

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

How a U.N. group manipulates science to “prove” Global Warming

By Kevin Mooney

Summary: *The most prestigious international group claiming we face a global warming crisis has a history of twisting the scientific evidence involved in the controversy. It is so duplicitous that it has even misrepresented the findings of its own reports.*

Why do so many people believe in Global Warming theory? Global Warming theory isn't just that the earth is getting warmer, any more than the theory of evolution is that things evolve or the theory of relativity is that everything is relative. There's a lot more to it than just warming. Global Warming theory (sometimes fudged as “climate change” theory), in the words of *Green Watch* editor Steven J. Allen, is “that the earth as a whole is getting catastrophically warmer due not to natural causes but to ‘greenhouse gas’ emissions—especially carbon dioxide (CO₂)—from human industry, transportation, and energy generation, and that the looming catastrophe of Global Warming can be averted with policies that are compatible with peace, prosperity, freedom, and democracy.” That's a lot of believe, and it's inconsistent with what we know about both physical science and human behavior.

Earth's temperatures have been stable since about 1998, according to satellite observations, weather balloons, and other instrumentation. Yet the outputs from computer models, which have been used by the United Nations in its periodic climate change reports, predicted a significant rise in temperatures. William Happer, a Princeton physics professor and member of the elite JASON group of scientists, noted, “There are many possible reasons for the failure of the models, but one may be in-



Former Vice President Al Gore and IPCC Chairman Rajendra K. Pachauri accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 for the effort to promote Global Warming theory.

sufficient careful attention to important and often neglected details of how CO₂ molecules really absorb and emit radiation in the Earth's atmosphere.”

Put simply, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has overstated the climate's sensitivity to carbon dioxide since its inception.

Likewise, Dr. Willie Soon of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics is a skeptic of Global Warming theory, but from a different perspective. He has focused on the impact of sunspots, which are best described as planet-sized pockets of magnetism. Sun spots can cause highly charged energy bursts to strike the earth's atmosphere. When sunspots are present, the earth's temperature rises, when they are not present, the temperature goes down, according to Soon's research. These days the sun spots appear to have run their cycle. This may be why all the latest scientific measurements point to

a Planet Earth that is probably getting colder, and not warmer, despite rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Beyond matters of “hard” science like geophysics are questions about politics, public policy, and the desire of the world's poor to stop being poor. Even if the part of Global Warming theory about CO₂ emissions were true, it's hard to believe that the poor people in places like China and India would choose to consign themselves to grinding poverty in order to prevent it. That means that

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U.S. action, no matter how drastic and harmful to the American economy—for example, President Obama’s efforts to shut down all coal-fired power plants in the country—would have no discernible impact on Global Warming.

So, again, if Global Warming theory is so transparently false, why do so many believe it? A key reason is the work of a United Nations body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The pages of history

Part of Global Warming theory—the concept of greenhouse gases that warm up the atmosphere—is actually very old. French scientist Jean-Baptiste Fourier came upon the greenhouse effect in research back in 1827. But no one paid much attention to the ideas until the 1950s. Then, Roger Revelle, a prominent American oceanographer, performed one of the first serious studies of CO₂ levels in the atmosphere. He worked in partnership with a geochemist named Charles David Keeling. Together, they determined that CO₂ was on the rise across the globe. Keeling later secured funding from the National Science Foundation to continue his measurements of CO₂. (If you follow the musings of Al Gore, you may be familiar with Revelle as the person who inspired Gore’s activism on the issue.)

The Conservation Foundation sponsored a conference, attended by Keeling, that promoted the idea that melting glaciers

and rising sea levels could wreak havoc on civilization. That was followed by Rachel Carson’s book *Silent Spring* (1962), which vilified DDT. The environmentalist movement was taking off, fueled by a mix of justified concerns over pollution of the air and water, mixed with fake or wildly exaggerated concerns, such as DDT, and the use of cyclamates in artificial sweeteners (banned, but later shown to be safe), and the death of 6,000 sheep in Utah which was blamed falsely on an Army nerve gas test. All that led in 1970 to the first Earth Day, the origin of the modern “green” movement.

