

# Watt's Happening? #142

by Don Pettit

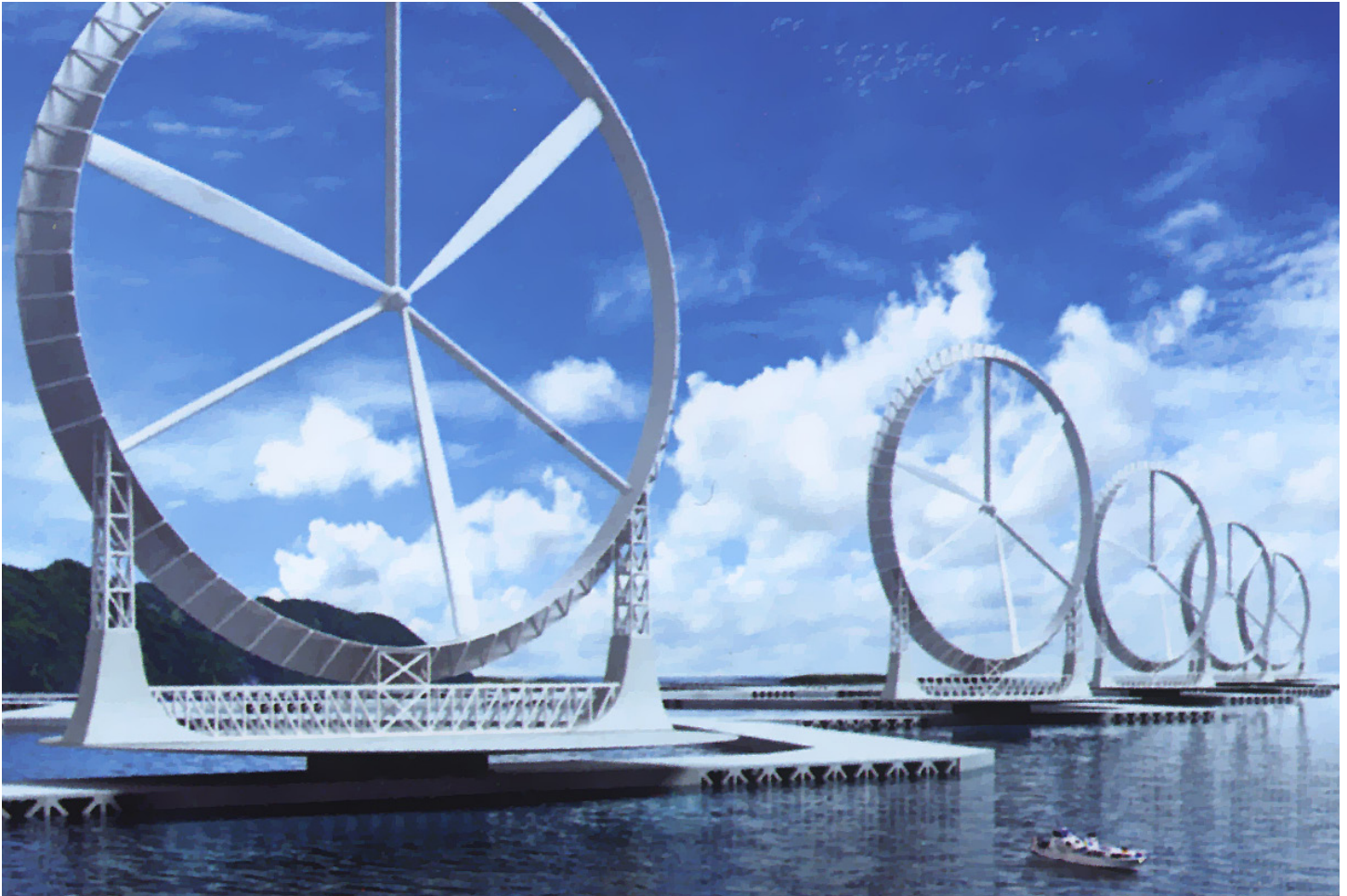
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## Don's Rant:

# PR, Carbon Taxes and Our Climate Mess



*Energy does not have to be ugly, polluting and stupid. It can be beautiful, clean and smart. Let's do that!!*

Every two weeks for the last five years I have sat down at my computer to write this opinion column. I usually stick to the much-needed change we are experiencing as we shift towards the clean renewable energies of the sun and wind. It's cool, it's fun, it's vitally important and 100 percent positive.

