

Global Warming Fact Sheet

There is less consensus about climate change within the scientific community than reported. Some scientists believe temperatures are warming and human action is the dominant cause. Others will accept data that seems to indicate warming but attribute this to solar phenomena or natural cycles. Still others challenge the tools and methods of data gathering that are the foundation for claims of warming. Indeed, even the basic measurement of today's temperature can vary widely when measured from the ground and from satellite. Historical temperatures are often drawn from the growth rate of trees and other foliage. Concerns about that data have led to serious questions about the landmark "hockey stick graph" (Michael Mann's historical record of temperatures and the basis of many global warming claims). In response to criticism, Mann has refused to release the complete data sets used in his study. Even the Russian Academy of Scientists questions the science behind the treaty. While Russia agreed to Kyoto, the academy refused to endorse the Science behind the Kyoto Protocol.

Facts

Accu-Weather, the respected weather forecaster, is on record saying, "Global air temperatures as measured by land-based weather stations show an increase of about 0.45 degrees Celsius over the past century. This may be no more than normal climatic variation...[and] several biases in the data may be responsible for some of this increase."

Satellites were sent into space to monitor temperatures in 1979. In 2004 climatologists Patrick Michaels, Fred Singer and Physicist David H. Douglass commented "The surface temperature record shows a warming rate of about 0.17°C (0.31°F) per decade since 1979. However, there are two other records, one from satellites, and one from weather balloons that tell a different story. Neither annual satellite nor balloon trends differ significantly from zero since the start of the satellite record in 1979." Satellite data is preferable since – unlike ground-based thermometers – it is not subject to the "heat island" effect around cities.

Climate change is not necessarily a result of greenhouse gas emissions. Gallup survey results show that only 17 percent of the members of the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Society thought the 20th century climate change was the result of an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Warming is not necessarily bad. Larger quantities of CO₂ in the atmosphere and warmer climates would likely lead to an increase in vegetation. Vegetation thrived during historical warm periods. In fact, the Vikings once farmed in Greenland.

From the NAS (National Academy of Sciences) report: "Because there is considerable uncertainty in current understanding of how the climate system varies naturally and reacts to emissions of greenhouse gases and aerosols, current estimates of the magnitude of future warming should be regarded as tentative and subject to future adjustments upward or downward."

Relevant Studies

"Review of the 2001 U.S. Climate Action Report," by Pat Michaels, June 3, 2002

New Perspectives in Climate Change: What the EPA Isn't Telling Us by S. Fred Singer, John R. Christy, Robert E. Davis, David R. Legates, Wendy M. Novicoff

What the Global Warming Treaty Would Do to You, Your Job, and Your Country by the Heartland Institute

Consult www.globalwarming.org for a comprehensive collection of current and historical climate change research and analysis.

Experts

Pat Michaels, Research Professor and State Climatologist, Department of Environmental Sciences, *University of Virginia*. Author of “Meltdown: the Predictable Distortions of Global Warming by Scientists, Politicians, and the Media.” (published 9/27/2004) email: pmichaels@cato.org Phone: 434-924-0549

Myron Ebell, Director, Energy and Global Warming Policy *Competitive Enterprise Institute*. Email: mebell@cei.org Phone: 202-331-2256

S. Fred Singer, President, *Science and Environmental Policy Project*. Email: singer@sepp.org Phone: 703-920-2744