Meanwhile, environmentalist James Lovelock, a NASA scientist, received considerably notoriety for his Gaia theory, which said that the living and non-living parts of the Earth were all part of a single, complex organism.

It was not until the 1970s that some scientists began to promote widely the idea that human actions could alter the climate. The concern back then was with Global Cooling, and the culprit was airborne pollution. In 1975, *Newsweek* magazine ran a cover story warning there were “ominous signs” of a new Ice Age. The article pointed to extreme weather events as proof that Global Cooling had taken hold. Regardless of what the weather is actually doing, political activists and government officials consumed with ambition and seeking to reshape public policy are inclined to use the same story-telling techniques.

By the 1980s, as the climate cycle turned from cooling to warming, the Global Warming cause gained momentum. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) held the first World Climate Conference in 1979, which called upon all nations to form a global plan addressing climate change. The WMO then joined forces with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), an organization bringing together government science advisors from around the world, to organize a conference on the topic. The conference, held in Villach, Austria, led to a consensus that the potential threats associated with

Global Warming were sufficient to merit coordinated international research. But remarkably, participants recognized that there was scientific uncertainty. They opposed immediate, drastic action.

The sponsors would fix that problem—the problem of scientific objectivity—by carefully selecting the participants in the next such conference, in 1985, also in Villach. It was that second Villach conference that led to the formulation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The WMO, UNEP, and ISCU issued a joint statement that set the tone for research: “As a result of the increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, it is now believed that in the first half of the next century a rise of global mean temperature could occur which is greater than any in man’s history,” the statement said. “While some warming of the climate now appears inevitable due to past actions, the rate and degree of future warming could be profoundly affected by government policies on energy conservation, use of fossil fuels and the emissions of greenhouse gases.”

Here is the key thing to remember from the 1985 conference, as noted in a paper by Wendy Franz of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. “The substance of the scientific conclusions was not significantly different from prior assessments,” she wrote. But “the conclusions the scientists reached based upon the scientific analyses were significantly different.” Why?

Franz suggested that scientific activists were deliberately picked by the sponsoring bodies so they could make policy recommendations. They were given authority under the cover the U.N., but they did not have to answer to their national governments back home, Franz explained. From this point forward, international activists—the people who would later create the IPCC—began to toe the alarmist line.

Verdict first, then trial

The IPCC was formed officially in 1988. The first meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, where a three-part working group structure was established that

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persists to this day. Working Group I examines existing evidence; Working Group II measures environmental impacts; Working Group III is devoted to strategic recommendations.

From the beginning, the panel was highly politicized. That much was evident when the IPCC described itself as “an intergovernmental mechanism aimed at providing the basis for the development of a realistic and effective internationally accepted strategy for addressing climate change.” The idea that human activity is not the primary driver of climate change never entered into the equation. The methodology was subservient to a predetermined outcome.

“In effect, the IPCC had made up its mind and assigned itself an agenda,” noted Bonner Cohen, a senior fellow with the Capital Research Center. “It was time to put the show on the road, and the IPCC and the ‘green’ NGOs would put in quite a performance in the years to come.”

The environmentalists who are closely tied in with the IPCC took their cue from a now largely forgotten, but all too successful, campaign aimed at banning chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and other chemicals. Beginning in the 1970s, “green” activists made the claim that CFCs were responsible for destroying the ozone layer, a part of the atmosphere that protects the earth from some of the ultraviolet rays that reach the planet. A critical turning point came in 1987, when the UN adopted the Montreal Protocol, which called for a 50% reduction in 1986 levels of CFC consumption by June 30, 1998. When the treaty was written, there was no hard evidence of ozone depletion, but the policymakers and corporations still responded to the environmentalist narrative. As Cohen explained in his book *The Green Wave: The Environmental Movement and its Consequences*, “green” activists operating in collusion with the U.N. learned early on that alarmist claims could move policy, regardless of how unsettled the scientific data actually was.

