

## Watts Up With That?

*The world's most viewed site on global warming and climate change*

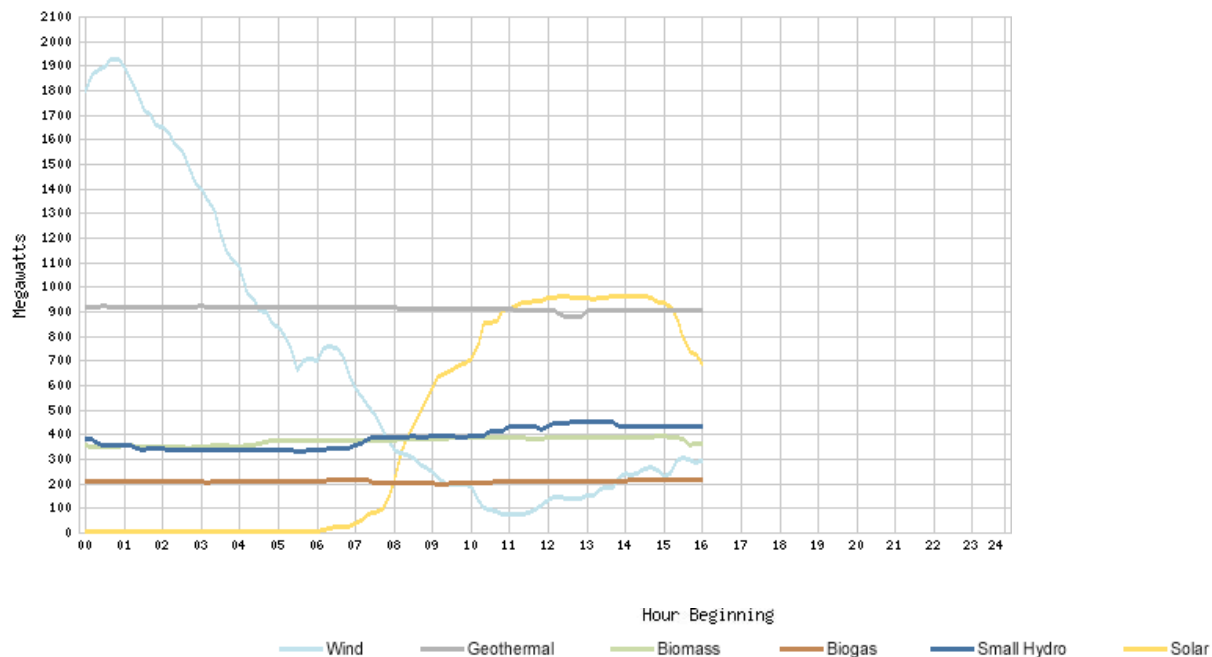
### Wind power not coming through for California – power alert issued by the CAISO

Posted on [August 9, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

I called the media support line for this [press release](#) issues today, to ask a couple of questions, here are the answers:

1. Q: Besides the heat wave, what other factors are contributing? A: “A Natural Gas plant of 775 megawatts went offline last night. The San Onofre nuclear plant remains offline with no restart scheduled.”
2. Q: Where is wind power in all of this, is it performing? A: “Well as you know, wind has to blow for wind power to be effective. “

The graph from CAISO tells the story, wind power has tumbled when it is most needed:



Of course, renewables are a drop in the bucket compared to the total demand seen [here](#).

### California ISO Declares Flex-Alert Statewide

With a major heat wave bearing down on California, the ISO is declaring a Flex Alert tomorrow through August 12.

[Continue reading →](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



Posted in [energy](#), [natural gas](#), [nuclear power](#), [wind power](#) | [36 Comments](#)

## Of Coconuts, the Sun, and Small Isolated Islands

Posted on [August 9, 2012](#) by [Willis Eschenbach](#)

### Guest Post by Willis Eschenbach

For a few years, I managed a combination of businesses on a very remote 100 hectare (250 acre) South Pacific island. The main businesses were a shipyard; a machine shop building aluminum boats and water tanks; a banking agency; a postal agency; a buying point for locals selling copra (dried coconut), beche-de-mer (sea cucumber), and trocus shell; and a trade store. About 80 acres of the island were planted to coconut, which was harvested and sold. In addition to getting into the 1000-Metre Sweat and the Two-Month Wait as Olympic events, I learned a lot about the logistics and the economics of running a business on an island in the middle of nowhere. The operation was, of course, diesel-powered. You can't run a big lathe on a few batteries and some solar panels. So I know the problems of supplying fuel in remote islands in the most intimate and personal way, because I was the person who had to arrange the fuel supply, the guy who took the heat when it ran short. I have also looked very, very closely at the economics of coconut oil as an energy source.

As a result, I was both glad and sad to see that the island nation of Tokelau was switching their entire energy system to solar power plus coconut oil ... because Tokelau is definitely in the middle of nowhere ...



*Figure 1. Where on Earth is Tokelau? Australia is at the lower left, and New Zealand is at the bottom center. Papua New Guinea is at the upper left. Tokelau is at the upper right.*

Let me explain why I have mixed feelings about the changeover to the two alternative fuels, solar and coconut oil.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Biomass](#), [solar](#) | Tagged [coconuts](#), [New Zealand Aid](#), [small island states](#), [tokelau](#) | [65 Comments](#)

## Cliff Mass pans Hansen's PNAS paper

Posted on [August 9, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Cliff writes to me to tell me about this essay: [Climate Distortion](#). I'm happy to draw attention to it.

He writes:

This week, with great fanfare, NASA scientist James Hansen and associates released a paper “**The Perception of Climate Change**” in the journal PNAS that claims that recent heat waves and droughts were caused by human-induced climate change. To quote their abstract:

*” It follows that we can state, with a high degree of confidence, that extreme anomalies such as those in Texas and Oklahoma in 2011 and Moscow in 2010 were a consequence of global warming because their likelihood in the absence of global warming was exceedingly small.”*

This paper (found [here](#)) has been quoted in hundreds, if not thousands, of media outlets and newspapers and has garnered the praise of many environmental advocacy groups.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [James Hansen](#), [media](#) | Tagged [Cliff Mass](#), [James Hansen](#), [NASA](#), [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America](#) | [32 Comments](#)

## **A fascinating new interview with Prof Richard Muller, quote: On Climategate – “What they did was, I think, shameful. And it was scientific malpractice”**

Posted on [August 9, 2012](#) by [Barry Woods](#)

### **Guest Post by Barry Woods**

The Progressive Radio Network website had a fascinating interview with Prof Richard Muller last week following his ‘man of the moment’ opinion piece - “The Conversion of a Climate Change Sceptic” in the New York Times (28th July 2012). This is how the interview was trailed, just a few days afterwards and was presumably it was thought of as quite a scoop.

*“The “man of the moment” on climate change will join us – Dr. Richard Muller of BEST (Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature) and a physics professor at UC Berkeley has made headlines this week with his op-ed acknowledging that not only is climate change real, but that humans are “almost entirely the cause”. Muller’s research is funded in part by the Koch Brothers so this should be interesting.” – [Progressive Radio Network 1st August 2012](#)*

What I found fascinating about the interview, was that the interviewers did not seem quite prepared for his scepticism on a number of issues that followed, not least what I think can only be described as his repetition of his earlier ([Oct 2010](#)) damning criticism of the scientists involved in the climategate emails. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Al Gore](#), [Alarmism](#), [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature](#), [Climategate](#), [heat wave](#), [hurricanes](#), [tornadoes](#), [weather](#) | Tagged [Al Gore](#), [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature](#), [climate change](#), [Climatic Research Unit email controversy](#), [global warming](#), [Michael Mann](#), [Richard Muller](#), [University of East Anglia](#) | [57 Comments](#)

## **Not Quite Friday Funny – Hansen’s hot product**

Posted on [August 9, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Josh is in fine form today, saying: “New Hansen cartoon.. a bit of a mix a whole load of news stories together and see what happens cartoon.”

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Humor](#), [James Hansen](#), [satire](#) | [20 Comments](#)

## An 'inconvenient result' – July 2012 not a record breaker according to data from the new NOAA/NCDC U.S. Climate Reference Network

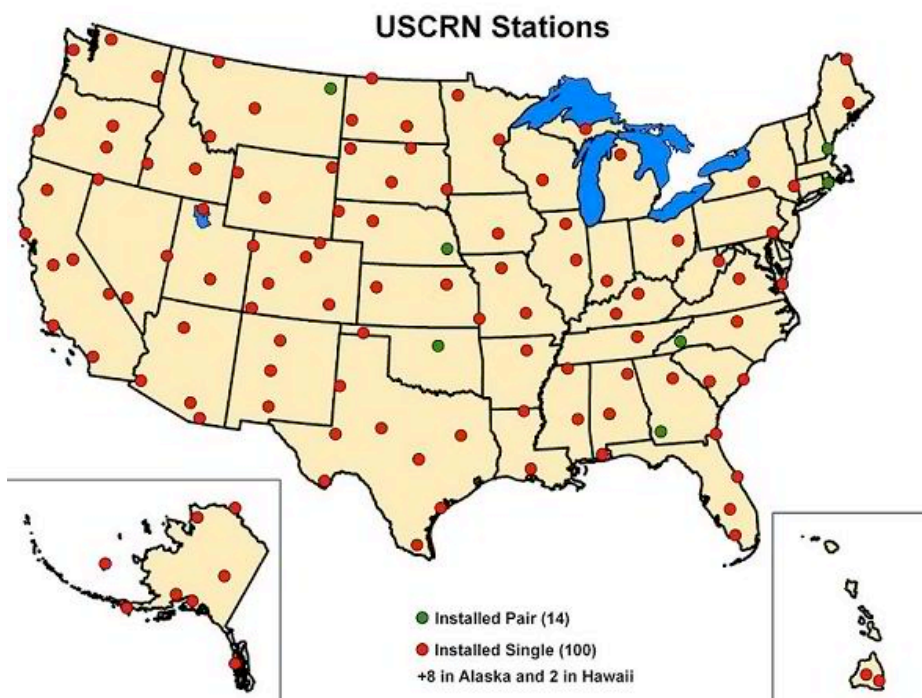
Posted on [August 8, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

I decided to do myself something that so far NOAA has refused to do: give a CONUS average temperature for the United States from the new 'state of the art' United States Climate Reference Network (USCRN). After spending millions of dollars to put in this new network from 2002 to 2008, they are still giving us data from the old one when they report a U.S. national average temperature. As readers may recall, I have [demonstrated](#) that old COOP/USHCN network used to monitor U.S. climate is a mishmash of urban, semi-urban, rural, airport and non-airport stations, some of which are sited precariously in observers backyards, parking lots, near air conditioner vents, airport tarmac, and in urban heat islands. This is backed up by the [2011 GAO report](#), spurred by my work.

Here is [today's press release from NOAA](#), "State of the Climate" for July 2012 where they say:

*The average temperature for the contiguous U.S. during July was 77.6°F, 3.3°F above the 20th century average, marking the hottest July and the hottest month on record for the nation. The previous warmest July for the nation was July 1936 when the average U.S. temperature was 77.4°F. The warm July temperatures contributed to a record-warm first seven months of the year and the warmest 12-month period the nation has experienced since recordkeeping began in 1895.*

OK, that *average temperature for the contiguous U.S. during July* is easy to replicate and calculate using NOAA's USCRN network of stations, shown below:



Map of the 114 climate stations in the USCRN, note the even distribution.

In case you aren't familiar with his network and why it exists, let me cite NOAA/NCDC's reasoning for its creation. From the [USCRN overview page](#):

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [climate data](#), [USCRN](#), [weather stations](#) | Tagged [Climate Reference Network](#), [Contiguous United States](#), [National Climatic Data Center](#), [National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration](#), [NOAA](#), [State of the Climate](#), [temperature](#) | [190 Comments](#)

## Dear NOAA and Seth, which 1930's were you comparing to when you say July 2012 is the record warmest?

Posted on August 8, 2012 by [Anthony Watts](#)

The press release is out, and the usual serial bloviators are rushing to trumpet the news. July 2012 was the hottest ever on record! "Yikes! We're gonna roast! Global Warming!" they wail on Twitter and blogs. The driver of this is AP's Seth Borenstein, who never met a hot story he didn't like. Here's a quote from that story [Ouch July in US was hottest ever in history books](#):

*The average temperature last month was 77.6 degrees. That breaks the old record from July 1936 by 0.2 degree, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Records go back to 1895.*

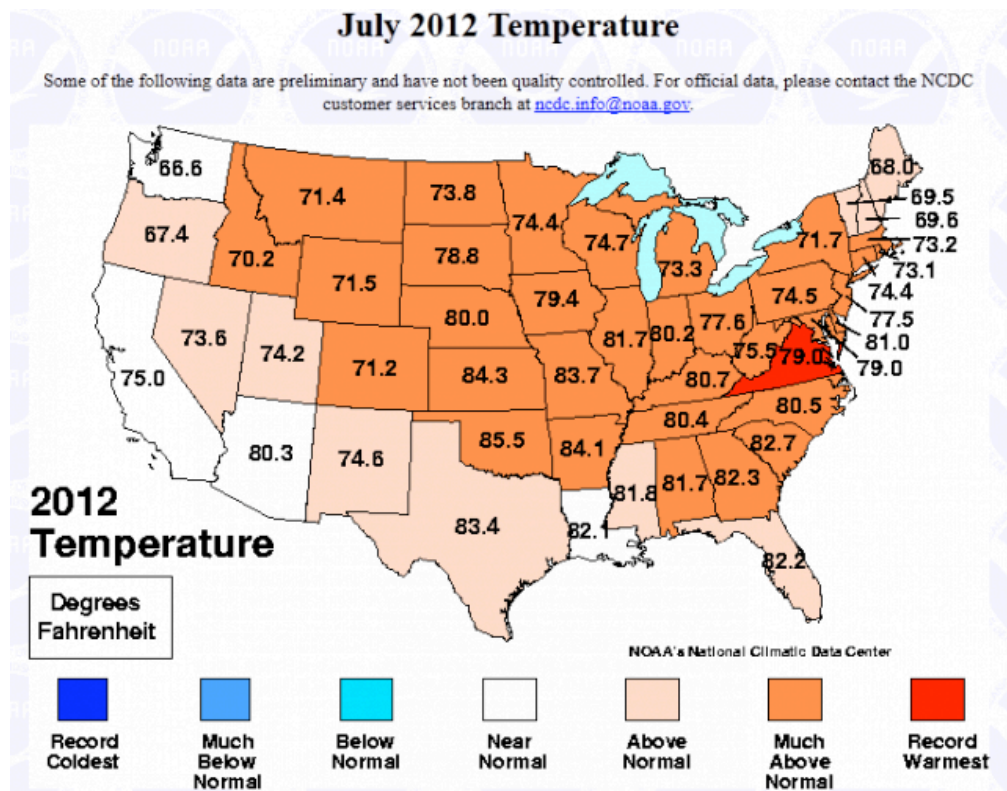
...



*Three of the nation's five hottest months on record have been recent Julys: This year, 2011 and 2006. Julys in 1936 and 1934 round out the top five.*

Of course the first thing I do when I see these sorts of things is go look at the data. It tells a far more interesting and credible story. Here's some graphs NCDC and Seth won't ever put in a press release or AP story:

From [NCDC's Climate at a glance page](#):



Now let's compare to July 1936: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [climate data](#), [heat wave](#), [records](#), [weather](#) | Tagged [associated press](#), [Dust Bowl](#), [Instrumental temperature record](#), [National Climatic Data Center](#), [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), [Steve McIntyre](#) | 80 Comments

## About that missing USHCNv2 data...

Posted on [August 8, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Some correspondence from NCDC on that missing data from 2008 to the present:

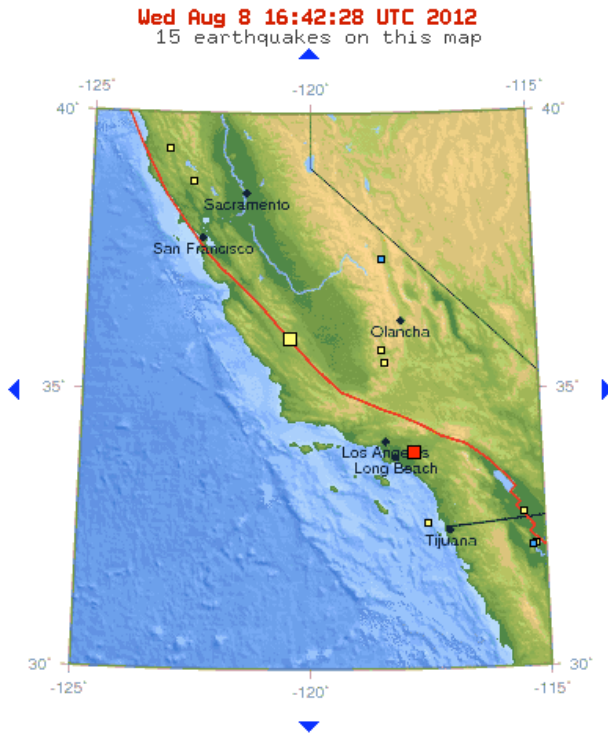
[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [National Climatic Data Center](#), [NCDC](#), [USHCN](#) | 8 Comments

## M4.1 Earthquake in Los Angeles area

Posted on [August 8, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From [USGS](#):



## Earthquake Details

- This event has been reviewed by a seismologist. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [earth](#), [Earthquakes](#) | Tagged [earthquake](#), [Greater Los Angeles Area](#), [Los Angeles](#), [United States Geological Survey](#), [Yorba Linda California](#) | [36 Comments](#)

## Quote of the Week – Harry Reid’s Cherry Blossom Picking: FAIL

Posted on [August 8, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



Senator Harry Reid’s Press Release: [Time To Stop Acting Like Climate Change Deniers Have A Valid Point Of View – They Don’t](#)



*'If skeptics had taken a stroll along Potomac River on a 70-degree day this Feb., they would have seen cherry trees blossoming earlier than at any time since they were planted 100 years ago'*

Umm, no. Let's go to the data... [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Climate FAIL](#), [politics](#), [Quote of the Week](#) | Tagged [Cherry blossom](#), [climate change](#), [National Park Service](#), [Senator Harry Reid](#), [Senator James Inhofe](#), [Washington DC](#) | [109 Comments](#)

## Earth, with some MSG added

Posted on [August 8, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



MSG-3 first image of Earth, acquired on 7 August 2012 by its Spinning Enhanced Visible and Infrared Imager (SEVIRI). Click to download a large image, the detail is stunning.

PR 25 2012 – Today, the Spinning Enhanced Visible and Infrared Imager (SEVIRI) instrument on MSG-3 captured its first image of the Earth (August 7th). This demonstrates that Europe's latest geostationary weather satellite, launched on 5 July, is performing well and is on its way to taking over operational service after six months of commissioning.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [space](#), [Technology](#) | Tagged [EUMETSAT](#), [European Space Agency](#), [Meteosat](#), [Weather satellite](#) | [45 Comments](#)

## Editorial: 'Hansen is simply wrong' and 'his hypothesis is a complete and abject failure'

Posted on [August 7, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

**UPDATE: 9:55 AM PDT 8/8/12** A graph of Palmer Drought Severity Index -vs- GISTEMP data has been added

from Dr. Michaels. Looks like another “GISS miss”.

There’s a lot of blowback against James Hansen’s recent (non tested) PNAS paper, trying to link weather and climate, [covered here on WUWT](#). Even NOAA scientist Dr. Martin Hoerling is panning it. This [from The NYT](#):

Dr. Hoerling contended that Dr. Hansen’s new paper confuses drought, caused primarily by a lack of rainfall, with heat waves.

