

3/21/24

ECC Reading and Watching List

Your ECC Executive Board is always learning by exchanging interesting things to read or watch. Here's a sampling from the past few weeks -- buckle up, it's quite a ride:

- This video ([I Wasn't Worried About Climate Change. Now I am.](#)) from Sabine Hossenfelder, who is a German theoretical physicist and science communicator, includes a warning (at about 14:10) that viewers who struggle with anxiety should stop watching. Sabine is usually pretty level-headed, so this video got our attention.
- A few weeks later she dropped [I was Worried About Climate Change. Now I Worry About Climate Scientists](#), which might be subtitled Kicking Ass and Taking Names. No anxiety warning, but chirpy sponsor plug at 7:36.
- [Prof. Stefan Rahmstorf: Ocean Circulation, Tipping Points, and the Public Climate Debate](#), is an academic lecture about a concerning tipping point: Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC):. The TLDR summary is that the AMOC is on track to collapse, partly because of melting of ice in the North Atlantic. If -- or, it appears, when -- this happens, there will be significant consequences in South America and Europe.
- The last 10 minutes or so of the Rahmstorf talk are about public perceptions of climate change, and he shares [this cartoon](#). At the bottom of the cartoon is a link to the peer-reviewed paper on which it is based.
- [This podcast episode](#) from David Roberts features an interview with Jigar Shah, head of the DOE's Loan Programs Office, and mostly covers the Biden Administrations plans and reasons from advancing nuclear power, along with really interesting insights about various other issues. It is worth noting that Shah came out of the solar industry, and Roberts has always been pretty skeptical of nuclear power. Neither started out as a nuke booster, but, as Shah explains, the US needs to at least double nuclear capacity, so we are where we are.
- As if right on cue, The New York Times then published [Scientists Are Freaking Out About Ocean Temperatures](#) (no subscription required to read).
- Don Schwerin shared [How Will Global Warming Affect the Crops We Grow?](#), from the Financial Times.
- Then there was this paper ([Physics-based early warning signal shows that AMOC is on tipping course](#)) from early February, updating the AMOC death watch.
- And, finally, this: [Congress Might Be on the Verge of Passing the Year's First Climate Law](#).

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It): Don Schwerin's Op-Ed on the Capital Press

- Regular readers are familiar with Don Schwerin as the Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Caucus of the Washington State Democrats, as a key member of ECC's *ad hoc* SE Washington Rail Committee and co-author of the [committee's recent report](#), and as a Walla Walla county dryland wheat farmer. Regular readers may not know, however, what an important role the Capital Press plays in agricultural communications.
- The [Capital Press](#) is published in Salem, OR, and is probably the most widely read agricultural periodical in the West. Look for a print copy at your local feed or implement store (John Deere, New Holland, Rears, you get the idea). City people can peruse the headlines online at the link above, and probably should, regularly.
- Last week the Capital Press published [Don's op-ed](#) about the Lower Snake River Dams. Don brings some much-needed clarity to the situation: the future of the dams is up to the courts, not politicians, and transportation by rail can be a reasonable replacement for barges and dams if we make the right investments. (Here's a [link to a PDF](#), in case you would prefer not to make a free account to read Don's piece.)