

James Lovelock

Quotes

Climate, Book, Years, Thinking, Earth, War, Space, Oil, Feelings, America, Way, Eugenics, World, Cutting, Nuclear, People, Country, Christian, Mistake, Cells

NASA will send up a big sun shade that will be in orbit between the earth and sun and deflect 2 or 3 percent of the sunshine back into space. It would be cheaper than the international space station.

~James Lovelock

I have heard that the Saudi Arabians are paying Greenpeace to campaign against Nuclear Power. It wouldn't surprise me at all.

~James Lovelock

Evolution is a tightly coupled dance, with life and the material environment as partners. From the dance emerges the entity Gaia.

~James Lovelock

There aren't just bad people that commit genocide; we are all capable of it. It's our evolutionary history.

~James Lovelock

The problem is we don't know what the climate is doing. We thought we knew 20 years ago. That led to some alarmist books - mine included - because it looked clear-cut, but it hasn't happened.

~James Lovelock

Let's make hay while it lasts.

~James Lovelock

Perhaps the single most important thing that we can do to undo the harm we have done is to fix firmly in our minds the thought: the earth is alive.

~James Lovelock

I suspect any worries about genetic engineering may be unnecessary. Genetic mutations have always happened naturally, anyway.

~James Lovelock

Nature favors those organisms which leave the environment in better shape for their progeny to survive.

~James Lovelock

The oil companies regard nuclear power as their rival, who will reduce their profits, so they put out a lot of disinformation about nuclear power.

~James Lovelock

If you start any large theory, such as quantum mechanics, plate tectonics, evolution, it takes about 40 years for mainstream science to come around. Gaia has been going for only 30 years or so.

~James Lovelock

All the modelling we do shows that the climate is poised on the jump up to a new hot state. It is accelerating so fast that you could say that we are already in it.

~James Lovelock

The tropical rain forests are a telling example. Once cut down, they rarely recover. Rainfall drops, deserts spread, the climate warms.

~James Lovelock

We rushed into renewable energy without any thought. The schemes are largely hopelessly inefficient and unpleasant. I personally can't stand windmills at any price.

~James Lovelock

Humans on the Earth behave in some ways like a pathogenic micro-organism, or like the cells of a tumor.

~James Lovelock

Climatologists are all agreed that we'd be lucky to see the end of this century without the world being a totally different place, and being 8 or 9 degrees hotter on average.

~James Lovelock

Climate change now represents so urgent a threat to mankind that the only way to deal with it is by suspending democracy.

~James Lovelock

Sadly, it's much easier to create a desert than a forest.

~James Lovelock

If we gave up eating beef we would have roughly 20 to 30 times more land for food than we have now.

~James Lovelock

An inefficient virus kills its host. A clever virus stays with it.

~James Lovelock

I have a feeling that climate change may be an issue as severe as a war. It may be necessary to put democracy on hold for a while.

~James Lovelock

China will soon emit more greenhouse gases than America, but its regime knows if it caps aspirations there will be a revolution.

~James Lovelock

The Earth's population will be culled from today's 6.6 billion to as few as 500 million, with most of the survivors living in the far latitudes - Canada, Iceland, Scandinavia, the Arctic Basin.

~James Lovelock

Humans are too stupid to prevent climate change from radically impacting on our lives over the coming decades.

~James Lovelock

Our future is like that of the passengers on a small pleasure boat sailing

quietly above the Niagara Falls, not knowing that the engines are about to fail.

~James Lovelock

If it hadn't been for the Cold War, neither Russia nor America would have been sending people into space.

~James Lovelock

This programme to stop nuclear by 2020 is just crazy. If there were a nuclear war, and humanity were wiped out, the Earth would breathe a sigh of relief.

~James Lovelock

If a power station were to be built down the road, I'd prefer a nuclear plant over an oil burner, and definitely over a coal burner. We simply have to lessen our consumption of fossil fuels.

~James Lovelock

I'm a scientist, not a theologian. I don't know if there is a God or not. Religion requires certainty.

~James Lovelock

Science always uses metaphor.

~James Lovelock

We'd never have got a chance to go outside and look at the earth if it hadn't been for space exploration and NASA.

~James Lovelock

The big threat to the planet is people: there are too many, doing too well economically and burning too much oil.

~James Lovelock

I wouldn't be against them (large wind turbines) if they actually worked.

~James Lovelock

A billion could live off the earth; 6 billion living as we do is far too many, and you run out of planet in no time.

~James Lovelock

You mustn't take what I say as gospel because no one can second-guess the future.

~James Lovelock

The climate is doing its usual tricks. There's nothing much really happening yet. We were supposed to be halfway toward a frying world now.

~James Lovelock

Esso has been the main one in America spreading the disinformation that there is no global warming problem.

~James Lovelock

Nowadays if you're dependent on a grant - and 99% of them are - you can't make mistakes as you won't get another one if you do.

~James Lovelock

So-called 'sustainable development' is meaningless drivel.

~James Lovelock

Life does more than adapt to the Earth. It changes the Earth to its own purposes.

~James Lovelock

One pound of uranium is worth about 3 million pounds worth of coal or oil.

~James Lovelock

Civilization in its present form hasn't got long.

~James Lovelock

Geological change usually takes thousands of years to happen but we are seeing the climate changing not just in our lifetimes but also year by year.

~James Lovelock

I'm not a pessimist, even though I do think awful things are going to happen.

~James Lovelock

The world has not warmed up very much since the millennium.

~James Lovelock

Only nuclear power can now halt global warming.

~James Lovelock

There is little evidence that our individual intelligence has improved through recorded history.

~James Lovelock

The inertia of humans is so huge that you can't really do anything meaningful.

~James Lovelock

Ask almost anybody if they think the climate's changed in the last couple of decades and they will all say 'yes' and give you lots of examples.

~James Lovelock

You never know with politicians what they are really saying. And I don't say that in a negative way-they have an appalling job.

~James Lovelock

I've got personal views on the '60s. You can't have freedom without paying the price for it.

~James Lovelock

We live at a time when emotions and feelings count more than truth, and there is a vast ignorance of science

~James Lovelock

Just after World War II, this country led the world in science by every way you could measure it, yet the number of scientists was a tiny proportion of what it is now.

~James Lovelock

I'm not religious, but I put it that way because I feel so strongly. It's the one thing you do not ever do. You've got to have standards.

~James Lovelock

Florida will be gone altogether, the whole damned place, in not too long.

~James Lovelock

By the end of this century, climate change will reduce the human population to a few breeding pairs surviving near the Arctic.

~James Lovelock

For each of our actions there are only consequences.

~James Lovelock

I don't think we're yet evolved to the point where we're clever enough to handle a complex a situation as climate change. The inertia of humans is so huge that you can't really do anything meaningful.

~James Lovelock

What we have lived through, the 20th century, has been like a great

party. Adults now have had the best time humanity has ever had. Now the party is over and the Earth is reckoning up.

~James Lovelock

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