“As the campaign to promote the idea of global warming unfolded, advocates found

that the phrase ‘scientific consensus’ could be used as a rhetorical tool to shut off debate,” Cohen wrote. “After all, if there was a consensus that man-made greenhouse gases were heating up the climate to the point of crisis, then the only matter left to discuss was how best to deal with it.”

From its inception, the IPCC leadership was fully committed to establish a link between human “greenhouse gas” emissions and Global Warming. Bert Bolin, the first chairman of the IPCC, pushed scientists to agree to various points underlying Global Warming theory, in order to create the false appearance of a consensus. Most scientists did not change their views from one Villach conference to the next, according to Franz in her paper, and they remained hesitant to make definitive statements about the primary drivers responsible for climate change. The idea that the Villach conference reached a consensus was vigorously disputed by others in attendance, as was noted by John McClean, a member of the Australian Science Climate Coalition.

Yet Bolin was in charge when the IPCC first gained its footing in the late 1980s. Scientific conformity was critical to his agenda. McClean wrote: “Consensus is of only minor relevance to science, but it is a tool used widely in politics and therefore favoured by organizations such as the United Nations and its subgroups. The declaration that the Villach conference had reached a consensus should therefore be regarded as a ploy by which the conference sponsors attempted to influence politicians and policymakers.”

In its mission statements, the IPCC made it clear that it has been operating under the assumption that so-called mitigation efforts (such as anti-CO₂ regulations) would be necessary to alleviate global warming. A recent version of the IPCC charter made this bias clear: “The role of the IPCC is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.”

If evidence begins to weigh against the theory of man-made global warming, then what is the rationale for the IPCC? Well, there’s always the Precautionary Principle.

First, do no harm

The Wikipedia version of the Precautionary Principle is that, “if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, the burden of proof that it is *not* harmful falls on those taking an action.”

Environmentalists and their political allies interpret the Precautionary Principle to mean: Governments must start from the assumptions that Global Warming theory is correct and that policies intended to fight Warming would be beneficial.

Think about that for a moment. Imagine a conversation with a leftist friend in which you say: “Saddam Hussein had used WMDs against the Iranians and against his own people, acted in 2003 as if he still had a WMD program, and even told his own generals that he had a WMD program. He was one of the world’s most murderous dictators, with ties to terrorist groups fighting the U.S. So, based on the Precautionary Principle, the Iraq War was fully justified.” You can imagine the reaction of your leftist friend to that argument.

Yet those who would apply the same principle to Global Warming are perfectly willing to take extreme actions that would cripple the U.S. economy for generations and cause untold suffering for billions of people. (The Sierra Club president, for example, calls for leaving two-thirds of all the world’s oil, coal, and gas in the ground.) The likely result of such policies would not be the prevention of Global Warming; it would be war and poverty.

Plus, there’s a general principle: When, in violation of long-established rules of evidence, someone tries to shift the burden of proof to his opponent, he’s usually lying.

Being ever mindful of the need to justify continued government funding (i.e., taxpayer funding) and other forms of

The NIPCC: the alternative to the United Nations' IPCC

Don't confuse the IPCC with its private-sector counterpart, the NIPCC, the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change. The NIPCC does not receive any government or corporate funding, and acts as an independent auditor of its U.N. counterpart.

The NIPCC recently released its fourth report responding to the work of the U.N.'s IPCC. It was published by the Heartland Institute, in partnership with two other groups, the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, and the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP).

The latest NIPCC report, released just a few weeks before the draft version of AR5 was published online in September 2013, listed 50 climate scientists as authors, contributors, or reviewers.

In releasing its report, the NIPCC declared, "While the IPCC reports growing confidence that climate change is man-made and likely to be harmful, NIPCC finds just the opposite: The human impact is likely to be very small, and a modest amount of warming would probably produce just as many benefits as costs."

