Global Thermostat: Converting Carbon Dioxide into Fresh Air

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Numerous debates have taken place about how substantial and prolonged economic growth and sustainability are incompatible. The argument is that, in order to achieve economic growth, industries expand and increase production. However, an increase in economic activity is mostly followed by an increasing amount of greenhouse gases, such as CO_2, released. These then enhance the greenhouse effect and lead to global warming. From the moment that solar panels, windmill turbines and other technology based on renewable energies still cannot provide enough energy to avoid using fossil-fuels, environmentalists would then argue that there should be little or no economic growth as it mainly damages the earth and future generations. On the contrary, economists would argue in favour of an expansion of the different economic sectors as the benefits derived from economic growth in the short term outweigh by far the consequences of pollution and global warming. This long lasting debate between environmentalists and economist could finally come to an end with a solution that accommodates both parties.

Graciela Chichilnisky, who has worked extensively on the Kyoto Protocol and created the carbon market, has recently launched Global Thermostat (GT). The company designs and creates renewable energy plants capable of capturing CO_2 in conjunction with heavy industrial processes such as metals melting, cement production, and petrochemical refining. GT can also extract CO_2 directly from the air, either by utilising the residual heat of an industrial facility to do so, if co-located to an industry, or by burning fuel in its own gas turbines to generate the heat and electricity needed for the process. The result is thus genius and simple:

> Suck CO_2, either directly from the air of from industries whilst producing, and convert it into clean and fresh air.

GT is indeed capable of turning the equation more energy = more pollution into more energy = less pollution.

> "Global Thermostat estimates that its process can remove 5 pounds of CO_2 per kWh of electricity, as opposed to U.S. coal-fired power stations which currently emit 2 pounds of CO_2 for every kWh of electricity created"

Global Thermostat was thus voted "World's Top Ten Most Innovative Company" in Energy and Dr. Chichilnisky was selected as the 2015 "CEO of the Year" awarded by IAIR at Yale University Club in NYC on April 16.

Global Thermostat could be one of the turning points in history. With an exponential increase of energy plants, particularly in China, not only the issue about sustainability would gradually be resolved; the world would enter a new phase of capitalism in which people wouldn't need to 'escape" from big cities seeking for cleaner air. There would be no more deaths because of smog and other noxious gases as happened in 1881 when smog alone killed as many people in London as cholera did. Governments wouldn't need to place such a large taxation on industries to reduce pollution, thus promoting growth in economic activity. Governments should promote production as more of it would mean less CO_2 in the air. There is a strong recommendation, then, to promote the usage of GTs and to expand its supply to all the different markets worldwide as it has a huge upside potential.