

FOREWORD

Scientists now clearly understand that humans are producing discernible climate change. There is no doubt. The planet is warming, and there are multiple signs, not just rising global mean surface temperatures, but also melting glaciers and Arctic sea ice, melting ice sheets (in Greenland and Antarctica), and rising sea levels, both from adding more meltwater from land and from the expansion of seawater itself due to rising temperatures.

These changes matter a great deal. Some of the changes with the biggest impacts on society and the environment are those related to increases in the intensity of heavy rains, droughts, and floods, and those associated with heat waves and wildfires. Changes in storms, especially hurricanes, are also in the cards.

The evidence for all these changes is widespread and incontrovertible, even if details still need to be ironed out. So why are there misinformation campaigns? Cutting back on coal and oil use would make these resources last longer, along with the fossil fuel industry that depends on them, and putting a price on carbon would surely get passed on to consumers. Also, it is not as if demand for power is diminishing—quite the contrary. So to me, the misinformation campaigns are not only dishonest and wrongheaded, but do not even serve their own industry well.

This book focuses on the myths perpetrated by so-called skeptics or deniers of climate change and the organizations and people who are responsible. In science, being skeptical comes with the territory, but to deny basic facts makes no sense at all. Hence, this book performs a service by providing a handy foil to the often silly arguments brought forth by climate change deniers. It also names names.

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