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Scientists link frozen spring to dramatic Arctic sea ice loss

Melting sea ice, exposing huge parts of the ocean to the atmosphere, explains extreme weather both hot and cold

John Vidal, environment editor
guardian.co.uk, Monday 25 March 2013 13.03 EDT
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Arctic ice loss adds heat to the ocean and atmosphere which shifts the position of the jet stream, which affects weather in the northern hemisphere. Photograph: Owen Humphreys/PA

Climate scientists have linked the massive snowstorms and bitter [spring weather](#) now being experienced across Britain and large parts of Europe and North America to the dramatic loss of [Arctic sea ice](#).

Both the extent and the volume of the sea ice that forms and melts each year in the Arctic Ocean [fell to an historic low last autumn](#), and satellite records [published on Monday](#) by the National Snow and Ice Data Centre (NSIDC) in Boulder, Colorado, show the ice extent is close to the minimum recorded for this time of year.

"The sea ice is going rapidly. It's 80% less than it was just 30 years ago. There has been a dramatic loss. This is a symptom of global warming and it contributes to enhanced warming of the Arctic," said Jennifer Francis, research professor with the Rutgers Institute of Coastal and Marine Science.

According to Francis and a growing body of [other researchers](#), the Arctic ice loss adds heat to the ocean and atmosphere which shifts the position of the jet stream – the high-altitude river of air that steers storm systems and governs most weather in northern hemisphere.

"This is what is affecting the jet stream and leading to the extreme weather we are seeing in mid-latitudes," she said. "It allows the cold air from the Arctic to plunge much further south. The pattern can be slow to change because the [southern] wave of the jet stream is getting bigger. It's now at a near record position, so whatever weather you have now is going to stick around," she said.

Francis [linked the Arctic temperature rises to extreme weather in mid](#)

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Arctic sea ice melt 'may bring harsh winter to Europe'

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latitudes last year and warned in September that 2012's record sea ice melt could lead to a cold winter in the UK and northern Europe.

She was backed by Vladimir Petoukhov, professor of Earth system analysis at Potsdam Institute in Germany, whose research suggests the loss of ice this year could be changing the direction of the jet stream.

"The ice was at a record low last year and is now exceptionally low in some parts of the Arctic like the Labrador and Greenland seas. This could be one reason why anticyclones are developing," he said.

The heavy snowfall and freezing temperatures which have marked March 2013 across the northern hemisphere are in stark contrast to March 2012 when many countries experienced their warmest ever springs. The hypothesis that wind patterns are being changed because melting Arctic sea ice has exposed huge swaths of normally frozen ocean to the atmosphere would explain both the extremes of heat and cold, say the scientists.

A recent paper by the US government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also found that enhanced warming of the Arctic influenced weather across the northern hemisphere.

"With more solar energy going into the Arctic Ocean because of lost ice, there is reason to expect more extreme weather events, such as heavy snowfall, heat waves, and flooding in North America and Europe," said the researchers.

The Met Office's chief scientist has previously said the melting Arctic ice is in part responsible for the UK's recent colder winters.

The possible links between Arctic sea ice loss and extreme weather were made as the UK's government's outgoing chief scientific adviser Sir John Beddington warned that the world could expect more extremes of weather.

"The [current] variation we are seeing in temperature or rainfall is double the rate of the average. That suggests that we are going to have more droughts, we are going to have more floods, we are going to have more sea surges and we are going to have more storms." He said that said there was a "need for urgency" in tackling climate change.

"These are the sort of changes that are going to affect us in quite a short timescale," he warned. Last year saw record heat, rainfall, drought and floods in the northern hemisphere.

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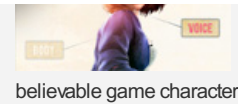
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Barpropper
25 March 2013 5:15pm

Recommend 50

There we are then? The economist oracle Beddington has spoken!
.. Q.E.D...



peccadillo
25 March 2013 5:47pm

Recommend 575

@Barpropper - there you are then, fingers on keyboard, ready to be first to post on any article that threatens your neoliberal agenda.

In the US, tobacco companies are now being forced to apologise for lying about the established connection between smoking and cancer. I don't think that would begin to compensate for the enormous damage inflicted by those, such as yourself, who are using the same tactics to deny the link between greenhouse gas emissions and the climate change we are experiencing.



Strummered
25 March 2013 6:01pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see our [FAQs](#).



peccadillo
25 March 2013 6:11pm

Recommend 365

@Strummered - I disagree. His purpose is very serious. There are people like him ready 24/7 to be first posters on any article anywhere about extremes of weather or climate change. They either disparage the author/science/scientists, or spew soothing words about how normal it is for the climate to change. No evidence will change their position, because it is ideological. They are fighting for the life of neoliberalism, with all its implications for consumption and deregulation. Stuff the climate!



davidsouthafrican
25 March 2013 6:30pm

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peacefulmilitant
25 March 2013 6:54pm

Recommend 26

@peccadillo -

I don't think that would begin to compensate for the enormous damage inflicted by those, such as yourself, who are using the same tactics to deny the link between greenhouse gas emissions and the climate change we are experiencing.

When should we start the show trials?



WoodwardRobert
25 March 2013 7:02pm

Recommend 37

@peacefulmilitant -

Now would be good



Society

Men, you're bigger than you think! (But women – you're thinner)



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Goodbye supermarkets: how I lived for a year without the multinationals



Technology

Battlefield 4 – preview



Smogbound

25 March 2013 7:06pm

Recommend 92

@peacefulmilitant -

When should we start the show trials?

Who was calling for show trials? The guy you are 'responding' to wanted justice.

Or do you think that putting the futures of billions of people at risk just to protect short term fossil fuel profits is somehow OK?



bbmatt

25 March 2013 7:29pm

Recommend 94

@peccadillo - Well said.

Luckily - or perhaps unluckily! - the climate change denialists are starting to look more & more isolated - and quite frankly, a little ... well, stupid.

When the average person on the street, usually more concerned with making ends meet, starts to question these dramatic shifts in weather patterns, perhaps finally some action may be taken?

I'm not holding my breath.

I would imagine the sheer cost of coping with these extreme weather events is either going to cripple the world economy or provoke a profound course of action.

History tells us the former is more likely, so along with extremes of weather, we will be facing greater levels of poverty.

"May you live in interesting times" - oh yeah and then some.



Geeky_Disco

25 March 2013 7:39pm

Recommend 32

@Barpropper 25 March 2013 5:15pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

Well if a scientist says it then it must be true. Pffttt. What happened to climate science being about patterns over hundreds of years? Now we can tell in a week or a month or two?



notinmyusername

25 March 2013 7:59pm

Recommend 50

@Geeky_Disco -

What happened to climate science being about patterns over hundreds of years?

30 years.

Now we can tell in a week or a month or two?

I'm afraid you are conflating discussion of trends with the discussion of physics.



subgeometer

25 March 2013 8:35pm

Recommend 12

@peccadillo - Stuff neoliberals. And exhibit as a warning



curiousaltruistic

25 March 2013 9:04pm

Recommend 6

@peacefulmilitant - Tomorrow!? They should be charged with 'crimes against future humanity' !



worriedsicknow

25 March 2013 10:56pm

Recommend 20

@Barpropper - This has to be the best news I have heard the whole year. Global warming is over. We no longer have to worry about sea level rise or our kids frying. All that needs to happen is for the Arctic to melt out every summer and hey bingo the Global temperature drops 6 months later.

This is just wonderful. I can sleep better at night now. I cant wait for this years melt, hope it is bigger and better than last year then the Global temperature will plummet to well below the average. We are saved.



Tailspin

26 March 2013 2:39am

Recommend 13

There we are then? The economist oracle Beddington has spoken!
.. Q.E.D...

@Barpropper - please explain. Beddington's comments were purely about the science. Your comment makes no sense, although you did a fine job of being the first to post. Well done.



ToshofSuberbaville

26 March 2013 5:43am

Recommend 17

@worriedsicknow - I'd suggest you study the science before allowing yourself to make further comments displaying your complete ignorance of the subject.



Anteaus

26 March 2013 8:07am

Recommend 24

@worriedsicknow - Sadly I cannot sleep easy, because the climate alarmists and renewables marketers are going to wreck our economy and put us back to a mediaeval existence (superstition included) if we don't stop this bandwagon.

If anyone really thinks that carbon dioxide is causing this, the only rational response is to promote fusion research. Or, LFTR research. Develop an energy source that doesn't burn carbon, and which actually works. Putting the clock back to 1100AD is not an option, our population is already too large to support by the methods used then. Not to mention that it was warmer in those days than it is today, so the energy requirements were less.



worriedsicknow

26 March 2013 8:14am

Recommend 7

@ToshofSuberbaville - Thank you for your kind words. However I will stick to my belief that the Arctic ice melt is a negative feedback, it is causing the earth to cool. NOAA15 and NOAA18 show the Global Average temperature to be negative or below average. Francis et al 2012 did the science for me.



worriedsicknow

26 March 2013 8:25am

Recommend 4

@Anteaus - Please stop worrying about CO2 the fast disappearing Arctic ice will take care of that. According to the scientists it is causing Global Temperature to cool.



Shov

26 March 2013 9:25am

Recommend 40

@worriedsicknow - I think you're confusing global temperatures with temperatures in the northern mid-latitudes, and are also misunderstanding the Francis paper.

The Francis paper linked to in the article, only talks about the effect of the melting ice on the amplitude of Rossby waves and the effect that this

has on weather in the northern mid-latitudes. The paper says that the larger amplitude waves caused by the loss of Arctic sea ice move more slowly, which results in the the local weather getting 'stuck' in a certain phase for longer - it doesn't say anything about whether this will be warm or cool weather, just that one type or other of weather will persist for longer before switching to the next phase.

Francis says nothing about global temperatures which continue to rise - give or take a little variation on short term timescales (decadal or less) most likely because of changes in the proportion of energy absorbed by the oceans compared to the atmosphere.



worriedsicknow

26 March 2013 10:53am

Recommend **8**

@Shov - This is a hemisphere wide plummet in temperature apart from a small incursion in the north Atlantic below Iceland the whole of the northern hemisphere is way below normal. This is dragging down Global temps. This is a short term seasonal issue and has nothing to do with decadal timescales. Francis postulates that the loss of Arctic sea ice causes the Jet to flow in a more meridional manner and with higher amplitude. What is occurring here is that this not a blocking issue isolated to a small portion of the NH it is virtually the whole of the NH the polar jet as a whole has moved south. Hence the effect on Global temps just look at the latest SAT Temps at Roy Spencer's site. If Francis is right lost sea ice is a serious negative feedback. Remember this is also the first year her hypothesis is being tested



worriedsicknow

26 March 2013 11:04am

Recommend **1**

@worriedsicknow - should be NH mid to high latitude not the whole of the NH.



wildernessdiscovery

26 March 2013 12:24pm

Recommend **2**

@Geeky_Disco - Things are happening pretty fast now - try to keep up. Take a hard look at the last 3 years - that blows the old records away



wildernessdiscovery

26 March 2013 12:26pm

Recommend **3**

@worriedsicknow - Fair point. Unfortunately when it has all gone - it will have all gone. What will happen then. That should make you shiver.



Timsky

26 March 2013 3:58pm

Recommend **0**

@peccadillo - I can only guess the contents of Strummered's post from your comments. Would like to have read them though moderators !



JBowers

26 March 2013 7:35pm

Recommend **4**

@worriedsicknow -

This is a hemisphere wide plummet in temperature apart from a small incursion in the north Atlantic below Iceland the whole of the northern hemisphere is way below normal. This is dragging down Global temps. This is a short term seasonal issue and has nothing to do with decadal timescales.

Fool. The air temperature's plunged, but the 800lb gorilla in the room is the ocean temperature which accounts for 80% of **HEAT**.

Read the article again. Think chicken and egg.



worriedsicknow

26 March 2013 10:33pm

Recommend **3**

@JBowers - I understand your frustration and will write your nasty response off to that, so no harm done.

However the topic is the missing Arctic Ice and its effect on the Jet Stream during March of the following year.

So perhaps we should stick to the science that is appropriate to the topic. The low point in the ice extent /area is in late September when the sun is very low in the sky therefore the angle of incidence raises the albedo of the water, it is therefore losing heat to the cooler atmosphere. The ocean surface water **Cools** as the insulating properties of the ice is no more. Hope this helps.



Smogbound

26 March 2013 11:40pm

Recommend **3**

@worriedsicknow -

Hence the effect on Global temps just look at the latest SAT Temps at Roy Spencer's site.

No thanks: there are plenty of scientists out there without my needing to consult the opinions of the [Marshall Institute](#).



worriedsicknow

27 March 2013 12:30am

Recommend **1**

@Smogbound - Roy Spencer is not peddling opinion just reporting on the latest NOAA Aqua 15 and 18 satellite temperature readings. Which are relevant to the feedback question of the declining Arctic ice.

I am a militant atheist but it doesnt stop me using his site as it is a convenient place to find out UAH monthly results. Perhaps it is time to remove the blinkers.



