

Re: R. W. Wood's "Note on the Theory of the Greenhouse"

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- *From:* Edward Green <spamspamspam3@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 5 Apr 2008 16:45:26 -0700 (PDT)
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On Apr 4, 11:02 pm, tadchem <tadc...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Apr 4, 9:15 pm, EdwardGreen <spamspamsp...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Leaving out the tainted pop-sci, is there a credible mechanism for CO₂ to make the atmosphere a significantly more effective "radiation trap"?

The 'mechanism' behind the AGW thesis requires that CO₂ in the atmosphere absorbs IR being radiated from the ground and re-radiate it *preferentially* downwards, back towards the ground. You will notice that their little gee-whiz diagrams never show the CO₂ radiating IR out into space. Why not? It DOES happen, but that doesn't fit with their story.

A CO₂ molecule doesn't know up from down. It re-radiates as much IR out into space as it does back towards the ground, and as much as the ground would. There is nothing in the physics that would induce the CO₂ to act as an IR mirror.

All that sounds impeccable. If I reserve a scintilla of doubt (ooh-boy, spell checker working overtime today), it's because you may be refuting a false oolie. I have little doubt the argument you cite exists and that you have refuted it, but that could simply mean those you refute distort a correct argument, or are orthogonal to one.

At stasis the Earth must reradiate all incident energy, on average -- discounting the small imbalance which would move average temperature when stasis does not exist. Let's put it this way: it would be miraculous if atmospheric composition did not have some effect on the temperature of balance, though of course this doesn't tell us how much and which way.

If someone claims moose can't survive the cold because their antlers

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radiate too much heat, that may be nonsense — but I'm left no wiser
about the true situation of the moose after dismissing the nonsense.