

## **Fee Dividend Good For Climate**

[From Sun papers \(Port Charlotte, Englewood and Northport Sun\) 8/19/2016](#)

Editor,

The price we pay for energy does not include the cost in terms of the fuels' contributions to climate change. Think of the consequences of the continued use of fossil fuels: sea level rise, more catastrophic weather, the effects of increasing droughts & floods on our food supply, etc. We also have the impact on our health from breathing the pollution from coal smokestacks and diesel truck exhaust.

"Clean" natural gas from Fracked wells is responsible for methane emissions, a way more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Fracking also puts our drinking water at risk with its injections of poison fluids into the ground. None of these "social costs" is included in the present dollar price of our fuel products.

Putting a price on carbon can account for its social cost. If done right (NOT by a carbon tax), the revenues from a steadily increasing fee on carbon is returned to households in the form of a monthly dividend. Then people can afford the rising prices on old fashioned energy sources. Meanwhile, non-emitting sources of energy (wind, solar, hydro, nuclear) become cheaper as businesses ramp up their production in response to increasing market demand.

"Carbon Fee and Dividend" is good for the climate and hence our local tourism base, insurance prices, home values, health care costs, and our grandchildren's' livelihood. It's also good for jobs, the economy and family budgets.

Coty Keller  
Port Charlotte