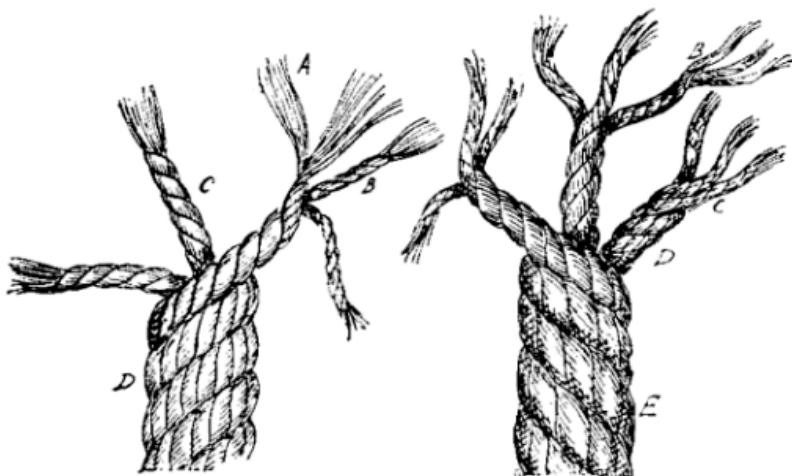
***“This isn’t a serious science paper,” Dr. Hoerling said. “It’s mainly about perception, as indicated by the paper’s title. Perception is not a science.”***

Here’s a short editorial by Dr. Pat Michaels, former Virginia State Climatologist: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [James Hansen](#), [NASA GISS](#), [Opinion](#) | Tagged [Goddard Institute for Space Studies](#), [James Hansen](#), [Patrick Michaels](#), [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America](#) | [147 Comments](#)

## Open Thread Tuesday

Posted on [August 7, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



Traveling today. Moderators feel free to post any breaking news items.

Posted in [Open Thread](#) | [54 Comments](#)

## Letter: Climate change and the Tooth Fairy

Posted on [August 7, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

## Sam Outcalt: Climate change and the Tooth Fairy

08/06/2012 09:18:37 AM MDT The [Boulder Daily Camera](#), also submitted to WUWT.

Within Boulder County there is a strong and widespread belief that the current extreme weather events are

produced by anthropogenic global warming. Without considering the scientific merits of this theory or religion a simple consideration of the implications of its validity might be instructive.

If true, the vast expenditure of global, national, state, county and municipal funds to attenuate its effects have failed.

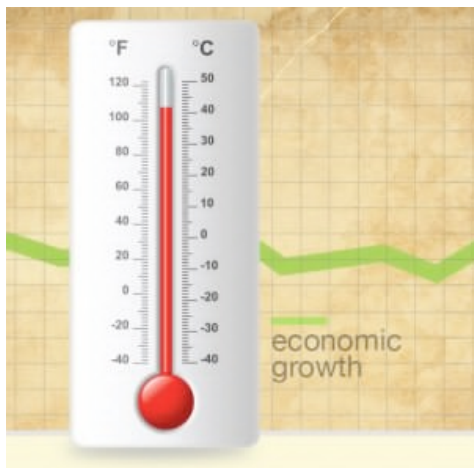
If false, the current climate shift is the result of natural processes over which mankind has no control. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [extreme weather](#), [Letters To The Editor](#) | Tagged [Boulder County Colorado](#), [climate change](#), [global warming](#), [James Hansen](#), [Longmont Colorado](#) | [59 Comments](#)

## MIT: The economic cost of increased temperatures

Posted on [August 7, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

(This is not from Lindzen I'd like to see one titled "the economic cost of colder temperatures", particularly on Agricultural effects) *Study: Warming episodes hurt poor countries and limit long-term growth.*



CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Even temporary rises in local temperatures significantly damage long-term economic growth in the world's developing nations, according to a new study co-authored by an MIT economist.

Looking at weather data over the last half-century, the study finds that every 1-degree-Celsius increase in a poor country, over the course of a given year, reduces its economic growth by about 1.3 percentage points. However, this only applies to the world's developing nations; wealthier countries do not appear to be affected by the variations in temperature.

"Higher temperatures lead to substantially lower economic growth in poor countries," says Ben Olken, a professor of economics at MIT, who helped conduct the research. And while it's relatively straightforward to see how droughts and hot weather might hurt agriculture, the study indicates that hot spells have much wider economic effects.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [economy-health](#) | Tagged [climate change](#), [Economic growth](#), [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), [MIT](#), [temperature](#) | [125 Comments](#)

## Disney research figures out "twinned rainbow" optics

Posted on [August 6, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From [Disney Research](#) (who knew?)



This computer-generated image shows a twinned rainbow at the lower right. Such rainbows have an arc that splits off from the main bow. — Jacobs School of Engineering/UCSD

## Researchers unlock secret of the rare ‘twinned rainbow’

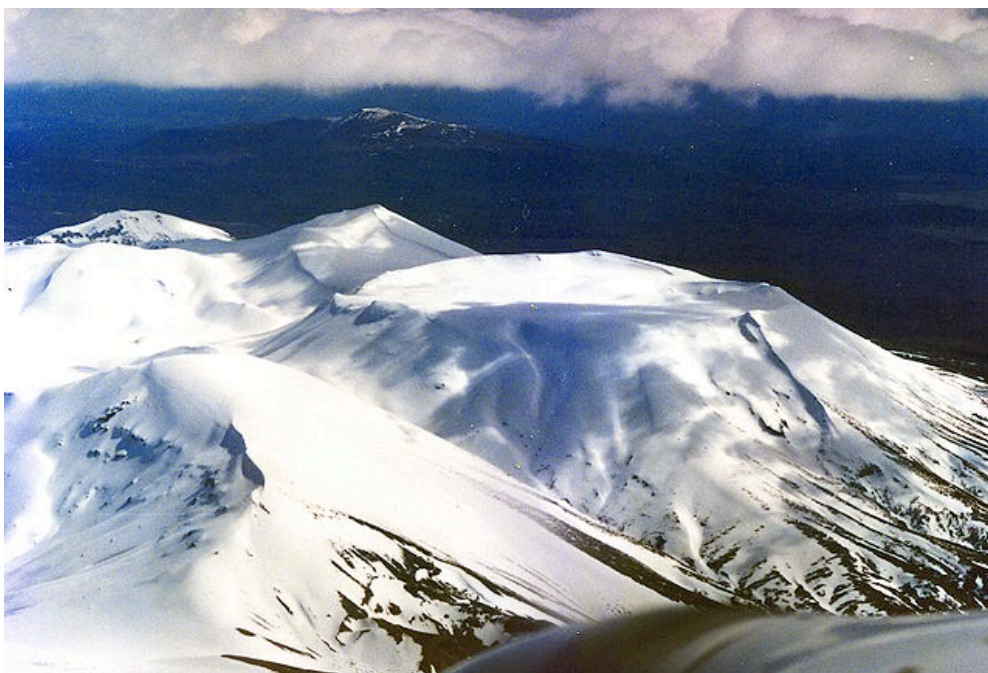
ZURICH — Scientists have yet to fully unravel the mysteries of rainbows, but a group of researchers from Disney Research, Zürich, UC San Diego, Universidad de Zaragoza, and Horley, UK, have used simulations of these natural wonders to unlock the secret to a rare optical phenomenon known as the twinned rainbow.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [optical phenonmena](#) | Tagged [Disney Research](#), [SIGGRAPH](#), [University of California San Diego](#), [Walt Disney Company](#) | [64 Comments](#)

## Surprise volcanic eruption in New Zealand

Posted on [August 6, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



Mt. Tongariro from the air. Image via Wikipedia – click for more

*The eruption had been “really unexpected”.*

*“You can measure and monitor but sometimes mother nature will do her own thing.”*

Yeah, like climate. From [stuff.co.nz](http://stuff.co.nz): (h/t to reader Dr K.A. Rodgers)

Mt Tongariro has erupted, with ash fall closing roads and prompting a potential threat warning for central North Island regions.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [volcanoes](#), [vulcanism](#) | Tagged [Mount Tongariro](#), [New Zealand](#), [volcanoes](#) | [77 Comments](#)

## NASA's James Hansen's big cherry pick

Posted on [August 6, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From NASA: [Research Links Extreme Summer Heat Events to Global Warming](#)

A new statistical analysis by NASA scientists has found that Earth's land areas have become much more likely to experience an extreme summer heat wave than they were in the middle of the 20th century. The research was published today in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.



*Earth's Northern Hemisphere over the past 30 years has seen more "hot" (orange), "very hot" (red) and "extremely hot" (brown) summers, compared to a base period defined in this study from 1951 to 1980. This visualization shows how the area experiencing "extremely hot" summers grows from nearly nonexistent during the base period to cover 12 percent of land in the Northern Hemisphere by 2011. Watch for the 2010 heat waves in Texas, Oklahoma and Mexico, or the 2011 heat waves the Middle East, Western Asia and Eastern Europe. Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Scientific Visualization Studio*

[Download hi-res visualization](#)

***Anthony comments on the NASA animation by Dr. James Hansen of surface temperature trends from 1955-1999: [Continue reading →](#)***

Posted in [extreme weather](#), [James Hansen](#) | Tagged [global warming](#), [Goddard Institute for Space Studies](#), [Hansen](#), [James Hansen](#), [NASA](#), [Northern Hemisphere](#), [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America](#) | [184 Comments](#)

## Wind Energy Is Extraordinarily Expensive And Inefficient

Posted on [August 6, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

### Press Release

**London, 6 August: The Global Warming Policy Foundations has warned policy makers that wind energy is an extraordinarily expensive and inefficient way of reducing CO2 emissions. In fact, there is a significant likelihood that annual CO2 emissions could be greater under the Government's current wind strategy than under an alternative Gas scenario.**

Professor Gordon Hughes (University of Edinburgh), on behalf of the GWPF, has also assessed the likely impact of wind power on household energy bills.

In his economic analysis, submitted by the GWPF to the House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee, Prof Hughes concludes that meeting the Government's target for renewable generation would

increase households electricity bills by 40-60% by 2020. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [123 Comments](#)

## Jo Nova's site has been hacked

Posted on [August 5, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Jo writes:

Someone broke into my site in the last hour. My web manager says he's sure it was an XSS attack. (I think that stands for cross site script.)

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [45 Comments](#)

## NASA's 7 minutes of terror tonight – more than a curiosity

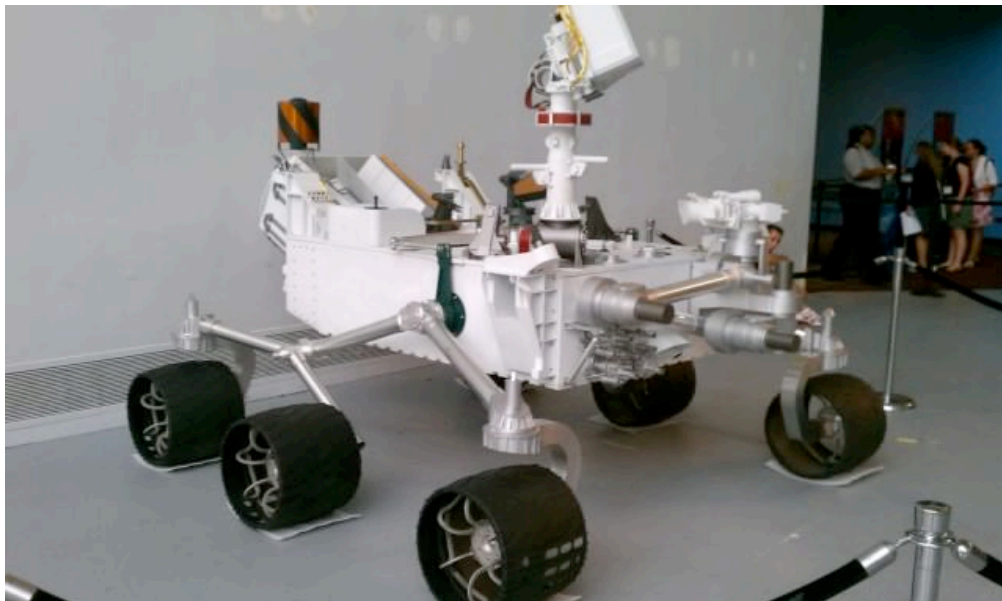
Posted on [August 5, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

**UPDATE:** Touchdown confirmed! Congratulations NASA JPL! First image received. See below.

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I thought I'd take a minute to advise you that some real science and engineering that will be seen from NASA tonight rather than the [politically motivated science](#) from scientist turned [arrested activist Dr. James Hansen](#) in the latest [NASA GISS claim distributed via AP's compliant repeater, Seth Borenstein](#). On the plus side, Seth at least gave a voice to the other side.

Readers may recall I [photographed and wrote about](#) the Curiosity exhibit at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum last year:



Experts at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory ( JPL ) share the challenges of Curiosity's rover final 7 minutes to landing on the surface of Mars on the 5th of August,2012 ( 10:31 US Pacific time) . *Watch the video below, well worth your time.*

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [space](#), [Technology](#) | Tagged [Jet Propulsion Laboratory](#), [Mars](#), [Mars rover](#), [Mars Science Laboratory](#), [NASA](#) | [182 Comments](#)

## Weekly Climate and Energy News Roundup

Posted on [August 5, 2012](#) by [News Staff](#)



Brought to You by SEPP ([www.SEPP.org](http://www.SEPP.org)) The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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### Quote of the Week:

*"[n]ot everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."* Einstein [H/t Michael Widlanski]

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## Number of the Week: 2

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## THIS WEEK:

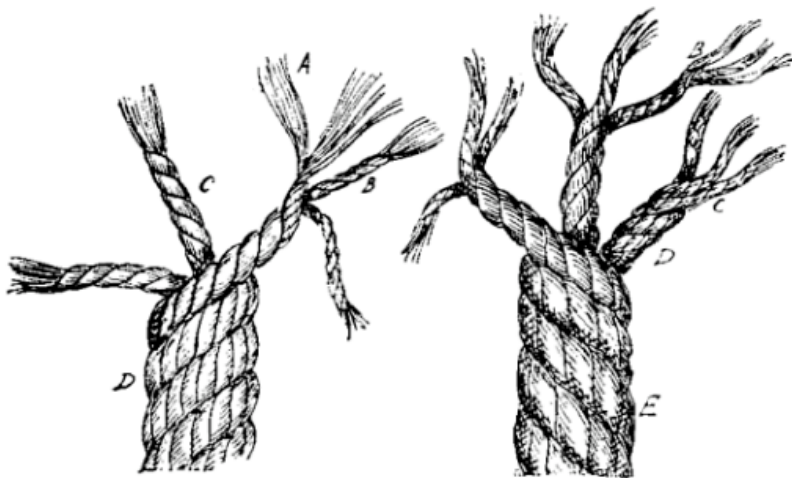
*By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)*

**The BEST Affair:** The Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) team began its announcement of new findings on Sunday with a media blitz featuring an opinion piece by team leader Richard Muller in the New York Times. The findings were posted on its web site later in the afternoon. To its great credit, BEST has posted its data set and its analysis (computer) code on its web site. This should be standard practice for organizations producing significant findings. It announced that it has submitted its studies to the Journal of Geophysical Research – Atmospheres. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Climate News Roundup](#) | Tagged [Science & Environmental Policy Project](#) | [11 Comments](#)

## Weekend Open Thread

Posted on [August 4, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



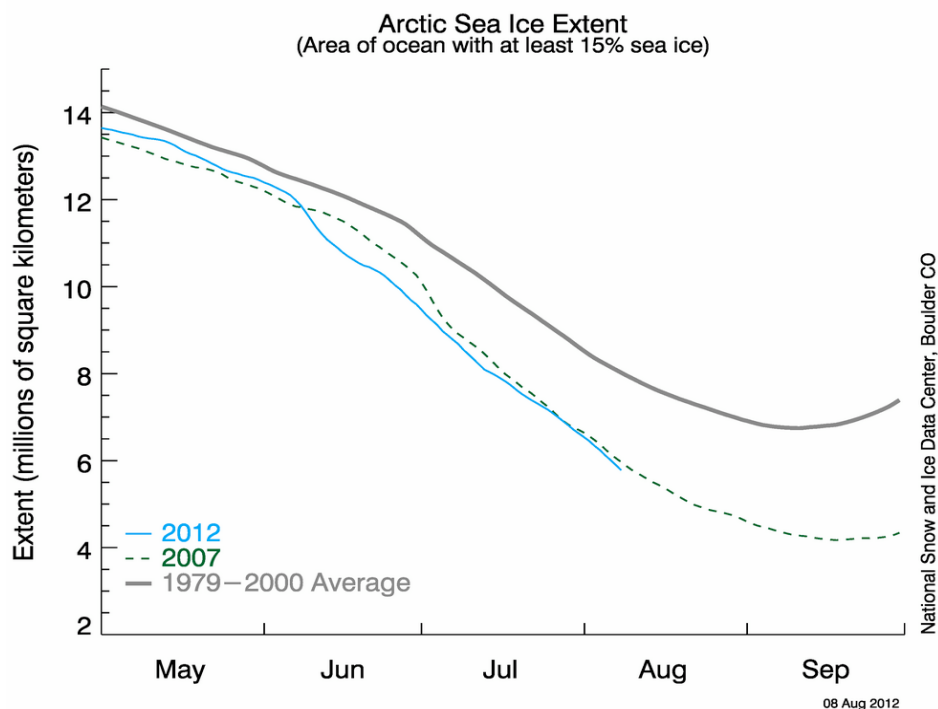
Taking a break, it has been an exhausting week. Postings resume Monday.

Be sure to vote in the [August ARCUS sea ice forecast poll](#).

Posted in [Open Thread](#) | [248 Comments](#)

## Sea Ice News – Volume 3 Number 9

Posted on [August 4, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



I don't have much time for a detailed post, a number of people want to discuss sea ice, so here is your chance. We also need to update the ARCUS forecast for August, due Monday August 6th. Poll follows: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Sea Ice News](#) | [407 Comments](#)

## Vaporizing the Earth

Posted on [August 3, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From [Washington University in St. Louis](#), and in honor of [melted globe week](#), here's one more thing for weepy Bill McKibben to worry about.



Caption: Scientists at Washington University have simulated the



atmospheres of hot Earth-like planets, such as CoRoT-7b, shown here in an artist's conception. CoRoT-7b orbits so close to its star that its starward side is an ocean of molten rock. By looking for atmospheres like those generated by the simulations, astronomers should be able to identify Earth-like exoplanets. Credit: A.. Leger/Icarus

In science fiction novels, evil overlords and hostile aliens often threaten to vaporize the Earth. At the beginning of *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*, the officiously bureaucratic aliens called Vogons, authors of the third-worst poetry in the universe, actually follow through on the threat, destroying the Earth to make way for a hyperspatial express route.

“We scientists are not content just to talk about vaporizing the Earth,” says Bruce Fegley, professor of earth and planetary sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, tongue firmly in cheek. “We want to understand exactly what it would be like if it happened.”

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Astronomy](#), [Curious things](#) | Tagged [Bill McKibben](#), [Super-Earth](#), [Terrestrial planet](#), [The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#), [Washington University](#) | [54 Comments](#)

## The secret letter UEA and CRU doesn't want us (or anybody else) to read

Posted on [August 3, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Uh oh.

