

Questions on the mind of Global Climate Change Policy Makers

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EMF Workshop on Climate Change Impacts and Integrated Assessments

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The World is Confusing When it Comes to Climate Change

4-5 June 2008 CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll
N=1,035 adults nationwide, MoE+/- 3

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming?

1. Global warming is a proven fact and is mostly caused by emissions from cars and industrial facilities such as power plants and factories.
2. Global warming is a proven fact and is mostly caused by natural changes that have nothing to do with emissions from cars and industrial facilities.
3. Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven.

Poll Date	Percent Cars + Industry	Percent Natural Changes	Percent Unproven Theory	Percent Unsure
4-5 June 2008	54	22	23	1
12-14 Oct 2007	56	21	21	2
4-6 May 2007	54	20	22	4

One plan to reduce global warming would have the government set a limit on the amount of those emissions that companies could produce each year. Companies that exceed that limit would face fines or higher taxes, but they could avoid those penalties by paying money to other companies that produce fewer emissions than allowed. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Poll Date	Percent Favor	Percent Oppose	Percent Unsure
4-5 June 2008	52	45	3

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The Inhofe EPW Press Blog

Climate Momentum Shifting: Prominent Scientists Reverse Belief in Man-made Global Warming - Now Skeptics

May 15, 2007

Posted by Marc Morano – Marc_Morano@EPW.Senate.Gov - 9:14 PM ET

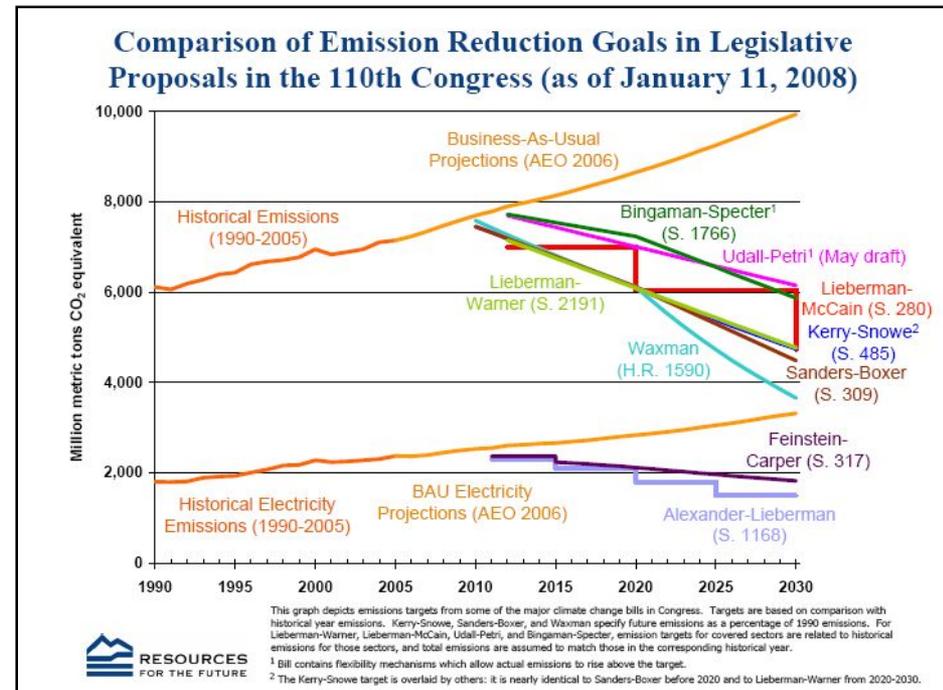
Climate Momentum Shifting: Prominent Scientists Reverse Belief in Man-made Global Warming - Now Skeptics

Growing Number of Scientists Convert to Skeptics After Reviewing New Research

Following the U.S. Senate's vote today on a global warming measure (see today's AP article: [Senate Defeats Climate Change Measure](#)), it is an opportune time to examine the recent and quite remarkable momentum shift taking place in climate

Legislative/Policy Landscape

- As of July 2008, the 110th Congress had introduced +235 bills, resolutions, and amendments addressing global climate change and greenhouse gas emissions – compared to 106 during the entire 109th Congress.
- On a recent cloture vote re to the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act (S.3036), 54 Senators put themselves on record supporting greenhouse gas cap-and-trade (C&T) and there are seven other senators who have either cosponsored or voted for previous C&T bills.
- Thus, it appears likely that the next President will come to office with a majority of support in the Senate for C&T, and very possibly with the 60 votes needed for passage of the right bill.



Candidates



Sen. John McCain (AZ): Lead author of a Senate proposal to reduce carbon emissions by 65 percent by 2050. Supported an increase in auto fuel economy to 35 mpg but opposed a 40 mpg standard. During a GOP debate, he said, "We ought to be investing in alternate energy sources. Recently, there was a group of retired military officers who said climate change and energy independence is a national security issue. It is."



