

## An EDITORIAL: Global warming: the hidden theme of this issue

When you received this issue of the *Newsletter*, you may have noted that the cover story is based on a four-day workshop at Washington and Lee University on "The Role of Nuclear Power." But if you noted the headline carefully, you noted that this workshop was on nuclear power with a different twist – the degree to which nuclear power could be an antidote to global warming. It's a hot topic these days (no pun intended) -- Fortune Editor-at-Large David Woodford discussed it on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" on 15 August.

After coverage of the keynote address to that Washington and Lee workshop you can read, "Clearly, Ritch had staked out one extremum of the spectrum of the degree to which nuclear energy can offset catastrophic climate change resulting from global warming. The remainder of the workshop would see many other speakers placed at more moderate points on that spectrum." No other speaker at that workshop claimed the other end of the spectrum as her/his own, but later in the summer someone did, and you can read about that in this issue as well: Arjun Makhijani's description of his carbon-free and nuclear-free roadmap.

Thus in this issue we have spanned the entire spectrum of the degree to which nuclear energy can or should be used to offset the effects of global warming, which, in effect, becomes a theme uniting several stories. In addition you will also find a story on the Sigma Xi Global Warming Report, and you don't want to overlook Resource #3, in which James Hansen and friends present their most recent alternative view on the present prospects of catastrophic climate change. Lastly, you will also want to take the longer view with the review of William Ruddiman's *Plows, Plagues, and Petroleum*, in which he establishes the case that humans have been affecting their climate since they started raising crops.

- John L. Roeder