But occasionally I reward

my hard work with a bit of a rant that may or may not relate to clean energy. Here comes a rant.

### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Of course we want proportional representation! It's called democracy! What's with these rape and pillage majority governments

that get 100 per cent of the power with 30 percent of the vote? Huh?

Is it any wonder we don't want to bother voting any more! What's the point? The same old, old boy's club gets in every time anyway, they carry on with the same old worn out ideologies, and surprise! Nothing changes: the environment continues to be destroyed, people continue to be destroyed, untold

wealth collects at the top while suffering and hardship spread at the bottom . . . why, so a handful of super rich people can get super-richer?

Great system if you want to stay in power and have your own way, and that's what the existing "first past the post" system is designed to do, and it does it very well.

If you hear people trying to scare you about the "dangers" of PR, then you know those are the people who have a vested interest in business as usual.

Do not believe them. PR works and it works well. It is not scary, it is not complex, and it is not difficult. Any of the three choices on the ballot are better than the one we have, but the most important choice is the YES for PR!

PR will force the entrenched ideologies of power, presently running the show, to collaborate, compromise, share ideas and cooperate with others. Wouldn't that be refreshing?

Sure, you can still get a majority, but you'll have to work hard and get 51 percent of the vote. Meanwhile, everyone's vote actually means something. It's about time.

Over the next few very tough decades we will need ALL the ideas, all the brains, all the knowledge, experience and creativity we can find. No one party has all the answers. Quit the insane competition and black and white ideologies. It's cooperation and fresh approaches that we need, and we need them now. Vote yes! for PR.

## THE CARBON TAX

Call it a tax if you want, I call it a clean energy "incentive."

Carbon "pricing" is perhaps the most accurate term, because that's what it is all about: putting a price on pollution to incentivize people and industries to improve efficiency (reduce waste), and over time move to cleaner and cleaner technologies, thus slowing climate destruction, protecting the natural environment on which we all depend FOR EVERYTHING, and cleaning the air, water, soil and food for ourselves and our children.

Monies collected from the carbon price scheme are turned back into the economy as incentives and grants to help individuals, businesses and cities make the transition to a clean energy economy. Revenue neutral it's called.

Carbon pricing will not "destroy the economy."

Rather it will move the economy slowly and carefully towards better competitiveness, warmer homes, cleaner air, cleaner water and soil, healthier children, lower health care costs, new job and business opportunities, slick and powerful electric vehicles, solar panels glistening on our roofs . . .

Lots of fear-mongering on this one too, and surprise, mostly from the same vested interests who are against PR. Lots of jurisdictions have been using carbon pricing (including BC) for decades, and they're not hurting, they're benefitting.

## CLIMATE DEVASTATION

It's not climate "change", which sounds like nothing. It's not climate "warming" which sounds kind of cozy. It's climate catastrophe.

The debate is long over. It has begun, and it isn't pretty. Homo Sapiens, absolute ruler of planet Earth, does not know what the heck it is doing.

But it does know what to do: move quickly to an ultra low-carbon energy, distribute the vast wealth we are generating much more evenly, renew our faith in cooperation and ignite our compassion for everything that lives, including each other.

Now that's a future worth changing for.



*Peace Energy Cooperative members Joanne and Greg Dueck have embraced the clean energy opportunity and are helping us move to a brighter solar powered future.*