

Profits of Doom - The Truth About Global Warming

Peter Wales

peter@ki-web.net Kangaroo Island, Australia

"It is cold fact; global (---- ?) presents humankind with the most important social, political and adaptive challenge we have had to deal with for ten thousand years. Your stake in the decisions we make concerning it is of ultimate importance; the survival of ourselves, our children our species."

Lowell Ponte

Introduction

When the popular media refer to "Global Warming", or more recently "Climate Change", both with Capitals, so You Know How Important It Is, they mean a combination of four related theories. These are:

- The Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate.
- This is happening because of human activity, mainly CO2 emissions.
- This is a bad thing.
- Stopping the use of fossil fuels will stop or slow this warming.

None of these things can be shown to be true. Nor, despite media assertions to the contrary, is there any consensus amongst scientists that any of those four claims is true.

A report released by the US Senate on December 20th 2007 (available online here: <http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.SenateReport>) gives details of the work of over four hundred scientists working in the areas of oceanography, geology, climatology and meteorology who have published studies which call into question the evidence, methods and predictions of the IPCC and other global warming groups.

Other easily readable material from experts in these fields can be found in this (Canadian) National Post series on 'The Deniers':

<http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=22003a0d-37cc-4399-8bcc-39cd20bed2f6&k=0>

And of course there is the petition of over 30,000 scientists, over two thirds of whom have advanced degrees, and over 9,000 of whom work in the areas of geophysicists, climatology, environmental science and other life sciences here: <http://www.oism.org/pproject/s33p1845.htm>

That petition reads in part: *There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gasses is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth.*

Australian paleo-climatologist Professor Bob Carter of the James Cook University in Townsville maintains a page of current debate on climate change here:

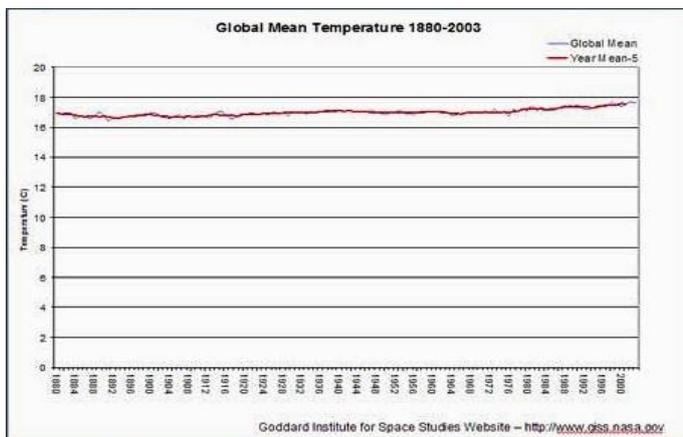
http://members.iinet.net.au/~glrmc/new_page_1.htm

Or see the website [Popular Technology](#) for a list of over 1,000 peer reviewed published scientific papers questioning the 'consensus' on one or more of the four aspects of global warming theory.

In any case, science is not decided by consensus. If it were, we would all still believe the world was flat. Evidence is what counts, but the media repeat the consensus story so often that people get the impression that no real scientists disagree, and therefore that there is no contradictory evidence. This is not so.

Changes in Temperature

There is consensus on some things. Pretty much everyone agrees the world has gotten slightly warmer over the last one hundred years. According to the IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) the world is about 0.8 degrees warmer. That doesn't sound too terrifying to most Australians, for whom variations of twenty degrees in a single day are nothing unusual, nor does it look like anything out of the ordinary is happening when this change is graphed (although the same data can be made to look much more dramatic by using a narrower temperature scale, say in tenths of a degree).

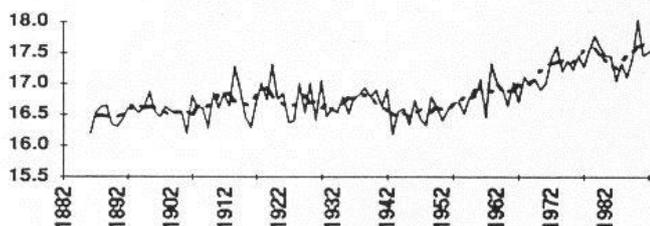


But even the figure of 0.8 degrees warming is doubtful, for at least two reasons.

First, no one knows for certain how much of that increase is due to what is called the Urban Heat Island effect. Industry, air-conditioners, vehicle traffic and other human activity, along with large amounts of concrete and asphalt, can increase the night-time temperature in city areas by as much as three degrees compared with that of surrounding

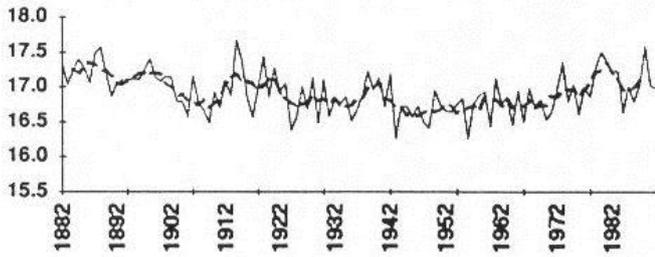
countryside. Many temperature recording stations which were in rural areas at the time they were established are now well within city limits.

Average Temperatures for the 6 Capital Cities.