In a follow-up to their full-report, four of the lead authors (Craig Idso, Robert Carter, Fred Singer, and Willie Soon) listed 11 examples in which the UN in its earliest report was forced to retreat from earlier alarmist positions, after it turned out that—

► Global temperatures stopped rising 15 years ago despite rising levels of carbon dioxide, which the IPCC claims is responsible for Global Warming. (Carbon dioxide, or CO₂, which humans and all animals exhale, should not be confused with black carbon, such as soot, or with carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas.)

► Temperatures were warmer in many parts of the world approximately 1,000 years ago, during the so-called Medieval Warm Period, a warm period that was, obviously, due entirely to natural causes. (Modern industry, transportation, and energy generation, and the

"greenhouse gas" emissions associated with modern technology, did not exist.)

► The extent of Antarctic sea ice is increasing rather than shrinking.

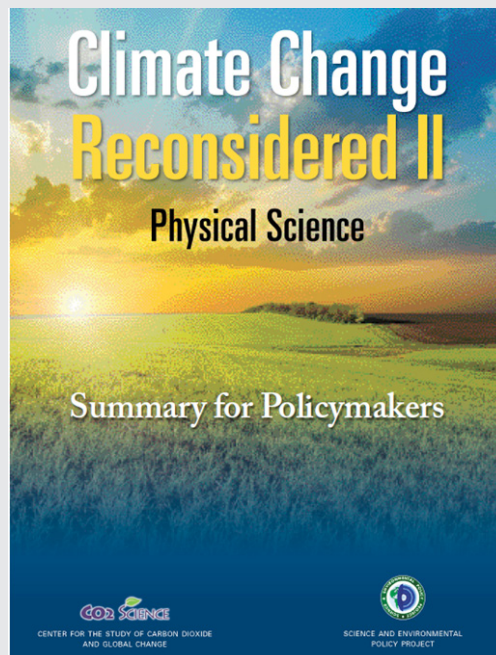
► Climate computer models fail to reproduce the observed reduction in surface warming trend over the last 10-15 years. In other words, previous predictions failed. (The failure or success of predictions is the key to the scientific method. It's how theories are tested.)

► Computer models fail to represent and quantify cloud and aerosol process. (In other words, the climate models leave out some of the most important factors affecting the world's climate.)

► Solar cycles may account for the pause in the rise in global air temperature.

► "No best estimate for equilibrium climate sensitivity can now be given because of a lack of agreement on values across assessed lines of evidence and studies." (In other words, there is no clear agreement on the critical issue of how much the earth's temperature would be affected by a doubling of CO₂.)

► "Low confidence" is expressed that damaging increases will occur in either drought or tropical cyclone activity. ("Low confidence" in one's predictions means you're not really sure.)



In addition to listing the "retreats," the NIPCC authors criticized the IPCC's work by pointing to sweeping statements by the IPCC that may be technically true in a certain context, but that are highly misleading. For example, the IPCC claims that the climate changes experienced since the 1950s are "unprecedented," when in reality, the climate record includes significant changes that were actually much more extreme and abrupt. As noted above, these earlier changes came about prior to significant human-caused "greenhouse gas" emissions, i.e., before man-made climate change was even possible. —KM

government support, the IPCC's Bolin and his top lieutenants have relied on the Precautionary Principle. The principle has been used to justify European regulatory practices for decades and was embraced by the U.S. environmentalist movement beginning in the 1990s. The Wingspread Declaration (named for the conference center where environmental activists gathered in 1998) presented the definition of the Precautionary Principle that has gained favor among the "green" groups, NGOs (NonGovernmental Organizations), and UN groups that comprise the international environmentalist establishment: *When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established.*

The IPCC is laced with overtures toward the Precautionary Principle. This much is evident from the comments made by John Houghton, the first chairman of the IPCC Working Group I and a top lieutenant to Bolin. While serving with the IPCC, Houghton was also director general of the United Kingdom's Met Office (the U.K.'s counterpart to the National Weather Service). Houghton also played a key role in setting up a spinoff of the Met's Office known as the Hadley Center for Climate Prediction in 1989.