Steve McIntyre has written an [eviscerating essay about a secret letter](#) circulated by the IPCC to UEA/CRU, which they are refusing to divulge, because:

*there would be an adverse effect on international relations between IPCC WG1 and academic institutions within the United Kingdom because it would force is to reconsider our working arrangements with those experts who have been selected for an active role in WG1 AR5 from your institution and others in the UK”.*

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Climategate](#), [FOI](#), [IPCC](#) | Tagged [Climatic Research Unit](#), [Climatic Research Unit email controversy](#), [East Anglia University](#), [Freedom of information legislation](#), [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), [IPCC](#), [Steve McIntyre](#), [UEA](#) | [78 Comments](#)

## Friday Funny – facts don't matter to dumpster diving journalist Fox Van Allen

Posted on [August 3, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From Senator Inhofe's office, more on the [story about the melting street lamps](#) in Oklahoma and [follow up press release](#):

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Yesterday Inhofe revealed that a dumpster fire, not global warming, was the reason for streetlight lamps to melt in Oklahoma city, yet Yahoo has failed to correct the story. The headline remains: Oklahoma is so hot that street lamps are melting <http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/technology-blog/oklahoma-hot-street-lamps-melting-203656312.html>

*Who wrote the story? **Fox Van Allen** – described on his Twitter account as: “LA-based freelance writer for Tecca and WoW Insider. Yahoo!, MSNBC, and USA Today syndicated. Editor and all-around creative. Egotistical monster. Gaymer.”*

We have asked Fox Van Allen to correct the story on Twitter. His response? Via twitter:

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Alarmism](#), [Humor](#), [satire](#) | Tagged [Fox Van Allen](#), [Jim Inhofe](#), [Matt Dempsey](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Street light](#), [United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works](#) | [104 Comments](#)

## An uncorrected assumption in BEST's station quality paper

Posted on [August 3, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

I noted with a chuckle today, this statement over at the [California Academy of Sciences “Climate Change Blog”](#):

*I think that we all need to be careful of not falling into the unqualified and inexperienced morass characterized by vessels like Anthony Watts. – [Peter D. Roopnarine](#)*

Seeing that compliment, and since we are having so much fun this week reviewing papers online and [watching street lamps melt due to posited global warming](#), this seemed like a good time to bring this up. I’ve been sitting on this little gem for a year now, and it is finally time to point it out since nobody seems to have caught it.

I expected that after the peer review BEST been though (and failed), that this would have been fixed. Nope. I thought after the media blitzes it would have been fixed. Nope. I thought that after they submitted it to *The Third Santa Fe Conference on Global and Regional Climate Change* somebody would point it out and fix it. Nope. I thought after I pointed it out in Watts et al 2012 draft paper, *surely* one of the BEST co-authors would fix it. Still nope.

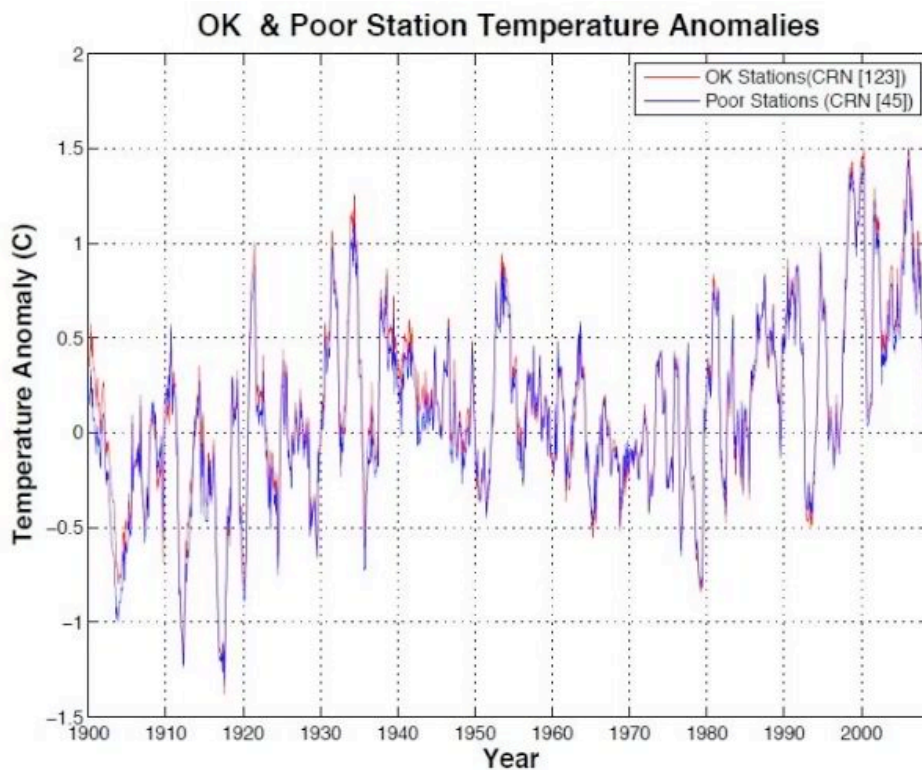
The assumption error I spotted last year still exists in the May 20th edition of the BEST paper **Earth Atmospheric Land Surface Temperature and Station Quality in the Contiguous United States** by *Richard A. Muller, Jonathan Wurtele, Robert Rohde, Robert Jacobsen, Saul Perlmutter, Arthur Rosenfeld, Judith Curry, Donald Groom, Charlotte Wickham*: 2012, Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature Project (online [here](#) PDF).

From line 32 of the abstract:

*A histogram study of the temperature trends in groupings of stations in the NOAA categories shows no statistically significant disparity between stations ranked “OK” (CRN 1, 2, 3) and stations ranked as “Poor”(CRN 4, 5).*

From the analysis:

FIG. 4. Temperature estimates for the contiguous United States, based on the classification of station quality of Fall et al. (2011) of the USHCN temperature stations, using the Berkeley Earth temperature reconstruction method described in Rohde et al. (2011). The stations ranked CRN 1, 2 or 3 are plotted in red and the poor stations (ranked 4 or 5) are plotted in blue.



Did you catch it? It is the simplest of assumption errors possible, yet it is obvious, and renders the paper fatally flawed in my opinion. Answer below. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature, surfacestations paper](#) | Tagged [BEST](#), [California Academy of Sciences](#), [Climate Reference Network](#), [Judith Curry](#), [Richard Muller](#), [USHCN](#) | 132 Comments

**There might possibly could be a chance of danger! Thunderstorms!**

Posted on [August 2, 2012](#) by [Willis Eschenbach](#)

**Guest Post by Willis Eschenbach**

Thunderstorms are one of my main interests, so I read up on a study by some Harvard researchers that has been receiving all kinds of attention in the blogosphere. Unfortunately, it's another "could, might, possibly, chance of" study. The YaleGlobal Online blog of the venerable Yale University [quotes](#) the Christian Science Monitor as saying:

***Summer Thunderstorms Could Be Punching New Holes in Ozone Layer***

*Harvard study looking at conditions in the lower stratosphere, where the ozone layer resides, suggests a link between climate change and amount of ultraviolet radiation reaching Earth's surface*

"Could be" punching new holes in the ozone layer? "Suggests a link"??

The paper is called "*UV Dosage Levels in Summer: Increased Risk of Ozone Loss from Convectively Injected Water Vapor*", by James G. Anderson et al. (Paywalled [here](#), hereinafter Anderson 2012). Here's their money graph, showing the how high the water vapor reaches into the atmosphere over the US.

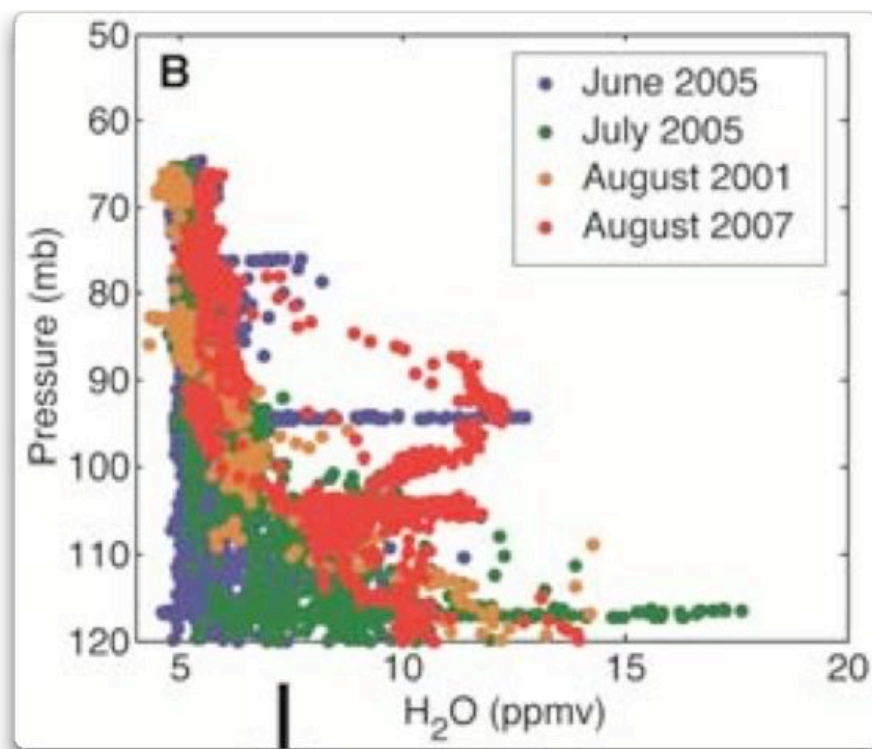


Figure 1, from Anderson2012. Original caption says: **Fig. 1(B)** Observations of water vapor in the summertime over the US show numerous occurrences in the range of 10 to 18 ppmv reaching pressure altitudes deep into the stratosphere.

So why is there a possibility that it might happen that there could be a chance of a risk of danger from thunderstorms injecting water into the stratosphere as they've been doing since forever? Or as they trumpet it in the title of their study, why are they sure that there is an "Increased Risk of Ozone Loss"?

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [ozone](#), [thunderstorms](#) | Tagged [Ozone layer](#), [stratosphere](#), [Ultraviolet](#), [Water vapor](#), [YaleGlobal Online](#) | [108 Comments](#)

## Inhofe Exposes Another Epic Fail by Global Warming Alarmists Thursday

Posted on [August 2, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

### PRESS RELEASE August 2, 2012

Contact:

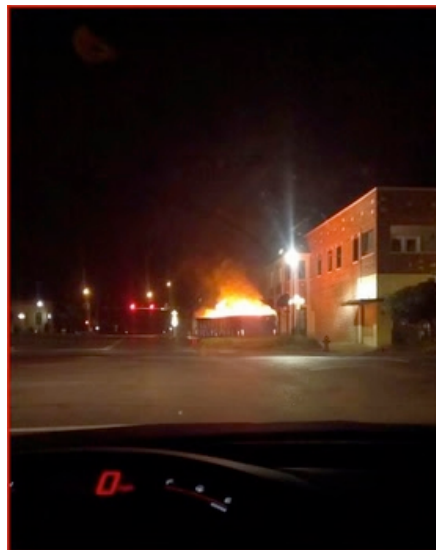
Matt Dempsey [Matt\\_Dempsey@epw.senate.gov](mailto:Matt_Dempsey@epw.senate.gov)

Katie Brown [Katie\\_Brown@epw.senate.gov](mailto:Katie_Brown@epw.senate.gov)

### Inhofe Exposes Another Epic Fail by Global Warming Alarmists



*Photo Posted by KFOR and Think Progress*





[Click Here for Larger Photo](#)

*The dumpster fire that caused the melting lights*

*Photo Provided by KFOR*

[Link to Think Progress Blog Post](#)

[Link to Watts Up With That: Alarmist fact checking – street lights don't melt at 115°F](#)

[Link to Press Release](#)

Washington, D.C. – Today the far-left blog *Think Progress* posted a photo (originally posted on KFOR's facebook page) of street lights in Oklahoma that had melted, they claimed, because of extreme heat. Global warming alarmist Bill McKibben took to Twitter immediately to publicize what he believed to be proof of global warming, tweeting to Senator James Inhofe (Okla.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, "Senator Inhofe, God may be trying to get your attention. Check out this picture." [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Alarmism](#) | Tagged [Bill McKibben](#), [global warming](#), [Jim Inhofe](#), [John Christy](#), [Matt Dempsey](#), [Oklahoma](#), [United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works](#), [Washington DC](#) [Washington DC](#) | [249 Comments](#)

## Alarmist fact checking – street lights don't melt at 115°F

Posted on [August 2, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Tom Nelson posts this hilarious rush to connect a hot day to CO2 induced heat.

[Oops: Before learning the real cause \(dumpster fire\), lots of alarmists rush to blame carbon dioxide for a couple of melted streetlights](#)

**UPDATE:** [Photo of the dumpster fire found, see below.](#)

[Twitter / Stphn\\_Lacey: In Oklahoma, it's so hot the ...](#)

*[retweeted by Michael Tobis] In Oklahoma, it's so hot the streetlights are melting:  
<http://bit.ly/N1xUPB>*



**Stephen Lacey**  
[@Stphn\\_Lacey](#)



In Oklahoma, it's so hot the streetlights are melting: [bit.ly/N1xUPB](http://bit.ly/N1xUPB)

[Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#)

[Twitter / ClimateReality\(Al Gore\): Hey Senator @InhofePress, even ...](#)

*Hey Senator @InhofePress, even your streetlights are saying #ImTooHot <http://ow.ly/cHbX4>*



**Climate Reality** ✓  
@ClimateReality



Hey Senator @InhofePress, even your  
streetlights are saying #ImTooHot [ow.ly/cHbX4](http://ow.ly/cHbX4)

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite

[Twitter / billmckibben: Sen Inhofe, God may be trying ...](#)

*Sen Inhofe, God may be trying to get your attention. Check out this picture  
<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2012/08/02/630211/in-oklahoma-its-so-hot-the-street-lights-are-melting/> ... **[Now-deleted Climate Progress post] In Oklahoma, It's So Hot The Street Lights Are Melting***

*from [Climate Progress](#) by Stephen Lacey (picture follows)*

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Alarmism](#), [heat wave](#) | Tagged [Climate Progress](#), [Jim Inhofe](#), [Michael Tobis](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Tom Nelson](#), [Twitter](#) | [70 Comments](#)

## An Invitation

Posted on [August 2, 2012](#) by [REP](#)

Readers will remember that at the end of March Anthony hosted a small dinner for the moderation staff and writers at a restaurant in San Francisco and posted about it [here](#). A number of us couldn't make it, so I proposed a summer-time get-together for those of us on the East Coast at my home on the Connecticut shore.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Announcements](#), [fun\\_stuff](#) | Tagged [WUWT East Coasters Picnic](#) | [66 Comments](#)

## Update on Watts et al. 2012

Posted on [August 2, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

My sincere thanks to everyone who has provided widespread review of our draft paper. There have been hundreds of suggestions and corrections submitted in comments and in email, and for that I am very grateful. That sort of input is exactly what we hoped for, and such input can only make the paper better, and so far it has.

[Continue reading →](#)

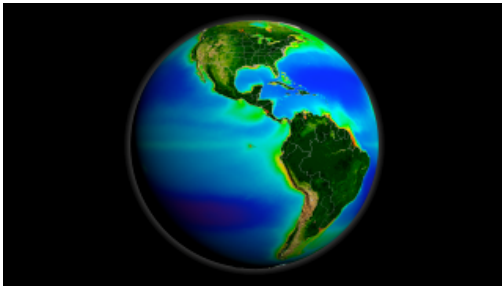
Posted in [Watts et al 2012](#) | Tagged [Journal of Geophysical Research](#), [National Climatic Data Center](#), [Peer review](#), [Steve Mosher](#), [Zeke Hausfather](#) | [81 Comments](#)

## Earth's CO2 sinks increasing their uptake

Posted on [August 2, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Readers may recall these WUWT stories: [Earth's biosphere booming](#), [California's giant redwoods inconveniently respond to increased carbon dioxide](#), and [Forget deforestation: The world's woodland is getting denser and change could help combat climate change](#). NASA satellite imagery pointed this out long ago.

Now confirmation from another source: From the [University of Colorado at Boulder](#)



The SeaWiFS instrument aboard the Seastar satellite has been collecting ocean data since 1997. By monitoring the color of reflected light via satellite, scientists can determine how successfully plant life is photosynthesizing. A measurement of photosynthesis is essentially a measurement of successful growth, and growth means successful use of ambient carbon. This animation shows an average of 10 years worth of SeaWiFS data. Dark blue represents warmer areas where there tends to be a lack of nutrients, and greens and reds represent cooler nutrient-rich areas which support life. The nutrient-rich areas include coastal regions where cold water rises from the sea floor bringing nutrients along and areas at the mouths of rivers where the rivers have brought nutrients into the ocean from the land.

### Earth absorbing more carbon, even as CO2 emissions rise, says CU-Boulder-led study

*Planet's carbon uptake doubles in past 50 years, researchers ponder how long trend can continue*

Despite sharp increases in carbon dioxide emissions by humans in recent decades that are warming the planet, Earth's vegetation and oceans continue to soak up about half of them, according to a surprising new study led by the University of Colorado Boulder.

The study, led by CU-Boulder postdoctoral researcher Ashley Ballantyne, looked at global CO2 emissions reports from the past 50 years and compared them with rising levels of CO2 in Earth's atmosphere during that time, primarily because of fossil fuel burning. The results showed that while CO2 emissions had quadrupled, natural carbon "sinks" that sequester the greenhouse gas doubled their uptake in the past 50 years, lessening the warming impacts on Earth's climate. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Carbon dioxide](#), [carbon sequestration](#) | Tagged [Carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere](#), [Scripps Institution of Oceanography](#), [University of Colorado Boulder](#) | [234 Comments](#)

## Video: John Christy's stellar testimony today – 'The recent anomalous weather can't be blamed on carbon dioxide.'

Posted on [August 1, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

time to watch.

From The Senate EPW [Jim Inhofe Press Office](#), well worth your

Dr. John Christy, Alabama's State Climatologist, Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Earth System Science



Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville testified before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing on global warming and stated:

*“During the heat wave of late June and early July, high temperature extremes became newsworthy. Claims that there were thousands of records broken each day and that “this is what global warming looks like” got a lot of attention.*

*However, these headlines were not based on climate science. As shown in Figure 1.3 of my testimony it is scientifically more accurate to say that this is what Mother Nature looks like, since events even worse than these have happened in the past before*

*greenhouse gases were increasing like they are today.*

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Carbon dioxide](#), [extreme weather](#), [politics](#) | Tagged [global warming](#), [John Christy](#), [University of Alabama in Huntsville](#) | [150 Comments](#)

## Pielke Jr. demolishes IPCC Lead Author Senate EPW testimony

Posted on August 1, 2012 by [Anthony Watts](#)

Dr. Roger Pielke jr. writes:

IPCC Lead Author Misleads US Congress



The politicization of climate science is so complete that the lead author of the IPCC's Working Group II on climate impacts feels comfortable presenting testimony to the US Congress that fundamentally misrepresents what the IPCC has concluded. I am referring to testimony given today by Christopher Field, a professor at Stanford, to the US Senate.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [IPCC](#), [politics](#) | Tagged [Christopher Field](#), [climate change](#), [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), [IPCC](#), [US Senate](#) | [93 Comments](#)

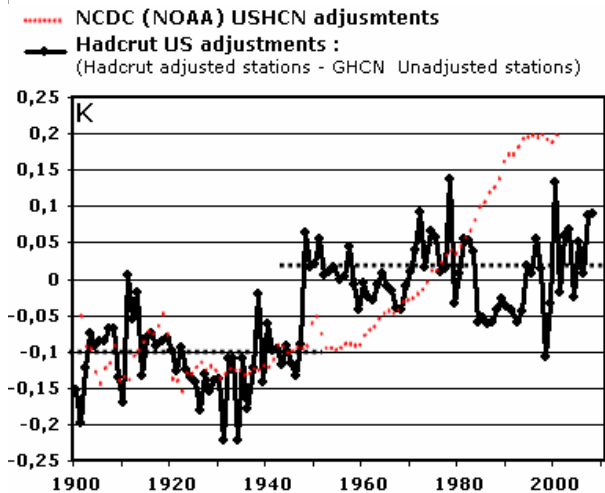
## A comparison of adjusted -vs- unadjusted surface data

Posted on August 1, 2012 by Anthony Watts

Frank Lansner sends word of this paper in progress, relevant to the current discussions on the U.S. surface temperature record, and writes:

*In the attached article of mine I make an estimate of Hadcrut's adjustments to us temperature data over the years.*

*They do not really resemble NOAA's adjustments:*



*- As if Hadcrut finds reason to step-change in 1946 while NOAA don't. And NOAA's (mostly TOBS) issues are supposed to take place around 1970-90, but this is not confirmed by Hadcrut. – Frank*

Here's the full paper in progress:

### USA TEMPERATURE DEVELOPMENT 1880-2010 FROM UNADJUSTED GHCN V2 DATA

**By Frank Lansner, Civil engineer Chemistry**

*Software engineer (SAP), Novo Nordic IT, Bagsvaerd, Denmark*

*This paper is part of the RUTI project, described further: <http://hidethedecline.eu/pages/ruti.php>*

### ABSTRACT

Temperature records worldwide are used to estimate a warming signal due to increase of CO<sub>2</sub> and are thus key parameters when deciding an appropriate climate policy. Despite the fact that the contiguous USA has the best availability of temperature data in the world, there is a large difference between recent [2] and earlier [1] published temperature data from GISS. This raises questions about the robustness of data.