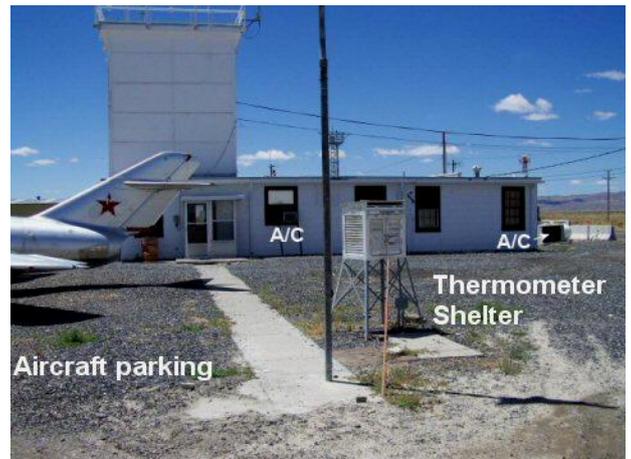
The difference this makes can be seen clearly in these two graphs which compare average temperatures in the six Australian capital cities from 1882 to 1992, with records from twenty-five regional and remote Australian recording stations. The graph of city temperatures shows an increase of about 0.8 degrees, which the IPCC claims is the average global increase over this period.

Average of 25 Regional and Remote Stations.



This second graph, of rural and remote stations, shows minor fluctuations, but no overall increase at all.

There are other potential problems with results from many recording stations. These two photos are examples of how the siting of recording stations can lead to unreliable measurements.

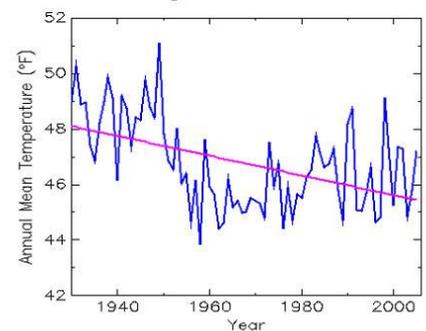


Misleading results don't need an incinerator or aircraft exhaust. A simple failure to maintain the white paint on a recording station can lead to an increase in recorded temperatures. More information on US stations, and more examples of how recording station design and maintenance can produce unreliable temperature results can be found at: <http://www.surfacestations.org/>

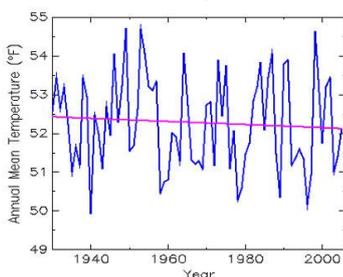
In both the US and Australia, many recording stations unaffected by buildings or other development show a slight *decrease* in temperature over the last century. I'll give just two examples from the many possibilities.

This record of temperatures from Binghamton in New York State shows that over the period of greatest increase in human produced greenhouse gasses, 1930-2005, the average temperature declined by approximately 1.5 degrees Celsius.

1930-2005 Mean Annual Temperature Binghamton, NY



1930-2005 Mean Annual Temperature Hillsboro, OH

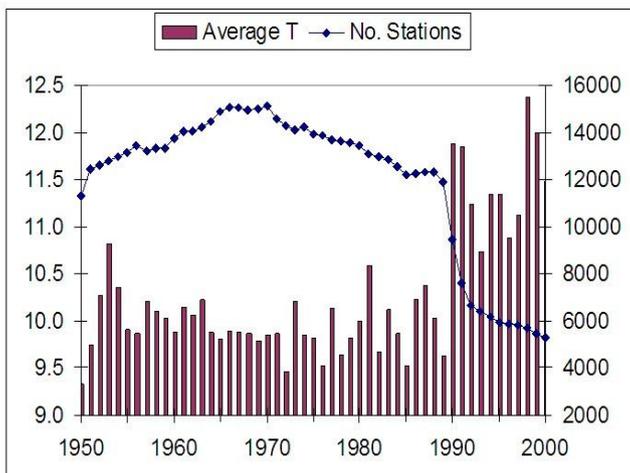


This record, from Hillsborough Ohio shows a decrease of about 0.30 degrees.

The second reason to doubt the claimed increase of 0.8 degrees relates to the fact that in the early nineties approximately half of the world's recording stations, mainly those which had operated in the

former USSR, stopped reporting. Most of these were from cooler areas.

When people talk about a global increase in temperature they are talking about increases in the Global Mean Temperature. Global Mean Temperature is essentially a crude average of temperature information from surface recording stations. As the Russian stations stopped reporting, the Global Mean Temperature increased. It is obvious that if a large number of stations from cooler areas no longer report, this will appear to raise the average temperature, even though there has been no actual change at all.



This graph maps the rise in Global Mean Temperature against the decline in the number of recording stations.

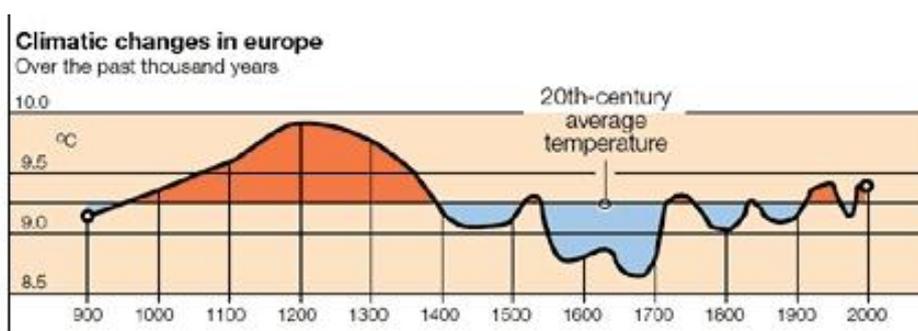
To clarify, imagine that all the temperature recording stations in Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Northern Western Australia stopped reporting, and Australia's average temperature was calculated only on reports from the remaining stations. This reported average temperature would be substantially cooler than before, but (and this is what is important) there would have been no real change in temperature at all.