PaulGButler

27 March 2013 12:57am

Recommend **1**

@worriedsicknow - I suggest you visit Roy Spencer's site and read what he's saying about those satellite channels. Apparently they're finally broken



PaulGButler

27 March 2013 1:01am

Recommend **1**

See www.droypencer.com:

We knew that this channel has been slowly failing for a long time, which is why we have not been using it in our monthly updates. We will discuss the possibility of switching to the NOAA satellites on the website, although since the site is NASA-funded, they are reluctant to spend resources on NOAA satellite data. But, given the popularity of the page, we will work something out even if we have to make our own web page.



worriedsicknow

27 March 2013 1:15am

Recommend **0**

@PaulGButler - The following plot shows **3 satellites'** global AMSU5 measurements (Aqua, NOAA-15, and NOAA-18) that I computed this morning from the raw orbit files. The dates run from Feb. 1 through yesterday, March 24.

AMSU5 is knacked the other two are shown as a comparison.



worriedsicknow

27 March 2013 1:20am

Recommend **0**

@worriedsicknow - You could be right but it looks as if the other two are working ...it isnt very clear.



Eileen Kuch

27 March 2013 4:29am

Recommend 1

@worriedsicknow - And, don't forget that melting Arctic ice also desalinates the ocean, eventually cooling it.

Fresh water freezes much more quickly than salt water; that's why the ocean takes longer to freeze when air temperatures drop as winter approaches. The combination of the loss of insulating properties of ice, along with the desalinization process, contributed to the heavy snowfall and freezing temps along the Northern Hemisphere in March of 2013.



gpwayne

27 March 2013 7:19am

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Smogbound

27 March 2013 7:53am

Recommend 1

@worriedsicknow -

Roy Spencer is not peddling opinion just reporting on the latest NOAA Aqua 15 and 18 satellite temperature readings

I don't need anybody from the [Marshall Institute](#) to report those to me.

I am a militant atheist but it doesnt stop me using his site as it is a convenient place to find out UAH monthly results. Perhaps it is time to remove the blinkers.

And I am the King of Siam.



JBowers

27 March 2013 9:16am

Recommend 4

@worriedsicknow -

I understand your frustration and will write your nasty response off to that, so no harm done.

I'm not seeking your approval, but I am fed up with lemmings trying to pull the rest of us over the cliff.

So perhaps we should stick to the science that is appropriate to the topic.

So stop citing Roy Spencer's failed satellite record analysis when there are far more reliable sources. It's not like Spencer (and Christy) hasn't been told about it for a long time now, especially about their failed "novel" algorithms.

The ocean surface water Cools as the insulating properties of the ice is no more.

Yeah, whatever. The oceans are still warming at a great rate overall, and the oceans are where most of the heat (energy) is stored which makes the atmospheric readings a sideshow by comparison. You might want to brush up on the difference between heat and temperature, and the difference between ocean surface and ocean depths.



DogWatch

27 March 2013 4:27pm

Recommend 2

@bbmatt - "When the average person on the street, usually more concerned with making ends meet, starts to question these dramatic shifts in weather patterns, perhaps finally some action may be taken?"

I'm not holding my breath."

OK, average guy in the street here, I hereby question "extreme" weather events, having put my petty worries aside. how is this weather event extreme?,

1978 had severe blizzards in March.

The winter of 1963 was a lot worse when the Jetstream dipped south.

1947 that was another pretty bad one apparently.

1930 had heavy snow in late February/early March.

1907/08 and 09/00 had heavy snow in March. I don't know about the late 19th century.

1907/08 and 08/09 had heavy snow in, would you credit it, late April.
1878 blizzard in march.
1875 blizzard in march and 2 feet of snow in the midlands in April.
1849 great snowstorm in april.
1834 beginning of a number of bad years.
1821 heavy snow in london in May.
1794 Thames froze over severe cold weather and snow continued into March
On and on and on all the way back to the little ice age, it's almost as if there is a 12 to 18 year pattern in the southern dip in the Jetstream or something with occasional pauses.

These events are actual snow on the ground, many many feet of it, these are all OBSERVED events, well documented and recorded not some airy fairy prediction intended to steer the public conciousness.

how does 2012/13 compare to previous "events", how is this extreme?

OK, thats my question, I stand ready to be patronised by the alarmists, accused of being in the pay of oil companies, yada yada yada, I expect very little in the way of answering the question however.



worriedsicknow

27 March 2013 5:09pm

Recommend **1**

@DogWatch - A recent study of blocking events by **Hakinen et al 2011** concurs with some of the periods you mention

However, the temporal and spatial fluctuations are similar, such as widespread blocking activity in the 1960s and 2000s, weak blocking in the 1980s and 1990s, and two centers of activity in the 1950s. NCEP/NCAR reanalysis singles out the late 1960s as the most unusual period, with persistent blocking at every longitude between western Europe and Greenland (fig.

S5).



DogWatch

27 March 2013 5:14pm

Recommend **2**

@worriedsicknow - so, part of a normal pattern then? nothing to see here, OK I'll get on with my petty troubles now then.



Sifright

28 March 2013 3:05pm

Recommend **0**

@worriedsicknow - oh goody another person that doesn't know their elbow from their arse.

Let me simplify this for you because you clearly don't understand even the most basic of things.

think of the arctic as a bubble.

It's been very cold there for a very long time so the area stays stable and mostly keeps the cold air from the winter periods trapped there.

Its been warming up over the last 50 years and its at the point now where the bubble is bursting at certain times of the year and reforming later and that cold air from the arctic comes rushing out to the lower latitudes

BUT the arctic is STILL warming even further.

There will come a point where the arctic stops having that very cold air. that point is ofcourse very soon maybe even as early as 2015.

(Ofcourse technically speaking this is entirely wrong but think of it as a metaphor for the utterly clueless and ignorant)



Ameliascottage

25 March 2013 5:18pm

Recommend **419**

Scientists have known this for some time. The polar vortex spun out of its controlled state after the ice shifted the wind patterns and now it's spilling into our regions. Of course you have the deniers who think the Earth's temperature is just like turning up their thermostat at home, because they're scientifically clueless.



Strummered

25 March 2013 5:34pm

Recommend 88

@Ameliascottage - They'll be along shortly just as soon as they've turned up the thermostat and put the kettle on.



MrKiddon

25 March 2013 6:19pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see our [FAQs](#).



Affirmative

25 March 2013 6:28pm

Recommend 14

@Ameliascottage - Bingo. This appears exactly to be the case. Wish Booker would acknowledge this science whenever he rags on the arctic sea-ice loss (lack of) as he sees it.



SDU1969

25 March 2013 6:34pm

Recommend 14

@Ameliascottage - Well said.



CanadianKRAUT

25 March 2013 7:09pm

Recommend 20

@Ameliascottage - That is all correct and we can not change any of this.

What is annoying is this constant whining and crying in British press. You still don't live in Canada where they have heavy snow since November, they had 30 minus Celsius for weeks (just one hour north of NYC) and its not going away until June...

Tell me one you're there and we'll cry together... ;-) hehe



Autonova1

25 March 2013 7:12pm

Recommend 38

@Ameliascottage - What's the sound of someone finally winning an argument? Silence.

Noone is visibly defeated. No denier will stand up and say they were wrong - what happens is people slowly but surely start to shut the fuck up. Which seems to be what's happening.



scamuk

25 March 2013 7:17pm

Recommend 14

@Ameliascottage - no they havent known this for some time otherwise they would have been predicting these nastyNH winters before they started happening ie before 2008-9,instead of the opposite.The decline in the Arctic sea ice measured by satellite records goes back to the 1980s.

Your comment about scientists knowing this for some time is alittle part of your sub-conscious doubt surfacing.



CanJustSay

25 March 2013 7:40pm

Recommend 26

@CanadianKRAUT - I'm in Canada, and while it may get pretty cold in Nunavut, Yukon and the NWT, I can't remember the last time it got that cold *for weeks* in the south.

In fact, Canadian winters here in Ontario have been getting milder and milder for the last 10 years or so. This year we barely hit 20 below in Peterborough, and spring is coming faster every year. Sure, it's still colder than the UK, but it ain't what it used to be.

Also, two more things - official last day of frost threat in this zone is May 31st, which means it is *never* 30 below in June, and Canada is more like six hours north of NYC. It'll take you two and a half to get to Albany, nowhere near Canada.
Hope that helps!



CanadianKRAUT

25 March 2013 7:48pm

Recommend 19

@CanJustSay - Ontario? Move a few cm east toward us and feel the difference, I know what you're talking about but you are too close to the lakes.... If you want "real" winter temperatures, come to Quebec and YES we've had minus 30 for weeks in January and February!
(I have not said its 30 minus in June) and YES it IS one hour by plane from NYC, I leave the drive to you... lol



Duffy

25 March 2013 8:39pm

Recommend 19

@scamuk - No, we haven't know about the effects of rapid Arctic ice loss because we have no records, historical or otherwise, of such a dramatically rapid occurrence before and therefore no records of it's effects. This is not a conclusion which has been reached in 'a few months' but after over thirty years of observation.

As it stands, it doesn't matter if some commenter on here gets a few details wrong, it's the scientist who predicted this cold last September you need to beat and unless you saw this coming with a radically different theory I'm gonna go with the person who has actually demonstrated any understanding of what's going on as opposed to you.

It's called having a track record. How many of your predictions have come true?



curiousaltruistic

25 March 2013 9:09pm

Recommend 20

@Autonova1 - Exactly, it would e laughable if it hadnt been so tragic. Only a couple of years ago, you could have a whole suburban dinner table with people exclaiming that 'climate change was a stupid leftist plot'. Now they are just mumbling that the 'bloody weather has gone crazy, god knows why...' It would be fun to stand bloody Melanie Phillips and her moronic colleagues at the Daily Mail against the wall though and ask some questions...



Railrunner

25 March 2013 10:08pm

Recommend 28

@scamuk - It has been forecast for many years. The Second Severn River Crossing expansion joints were constructed with long cold winters in mind because of the NASA and NERC forecasts that the UK would start to lose the benefits of the Gulf Stream as the main northern ice sheets melted. Every major engineering project in Northern Europe has been taking this into account since the early 1990s.



Tailspin

26 March 2013 2:43am

Recommend 7

@Autonova1 - now go and read the comments in the Mail, Express or Telegraph. Wall to wall denier make-believe land.



ToshofSuberbaville

26 March 2013 5:51am

Recommend 1

@CanadianKRAUT - Which is possibly why per capita CO2 emissions are so high compared to most of the rest of the World.



ratherbehappy

26 March 2013 8:42am

Recommend 21

@scamuk - I'm afraid, to laymen like me, the scientists do seem to retrospectively make the science appear to fit. Whether anyone here likes it or not, the more widely used predictions of ten years ago are simply not happening and now everyone is being told that the 'abnormal' wintry weather is a sign of everything still going wrong, or when spring bursts upon us in bikinis that it's a sign of it too.

The old folks often told us Scots, ne'er cast a clout till May is oot!.. the reason? Because time and time again Spring was a bugger of a month to predict with any certainty, all you could be certain of was its uncertainty, from one extreme to the other.

Up here at least, that's what the prevailing view of all this will be. Scientists need to stop using the media to make things fit, instead they should produce an almanack if they are so convinced of their findings that generally predicts likely extremes in one, five, and ten years. That is the only way the general public will take note. Otherwise they will say 'its always been this way' and that the scientists are only wise after the event.



ratherbehappy

26 March 2013 8:43am

Recommend 0

@ratherbehappy - bugger of a brain I meant bugger of a season!



Shov

26 March 2013 9:46am

Recommend 12

@ratherbehappy -

now everyone is being told that the 'abnormal' wintry weather is a sign of everything still going wrong, or when spring bursts upon us in bikinis that it's a sign of it too.

Yes, this is what the Francis paper linked to in the article says:

Two effects are identified that each contribute to a slower eastward progression of Rossby waves in the upper-level flow: 1) weakened zonal winds, and 2) increased wave amplitude. These effects are particularly evident in autumn and winter consistent with sea-ice loss, but are also apparent in summer, possibly related to earlier snow melt on high-latitude land. **Slower progression of upper-level waves would cause associated weather patterns in mid-latitudes to be more persistent, which may lead to an increased probability of extreme weather events that result from prolonged conditions, such as drought, flooding, cold spells, and heat waves.**

In other words, it's not the type of weather that the melting sea ice has caused but its persistence. If we were now having a long hot dry spring this would still be consistent with the theory presented in the paper and would still be evidence of climate change due to AGW.

Note that this paper was published at the beginning of last year before the dramatic ice loss of last summer, and the associated long spells of fixed weather that we have been increasingly seeing (drought last spring/early summer, wet summer/autumn, cold spring now). Everything the paper has predicted is coming true.

This is still new science though, and (I don't think) these weather patterns were predicted ten years ago because the rate of Arctic ice melting then wasn't as great and so the effect of the melting ice on the climate/weather was harder to determine. With the increased melting from 2007 onwards people were able to observe what effect this was having on the climate and then make predictions about what may happen in the future - it now seems that the predictions based on new ideas published in this Francis paper are now coming true.



DJ59

26 March 2013 10:42am

Recommend 6

@ratherbehappy -

Up here at least, that's what the prevailing view of all this will be.

That's interesting. I recently was talking to someone who was telling me that must be wrong with the climate; he'd never known the weather to be so poor and unpredictable. He's a Scottish farmer, eighty years old.



wildernessdiscovery
26 March 2013 12:30pm

Recommend 2

@Ameliascottage - The only problem with science is it takes 4 years to prove what any observer with an old school knowledge of basic physics had figured out the moment winter unexpectedly returned to the North after a decade of notable absence.



