

Abstract Submitted
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**Mirrors for Earth’s Energy Rebalancing (*MEER:ReflEction*):
Resource-driven engineering leveraging Earth’s chemistries to immedi-
ately offer remediation**¹ YE TAO, Harvard University — Anthropogenic aerosols
(AA) and greenhouse gases (GHG) co-emit into the atmosphere as peoples exercise
unalienable rights in pursuit of well-being and prosperity. Airborne, AA cool the
Earth almost as much as GHG warm it. This balancing act has masked an addi-
tional 1C of warming, should the AA disappear along with fossil fuel burning without
compensatory solar radiation management. In this scenario, knowledge of ecology
would project the annihilation of already shifting and collapsing ecosystems. The
inconvenient truth of cooling by AA renders the sum of incremental adaptation mea-
sures insufficient, regardless of implementation scale and speed of implementation,
for halting an ongoing extinction of complex life on this planet. Here, we step back,
take a holistic view of the Earth, and design a geoengineering project compatible
with the laws of physics, empirical evidence of ecosystem functioning, as well as con-
straints in material, energy, economics, and sociopolitics. *MEER:ReflEction* applies
aluminum-coated glass mirror arrays for solar radiation management. We find it
feasibly necessary to deploy the arrays on land and at sea within single-digit years
to fully rebalance Earth’s energy. The cost for full deployment is comparable to the
projected increase in risk to global assets by 2030 in the event of inaction. Decisive
co-benefits, including a concurrent global transition to 100% solar thermal energy,
make *MEER:ReflEction* the only plan available to *homo sapiens* that optimizes its
near-term survival and future prosperity as a people.

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