There is still some argument about the impact of these two factors, so let's assume that the IPCC figure is right. Is an increase of less than one degree over the last century potentially catastrophic, or at least unusual?

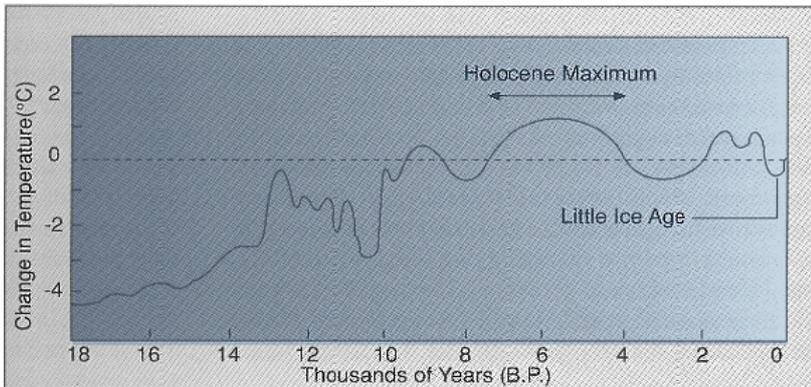
Are Changes in Temperature a Problem?

Climate changes all the time. Changes vary across the globe, and even between neighbouring towns. People are always talking about how unusual the weather has been lately. If we panicked at every change of temperature, we'd be in an uproar every few months. "Oh gosh! It's December, and the average temperature has risen by six degrees in the last three months. If this keeps up we'll all be dead in a year!" But we don't panic like this, because we know that in February the temperature will start to go back down again. Then it will go up, then down, etc, etc.

We are familiar with these short term changes, so they cause us no alarm. We also know that in the past the world has been significantly warmer, and significantly cooler, than it is today. This graph maps temperature changes over the last 1100 years:



The next graph is of temperature changes over a longer period of about 18,000 years. It shows the rise out of the last ice age beginning about 15,000 years ago, with relatively stable temperatures over the last 10,000 years, but including periods colder than now, and long periods which were warmer. These changes were entirely natural - **human produced greenhouse gasses had nothing to do with these climate changes.**



Sea levels have risen over 100 metres over the last 12,000 years. Rain forests, coral reefs and polar bears have survived these changes, and are all doing quite nicely now, thank you very much. For example, polar bear populations have increased from between 8,000 and 10,000 in 1970 to between 20,000 and 35,000 now (according to the World Wildlife Fund), despite repeated claims that global warming is causing them to die out. Dr. Mitchell Taylor, a government biologist in Canada, responded to these claims in May 2007 as follows: "*Of the 13 populations of polar bears in Canada, 11 are stable or increasing in number. They are not going extinct, nor do they even appear to be affected at present.*"

In 2007 the director of the International Arctic Research Center in Alaska testified to the US Congress that highly publicised climate models showing a disappearing Arctic were nothing more than "science fiction."

We are warned that increasing levels of CO₂ will turn the seas acid and destroy coral reefs. Coral reefs evolved and thrived during the Mesozoic Period, when atmospheric CO₂ levels stayed above 1,000 parts per million for 150 million years and exceeded 2,000 parts per million for several million years, compared with 380 ppm now.

Just as the temperature goes up when we come out of the cold months of Winter, so it goes up when we come out of a longer cyclic period of cold. There are ice-age cycles that last about 90,000 years. If the historical pattern holds true, we are coming to the end of the current 10-15,000 year 'inter-glacial' (between ice ages) period. Sometime soon we would expect the world to start cooling dramatically. There also seem to be 1500 year cycles, and other shorter patterns in between. All of these cycles appear to be related to amount of solar radiation that reaches the Earth - in other words, to the Sun and its cycles and our movement around the sun. We are only beginning to understand all of this.

What we do know is that for the last one hundred and fifty years or so we have been coming out of a short (300 year) cool period which was part of a normal cycle. Just as there is nothing unusual about the temperature getting warmer when Winter ends, there is nothing unusual or alarming about it getting warmer when a longer cyclic cool period ends.