The Hadley Center, in tandem with the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia, furnishes the IPCC with temperature data that is said to prove Global Warming—data that have never been subjected to an independent audit. The Hadley Center has also provides much of the climate modeling for the IPCC reports.

"Unless we announce disasters no one will listen," Houghton wrote in an op-ed, adding that "the parallels between global climate change and global terrorism are becoming increasingly obvious."

Summary Statement manipulation

The IPCC issues reports that summarize scientific studies from around the world. At least, that's what the IPCC claims that it does. Actually, it cherry-picks data, often

ignoring evidence that runs counter to Global Warming orthodoxy. (You might remember the Left's charges that the Bush 43 administration cherry-picked information to show that Saddam Hussein had an ongoing WMD program. Regardless of whether the charge was true about the Bush administration, it is unquestionably true about the IPCC.)

Richard Lindzen, a retired professor of meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has focused on one aspect of the IPCC's reports: the summary, the part that is read by policymakers and journalists (if they read any part at all). It's called the Summary for Policymakers (SPM); it's a 20- to 30-page document ostensibly set up to highlight key findings of the full report. The summary, it turns out, doesn't even reflect the biased report that it is supposed to summarize.

As Lindzen notes, this sleight-of-hand was evident even in the IPCC's first report, the First Assessment released in September 1990. While the body of the report was laced with ambiguous observations that sidestep definitive conclusions, the Summary flatly asserted that humanity's use of "fossil fuels" induced an unnatural rise in earth temperatures in the final decades of the 20th Century.

This bias-on-top-of-bias has been repeated in the subsequent reports. Moreover, it is important to take note of how the reports have been timed to achieve the desired effect. The final version of the Fifth Assessment (also known as AR5) was published in January 2014. But the Summary and the draft version of the full report have been in circulation since September 2013.

Why does this matter? By releasing the Summary ahead of the final report, the UN panel was able to tout alarmist conclusions—and later make the necessary adjustments to the actual report, just as it has with previous reports, to bring the "evidence" in line with the "verdict." "If you were doing this with a business report, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) would be down your throat," said Lindzen.

Final negotiations that go into the Summary occur behind closed doors, but IPCC insiders provided a glimpse of what really takes place when they provided anonymous answers to a questionnaire from The InterAcademy Council, an international group of academics. Here are some of their admissions:

"I suspect that . . . anyone who has not been involved in this process would scarcely believe how this meeting is managed; the expense, the length of the sessions, and the apparent pickiness of some of the discussion would strike many as a very poor way to conduct international business."

". . . [T]his was an agonizing, frustrating process, as every sentence had to be wordsmithed on a screen in front of representatives of more than 100 governments, falling farther and farther beyond a realistic schedule by the hour. In Brussels in 2007, the process ran all night on the two final days."

". . . I have observed the behaviour of the delegations from individual countries which certainly reflects a completely different mindset than my own as a scientist. The political intrigues which appear to be well known on the international scene are popping up again and again . . ."

"In my experience the summary for policy makers tends to be more of a political process than one of scientific precision."

"This is a pure political process . . ."

It is, indeed, a "pure political process," but one that is perfectly in sync with the United Nations' sometimes anti-capitalist, anti-Western agenda. The U.N. is made up mostly of dictatorships and kleptocracies; it gives veto power to such governments as Communist China and Putinist Russia; it has a history of corruption on a global scale; and, as an example of its hypocrisy and its blind eye to evil, the U.N. includes, on its Human Rights Council, the governments of China, Cuba, and Saudi Arabia. When a U.N. body manipulates evidence to achieve a political agenda, should it come as a surprise?

