

# **ATTACHMENT 6**

Some Facts on Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

When the UN IPCC was asked as to whether carbon dioxide is a pollutant it replied: *“On your question about whether CO<sub>2</sub> is a pollutant, I cannot answer that as I have not found the answer in one of our reports.”*

The level of carbon dioxide in earth’s air is around 0.042%, being so low that scientists classify it as a trace gas. It is much, much less than 1% of earth’s air. It is only 4 one hundredths of 1%.

### **Some Facts**

CO<sub>2</sub> is non-toxic. It’s highly beneficial for plants. It’s plant food. We put it in fizzy drinks, beer and champagne.

CO<sub>2</sub> is colourless, odourless, and tasteless. It doesn’t discolour the air.

CO<sub>2</sub> stays in the air only 5-7 years, possibly less than 12 months, before nature cycles it into plants, animals and oceans. It stays in the air only a short time before nature cycles it back out of the air naturally.

According to the UN IPCC oceans contain, in dissolved form, 50 times the CO<sub>2</sub> contained in earth’s entire atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub> is released from and absorbed into oceans depending on temperature. Thus, nature overwhelmingly produces most of earth’s CO<sub>2</sub> and ocean temperature determines its concentration in air.

Consider CO<sub>2</sub> against the characteristics of various definitions of pollution:

- It’s not noxious and does not impair the quality of air, water or soil. It does not degrade the environment, nor impair its usefulness, nor render it offensive. It’s essential for all life on earth.
- It doesn’t make land, water or air dirty or unsafe to use. It does not cause disease.
- It doesn’t harm ecosystems. It’s essential for ecosystems.
- It doesn’t harm plants and animals. It’s essential for plants and animals.
- It doesn’t cause discomfort, instability or disorder.
- It’s natural and as a by-product of industry, is beneficial to life.
- It doesn’t accumulate.
- It doesn’t upset nature’s balance.
- It remains in the air for only a short period.
- It doesn’t contaminate (apart from production by nature’s volcanoes and then only locally and under rare natural conditions when in concentrations and volumes far higher than anything humans can produce).
- It’s not a foreign substance.
- It does not create light, heat, noise or radioactivity, nor distort our senses.