Greenhouse Gasses

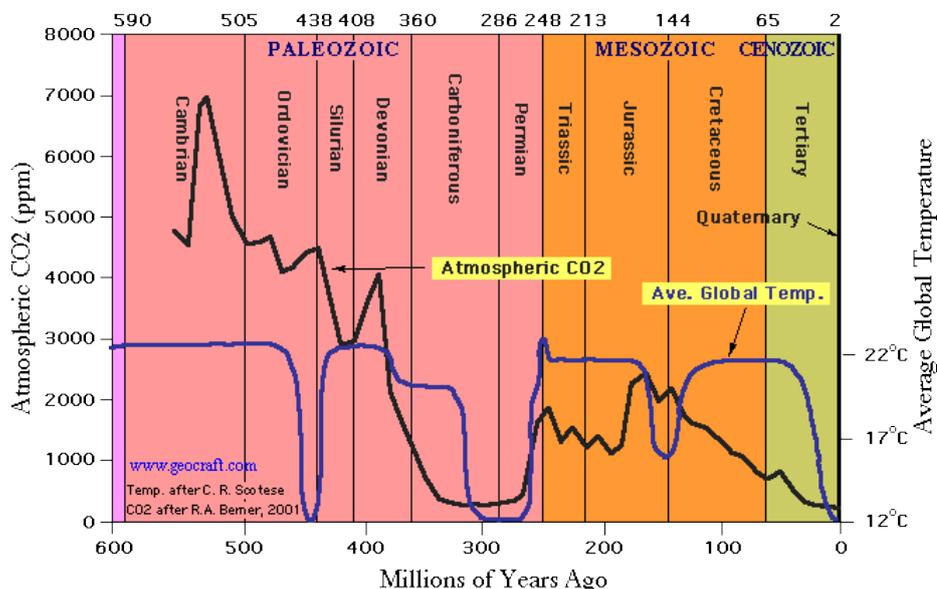
Of course it is still possible that natural fluctuations in the climate could be altered or amplified by human production of gasses or other pollutants, and that this could have long term effects we would want to avoid.

But it is worth noting from the outset that it is unlikely that even doubling the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would have a great impact on temperature variation. This is partly because carbon dioxide is present in the atmosphere in only very small quantities - about 380 parts per million, and partly because each new molecule of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere has less effect than the last. In other words, increasing CO₂ from 100 to 200 parts per million might double the warming effect it has. But it would take an increase from 200 to 400 parts per million to have the same effect, and from 400 to 800 parts per million to have the same effect again.

Approximately 90 billion tons of carbon in the form of carbon dioxide circulate between the earth's oceans and the atmosphere each year, and another 60 billion tons between vegetation and the atmosphere. Volcanoes add more again. The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991 is thought to have put more pollutants, including carbon and sulphur dioxides, into the atmosphere than all the motor vehicles ever built and driven up to that time. Total human production of carbon dioxide is approximately ten billion tons per year, about three percent of the total.

Carbon dioxide is not poisonous, and it is not a pollutant. It is as necessary to plant life as oxygen is for us, and vital for all life on the planet. Contrary to some advertising claims, the trees will not thank you for reducing CO₂ output, any more than we would be thankful for reduced levels of oxygen. In fact, when most modern trees and flowering plants evolved, levels of CO₂ were as much as ten times higher than they are now, so from the poor plants' point of view, we have a seriously CO₂ depleted atmosphere! Lower carbon dioxide in the atmosphere means less green, not more.

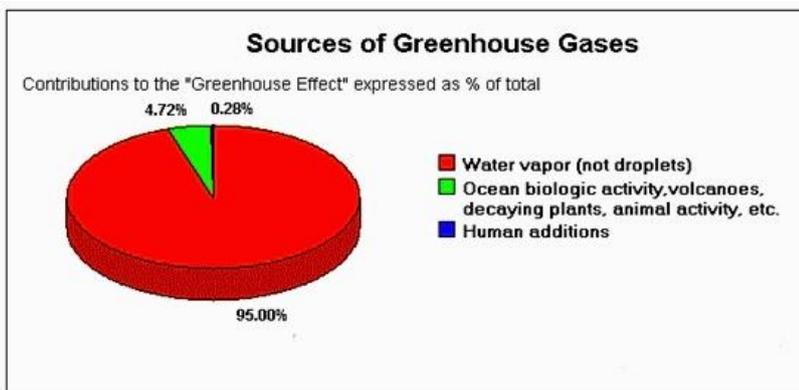
This chart shows that in the last 650 million years, only the late Carboniferous period had levels of CO₂ as low as they are at present:



Carbon dioxide is only about a third as effective as water vapour as a greenhouse gas. Water vapour is also present in the atmosphere in much greater quantities - about 10,000 parts per million compared with 380ppm for CO₂. Water vapour is by far the most significant greenhouse gas. Without the greenhouse effect it causes, the world's average temperature would be somewhere between minus fifteen and minus twenty degrees. All life on Earth depends on the greenhouse effect.

Water vapour's heat absorbing and buffering effects are the reason there are greater extremes of temperature on clear dry days - more likelihood of frost, for example. The much lower intrinsic greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide, and its vastly lower concentration in the atmosphere, mean that any small greenhouse effect CO₂ has is simply swamped by that of water vapour.

This graph illustrates the proportion of the possible impact of human greenhouse producing activity compared with ongoing natural processes:



This table shows the same figures in a different form:

Anthropogenic (man-made) Contribution to the "Greenhouse Effect," expressed as % of Total (water vapor INCLUDED)

Based on concentrations (ppb) adjusted for heat retention characteristics	% of All Greenhouse Gases	% Natural	% Man-made
Water vapor	95.000%	94.999%	0.001%
Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	3.618%	3.502%	0.117%
Methane (CH ₄)	0.360%	0.294%	0.066%
Nitrous Oxide (N ₂ O)	0.950%	0.903%	0.047%
Misc. gases (CFC's, etc.)	0.072%	0.025%	0.047%
Total	100.00%	99.72	0.28%

It is also likely that the addition of sulphate and other aerosols (small particles that remain suspended in the air) from industry and dust from agriculture have a cooling effect which largely counteracts any minor warming from increased production of greenhouse gases.