CanJustSay
26 March 2013 1:35pm

Recommend 2

@CanadianKRAUT - Oh, Quebec? Well, Quebec's not Canada!



WildGlaciologist
26 March 2013 4:21pm

Recommend 4

@ratherbehappy -

the scientists do seem to retrospectively make the science appear to fit.

In those terms, all **observation based** science is retrospective. You get an observation first, then find a theory that explains it. Then, get more observations to back up the theory. Thats how it works.



JBowers
26 March 2013 8:17pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Sifright
28 March 2013 3:10pm

Recommend 0

@WildGlaciologist -

Actually the scientific method looks proof that you stuffed up your theory rather than the opposite.

you find holes in your theory that can't be explained by your conclusions and then find out what is actually different to what you expected and come up with new explanations.



Guess11
25 March 2013 5:19pm

Recommend 48

It's 80% less than it was just 30 years ago.

Let's be a bit more careful with the numbers.

Arctic ice volume **at the summer minimum** is 80% less than 30 years ago. At the winter maximum, the percentage difference is somewhat smaller: down from [about 32,000km³ to 20,000km³](#), or 37.5% lower.



notinmyusername
25 March 2013 5:27pm

Recommend 171

@Guess11 -

Summer minimums are a far more important indicator of long-term Arctic ice health - which is why Arctic ice scientists essentially take the summer minimum as a contextual given.

The summer-minimum not only tells us about the surviving multi-year ice, which the winter-maximum figure will not, the summer minimum extent also has [major implications for Arctic and global warming because of the albedo effect](#) - which obviously the winter-maximum does not affect.

Analyzing this, Peter Wadhams of the Global Oceans Physics Program at Cambridge calculates that the loss of the Arctic ice throughout the summer would have a warming effect roughly equivalent to all human activities to date. That is to say:

roughly equivalent to all human activity to date. That is to say, with the ice gone in summer, the planet would have an additional heating effect just as large as the heating effect of all human CO2 and other greenhouse gasses to date.



BruceWhitehead

25 March 2013 5:44pm

Recommend **74**

@Guess11 - Eh?! that's still terrifying



Guess11

25 March 2013 5:46pm

Recommend **57**

@notinmyusername - Totally agree, but any sliver of doubt about the authenticity of numbers is an invitation to those I shall not name.



peccadillo

25 March 2013 6:05pm

Recommend **58**

@Guess11 - even if there's no doubt about the authenticity of the data, doubt must be cast on it, because the implications for consumption and regulation are a death knell to the neoliberal agenda. That's why the science has been politicised, and the deniers describe it as a socialist plot to redistribute their ill gotten gains.

While the propaganda spews forth from the GWPF, Heartland Institute, etc., politicians will not dare to tackle the issue seriously.



DeadFrog

25 March 2013 6:45pm

Recommend **12**

@peccadillo -

That's why the science has been politicised, and the deniers describe it as a socialist plot to redistribute their ill gotten gains.

Ironically the redistribution of "ill gotten gains" is now a feature of the capitalist system, c.f. Cyprus.



CaSeFaz

25 March 2013 6:49pm

Recommend **11**

@Guess11 - Agree, accuracy is very importante to prevent Middle Earth Troll gathering around this subject.



durhamlad

25 March 2013 7:38pm

Recommend **5**

@peccadillo - "because the implications for consumption and regulation are a death knell to the neoliberal agenda"

good luck selling that to the masses.

Perhaps if you didn't speak like some left-wing Dick Cheney you would have more success in getting your message across.



UnevenSurface

26 March 2013 5:03am

Recommend **3**

@durhamlad - Actually the 'masses' are pretty much sold to. Whether they clicked on the Arctic Ice chart [linked to above](#), or simply admitted the change they've personally witnessed in the climate over the past few years, they're now laughing at the deniers. And it is a bit ironic that the UK-based deniers used to say 'well, I wouldn't mind it being a bit warmer', and now we're learning that the local effect on the UK (for the moment) is the exact opposite...



ToshofSuberbaville
26 March 2013 5:54am

Recommend 3

@DeadFrog - Redistributed from one wealthy elite to another no doubt - and the poorest will still end up paying for both eventually.



wildernessdiscovery
26 March 2013 12:36pm

Recommend 3

@UnevenSurface - Not sure the "masses" have got it yet - humans have this remarkable ability to accept any preposterous delusion rather than accept the occasional bleak truth. A blank white plate at dinner time might do it though. It's been a tough couple of years for food production due to unstable weather



JBowers
26 March 2013 8:21pm

Recommend 1

@durhamlad -

good luck selling that to the masses.

Most of "the masses" have never even heard of neoliberalism. The fuckers stayed below the popular radar and hijacked the establishment by stealth.

left-wing Dick Cheney

Non sequitur.



notinmyusername
25 March 2013 5:21pm

Recommend 76

Jennifer Francis (quoted in the article) recently published a paper on the link between Hurricane Sandy and [it's relationship with a meandering Polar Jet Stream](#), a phenomena made more likely by Arctic Ice melt, according to Francis and other Arctic Ice scientists.

"If one accepts this evidence and . . . takes into account the record loss of Arctic sea ice this past September, then perhaps the likelihood of greenhouse warming playing a significant role in Sandy's evolution as an extratropical superstorm is at least as plausible as the idea that this storm was simply a freak of nature."



Danabanana
25 March 2013 5:37pm

Recommend 41

@notinmyusername - Yet noone on the msm payed attention to her when she first came up with this. Like she said regarding the Arctic ice melt "how can it not affect the climate?"



mutability
25 March 2013 9:01pm

Recommend 8

@Danabanana 25 March 2013 5:37pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

Yet noone on the msm payed attention to her when she first came up with this.

Yes, Jennifer Francis' work has been known for quite some time by those who follow the news about global warming, but as far as I'm aware this is the first time it's ever been mentioned in the main-stream media. Some kudos to John Vidal for this - it's just a shame he waited until we're in the middle of what's likely to be the coldest March in the UK for 50 years before he explained how this kind of extreme weather is linked what's happening in the arctic.

In this 5 1/2 minute excerpt from a lecture Professor Francis explains how the warming arctic increases the waviness of the jetstream and slows it down, allowing blocking patterns to form and cause the kind of weather we're experiencing:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nzwJg4Ebzo



mutability

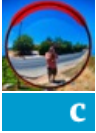
25 March 2013 10:01pm

Recommend 7

@mutability 25 March 2013 9:01pm. Get ciffix for Firefox.

Ooops, I made a mistake there - John Vidal had an article about this six months ago - apologies!

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/sep/14/arctic-sea-ice-harsh-winter-europe>



DarrylGodden

25 March 2013 5:24pm

Recommend 161

Surely this should push the environment further up our governments agenda?

Silly me.



Shov

25 March 2013 5:33pm

Recommend 184

@DarrylGodden - It's okay, this disaster is all the fault of those immigrants sponging off our benign climate. Once Cameron has sent them home the climate will fix itself.



Strummered

25 March 2013 5:37pm

Recommend 65

@DarrylGodden - Absolutely, which is why one of the first things they did was slash funding on flood defences amongst many others.



spen

25 March 2013 5:54pm

Recommend 1

@Shov -

They do drive up consumption ...



BruceWhitehead

25 March 2013 5:58pm

Recommend 7

@DarrylGodden - nah, fracking's easier



dauidsouthafrican

25 March 2013 6:33pm

Recommend 53

@DarrylGodden - surely this would make climate change an urgent priority for the education syllabi.... but hold on... its being taken off

Keep the masses in the dark



anotheralex

25 March 2013 6:48pm

Recommend 25

@dauidsouthafrican - That was one of the most inexplicable headlines in recent days. The school curriculum needs to include information not just about climate change, but growing crops, using hand tools, crafts - and everything else we are going to need in the future.



BaraLawr

25 March 2013 6:58pm

Recommend 16

@DarrylGodden - it's those immigrants bringing their cold weather with them from Eastern Europe that's the problem.



Diodorus
25 March 2013 7:06pm

Recommend **10**

@DarrylGodden - There's something else I'd like to push up Dave's agenda, so to say, and it's not melting sea-ice, though that'll do at a pinch.



cariad2
25 March 2013 7:27pm

Recommend **0**

@Shov -

It's okay, this disaster is all the fault of those immigrants sponging off our benign climate. Once Cameron has sent them home the climate will fix itself.

No, it's the bankers.



homard
25 March 2013 9:59pm

Recommend **0**

@BruceWhitehead - Speak for yourself .



curiousaltruistic
26 March 2013 10:29am

Recommend **8**

@DarrylGodden - Having this anti-science/science-denialist government is akin to having the Daily Mail editorial and journo board collective running the country. They really are quite as moronic and ignorant as each other - someone, I dont really care - help us please !



BruceWhitehead
27 March 2013 2:26pm

Recommend **0**

@homard - that was an ironic 'fracking's easier'



MiamiJim
25 March 2013 5:25pm

Recommend **20**

We're Doomed...



homard
25 March 2013 7:10pm

Recommend **2**

@MiamiJim - Private Fraser lives !



defiantidealist
25 March 2013 9:16pm

Recommend **14**

@MiamiJim - We're not actually.
We know how to produce food, harvest water, heat and cool our homes, steward the land and do it all sustainably. It's called permaculture - an ethical design science for sustainable human settlement and land use. It's been working for over 30 years.

The know how is out there, it's just a question now of who is going to switch on and do something about becoming more resilient to the worlds crises and who is going to sit by and watch things get worse - as they inevitably will in one way or another. The ones that are prepared will find the coming problems far easier to deal with.

If it is unsustainable, then it will - no, MUST - come to an end. This can be said of the way that most of the world produces food, energy and drinking water (among other things). It doesn't have to be done that way, it just always has been for living memory... and so it continues.

So we're not doomed just not sufficiently panicked enough yet to search for the answers we need and which await those of us that take the time to seek them. So, you know, perk up! :)



ToshofSuberbaville
26 March 2013 6:11am

Recommend **6**

@defiantidealist - Permaculture is the way. But I'm not sure whether the millions of urbanites will be able to find enough land to survive on, or even be able to adapt. So, for many, I believe it is already too late and they will not be able to survive such a transition.

There are other issues. Health - we do want healthcare? Policing I think will become the responsibility of each person. It will be brutal because there'll be no prisons to put criminals in, so punishments will be more instant - see sharia law implemented in Muslim countries where there's not real formal justice system. Disabled people? The elderly? Single mums? I hope we don't forget each other in the process.



piffedoff
26 March 2013 10:25pm

Recommend **0**

@ToshofSuberbaville - yes, it's a very bleak prospect—and now it is galloping towards us.



opey7369
25 March 2013 5:25pm

Recommend **57**

I have stopped wearing deodorant to save the world but no one will talk to me.



Shov
25 March 2013 5:35pm

Recommend **45**

@opey7369 - I haven't worn deodorant for years because it stinks, it's uncomfortable to wear and it's expensive, and no one has ever complained.



TimJag
25 March 2013 5:47pm

Recommend **54**

@Shov 25 March 2013 5:35pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

Psssst, people don't like to say any thing.



Shov
25 March 2013 6:21pm

Recommend **7**

@TimJag - Their loss!



sadhu
25 March 2013 6:32pm

Recommend **5**

@TimJag - That is right. I know someone who can't bring herself to tell a friend, and that is not only for not using deodorant. I like some of the comments in here, they have sense of humour. Is that mainly English sense of humour? Best way to criticise is to use humour. I wonder if [xkcd.com](#) has any cartoons on climate change. Anyone?



TimJag
25 March 2013 6:41pm

Recommend **0**

@Shov 25 March 2013 6:21pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

That's true!



buddingBuddha
25 March 2013 6:42pm

Recommend **4**

@sadhu - <http://xkcd.com/164/>



zuzanna
25 March 2013 6:42pm

Recommend **5**

@opey7369 -

I have stopped wearing deodorant to save the world but no one will talk to me.

did you try taking a shower instead? I've heard it helps



Nattydread69
26 March 2013 3:51pm

Recommend **1**

@opey7369 - we're talking to you, we're your special friends...



Pilkio1
25 March 2013 5:28pm

Recommend **16**

Will we get a BBQ summer though?



Swedinburgh
25 March 2013 6:02pm

Recommend **23**

@Pilkio1 - Possibly in August, but there'll be nothing dry enough to burn by then..



calmeilles
25 March 2013 7:07pm

Recommend **9**

@Pilkio1 25 March 2013 5:28pm. Get [cifFix for Chrome](#).

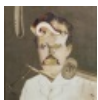
I'd be happy if it would just be dry enough to do some weeding and warm enough to plant something out.



homard
25 March 2013 7:14pm

Recommend **8**

@calmeilles - Remember , only enough for personal use , now .



JackWilshere10
25 March 2013 5:28pm

Recommend **12**

Notice how floating islands, airports and infrastructures are being built. This is not fancy schmancy architecture, but surely founded on many considerations.

I'm not sure how long it will be before sea level rise to the extreme from the Arctic melting, but I've got a dinghy in the garden.



Luna D'Argent
25 March 2013 6:37pm

Recommend **11**

@JackWilshere10 - Tut tut ill-prepared there. I've got my canoe stored in the loft, near the velux window. :-)



squonkster
25 March 2013 6:43pm

Recommend **0**

@JackWilshere10 - yes, but will the Emirates Stadium get flooded?



