Meet The Climate Denial Machine

Blog (/blog) >>> November 28, 2012 3:16 PM EST >>> JILL FITZSIMMONS (/authors/jill-fitzsimmons/156)







474 (/blog/2012/11/28/meet-the-climate-denial-machine/191545#disqus_thread) (/printmail/%%4189)

Despite the overwhelming consensus (/blog/2011/07/07/heartland-institutes-climate-contrariansenjoy/185131#surveys) among climate experts that human activity is contributing to rising global temperatures, 66 percent of Americans incorrectly believe

(http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/11/public-learning-scientists-agree-on-climate-a-game-changer/1#.UJ0pPlex8-x) there is "a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether or not global warming is happening." The conservative media has fueled (/research/2012/10/24/timeline-fox-news-role-in-the-climate-of-doubt/190906) this confusion by distorting (/blog/2012/09/24/utter-nonsense-10-scientists-who-have-criticize/190093) scientific research, hyping (/research/2011/11/30/climategate-redux-conservative-media-distort-ha/184559) faux-scandals, and giving voice (/blog/2011/07/07/heartland-institutes-climate-contrarians-enjoy/185131) to groups funded by industries that have a financial interest in blocking action on climate change. Meanwhile, mainstream media outlets have shied away (/blog/2012/11/13/how-the-right-scares-the-media-into-ignoring-cl/191350) from the "controversy" over climate change and have failed to press (/research/2012/11/13/study-tv-media-covered-bidens-smile-nearly-twic/191341) U.S. policymakers on how they will address this global threat. When climate change is discussed, mainstream outlets sometimes strive for a false (/blog/2012/09/18/pbs-newshour-propagates-confusion-on-climate-ch/189966) balance (/blog/2011/09/16/nytimescom-strikes-false-balance-on-climate-cha/181337) that elevates marginal voices and enables them to sow doubt (/research/2011/08/08/we-win-conservative-media-celebrate-public-misc/182517) about the science even in the face of mounting evidence.

Here, *Media Matters* looks at how conservative media outlets give industry-funded "experts" a platform, creating a polarized misunderstanding of climate science.

- · Heartland Institute And James Taylor
- Competitive Enterprise Institute
- Chris Horner And The American Tradition Institute
- . Manhattan Institute And Robert Bryce
- Heritage Foundation
- · Cato Institute And Patrick Michaels
- American Enterprise Institute
- Marc Morano
- Anthony Watts
- Steve Milloy
- Joe Bastardi
- Matt Ridley
- Larry Bell

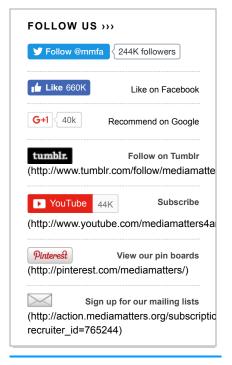
Heartland Institute And James Taylor

The Economist has called (http://www.economist.com/node/21555894) the libertarian Heartland Institute "the world's most prominent think tank promoting skepticism about man-made climate change." Every year, Heartland hosts (http://climateconferences.heartland.org/) an "International Conference on Climate Change," bringing together a small group of contrarians (mostly non-scientists (/blog/2011/07/07/heartland-institutes-climate-contrarians-enjoy/185131)) who deny that manmade climate change is a serious problem. To promote its most recent conference, Heartland launched a short-lived billboard campaign (/blog/2012/05/04/billboards-illustrate-heartlands-approach-to-sc/185773) associating acceptance of climate science with "murderers, tyrants, and madmen (http://heartland.org/press-releases/2012/05/03/do-you-still-believe-global-warming-billboards-hit-chicago)" including Ted Kaczynski, Charles Manson and Fidel Castro. Facing backlash (http://eenews.net/public/climatewire/2012/05/07/2) from corporate donors and even some of its own staff, Heartland removed (http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/cutline/unabomber-billboard-climate-change-taken-down-diageo-withdraws-165826953.html) the billboard, but refused to apologize (http://heartland.org/press-releases/2012/05/04/heartland-institute-ends-experiment-unabomber-global-warming-billboard) for the "experiment."



ABOUT THE BLOG

Our blog section features rapid response factchecks of conservative misinformation, links to media criticism from around the web, commentary, analysis and breaking news from Media Matters' senior fellows, investigative team, researchers and other staff.