The USA temperature trend calculated from unadjusted Global Historical Climate Network (GHCN) data shows the 1930s as the warmest decade, around 0,2 K warmer than 2000-2009. The calculated temperature trend is based on data from 826 stations, and is virtually identical to that of Hansen et al. 1999 [1].

The calculated temperature trend 1930-2010 is around 0,5 K colder than the updated 2011 GISS US temperature trend [2], and around 0,4 K Colder than temperature trend calculated from Hadcrut stations in USA.

The increased warming trend found in the Hadcrut data appears to originate more due to the choice of temperature stations used than due to adjustments of station data.

**Keywords:** temperature adjustments, temperature stations, anthropogenic climate impacts

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [39 Comments](#)

## John Christy's Testimony before the Senate EPW today

Posted on [August 1, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

*Watts et al gets a mention.*

### 3. NEW INFORMATION ON SURFACE TEMPERATURE PROCESSES

In general, the issue of global warming is dominated by considering the near-surface air temperature ( $T_{sfc}$ ) as if it were a standard by which one might measure the climate impact of the extra warming due to increases in greenhouse gases. Fundamentally, the proper variable to measure is heat content, or the amount of heat energy (measured in joules) in the climate system, mainly in the oceans and atmosphere. Thus the basic measurement for detecting greenhouse warming is how many more joules of energy are accumulating in the climate system over that which would have occurred naturally. This is a truly “wicked” problem (see House Testimony, Dr. Judith Curry, 17 Nov 2010) because we do not know how much accumulation can occur naturally.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [politics](#), [Watts et al 2012](#) | [63 Comments](#)

## Senate EPW hearing on global warming tomorrow

Posted on [July 31, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



On Wednesday at 10AM ET (7AM PT) the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will conduct a [hearing](#) on (take your pick) global warming climate change climate disruption. Dr. John Christy will be there, but it is confirmed that Dr. Richard Muller of BEST will NOT be testifying. From what I hear it will be webcast, details below.

It is called: **“Update on the Latest Climate Change Science and Local Adaptation Measures.”**

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [John Christy](#), [Senate Environment and Public Works Committee](#), [United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works](#), [University of Alabama in Huntsville](#) | [75 Comments](#)

## Watts et al paper 2nd discussion thread

Posted on [July 31, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

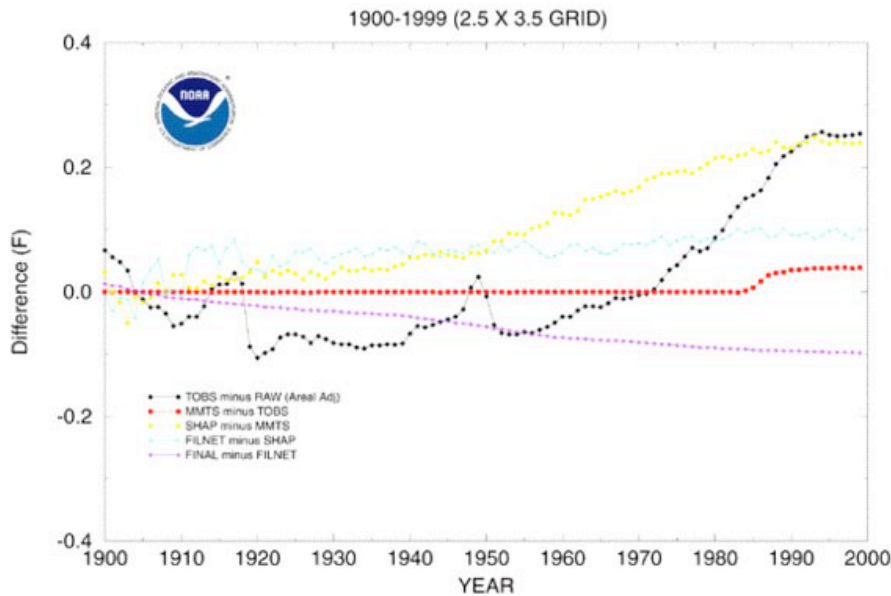
The first [press release announcement thread](#) is getting big and unwieldy, and some commenters can't finish loading the thread, so I'm providing this one with some updates.

1. Thanks to everyone who has provided widespread review of our draft paper. There have been hundreds of suggestions and corrections, and for that I am very grateful. That's exactly what we hoped for, and can only make the paper better.

Edits are being made based on many of those suggestions. I'll post up a revised draft in the next day.

2. Some valid criticisms have been made related to the issue of the TOBS data. This is a preliminary set of data, with corrections added for the “Time of Observation” which can in some cases result in double max-min readings being counted if not corrected for. It makes up a significant portion of adjustments prior to homogenization adjustments as seen below in this older USHCN1 graphic. TOBS is the black dotted line.

## STEPWISE DIFFERENCES DUE TO USHCN ADJUSTMENTS



- Black line is a time of observation adjustment, adding about 0.3C since 1940
- Light Blue line is a missing data adjustment that does not affect the data much since 1940
- Red line is an adjustment for measurement technologies, adding about 0.05C since 1940
- Yellow line is station location quality adjustment, adding about 0.2C since 1940
- Purple line is an urban heat island adjustment, subtracting about 0.05C since 1950.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Watts et al 2012](#) | Tagged [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature](#), [USHCN](#) | 376 Comments

## In other news..."Ten Reasons Why Fracking is (not) Doomed"

Posted on [July 31, 2012](#) by [David Middleton](#)

### Guest Post by David Middleton

I ran across a really funny story on [Real Clear Energy](#) last Friday...

Once you get past all of the nonsense about fracking polluting groundwater and global warming hysteria, the article really gets "interesting."

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [energy](#), [Fracking](#), [natural gas](#), [solar power](#), [wind power](#) | Tagged [california](#), [Germany](#), [Hydraulic fracturing](#), [Kilowatt hour](#), [Photovoltaic system](#), [Photovoltaics](#), [United States](#), [Watt](#) | 128 Comments

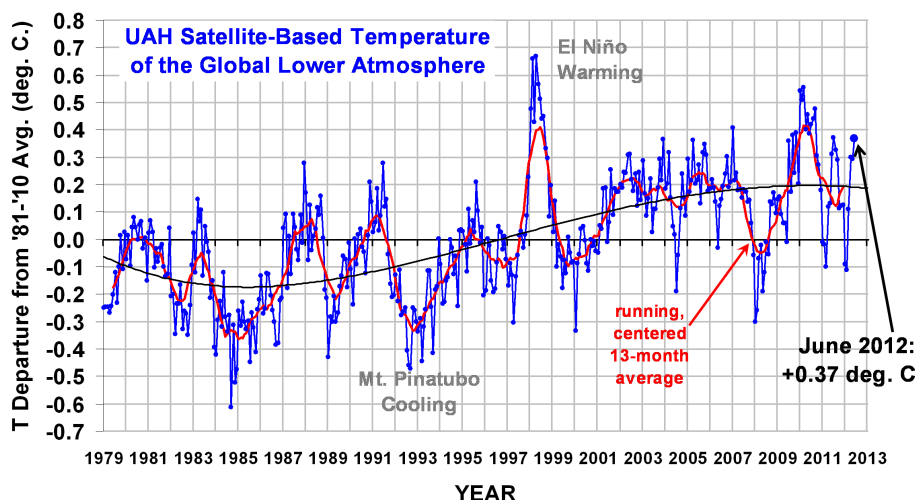
## UAH global temperature for June, up 0.29 °C

Posted on July 31, 2012 by Anthony Watts

### [UAH Global Temperature Update for June, 2012: +0.37 deg. C](#)

By Dr. Roy Spencer

The global average lower tropospheric temperature anomaly for June (+0.37 °C) was up from May 2012 (+0.29 °C). Click on the image for the super-sized version:



The 4th order polynomial fit to the data (courtesy of Excel) is for entertainment purposes only, and should not be construed as having any predictive value whatsoever.

Here are the monthly stats: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [climate data](#) | [41 Comments](#)

## Dr. Roger Pielke Sr. on two recent “game changing” climate papers

Posted on July 31, 2012 by Anthony Watts

In case you missed it, on Sunday Dr. Roger Pielke Sr. wrote a statement of support for Watts et al 2012. See: [Comments On The Game Changer New Paper “An Area And Distance Weighted Analysis Of The Impacts Of Station Exposure On The U.S. Historical Climatology Network Temperatures And Temperature Trends” By Watts Et Al 2012](#)

Today he has written another essay, showing that Watts et al 2012 and another recent paper, McNider et al 2012 have shown

*“...evidence of major systematic warm biases in the analysis of multi-decadal land surface temperature anomalies by NCDC, GISS, CRU and BEST.”*

The Summary: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Watts et al 2012](#) | Tagged [Contiguous United States](#), [Global Historical Climatology Network](#), [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), [Roger Pielke, temperature](#) | [48 Comments](#)

## Muller on MSNBC – what he *didn't* say was interesting

Posted on [July 30, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

I just watched this video interview on MSNBC's Rachel Maddow show (h/t to Poptech)



Despite the tacky caption, it was what Dr. Muller didn't talk about that was, ahem, the best part. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature](#) | Tagged [MSNBC](#), [Rachel Maddow](#), [Richard Muller](#) | [113 Comments](#)

## Monday Mirthiness – another hilarious video

Posted on [July 30, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Elmer, of Minnesotans for Global Warming famous “Hide the Decline” fame, has a keen eye for comic opportunity, much like our esteemed cartoonist, Josh. He's produced a new video today. Normally I don't allow videos of this type, what with the “d-word” and all, but when its about you, I think I can grant myself a pass. Have a look.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Humor, satire](#) | Tagged [Climate Change Skeptics](#), [global warming](#) | [103 Comments](#)

## My response to NCDC's op-ed in the New York Times

Posted on [July 30, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Andrew Revkin asked me to provide comments on this article of his where the National Climatic Data Center was asked to respond to Watts et al 2012:

### [A Closer Look at Climate Studies Promoted Before Publication](#)

Here is what I sent to him:

My comments on Thorne's response are pretty simple.

They still refuse to get out of the office, to examine firsthand the condition of the network and try to come up with hands on approaches for dealing with station inhomogeneity, but instead focus of trying to spot patterns in data and massage it. In my view this is the wrong approach and the reason that we are in this polarization today. We are conducting a grand experiment, and like any scientific experiment, you have to carefully watch how the data is being measured in the experiment environment, or problems will invalidate the measurement. If Climate Science operated under the same rules as Forensic Science, the compromised data would be tossed out on its ear. Instead, we are told to accept it as fully factual in the court of public opinion.

Until I came along with [Watts 2009](#), they really weren't looking closely at the issue. The Surface Stations photography forced them into reaction mode, to do two things.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature](#) | Tagged [Anthony Watts](#), [Climate Reference Network](#), [John Nielsen-Gammon](#), [National Climatic Data Center](#), [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), [National Weather Service](#), [NCDC](#), [USHCN](#) | [121 Comments](#)

### Quote of the week – Judith Curry weighs in on BEST

Posted on [July 30, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



Whoo boy. Judith writes:

*Muller bases his 'conversion' on the results of their recent paper?*



[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature](#), [Quote of the Week](#) | Tagged [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), [IPCC Fourth Assessment Report](#), [Judth Curry](#), [Richard Muller](#) | [49 Comments](#)

## New Data, Old Claims About Volcanoes

Posted on [July 30, 2012](#) by [Willis Eschenbach](#)

### Guest Post by Willis Eschenbach

Richard Muller and the good folks over at the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) project have released their temperature analysis back to 1750, and are making their usual unsupportable claims. I don't mean his risible statements that the temperature changes are due to CO<sub>2</sub> because the curves look alike—that joke has been widely discussed and discounted, even by anthropogenic global warming (AGW) supporters. Heck, even Michael Mann jumped on him for that one, saying

*It seems, in the end—quite sadly—that this is all really about Richard Muller's self-aggrandizement :(*

And if anyone should know about “self-aggrandizement”, it's Michael Mann ... but I'm not talking about Muller's claim that humans caused the warming. No, I mean the following statement:

*The historic temperature pattern we observe has abrupt dips that match the emissions of known explosive volcanic eruptions; the particulates from such events reflect sunlight and cool the Earth's surface for a few years.*

In support of this statement, Richard Muller offers up the following chart:

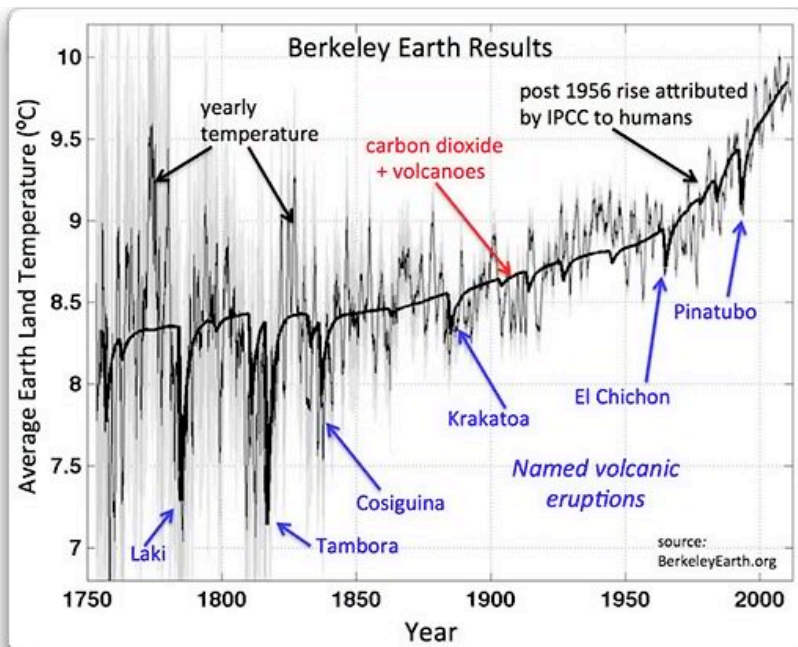


Figure 1. BEST claims about temperature and volcanoes. [SOURCE](#)

So what's not to like?

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [volcanoes](#), [vulcanism](#) | Tagged [BEST](#), [Muller](#), [Volcanic Explosivity Index](#) | 164 Comments

## Why the BEST papers failed to pass peer review

Posted on July 29, 2012 by [Anthony Watts](#)

Whoa, this is heavy. Ross McKittrick, who was a peer review referee for the BEST papers with the Journal of Geophysical Research got fed up with Muller's media blitzing and tells his story:

excerpts:

*In October 2011, despite the papers not being accepted, Richard Muller launched a major international publicity blitz announcing the results of the "BEST" project. I wrote to him and his coauthor Judy Curry objecting to the promotional initiative since the critical comments of people like me were locked up under confidentiality rules, and the papers had not been accepted for publication. Richard stated that he felt there was no alternative since the studies would be picked up by the press anyway. Later, when the journal turned the paper down and asked for major revisions, I sought permission from Richard to release my review. He requested that I post it without indicating I was a reviewer for JGR. Since that was not feasible I simply kept it confidential. [Continue reading →](#)*



Red Fail (Photo credit: griffithchris)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Andrew Revkin](#), [arXiv](#), [Journal of Geophysical Research](#), [Journals](#), [Peer review](#), [Preprint](#), [Ross McKittrick](#), [World War II](#) | [107 Comments](#)

## Backstory on the new surface stations paper

Posted on [July 29, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

I'm a bit burnt out, so this is just a few notes to quench some speculations about Steve McIntyre's role and to help everyone understand what this week has been like.

# BackStory

1. Evan and I have been working on this since June 2011, complete redo of all station ratings...huge amount of work. Evan deserves a huge amount of credit. After Muller could not find strong signal that we knew must be there by physics of heat sinks...and neither could we in Fall et al 2011, we went looking, and discovered the new Leroy 2010 classification system and WMO ISO approval. We knew it would take a lot of work to get old metadatabase into shape. And so it began. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Announcements](#) | Tagged [Climate Audit](#), [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), [John Christy](#), [Matt Briggs](#), [Steve McIntyre](#), [Watts Up With That?](#), [WUWT](#) | [118 Comments](#)

## New study shows half of the global warming in the USA is artificial

Posted on [July 29, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

**PRESS RELEASE – U.S. Temperature trends show a spurious doubling due to NOAA station siting problems and post measurement adjustments.**

**Chico, CA July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – 12 PM PDT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

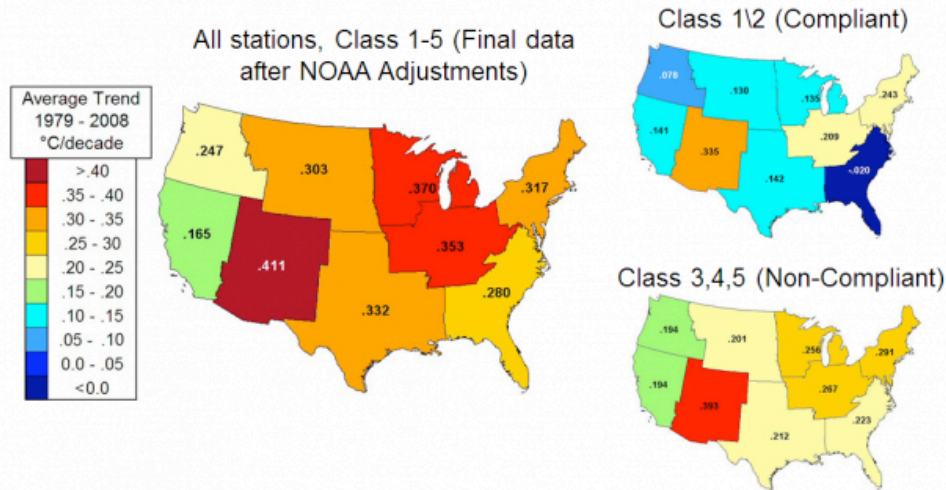
A comparison and summary of trends is shown from the paper. Acceptably placed thermometers away from common urban influences read much cooler nationwide:

## Comparison All Rated Stations in the CONUS

What the compliant thermometers (Class 1&2) say: **+0.155°C/decade**

What the non-compliant thermometers (Class 3,4,5) say: **+0.248°C/decade**

What the NOAA final adjusted data says: **+0.309°C/decade**



*A reanalysis of U.S. surface station temperatures has been performed using the recently WMO-approved Siting Classification System devised by METEO-France's Michel Leroy. The new siting classification more accurately characterizes the quality of the location in terms of monitoring long-term spatially representative surface temperature trends. The new analysis demonstrates that reported 1979-2008 U.S. temperature trends are spuriously doubled, with 92% of that over-estimation resulting from erroneous NOAA adjustments of well-sited stations upward. The paper is the first to use the updated siting system which addresses USHCN siting issues and data adjustments.*

*The new improved assessment, for the years 1979 to 2008, yields a trend of +0.155C per decade from the high quality sites, a +0.248 C per decade trend for poorly sited locations, and a trend of +0.309 C per decade after NOAA adjusts the data. This issue of station siting quality is expected to be an issue with respect to the monitoring of land surface temperature throughout the Global Historical Climate Network and in the BEST network.*

Today, a new paper has been released that is the culmination of knowledge gleaned from five years of work by Anthony Watts and the many volunteers and contributors to the SurfaceStations project started in 2007.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Announcements](#), [surfacestations paper](#) | Tagged [Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature](#), [Climate Reference Network](#), [Global Historical Climatology Network](#), [National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration](#), [NOAA](#), [Richard Muller](#), [Stephen McIntyre](#), [surfacestations](#), [USHCN](#), [World Meteorological Organization](#) | [1,085 Comments](#)

**WUWT publishing suspended – major announcement coming**

Posted on [July 27, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Here's the [press release](#)

See also the [backstory](#)

**UPDATE:** 7/29/2012 A press release will be issued at ~12PM Noon, PDT today.

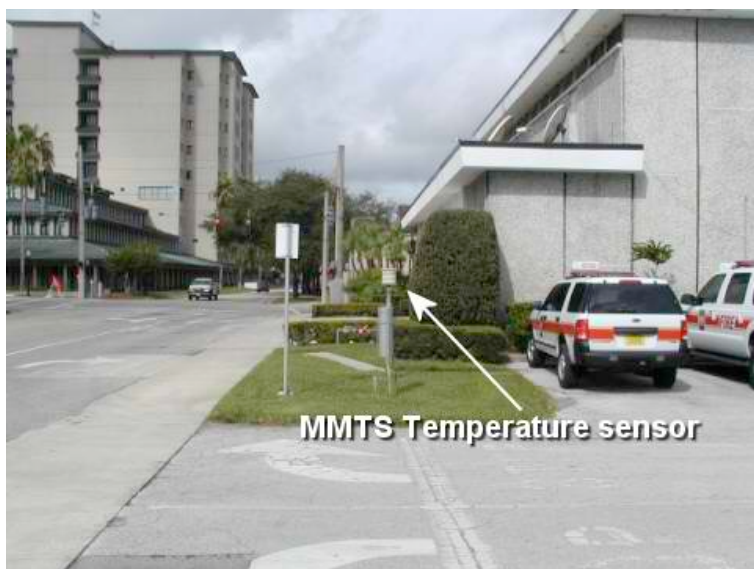
**UPDATE 7/27/12 1:30PM PST:** See my additional comments below

Something's happened. From now until Sunday July 29th, around Noon PST, WUWT will be suspending publishing. At that time, there will be a major announcement that I'm sure will attract a broad global interest due to its controversial and unprecedented nature. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Announcements](#)

## New paper on the quality of USHCN station siting

Posted on [July 27, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



USHCN thermometer at Bartow, FL city fire station in 2007, provided by [www.surfacestations.org](http://www.surfacestations.org) volunteer surveyor Don Kostuch.