JackWilshere10
25 March 2013 6:50pm

Recommend 3

@Luna D'Argent - The problem may be temperature, possibly freezing. Do you pack a jumper and a few pairs of socks, or do you go for the shorts and the shades and hope you end up in Rio?



JackWilshere10
25 March 2013 6:51pm

Recommend 0

@squonkster - Teams will be waved off the park.



AlanofPerth
25 March 2013 6:57pm

Recommend 13

@JackWilshere10 - silly, silly, all the ice melting in the arctic doesn't mean a 1mm rise in sea levels. It's the antarctic you have to worry about, 5 kilometers of ice covering a continent melting, everybody's fucked!



JackWilshere10
25 March 2013 7:18pm

Recommend 1

@AlanofPerth - Yes, I meant one of those. Who would have thought penguins would live longer than the human species, excluding me on my dinghy - the king of the penguins.



UnevenSurface
26 March 2013 5:50am

Recommend 0

@AlanofPerth - I believe that if all the arctic ice (including that on the Greenland land mass) goes, that's a 7 metre rise. But if the antarctic goes too, the total rise rises to 61 metres. And then - unless you are lucky enough to be 62 or so metres tall - yes, you are indeed fomicated.



Evilvixen
25 March 2013 5:30pm

Recommend 22

I'm 47 and am pretty sure the beginning of every one of those years involved crappy horrible cold weather.



James154
25 March 2013 5:35pm

Recommend 210

@Evilvixen - I'm 47 and I cannot remember a single year with week after week of freezing cold weather persisting all the way to April with barely any respite.

Scares the shit out of me if I'm quite honest.



blankedout
25 March 2013 5:41pm

Recommend 27

@James154 - 1962-1963
Winter Arctic conditions until April



OldBeardy
25 March 2013 5:42pm

Recommend 35

@James154 - 1963 was much worse



MarchStrathspeyReel
25 March 2013 5:48pm

Recommend 102

[@OldBeardy](#) 25 March 2013 5:42pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

At 47 I don't suppose he can remember '63



TimJag

25 March 2013 5:50pm

Recommend **21**

[@OldBeardy](#) 25 March 2013 5:42pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

My Dad concurs with that statement, it did snow in Benfleet one Easter about 8 years ago, settled and every thing. Quite strange and beautiful to have snow and a long evening - of course it was all gone by the next day, wasn't like this - this has been unrelenting.



James154

25 March 2013 5:59pm

Recommend **31**

Of course I know about 62-63 and if extreme conditions were every 50 years then that's within acceptable random fluctuations but they're not any more are they?



MagnusPym

25 March 2013 6:24pm

Recommend **17**

[@James154](#) - Wow, I'm 47 too. Is this the optimum age of Guardianistas?

We may have had snow in late March before but my recollection is that it doesn't stick around long. It's freak, and it melts pretty quickly. The last four days here have been Arctic and it doesn't look like it's going anywhere the next few days.



sadhu

25 March 2013 6:35pm

Recommend **2**

[@MarchStrathspeyReel](#) - 2013-47=1966



WoodwardRobert

25 March 2013 7:05pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



calmeilles

25 March 2013 7:13pm

Recommend **0**

[@blankedout](#) 25 March 2013 5:41pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Chrome.

1962-1963 Winter Arctic conditions until April

When I was born.

Sorry, it's not a trick I can pull off twice.



TeaJunkie

25 March 2013 7:28pm

Recommend **10**

[@Evilixen](#) -

I'm 47 and am pretty sure the beginning of every one of those years involved crappy horrible cold weather.

Yes, but you won't have witnessed prolonged drought, followed by intense flooding, following by an Arctic spring.



Duffy

25 March 2013 8:52pm

Recommend **3**

@Evlivixen - Last time I remember snow like this was 1991. Foot deep and the power got cut off. Guess what, it was February, when it's supposed to be cold.



EnglishApples

26 March 2013 9:48am

Recommend **2**

@MagnusPym - Me too! My parents talk about a 12 mile walk for my dad to get home from work due to the snow in Somerset. Agree with James154, if it was every 50years, I wouldn't be getting such a bad feeling about the future..



KiltedGreen

27 March 2013 11:30am

Recommend **2**

@James154 - The thing that's most got to me is that every morning for weeks (has it been months?) it's usually pull back the curtains and say "Oh look - another grey blanket day".

I was scared yesterday seeing a bright light in the sky until I remembered that it was this thing called the sun ...



DogWatch

27 March 2013 5:34pm

Recommend **0**

@blankedout - awww, 49 years ago, these youngsters think all this stuff is new, and extreme and scary. coz "Scientists" told em so.



jackheron

25 March 2013 5:32pm

Recommend **7**

Quick, someone Tweet Dennis Quaid! (That is, Dennis Quaid in his character from *The Day After Tomorrow*..)

Lord knows what this is doing to house prices over at the *Daily Heil* (which, credit where due, is someone else's joke, so thanks again).



themoon

25 March 2013 5:34pm

Recommend **4**

can't we create a synthetic covering which does the same job as the ice in reflecting the sun?



BruceWhitehead

25 March 2013 5:46pm

Recommend **20**

@themoon - no.



themoon

25 March 2013 5:51pm

Recommend **25**

@BruceWhitehead - Oh, well, as long as you've considered it from all possible angles, mr authority, i'm sorry i spoke.



TimJag

25 March 2013 5:51pm

Recommend **5**

@BruceWhitehead 25 March 2013 5:46pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

Yes, made of egg boxes and bacofoil!



TimJag

25 March 2013 5:52pm

Recommend **1**

@TimJag 25 March 2013 5:51pm. Get ciffix for Firefox.

He wont let you!



BruceWhitehead

25 March 2013 5:57pm

Recommend 15

@TimJag - no, I won't. silver and blue just don't match and the earth would look tawdry.

Mr Authority.



JGordon21

25 March 2013 6:05pm

Recommend 4

@themoon -

can't we create a synthetic covering which does the same job as the ice in reflecting the sun?

We can do better than that.



Autonova1

25 March 2013 7:01pm

Recommend 9

@themoon - Get all the unemployed, put a pot of white paint in their hands and get them to paint every roof in the country, that'd be a start. Actually a valid idea.



themoon

25 March 2013 7:14pm

Recommend 6

@themoon - Apparently it is an actual thing called [Solar Radiation Management](#).

Can't imagine it's a very long term approach though, but it might buy us a little extra time in which to sort out the difficulties in dealing with the problem, the hold-up does appear mainly to be about politics. But then i am just a layman.

Like every big issue at the moment - welfare, immigration, climate change, austerity. People are content to close their eyes to factual evidence, and tend to agree with whoever has the 'correct' politics, or is the better debater, or who does the best fear-mongering, or who has the prettier face.



homard

25 March 2013 7:24pm

Recommend 2

@Autonova1 -

You might need some primer for the solar panels , though .



TeaJunkie

25 March 2013 7:31pm

Recommend 5

@themoon -

can't we create a synthetic covering which does the same job as the ice in reflecting the sun?

We could, but it's a harder to achieve putting less CO2 in the atmosphere in the first place.



TheIneffableSwede

26 March 2013 5:16am

Recommend 3

@themoon - [There have been many ambitious proposals to reverse or](#)

[arrest climate change](#), so-called geoengineering, including scattering particulate matter in the upper atmosphere to reflect sunlight, creating huge heat sinks in the ocean that would absorb the extra solar energy and/or remove huge amounts of excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and even building giant deflectors in geosynchronous orbit to "shade" the planet and help cool us down a bit.

All of them have problems, all of them are enormously expensive and complicated, not to mention unpredictable, and none of them will be implemented. Our politicians are too in thrall to Big Oil and most people are too ignorant and apathetic for anyone to get behind these imperfect measures, which we'd have to get done in the next 10-20 years if we're to have any hope at all.

So, forget about geo-engineering saving human civilisation.

These so-called solutions might make things worse, not better. We just don't know.

There were things we could have done up until the early 1980s that could have made a difference, but it's far too late in the game for any of that now. We need to make plans for some of our species to survive and for our scientific knowledge to be passed on to future generations. Maybe 10% of us can be saved; the rest are either going to starve to death, freeze to death, or drown like rats.



piffedoff

26 March 2013 10:30pm

Recommend 0

@themoon - there have been attempts to stop glacier ice melting using that kind of idea—with some success—but haven't seen any recent reports on it.



BruceWhitehead

27 March 2013 2:24pm

Recommend 1

@themoon - sorry, I was being flippant. I just feel we need to focus on stopping the waste of energy which is the main source of CO2 causing the climate change; rather than trying to fix the damage done we should prevent any further damage.

For me, the worst energy waste/CO2 emissions come from private transport; waste packaging; inefficient building insulation and lighting. These could be stopped overnight, but energy companies would lose too much, so their powerful lobby prevents it from happening politically.



Danabanana

25 March 2013 5:35pm

Recommend 117

Classic I told you so moment. So the penny finally dropped and media outlets can publish articles on links between Global warming and extreme weather events without fear of reprisal. Cue running around like headless chickens to try fixing the problem but, like many have already said -scientists and amateurs alike- it is too late to prevent it. 2007 record melt should have been a wake up call for all.... sadly it wasn't.



MrKiddon

25 March 2013 6:05pm

Recommend 46

@Danabanana -

Will there ever be a wake up call to remind people that we need to tackle climate change?

I keep telling myself that it will take an extreme weather event to get people to realise, but how extreme and how many lives will be lost or destroyed until we eventually wake up?

People are more worried about a tax being introduced than the frightful situation of changing weathers pattern that could drastically change our world.

I'd like to think, we are smart enough to realise there is a serious issue here, but not enough people seem to care or too many governments that only care about stripping the earth's resources rather than protecting them.



Danabanana

Recommend 15



25 March 2013 6:18pm

@MrKiddon - I'm not sure what it will take... some people are too dumb to understand it and I wouldn't be surprised if, in the end, they blame god for this. We can't stop it but we can lessen the impact for future generations if we make a complete move from FF's to Renewables. Sadly government policies support FF's for reasons we all know.



Ameliascottage

25 March 2013 6:25pm

Recommend 14

@MrKiddon - Thanks for the article. Good one.

They say it will take 2 more Hurricane Sandys. I'm not looking forward to that.



sadhu

25 March 2013 6:44pm

Recommend 14

@MrKiddon - I seriously think we have passed the point of no return. Did the big wake up call of WW2 stop the Iraq war? Or the Vietnam war before that?
It is all part of human nature and our illusion with free will. I keep repeating this that wars are similar to plate tectonics, Former for recycling cultures and the latter for continents. Wars will never end, Nor will incompetent governments. Plus where would the lamb go to complain about the lion devouring it. To Lord Justice? of the Green Party?



peacefulmilitant

25 March 2013 7:03pm

Recommend 8

@Danabanana -

So the penny finally dropped and media outlets can publish articles on links between Global warming and extreme weather events without fear of reprisal.

Reprisal? What reprisal?



Smogbound

25 March 2013 7:09pm

Recommend 14

@MrKiddon -

People are more worried about a tax being introduced than the frightful situation of changing weathers pattern that could drastically change our world.

People are told they should be worried about that tax by the same fossil fuel lobby who said the Arctic Ice wasn't melting in the first place.



Lemming81

25 March 2013 7:12pm

Recommend 9

@Danabanana - 'ordinary people' don't need to understand. It's governments and those with the ability to do something about it that matter.

ordinary people will recycle if you tell them they have to, and pay taxes if you tell them they have to.

You'll probably find *many* people are perfectly aware of global warming and the environment, but unless you're expecting to have a door-to-door whip round for a giant space mirror, it doesn't matter if they know or care.

"awareness" is one of the dumbest terms in the do-gooder campaigning lexicon. Awareness solves nothing at all.



lierbag

25 March 2013 7:43pm

Recommend 13

@MrKiddon - The wake-up call won't be extreme weather events, it will

be extreme starvation. Agriculture depends on finely balanced, but broadly predictable, climatic conditions and seasons. It only takes a few years of failed, or ruined, harvests and most of us will undoubtedly end up going hungry. At that point, people will be asking 'why weren't we told?' . . .



Duffy

25 March 2013 9:06pm

Recommend **5**

@Lemming81 - Because if people are made aware that the new clauses about flood susceptibility and water damage from cracked pipes, the increasing cost of staple foods due to crop failures (eg only 10% of British wheat from last year was usable for flour) and so-on are due to it, that they're already paying for this not being dealt with, they won't feel a need to do anything about it.

You can't persuade people to do anything if they're not aware there's a problem.



AndyL33

25 March 2013 11:19pm

Recommend **0**

@Danabanana - obviously self-extinction is cheaper than survival.

Sad that saving the biosphere has to become an economic side-effect of manipulating greed by artificially making common-sense profitable!

Here is the [latest Arctic Death Spiral](#).



Ace42

26 March 2013 3:29am

Recommend **3**

@lierbag 25 March 2013 7:43pm. Get [ciffix](#) for Firefox.

We're already running into that in the UK - I assume everyone caught the news articles about livestock farmers having ruined mud-puddle pastures that are unfit to feed and keep their animals, thus going under because they can't afford to shed and dry-feed animals constantly for the three years of fair weather they estimate it would take the land to dry out?



TheIneffableSwede

26 March 2013 5:07am

Recommend **1**

@MrKiddon - When people are freezing and starving to death in the dark, they'll demand change.

It will be too late. It's been too late since the early 1980s.

