

Common Skeptic Questions

1. How do I know that the CO₂ increase is due to anthropogenic activities related to fuel use and not a natural event?
2. Why can't scientists make up their minds? They thought climate was cooling in the 1970s and implied that an Ice Age was coming, and now temperatures are increasing.
3. If humans are causing global warming, then why are glaciers on Mars melting?
4. Since the sun provides Earth with most of its energy, why do climate scientists ignore fluctuations in the amount of energy given off by the sun? What evidence do they use to lessen the sun's influence on global climate change?
5. Don't volcanoes emit more greenhouse gases than humans?
6. If the globe is warming, why is central Antarctica cooling?
7. Doesn't the deforestation of thousands of acres affect global temperature?
8. According to the Vostok ice core CO₂ levels coincide with temperatures, but I've heard that scientists can not resolve which one lags the other. Is this true?
9. According the 'hockey stick' graph, the Medieval Warm period did not occur on a large scale. Can we 'believe' this just based on tree ring records from a few sites/trees?
10. The amount of atmospheric CO₂ is very small in comparison with other gases and the amount that is emitted by human activities is miniscule. So then, how could our production of CO₂ have such an impact on climate?
11. Scientists state that growing seasons and migration patterns occur earlier in the year. Then, why are penguins in Antarctica nesting 9 days later then they did 50 years ago?
12. What is the relationship between deep space cosmic rays, the sun's magnetic field and cloudiness? What about the idea that fewer cosmic rays means fewer low clouds and warmer temperatures?
13. Can we trust a global temperature? There are many ways to calculate an average. How do scientists correct for urban heat island effects?
14. Do they use a weighted average since new weather stations are added and others stop operating? Also, these stations are not even distributed so how is this problem solved?
15. How is CO₂ a pollutant if it volcanoes emit it and plants live off of it? What's next water vapor?
16. Can CO₂ leak out of an ice core before the ice is completely frozen?
17. If Gore is the global warming super star, why does he refuse to lower his CO₂ emissions to that of the average American?
18. If polar regions are warming faster, wouldn't that reduce the temperature gradient from the equator to the pole and thus, reduce extreme events?
19. Do you think skeptical scientists are ridiculed and not allowed to publish as often as 'believers'?
20. Climate scientists need to perpetuate the idea of global warming in order to gain funding and fame (in their circles).
21. As far as the hockey stick goes, much of the records prior to 1400 are based on tree rings which can be sensitive to temperature but are also sensitive to soil moisture. So why should we trust them to provide a global temperature?
22. What evidence exists that connects CO₂ to global warming?