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GreenNotes

Politicians and bureaucrats continue to use the **Endangered Species Act** to extend their power and put roadblocks in America's path to energy independence. **Ron Arnold** of the *Washington Examiner* notes, "Last year, the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** used its authority over the endangered diamond darter—a small fish—to designate 122 miles of river and tributaries between **West Virginia** and **Kentucky** untouchable, which put West Virginia's timber, mining, oil and gas workers in serious peril. The weapon that USFWS used is the Endangered Species Act and its mandate to designate 'critical habitat'—places put off limits to human disturbance, as defined by an enforcer." Pleas from West Virginia officials and business groups to study the economic impact on small businesses and local communities went unheeded.

Meanwhile, **Rhea Sun Suh**, the **President's** pick for assistant secretary of the interior for fish and wildlife and parks, continues to advance. Suh declared in 2007 that "Natural gas development is easily the single greatest threat to the ecological integrity of **the West**."

The left-wing magazine *Mother Jones* reports that "Global warming isn't just going to melt the **Arctic** and flood our cities—it's also going to make Americans more likely to kill each other. . . . Just how much more crime can we expect? Using the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's** warming projections, [economist **Matthew**] **Ranson** calculated that from 2010 to 2099, climate change will 'cause' an additional '22,000 murders, 180,000 cases of rape, 1.2 million aggravated assaults, 2.3 million simple assaults, 260,000 robberies, 1.3 million burglaries, 2.2 million cases of larceny, and 580,000 cases of vehicle theft' in the United States."

Tim Cook, CEO of the **Apple** computer company, wants to continue to use company resources to promote policies based on Global Warming theory, and he suggested that investors who object should dump his company's stock. At Apple's annual shareholder meeting in March, Cook denounced a proposal, sponsored by the **National Center for Public Policy Research**, a conservative think tank, that would have required Apple to disclose to shareholders the costs of its environmental initiatives and to be more transparent about its relationship with "certain trade associations and business organizations promoting the amorphous concept of environmental sustainability" ("sustainability" being a dog-whistle for Warming-based policies). Cook retorted: "We want to leave the world better than we found it. . . . If you want me to do things only for [return on investment] reasons, you should get out of this stock."

Virgin CEO Richard Branson, whose airline has emitted more than 7.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, praised Cook's stand and declared that skeptics should "get out of our way."

Wondering why the **European Union** seems reluctant to confront **Vladimir Putin** over his invasion of the sovereign nation of **Ukraine**? A big reason is Europe's dependency on **Russia** for one-third of its oil imports and nearly 40% of its gas imports. **Reagan administration** officials attempted 33 years ago to block the **Trans-Siberian Pipeline** because they knew the pipeline would help make Europe dependent on Russia.

Today, exports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from the U.S. could help wean Europe from Russian fuels—but, given environmentalist opposition, don't count on the **Obama administration** to facilitate such exports. The **Department of Energy** approves LNG export license applications case by case, but has more than 20 applications pending, one for more than 800 days. As the *Wall Street Journal* editorialized, "'case by case' . . . is the bureaucratic term for forever."

Control of the **U.S. Senate** is up for grabs in November, with some observers giving **Republicans** a good chance of capturing control of both houses of **Congress** for the first time since 2006. That may explain why some of the most vulnerable **Democrats** up for re-election (**Mary Landrieu** of **Louisiana**, **Mark Pryor** of **Arkansas**, **Mark Begich** of **Alaska**, **Kay Hagan** of **North Carolina**) skipped an all-night marathon session held to promote Global Warming theory.

Perhaps those Senators have learned something from last month's special election for Congress in **Florida**, where Democrats had expected to pick up the seat of the late **Rep. Bill Young**. Many media reports said the Republican, **David Jolly**, won because he attacked his opponent's support for **Obamacare**, which certainly played a major role, but the media ignored the failure of Democrats' ads that attacked Jolly for being a "denier" on Global Warming. Jolly won 48.5% to 46.7%, with a **Libertarian** candidate pulling 4.8%.