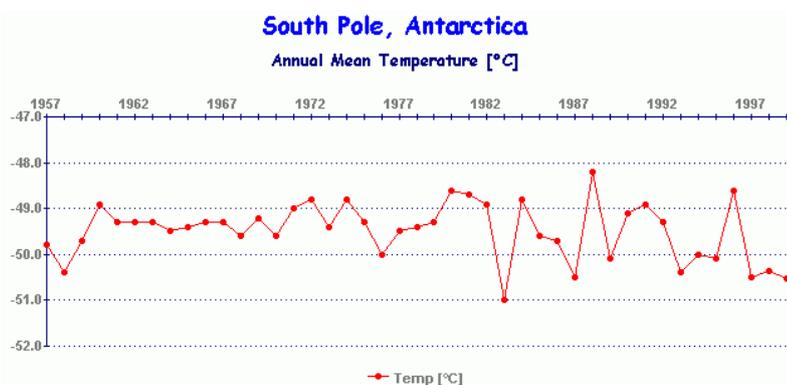
The Global Warming Theory

But in spite of all that, let's say that the increase in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases due to human activity could be causing the warming. After all, small changes can have large effects. How

would we know? Is there any way to tell the difference between warming caused by greenhouse gasses, and warming that may be occurring for other reasons? Yes there is, and the method is quite straightforward. If increases in temperature were caused by increases in concentrations of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gasses, this warming would occur more quickly in the upper troposphere (the layer of the atmosphere which extends up about ten to twenty kilometres from the Earth's surface) than on the surface.

But this is exactly the opposite of what has happened. Measurements from satellites and weather balloons both show consistently that where warming has occurred, it has occurred more rapidly on the surface of the planet. The observed data - what has actually happened - directly contradict the predictions of the theory that human produced carbon dioxide is causing global warming.

The theory that human greenhouse gas production is inducing warming also predicts that warming should occur more quickly at the poles. But again, this is not what has happened. There has been a slight warming in the Arctic, but no warming in the Antarctic, with many stations at both poles showing no warming at all, or even a slight cooling, as in this record from the South Pole :



If changes in climate are being caused by increased carbon dioxide, we would expect a strong correlation between the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide and changes in temperature. But the greenhouse gas theory fails here too, because most of the warming that has taken place over the last century, about 0.6 degrees, took place before 1940 - before any discernable increase in human produced CO₂ or other greenhouse gasses. When industrial production and associated CO₂ emissions increased rapidly after 1940, the temperature went down, and this downward trend continued for nearly four decades. Again, this is exactly the opposite of what the theory predicts.

Global warming theory also predicts continuing rises in temperature as carbon dioxide levels increase. But there has been no increase in global mean temperature since 1998. 2007 saw a number of new low temperature records around the world, large numbers of people have died during snow storms and cold snaps in the Northern hemisphere this year, the Antarctic continues to get colder with total ice near record levels, and average temperatures in South America have been declining over the last five years. For the first time since 1918, Buenos Aires had snow this year, while Baghdad had snow for the first time in living memory. The number of glaciers in India has quadrupled over the last six years. Australia had the coldest June on record, and Townsville had its longest continuous period of cold weather since 1941. Ski resorts in Europe report the 07/08 season is off to an early start with the heaviest snow falls since 1952. Whatever warming was happening appears to have stopped.

But hasn't the last decade has been the hottest ever (or at least since consistent record keeping began in the 1880s)? This claim was based on figures from NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS). But in October 2007 the Goddard Institute changed its list of the hottest years on record after a Canadian statistician discovered an error in the official calculations. 1934, not 1998, was the hottest year. The new rankings show that five of the ten hottest years since consistent record keeping began occurred before 1940, before the rapid industrial growth that resulted in a measurable human contribution to atmospheric CO₂.

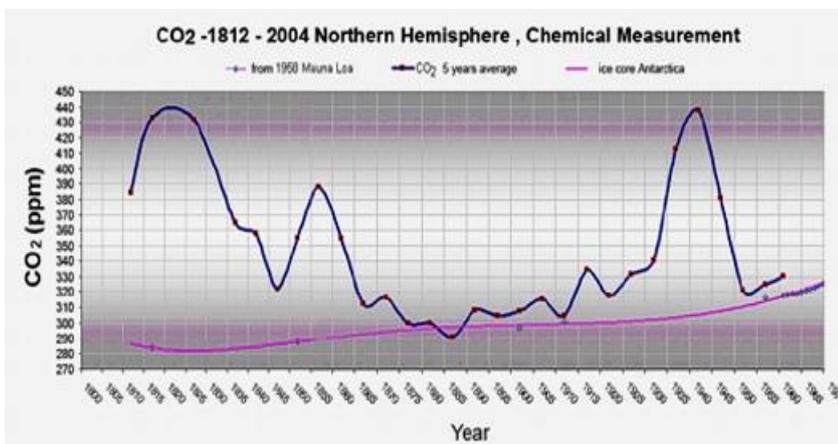
Every prediction made by the anthropogenic (human caused) global warming theory has been falsified.