Fox News Pushes Debunked Story About University Professors Offering Extra Credit To Students For Attending An Anti-Trump Protest (/video/2016/11/23/fox-newspushes-debunked-story-about-universityprofessors-offering-extra-credit-studentsattending/214620)

November 23, 2016 12:34 PM EST

Video

CNN's Jeffrey Lord Uses False Claim On Air To Justify Trump's Apathy In Disavowing White Supremacists (/video/2016/11/23/cnns-jeffrey-lord-usesfalse-claim-air-justify-trumps-apathydisavowing-white-supremacists/214619)

November 23, 2016 12:19 PM EST

Video

CNN's Scottie Nell Hughes: By Ignoring Neo-Nazi Groups, Trump Is "Making It Go Away" (/video/2016/11/23/cnn-s-scottienell-hughes-ignoring-neo-nazi-groupstrump-making-it-go-away/214617)

November 23, 2016 9:33 AM EST

Video



Heartland does not disclose its donors, but internal documents obtained

(http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/21/heartland-institute-leak-climate-attack) in February reveal that Heartland received (http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/16/science/earth/in-heartland-institute-leak-a-plan-to-discredit-climate-teaching.html?pagewanted=2&_r=4) \$25,000 from the Charles Koch Foundation in 2011 and anticipated \$200,000 in additional funding in 2012. Charles Koch is CEO and co-owner of Koch Industries, a corporation (http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Koch_Industries) with major oil interests. Along with his brother David Koch, he has donated

(http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/campaigns/global-warming-and-energy/polluterwatch/koch-industries/) millions to groups that spread climate misinformation. Heartland also receives funding from some corporations (http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2012/04/06/429767/nucor-exposed-corporation-bankrolling-climate-denial-claims-global-warming-not-taken-lightly/) with a financial interest in confusing the public on climate science. ExxonMobil contributed

(http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/09/science/earth/09climate.html) over \$600,000 to Heartland between 1998 and 2006, but has since pledged to stop funding groups that cast doubt on climate change.

Despite their industry ties and lack of scientific expertise, Heartland Institute fellows are often given a media platform (/blog/2011/07/07/heartland-institutes-climate-contrarians-enjoy/185131) to promote their marginal views on climate change. Most visible is James Taylor, a lawyer with no climate science background (http://www.desmogblog.com/james-taylor) who heads Heartland's environmental initiative. Taylor dismisses (/research/2011/06/20/fox-news-maligns-scientists-with-baseless-accus/185442) "alarmist



propaganda that global warming is a human-caused problem that needs to be addressed," and suggests that taking action to reduce emissions could cause a return to the "the Little Ice Age and the Black Death." But that hasn't stopped Forbes from publishing his weekly column, which he uses to spout (/blog/2012/06/18/forbes-still-publishing-heartlands-climate-nons/177014) climate (/blog/2011/11/01/straw-men-and-the-little-ice-age/182604) misinformation (/blog/2011/08/01/climate-science-once-again-twisted-beyond-recog/185135) and accuse scientists of "doctoring (http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2012/06/13/doctored-data-not-u-s-temperatures-set-a-record-this-year/)" temperature data to fabricate a warming trend. It also hasn't stopped Fox News from promoting (/research/2011/06/20/fox-news-maligns-scientists-with-baseless-accus/185442) his misinformation.

Competitive Enterprise Institute

The libertarian Competitive Enterprise Institute (/tags/competitive-enterprise-institute) has sponsored paid advertisements (http://www.cleantechblog.com/2006/05/carbon-dioxide-they-call-it-pollution.html), opeds (http://cei.org/issues/4/opeds), and blogs (http://www.globalwarming.org/) that misrepresent (http://www.factcheck.org/misleading-ads/scientist_to_cei_you_used_my_research.html) scientific research to downplay the threat of climate change. CEI's director of energy and global warming policy Myron Ebell shed light (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/environment/climate-of-doubt/transcript-31/) on their motivation to muddle the science on the PBS Frontline special "Climate of Doubt":

CNN's Jeffrey Lord: The Left, "Whether It's Black Lives Matter Or La Raza ... Provoked" White Neo-Nazi Group Into Existence (/video/2016/11/22/cnns-jeffrey-lord-left-whether-its-black-lives-matter-or-la-raza-provoked-white-neo-nazi-group/214613)

November 22, 2016 9:51 PM EST

Video

Wolf Blitzer: Trump Criticizes Musical, But Doesn't "Go Out Of The Way To Express His Outrage" Over Nazi Salute (/video/2016/11/22/wolf-blitzer-trumpcriticizes-musical-doesnt-go-out-wayexpress-his-outrage-over-nazisalute/214612)

November 22, 2016 6:52 PM EST

Video

Fox Host Eric Bolling Downplays Deficit Spending Now That There's A Republican President (/video/2016/11/22/fox-host-ericbolling-downplays-deficit-spending-nowtheres-republican-president/214611)

