

Sustainability the key

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The Windsor Star

Re: We must make Windsor much more inviting, opinion column, by Gord Henderson, Jan. 24.

Now it is official — 2014 was the warmest year recorded on Earth since measurements were started. Glaciers are melting at record rates, and the sea level is rising by 3.2 mm per year, with an accelerating trend.

The CO₂ level in the atmosphere has reached 400 parts per million, a new record as well. Two hundred years ago, before the Industrial Revolution started, CO₂ was at 260 ppm. Fifty years ago, it was at 320 ppm. Presently, we are adding two ppm to it every year.

People are talking a lot about the collapsed price of crude oil and the economic impact of oil below \$50 a barrel. No one is talking about the ecological impact of burning fossil fuels and adding CO₂ to the atmosphere, fundamentally changing the balance on this planet.

Homo economicus is not very smart. He is destroying the very basis on which we live on this planet. May we call him homo economicus stupidus?

President Barack Obama in his recent state of the union address called climate change the challenge of the 21st century. We all need to act and move everything we do toward sustainability.

The Windsor Star recently published a column by Gord Henderson suggesting we make Windsor more inviting and livable. I like to take this further.

Let's add sustainable to this. Let's make Windsor and Essex County the most sustainable city and region in Canada. Sustainability adds to quality of life, generates new jobs, keeps the money in local communities and reduces stress on the environment. Energy and resource autonomy leads to security and less dependence.

We need to create the sustainable world we want to live in for all creatures and life forms on this planet. It starts with us.

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