Sen. Barack Obama (IL): Supports cutting carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050. Favors increasing the auto fuel-economy standard to 40 mpg. Would reward domestic automakers for producing more fuel-efficient vehicles by helping to fund health care for their retirees. Under his plan, 50 percent of the health care savings would be invested in technology for cars with better gas mileage.

Global Climate Change Policymakers Questions

- Most recent climate change legislation is focused on mitigation:
 - What should I do about controlling green house gas emissions?
 - How much should I invest in energy efficiency?
What energy alternatives should I be pursuing?
 - What is the respective role of the public and private sector in dealing with climate change?
 - How do I get other nations to be part of the solution?
- These bills are relatively silent on the need for basic science investments or adaptation approaches..... probably just assuming the science and integrated assessment investments will be there when needed.... a serious omission in my mind.

The Questions Policymakers SHOULD be asking
“A case for Integrated Assessments”

What should be my integrated plan related to global climate change....

- What should be my climate change goals to preserve the environment for future generations?
- How much and where do I invest in climate mitigation versus helping communities adapt to climate change?
- Where do I need to make key basic science investments to improve the tools I need to understand climate change at the local/regional level and monitor my progress toward my goals?

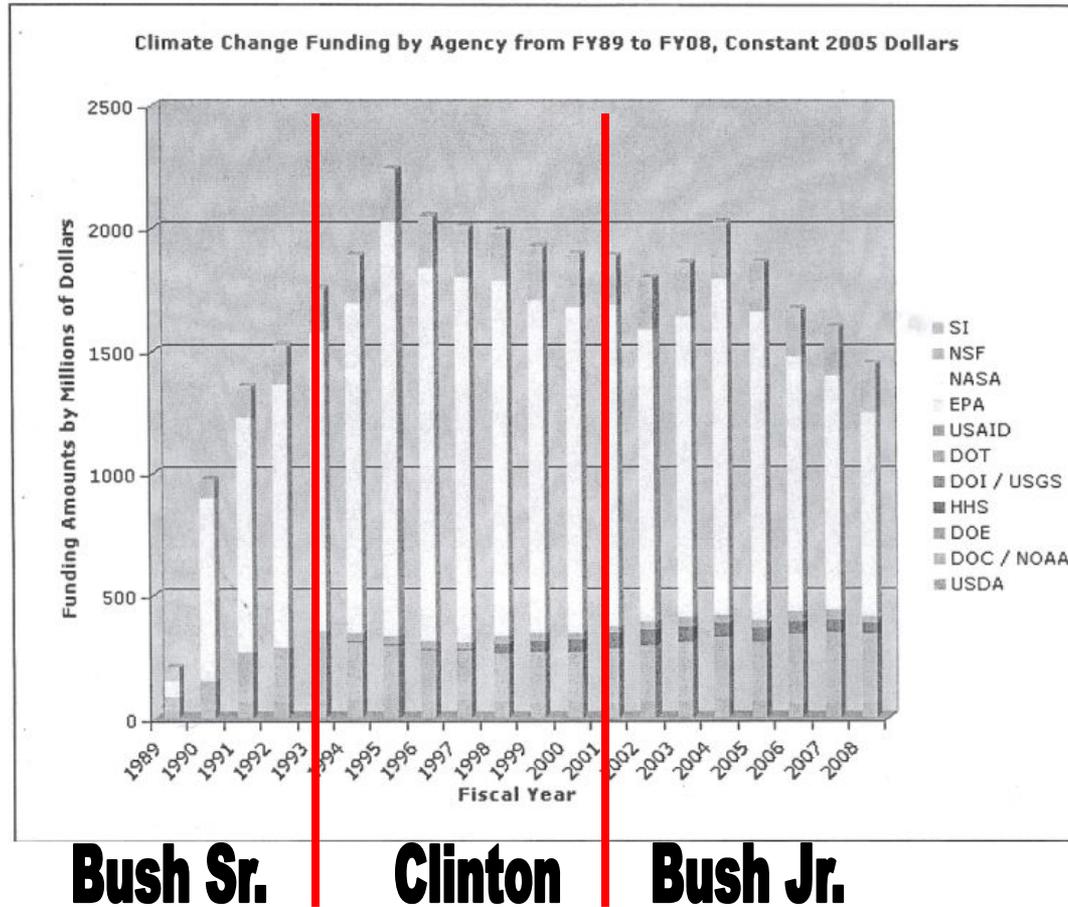
A Clarion Call for the Social and Physical Science Community Working on Climate Change Issues

- **A historical/heretical question?:** Do I need to even continue to make investments in basic science or do I know enough to take policy action?
- I believe much of the public's confusion regard climate change has to do with the scale scientist talk about – like weather – climate change will be local, not global. So, +3-5 degrees doesn't mean much to many people.
- Can we be more relevant to both politicians and the public? - **we better!**
- Let's look at history on how politicians deal with this issue by looking at the evolution of the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

What happened?

History of USGCRP/CCSP Funding

What might happen (again)?



Future – will science be run over by cap & trade in the next Administration?