Dr. Roger Pielke Sr. [draws attention today](#) to a new study that cites [Fall et al. 2011](#) aka the “Surfacestations Paper” that I co-authored, which was a follow up to my original surveys published in [Watts 2009](#). The new paper is:

Martinez, C.J., Maleski, J.J., Miller, M.F, 2012: [Trends in precipitation and temperature in Florida, USA](#). *Journal of Hydrology*. volume 452-453, issue , year 2012, pp. 259 – 281

They took a look at USHCN stations in Florida, and found some problems, such as trend aberrations introduced

in the conversion from Cotton Region Shelters to MMTS starting in the 1980's that aren't fully removed by the Menne et al USHCN v2 adjustments.

Dr. Pielke [writes: Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [surfacestations paper](#) | Tagged [Florida](#), [Global Historical Climatology Network](#), [National Climatic Data Center](#), [Roger A. Pielke](#), [USHCN](#) | 98 Comments

## Wild Speculation on Climate and Polar Bears

Posted on July 27, 2012 by [Anthony Watts](#)

By Dr. Pat Michaels at [World Climate Report](#), reposted with permission.

*Here is another big one from PNAS.*

For those who don't know, PNAS stands for the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and it has gained the unfortunate reputation for publishing scientific research articles that regularly get knocked out of the park within hours of their release. The lack of rigor stems from its rather unique “peer-review” [process](#) in which National Academy members can submit articles for publication that the authors themselves have had “peer-reviewed”—that is, they passed the article by a couple of friends of theirs for comments. It's more like “pal review.”

It is hard to imagine many papers being rejected under this system, although it can happen. For example, a contributed article by National Academy member Dr. Richard Lindzen that argued that the climate sensitivity to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions isn't as large as commonly thought was [rejected](#) by the PNAS editor in change, overruling the recommendations of the reviewers chosen by Lindzen. But such occurrences are quite rare.

Instead, papers with rather speculative conclusions can be regularly found in the pages of PNAS as we have documented on several occasions (see [here](#) and [here](#) for example).

A new paper has just appeared which should be added to this list in the form of a contribution by National Academy foreign associate and molecular biologist Dr. Luis Herrera-Estrella on the subject of polar bears, evolution, and climate influences.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [ridiculae](#) | Tagged [Effective population size](#), [Holocene](#), [Last Glacial Maximum](#), [Marine Isotope Stage](#), [Middle Pleistocene](#), [National Academy](#), [polar bear](#), [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America](#), [World Climate Report](#) | 104 Comments




A road sign just outside Longyearbyen, Spitzbergen, Norway, warning of danger of meeting polar bears. “Gjelder hele Svalbard” means that the warning goes for the entire island of Svalbard. (Photo credit: Wikipedia)



## How Green Was My Bankruptcy? “Roadmap for Solar Energy Development on Public Lands” Edition

Posted on July 26, 2012 by David Middleton

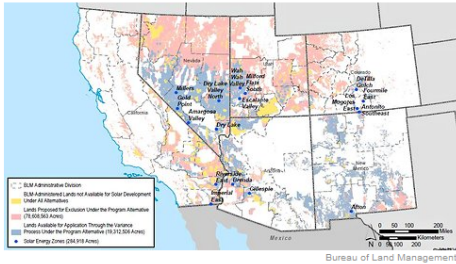


**Green**  
A Blog About Energy and the Environment

July 24, 2012, 3:33 PM | 4 Comments


### Interior Names Solar ‘Hot Spots’ Out West

By JOHN M. BRODER



Bureau of Land Management

Small blue circles indicate prime sites for solar energy installations; for the light blue patches, solar applications might be granted through a variance process. Yellow zones present limited solar alternatives, and pink areas are excluded from development. ([Enlarge this image](#))

 **Politics & Policy**

After more than two years of study and public comment, the Interior Department on Tuesday [identified](#) 17 sites on 285,000 acres of public land across six Southwestern states as prime spots for development of solar energy.

*The agency has already approved 17 large-scale solar energy projects on public lands that are expected to produce nearly 6,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 1.8 million homes. The department estimated the resource potential of the newly identified development zones at 23,700 megawatts, enough to power seven million homes, by 2030.*

Wow! 23,700 megawatts! That’s a lot of megawatts! Right?

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [energy](#), [natural gas](#), [politics](#), [solar power](#) | Tagged [Energy](#), [Photovoltaic system](#), [Public land](#), [Solar power](#) | [99 Comments](#)

## Climate change – off in the ozone

Posted on July 26, 2012 by Anthony Watts

From the [Harvard University](#) news service and the *what are they smoking* department, comes this suggestion that apparently it never was ozone damaging CFC refrigerants at all, it was those nasty thunderstorms wot done it. They say:

*“Recent studies have suggested that the number and intensity of such storms are linked to climate changes...which could in turn lead to increased ozone loss and greater levels of harmful UV radiation reaching the Earth’s surface, and potentially higher rates of skin cancer.”*

I have a pretty hard time believing this one, because, well, it’s like Rube Goldberg machine construct where lots of things have to happen to get the end result of skin cancer, plus, there’s a “could” spanner thrown into the works. I did a search for data on global thunderstorm frequency and found what I think is the basis for the

claim:

**[Changes in severe thunderstorm environment frequency during the 21st century caused by anthropogenically enhanced global radiative forcing](#)**

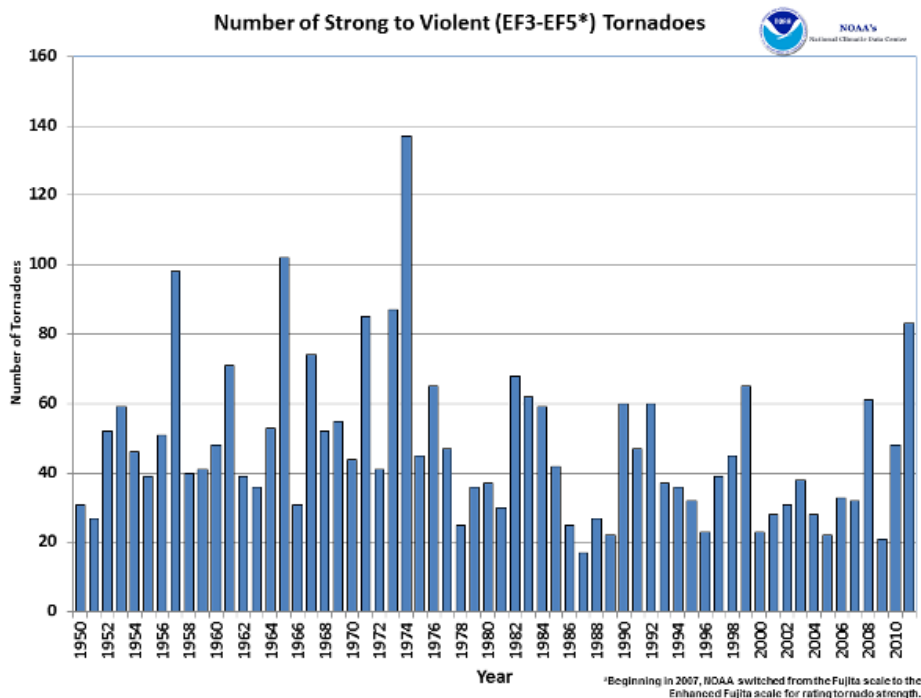
Robert J. Trapp, Noah S. Diffenbaugh, Harold E. Brooks, Michael E. Baldwin, Eric D. Robinson, and Jeremy S. Pal Edited by Kerry A. Emanuel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, and approved October 25, 2007 PNAS

They say in the notes: *Based on a compilation of data from the U.S. National Climatic Data Center and the U.S. National Weather Service Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services*

*([www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats.shtml](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats.shtml)) from 2000 to 2004*

As anyone knows, four years does not a climatic trend make, and I could not find anything else that might be relevant. But there is a proxy for thunderstorms; tornadoes. Without strong thunderstorms, tornadoes don't happen.

While the USA is not the world, it does have the most extensive and complete tornado database, and it suggests no upward trend in tornadic thunderstorms at all in the last 60 years:



**UPDATE:** Chip Knappenberger adds in comments: From Hicke et al., 2008, Trends and interannual variability in surface UVB radiation over 8 to 11 years observed across the United States, JGR (available [here](#)):

*“Our study illustrates that, using a well-calibrated instrument record, the 10 years beginning around 1995 did not show significant trends in surface UVB irradiance at stations across the United States.”*

Sooo, I think the leaps of logic in this paper are Olympic class ones.

## Climate concerns

*Harvard researchers find link between climate change, ozone loss and possible increase in skin cancer incidence*

For decades, scientists have known that the effects of global climate change could have a potentially devastating impact across the globe, but Harvard researchers say there is now evidence that it may also have a dramatic impact on public health.

As reported in a paper published in the July 27 issue of *Science*, a team of researchers led by James G. Anderson, the Philip S. Weld Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry, are warning that a newly-discovered connection between climate change and depletion of the ozone layer over the U.S. could allow more damaging ultraviolet (UV) radiation to reach the Earth's surface, leading to increased incidence of skin cancer.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [CFC's](#), [ozone](#), [thunderstorms](#) | Tagged [Anderson](#), [Arctic](#), [climate change](#), [earth](#), [Extreme weather](#), [Harold E. Brooks](#), [Harvard University](#), [Ozone depletion](#), [thunderstorms](#), [tornadoes](#), [Ultraviolet](#) | 73 Comments

## Status of the ATI -vs- Mann and UVa emails saga

Posted on [July 26, 2012](#) by [News Staff](#)

AMERICAN TRADITION INSTITUTE – PRESS RELEASE July 26, 2012

The ongoing saga of the American Tradition Institute versus the University of Virginia moved forward this week with filing of the arguments of the parties <http://www.atinstitute.org/law-ctr/hosted-foia-documents/> on the central issues of the case. The legal arguments are shaping up to be all about academic freedom and less about whether the University can exempt the Michael Mann emails.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [FOI](#), [Michael E. Mann](#) | Tagged [American Association of University Professors](#), [First Amendment](#), [Freedom of Information Act](#), [Michael Mann](#), [National Treasury Employees Union](#), [University of Virginia](#) | 79 Comments

## MSM Finally Questions “Unprecedented” Nature of Greenland Ice Melt

Posted on [July 26, 2012](#) by [REP](#)

As WUWT readers are aware, there has been a great deal of attention paid by the main stream media to the extensive melt on the Greenland icecap that occurred during July (for example, see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). The topic was addressed here at WUWT in two postings [here](#) and [here](#). Anthony noted in the later posting that [Andrew Revkin](#) was almost alone in taking a more nuanced and skeptical view of the

unprecedented nature of the event and has taken a fair amount of heat in comments for his effort.

I'm sure it will confirm the worst suspicions of some of Anthony's critics, but Fox News has just posted an article on line: [Continue reading →](#)

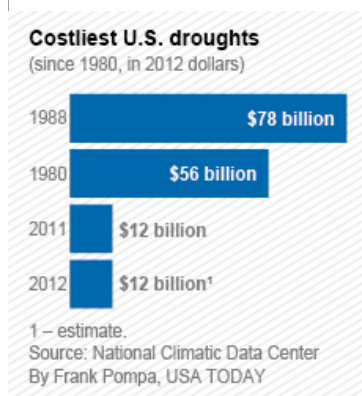
Posted in [Alarmism](#), [glaciers](#), [global warming](#), [Greenland ice sheet](#) | [85 Comments](#)

## Let there be corn! Reality check on the 2012 drought and corn yields in relation to droughts of the past

Posted on [July 26, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

There's a lot of hype out there regarding the drought and its potential effects on crops. Predictions range from increased food prices to dustbowlification", a term coined by "Joe Romm. A complicit media follows. [Tom Nelson](#) points out some interesting facts:

[Drought to cost \\$12B, most since 1988 – USATODAY.com](#)



The Kiwis think otherwise though, from radio New Zealand: [July 26, 2012 : Worst drought in 50 years driving up US food prices](#)

*Food prices in the United States are expected to rise by 3% or 4% next year because of the **worst drought in more than 50 years. Corn, soybean and other commodity prices have all soared in recent weeks as fields dry out and crops wither in the heat. The drought, which is affecting much of the Midwest, is the worst since 1956.***

[What Drought Did to Crop Yields in the 1930s – Livinghistory.com](#)

*In 1930, Nebraska got 22 inches of rain, and the state's corn crop averaged 25 bushels per acre. In 1934, Nebraska saw the driest year on record with only 14.5 inches of rainfall. The state's corn crop dropped even more to only **6.2 bushels per acre.***

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Agriculture](#), [drought](#) | Tagged [Bushel](#), [Crop yield](#), [Drought](#), [Illinois](#), [Iowa](#), [Maize](#), [Nebraska](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tom Nelson](#) | [103 Comments](#)

## Six Easy Steps for Saving the Coral Reefs for our Grandchildren

Posted on [July 25, 2012](#) by [News Staff](#)

Guest post by [Bob Fernley-Jones](#)

The 12th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) was held in Cairns, Queensland, Australia last July. Not a bad venue for embracing subject field trips and the exotic and spectacular hinterland attractions. Yet they had

time to reach a grand consensus statement endorsed reportedly by thousands of scientists.

**Step 1)** Back in June, three eminent scientists including the convener gathered at Stanford and [drafted the consensus](#).

**Step 2)** They also launched an endorsement form on their websites at COS (Centre for Ocean Solutions) and ICRS which although aimed at scientists could be actioned by the unqualified without any affiliations other than their hometown name. (Click **HERE** in link in 1).)

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [consensus](#) | Tagged [Australia](#), [Cairns](#), [Coral reef](#), [Great Barrier Reef](#), [Queensland](#) | 68 Comments

## The twisters are missin – July heads for a record-low tornado count

Posted on [July 25, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Note the section about how he talks about better reporting through technology causing “report inflation.”, something I’ve covered time and again.

[The folly of linking tornado outbreaks to “climate change”](#)

[Why it seems that severe weather is “getting worse” when the data shows otherwise – a historical perspective](#)

- Anthony

From the [National Center For Atmospheric Research](#):

### Summertime, and the twisters are missin’

*July heads for a record-low tornado count*

Bob Henson | July 24, 2012 • Heat and drought are punishing much of the United States right now, but there’s actually some good weather news to report. This month is on track to produce fewer tornadoes than any July on record, and by a long shot.

As of July 23, this month has produced a paltry total of 14 tornado reports, according to [preliminary data](#) from NOAA’s Storm Prediction Center (SPC). While there could be more twisters before month’s end, a major outbreak doesn’t appear likely at all.

[Continue reading →](#)



An occluded mesocyclone tornado (Oklahoma, May 1999) (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

Posted in [tornadoes](#), [weather](#) | Tagged [July](#), [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), [National Severe Storms Laboratory](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Storm chasing](#), [Storm Prediction Center](#), [Tornado](#) | [48 Comments](#)

## Dr. Michael Mann compares visitors to his Facebook Page to “Beetle Larvae”

Posted on [July 25, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Some days, you get gifts from on high.

Dr. Michael Mann apparently still doesn't understand how his own actions [invoked the Streisand effect](#). So, he compares people asking questions to the larval form of insects.

Steve McIntyre tips us off to this and writes with the driest wit possible:

*From time to time, we hear from climate scientists that they are limited in their responses by the dignity of their profession. The dignity to which climate scientists aspire is nicely exemplified by the following [remarks](#) of a prominent real\_climate\_scientist:*



Photo by Charlotte Simmonds of huhu grubs in a rotten pine wood. They are the larvae of the huhu beetle, *Prionoplus reticularis*, the largest endemic beetle of New Zealand, a member of the longhorn beetle family Cerambycidae. The whitish larvae are up to millimetres ( ) long. They are edible and are said by some to taste like buttery chicken. (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Humor](#), [Michael E. Mann](#), [satire](#) | Tagged [climate change](#), [Climate change denial](#), [environment](#), [Mann](#), [Mark Steyn](#), [Michael Mann](#), [Steve McIntyre](#), [Streisand effect](#) | [167 Comments](#)

## Paging AP's Seth Borenstein – Hey Seth, where's the beef?

Posted on [July 25, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

[I sent some notes via Twitter](#) yesterday and today to veterinarian turned NASA science writer [Maria-Jose Vinas](#) (who wrote [yesterday's self contradicting piece from NASA on Greenland](#)) and [AP's Seth Borenstein](#) about his [article proclaiming the “sudden massive melt” in Greenland](#), citing Keegan et al. (2011):

From NEEM (a station with lower elevation than the Summit station)”

*“A core from the CO<sub>2</sub> firn-air sampling site at NEEM was retrieved in July 2009, and the physical properties of the firn have been analyzed. In the 81m of analyzed firn core, two regions containing ice layers were identified at depths of 29m and 46m. Isotopic analysis provides a depth-age scale that dates these layers to be from **1935 and 1879, respectively. These years were in the two warmest decades of the instrumental temperature record for Greenland.**”*

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2011AGUFM.C33Co661K>



And of course I got no reply. But in the meantime. Dr. Roger Pielke Senior [had similar thoughts about this hype](#) from NASA and Borenstein, and points us to the [Summit Station Webcam](#):



Webcam view today of the Greenland Ice Cap Summit Station – click for live view

Viewing that image of “massive melt”, it looks like a [Clara Peller](#) moment for Seth. Hey Seth, *where’s the beef?*

The real meat is in the data, as Dr. Pielke writes: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Alarmism](#), [Greenland ice sheet](#) | Tagged [associated press](#), [Clara Peller](#), [greenland](#), [Keegan](#), [Maria-Jose Vinas](#), [NASA](#), [Premelting](#), [Seth](#), [Seth Borenstein](#), [Twitter](#) | 65 Comments

## Lindzen at Sandia National Labs: ‘climate models are flawed’

Posted on July 25, 2012 by Anthony Watts

This [press release](#) was provided by Sandia National Labs:

*In an effort to shed light on the wide spectrum of thought regarding the causes and extent of changes in Earth’s climate, Sandia National Laboratories has invited experts from a wide variety of perspectives to present their views in the Climate Change and National Security Speaker Series.*



Dr. Lindzen addressing the House in Washington, DC in  
November 2010 (file photo)

## Predictions by climate models are flawed, says invited speaker at Sandia

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Richard Lindzen, a global warming skeptic, told about 70 Sandia researchers in June that too much is being made of climate change by researchers seeking government funding. He said their data and their methods did not support their claims.

