something being successful or effective?
Option: Lucrative
Option: Sublimation
Option: Feasibility



Option: Protostar

8. What word means a short period of rest or relief?

Option: Counsel

Option: Respite

Option: Commendable

Option: Amalgamation

9. Which term means the process of becoming progressively worse?

Option: Behemoth

Option: Deterioration

Option: Dismissal

Option: Counsel

10. What word describes the action of combining or uniting to form a whole?

Option: Amalgamation

Option: Amplifies

Option: Skeptical

Option: Constituents

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Investing in real estate can be very _____ if done wisely.

12. She quickly became a _____ figure in the field of medicine.

13. Beauty is in the eyes of the _____ .

14. Twins are often said to be _____ since they are always together.

15. The company's code of _____ serves as a guide for employee behavior.

16. She _____ believed in the cause and dedicated all her time to it.

17. After the incident he faced immediate _____ from his position.

18. Despite the challenges she always _____ with a positive attitude.

19. The new shopping mall is a _____ of modern architecture.

20. The child had a strong _____ on his parents for support.



Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The use of social media the spread of information.
22. The elected official listened to the concerns of his before making a decision.
23. The moat was dug the castle to protect it from invaders.
24. The of dry ice is the process of changing from a solid to a gas without becoming a liquid.
25. Her plan to climb the highest mountain impressed even the most seasoned climbers.
26. The concept of aims to manipulate the Earth's climate to counteract the effects of global warming.
27. A is a contracting mass of gas that represents an early stage in the formation of a star.
28. She was with the idea of traveling to far-off lands and experiencing new cultures.
29. The software update provided an to the user interface making it more user-friendly.
30. From its as a small startup the company has grown into a global corporation.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Enticing 2. Commendable 3. Dependency 4. Intriguing 5. Accelerator 6. Contentious 7. Feasibility 8. Respite 9. Deterioration 10. Amalgamation

Gap-Fill: 11. lucrative 12. prominent 13. beholder 14. inseparable 15. ethics 16. fervently 17. dismissal 18. contended 19. behemoth 20. dependency

Matching sentence: 1. amplifies 2. constituents 3. encircling 4. sublimation 5. audacious 6. geoengineering 7. protostar 8. enamored 9. enhancement 10. inception

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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