

PROGRESSIVE MEDIA

Right-Wing Swiftboat Campaign Against Climate Science

GET THE FACTS TO DEBUNK THE LATEST RIGHT-WING SWIFTBOAT CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLIMATE SCIENCE

News of hackers breaking into and illegally obtaining private correspondences from the University of East Anglia Climatic Research Unit – one of the world’s foremost climate research centers – broke over the weekend and has created a buzz in the scientific community, helping fuel a [right-wing “conspiracy” campaign](#) led by global warming deniers.

This attempt to swiftboat climate scientists is a distraction from the climate science facts: **scientists agree this is the hottest decade on record and the consequences of carbon pollution are having a grave impact.** Now is not the time for scapegoating. It is time to [move forward to address climate change](#) and clean energy reform.

FACT: Global Warming, The Impacts Are Here

- According to a recent article by the [Associated Press](#), “Since 1997 climate change has worsened and accelerated -- beyond some of the grimmest of warnings made back then.”
 - *The world's oceans have risen by about an inch and a half.*
 - *Droughts and wildfires have turned more severe worldwide, from the U.S. West to Australia to the Sahel desert of North Africa.*
 - *Species now in trouble because of changing climate include, not just the lumbering polar bear which has become a symbol of global warming, but also fragile butterflies, colorful frogs and entire stands of North American pine forests.*
 - *Temperatures over the past 12 years are 0.4 of a degree warmer than the dozen years leading up to 1997.*
 - *Even the gloomiest climate models back in the 1990s didn't forecast results quite this bad so fast.*
- Scientists have uncovered a large expanse of "[corrosive](#)" water in the Canadian Arctic due to carbon pollution that is putting the marine food web at risk.
- "[Unprecedented](#)" rainfall in the United Kingdom has led to flooding of "[biblical proportions](#)" -- a [predicted consequence](#) of global warming.

- "[Unprecedented](#)" heat, drought, and winds are causing "[catastrophic](#)" wildfires to sweep across eastern Australia -- a [predicted consequence](#) of global warming.
- The [2000s are on track to be nearly 0.2°C warmer](#) than the 1990s. And that temperature jump is especially worrisome since the 1990s were only 0.14°C warmer than the 1980s.
- The [world's glaciers shrink for the 18th year](#). According to the University of Zurich's World Glacier Monitoring Service report in 2006 and 2007 the world's glaciers lost 2 meters (2000 mm) of thickness on average. They note, "The new data continues the global trend in accelerated ice loss over the past few decades." The rate of ice loss is twice as fast as a decade ago.
- Greenhouse gases, which are believed to be responsible for global warming, [reached record highs in the Earth's atmosphere in 2008](#), according to the U.N. weather agency.

FACT: Global Warming, The Science Is Clear

- [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#): **Global warming of the climate system is unequivocal** and most of the observed increase in global temperatures since the mid-20th century is due to human-induced greenhouse gas emissions.
- [National Academy of Sciences](#): **Even if carbon dioxide emissions were halted today, the world would continue warming with "irreversible" effects** — including rising temperatures and sea levels—that will last for a millennium.
- [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#): The scientific evidence is clear: **global climate change caused by human activities is occurring now**, and it is a growing threat to society.
- [U.S. Global Change Research Program](#): Global temperature has increased over the past 50 years. This observed increase is due **primarily to human-induced emissions** of heat-trapping gases.
- [American Physical Society](#): Emissions of **greenhouse gases from human activities are changing the atmosphere** in ways that affect the Earth's climate. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide as well as methane, nitrous oxide and other gases. They are emitted from fossil fuel combustion and a range of industrial and agricultural processes. The evidence is incontrovertible: Global warming is occurring. If no mitigating actions are taken, significant disruptions in the Earth's physical and ecological systems, social systems, security and human health are likely to occur. **We must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases beginning now.**
- [American Meteorological Society](#): Despite the uncertainties noted above, **there is adequate evidence from observations and interpretations of climate**

simulations to conclude that the atmosphere, ocean, and land surface are warming; that humans have significantly contributed to this change; and that further climate change will continue to have important impacts on human societies, on economies, on ecosystems, and on wildlife through the 21st century and beyond.

- [American Geophysical Union](#): The Earth's climate is now clearly out of balance and is warming. Many components of the climate system—including the temperatures of the atmosphere, land and ocean, the extent of sea ice and mountain glaciers, the sea level, the distribution of precipitation, and the length of seasons—are **now changing at rates and in patterns that are not natural** and are best explained by the increased atmospheric abundances of greenhouse gases and aerosols generated by human activity during the 20th century. . . . Evidence from most oceans and all continents except Antarctica shows **warming attributable to human activities**.
- [American Quaternary Association](#): Few credible scientists now doubt that **humans have influenced the documented rise in global temperatures** since the Industrial Revolution.
- [The national science academies of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa](#): It is essential that world leaders agree on the **emission reductions needed to combat negative consequences of anthropogenic climate change** at the UNFCCC negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009.
- A group of [18 leading scientific organizations](#) recently sent a letter to Senators affirming that climate change is happening.