“Despite concerns over the last decades with the greenhouse process, they oversimplify the effect,” he said. “Simply cranking up CO<sub>2</sub> [carbon dioxide] (as the culprit) is not the answer” to what causes climate change.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [modeling](#) | Tagged [American Physical Society](#), [climate change](#), [global warming](#), [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), [Lindzen](#), [Richard Lindzen](#), [Sandia National Laboratories](#) | [188 Comments](#)

## Scientific peer review and publishing taking a turn for the better

Posted on [July 24, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

A number of people have brought this recent article in the Economist to my attention. Some excerpts:

### Scientific publishing

### Brought to book

#### Academic journals face a radical shake-up

Jul 21st 2012 | from the print edition

[Like](#) 800 [Tweet](#) 624



IF THERE is any endeavour whose fruits should be freely available, that endeavour is surely publicly financed science. Morally, taxpayers who wish to should be able to read about it without further expense. And science advances through cross-fertilisation between projects. Barriers to that exchange slow it down.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [peer review](#), [Science](#) | Tagged [Academic publishing](#), [British government](#), [Elsevier](#), [European Union](#), [Government of the United Kingdom](#), [Open access](#), [Publishing](#), [Reed Elsevier](#), [Research](#) | [76 Comments](#)

## Shocker: burning trees release stored carbon

Posted on [July 24, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From the *Department of Obvious Science* and the [USDA Forest Service – Pacific Northwest Research Station](#), comes this shocking headline:

### Washington's forests will lose stored carbon as area burned by wildfire increases

*Even small increases in area burned could have significant impacts on carbon storage*



A July 2012 PNW Research Station study explored how carbon dynamics in Washington State may be altered by more-frequent wildfires, triggered by a warming climate. The study looked at the effects of greater area burned on both live biomass and nonliving biomass, such as the dead standing trees and downed wood shown here. Credit: Tom Iraci, US Forest Service

Forests in the Pacific Northwest store more carbon than any other region in the United States, but our warming climate may undermine their storage potential.

[Continue reading →](#)

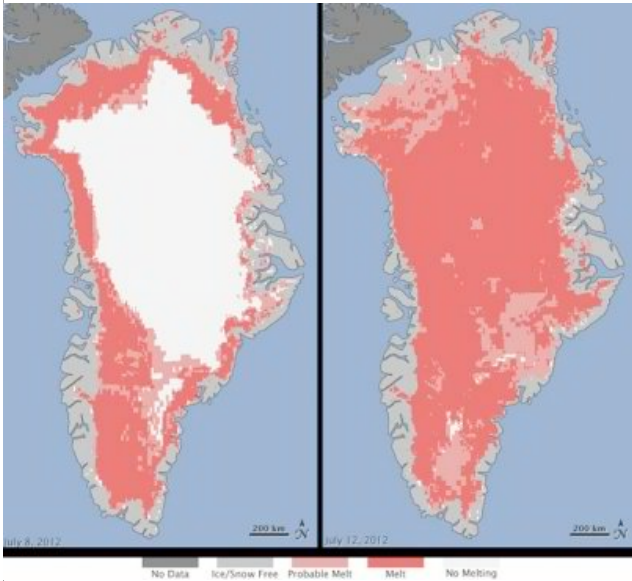
Posted in [Obvious science](#), [wildfires](#) | Tagged [Biomass](#), [Carbon cycle](#), [Cascade Range](#), [climate change](#), [National Interagency Fire Center](#), [Pacific Northwest](#), [Washington](#), [Western Cascades](#), [Wildfire](#) | [73 Comments](#)

## Greenland Ice Melt every 150 years is 'right on time'

Posted on [July 24, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

**UPDATE:** see this [new article](#) on the issue,

*“Ice cores from Summit show that **melting events of this type occur about once every 150 years on average. With the last one happening in 1889, this event is right on time,**” says Lora Koenig, a Goddard glaciologist and a member of the research team analyzing the satellite data.*



Extent of surface melt over Greenland's ice sheet on July 8 (left) and July 12 (right). Measurements from three satellites showed that on July 8, about 40 percent of the ice sheet had undergone thawing at or near the surface. In just a few days, the melting had dramatically accelerated and an estimated 97 percent of the ice sheet surface had thawed by July 12. In the image, the areas classified as “probable melt” (light pink) correspond to those sites where at least one satellite detected surface melting. The areas classified as “melt” (dark pink) correspond to sites where two or three satellites detected surface melting. The satellites are measuring different physical properties at different scales and are passing over Greenland at different times. As a whole, they provide a picture of an extreme melt event about which scientists are very confident. Credit: Nicolo E. DiGirolamo, SSAI/NASA GSFC, and Jesse Allen, NASA Earth Observatory

[> Hi-res of left image](#)

[> Hi-res of right image](#)

I covered this over the weekend when [Bill McKibben started wailing about the albedo going off the charts](#). I thought it might be soot related. The PR below and quote above is from NASA Goddard. I had to laugh at the title of [their press release](#), where they cite “Unprecedented Greenland Ice Sheet Surface Melt”, then contradict themselves when the main researcher goes on to say “*melting events of this type occur about once every 150 years on average. With the last one happening in 1889*“. Do these guys even read their own press releases? [Climatologist Pat Michaels concurs saying](#): “**Apparently NASA should start distributing dictionaries to the authors of its press releases.**”

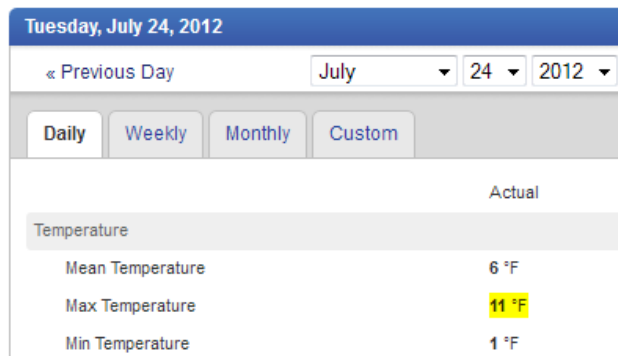
I've sent off a note to the NASA writer, seen [here](#). Maybe she'll get the headline fixed.

That, and they seem surprised that the Greenland ice sheet would suddenly start melting in summer. Though, [not every part of the ice sheet is melting right now](#), so perhaps their calibrations might be a bit off:

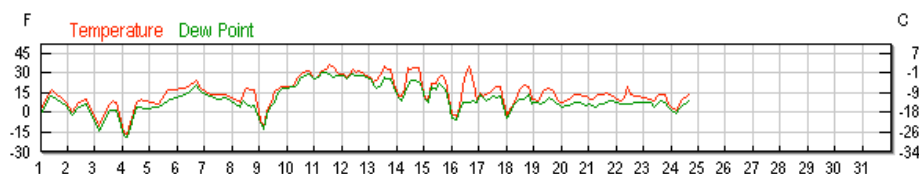


## History for Summit, Greenland

Tuesday, July 24, 2012 — [View Current Conditions](#)



There may have been [a brief few days of melt](#), but it appears to be over:



## Satellites See Unprecedented Greenland Ice Sheet Surface Melt

For several days this month, Greenland's surface ice cover melted over a larger area than at any time in more than 30 years of satellite observations. Nearly the entire ice cover of Greenland, from its thin, low-lying coastal edges to its two-mile-thick center, experienced some degree of melting at its surface, according to measurements from three independent satellites analyzed by NASA and university scientists.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [glaciers](#), [Greenland ice sheet](#) | Tagged [Goddard Space Flight Center](#), [greenland](#), [Greenland ice sheet](#), [Ice sheet](#), [Indian Space Research Organisation](#), [Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer](#), [NASA](#), [Oceansat-2](#), [Pettermann Glacier](#) | [141 Comments](#)

## Add the words “climate change”, pass GO, collect \$200

Posted on [July 24, 2012](#) by [News Staff](#)

*Follow the money. It's not a game to these folks.*

[Climate change where you'd least expect it](#)

by **Philippa Martyr** at **Quadrant Online**

In case you hadn't realised the seriousness of the problem, I thought I'd share these budding projects with you. Names of grantees and institutions have been omitted to protect the innocent, but I have included the FOR, or Field of Research as coded by the ARC, and the total grant monies. Enjoy.



[Continue reading →](#)

Image from the "Monopoly wikia" click for details

Posted in [Climate News](#) | Tagged [Activism](#), [Australia](#), [Australian government](#), [Australian Labor Party](#), [climate change](#), [environment](#), [H.V. Evatt](#), [Organizations](#) | [64 Comments](#)

## Fighting the Mann

Posted on [July 24, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From [Mark Steyn's web page](#)

### Mann-made climate change turns up the heat on Steyn

Michael Mann, the professor who created the climate-change “hockey stick”, announced over the weekend his intention to sue *National Review* over Mark’s Corner post “[Football and Hockey](#)”.

You can see the letter from Professor Mann’s lawyer [here](#).

You can see various reactions [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

UPDATE: Rand Simberg responds [here](#), as do [Discover Magazine](#), [David Appell](#), [Instapundit](#), [the author of \*The Hockey Stick Illusion\*](#), the [Lesbian Conservative](#), the [Pundette](#), and the excitable lads at [Daily Kos](#). Kathy Shaidle is [looking forward to it](#).

=====

[Rand Simberg says](#) what we all know here at WUWT: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [climate ugliness](#), [Humor](#), [Opinion](#), [satire](#) | Tagged [Andrew Montford](#), [Freedom of Information Act](#), [Hockey Stick Illusion](#), [Kathy Shaidle](#), [Mark Steyn](#), [Michael E. Mann](#), [National Review](#), [University of Virginia](#), [Watts Up With That?](#) | [171 Comments](#)

## Western wildfires – horrific, devastating ... and unnecessary

Posted on [July 24, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

*New fire-fighting technology could help put them out. Why isn't it being used?*

### Guest post by Paul Driessen

Millions of Americans watched their evening news in horrified fascination.

The [Colorado Springs wildfire](#) had doubled in size overnight, to 24 square miles – half the size of San Francisco – as 50-mph gusts carried fiery branches from exploding treetops across fire breaks, down Waldo Canyon and into fresh stands of drought-dried timber. Flames crested the ridge above the beautiful Air Force Academy campus, 346 [houses burned](#), hundreds more faced immolation, and 32,000 people were evacuated, through



smoke and ash that turned daytime into a choking night sky.

130 miles north, [another monster fire](#) west of Fort Collins consumed 136 square miles of forest and torched 259 homes. By July 4, this year's Colorado forest fires had devoured 170,000 acres – 265 square miles, nearly five times the size of Washington, DC. Across eleven western states, nearly 2,000,000 acres have already burned this year; imagine all of Delaware and Rhode Island ablaze.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [wildfires](#) | Tagged [Colorado](#), [Colorado Springs](#), [New Mexico](#), [Smokey Bear](#), [United States](#), [United States Forest Service](#), [Washington DC](#), [Wildfire](#) | [69 Comments](#)

## Back to the Future: Paradise Lost, or Paradise Regained?

Posted on [July 24, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Guest post by Paul MacRae



The USA as it appeared during the Miocene – 15 million years ago – Credit: Ron Blakey at Northern Arizona University – [click image for further information](#)

In June, a [NASA](#) climate study announced that the warm middle Miocene era, about 16 million years ago, had carbon dioxide levels of 400 to 600 parts per million. The coasts of Antarctica were ice-free in summer, with summer temperatures 11° Celsius warmer than today. The study concluded that today's CO<sub>2</sub> level of 393 ppm was the highest, therefore, in millions of years, and could go to Miocene levels by the end of the century[1]. It was implied, although not directly stated, that readers should react with horror.

A UCLA team, writing in [Science](#), had already pushed the Miocene button in 2009, claiming: “The last time carbon dioxide levels were apparently as high as they are today [15 million years ago, again the mid-Miocene]—

and were sustained at those levels—global temperatures were 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit [2.7-5.5°C] higher than they are today, the sea level was approximately 75 to 120 feet higher than today, there was no permanent sea ice cap in the Arctic and very little ice on Antarctica and Greenland.”[2] Back to the Miocene! Scary!

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Alarmism](#), [sea level](#) | Tagged [antarctica](#), [Hansen](#), [James Hansen](#), [Miocene](#), [Oligocene](#), [Pliocene](#), [Tim Flannery](#), [United States](#) | [87 Comments](#)

## Veterinary Research and Global Warming

Posted on [July 23, 2012](#) by [News Staff](#)

### Guest post by Michael Oxenham

#### *Best use of taxpayers' money?*

I have been an admirer and daily reader of WUWT for over 5 years, which, together with many other sites, links and papers have given me, I feel, a good insight into the climate debate. Veterinary research projects related to global warming/climate change have not featured on your site very often, so you may be interested in this short post from a concerned taxpayer and retired veterinarian. – Michael Oxenham



Veterinary Record  
(Photo credit:  
Wikipedia)

#### VETERINARY RESEARCH AND GLOBAL WARMING

On 25th February '12 the Veterinary Record, the weekly journal of the BVA, published a news report of a research project, which had coined the title, 'Ruminomics'. This was essentially to investigate the possibility of reducing the methane and nitrogen emissions from dairy cattle by varying their genome and their ruminal microbiome. This was all clearly predicated on the conjecture that these emissions cause or drive global warming/climate change. The project was described as a 4-year study in partnership with 11 European organisations, coordinated by Prof. John Wallace of Aberdeen University. It was funded by a grant of €7.7m from the EU Commission. Regrettably this seems to be a classic case of a 'follow the money' project.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [global warming](#) | Tagged [BMJ Group](#), [climate change](#), [environment](#), [global warming](#), [Hal Lewis](#), [Research](#), [Veterinary Record](#) | [44 Comments](#)

## John Coleman on the California Cap and Trade Law

Posted on [July 23, 2012](#) by [News Staff](#)

John Coleman, founder of The Weather Channel, writes on [his Facebook Page](#):

I will be presenting a skeptical report on the new California Cap and Trade law on the KUSI News at 6 PM and 10 PM today. It will be posted on the KUSI.com webpage shortly after it is telecast. . In connection I also did a 25-minute interview with the man leading the California citizens' protest movement against Cap and Trade, Warren Duffy. I urge you to take the time to watch that interview. ...It can be found at the top of this [Coleman's](#)

[Corner page](#) which is linked at the bottom of the KUSI Weather page. The interview I did with Lord Christopher Monckton will also be posted there by this evening.

Basically, the concept of Cap and Trade is try to force companies that produce carbon dioxide and “other greenhouse gases” to reduce their emissions or buy offsets by paying the State of California fees that the State will then (supposedly) use to offset the effects of that release of CO<sub>2</sub> into the air. The State’s first Auction of Cap and Trade off-sets in November is expected to produce 1 billion dollars for the State. The Governor said he wanted to use this money on the high speed train project, but the State Legislature intervened and designated the money for other mass transit and related projects. Skeptics think the money will end up being applied against the State’s huge budget shortfall and end up paying the upscale wages and pensions of State Officials and employees.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [cap-and-trade](#), [Opinion](#) | Tagged [california](#), [Carbon dioxide](#), [Emissions trading](#), [environment](#), [greenhouse gas](#), [John Coleman](#), [November](#), [San Diego](#) | 35 Comments

## New research in Antarctica shows CO<sub>2</sub> follows temperature “by a few hundred years at most”

Posted on [July 23, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

The question of “which comes first, the temperature or the CO<sub>2</sub> rise?” has been much like the proverbial “which came first, the chicken or the egg?” question. This seems to settle it – temperature came first, followed by an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing from the ocean surrounding Antarctica.

*“Our analyses of ice cores from the ice sheet in Antarctica shows that the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere follows the rise in Antarctic temperatures very closely and is staggered by a few hundred years at most,”* - **Sune Olander Rasmussen**

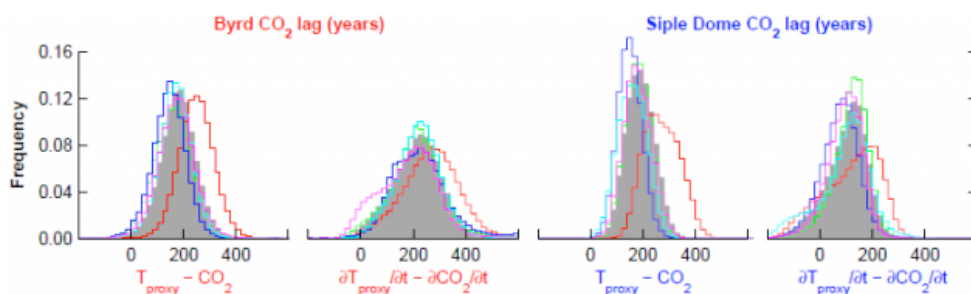


Fig. 2. Lag histograms for the two methods of determining the lag of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> after regional Antarctic temperature changes (direct correlation and correlation of derivatives), using each of the two CO<sub>2</sub> data sets (Byrd and Siple Dome). The gray background histograms are based on the complete Tproxy composite, the same as in Fig. 1b. The superimposed curves show the corresponding lag histograms when excluding in turn each of the 5 records from the Tproxy composite (jack-knifing): excluding Siple (red), excluding Law Dome (green), excluding Byrd (blue), excluding EDML (cyan), and excluding Talos Dome (magenta).

