

Global warming consensus

Science-based analyses of America's key environmental issues

Center for Science &
Public Policy
www.scienceandpolicy.org

Contact Information

209 Penn. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20003
Tel: 202-454-5249
Fax: 202-454-5223

Robert Ferguson
Executive Director
bferguson@ff.org

Claim: *There is a scientific consensus about catastrophic man-made global warming.*

This has become a staple **assertion without foundation**, and is widely contradicted:

1. A petition compiled by a past president of the National Academy of Sciences has attracted the signatures of more than 17,000 American scientists (<http://www.oism.org/pproject>). All agree the science of climate change, and man's role in it, is uncertain.

The 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."

2. Forty-six leading climate experts wrote an open letter to Canada's National Post June 4, 2003) claiming that the Kyoto Protocol "lacks credible science." In the letter, they wrote: "Many climate science experts from Canada and around the world, while still strongly supporting environmental protection, equally strongly disagree with the scientific rationale for the Kyoto Accord (http://www.reveal.ca/friendsofscience/Martin_letter.pdf).

3. Fully 89 percent of respondents to a survey of state climatologists agreed that "current science is unable to isolate and measure variations in global temperatures caused only by man-made factors."

4. An independent organization, The European Science and Environmental Forum, has published two monographs, in which a few dozens of scientists present studies contradicting the conclusions of the IPCC.

5. Nearly one hundred scientists signed the 1996 Leipzig Declaration, protesting the alleged IPCC consensus and the implementation of the Rio de Janeiro treaty. The Leipzig Declaration termed the provisions of this treaty "drastic policies lacking credible support from the underlying science...ill-advised, wrought with economic danger, and likely to be counter-productive." (<http://www.sepp.org/leipzig.html>)

6. MIT professor Richard Lindzen, Ph.D., one of 11 scientists who prepared the National Academy of Sciences 2001 report on global warming has stated repeatedly that there were a wide variety of scientific views presented in that report, and that the full report made clear that there is no consensus, unanimous or otherwise, about long-term climate trends and what causes them.

7. AP wire stories for September 30, 2003 reported that at the U.N. World Climate Change Conference in Moscow Russian scientists expressed skepticism about the science behind Kyoto. Professor Kirill Kondratyev, an influential global climate expert with the Russian Academy of Sciences, said that theories linking global warming to greenhouse gas emissions ignored numerous other factors. "The only people who would be hurt by abandoning the Kyoto Protocol would be several thousand people who make a living attending conferences on global warming," said Kondratyev.