

# Website Description

The material on this Website consists of:

- 1) a “Skepticism” folder with various climate change myths and their explanations
- 2) a global warming tutorial in PowerPoint format (***IMPORTANT***)
- 3) an “Economic + Societal Costs” folder with an estimate of U. S. costs resulting from global warming, Societal consequences of global warming, and Effects of global warming on the United States.
- 4) a folder “On Scientific Consensus” containing a talk and chapter on the scientific consensus of global warming
- 5) some WEB sites on climate change
- 6) an “IPCC 2007 Reports” folder containing the science, impacts, and mitigation summaries, and a complete report summary of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 assessment
- 7) a “Political Interference” folder with the U.S. House of Representatives report on Political Interference with Climate Change Science Under the Bush Administration (Dec. 2007)

In the skepticism folder is a “Climate Change Myths” article mostly from a New Scientist issue containing the most common climate myths and misconceptions and their explanations. Also there is an article (The Skeptics vs. the Ozone Hole”, by Dr. Jeffrey Masters) describing the discovery of the ozone hole and attacks by skeptics on that research similar to attacks on global warming research. There is also a compilation by the BBC of the ten most frequent attacks on climate change research and the real explanations for the assertions.

The ozone article describes the discovery of the ozone hole and the methods used by skeptics to discredit that research. The parallels to the deniers of global warming are very similar in most cases. One disturbing fact is that the researchers (1970s) underestimated the amount of ozone destruction. Instead of the estimated 5 to 7% loss by 1995, the loss measured from satellites in the 1990s was about 70% in Antarctica and 30% in the Arctic in the spring, 8% in Australia in the summer, 15% in New Zealand in the summer, and about 3% globally year-round. This could well be the case for estimates of the rise in average global temperatures by climate scientists

based on new studies since the IPCC science report. They could be significantly higher than predicted by computer models. There are other cases where the computer models seem to underestimate the magnitude or time-scale of the changes caused by global warming. One of these (Arctic summer sea ice decline) is shown in the PowerPoint Tutorial.

In the PowerPoint tutorial, explanations for the material in most slides are shown in the “normal view” format. The material in this presentation comes from my book (“Hot House: Global Climate Change and the Human Condition”, Copernicus Press, 2007), and from articles in the latest peer reviewed science literature, including recent governmental reports. Many of the graphs are new since the book’s publication. I consider this PowerPoint tutorial to be the most important part of the Website, because it brings the reader up-to-date on developments of global climate change research. It is divided into 13 parts, each of which can be easily downloaded. The material in the Impacts on U.S. part is largely taken from the government report “Global Climate Change Impact in the United States”. If you use any of this material you should cite the original source, which is given for each figure in the report.

In the Economic + Societal Costs folder are several items. One is the estimated cost of various consequences of global warming. This material comes from Environmental Defense and an October 2007 report from the University of Maryland’s Center for Integrative Research titled “The U.S. Impacts of Climate Change: the Costs of Inaction”. The Societal Consequences document is a copy of “The Age of Consequences: The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Global Climate Change” published in Nov. 2007 by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Center for a New American Security. In the “Climate Change Effects on the U.S.” folder is the Executive Summary and the Summary and Findings of the “Scientific Assessment of the Effects of Global Change on the United States” by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program published in May 2008, and the complete report of “Global Climate Change Impact in the United States” by the Global Change Research Subcommittee of the Federal Advisory Committee and published by Cambridge University Press in early 2009. There is also a Climate Change Synthesis report compiled from the Climate Change Meeting in Copenhagen on March 10-12, 2009. A July 8, 2009 report by Oxfam on the impacts of climate change on poor people is also included.

The “On Scientific Consensus” folder contains a talk and a chapter by Dr. Naomi Oreskes, University of California, San Diego, on consensus in science, and the science consensus on global warming and its primary cause.

This material is particularly important for the non-scientist, and even some scientists, to understand when the media, politicians and others mention it with respect to global warming.

The 2007 IPCC reports consist of the Technical Summaries of 1) The Physical Science Basis, 2) Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, 3) Mitigation of Climate Change, and 4) a summary of the entire report. The full reports can be downloaded at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>.

In the “Political Interference” folder is the report by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the U.S. House of Representatives titled “Political Interference with Climate Change Science Under the Bush Administration”. It details various instances of tampering with the science findings on global warming to suit the Bush administration’s policies.

There is also a list of WEB sites that will keep you up-to-date on current happenings in global warming research. This list is by no means complete, but it will provide new information on various aspects of climate change. This Website will be modified from time-to-time as new material appears in the literature, so it is important to check it periodically to view new results. I hope you find this material interesting and informative.

Robert G. Strom  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Planetary Sciences  
Lunar and Planetary Laboratory  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721

e-mail: [rstrom@lpl.arizona.edu](mailto:rstrom@lpl.arizona.edu)