

SEARCH: CBSNews.com The Web

SEARCH

Powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

Home | U.S. | World | Politics | SciTech | Health | Entertainment | Business | Opinion | **Public Eye** | Sports | CBS News Video



January 15, 2001 20:51:15

The Early Show CBS Evening News 48 Hours 60 Minutes **All Broadcas**

WEATHERWATCH

• Section Front

[E-mail This Story](#) [Printable Version](#)

MULTIMEDIA

[Video](#)
CBS News Correspondent Jerry Bowen reports.

Sign up: E-Mail Alert

[XML](#) RSS Feeds

[POD](#) Podcasts

Cooling The Planet

PALO ALTO, Calif., Jan. 15, 2000



One solution is to launch a huge solar shield that would act like a sunshade. (CBS)

(CBS) Scientists dealing with global warming are looking at drastic solutions for the problem, including manipulating earth's atmosphere on a massive scale, **CBS News Correspondent Jerry Bowen** reports.

And the problem is serious, climate scientists say. If current trends continue, the Earth's average surface temperature will be 2.7 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit higher in 100 years, they project.

One solution envisions blasting tiny particles into the atmosphere from the guns of battleships. The particles would deflect enough sunlight to trigger global cooling. Another falls under the category of "geo-engineering": launching 50,000 mirrors into orbit to reflect sunlight back into space.

"The sooner, the better," says Dr. Edward Teller, a promoter of the plan.

"We don't know what the precise effects would be, whether the cure would be better or worse than the disease."

Steve Schneider of Stanford University

Teller, who helped harness the destructive power of the atom 60 years ago, now believes man can dim the power of the sun.

"The simplest is to put into the high atmosphere small particles that scatter away one or two percent of the sunlight,"he says.

Teller's colleague at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, climate researcher Ken Caldeira, had hoped to prove Teller wrong.

"My first thoughts about this was that it simply wouldn't work," he says.

Then he ran the computer models, Caldeira says.

"Much to our surprise, our model results indicated that geo-engineering schemes would move our climate back to what it was before," he says.

Back to cooler temperatures, that is. And Caldeira says the best way to go about it is by **"putting a huge satellite out in space between earth and sun."**

That could mean putting the device where the **SOHO** satellite is now observing the sun's solar storms. The huge solar shield would act as an orbiting sunshade to cool the earth.

"The satellite in space would leave a little pockmark on the surface of

RELATED STORIES & LINKS

- [Story](#)
U.S.: Let's Beat Global Warming
- [Story](#)
Global Warming's Impact Is Clear
- [Story](#)
How Global Is Global Warming?
- [Link](#)
NASA Goddard Institute of Space Studies research on global warming more than a million years ago
- [Link](#)
Roundup of links to government organizations and environmental groups weighing in on global warming
- [Link](#)
New Scientist Magazine talks to scientists with doubts about global warming
- [Link](#)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- [Link](#)
U.S. State Department: U.S. Views on Kyoto Global Warming Treaty
- [Link](#)
The Environmental Protection Agency's global warming site

the sun, roughly two percent of the sun's surface area," Caldeira says.

And the Caldeira scheme wouldn't have the downside of blasting particles into space, a technique that would turn blue skies absolutely white. Or that of the 50,000 orbiting mirrors, which would create a flickering sun here on earth.

But some global warming experts, like Stanford University's Steve Schneider, have their doubts about geo-engineering.

"We don't know what the precise effects would be, whether the cure would be better or worse than the disease," Schneider says. Eliminating harmful greenhouse gases will take 200 years—far longer than global cooperation can be expected to last, Schneider says.

"Two hundred years of continuous planetary management on a global scale—that's asking a lot of political institutions that have never been able to get along for more than a few decades at a time," he says.

©MMI Viacom Internet Services Inc. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

MORE INSIDE THIS SECTION

- [We're Havin' A Heat Wave](#)
- [Creeping Deserts, Hidden Costs](#)
- [In The Eye Of The Storm](#)
- [Global Warming Fallout](#)

 [Back To Top](#)

[Help](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [CBS News Bios](#) | [CBS.com](#) | [CBS SportsLine.com](#) | [Internships](#)
©MMV, CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.