November 22, 2016 5:50 PM EST

Video

Now That The Trump Foundation Has Admitted To Illegal Activity, Will Fox News Still Ignore President-Elect's Self-Dealing? (/blog/2016/11/22/now-trump-foundationhas-admitted-illegal-activity-will-fox-newsstill-ignore-president-elect-s-self/214610)

November 22, 2016 5:44 PM EST

Blog

"Nixonian": Journalists React To Trump's Declaration That As President, He "Can't Have A Conflict Of Interest" (/blog/2016/11/22/nixonian-journalists-react-trump-s-declaration-president-he-can-t-have-conflict-interest/214609)

November 22, 2016 5:11 PM EST

Blog

Sean Hannity: Why Should Mainstream Journalists "Have A Seat In The White House Press Room" (/video/2016/11/22/sean-hannity-whyshould-mainstream-journalists-have-seatwhite-house-press-room/214608)

November 22, 2016 4:37 PM EST

Video

Limbaugh And His Producer Question Whether Participants In The Women's March On Washington Will Try To Synch Their Menstrual Cycles (/video/2016/11/22/limbaugh-and-hisproducer-question-whether-participants-womens-march-washington-will-try-synchtheir/214606)

November 22, 2016 2:15 PM EST

Video

Trump's Ongoing Contempt For The Press Requires Journalists To Step Up (/blog/2016/11/22/trump-s-ongoing-

We felt that if you concede the science is settled and that there's a consensus, you cannot -the moral high ground has been ceded to the alarmists.



By dismissing the scientific consensus that human activity is contributing to climate change as "phony (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/environment/climate-of-doubt/transcript-31/)," CEI can justify standing in the way of government action to reduce emissions. To make its case, CEI dispatches its "experts (http://cei.org/experts/by-issue)" -- many of which have no scientific background -- to do media appearances and op-ed pieces casting doubt on climate science and opposing any potential solutions. Ebell has been cited by Fox News (/blog/2009/09/21/look-who-fox-news-calls-an-environment-expert/154858), Forbes (/research/2011/03/23/forbes-joins-fight-against-money-saving-light-b/177865) and even CNN (/research/2008/01/25/cnn-quoted-cei-policy-director-on-green-collar/142308) as an energy and environmental policy expert. Senior Fellow Marlo Lewis Jr. (http://www.desmogblog.com/meet-marlo-lewis-dirty-energy-industry-s-best-friend) has written in Forbes

(http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2012/10/25/carbon-tax-will-tweedle-dum-snatch-defeat-from-the-jaws-of-victory/), National Review (http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/293528/epa-power-grab-marlo-lewis) and the National Journal (http://energy.nationaljournal.com/2012/04/what-will-be-upshots-of-epas-c.php#2189855) opposing clean air rules.

CEI has received (http://www.desmogblog.com/competitive-enterprise-institute#s4) funding (http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/23/AR2006052301305_4.html) from the American Petroleum Institute, ExxonMobil, Texaco, General Motors and the Koch Family Foundations among other fossil fuel interests over the last decade.

Chris Horner And The American Tradition Institute

Perhaps the most visible member of CEI's environmental team is Chris Horner

(http://www.desmogblog.com/chris-horner), a lawyer who often appears on Fox News to cast
(/research/2012/04/23/fox-cherry-picks-glaciers-to-hide-global-melt/186300) doubt
(/video/2011/06/17/asman-as-the-nanny-state-readies-for-banning-al/180691) on climate science and claim
(/research/2009/12/04/fox-news-repeatedly-advanced-cei-fellows-accusa/157756) that scientists are
manipulating temperature data to manufacture a warming trend. At both CEI and The American Tradition
Institute (ATI), Horner has filed Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests
(http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2012/07/american-tradition-institute-freedom-information-law-climate-scientists) in an attempt to access anything to embarrass climate scientists.

The American Tradition Institute
(http://www.desmogblog.com/american-traditioninstitute) (ATI) is a free-market think tank focused
(http://americantradition.org/?page_id=1340) on
blocking environmental regulations and "battling radical
environmentalist junk science head on." ATI was
launched in 2010 by the American Tradition Partnership
(ATP), an industry-backed advocacy group
(http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shawn-lawrenceotto/climate-scientist-wins-a-_b_1070426.html) that



has fought campaign finance disclosure laws and was accused

(http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/article_493daff8-dd76-11df-99b2-001cc4c03286.html) in the 2010 election cycle of corruption and money laundering. ATI is **funded**

(http://www.desmogblog.com/american-tradition-institute) primarily by ATP and a handful of individuals and foundations with ties to the oil industry.