In his PowerPoint presentation "An Inconvenient Truth", Al Gore makes much of a seemingly strong connection over the last million years between historical increases in carbon dioxide levels and increases in temperature. This would be convincing, except that the scientific record makes it clear that in every case, the rises in temperature came *before* the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, not after.

Dr Habibullo Abdussamatov, Head of Space Research, Pulkovo Observatory, St Petersburg, wrote in January 2007: "*The (global warming) alarmists have confused cause and effect. As solar radiation warms the earth, CO₂ is released into the atmosphere from the world's oceans.*"

Paleo-climatologist Professor Ian Clark of the University of Ottawa makes the point that even though there have been periods of much higher CO₂ concentration than at present, CO₂ has never been a driver of climate change. Rather, increased atmospheric CO₂ is a *product* of climate change - as the Earth warms, more CO₂ is released from the oceans.

In any case it is only an assumption (though until recently it seemed a reasonable assumption) that the increase in atmospheric CO₂ over the last century was caused by human activity. Research by Ernst Beck published in Energy and Environment in 2007 claims that significant variations in atmospheric CO₂ occur entirely naturally and over short periods of time. His results, based on 90,000 analyses of atmospheric CO₂ since 1812, indicate that average CO₂ in the 19th century was approximately 320 parts per million, and in the 20th century was 340 parts per million. This is an insignificant difference. His results also confirm that changes in atmospheric CO₂ follow, and do not drive, changes in temperature.



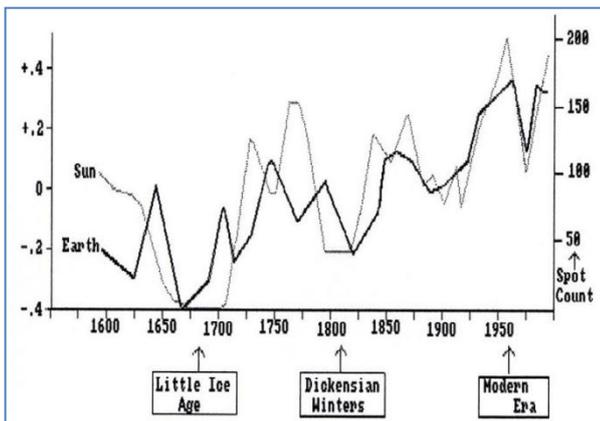
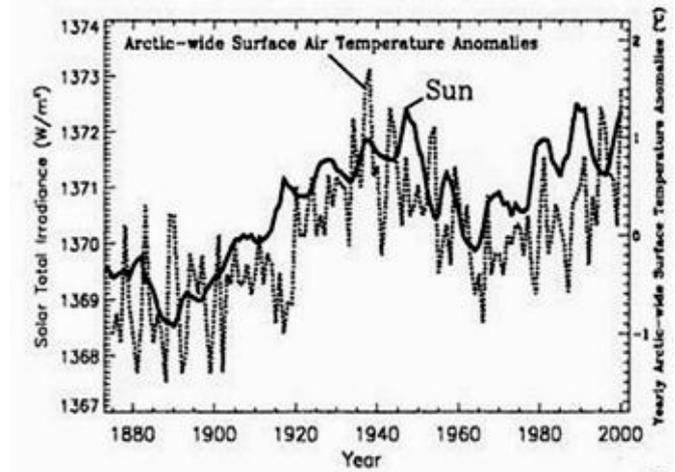
But if carbon dioxide has never driven climate change, and is not doing so now, what does cause global changes in the Earth's climate? This is an important question, because if we understand what causes climate change, we may be able predict when and for how long those changes will occur, and prepare for them.

What Causes Climate Change?

Climate is simply weather over a long period of time. We all know from day to day experience that multiple factors affect local weather - changes in atmospheric pressure, altitude, cloud cover, proximity to oceans or deserts, etc. So we should not be surprised to find that there are many factors which affect global weather in the longer term. One of the most important of these is also the most obvious - the sun.

As this graph of temperature measurements at the Arctic makes clear, while there is no close correlation between increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide and changes in temperature over the twentieth century, there is a very close relationship between Sun activity and changes in temperature.

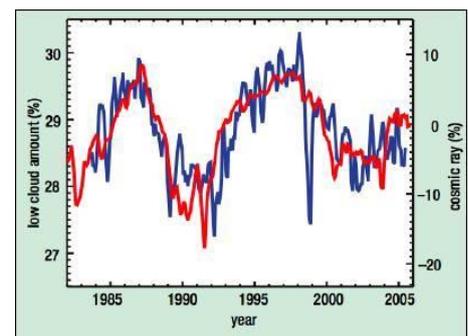
The graph below shows the relationship between sunspot activity (higher sunspot activity is an indicator of higher radiant output from the sun) and temperature over a longer period.



When solar activity is higher, the temperature on Earth is higher. This connection has been confirmed by the recent discovery that other bodies in the solar system, from Mars to Pluto to the moons of Jupiter, have experienced similar levels of warming to Earth over the last fifty years, without any help from coal fired power stations, Chinese toy factories or Martians in four wheel drives.

The relationship between the sun's activity and Earth's climate has been recognised for many years. The amount of heat and light received directly from the sun clearly cause changes in Earth's temperature. These small changes are enhanced by another mechanism only recently discovered, which explains the number of clouds formed in the lower atmosphere.

