

Geoengineers Will Release Tons of Sun-Reflecting Chemicals Into the Air Above New Mexico

By [Colin Lecher](#) Posted 07.18.2012 at 4:30 pm



Top of the Atmosphere [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Even if they can be a major disaster for people nearby them, volcanoes do one good thing: helping to cool the planet by sending sun-reflecting chemicals into the stratosphere. Now two Harvard engineers are trying to replicate the better part of the volcanic process on a small scale by spraying thousands of tons of sulfate aerosols into the atmosphere above New Mexico.

Within a year, the researchers, David Keith (who manages a multimillion dollar geoengineering research fund from Bill Gates) and James Anderson, will release the chemicals from a balloon 80,000 feet above Fort Sumner, then measure the effects on the ozone's chemistry. (To answer the big question: no, this can't be pulled off in a lab.) This will be a test, not a full-on attempt to stop climate change, the researchers say, and it won't have any major effects on the environment.

Nonetheless, [geoengineering strategies](#) like this are [controversial](#), to say the least.

[[The Guardian](#)]

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07/18/12 at 4:50 pm

Now the moon will be on fire.

Just kidding.

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07/18/12 at 5:31 pm

"and it won't have any major effects on the environment."

...because humans have such a fantastic track record when trying to manipulate the environment of not causing more harm than good.

These are exactly the kind of measures we should NOT be taking. Reducing CO2 production, gradually removing small amounts over large areas, using other power plants than coal (such as nuclear), etc. Basically, stopping what we are doing wrong...NOT trying to forcefully reverse it by doing something else. We have a track record of causing all sorts of problems when we try and step in and forcefully correct something.

We should also keep in mind that the environment and nature are NOT stable. They never have been. Species WILL go extinct. The atmosphere



Robot

WILL change. Ice ages WILL happen. We should not attempt to make drastic changes as we are likely to get something wrong somewhere, and could potentially cause far more harm than good. The world is complex. Small adjustments globally can have a profound impact.

[Link to this comment](#)

07/18/12 at 5:55 pm

And from Science digest, a report of further global climate change tinkering.

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/07/120718131744.htm

There is a cost associated with scientific testing and preparation. These scientist and engineers must feel justified in their endeavors. Those who prepare for disaster, do this because of the impending doom they feel is coming?

[Link to this comment](#)

Cookiees453

07/18/12 at 5:57 pm

Lol. "Stop Climate Change". It's a natural process that the Earth has gone through over the past 4.5 billion years. Yeah, humanity may be speeding the process along, but how about we stop the damage from happening in the first place instead of trying to fix it. For starters, we'd have to get rid of every single gasoline powered automobile on this planet, but unfortunately that ain't happenin anytime soon. If more people cared about our planet decades ago, or whenever the research was available we wouldn't be in the state we are in today. I just hope the next planet we decide to colonize...history doesn't repeat itself. I'm an optimist at heart...but just tired of human stupidity...it just gets real old.

[Link to this comment](#)

Cookiees453

07/18/12 at 5:58 pm

(stop the damage...referring to human made damage)

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DotsLines

07/18/12 at 6:15 pm

If anyone thinks this planet can support seven (or more) billion human beings in a naturally occurring ecological balance, they're delusional. What was the population of earth the last time we had such a balance? If you really expect human beings to have a zero carbon footprint and make no 'negative' changes to the environment, first you have to get rid of about 95% of the population, then you have to maintain that balance the old fashioned way, through starvation, exposure, disease, and predation. Anyone think that's a good idea?

[Link to this comment](#)

neilk

07/18/12 at 6:23 pm

The Guardian report this is based on is utterly false. The scientists in question are not going to release even a tiny amount of particles into the atmosphere without "public funding and public governance" which have not been obtained, and even when that happens, the experiment will not involve "tons" of chemicals, or even pounds, and it will "have no effect on climate — locally, regionally or globally." The scientists involved were offended by the implication that they would do these things.

Read the New York Times writeup: [Trial Balloon: A Tiny Geoengineering Experiment](#)

[Link to this comment](#)

neilk

07/18/12 at 6:24 pm

Here's the link that got eaten above:
<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/17/trial-balloon-a-tiny-geoengineering-experiment/>

[Link to this comment](#)

sam6302

07/18/12 at 9:53 pm

will it work better than the chem-trails. Or does chem-trails have another purpose?

[Link to this comment](#)

DracoVitae

07/18/12 at 10:48 pm

Hrm, I have to wonder, I read the last issues article on Global Climate Change and the things we could do to slow it down and if I recall right this was one of the last measures that they listed as a 'in case of failure' contingency. Also if I am not mistaken in the article it stated that spraying Aerosols into the atmosphere, while they may help, can also do incredible amounts of damage themselves.

[Link to this comment](#)

Hernberger

07/19/12 at 10:53 am

This sounds like kids with guns. But you know what, at this point after having read all of the PopSci articles on climate "destabilization" I'm starting to feel like we might as well give it a shot considering what we're up against. I'm just glad I don't live in New Mexico...

