Osg4 20121030 CLIMATE CHANGE

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The issue of climate change and has suddenly become a little more urgent, hasn’t it? When it happened to New Orleans, a lot of people seemed to say, that’s when you get for build a city below sea level.

But now it’s happened to Lower Manhattan. We now know that New York’s existential margin of error… the difference between it being a viable city and a disaster area – is about 13 feet.

And since we’ve clearly not going to change our greenhouse gas habits any time soon, it’s got some people looking at a Plan B:



More after this from Charlie:

(((SPOT)))

A few years ago, as it became clear that the Global Warming skeptics were winning the debate, a number of scientists started to look at ways of attacking climate change WITHOUT jerking the economy around.

One idea being studied in England would involve a huge balloon -- like the one supersonic sky jumper Felix Baumgartner used last month -- only this balloon would be V-shaped, and would be tethered by a 15 mile long HOSE. And this hose would spray microscopic chemical particles into the atmosphere to reflect sunlight back into space, and cool the earth below.

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It’s been done by volcanoes. Environmental Scientist David Keith gave a TED talk a few years ago pointing out that volcanoes like Mt St Helens and Mt Pinatubo can have an immediate cooling effect. Now yes, it destroys the ozone… but::03

There was a proposal to test the idea this year using particle that would cool the earth WITJOUT destroying the ozone, but it’s been cancelled. Too many unknowns, a little too crazy, although as Dr. Matthew Watson, one of the scientists on the project pointed out:

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In the meantime … New York’s margin of error remains at 13 feet.

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