The formation of low level cloud cover is directly related to the influx of cosmic rays. Cosmic rays (actually particles, mostly protons) cause water molecules in the atmosphere to clump together, forming clouds. The more clouds there are, the more light and heat are reflected back into space. This means that in general (as we all know from experience), the more cloud there is, the lower the temperature. This link between cosmic ray influx and the amount of cloud cover is shown clearly in the graph to the right.



There is a link between solar activity and the number of cosmic rays which reach the Earth. Solar wind (light and other particles from the sun) is stronger when the sun is more active. When the sun is more active, the stronger solar wind pushes some of the cosmic rays away. This reduces the number of cosmic rays reaching the Earth, which reduces cloud formation. So when the sun is more active, not only does the Earth receive more light and heat, but fewer clouds are formed, causing even more warming.

We now know that natural mechanisms are sufficient to explain all of the observed changes in global climate over the last century and in the geological past.

Summary

Ten years ago it seemed reasonably certain that there had been an increase in temperature of about 0.8 degrees over the previous century. It was also thought that CO₂ levels had increased from about 280 parts per million to about 380 parts per million over the same period. It was assumed that human activity had contributed to this increase. This was something that was worth investigating. Unfortunately, as Richard Lindzen, Professor of Meteorology at MIT, noted, the 'consensus' was declared before the research had even begun.

Over the last ten years the increase of 0.8 degrees has become less and less certain. In any case, we now know that in historic terms, an increase of 0.8 degrees over a century is a time of relative climate stability. It is no longer certain that human activity has had any effect on the level of greenhouse gasses, or even if we have contributed to the small recorded rise in CO₂, that this has had any effect on the climate. It is clear that for as far back in history as we can measure, changes in CO₂ levels have been a consequence of changes in temperature, not the cause. None of the events or changes predicted by global warming theorists have happened.

In 2006 a group of sixty climate and related discipline scientists wrote an open letter to Stephen Harper, the Prime Minister of Canada:

<http://www.financialpost.com/story.html?id=3711460e-bd5a-475d-a6be-4db87559d605>

They wrote: "There is no "consensus" among climate scientists about the relative importance of the various causes of global climate change... If, back in the mid-1990s, we knew what we know today about climate, Kyoto would almost certainly not exist, because we would have concluded it was not necessary."

Timothy Ball, professor of climatology at the University of Winnipeg, with thirty-two years experience in climate studies says: "*Global Warming is not due to human contribution of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). **This in fact is the greatest deception in the history of science.** We are wasting time, energy and trillions of dollars while creating unnecessary fear and consternation over an issue with no scientific justification.*"

Paleo-climatologist Professor Bob Carter has pointed out that the expenditure of more than \$50 billion on research into global warming since 1990 has failed to demonstrate *any* human-caused climate trend, let alone a trend that might legitimately cause concern.

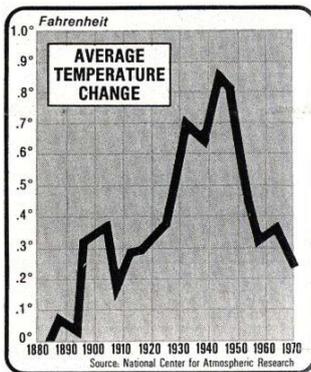
Changes in climate over the last century, just as for every century before, can best and most simply be explained by reference to natural processes over which we have no control. It is likely that in a

few years time, people will look back in astonished disbelief that the world could have reached such a state of panic, and wasted so much time and money, over a perfectly natural change in climate of a few tenths of a degree.

How Did this Happen?

The last century has seen a succession of fashionable, but irrational scares. The Y2K bug is a perfect example. Billions of dollars were spent on a problem that never materialised. Others have included asteroids colliding with the Earth, bird flu, war because the world's oil supplies would run out by 1990, acid rain, mass starvation caused by diminishing food supplies, floods and earthquakes caused by the 'Jupiter Effect', and global cooling. The missing word (cooling) from the quote at the beginning of this paper comes from Lowell Ponte's book *The Cooling*, published in the seventies. Ponte was one of many scientists and journalists who claimed that a new ice age was coming, that the science proving this was settled, and that the time for debate was over.

Major media organisations also insisted that a disaster was on the way. Human activity was causing the Earth to cool. Something had to be done. There was no time to be wasted on further discussion. A Newsweek article printed on April 28, 1975, wrote "To scientists, these disparate incidents represent the advance signs of fundamental changes in the world's weather... The Earth's climate seems to be cooling down. Meteorologists ... are almost unanimous in the view that the trend will reduce agricultural productivity for the rest of the century." A New York Times headline for an article pointing out the dangers of global cooling ran: "Climate Changes Endanger World's Food Output."



At the time, this seemed a reasonable concern. After a steady rise in temperatures as the world came out of the little ice age, there had been a sudden fall in temperatures. This fall in temperatures had continued for nearly four decades, and had coincided with a known increase in air pollution.

But before that, when the temperature had risen slightly for a few decades, the same media organisations had issued grim warnings about the world getting warmer. In 1951 Time Magazine claimed receding permafrost in Russia was proof the world was getting warmer. In 1952, the New York Times said the apparent melting of glaciers was the "trump card" of global warming.