[Link to this comment](#)

D13

07/19/12 at 10:57 am

Horrible idea to do this. Horrible. Like the Earth is some modeling platform and humans are the most important thing on it. It, the Earth, has been making life for Billions of years. That is what it does. Even "if" we all die there is comfort in the fact that it will reset itself and continue to make more life. Why mess with that? & billion and growin and obviously not having a good affect in such large numbers. My life is on the line just like all of yours and I would give it to save this planet before I would detroy it to save my own neck. Rediculous. Save the planet and let it do what its trying to do. Let it heal itseif. Move out of the way if you can, but dont screw up the planet.

"Do not try and bend the spoon. That's impossible. Instead... only try to realize the truth. There is no spoon."

[Link to this comment](#)

microbelover

07/19/12 at 11:03 am

Not really.... <http://www.businessinsider.com/david-keith-says-guardian-story-is-substantially-fabricated-2012-7>

[Link to this comment](#)

killerT

07/19/12 at 11:53 am

Colin, you can easily fix this article by adding the word "NOT!" at the end.

[Link to this comment](#)



Aldrns Last Hope

07/19/12 at 12:56 pm

OMG Finally chemtrails are hitting the main stream. Well only "layman" call them chemtrails anymore, now it's "geo-engineering"

<http://www.google.ca/search?q=chemtrails&hl=en&prmd=imvns&tbn=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=4jkiULaw>

I've been talking about this for years...will anyone finally listen?

They are spraying aluminum oxide and barium to reflect the sun to cool the earth. This is having a detrimental effect on the environment. Killing insects, and poisoning soil, not to mention what its doing to humans. But they spray us will all kinds of things. Honestly do you people ever look up to the sky?

Bill gates is a mass murdering nazi. Did you hear about the 40,000 indian kids that dies from his "vaccines" last month??

<http://www.vaccineriskawareness.com/Killer-Measles-Vaccine-Is-Withdrawn-And-Other-Vaccine-Death-Cases>

@Dotsline I know that the earth can support 100 billion people quite easily. There is more than enough land and food for everyone. For instance the whole worlds population can live in Australia @ 1 acre perperson...and that's a loty more space than the smart cities. With the rest of the world to grow food, have industry, develop technology. That is an extreme scenario but it basically showing you that the WORLD IS NOT OVERPOPULATED. But the world is full of greedy people that want everything for themselves. I don't blame you for thinking that, you've been told you whole life that you are bad, dirty, animals are better, humans are scum, etc. You have been brainwashed.

[Link to this comment](#)



yosifcuervo

07/19/12 at 1:31 pm

Cooling the planet is not a 'good thing' that volcanos do - it has been the single-handed cause of countless ecological disasters and mass extinctions in the history of the planet, and undoubtedly will be again.

[Link to this comment](#)

killerT

07/19/12 at 2:41 pm

Aldron I have to admit the first time I saw a "chemtrail" I was shocked at how distinctive they are from "contrail".

My friend told me to look up, and I was like "what the hell!"

There was a crisscross pattern of trails just hanging there and not dissipating. It must have taken hours for that pattern to build up.

It does look abnormal, so I can understand the concern people might have.

[Link to this comment](#)

indigo71

07/19/12 at 3:17 pm

Rise up and stop these nutters. We can counteract this act of vandalism by burning more oil and dusting the ground with soot.

[Link to this comment](#)

VecTron

07/19/12 at 7:23 pm

@DotsLines Being that counting all the people I know and love doesn't equal 5% of the human population..... yeah, go ahead! There are plenty of bullets and guns to do the work. I'll let you borrow one of my guns, but save me one bullet for when you bring my gun back. :) thanks champ.

[Link to this comment](#)



Aldrons Last Hope

07/20/12 at 1:17 pm

@KillerT its so funny that people refuse to acknowledge what's going on in our sky. I might be considered a conspiracy theorist...but a lot of main line, liberal, conservative, people that I have pointed this out to has said something is up.

If you notice they only spray on really hot days, or bright clear days, and never in winter. This kind of puts me at ease cause it is weather modification...nit something more nefarious.

My friend/ co-worker who is a big Bush supporter ad thinks I'm "out there" The first time I showed them to him by my work, he couldn't believe his eyes, they chemtrail would not dissipate in the minute it is supposed to do, instead they hung there in the sky for 20 mins, then dissipated into a haze. They have been doing this for over 10 years...in new mexico and Arizona for almost 20 years....this is weather modification...how come they don't bring this up in climate change conversations??

Aluminum passes through the blood barrier in the brain, it is not safe for us. All that Barium, is poisoning the environment. This program is only going on in 1st world countries..it costs trillions.

[Link to this comment](#)

jefro

07/20/12 at 6:45 pm

Why don't they spray that junk over Bill Gates' home? Is this stuff going to drift over Texas and pollute lakes and streams?

Sulfates are generally dangerous for people with allergic reactions. How can the EPA allow this? I protest this as un-needed. We have active volcanoes in the world today without making more of a mess.

[Link to this comment](#)



riff_raff

07/21/12 at 12:45 am

Volcanic activity releases several times the CO2, sulfur dioxide, particulates, etc. into the earth's atmosphere each year than all human activity.

And why is global cooling better than global warming?

[Link to this comment](#)

thebanshwa

08/11/12 at 4:10 am

In large amounts they can do harm. In the 1970s the period of cooling that was experienced has been attributed to high levels of these sulfur aerosols which are a byproduct of coal burning (the warming trend continued once regulations were put on coal burning due to health effects). If they were not detrimental to health and agriculture they could be poured all over the place, perhaps, to slow or stop global warming.

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