

Don't deny it; Climate

“We don't see, they don't say, but I can act.”



Introducing our outputs

The subject of climate change has become one that is laced with inaccuracy, hypocrisy and scaremongering; resulting in feelings of anxiety and helplessness among the masses. This poster has been made to supplement our spoken word video designed for social media to present the key myths addressed and provides some of the factual basis to complement our piece. This will help audiences to form a clearer, reliable and rational view towards our environmental situation, which will lead to a more proactive and positive response.

It's important to understand

the difference between weather and climate, as where it is misunderstood, it allows the spread of misleading information and arguments. Weather is the short term atmospheric conditions; climate refers to the trends observed over time¹, including the average expected conditions and the normal variance that is found. However, it is worth noting that every variable concerning climate is either complex or uncertain.² In addition, there are natural changes that occur in the climate over large periods of time³, which further contributes to confusion. Many believe that the current changes seen can be attributed solely to this, not to the anthropogenic drivers. However an IPCC report states that the atmospheric concentrations of key greenhouse gases have now reached levels unprecedented in the last 800,000 years, and that this along with other human factors is highly likely to have been a dominant cause of recent warming, including for over half of the increase in global surface temperatures between 1951 and 2010⁴ Humans are having an impact on climate change.

Political Propaganda

The media has planted a misconception that the climate change situation is not as bad as scientists lead us to believe. Largely embodied in Bjørn Lomborg's works⁵, and then significantly intensified by the Climatic Research Unit's 'Climategate'⁶ scandal, there has been a politically engineered notion of distrust towards the warnings of leading climate change researchers. This distrust has conveniently enabled politicians to suggest that the issue of climate change has been dramatized, and instead direct the attention of populations towards alternative issues such as economic growth and social care.

Nevertheless, Hasselmann's, (2010) "The Climate Change Game"⁷ describes the conclusive reassurance by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee that the science behind climate change and the infamous 'hockey stick graph' is rational and reliable. Consequently, climate sceptics such as Lomborg have repudiated their previously stated notions⁸ and now recognise climate change as an urgent issue that must be prioritised promptly and effectively⁹ in order to satisfy the all-important 2020 2 °C target that was set in the Paris COP Agreement of 2016.¹⁰

Not Too Late

It is true that the case for climate change is urgent and indeed dire. However, this does not mean that our position is futile and the future is inevitably disastrous. Joseph Romm is keen to emphasise: "the knowledge that humans are the major cause of climate change must mean that humans are also the major solution to it"¹¹. The Paris Agreement of 2016 set a target to ensure that climate change does not exceed 2 °C above the pre-industrial temperatures; with the aim of limiting the temperature rise to 1.5 °C¹². Although evidence shows that these goals are highly difficult to achieve, they are not impossible; these guidelines are not absolute. Romm clarified that failure to meet the target of 2 °C does not result in a conclusively catastrophic future. Rather, it will make the mitigation of climate change longer and harder to achieve.¹³ Geoengineering is a controversial method that can potentially extend the period of time during which we must adapt and learn to reduce the carbon emissions.¹⁴ By engaging in politics and demanding to see radical implementation of an environmentally sustainable society, we can and will reach a position which allows us to live fulfilling lives in harmony with the environment around us.

Katherine Bruten, Gabriel Few-Wiegratz, Shoana Haddow, Daisy Newbold-Harrop, January Sim, Lissy Webb, Joseph Withers, Anna Maria Zhivotikova