

Addenda #100 – July 2026

Re: Ch. 8, 2050 Net-Zero Emissions; Impossible!!

Ch. 15, Sustainable Living

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Red heat alerts issued in France, Italy and Spain as 40C temperatures forecast

Red heat alerts have been issued in France, Spain and other nations across western and central Europe as heatwave conditions are forecast to intensify in the coming days with highs of more than 40C.

More than half of France's regions are currently under the harshest weather warning, with hundreds of schools ordered to close and highs of 42C hitting Bordeaux on Monday, forecaster Météo-France said.

Similar red warnings have been issued by the authorities in Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

BBC, June 22, 2026

The ‘sirocco wind,’ is a hot wind that originates in the Sahara Desert and travels north over the Mediterranean and into southern Europe. The sirocco has been bringing warmth and moisture to these areas for centuries, helping crops to grow but also creating hot, sticky and dusty weather conditions lasting for days. This current heatwave caused by the sirocco, has resulted in record June temperatures (40°C or 104°F) throughout its path. Meteorologists, climatologists and supporters of Agenda 2030 are quick to blame global warming (climate change) for these extreme temperatures. In 2024, a heatwave with temperatures reaching 46.8°C (116.2°F) in countries Southern and Eastern Europe was responsible for at least 62,775 heat-related deaths between June 1st and September 30th. The Barcelona Institute for Global Health 2025 study noted that the large elderly population in European cities contributed to the high death toll, with the mortality rate of people over 75 years old being 323% higher than all other age groups. What the study *did not* show, is that in many of the countries with high death tolls, the percentage of households having air conditioning is low and use is discouraged or restricted.

In Italy, which had more than 19,000 heat-related deaths, about 56% of households had at least one air conditioning unit. Many apartment buildings have no air conditioning and hotels set temperature limits or specific hours where AC units are allowed to operate. Electricity prices in Italy being the highest among European countries also contribute to low use of air conditioning and heat-related deaths during these heatwaves. In Spain, where more than 6,700 heat-related deaths were recorded, about 41% of all housing units have air conditioning units. European countries facing high electricity prices and restrictions due to the EU’s Energy Efficiency Directive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, have even lower levels of air conditioning use. Although AC use has grown steadily along with rising temperatures, just 20% of European households have air conditioning units. In comparison, approximately 90% of all U.S. households have air conditioning units.

Air conditioning creates political divide after France records hottest day

With temperatures soaring, France is being forced to re-think its longstanding reservations about one possible answer to climate change: air-con.

This week debate about la clim (climatisation) has once again burst out, with Marine Le Pen on the populist right urging a mass subsidised roll-out and traditionally hostile Greens conceding that some air-conditioning may now be inevitable.

BBC, June 24, 2026

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, was the hottest day ever recorded in France, with temperatures reaching as high as 42°C (108°F) in the southwestern city of Bordeaux. Heat alerts were issued in France, Spain and other European nations, schools were closed, electric powered train services were reduced. The BBC reported 1,300 *known* heat-related deaths have occurred and more than 68,000 homes were without power due to heat related blackouts from an EU electrical grid not up to the task for increased usage. The Associated Press reported that funeral businesses and morgues are reported as being “overwhelmed” by the spike in “excess deaths,” more than 80% involving people aged 65 and above. And, of course, it’s all America’s fault...

In France, Paris deputy mayor for international relations Audrey Pulvar went on an angry rant, looking to deflect blame for deaths due to the countries strict regulations on installing new AC units in order to meet the EU Commissions 2030 net greenhouse gas emissions goal. “As the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions in the world, you bear a significant amount of responsibility for global warming and the consequences we, in France, are experiencing.” In Germany, where record breaking temperatures also reached 40°C levels, public radio broadcaster ARD pushed an anti-AC hysteria campaign, claiming that while air conditioners cool people down, they heat up the earth. There were approximately 2,500 heat-related deaths recorded in Germany last year, mostly among older adults, and several deaths have already been reported this June, but public radio is more concerned with warning about the dangers of air conditioning use!

The United States lags behind much of the developed world in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The U.S. has the world’s largest economy as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is the second largest consumer of energy and the second largest CO₂ emitter, being passed by China in consumption and emissions in 2006. Although the U.S. signed on to the Paris Agreement in April 2016, efforts to meet climate goals have been based on partisan politics since then. Democrat administrations have gone full bore on funding and regulations (mandates), while Republican administrations override them. The United States must have carefully planned responses to reduce GHG emissions by reducing fossil fuel usage and implementing pollution standards, while at the same time increasing renewable energy production sources and use of zero-emissions vehicles *where practical*. As the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Climate Portal notes, “The U.S. and other developed nations became rich by burning fossil fuels, and cumulative U.S. emissions are the biggest driver of climate change to date. And while all nations are suffering from climate change now, less-wealthy countries will bear the brunt of the impacts.”

In 2023, the European Union adopted a series of proposals to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and become “climate neutral” by 2050, something I continue to state is impossible. The EU has strict rules for monitoring and reporting progress to achieving those emissions goals through regulations put in place by the proposals, with air conditioning use being one of them. It should be noted that stricter regulations on energy use comes with a price; slower economic growth and a higher cost of living being just two of them. Since the EU began to move away from reliable fossil fuel energy sources, economic growth has slowed considerably, and energy prices and record high inflation have caused the European Central Bank to raise interest rates in response. Actions always have consequences, even if politicians refuse to acknowledge them.

The Consumer Choice Center, a global non-partisan consumer advocacy group, just published a policy paper on EU regulations preventing its citizens to access air conditioning that helps save lives. Titled “Keeping it Cool: Removing Hurdles for Air-Conditioning Availability,” key Points at the beginning of the report state,

- Europe kills tens of thousands annually in heat waves while simultaneously making it harder for consumers to protect themselves
- AC penetration stands only at 19% (vs. 90% US, 91% Japan). This is not a cultural inevitability but a regulatory outcome
- Patchwork of facade rules, heritage permits, condominium consent requirements, inspection mandates, and noise ordinances across EU member states creates a de facto barrier to a life-saving product

The authors of the report show that over regulation prevent citizens from installing air conditioning, leading to needless deaths. Many EU nations require AC installation approval by a majority of community homeowners and/or government officials. Installations may require municipal permits, a long approval process, and are subject to noise rules among other restrictions. *“The problem is not that cooling technology is unavailable. It is that a product that can protect people during extreme heat is often kept behind a bureaucratic wall... This is a regulatory failure. Europe cannot call extreme heat a public-health threat while making the most direct household protection against it legally difficult to access.”*

Questions I ask myself...

Are EU restrictions on the use of air conditioning about reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving the goals of Agenda 2030? Or are they only about CONTROL?

Are restrictions really about protecting the “historical look” of buildings that are hundreds of years old? Drilling a hole through a 300-year-old limestone wall to install a split-system unit is a criminal offense in some European municipalities. Is historical preservation really more important than the comfort of citizens and the loss of lives?

Are restrictions about forcing people to live more sustainable lifestyles in their best interests, or simply about changing society and the economy to placate climate alarmists?

Are the restrictions, which result in the deaths of tens of thousands of elderly people, a cohort expected to more than double over the next 75 years, a means of population control of the elderly?