And before that, when temperatures had cooled slightly, they were making gloomy predictions about the coming ice age. A front page article in the October 7, 1912 New York Times, just a few months after the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank, declared that a prominent professor "Warns Us of an Encroaching Ice Age." The same day in 1912, the Los Angeles Times ran an article warning that the "Human race will have to fight for its existence against cold." A front page article in the Chicago Tribune on August 9, 1923 declared: "Scientist Says Arctic Ice Will Wipe Out Canada." The article

quoted a Yale University professor who predicted that large parts of Europe and Asia would be “wiped out” and Switzerland would be “entirely obliterated.” The following day, August 10, 1923, the Washington Post declared: “Ice Age Coming Here.”

The media have a vested interest in ‘Chicken Little’ thinking. The worse the news, the more papers will sell. A headline of ‘Minor Changes in Climate Nothing to Worry About’ is not going to sell papers (or advertising time on television). A prophecy of impending doom will. Public opinion is largely driven by the media, politicians are driven by public opinion, and research funding is allocated directly and indirectly by politicians.

Once high levels of funding begin to flow on the basis of an assumed crisis, research organisations, panels and other bodies quickly form around this funding. The continued existence of those organisations depends upon ongoing funding. The certainty of ongoing funding depends upon continuing alarm in the media, and upon driving public opinion to pressure government to help prevent the claimed crisis.

It is frequently suggested that scientists who refute the global warming theory do so because they are funded by oil companies. Over the period in which \$50 billion has been allocated to global warming research, some \$20 million has been given to similar research by oil companies and other big business. In other words, for every \$2,500 of funding in support of the global warming theory, one dollar has been given to alternative research by oil companies and others. It is ridiculous to question the integrity of scientists who have received the one dollar, and to assume that those who have received the \$2500, members of research groups and panels whose jobs would simply come to an end if there were no climate crisis, are working entirely out of love and goodwill, uninfluenced by considerations of peer pressure or job security.

Why It Matters

Even if it were true that the world was warming because of human activity, it is hard to see how the most rational response to this is to enforce limits on emissions that will destabilise western economies and deny developing nations the ability to provide food, water and medical care to their people.

Reaching the emissions targets proposed by the present federal government will undermine our industries and private transport (taking every private vehicle off Australia’s roads would not be enough to enable us to meet even our much lower Kyoto obligations), effectively destroying our economy, and with it the ability to deal with new or ongoing problems or to assist in alleviating disease and suffering in the rest of the world.

If the worst warming predictions of the IPCC came true, and human activity was responsible for the increase in CO₂, and the increase in CO₂ was responsible for the warming, and the Kyoto Protocol was fully implemented, it would delay the predicted warming over the next century by only five years. In other words, an increase in temperature of 3 degrees would be reached in 2105 instead of 2100.

The \$50 billion quoted above as having been spent on global warming research does not include the cost of the implementation of the Kyoto protocol. This has been conservatively estimated at \$150 billion per year, or about \$430 billion so far, for an estimated change in temperature so far (assuming the global warming theory is true) of 0.0045 degrees Celsius. The total change by 2050 if Kyoto is fully implemented (and again, importantly, assuming the global warming theory is true), is expected to be about 0.5 degrees Celsius, for a cost of \$6750 billion dollars.

This represents a reduction of some fifty percent in the world economy - in research, trade and industry. This reduction will cause massive unemployment, a return to depression-like levels of poverty in Western nations, and starvation and death in developing nations on a scale never before seen. If the global warming research were certain, it would be still be immoral to implement such a course of action without first considering every possible alternative.

Even economists who believe the global warming theory may be true, believe that careful planning to adapt to climate change is a vastly better response than trying like king Canute to prevent something that cannot be prevented. Lord Nigel Lawson, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, writes: *Two countries at different ends of the earth, both of which are generally considered to be economic success stories, are Finland and Singapore. The average annual temperature in Helsinki is less than 5°C. That in Singapore is in excess of 27°C—a difference of more than 22°C. If man can successfully cope with that, it is not immediately apparent why he should not be able to adapt to a change of 3°C, when he is given a hundred years in which to do so.*

Money spent on the Y2k bug, acid rain, global cooling, killer bees, bird flu, asteroid collisions, and other disasters that never happened despite dire predictions, is money that could have been spent solving problems that really did exist and still exist. Money spent so far on global warming research and the attempted implementation of the Kyoto Protocol amounts to nearly \$500 billion. This money would have been sufficient to eradicate Polio, Malaria and Tuberculosis, and to have provided clean drinking water and basic education and medical care to every man, woman and child on the planet.

There is a moral issue here, but it isn't global warming. There is no evidence to support the claim of an impending human caused climate crisis. There are and always have been natural fluctuations in climate to which humans and other living creatures have adapted and will continue to adapt.

The funds diverted into imaginary potential disasters are already sufficient to have alleviated the real disasters of hunger, disease and lack of clean water that afflict the world's poor. We have forgotten that we have been fooled before. We have jumped from one fashionable fear to another, always giving those fears higher priority than real present problems. We have allowed vast suffering and hunger to continue unnecessarily. The real moral issue is the manufacture of panic over global warming and other invented crises for the sake of publicity and profit.

*I'll get all my papers and smile at the sky, Though I know that the hypnotized never lie ...
Then I'll get on my knees and pray, We don't get fooled again*
Pete Townsend (The Who)

© Peter Wales 2007 May be freely copied and distributed provided the contents are not altered and this notice and the copyright notice are included.