From the University of Copenhagen - [Rise in temperatures and CO<sub>2</sub> follow each other closely in climate change](#)

The greatest climate change the world has seen in the last 100,000 years was the transition from the ice age to the warm interglacial period. New research from the Niels Bohr Institute at the University of Copenhagen indicates that, contrary to previous opinion, the rise in temperature and the rise in the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> follow each other closely in terms of time. The results have been published in the scientific journal, *Climate of the Past*. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Antarctic](#), [paleoclimatology](#) | Tagged [Antarctic](#), [antarctica](#), [Carbon dioxide](#), [Law Dome](#), [Niels Bohr Institute](#), [Southern Ocean](#), [University of Copenhagen](#) | 116 Comments

## Tisdale on the problems with ENSO models

Posted on July 23, 2012 by Anthony Watts

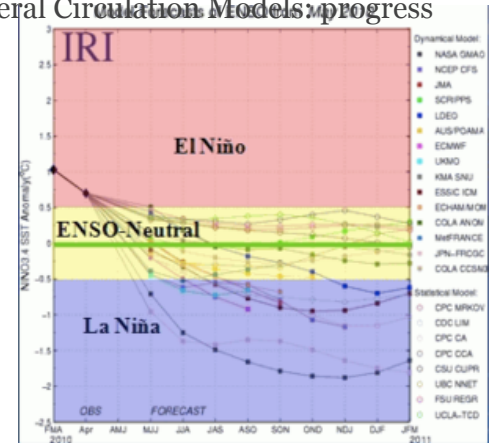
Guilyardi et al (2009) “Understanding El Niño in Ocean-Atmosphere General Circulation Models: progress and challenges”

### Guest post by Bob Tisdale

The preliminary Reynolds OI.v2 sea surface temperature data for July 2012 won't be available until next Monday July 30th, and there haven't been any changes in weekly NINO3.4 region or global sea surface temperature anomalies since the [update last week](#) that are worth a separate post. So I've decided to give readers a heads-up about a paper I'm using as a primary reference for **Chapter 5.8 Scientific Studies of the IPCC's Climate Models Reveal How Poorly the Models Simulate ENSO Processes** of my upcoming book *Who Turned On The Heat?: El Niño-Southern Oscillation, the Unsuspected Global Warming Culprit*.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [El Niño](#), [El Niño-Southern Oscillation](#), [ENSO](#), [global warming](#), [La Nina](#), [Pacific Ocean](#), [Sea Surface Temperature](#) | 27 Comments



English: A graph of forecasts for the El Niño-Southern Oscillation from May 2010 through March 2011 (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

## Krugman's corny caper

Posted on July 23, 2012 by Anthony Watts

Tom Nelson observes some interesting and inconvenient data to rebut The Guardian's Susanne Goldenberg and Paul Krugman of the New York Times: [For warmists trying to convince us that carbon dioxide causes lower US corn yields, an \\*extremely\\* inconvenient graph](#)

[America's corn farmers high and dry as hope withers with their harvest | Environment | guardian.co.uk](#)

*[Warmist Suzanne Goldenberg] ...because of a brutal combination of triple-digit (40C) temperatures and prolonged drought. Scientists see both as **evidence of climate change**.*

### [The Burning Land – NYTimes.com](#)

*[Warmist Paul Krugman] I've been searching for something useful to say about the epic heat wave and drought afflicting U.S. agriculture...*

*Yet with so much of the American political spectrum in fierce denial over the issue, there is no prospect whatsoever of getting action.*

But the data says otherwise Ms. Goldenberg and Mr. Krugman. Have a look for yourself, one year, one drought, does not a trend make. But Krugman is relying upon the heated hyperbolic opinion of Joe Romm, so I suppose we can understand how he was taken in. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Agriculture](#), [Alarmism](#) | Tagged [climate change](#), [Corn Yields](#), [Joseph J. Romm](#), [New York Times](#), [Paul Krugman](#), [Roger Pielke](#), [Tom Nelson](#) | [86 Comments](#)

## Fools' Gold Found to Regulate Global Oxygen

Posted on [July 23, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

*The sulfur-based chemistry of iron pyrite may play a major role in atmospheric oxygen concentrations*

From The [Weizmann Institute of Environmental Science](#):

As sulfur cycles through Earth's atmosphere, oceans and land, it undergoes chemical changes that are often coupled to changes in other such elements as carbon and oxygen. Although this affects the concentration of free oxygen, sulfur has traditionally been portrayed as a secondary factor in regulating atmospheric oxygen, with most of the heavy lifting done by carbon. However, [new findings](#) that appeared in [Science](#) magazine suggest that sulfur's role may have been underestimated.



Pyrite (iron disulfide) (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [California Institute of Technology](#), [Carbon cycle](#), [earth](#), [Earth science](#), [Fools Gold](#), [Iron Pyrite](#), [Itay Halevy](#), [Pyrite](#), [Sulfur](#), [Sulfur cycle](#) | [19 Comments](#)

## Monckton: Be skeptical, be very skeptical, of Skeptic magazine's skepticism of climate skeptics

Posted on [July 23, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



**By Jim Lakely**

A quarterly magazine called [Skeptic](#) published [a cover story](#) a few weeks back by Donald Prothero titled “How We Know Global Warming is Real and Human-Caused.” That struck us here at [The Heartland Institute](#) as rather strange.

[Our work](#) for years has been skeptical of the idea that human activity is causing catastrophic climate change, which is the conventional wisdom of the mainstream media. And we have two [immense volumes](#) of [peer-reviewed literature](#) and the [videos of many conferences](#) to prove it.



So if the very name of your magazine is *Skeptic*, shouldn't readers expect you to carefully examine the spoon-fed doctrines of the likes of Al Gore, Michael Mann, the UN's IPCC, etc., and be ... well ... *skeptical* of “doctrine” — especially in light of the [Climategate](#) scandal? Alas, no. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [Al Gore](#), [Christopher Monckton 3rd Viscount Monckton of Brenchley](#), [climate change](#), [global warming](#), [Heartland Institute](#), [Richard Feynman](#), [Skeptic](#), [YouTube](#) | [123 Comments](#)

**Light posting over the next few days – call for guest authors**

Posted on [July 22, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

I'm going to be exceptionally busy with a very important project that is due very soon, plus I have an upcoming trip, so my posting over the next 7-10 days is likely to be light. To keep WUWT humming along, reliance on guest posts and press releases will be higher than usual. That's where your help is needed.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Announcements](#) | [16 Comments](#)

**Weekly Climate and Energy News Roundup**

Posted on [July 22, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



Brought to You by SEPP ([www.SEPP.org](http://www.SEPP.org)) The Science and Environmental Policy Project

#####

**Quote of the Week:**



*“In their statement Sunday, Science editors said, “The scientific process is a naturally self-correcting one, as scientists attempt to replicate published results.”* WSJ July 9, 2012

#####

**Number of the Week: 0.007%**

#####

**THIS WEEK:**

*By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)*

**Challenging the Orthodoxy:** Some of the biggest news this week comes from a number of new papers that challenge the procedures and findings of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). These challenges include the data and data manipulation used, and the divergence between model projections and observations.

**Procedures:** Meteorologists Joe D'Aleo and Anthony Watts, and others, have long challenged procedures used to correct errors in the 20<sup>th</sup> century data record including a statistical procedure called homogenization. These apply to the data reported by the Global Historical Climatology Network (GHCN) and are used by the three entities that report surface temperature trends, NOAA, NASA-GISS, and the Climatic Research Unit (CRU). Researchers E. Steirou and D. Koutsoyiannis presented to the European Geosciences Union that they found in 67% of the stations examined the procedures used introduced a greater warming trend (or lessened a cooling trend). Using random chance, one would expect the percentage to be about 50%. Upon examination of the series, the raw data indicated an increase in global temperatures of 0.42 deg C while the adjusted data indicated an increase of 0.76 deg C. If this new research is replicated, it seriously affects the findings. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Climate News Roundup](#) | Tagged [Energy Information Administration](#), [Global Historical Climatology Network](#), [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), [IPCC](#), [Ross McKittrick](#), [Science & Environmental Policy Project](#), [Steve McIntyre](#), [University of East Anglia](#) | [3 Comments](#)

## **Burning Food in Cars – an ‘anti-human ethos’**

Posted on [July 22, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Letter to the Editor

Watts Up With That?

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012



Nothing illustrates the anti-human ethos of the Greens better than their support for “biofuels”.

That trendy name cannot hide the fact that encouraging and mandating the burning of food for motor fuel creates nothing but negatives for the environment and for human welfare, but will have no effect on climate.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Agriculture](#), [energy](#), [Letters To The Editor](#) | Tagged [Biofuel](#), [Diesel fuel](#), [Energy](#), [Food](#), [Motor fuel](#), [Renewable](#) | 191 Comments

## The rise and fall of Al Gore and Global Warming

Posted on [July 22, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

I noticed with my morning coffee that [Tom Nelson had a Google Trends graph](#) that piqued my interest, so I decided to expand upon it a bit before getting back to work. After looking at my results, the title of this post could just as easily be “off the radar”. Have a look:

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Al Gore](#), [Climategate](#), [climate change](#), [global warming](#) | Tagged [Al Gore](#), [Climatic Research Unit email controversy](#), [Google](#), [Inconvenient Truth](#), [Tom Nelson](#) | 50 Comments

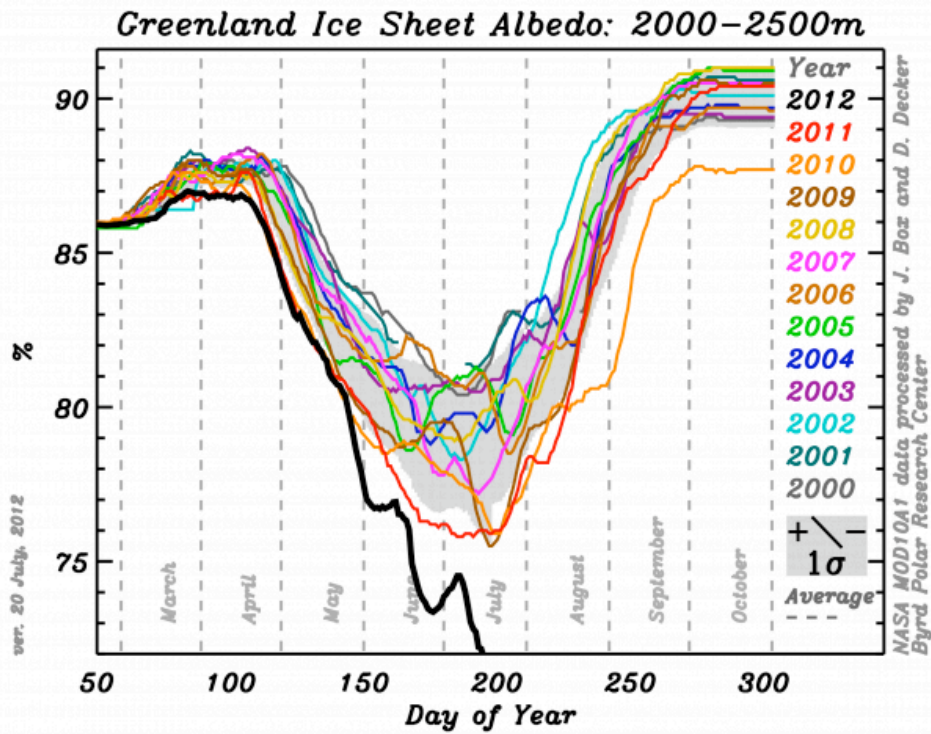
## Greenland Ice Sheet albedo drops ‘off the bottom of the chart’ – but look closer as to why

Posted on [July 21, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

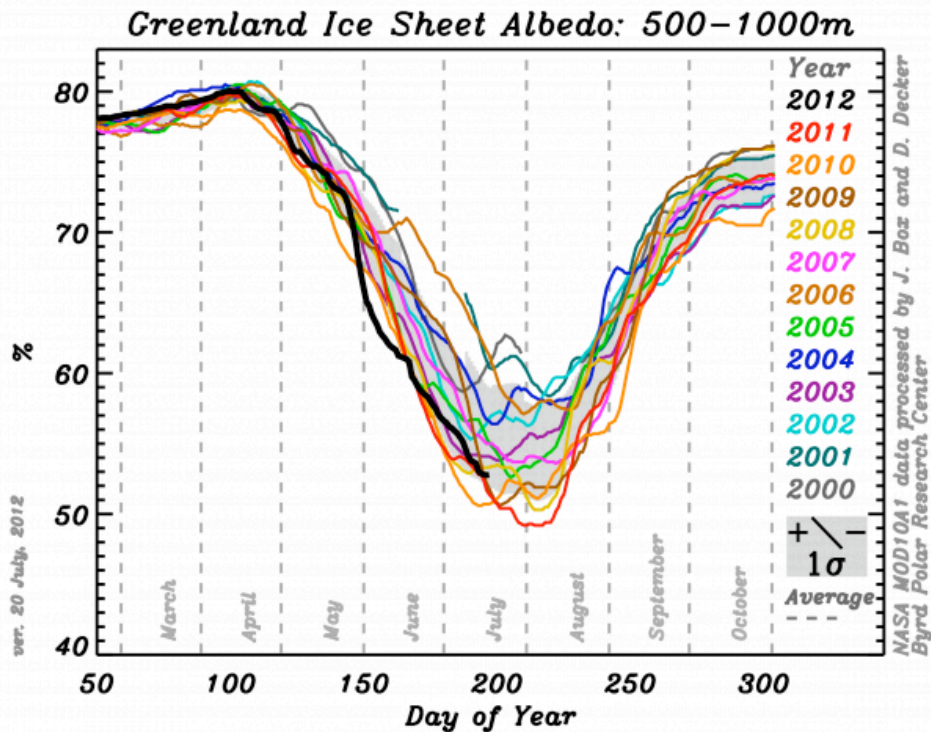
Got this in the mail just as I posted my open thread announcemnt. I’m too busy this weekend to say much else except to post this tweet from Bill McKibben and some past blog excerpts and invite discussion.

[Bill McKibben @billmckibben](#)

The reflectivity of the Greenland ice sheet has...literally dropped off the bottom of the chart. This means MELT. <http://www.meltfactor.org/blog/?p=514>



That graph says one thing to me – black carbon soot, especially since lower levels of Greenland, near the oceans and glacial terminae don't exhibit the same effect:

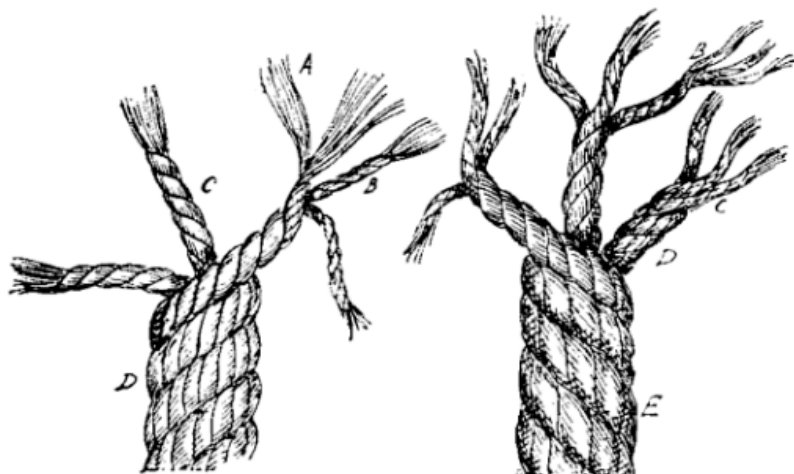


CO<sub>2</sub> doesn't change ice albedo, but smoke from the industrialization of Asia does, and I think it is a factor. See why below. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [albedo](#), [carbon soot](#), [glaciers](#), [Greenland ice sheet](#) | Tagged [albedo](#), [Bill McKibben](#), [greenland](#), [Greenland ice sheet](#), [James Balog](#), [Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer](#), [National Snow and Ice Data Center](#), [snow](#) | [131 Comments](#)

## Open thread weekend

Posted on [July 21, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



I have an important project to finish this weekend, so I'll be offline much of the weekend.

Here's some pictures of what I'm up to. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Open Thread](#) | [141 Comments](#)

## Ocean seawater chemistry linked with periods of global cooling, sharp changes from greenhouse to icehouse climate

Posted on [July 21, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From the [University of Toronto](#), something quite unexpected.

### Scientists connect seawater chemistry with climate change and evolution

TORONTO, ON – Humans get most of the blame for climate change, with little attention paid to the contribution of other natural forces. Now, scientists from the University of Toronto and the University of California Santa Cruz are shedding light on one potential cause of the cooling trend of the past 45 million years that has everything to do with the chemistry of the world's oceans.



Caption: This is a satellite view of the Zagros mountain belt in western Iran. The range forms part of the most extensive belt of water-soluble gypsum on Earth, stretching from Oman to Pakistan, and well into Western India. Scientists suggest that the dissolution of ancient salt deposits caused drastic changes in seawater chemistry, which may have triggered long-term global cooling. Credit: US Geological Survey/Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science

“Seawater chemistry is characterized by long phases of stability, which are interrupted by short intervals of rapid change,” says Professor Ulrich Wortmann in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Toronto, lead author of a study to be published in *Science* this week. “We’ve established a new framework that helps us better interpret evolutionary trends and climate change over long periods of time. The study focuses on the past 130 million years, but similar interactions have likely occurred through the past 500 million years.”

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [global cooling](#), [oceans](#), [salinity](#) | Tagged [India](#), [Ministry of Earth Sciences](#), [National Science Foundation](#), [Seawater](#), [United States](#), [University of California Santa Cruz](#), [University of Toronto](#), [Wortmann](#) | 51 Comments

## Plants: An efficient green technology for cities

Posted on [July 21, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From the [American Chemical Society](#)

### Green plants reduce city street pollution up to 8 times more than previously believed

Trees, bushes and other greenery growing in the concrete-and-glass canyons of cities can reduce levels of two of the most worrisome air pollutants by eight times more than previously believed, a new study has found. A report on the research appears in the ACS journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.



Thomas Pugh and colleagues explain that concentrations of nitrogen dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) and microscopic particulate matter (PM) — both of which can be harmful to human health — exceed safe levels on the streets of many cities. Past research suggested that trees and other green plants can improve urban air quality by removing those pollutants from the air. However, the improvement seemed to be small, a reduction of less than 5 percent.

[Continue reading →](#)



English: The American Chemical Society Building, is surrounded by trees in the “urban canyon” of downtown Washington, D.C. (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

Posted in [Environment](#) | Tagged [Air pollution](#), [American Chemical Society](#), [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council](#), [environment](#), [environmental science technology](#), [Nitrogen dioxide](#), [Plant](#), [Washington DC](#) | [51 Comments](#)

## Some thoughts on radiative transfer and GHG's

Posted on [July 21, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

### Guest post by Reed Coray

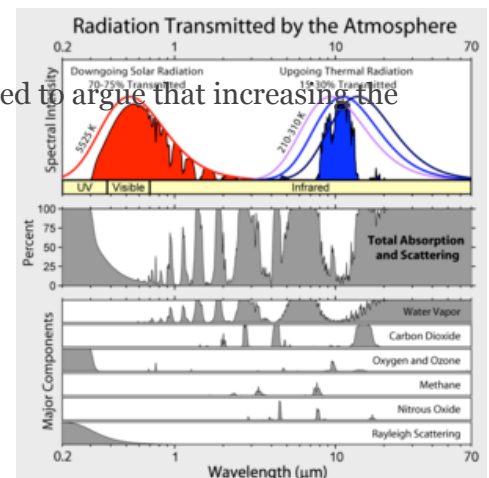
The following example illustrates the issues I have with reasoning often used to argue that increasing the amount of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the Earth's atmosphere will increase both the Earth's surface temperature and the Earth's atmosphere temperature. Immediately following is a direct quote from URL

[http://www.school-for-champions.com/science/heat\\_transfer\\_earth.htm](http://www.school-for-champions.com/science/heat_transfer_earth.htm)

*“The present situation is that there has been an increase in infrared-absorbing gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ). Energy that would normally escape into space is absorbed by these molecules, thus heating the atmosphere and spreading through convection currents. The average temperature of the atmosphere has increased 0.25 °C since 1980, mainly attributed to an increase in infrared-absorbing gases in the atmosphere.”*

Although the above statement makes no direct reference to Earth surface temperature, I believe it carries the implication that greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere increase the Earth's surface temperature. [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Temperature](#) | Tagged [climate change](#), [earth](#), [greenhouse gas](#), [global warming](#), [Carbon dioxide](#), [Radiative forcing](#), [Atmosphere of Earth](#), [Methane](#) | [469 Comments](#)



Absorptions bands in the Earth's atmosphere created by greenhouse gases and the resulting effects on transmitted radiation. (Photo credit: Wikipedia)



## Dr. Michael Mann invokes the Streisand effect

Posted on July 20, 2012 by Anthony Watts



**Michael E. Mann** · 474 like this  
2 hours ago ·



I have formally demanded a retraction of, and apology for, this defamatory piece about me by National Review. I have retained counsel to pursue my legal rights.