It was capitalist profits vs. human survival. Capitalism won; humanity lost.

Well, we had a good run, tho' not nearly so long as the dinosaurs.



curiousaltruistic

26 March 2013 10:36am

Recommend **3**

@Danabanana - Whilst they are not singularly to blame, what we all need and (in my case demand) is a straight and unconditional apology from the anti-science/denialist Daily Mail - or they should be dragged to an international court and charged with 'crimes against the future of humanity and the biosphere'.



Danabanana

26 March 2013 1:37pm

Recommend **4**

@curiousaltruistic - I agree but only in sentiment. Let's not burn anymore witches. After all, no matter how much they deny the change in climate is already here and will get worse. I'd like to think that the environment harshness for humanity in the near future is enough punishment. Saying that, I wouldn't mind seeing some of the oil barons picking up plastic waste off the roads.



curiousaltruistic

26 March 2013 3:44pm

Recommend **3**

@Danabanana - Well, I dont know.. To take advantage of the freedom to extort money by pumping oil out of the ground and sell it expensively to people is not only entirely legal, but also encouraged and creates jobs - wrong as it of course is from the biosphere's point of view. However, to print outright lies and climate change science denial, and to deceive ordinary people who lack the means as well as the willingness to find out the evidence-base to the contrary, whilst surely as journalists and editors knowing and understanding that they are lying and deceiving people in the name of supporting the carbon industry for profit, is to my mind a crime - sorry, but when it comes to the planet and my children I am a bit of a romantic...



KiltedGreen

27 March 2013 11:40am

Recommend **4**

@MrKiddon - Caroline Lucas said years back that "we could be the first species to monitor our own extinction".

It seems that we are enthusiastically trying to prove her right.

There is tragically very little evidence so far that we will do anything meaningful to deal with CC until we can't feed ourselves or we're frozen for months, or burnt for months or flooded for months and other species are dying in swathes. In fact it would probably take all of those together in the same year before doing anything meaningful might even be really considered. As long as it's compatible with continued economic growth of course.

TV, shopping, cars, computers(!) and flying for foreign holidays are a strong drug to kick. There are few rehab centres.



Kalumba

25 March 2013 5:39pm

Recommend **12**

Supposing the ordinary individual wakes up and wants to do something.. anything.. on a daily basis - to contribute to a global warming solution.

Is there a website which explains in plain terms the most effective action to take?

It is going to take something like a mass Avaaz style action to turn the world around



EarlyVictoria

25 March 2013 5:58pm

Recommend **21**

@Kalumba - you can calculate your carbon footprint here <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>. The really effective things are not flying, not driving, and insulating your home. Buying locally grown food is good too.



Shov

25 March 2013 6:38pm

Recommend **24**

@EarlyVictoria

While it's good to not go around splurging carbon, individual choices like not flying aren't going to make much difference - especially if everyone is going around counting their carbon calories and feeling good about it without noticing the real cause of the problem which is our continually expanding economic system.

In answer to Kalumba's question, the best thing you can do is put pressure on your elected representatives (from local upwards) to do something about the climate problem. This may be through letter writing, protesting, signing petitions etc. If, like most of us, you find your elected representatives are useless and corrupt you can start campaigning for ones that will do better. If you can't find a party or individual who deserves your support, you can either stand yourself for an existing party or get together with some mates or some people off the internet and form a new party. If this seems like too much work, or you're too busy working on your career or bringing up your kids, you can sit back and enjoy the ride into hell with the rest of us.



davidsouthafrican
25 March 2013 6:48pm

Recommend 28

@EarlyVictoria - the really effective thing is limiting your family size.

Each child will generate CO2 to the equivalent mass of the Eiffel tower: <http://www.http://populationmatters.org/2013/blog/carbon-cost-kids/>

here is a link to the Population Matters article on the subject. Having a child has the same CO2 effect of you flying between London and New York for 7 years.

As well as stabilising human population, what is needed is the taxation of excessive consumption, the taxation of meat and the utilisation of the taxes garnered to undertake massive endemic reforestation projects to sequester CO2, and restore biodiversity.

All our traditions need to be radically and profoundly deconstructed and reconstructed to save Life on Earth.



Ramfucious
25 March 2013 6:50pm

Recommend 15

@Shov - I second that. A few people obsessing over their carbon footprints is barking up the wrong tree. Campaigning for a world where everyone's cutting their carbon footprint & coal power stations are history is much more important. We're in an emergency, there is no point frittering around at the edges.



Statick
25 March 2013 6:57pm

Recommend 10

@EarlyVictoria - cutting meat from your diet is more effective than cutting out driving



sadhu
25 March 2013 7:25pm

Recommend 1

@Shov - NOTHING CAN BE DONE, EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.



FrankPoster
25 March 2013 7:37pm

Recommend 3

@EarlyVictoria - nonsense about flying, it's a relatively small contributor. Far bigger issue is meat production and industry generally. Cutting down on buying all those iToys and reducing meat would go a long way to reducing CO2



AusBloke
25 March 2013 7:38pm

Recommend 3

@Shov

The world economy consists of 7 billion individual lifestyle choices. The stuff is not being made for aliens as far as I know.



Iierbag
25 March 2013 7:45pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Ecolophant
25 March 2013 8:17pm

Recommend 1

@davidsouthafrican 25 March 2013 6:48pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

There has to be a distinction between hyperbole and the facts. This calculation in this play is misleading by a factor of 15. It would be less

than six months before a return flyer would exceed the carbon life footprint of a child born in Europe. And there wouldn't be any living (carbon footprint) at either end. The carbon emissions in the flying would only be half of the flyer's footprint (wingprint?) implying it would only take 3 months.

Transport is responsible for 37% of UK emissions and very serious consideration of the patterns of living implied in annual carbon footprints of 8 tonnes/yr (Europe) and over 20 tonnes/yr (US) is required. As to having kids - Europe is already dying, as its birthrate is below the replacement level.

As these are all rather long term considerations, the only conclusion to be drawn is that **this calculation serves to allow people to fly**. Actually flying to NYC once is nearly twice the footprint (c.2 tonnes/yr) that atmosfair.de regards as climate friendly



EarlyVictoria

25 March 2013 8:44pm

Recommend 4

@Shov - Yes, that stuff is potentially even better. But many/most activists started by adjusting their own lifestyles. For example, if you decide to take the bus to work instead of drive, and you find that the bus service is inadequate, then you might start arguing for better public transport.



davidsouthafrican

25 March 2013 9:07pm

Recommend 4

@Ecolophant - As to having kids - Europe is already dying, as its birthrate is below the replacement level.

Europe is not the world- shocking I know. CO2 generated in Africa Asia and Australia, is going to blow over Europe too, I'm afraid.

At current rates of increase, the human population in Africa will increase by 250 % by century end.

The population of Nigeria alone will exceed all of Europe's

There is a baby boom underway in the UK and a massive shortfall in school places



defiantidealist

25 March 2013 9:30pm

Recommend 4

@Kalumba - The most effective action you can take as an individual is two-fold

1. Make what is arguably the only ethical decision and take responsibility for your own existence/survival and that of your family. By which I mean; produce the majority of your own food, harvest your own water, recycle your household waste and turn it in to productive use, install a variety of renewable energy sources into your home and if you still want to cut your carbon footprint for some reason - plant trees. All of these things are achievable, pretty low-tech, make a significant difference to you and your immediate community and not only send a vital message but go a long way to making you resilient to the future crises of the world. If you want to learn how to do this, then the knowledge is out there. I would recommend starting with studying permaculture design or find a designer to help you.

2. Teach others what you learn.

Politicians lead from the rear. Corporations follow the profit. None of them think further ahead than four or five years. If we don't make it our job to think long term then who will? Seriously? Take action, don't just think sustainable, think regenerative. The good news is that this knowledge is out there and it can be yours if you want it.



Tailspin

26 March 2013 3:22am

Recommend 1

@Shov - I don't think the problem can be fixed. Civilisation is based on fossil fuel. It's not an optional extra unfortunately. Any country that went zero carbon would find life such a struggle that it would cease to have an international voice on the issue, indeed the situation that the poorest African countries are already in.



Ace42

Recommend 1



26 March 2013 3:31am

@Stattick 25 March 2013 6:57pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

Not necessarily - pigs can eat all sorts of waste-products, thus providing a beneficial dietary supplement without requiring much carbon investment at all.



ToshofSuberbaville
26 March 2013 6:22am

Recommend **1**

@Kalumba - I think it will take a strong government to impose change initially, then future generations will be subsumed by the new discourse, just as they were and are with the capitalist discourse.



Ecolophant
26 March 2013 6:46am

Recommend **1**

@davidsouthafrican 25 March 2013 9:07pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

So why would a Nigerian or South African want to fly between London and NYC every day for seven years?



Shov
26 March 2013 10:04am

Recommend **2**

@Tailspin -

I don't think the problem can be fixed. Civilisation is based on fossil fuel. It's not an optional extra unfortunately.

Nonsense, of course it can be fixed. We've just got to want to fix it.

Civilisation per se isn't based on fossil fuel; there have been plenty of civilisations which weren't based on fossil fuel from the Sumerians right up until eighteenth century. Our current economic system demands a lot of cheap energy, which at the moment comes from fossil fuels. We just need to redesign our economic system so that it is much less energy intensive and so that includes all the externalities which currently make fossil fuels seem cheap.



Nattydread69
26 March 2013 3:56pm

Recommend **2**

@Kalumba - I'm insulating my house, having new windows put in and saving for an electric car. All winners for reducing CO2 output. I think car/transport choice represents the largest cut in CO2 you can make.



KiltedGreen
27 March 2013 11:56am

Recommend **0**

@FrankPoster - Does that mean that although I stopped flying back in 2003 I can now consider taking my spring holiday in Mexico, Summer in Chile and Winter in India or the Maldives just like it seems most people do? That would be nice.

What I understood the climate scientists to be saying was that if we're to have a chance for a liveable planet we need to leave the rest of the fossil fuels in the ground. Aircraft emissions are only around 600 million tonnes of CO2 a year so that can't matter really can it?

It would be great news if it's true as I love foreign holidays in hot sunny places with sparkling blue seas - and it's usually cheaper to fly than take the car or train too ...



Badger705
25 March 2013 5:39pm

Recommend **7**

It's all those polar bears stirring up the open seas. Take them behind the barn and shoot them.



TimJag
25 March 2013 6:29pm

Recommend **6**

@Badger705 25 March 2013 5:39pm. Get ciffix for Firefox.

Cow farts - I blame cow farts.



JonWilkins
25 March 2013 6:38pm

Recommend **0**

@Badger705 25 March 2013 5:39pm. Get ciffix for Firefox.



Ace42
26 March 2013 3:33am

Recommend **0**

@TimJag 25 March 2013 6:29pm. Get ciffix for Firefox.

Yep.



ToshofSuberbaville
26 March 2013 6:27am

Recommend **0**

@TimJag - It's their burps.



blankedout
25 March 2013 5:39pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



desconocido
26 March 2013 3:52pm

Recommend **2**

@blankedout -

The [current] variation we are seeing in temperature or rainfall is double the rate of the average.

I think they are saying that as the earth warms up and the ice melts, you are going to get both more extreme cold weather **and** more extreme hot weather.



CassiusClay
25 March 2013 5:41pm

Recommend **38**

So...we're getting extreme winter weather in 2013 because of melting polar ice? I guess the polar ice didn't melt last year when we were basking in the mid 20's in March?



Thelarch
25 March 2013 5:47pm

Recommend **115**

@CassiusClay -

Clue: 'blocking patterns'...try again.

"It allows the cold air from the Arctic to plunge much further south. The pattern can be slow to change because the [southern] wave of the jet stream is getting bigger. It's now at a near record position, so whatever weather you have now is going to stick around,"

Geddit? No, I thought not.



Clive West
25 March 2013 5:50pm

Recommend **7**

@CassiusClay - Excellent point, just reinforcing the unusual and unpredictable weather we are now experiencing.



sartreastic

25 March 2013 5:52pm

Recommend **66**

@CassiusClay - did you read the article?



Malkatrinho

25 March 2013 5:54pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



lierbag

25 March 2013 7:47pm

Recommend **5**

@CassiusClay - You really shouldn't have gone in for that 'rope-a-dope' tactic you know.



Yorkschriss

25 March 2013 5:42pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Acehigh

25 March 2013 5:43pm

Recommend **7**

Don't tell the Daily Mail about this...



Danabanana

25 March 2013 5:56pm

Recommend **42**

@Acehigh - Actually, the DM had this article running all day, soon after the BBC interview. The most recommended comments fill me with despair as shows how little understanding of the situation the majority of DM readers have.



TheMeathCoaster

25 March 2013 9:24pm

Recommend **7**

@Danabanana - Really? One quick scan through the pages of comments on this article show the Guardian readership can certainly rival that of the DM's in the sanctimonious prick stakes.



Duffy

25 March 2013 9:34pm

Recommend **3**

@Danabanana - Put it in terms they understand. House prices.



PhilipChapman

25 March 2013 11:44pm

Recommend **0**

@Danabanana - **the BBC interview**
Which interview is that? Have you got the right story? Looking for Boris Johnson maybe?



Danabanana

26 March 2013 8:55am

Recommend **6**

@PhilipChapman -

Prof Beddington made his comments in a wide-ranging interview with BBC News to coincide with the end of his tenure as the government's chief scientific adviser.

Plenty of results if you had only searched...



