Climate Claim Rebuttals
Updated: April 18, 2021
Joseph D'Aleo, CCM

Below are fact checks of the 13 most common climate claims such as those made in the recently released Fourth National Climate Assessment Report. For each claim, per the scientific method, a rebuttal is provided based on the most credible relevant empirical data. The authors of these reviews are all recognized experts in the relevant fields.

The globe has experienced the warmest ever month or year - these claims are **totally unsupported** by any credible analysis of raw global surface temperature data and its availability. Such claims are in reality politically driven fictions**.**

Heat Waves have been increasing - heat waves have been decreasing since the 1930s in the U.S. and globally.

Hurricanes have become more frequent and intense - the decade just ended as the second quietest for landfalling hurricanes and landfalling major hurricanes in the U.S since the 1850s. 2020 saw a record 30 named storms and many Gulf impacts like the quiet solar periods in the late 1800s and this century, but the AC index ranked 13th highest. See 2020 Update showing similarities to late 1800s here and global contrasts here.

Tornadoes have become more frequent and intense - the number of strong tornadoes has declined over the last half century. More active months occur when unseasonable cold spring patterns are present.

Droughts and Floods have become more frequent and intense - there are no statistically significant trends.

Wildfires have become more prevalent - Wildfires have actually been decreasing since the very active 1800s. The increase in damage in recent years is due to population growth in vulnerable areas and poor forest management. See Australia Wildfire story here. See this analysis that shows how public lands are ablaze but private lands are not because they are properly managed here.

Snowfall has been declining- Snowfall has been increasing in the fall and winter in the Northern Hemisphere and North America with many records being set.

The Sea level has been rising at an increasing rate. - the rate of global sea level rise on average has fallen by 40% the last century. Where today, it is increasing - local factors such as land subsidence are to blame. See how sea level trends are being adjusted here.

Arctic, Antarctic and Greenland Ice has been melting - the polar ice varies with multidecadal cycles in ocean temperatures. Current Ice levels are comparable to or above historical low levels. Arctic ice returned to higher levels with a very cold winter in 2019/20. Ice was highest level since 2013. See update here on the AMO, PDO ocean cycles, the Solar and Arctic temperatures.

Ocean Acidification is a problem - when life is considered, ocean acidification (really slightly reduced alkalinity) is a non-problem, or even a benefit.

Carbon Pollution is a health hazard - The term "carbon pollution" is a deliberate, ambiguous, disingenuous term, designed to mislead people into thinking carbon dioxide is pollution. Because the burning of the fuel is never 100% efficient, trace amounts of pollutants including unburnt carbon are produced in the form of fine particulates (soot), hydrocarbon gases and carbon monoxide. The ambient air concentrations of these actual pollutants have been decreasing for decades and are going to keep decreasing for the foreseeable future because of existing non-GHG-related regulations.

Climate change is endangering food supply - the vitality of global vegetation in both managed and unmanaged ecosystems is better off now than it was a hundred years ago, 50 years ago, or even a mere two-to-three decades ago thanks in part to CO2.

There is a 97% consensus that climate change is man-made - a 97% consensus is a convenient fiction meant to bypass the scientific method and sway public opinion and drive societal changes and policies that support political agendas.