

The Sunday Telegraph

DECEMBER 6 2009

A better climate model predicted cooling

SIR – Christopher Booker (November 29) unsurprisingly sought to gain capital from the leaked emails from the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia.

These appear to suggest a cover-up of raw data manipulation in order to disguise the cooling of global temperature that has occurred over the last five or six years, while greenhouse gases have steadily increased. Common sense would have it that, if the greenhouse effect is real, the temperature should have increased rather than decreased.

I hope that the unfortunate leaks do not result in throwing out the whole concept of climate forecasting. The model I devised as professor of ocean engineering at the University of Newcastle in 1984, and which I represented at an Institution of Civil Engineers conference a couple of weeks ago, was quite unlike the models used by the CRU and the Met Office – it separated the greenhouse effect from natural climate change. In the 1980s it forecast the 1990s' temperature rise and the fall of the last few years, so there was no need to fiddle the figures to keep it honest.

The model forecasts a significant rise of about 0.25C within the next three or four years, followed by a fairly uniform temperature until nearly 2030 and then, unless action is taken to reduce worldwide carbon emissions, uncontrollable increases thereafter. I've turned the central heating down already.

Bruce Denness

Whitwell, Isle of Wight