### Football and Hockey

www.nationalreview.com

Mark Steyn writes on NRO: In the wake of Louis Freeh's report on Penn State's complicity in serial rape, Rand Simberg writes of Unhappy Valley's other scandal: I'm

<https://www.facebook.com/MichaelMannScientist/posts/267470906700950>

Now that Dr. Mann has drawn attention to it, even more people will want to read the National Review article “[Football and Hockey](#)” to find out what he’s so upset about. I didn’t even know about this article until Mann tweeted this demand announcement today. This announcement on ~~Twitter~~ Facebook is probably a bad move on Dr. Mann’s part. Here’s why: [Continue reading →](#)

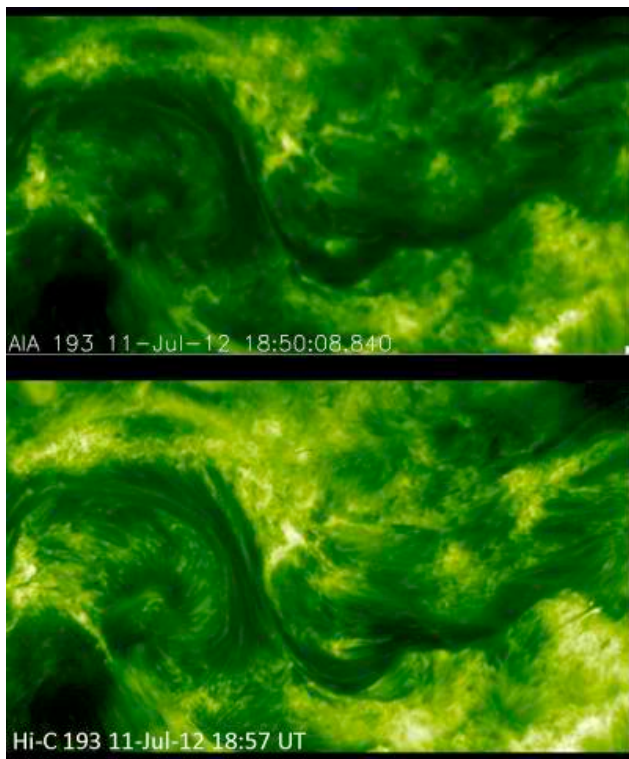
Posted in [Opinion](#), [Climategate](#), [climate ugliness](#) | Tagged [Barbra Streisand](#), [California Coastal Records Project](#), [Kenneth Adelman](#), [Michael Mann](#), [Mike Masnick](#), [National Review](#), [Streisand effect](#), [Techdirt](#), [United States](#) | 291 Comments

## Solar corona revealed in super-high-definition

Posted on July 20, 2012 by Anthony Watts

From the [Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics](#)

Today, astronomers are releasing the highest-resolution images ever taken of the Sun’s corona, or million-degree outer atmosphere, in an extreme-ultraviolet wavelength of light. The 16-megapixel images were captured by NASA’s High Resolution Coronal Imager, or Hi-C, which was launched on a sounding rocket on July 11th. The Hi-C telescope provides five times more detail than the next-best observations by NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory.



Caption: These photos of the solar corona, or million-degree outer atmosphere, show the improvement in resolution offered by NASA's High Resolution Coronal Imager, or Hi-C (bottom), versus the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly on NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (top). Both images show a portion of the sun's surface roughly 85,000 by 50,000 miles in size. Hi-C launched on a sounding rocket on July 11, 2012 in a flight that lasted about 10 minutes. The representative-color images were made from observations of ultraviolet light at a wavelength of 19.3 nanometers (25 times shorter than the wavelength of visible light). Credit: NASA

“Even though this mission was only a few minutes long, it marks a big breakthrough in coronal studies,” said Smithsonian astronomer Leon Golub (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics), one of the lead investigators on the mission.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [solar](#) | Tagged [Corona](#), [Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics](#), [Leon Golub](#), [Marshall Space Flight Center](#), [NASA](#), [Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory](#), [Solar Dynamics Observatory](#), [sun](#) | [8 Comments](#)

## Sea Ice News – Volume 3 Number 8 – meltwater hues, or blues?

Posted on [July 20, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

WUWT commenter Caleb writes on [2012/07/20 at 7:53 am](#)

Check out the “North Pole Camera” on the WUWT “[Sea Ice Page](#).” Both Camera #1 and Camera #2 show lovely summer weather, and patches of melt-water atop the ice.



One problem has been that this melt-water can appear to be open-water, in the radar-eyes of a satellite. Apparently liquid does a great job of absorbing radar, and the radar got no echo even if the water was one inch deep rather than one mile deep. Has this problem been addressed?

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Sea Ice News](#) | Tagged [Arctic](#), [greenland](#), [NASA](#), [National Snow & Ice Data Center](#), [North Pole](#), [Northern Hemisphere](#) | [61 Comments](#)

## More on Koutsoyiannis and the homogenization of temperature data – plus some comments on blog review

Posted on [July 20, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

First, correcting an error that originated with the blog The Hockey Schtick about not giving appropriate credit. Marcel Crok writes on [De staat van het klimaat](#)

*One of the basic principles of blogging is to give credit when credit is due. I always try to mention the source of my information and most blogs do this using an acronym like h/t (hat tip). **This week one of [my own blog articles](#) was not referred to as the source for [another blog article](#) on The Hockey Schtick. This blog then alerted WUWT? who [brought the same news quite loudly](#) and then also [Steve McIntyre picked it up](#) and [Bishop Hill](#).***

Marcel, I always try my best to give credit where it is due, and had I known, you would most certainly have been cited. I agree, knowing of your original blog post would have saved much trouble and speculation. I've also left a comment with The Hockey Schtick, asking him to credit you. By way of compensation, I've added *De staat van het klimaat* to the WUWT blog roll. That said, the post did generate quite a bit of discussion, always a good thing. [Marcel writes](#) of a guest post by Koutsoyiannis: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [peer review](#) | Tagged [Climate Audit](#), [European Geosciences Union](#), [Koutsoyiannis](#), [Marcel Crok](#), [Peer review](#), [Steve McIntyre](#), [Watts Up With That?](#), [WUWT](#) | [35 Comments](#)

## Media Questions and Answers from the Norfolk Police regarding the closing of Climategate

Posted on [July 19, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

### Operation Cabin Q&As (from the Norfolk Police [here](#) PDF)

The following questions and answers are an abridged version of Norfolk Constabulary's Operation Cabin media briefing held on Thursday 19 July 2012.

#### How do you know it was an external hack?

In outline terms, we know it came via the internet from a number of different IP addresses, in various countries, which may have been proxy servers.

The attack was, first of all, into the web server (CRUweb8) in the Climate Research Unit (CRU) at the UEA. From there, a link was established to a CRU back-up server (CRUback3).

It's fair to say, the university has to draw the right balance between giving access to information – it's an academic establishment and, as such, has a proportionate level of security which enables people to work remotely and access information to operate in that academic environment. As a consequence of the attack, the UEA has taken a number of measures and its ICT infrastructure now looks very different.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Climategate](#) | Tagged [Climatic Research Unit](#), [Norfolk Constabulary](#), [November 2009](#), [Password](#), [Proxy server](#), [UEA](#), [United States](#), [University of East Anglia](#) | [108 Comments](#)

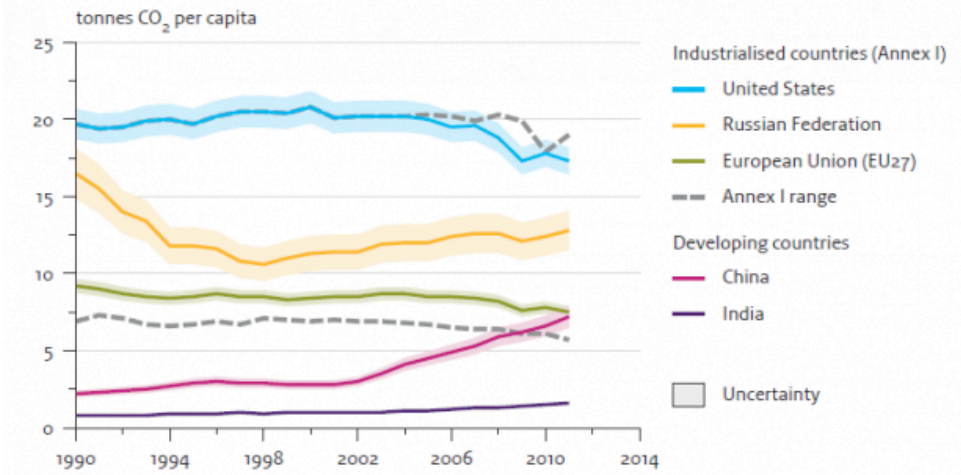
## Per capita CO2 emissions in China reach European levels

Posted on [July 19, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From the [European Commission Joint Research Centre](#)

### Global CO2 emissions continue to increase

**Figure 2.5**  
**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita from fossil fuel use and cement production in top 5 emitters**



Source: EDGAR 4.2 (1970-2008); UNPD, 2010 Annex I range (grey dashed lines): indicates the minimum and maximum per capita values spanned by major industrialised countries as listed in Figure 2.2. Uncertainty margins: 5% for the United States, EU27 and India; 10% for the Russian Federation and China (see Section A1.3)

Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) – the main cause of global warming – increased by 3% last year, reaching an all-time high of 34 billion tonnes in 2011. In China, the world's most populous country, average emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> increased by 9% to 7.2 tonnes per capita.

China is now within the range of 6 to 19 tonnes per capita emissions of the major industrialised countries. In the European Union, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions dropped by 3% to 7.5 tonnes per capita. The United States remain one of the largest emitters of CO<sub>2</sub>, with 17.3 tonnes per capita, despite a decline due to the recession in 2008-2009, high oil prices and an increased share of natural gas. These are the main findings of the annual report 'Trends in global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions', released today by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL).

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Carbon dioxide](#) | Tagged [China](#), [European Commission](#), [European Commission Joint Research Centre](#), [European Union](#), [Joint Research Centre](#), [JRC](#), [Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency](#), [United States](#) | [64 Comments](#)

## Climate Crazyness AND Quote of the Week – Bill McKibben suggests we can 'change physics'

Posted on [July 19, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)



I've never done a double feature before where our Climate Crazyiness of the Week and Quote of the Week are one and the same. 350.org's Bill McKibben gets this unique honor.

From the *what universe does Bill McKibben live in department?* While going on about heat waves, he comes up with the ultimate "I don't understand science" zinger. How long before people stop listening to this guy? I would not have believed he'd be disturbed enough to write this if I hadn't read it as a direct quote written by his own hand.

Hat tip to [Tom Nelson](#).

Here's the quote, its "Big Oil" irrationality on steroids: [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Climate Crazyiness of the Week](#), [Quote of the Week](#), [satire](#) | Tagged [Bill McKibben](#), [Montgomery Scott](#), [Star Trek](#), [Tom Nelson](#) | [164 Comments](#)

## Under the influence of 'Big Firewood'

Posted on [July 19, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

*A little tale to illustrate how alarmism works.*

**Story submitted by WUWT reader Andre Bijkerk**





"Ward's Lumber & Wood; Bethel, Vermont" – from a Kickstarter project documenting family run businesses.

A long time ago, during the ice age, the tribe wizard called the tribe together to tell them something very important and the next discussion emerged:

Tribe wizard:

"Dear tribe, I have returned from my long and dangerous quest for the truth and on the mountain top, I have found out why the river stays frozen and the land white, although the sun is high and the moon is old. Friends, it's a very serious matter. There are strange and powerful creatures who call themselves gods."

Old sceptic tribe idiot:

"That's baloney, been there long time ago. Nobody is there, just barren rock."

Tribe wizard:

"Don't listen to that fool, dear tribe. These creatures only show themselves to the chosen ones like me. Anybody else cannot see them. And they are in anger as our tribe has displeased them and they are punishing us with casting the cold spell."

Old sceptic tribe idiot:

"Nonsense, we had severe winters when I was young. It's just natural variability"

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## Shades of Zwally – Vision Prize calls for ‘ice free Arctic’ predictions – cast your vote

Posted on July 19, 2012 by Anthony Watts

People send me stuff.

Today, just over two months away from the end of summer, when NASA's Jay Zwally famously predicted (with an assist from AP's Seth Borenstein): [“...the Arctic Ocean could be nearly ice-free at the end of summer by 2012”](#) and [we are nowhere near that becoming true](#), I get sent a contest being solicited by the people who run “Vision Prize” in San Francisco. I had to chuckle at this.

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION: When will the Arctic Sea become free of summer floating ice?

Dear Climate Scientist,

You have probably already seen the cover story of last month's [Economist on the Arctic: The vanishing north](#). The Vision Prize [online poll of climate scientists](<http://visionprize.com/>) is currently asking this related question:

**\*\*When (if ever) will the Arctic Sea become completely free of summer floating ice?\*\***

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Posted in [Announcements](#) | Tagged [Arctic](#), [Arctic Ocean](#), [Carnegie Mellon University](#), [Earth science](#), [Jay Zwally](#), [NASA](#), [San Francisco](#), [United States](#) | [97 Comments](#)

## More info on the UEA/CRU Climategate investigation by Norfolk Police – police give reasons for closure and say ‘no death threats’ recorded

Posted on July 19, 2012 by Anthony Watts

Andrew Montford has [posted briefing materials](#) handed out to the press when Norfolk Police released the decision to [close the investigation yesterday](#). Like everything else with this investigation, the people most in the know (the bloggers) were left out of the loop while the spinners (Richard Black of BBC for example) get this info straight away.

### Operation Cabin

### Background Information

### Introduction

Operation Cabin is the name of Norfolk Constabulary's investigation into the unauthorised data breach at the Climate Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich and the subsequent publication of some of this data on the internet.

[Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Climategate](#) | Tagged [Andrew Montford](#), [Climatic Research Unit](#), [Computer Misuse Act 1990](#), [CRU](#), [National Domestic Extremism Team](#), [Norfolk Constabulary](#), [UEA](#), [University of East Anglia](#) | [77 Comments](#)

## Gen-X ers don't care about climate change

Posted on [July 19, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From the [University of Michigan](#), recognition of a whole new crop of, ahem, *deniers*. I can hear Joe Romm's head exploding from my house.

### Generation X is surprisingly unconcerned about climate change

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—As the nation suffers through a summer of record-shattering heat, a University of Michigan report finds that Generation X is lukewarm about climate change—uninformed about the causes and unconcerned about the potential dangers.

“Most Generation Xers are surprisingly disengaged, dismissive or doubtful about whether global climate change is happening and they don't spend much time worrying about it,” said Jon D. Miller, author of “The Generation X Report.”

The new report, the fourth in a continuing series, compares Gen X attitudes about climate change in 2009 and 2011, and describes the levels of concern Gen Xers have about different aspects of climate change, as well as their sources of information on the subject.

“We found a small but statistically significant decline between 2009 and 2011 in the level of attention and concern Generation X adults expressed about climate change,” Miller said. “In 2009, about 22 percent said they followed the issue of climate change very or moderately closely. In 2011, only 16 percent said they did so.”

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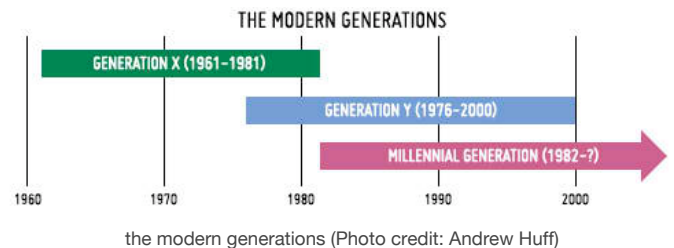
Posted in [Climate News](#) | Tagged [climate change](#), [Generation X](#), [Institute for Social Research](#), [National Science Foundation](#), [Panel Study of Income Dynamics](#), [University of Michigan](#) | [121 Comments](#)

## What else did the '97% of scientists' say?

Posted on [July 18, 2012](#) by [Barry Woods](#)

### Guest Post by Barry Woods

I wonder just how many politicians, environmentalists or scientists who use the phrase ['97% of scientists'](#) (or those who more carefully use 'active climate scientists') to give weight to their arguments regarding climate



change to the public, have any idea of the actual source of this soundbite.

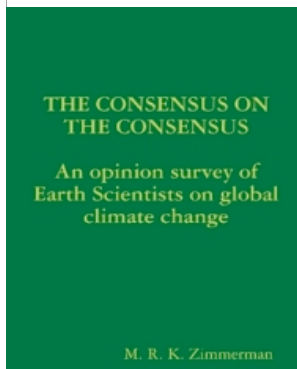
Perhaps a few may say the 'Doran Survey', which is the one of the most common references for this '97% of active climate scientists' phrase. In fact, the Doran EoS paper merely cites a MSc thesis for the actual source of this 97% figure and the actual survey.

*"This was a very simplistic and biased questionnaire."*

([Doran Survey](#) participant)

In a world where politicians (UK) went to war in Iraq based on a 'sexed' up dodgy dossier plagiarised from a 12 year old PhD thesis. I wonder how confident they would be lecturing the public about the need for radical decarbonising economic climate policies, if they were aware that the '97% of active climate scientists' quote/soundbite actually comes from a students MSc thesis, that the Doran EoS paper cites?

Here are but just a few of many responses from scientists that actually took part in the survey, taken from the appendi of the MSc thesis:



*"..scientific issues cannot be decided by a vote of scientists. A consensus is not, at any given time, a good predictor of where the truth actually resides.."*

*"..The "hockey stick" graph that the IPCC so touted has, it is my understanding, been debunked as junk science.."*

*"..I'm not sure what you are trying to prove, but you will undoubtedly be able to prove your pre-existing opinion with this survey! I'm sorry I even started it!.."*

([Doran/Zimmerman](#) feedback)

I wonder just how many politicians or environmentalists (or scientists) that have used the phrase '97% of climate scientists, have actually read the original source of the cited survey. [Continue reading →](#)

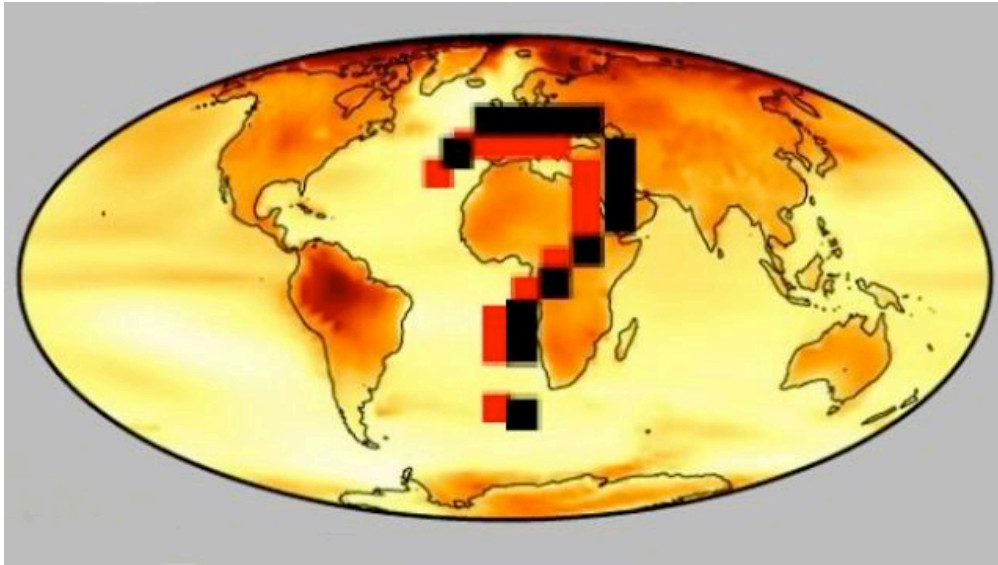
Posted in [climate data](#), [consensus](#) | Tagged [97% of scientists](#), [Anderegg](#), [climate change](#), [Consensus on the consensus](#), [Doran Survey](#), [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), [IPCC Fourth Assessment Report](#), [Peter Doran](#), [Zimmerman](#) | [120 Comments](#)

## Is global warming just another 'End-of-the-World' delusion?

Posted on [July 18, 2012](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

**UPDATE:** less than 24 hours after posting this, we already have an end of the world prediction naming global warming, see below.

*New end of the world book treats climate change just like many other end of times worries that have not come*



*to pass.*

Weston, FL — (SBWIRE) — 07/16/2012 — The end of the world is not going to happen within our lifetimes. That's the word from Justin Deering, author of *The End of the World Delusion: How Doomsayers Endanger Society*.

“We’re bombarded with end-of-the-world scares practically everywhere you look,” Deering explains. “You hear about it in church, on the news, in the movies. These doomsday scenarios have actually bankrupted people and destroyed their lives. A few people have gotten rich at the expense of the more gullible.”

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Posted in [Alarmism](#), [Book Review](#) | Tagged [climate change](#), [Gaia Hypothesis](#), [global warming](#), [Global warming controversy](#), [Goddard Institute for Space Studies](#), [James Hansen](#), [James Lovelock](#), [NASA](#) | 98 Comments

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