



# The Daily Newsletter

## CLIMATE CHANGE - Are your iPhones more important than combatting Global Warming?

Prof Ed Hawkins - Lead Author

IPCC REPORT

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Are you willing to hold out on Earth's newest technologies to conserve our climate? Scientist sure hope we can do so! The debate on climate change has been set ablaze *(aside from political inferences that can be found in the media)* due to opposing scientific inferences in finding a solution to the controversial questions regarding the release of GHG (*Greenhouse Gases*). Scientist also debate what the source of this growing natural catastrophe could be. As researchers and scientist alike continue to strive for a common consensus on how to mitigate climate change, the science community has become divided in figuring out what exactly is the cause of these increased levels of CO<sub>2</sub> (*carbon dioxide*) and whether its effects are reversible.

The elongated debate has sparked interest amongst the people making them question:

*“Are the increased emission levels man-induced..?”*

*“Are they of natural causes..?”*

Well according to over 234 authors apart of the United Nation’s IPCC (*International Panel on Climate Change*) Climate Report, they strongly believe the cause is humanity and our increase of mass production since the formation of the Industrial Age. Lead author and professor Ed Hawkins had this to say about the matter:

*“This report states that it is an absolute fact that human influence is warming the climate. That is a very stark reminder that it is our activities which are changing the climate and effecting these extreme weather events. As the planet continues to warm, these consequences just get worse.”*

*- Prof Ed Hawkins*

Supporting this statement, the IPCC conducted research evaluating temperature fluctuations from the early 1850’s to our current century (fig. 1) realizing that in the 20th century alone there were significant increases in temperature that only continue to rise.

Global CO2 emissions, 1900-present

Billion tonnes of CO2 per year



Source: Global Carbon Project & CDIAC

Fig. (1)

## Are Governments willing to sacrifice Environmental health for Industrialization?

Scientist working under the IPCC worry that if civilization continues to participate in current activities, like the creation of factories, the usage of fossil fuels, and deforestation, our planet will succumb to irreversible natural disasters. These changes are expected to lead to severe altitudes of drought and/or flood as well as increased sea-levels by several tens of centimeters by the end of the century. These changes should warrant a cause for alarm and scientist claim that humanity needs to proceed with caution now, sooner than later.

According to members of the IPCC, before industrialization, the quantities of CO2 levels only made up about 280 ppm (*parts per million*) which was approximately 0.03% of the atmosphere. <sup>2</sup> Analyzing those levels today, accounting for humanities impact, it has now doubled staying above 400 ppm. Earth’s atmosphere at

one point was depicted as stable for a millennia before over a century and a half ago, when civilization began to develop industries and increased its usage of burned fossil fuels. The IPCC are pushing for the implementation of reductive tactics that could help slow the emission of these greenhouse gasses. But, implementing such reductions would pose a substantial challenge for the demand of technological, economical, societal, and institutional developments, causing further delay. Phones, computers, TV, your favorite sports car models, and the rest of your favorite technological accessories would come to an abrupt halt in hopes of conserving the Earth's climate. The question at hand is whether this action is necessary and whether doing so will help put a dent in the global climatic endeavor.

## Scientist say No! To Man-induced Causes

Scientist in providing a counter argument to the IPCC have stated that major impacts on climate change do not stem from man-made industries but from natural causes. Natural impacts included in this ideology are listed as:

- Volcanic eruptions,
- Variations in energy emitted from the Sun
- Water vapor evaporation from lakes, rivers, and oceans
- Earth's ever changing orbital movement
- And the amount of cloudiness present

Denying the idea that humans are the cause for climate change further, scientist established that the alleged increases in CO<sub>2</sub> levels were primarily due to volcanic eruptions. The IPCC denied this statement with longitudinal studies regarding volcanoes of their own. They came to the conclusion that volcanic eruptions are quite difficult to assess and their interaction with Earth's climate can not be well documented for which these volcanoes of discussion only make up about 1% of human emissions. The department of Dendrochronology (*the chemical analysis of isotopes in fossil shells and ice cores*) came up with calculations of their own, along with geological evidence, trying to prove that Earth was much warmer than current depictions. Unfortunately for them, they were not able to give proper deduction on their findings due to the ocean causing a 20 year time lag in their evaluations.

Scientist on the '*natural causes*' side of this issue believe that climate change will continue to occur with or without us. That there is nothing we should do about it because it will naturally work itself out. Yes! It is true that current climate levels will fluctuate naturally over the next 100 years, even if the amount of GHG levels decreases. But, that doesn't mean that the levels of our impact would be less if man-induced emissions remained the same or increased either.

It seems as though politically we are divided on how to deal with this common enemy of greenhouse gasses and science can't seem to come to a consensus on what is truly causing it either. When it is all said and done, which side are you on? Shall we put the phones down or we will continue to simmer through our own neglect?