

[Home](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Back to article](#)

## Brighter future

10 October 2012 by [John Latham](#), Boulder, Colorado, US and [Alan Gadian](#), Leeds, UK

Magazine issue 2886. [Subscribe and save](#)

For similar stories, visit the [Letters](#) Topic Guide

ADVERTISEMENT

Your article on geoengineering was balanced and wide-ranging ([22 September, p 30](#)). We would, however like to add several points to the idea of global cooling by cloud whitening or marine cloud brightening (MCB), which involves seeding maritime clouds with seawater droplets to make them reflect more sunlight.

MCB is not ineffectual vis-à-vis polar cooling: several modelling papers, by our team and others, show that it would create more cooling in polar regions than at lower latitudes, with substantial sea-ice restoration.

Such work also shows that MCB may reduce rainfall in regions that need rain, but by modifying the site of cloud-seeding, this may be avoided. There is no doubt that if MCB works as we think, the significant cooling would cause global rainfall reduction, but calculations suggest that virtually all of it will be over the oceans.

Whether we could seed clouds effectively on the scale required is unknown. If continued research yields only positive results, we would need field tests. This could be done over an area of about 100 kilometres, too small to have a significant effect on climate.

*US National Center for Atmospheric Research*

*University of Leeds*

[Subscribe to New Scientist](#) and you'll get:

New Scientist magazine delivered every week

Unlimited access to all New Scientist online content -  
a benefit only available to subscribers

Great savings from the normal price

[Subscribe now!](#)



Like << 0



PRINT



SEND



SHARE

If you would like to **reuse any content** from New Scientist, either in print or online, please [contact the syndication](#) department first for permission. New Scientist does not own rights to photos, but there are a [variety of licensing options](#) available for use of articles and graphics we own the copyright to.

[Back to article](#)



PRINT



SEND



SHARE

ADVERTISEMENT