PhilipChapman

26 March 2013 1:00pm

Recommend **0**

@Danabanana - That interview didn't mention anything about the link between Arctic Ice loss and changing weather patterns, the subject of this article.



Danabanana

26 March 2013 1:32pm

Recommend **9**

@PhilipChapman - It didn't need to go into detail, that would take hours if not days, but it triggered articles like this one. Up to this interview the media had not dared to make the link between extreme weather events and Climate Change... now they can without being branded fools, inept or clueless by the denial brigade. It is YOUR responsibility to learn what's going on and to pass the knowledge to others -specially the younger generation- so that changes can finally be made.



pvandck

26 March 2013 2:49pm

Recommend **1**

@Danabanana - I'd hate to be sympathising with any Daily Mail reader, but it's almost certainly *not* a majority of them who can be bothered to comment, or even recommend comments. Daily Mail readers number in the millions, not hundreds.



EcoNasty

25 March 2013 5:43pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Thelarch

25 March 2013 5:44pm

Recommend **35**

The best blog on the internet is without doubt [Neven's Arctic sea ice blog](#)

[The daily graphs page](#)

and the [NSIDC website](#)

Shocking stuff.



Thomson Ryan

25 March 2013 5:45pm

Recommend **3**

List all the things we do as a species that do not contribute to the destruction of this planet, and find that we will inevitably destroy our race. How intelligently stupid.



AburridoEnTrabajo

25 March 2013 5:58pm

Recommend **1**

@Thomson Ryan - you imply that the act of destroying our race does not contribute to the destruction of this planet. So maybe that can go at the top of your list?



pvandck

26 March 2013 2:51pm

Recommend **0**

@AburridoEnTrabajo - The planet will still be here, even if it is uninhabitable for humans. Humans will not destroy the it.



Engelbert

25 March 2013 5:49pm

Recommend **19**



25 MARCH 2013 5:43pm

Didn't Nasa find last year that changing ocean currents were to blame for the lack of sea ice, not global warming, manmade or otherwise?



Thomson Ryan
25 March 2013 5:53pm

Recommend **5**

@Engelbert - I don't know, but sunspot activity is low and we're at a solar minimum, I hope it's not the maunder minimum again.



Clive West
25 March 2013 5:57pm

Recommend **25**

@Engelbert - No



notinmyusername
25 March 2013 5:59pm

Recommend **65**

@Engelbert -

Didn't Nasa find last year that changing ocean currents were to blame for the lack of sea ice, not global warming, manmade or otherwise?

No, you made that up.



aldo14
25 March 2013 6:04pm

Recommend **21**

@Engelbert -

The short answer tends to be that it's very complex and multi-factor system, so you can't point to any one single particular thing.

From what I can find (very briefly searching), NASA attributed the effects of changing ocean currents as increasing the area of ice cover in Antartica, not the north (<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/earth20121112.html>).

It's worth noting that there is still an overall decrease in polar ice (much more is being lost up north than gained in the south) and that climate change is playing a role in affecting both systems (<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/arctic-antarctic-ice.html>).

From what I understand, thinning ice cover due to increasing temperatures would also increase the impact of sea currents in terms of breaking up the ice sheet, as deeper ice is replaced by thin seasonal ice.



LordLupin
25 March 2013 6:16pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Smogbound
25 March 2013 7:16pm

Recommend **3**

@Engelbert - I believe that the most favoured denialist excuse is that it was due to a storm. That the storm occurred after the ice had already melted to a new record was conveniently forgotten.



WildGlaciologist
26 March 2013 4:44pm

Recommend **0**

@Smogbound - Although undoubtedly storms don't help.



Smogbound
27 March 2013 3:09pm

Recommend **0**

@WildGlaciologist - Yeah, but unless they can somehow warp back in time its hard to see how they can be blamed in this case.



ariel3

25 March 2013 5:50pm

Recommend **5**

i want my summers back. where is destination of choice if we all have to emigrate. irony suggests poland or rumania.



sosmix

25 March 2013 5:56pm

Recommend **3**

@ariel3 - Mars!



TimJag

25 March 2013 6:39pm

Recommend **1**

@ariel3 25 March 2013 5:50pm. Get ciffix for Firefox.

<http://www.brasovtravelguide.ro/en/romania/black-sea/black-sea-resorts.php>

<http://www.motorhomeroadtrip.com/poland/the-best-polish-beaches/>



homard

25 March 2013 7:43pm

Recommend **0**

@sosmix - Report to Captain Branson immediately .



BruceWhitehead

25 March 2013 5:51pm

Recommend **5**

The article doesn't explain the mechanism between the ice breaking away; the heat entering the ocean; the cold weather here. Anyone?



Malkatrinho

25 March 2013 5:59pm

Recommend **53**

@BruceWhitehead - Large areas of white ice reflect the sun's heat back out into the atmosphere. Reduced areas of ice mean more exposed ocean to soak up the energy and increase their temperature. Increased temperature means less ice, which means more energy absorption. It's called a feedback cycle.

It's really not very complicated.



Ameliascottage

25 March 2013 6:00pm

Recommend **29**

@BruceWhitehead - The polar vortex is like a spinning top that keeps the cold Arctic air locked in place. The warmer temperatures melted the sea ice. The sea ice shift then changed the wind patterns so the spinning top began to wobble and the cold air is now spilling south of the Arctic.



Danabanana

25 March 2013 6:10pm

Recommend **17**

@BruceWhitehead - Let [Jennifer Francis](#) explain it to you. I know it will take almost 2 hours of your time but most of us didn't just wake up one day with the knowledge and understanding.



LordLupin

25 March 2013 6:12pm

Recommend **3**



25 March 2013 6:13pm

@Ameliascottage - I think it's the frost giants.



TimJag

25 March 2013 6:45pm

Recommend **5**

@LordLupin 25 March 2013 6:13pm. Get [ciffix](#) for Firefox.

They eat the ice with their Giant space beer and then fart into the sea. Bad giants. Stop.



dunnock49

25 March 2013 7:14pm

Recommend **1**

@BruceWhitehead - There was once a suggestion that the melting ice in the Arctic forced the *gulf stream* further south (I know this varies anyway); something to do with salinity I think. Consequently the UK would suffer cooler summers. Is this theory still supported, I wonder?



mutability

25 March 2013 9:39pm

Recommend **0**

@BruceWhitehead @Danabanana

Jennifer Francis explains the mechanism in around five minutes in this clip from the talk she gave at this year's Weather & Climate Summit:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nzwJg4Ebzo



Duffy

25 March 2013 9:44pm

Recommend **1**

@dunnock49 - It's been a measured effect since the late 1940s.

Less saline water is less bouyant and so sinks under the upcoming gulf stream, which is exactly where the gulf stream needs to sink to if the water is to head back south. Because the arctic melt is slowly blocking this return path the stream gets backed up and by 2008 had lost 15% of it's efficacy since measurements began.

While there's a possibility that this will collapse the Gulf stream (estimated to occur at 40% loss) leading to Canada-like winters it's not a strong one yet.



Railrunner

25 March 2013 10:30pm

Recommend **0**

@Duffy - Glad someone is paying attention. of course now it's thought major contributors such as the Greenland Ice Shelf are melting far faster than previously realised, because much of the melt is happening where the ice meets rock, well below the visible surface. This has the effect of speeding up the ice flow to the sea.



Danabanana

26 March 2013 1:41pm

Recommend **3**

@mutability - Thanks, but five minutes doesn't cover the whole caboodle. Watch the whole presentation.



BruceWhitehead

27 March 2013 2:31pm

Recommend **0**

@Malkatrinho - I wouldn't mind your sarky tone if you had explained it; but it clearly IS complicated because you conveniently dropped the ball at the end; what's the link between the rising Arctic sea temps and extreme cold weather here, now? I am not rejecting the theory, I am trying to understand it. So please have another go



BruceWhitehead
27 March 2013 2:34pm

Recommend 0

@Ameliascottage - win a prize for the best explanation so far! What's the polar vortex again?



BruceWhitehead
27 March 2013 2:40pm

Recommend 0

@Railrunner - we're all paying attention, but not all those with the knowledge are good at explaining it...



BruceWhitehead
27 March 2013 2:44pm

Recommend 0

@Duffy - Channel 4 weather guy explained it in terms of the west-east flowing jetstream, which he said had moved much further south, but didn't explain why.

So my next question is: how much is down to the Jet Stream and how much to the Gulf Stream? And what's the North Atlantic conveyor's role? Climatologists! Answer if you have the time...



Ameliascottage
27 March 2013 3:42pm

Recommend 0

@BruceWhitehead - "The best explanation"? I'm not really looking to "win" something in a comment section, nor am I a Climatologist although I do have a degree in science. But I'm happy to explain the basics for you - quite simply it's an area of low pressure that sits at a high altitude above the North Pole during winter. It's sort of like a spinning top that keeps the cold air in place. When the "top" starts to wobble (due to melting sea ice) the cold air spills to the south.



Ameliascottage
27 March 2013 3:44pm

Recommend 0

@BruceWhitehead - I just read something on this, I think it's mostly the jet stream that's become all screwy. The southern portion has become wider, and it's affecting weather patterns. Again, probably due to melting ice.



BruceWhitehead
27 March 2013 10:37pm

Recommend 0

@Ameliascottage - ok. The prize is optional. But thanks for your suggestions; I've read quite a few comments and the conclusion I would make is that there is a lot of uncertainty; nevertheless I'm convinced there is a serious problem



Ameliascottage
27 March 2013 11:40pm

Recommend 0

@BruceWhitehead - Sorry for the initial mild snark, I thought your comment was denier sarcasm. My bad.

I remembered I had a link that explained it brilliantly, so I'll share that. Better explanation than I could ever give here.

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/stratospheric-phenomenon-is-bringing-frigid-cold-to-us-15479>



Danabanana
28 March 2013 9:39am

Recommend 1

@BruceWhitehead - [Best explanation to date comes from Dr. J Francis.](#)
Watch it.



Jonnie40

25 March 2013 5:51pm

Recommend **65**

What I don't understand is that given the earth is flat why doesn't the cold wind just blow down the side and disappear. . .



BruceWhitehead

25 March 2013 5:53pm

Recommend **4**

@Jonnie40 - gravity?



Ameliascottage

25 March 2013 5:59pm

Recommend **26**

@Jonnie40 - Unicorns.



pithyblogname

25 March 2013 7:12pm

Recommend **2**

@Jonnie40 - Magnets



mattri

25 March 2013 5:54pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Dimitri

25 March 2013 6:29pm

Recommend **13**

@notinmyuseame - You may wish to attempt to enlighten people who have their heads stuck up their proverbial ignoranus – but this seems to be part of a collective movement of denial that we, as a race, have interfered with the planet's very delicate climate balance, and are now reaping the consequences. Offering intelligent, well thought out arguments, as you have, doesn't seem to have much impact on those who deny climate change is a probable reality, and who produce arguments of complete tosh to back up their beliefs. Even though the reconstruction of past climate patterns shows us that the Earth has experienced major changes, such as ice ages, which were generally spread out over tens of thousands of years. That these changes were caused by climatic factors including variations in the geometry of the Earth's orbit, the movement of continents, and intense volcanic activity. That the stability of the Earth's climate during the past ten thousand years (the Holocene epoch), permitted the development of modern civilization as we know it today. But that in contrast, the components of the global climate system such as the Earth's surface temperature and rainfall distribution have rapidly changed in just a few decades. Hence the widespread scientific belief in "climate change." This is because scientists have observed that changes that normally took thousands of years are occurring in an alarmingly short period of time. Unfortunately, too many people, some of whom wield significant economic and political power, prefer to think otherwise, clinging to a denial fantasy that probably makes them feel more secure and helps to reap short-term profits, but is ultimately leading to a lack of progress by States and corporations to curb greenhouse gases and other climate impact events (deforestation, for example). Is there a solution? - -Doesn't look like it's coming from our collective governments – not yet anyway... they probably need a bit more prodding by the proles...



brij192

25 March 2013 5:54pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Cosmopeleton

25 March 2013 5:54pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



MrKiddon

25 March 2013 5:54pm

Recommend 16

We're fucked.



sosmix

25 March 2013 5:55pm

Recommend 13

The party is over folks, hope the come down isn't too bad.



mikedow

25 March 2013 5:55pm

Recommend 2

Move away from the regions bordering the N. Atlantic. It's subject to Arctic changes more than the Pacific Ocean....so far. It's been spring out here for a few weeks.



otherzstuffz

25 March 2013 6:19pm

Recommend 1

@mikedow 25 March 2013 5:55pm. Get [cifFix for Chrome](#).

And it isn't our sea anyway, so who are we to care . . . ?



wibblewobbly

25 March 2013 5:56pm

Recommend 6

The Ice Age cometh!



LordLupin

25 March 2013 6:00pm

Recommend 7

Didn't we plebs know this already from some previous scientific 'link?'

Obviously more icebergs mean a cooler gulf stream before it gets warmer.

Still, I'm looking forward to balmier summers and vineyards as far as Northumbria.

Like we had before. something scientists paid by global warmist politicians are told to forget about.



Clive West

25 March 2013 6:07pm

Recommend 5

@LordLupin - How many humans inhabited the earth during this 'balmy' period?



LordLupin

25 March 2013 6:17pm

Recommend 3

@Clive West - And how many were driving chelsea tractors?



thesnufkin

25 March 2013 6:29pm

Recommend 12

@LordLupin - there already is a [vineyard in Cumbria](#).