Challenges (many the same today)

- **Complexity.** Over a dozen agencies, \$Bs, and largely voluntary participation.
- **Agency Mission:** Agency missions not always focused on USGCRP priorities.
- **Agency Politics.** “I didn’t work hard to get the President elected to have a mid-level interagency committee tell me what to do.”
- **Congressional Politics.** Integrated review?
- **Overall Report Card:** mixed AND the program was much simpler in the past since it was largely focused on science.

What did work?

- Key agency leaders and “a new frontier” focused on improving our knowledge.
- A common framework and vocabulary.
- Key political leaders that gave us critical tools (many times for all the wrong reasons):
 - **Time.** Focused priority guidance.
 - **Legitimacy.** NSTC and integrated budget hearings.
 - **Authority.** Fencing and coordinated OMB Passbacks.
 - **Presence.** Budget supplement.

What would it take in the next Administration?

Everything from before....except:

- **Framework: Build a New Frontier!**
 - Science and the USGCRP/CCSP are just one element of a much bigger national framework that can probably only be created through a “climate summit” and “national assessment”.
 - Recast the goals to say how science will help make the nation (world) resilient to severe weather and climate change (what is happening, why, and what can we do about it – show how science is key to all of this).
- **New Congressional Oversight Paradigm.** That is likely to happen.
- **Performance metrics.** How will we know we are making a difference? We all need to know our specific contribution to the national goal.
- **Central Authority.** Leader(s) with authority and enough budget to influence investments. Homeland Security Agency for climate?
- **Political Leaders.** Will we have them? Ones that will make climate a mission critical issue and provide the tools to agency reps.



Tough Times Ahead?

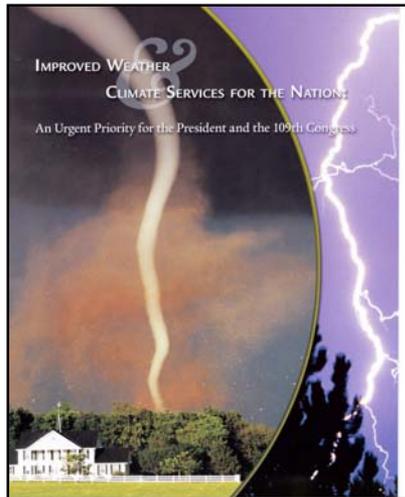
Dollars in Millions

DRAFT: 27 December

Advice to the Administration and Congress: Take actions to make our nation resilient to severe weather and climate change

"Understanding the complex, changing planet on which we live, how it

Agency	FY07	FY08 Req	07-08 %	FY08 House	FY08 Senate	FY08 Omnibus	07-08 %
NSF	5,916	6,429	9%	6,509	6,553	6,032	2%
NOAA	3,895	3,815	-2%	4,003	4,215	3,896	0%



heavy snows, and drought. All 50 states are impacted by these events. While the threats associated with extreme weather and climate change are substantial, adapting to climate change will provide crucial economic stability, for example by making future water, food and energy supplies reliable and sustainable.

Our nation is already committed to a significant level of climate change. The 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report documents how humans are contributing to climate change and notes that we are already committed to a significant level of climate change over the next few decades regardless of our near-term strategies, although the local and regional impacts of that change are not well known. Understanding these regional and local impacts and having the science and policy tools to make our nation more resilient to these hazards must be a high priority for our country.

Build on the strengths of the weather and climate communities. We must have a 21st century program of Earth observations, science, and information to guide policy choices and to determine whether these choices are having the desired effects. Building on advances in observing systems and predictive skills over the past three decades, there is great potential for government, industry, and policy makers at all levels to implement much more effective strategies to deal with weather and climate challenges. But we are faced with significant hurdles to achieve that objective.



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Advice to the Administration and Congress - Mozilla Firefox

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ADVICE TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS: MAKING OUR NATION RESILIENT TO SEVERE WEATHER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

These recommendations are sponsored by:

- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
- The Weather Coalition
- American Meteorological Society
- American Geophysical Union
- Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science
- National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

- [Making our Nation Resilient: Recommended Actions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Details on the Recommended Actions and Backup Material \(PDF\)](#)
- [Make Nominations for Key Leadership Positions in the New Administration](#)



Solving Problems for the Public: “Understanding these regional and local impacts and having the science and policy tools to make our nation more resilient to these hazards must be a high priority for our country.”

UCAR: Taking this to Heart

- The 2008 UCAR Annual Members Meeting (73 universities) in October will focus on how our community can help our nation deal with climate change.
- Our country has been making significant investments in the atmospheric and related science community for over 45 years.
- Through a quick survey, we discovered that many of our member institutions are working with local and regional decision makers on climate change issues (water, food, forestry, public health, etc).
- We will be discussing how these projects are working, lessons learned, what our community needs to improve these partnership (i.e., better regional models, training fellowships, community proposals, etc), and are there ways for us to be more strategic with all these local/regional efforts so that could help at the national level.
- We are asking our members to bring a faculty member that is involved in these regional project – even if they are outside our traditional departments.
- One possible outcome – a community fellowship program that brings social and physical scientist together to work on these key climate issues facing our society.