Does that prover climate change has happened, or should we conclude wine production is a rather poor proxy?



TimJag

25 March 2013 6:46pm

Recommend 1

@thesnufkin 25 March 2013 6:29pm. Get [cifFix for Firefox](#).

Depends how much antifreeze they top it up with.



Andu68

25 March 2013 6:03pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Grandito

25 March 2013 7:20pm

Recommend **6**

@notinmyusername - there are so many input variables relating to climate you can always put forward a theory to explain away or justify anything you want to. NOTHING is ever evidence against global warming for the devoted believers such as yourself. I'm quite open to the idea of global warming but I want to see clear data that correlates closely with rising CO2 levels and I've never seen it. Please don't send a link to statistically "massaged" data - I'm not interested in that. And by the way for climate change we first have to have global warming.



straightalkingjack

25 March 2013 7:27pm

Recommend **8**

@Andu68 -
No. Global warming refers to the steady increase in average GLOBAL temperatures. This picture is not changed by a cold March in the UK. Instability in weather resulting from changing global conditions is leading to increased occurrences of extreme or unusual weather, be it hot, cold, wet, dry, windy etc.

Its really not that complicated.



notinmyusername

25 March 2013 7:42pm

Recommend **6**

@Grandito -

I'm quite open to the idea of global warming but I want to see clear data that correlates closely with rising CO2 levels and I've never seen it.

[Here you go.](#)



Duffy

25 March 2013 9:50pm

Recommend **1**

@notinmyusername - No, they'll reject that as massaged. The whole planet could be on fire and they'd still never accept anything that didn't meet their standards.



Danabanana

26 March 2013 1:48pm

Recommend **2**

@Grandito -

I'm quite open to the idea of global warming but I want to see clear data that correlates closely with rising CO2 levels and I've never seen it.

If you don't believe the data on Earth, try looking elsewhere where CO2 increase has had an effect in temperature, like [Venus](#).



Mosethelawgiver

25 March 2013 6:04pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



myherojimmydainty

25 March 2013 6:20pm

Recommend **2**

@Mosethelawgiver - You are absolutely right and you might feel

@viseirelaygwel - You are clearly a bright spark! You might find 'climate change' a more helpful expression. On second thoughts, stick to your comics.



MalleusDeorum

25 March 2013 6:10pm

Recommend **22**

How many factories are there in China spewing pollution out into the air simply to make more Barbie dolls? Nevermind every other of the millions of facilities in China and the rest of the world doing similar so the extremely healthy bank accounts of a minority of the world's population can be kept in deepest black?

Why is the obvious link between rapacious capitalism and inevitable environmental consequences never made? I wonder...

Greedy bastards.



aldo14

25 March 2013 6:32pm

Recommend **6**

@MalleusDeorum - Er, isn't it made almost constantly?



Danabanana

26 March 2013 1:49pm

Recommend **0**

@MalleusDeorum -

Why is the obvious link between rapacious capitalism and inevitable environmental consequences never made?

Come xmas noone will think about this.



Vee12

25 March 2013 6:11pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



mafifa

25 March 2013 6:11pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



mafifa

25 March 2013 6:27pm

Recommend **0**

@sosmix -

I'm not aware of groups of cars congregating in the east in the morning driving loop-the-loop to ruin daybreak only to return in the west in the evening. Cue next simple explanation...



sosmix

25 March 2013 7:04pm

Recommend **0**

@mafifa - Yes, I was wondering where my comment went also, glad you got to see it though.



diddoit

25 March 2013 6:13pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



frederama

25 March 2013 6:13pm

Recommend **0**

If this is accurate, and I have no reason to doubt, this could be the biggest driver to one parent families ever seen.



otherzstuffz
25 March 2013 6:15pm

Recommend **7**

1 years data ?

We also had record hot temperatures in the high 30s c about 7 years ago, if my memory serves me right.

Not seen a decent one since.



notinmyusername
25 March 2013 6:19pm

Recommend **17**

@otherzstuffz -

We also had record hot temperatures in the high 30s c about 7 years ago, if my memory serves me right.

You didn't read the article, obviously.

The pattern can be slow to change because the [southern] wave of the jet stream is getting bigger. It's now at a near record position, so whatever weather you have now is going to stick around



otherzstuffz
25 March 2013 6:22pm

Recommend **18**

@notinmyusername 25 March 2013 6:19pm. Get ciffix for Chrome.

You see. This is the problem.

Given the breadth and complexity of this subject you can attach any theory to any weather. And there will always be weather.



notinmyusername
25 March 2013 6:24pm

Recommend **30**

@otherzstuffz -

You see. This is the problem.
Given the breadth and complexity of this subject you can attach any theory to any weather. And there will always be weather.

Don't confuse your ignorance for complexity. There is a detailed empirical argument involved in linking the current cold snap with Arctic ice melt.



otherzstuffz
25 March 2013 6:30pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn't abide by our [community standards](#). Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see [our FAQs](#).



Ramfucious
25 March 2013 7:07pm

Recommend **7**

@otherzstuffz - He or she is highly knowledgeable and spot on; exactly what is needed in a conversation about science in which various fools keep spouting nonsense.



ActOfGod
25 March 2013 6:16pm

Recommend **21**

An article not before its time.
For christ's sake when are fools we are unfortunate enough to have ruling over us going to do something.
How is it that the most un-evolved greedy people [politicians, bankers, oil companies and corporate fascists] who are responsible for this, are in fact allowed to get away with it?



homard

25 March 2013 7:52pm

Recommend **3**

@ActOfGod -
Who was it that said "We get the politicians we deserve" ?



CanJustSay

26 March 2013 2:07pm

Recommend **1**

@homard - I think it was the politicians we got, wasn't it?



John Howard Hirst

25 March 2013 6:16pm

Recommend **18**

If the melting ice caused the bad weather this year, what were the reasons for the cold spell in 1963 and 1947 plus the previous times, did the Artic ice melt then?



notinmyusername

25 March 2013 6:21pm

Recommend **37**

@John Howard Hirst -

If the melting ice caused the bad weather this year, what were the reasons for the cold spell in 1963 and 1947 plus the previous times, did the Artic ice melt then?

No, you are engaging in a basic logical non-sequitur. The fact that a meandering Polar Jet Stream is causing more extremes in Europe does not preclude the fact that they could have occurred naturally in the past - they are simply happening more often today.



JonWilkins

25 March 2013 6:34pm

Recommend **11**

@notinmyusername [25 March 2013 6:21pm](#). Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

Which my the same argument could also be natural occurrences. After all, truly random evens can and do appear as clusters



notinmyusername

25 March 2013 6:40pm

Recommend **15**

@JonWilkins -

Which my the same argument could also be natural occurrences. After all, truly random evens can and do appear as clusters

There is no need to invoke such improbable situation when the laws of physics explain increasing weather extremes.



Beazle

25 March 2013 6:40pm

Recommend **12**

@John Howard Hirst - Please don't mention facts - you'll get moderated,



JonWilkins

25 March 2013 6:42pm

Recommend **12**

@notinmyusername [25 March 2013 6:40pm](#). Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

I think that you're confusing "facts" with the output from some flawed models.



notinmyusername

25 March 2013 6:49pm

Recommend **19**



@JonWilkins -

I think that you're confusing "facts" with the output from some flawed models.

Well, no, since the subject at hand is about empirical observations.



JonWilkins

25 March 2013 7:18pm

Recommend **3**

@notinmyusername 25 March 2013 6:49pm. Get cifFix for Firefox.

It's definitely empirical? So it isn't actually proven in any way? Good to hear, thanks



notinmyusername

25 March 2013 7:23pm

Recommend **14**

@JonWilkins -

It's definitely empirical? So it isn't actually proven in any way?
Good to hear, thanks

I'm afraid this sentence makes so sense dear. There is plenty of empirical evidence presented in the article above. You know, the content you are so eager not to talk about.



homard

25 March 2013 7:54pm

Recommend **1**

@JonWilkins -

some flawed models

Gees , I've met a few .



baggins45

25 March 2013 8:11pm

Recommend **4**

@JonWilkins - someone doesn't know what empirical means
or that science isn't about proving things



Liam23

26 March 2013 9:46pm

Recommend **1**

@JonWilkins -

It's definitely empirical? So it isn't actually proven in any way?
Good to hear, thanks

Notinmyusername's Law: in a discussion with a climate change denier, the probability that the denier will equate lack of absolute proof with being completely unsubstantiated in any way increases with the amount of evidence presented that climate change is real and humans are the cause.



tonymcgowan

25 March 2013 6:16pm

Recommend **6**

I despise the oil-funded deniers, but I also wish 'my' side would try to frame a testable hypothesis or two, rather than just seeing what happens and then saying, 'see, that proves it!'. So, what I'd like to see is some evidence about what is 'normal' and then a prediction about what will happen next, based on the science. The outcome will then falsify or corroborate that hypothesis.



otherzstuffz

25 March 2013 6:20pm

Recommend **11**

@tonymcgowan 25 March 2013 6:16pm. Get cifFix for Chrome.

I doubt anyone one commenting on here is funded by anyone, other than the EU propaganda machine.



LordLupin

25 March 2013 6:22pm

Recommend 3

@tonymcgowan - I'm not funded by oil companies. I wish I was.



notinmyusername

25 March 2013 6:22pm

Recommend 26

@tonymcgowan -

but I also wish 'my' side would try to frame a testable hypothesis or two, rather than just seeing what happens and then saying, 'see, that proves it!'

Did you read the article, [which links to this prediction from last year?](#) Francis has been publishing papers on this subject for several years.

Don't confuse your ignorance for a lack of research in science.



CassiusClay

25 March 2013 6:25pm

Recommend 3

@tonymcgowan - I bet your fun to have a pint with :(



otherzstuffz

25 March 2013 6:36pm

Recommend 8

@notinmyusername 25 March 2013 6:22pm. Get cifFix for Chrome.

You use that one all the time.

Time for your homework and then bed ?



Beazle

25 March 2013 6:37pm

Recommend 5

@CassiusClay - Exactly. Its the hysterical bitterness of the responses you get from these increasing desperate people. Science is all about not being dogmatic about anything. Political sloganeering is something entirely different.



Ramfucious

25 March 2013 7:12pm

Recommend 0

@otherzstuffz - It's a very appropriate response to many posts to be found here. It's a big subject, there's a lot to understand



bitthick

25 March 2013 7:35pm

Recommend 7

@tonymcgowan -

but I also wish 'my' side would try to frame a testable hypothesis or two, rather than just seeing what happens and then saying, 'see, that proves it!'

The article is about just saying what will happen *and then seeing it*. The hypothesis was tested. By the planet, you could say. The result was consistent with the hypothesis.

See where it says :

Francis linked the Arctic temperature rises to extreme weather in mid latitudes last year **and warned in September that 2012's record sea ice melt could lead to a cold winter in the UK and northern Europe.**

and follow the links that the paragraph in the article has.



homard

25 March 2013 7:57pm

Recommend 1

@CassiusClay - Oh ..the irony !



TimJag

25 March 2013 8:53pm

Recommend 3

@notinmyusername 25 March 2013 6:22pm. Get [cifFix](#) for Firefox.

You must tone down your comments, if you seek to convince people to change their minds you can't be getting all confrontational else they'll just think your rude. Or mad.



tonymcgowan

25 March 2013 10:35pm

Recommend 4

@notinmyusername - I can't quite understand the rudeness of your comment here (matched by the rudeness of the deniers - do you feel a kinship?). That article quotes Francis as saying 'we can't make predictions'. Did you read that? The year before a similar ice-melt situation 'resulted' in an unusually warm Spring ... Now, as i said, I'm against the deniers for all sorts of reasons, but that doesn't mean that the climate change asserting majority don't need to put forward rational arguments. Frankly they don't need chumps like you on their side - you just play into the hands of the nutters. Once again. I suggest you re-read the moderation of my comments, and then have a think about your own response and its appropriateness.



tonymcgowan

25 March 2013 10:37pm

Recommend 2

@CassiusClay - and I bet you've never had a shag.



notinmyusername

25 March 2013 11:08pm

Recommend 1

@tonymcgowan -

Frankly they don't need chumps like you on their side - you just play into the hands of the nutters.

Rude does not equal chump. I never said Francis made definite predictions, you seem to be bastardizing my points in order to make yours. If you did not speak for science without first understanding it, I would not have to educate you.



tonymcgowan

26 March 2013 9:37am

Recommend 3

@notinmyusername - Frankly, your points come pre-bastardised. You really should go and read some philosophy of science. Or anything, really. Plus, a little courtesy wouldn't kill you. I know you find it difficult to comprehend long sentences, but in case you missed it, I fully accept climate change, but am concerned about the way the case is being put across, which is grossly oversimplified to the point of becoming propaganda.



notinmyusername

26 March 2013 1:48pm

Recommend 2

@tonymcgowan -

Frankly, your points come pre-bastardised.

Makes no sense.

You really should go and read some philosophy of science. Or anything, really.

Baseless assumptions and smears.

Plus, a little courtesy wouldn't kill you.

Courtesy is for people who do their homework.

I know you find it difficult to comprehend long sentences, but in case you missed it, I fully accept climate change, but am concerned about the way the case is being put across, which is grossly oversimplified to the point of becoming propaganda.

And your faux concern is baseless and in this specific case completely unfounded. You ignorantly claim to speak for a "side" you simply have no understanding of.

You originally said:

'but I also wish 'my' side would try to frame a testable hypothesis or two, rather than just seeing what happens and then saying, 'see, that proves it!'.

Testable hypothesis made by climate science: If you add CO2 to the atmosphere there will be an increased greenhouse effect (there has been), the atmosphere will warm (it has), the seas will warm (they have), ice will melt (it has), heatwaves will become more common (they have), the stratosphere will cool (it has), the troposphere will rise (it has), nights will warm faster than days (they will).

In Jennifer Francis case - you know the article you are commenting on - she has observed and predicted that the Polar Jet Stream would see more blocking patterns due to Arctic Ice melt - a hypothesis that has been proven.

So quite what point you think you are making is beyond me. There's enough know-nothings on this board without one claiming to speak for climate science.



tonymcgowan

26 March 2013 2:58pm

Recommend **1**

@notinmyusername - You really are grumpy, rude and incoherent. And, as I keep saying, you are embarrassing the cause you claim to be defending. In fact I've just worked it out - you're a climate change sceptic, aren't you? Who pays you - Shell or BP or one of those shady US 'think-tanks'? They've told you to go and rant and rave and make climate change science look stupid, haven't they? Well, we've found you out - run back to your slash and burn capitalist financiers with your stumpy little tail between your legs. I've warned George M about you, and he agrees that you're a cock.



notinmyusername

26 March 2013 3:09pm

Recommend **0**

@tonymcgowan -

You really are grumpy, rude and incoherent.

I'm grumpy and rude, you've failed to substantiate the third accusation.

And, as I keep saying, you are embarrassing the cause you claim to be defending.

Says the person who wishes climate science would make testable hypothesis? I debunk you by comparing your claims against reality, however you keep telling me I'm "incoherent" and "embarrassing the cause" but you can't actual give us any reasons, nor reply to your points when they're debunked.

In fact I've just worked it out - you're a climate change sceptic, aren't you?

Okay, now we've take the trip into La La Land.

I've warned George M about you, and he agrees that you're a cock.

[citation needed]



tonymcgowan

26 March 2013 3:34pm

Recommend **0**

@notinmyusername Here you go: - "He's a cock" - George Monbiot, March 26 2013.



notinmyusername
26 March 2013 3:46pm

Recommend **0**

@tonymcgowan -

Here you go: - "He's a cock" - George Monbiot, March 26 2013.

Not a citation.

[citation needed]



tonymcgowan
26 March 2013 3:50pm

Recommend **3**

@notinmyusername - You're quite right - I didn't realise that we needed the Harvard System on CiF. So, "He's a cock" - (George Monbiot, personal communication, March 26 2013). Satisfied? I am, as I got to call you a cock three times.



notinmyusername
26 March 2013 3:59pm

Recommend **0**

@tonymcgowan -

You're quite right - I didn't realise that we needed the Harvard System on CiF. So, "He's a cock" - (George Monbiot, personal communication, March 26 2013). Satisfied?

No, could you provide proof of the personal communication. See watch this:

So, "He's not a cock" - (George Monbiot, personal communication, March 26 2013).

See how that works?

I am, as I got to call you a cock three times.

Your original gripe with me was that I was rude. Is the irony lost on you?

Your original claim, that climate scientists do not make testable predictions, the one you now ignore, has been laughably dismissed. You are rude and wrong.

Whereas I'm only rude. Toodle-doo.



tonymcgowan
26 March 2013 4:08pm

Recommend **1**

@notinmyusername - Sorry old chum - you asked for a citation (twice), so I gave you one in the accepted form. If you'd wanted a proof you should have said. Don't you know the difference? Doesn't say much for your academic credentials. So, let me reassure you, George Monbiot didn't really call you a cock. I was twisting your gourd. George Monbiot has quite literally no idea who you are, and he never will. But good luck to you, and if your goal really is to combat the skeptics and not to slyly support their side, I wish you well in it. But, seriously, sort your proofs from your citations, or they'll eat you for breakfast.



notinmyusername
26 March 2013 4:19pm

Recommend **1**

@tonymcgowan -

Sorry old chum - you asked for a citation (twice), so I gave you one in the accepted form.

Accepted by whom? A citation is to an independently verifiable source.

A quoting of an authoritative source for substantiation

You failed.

Doesn't say much for your academic credentials.

Says the man who told us all climate scientists don't make verifiable predictions? You really enjoy making this fantasy claims don't you, I'm not sure how many times you've told me I'm ill-informed based on misunderstood principles and wishful thinking.

But, seriously, sort your proofs from your citations, or they'll eat you for breakfast.

How tiresome. I originally replied to you to inform you of your ignorance around climate predictions. Your original point is nonsense.

1. You said climate scientists didn't make testable predictions. I proved that was false.

2. You then griped I was rude by calling me ignorant, you then went on to call me a cock.

3. You then decided to make up fictional quotes by George Monbiot, apparently posing as wit, and other fantasies about unknown intentions on my part.

4. As well as not understanding what a scientific prediction is, your *Pièce de résistance* is to school me on what a citation is, by providing me with a citation to something that didn't exist - therefore precluding it from being a citation - since you cannot cite something that does not exist on the plane of reality.

So, when I say you are utterly clueless in every possible way, I provide back-up for that assertion.

Now toddle off, because the adults need to continue their discussion.

Pathetic...



tonymcgowan

26 March 2013 4:30pm

Recommend

1

@notinmyusername - Old friend, do please tell me, do you have a job? It seems that you have literally nothing else to do but this. I write books, so I like to collect eccentrics and weirdos, so I'm genuinely loving this, but what do you do all day? Does your employer, if you have one, mind you spending your time rebutting mildly humorous sallies at your expense? Or are you unemployed and so have literally nothing better to do? You've obviously read a little around the subject without being an expert in it, so what's your background? No need to hide - you can see who I am, and google me to your heart's content. Or do you think the skeptics will come looking for you? But, seriously, cheer up - you can at least be content in having entertained me, and supplied much useful material for my work, so your life hasn't been wasted.



notinmyusername

26 March 2013 4:47pm

Recommend

1

@tonymcgowan -

Old friend, do please tell me, do you have a job? It seems that you have literally nothing else to do but this.

Of course I have a job - I'm paid by the evil oil companies to spread disinformation by, err, debunking disinformation. You said so yourself.

I write books, so I like to collect eccentrics and weirdos, so I'm genuinely loving this, but what do you do all day?

I'm loving it too, I love to see posters make erroneous posts which I am then able to debunk. I enjoy it even more when they will do everything possible to avoid acknowledging their errors.

Does your employer, if you have one, mind you spending your time rebutting mildly humorous sallies at your expense? Or are you unemployed and so have literally nothing better to do?

You're going around in circles now.

You've obviously read a little around the subject without being an expert in it, so what's your background?

What makes you think, specifically, that I'm not an "export [sic]". My background is having a bean about critical thought.

No need to hide - you can see who I am, and google me to your heart's content.

Do you truly believe I am going to google you? How quaint.

But, seriously, cheer up - you can at least be content in

but, seriously, cheer up - you can at least be content in having entertained me, and supplied much useful material for my work, so your life hasn't been wasted.

What would make you think I am unhappy? Every contrary point you have brought up in this sub-thread has been smashed to pieces - something that heartens me immensely.

What always puzzles me about you types is after having been spanked in the actual debate, you simply walk away from your claims (scientists don't make testable predictions, a citation can cite something that doesn't exist) and keep on using language that suggests you have been the clever one in this debate, somehow looking down upon us from enlightened condescension - rather than someone who stumbled onto a subject they have no idea about and hadn't the intellectual integrity to own up to their several clangers.

I don't have to pretend to be smarter than you, I would just encourage people to read this sub-thread.



tonymcgowan

26 March 2013 5:36pm

Recommend **1**

@notinmyusername - So, on the dole, then. That's fine, work's hard to come by at the moment, even for people of your calibre and training. But sorry you're afraid to stand in the light. Really, no one is out to get you. But, once more, I wish you every success with your campaign, despite your inept bullying. Just remember, the scientist you cited as making predictions refused, explicitly, to make predictions. Carrying on saying the same thing over and over again doesn't make it true, it just makes you boring.



Smogbound

27 March 2013 12:06am

Recommend **0**

@tonymcgowan -

You really are grumpy, rude and incoherent

Um, who is making the personal attacks?



Smogbound

27 March 2013 12:18am

Recommend **0**

@tonymcgowan -

I fully accept climate change.

What exactly do you mean by that?



KiltedGreen

27 March 2013 12:11pm

Recommend **0**

@tonymcgowan - I don't know you personally Mr McGowan, but reading the above exchange you sound rather like a petulant schoolboy who has been found with his hand in the biscuit jar.

Enough already.



tonymcgowan

27 March 2013 1:13pm

Recommend **0**

@KiltedGreen - I think if you read through the exchanges objectively, you'll agree that that's a touch harsh. My tone was initially gently enquiring and ameliorative. I then responded to rather rude comments by trying to reflect their tone. When it became obvious that I was dealing with an obsessive, I changed to good-natured invective, tekkin rise out o' 'im, as we say up here, in North London. So, if you know what petulant means, and I'm sure you do, you'll see it doesn't fit any of the stages of this discussion. The trouble is that this issue seems to leave both sides frothing at the mouth. As I've said, I think the evidence supports man-made climate change, but the debate always leaves science behind. The climate change lobby - of which I'm a part - tends to regard any criticism, however mild, as a sign of damnation. We need cool heads in this hot earth. Now, seriously, you think I'm petulant?



Smogbound

27 March 2013 1:54pm

Recommend 0

@tonymcgowan -

When it became obvious that I was dealing with an obsessive
Wow, you just can't stop it with those personal attacks.



tonymcgowan

27 March 2013 2:03pm

Recommend 0

@Smogbound - And you think that counts as a response to the points I made? Seriously, pull your argumentative socks up or the bad guys are going to win (and in case I need to hammer home who they are, it's the ones who want to pollute and rape our planet, not those who playfully suggest that the argument on the other side - my side, our side - is conducted at a reasonable level). Can you really not see any of this?



Smogbound

27 March 2013 3:06pm

Recommend 0

@tonymcgowan -

And you think that counts as a response to the points I made?

I'll not bother making a 'response' until you manage to adopt the same standards you insist others should comply with.

And why I should be required to respond to somebody who has still not responded to my earlier post - what do you mean by 'accept climate change' - is baffling me.



tonymcgowan

27 March 2013 3:39pm

Recommend 0

@Smogbound - to quote my last reply - "As I've said, I think the evidence supports man-made climate change, but the debate always leaves science behind."

Is that still unclear? To be honest, I really didn't get your question., When I said I accept climate change, was that really not obvious, that I meant that I accept climate change is happening? Now, I know some of the deniers say it's not man made climate change, but in the context of the discussion, surely it was clear what I meant. But if it wasn't, did the sentence I've quoted above not make it so? Genuinely, again I ask why the weird animus? And to repeat, I'm sure you'll agree that I was courteous until I was rather rudely and personally attacked. I then humorously retorted. Can you not see that? Try and be honest with yourself, Smoggy, and not delude yourself with the thought that you are a goody assailed by baddies, although of course that is, in it's way, a comforting delusion. Listen to this, it'll do you a power of good:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0184s3c>



Smogbound

27 March 2013 5:03pm

Recommend 0

@tonymcgowan -

Try and be honest with yourself, Smoggy, and not delude yourself with the thought that you are a goody assailed by baddies

So now I'm the target and I am delusional. You just can't help yourself can you.

I think that people willing to put the futures of billions of people at risk in order to protect their profits are pretty bad. You may think that's delusional, but there's plenty of evidence out there: much of it reported here in The Guardian.



Smogbound

27 March 2013 5:05pm

Recommend 0

@tonymcgowan -

And to repeat, I'm sure you'll agree that I was courteous until I was rather rudely and personally attacked. I then humorously retorted

Well since you seem to think you can decide my opinions for me; I must point out that I find your posts rude and - here you really are in error - condescending.



myherojimmydainty

25 March 2013 6:17pm

Recommend **1**

Welcome to the apocalypse!



ViktorBurakov

25 March 2013 6:19pm

Recommend **5**

It's all down to a massive increase in the levels of penguin shagging



homard

25 March 2013 8:02pm

Recommend **0**

@ViktorBurakov - So *that's* what Captain Oates meant .



sadhu

25 March 2013 6:21pm

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Atom57

25 March 2013 6:22pm

Recommend **1**

Jennifer might as well say maybe the ice melt should be accelerated so the equilibrium can be restored?
Much more likely this occurrence can be explained by a Sudden Stratospheric Warming due to low UV output from the Sun - <http://metofficenews.wordpress.com/2013/01/08/what-is-a-sudden-stratospheric-warming-ssw/http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/news/solar-variability>



WoodwardRobert

25 March 2013 7:21pm

Recommend **7**

@Atom57 -

The creation of high amplitude longwaves (Rosby waves) and the reduced rate of their easterly migration within the troposphere at northern midlatitudes as a result of the the loss of Arctic sea ice during the summer, can be expected to exaggerate the effects of polar vortex disruption as a result of the natural process of sudden stratospheric warming.

The two phenomena are independent and not incompatible. They can produce cold winter weather across the northern hemisphere alone or when they occur together.



brijl92

25 March 2013 6:22pm

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