ATI Executive Director Tom Tanton is an energy industry consultant (http://www.atinstitute.org/about/staff-board-of-directors/) who has conducted (http://www.desmogblog.com/tom-tanton) research for the American Petroleum Institute and formerly served as the vice president of the oil industry-funded

contempt-press-requires-journalistsstep/214605)

November 22, 2016 2:04 PM EST

Blog

MSNBC's Hall Explains How White Nationalists Use Term "Alt-Right" As A "Marketing Campaign" To Improve Their Image (/video/2016/11/22/msnbc-s-hallexplains-how-white-nationalists-use-termalt-right-marketing-campaign-improvetheir/214604)

November 22, 2016 1:34 PM EST

Video

How Fake News Articles Fabricated A Child Trafficking Story And Led To Death Threats For A Pizzeria (/blog/2016/11/22/how-fakenews-articles-fabricated-child-traffickingstory-and-led-death-threatspizzeria/214602)

November 22, 2016 11:55 AM EST

Blog

Broadcast Morning Shows Mostly Ignore New Reports Detailing Trump's Potential Conflicts Of Interests (/blog/2016/11/22/broadcast-morningshows-mostly-ignore-new-reportsdetailing-trump-s-potential-conflictsinterests/214603)

November 22, 2016 11:51 AM EST

Blog

CNN Highlights How Difficult It Would Be To Pay For Trump's Infrastructure Privatization Scheme (/video/2016/11/22/cnn-highlights-howdifficult-it-would-be-pay-trumpsinfrastructure-privatization-scheme/214600)

November 22, 2016 11:28 AM EST

Video

(http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Institute_for_Energy_Research) Institute for Energy Research. Weather forecaster Joe Bastardi and climate skeptic blogger Steve Milloy serve as advisors (http://www.atinstitute.org/about/fellows-and-advisors/) to the think tank.

Manhattan Institute And Robert Bryce

The Manhattan Institute is a free-market think tank that advocates (http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/ce.htm) a "pro-growth" agenda on fossil fuels and downplays (http://www.manhattan-institute.org/energymyths2007/myth9.htm) the scientific consensus on climate change. It's website states that it is "unclear (http://www.manhattan-institute.org/energymyths2007/myth9.htm)" whether human activity is contributing to rising global temperatures, adding: "Despite the certitude with which the media and politicians treat the issue, the science remains muddled."



The Manhattan Institute has received (/research/2011/10/07/who-is-robert-bryce/181888) funding from ExxonMobil and the Koch Family Foundations over the last decade. It previously questioned the science on the health effects of tobacco after receiving (/research/2011/10/07/who-is-robert-bryce/181888) funding from the tobacco industry.

Robert Bryce, a Senior Fellow at the think tank, regularly authors (/research/2011/10/07/who-is-robert-bryce/181888) op-ed pieces for prominent mainstream and conservative publications and appears on Fox News promoting fossil fuel production and downplaying the potential of renewable energy. On climate change, Bryce has said (http://www.amazon.com/Power-Hungry-Myths-Energy-Future/dp/1586487892): "I don't know who's right. And I don't really care." In a Wall Street Journal op-ed (http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203388804576612620828387968.html), Bryce claimed that the "science is not settled, not by a long shot." He went on to suggest (/blog/2011/10/06/of-neutrinos-and-climate-science/181355) that a report of neutrinos that travel faster than the speed of light is sufficient reason to question climate science.

Heritage Foundation

The Heritage Foundation, one of the country's most influential conservative think tanks, <asts doubt (http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/10/how-the-scientific-consensus-on-global-warming-affects-american-business-and-consumers) on the scientific consensus that human activity is contributing to climate change and opposes (http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/11/new-epa-inspector-general-report-one-more-reason-to-reject-climate-change-regulation) efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions. A 2010 white paper (http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/10/how-the-scientific-consensus-on-global-warming-affects-american-business-and-consumers) states: "The only consensus over the threat of climate change that seems to exist these days is that there is no consensus." Senior Policy Analyst Ben Lieberman has said (http://www.heritage.org/research/lecture/the-economics-of-global-warming-policy) that "global warming is clearly not a crisis and should not be addressed as one." Citing presentations on "Climategate" at a Heartland Institute conference, he accused UN scientists of conspiring to "manufacture a global warming crisis."

Heritage runs an online database (http://www.policyexperts.org/us_experts/us_experts_results.cfm?

Topic=OneTopic&Issues=153&state=ALL&Search=Verify>) of policy "experts" that includes climate contrarians Fred Singer, Cato's Patrick Michaels, Heartland's Joseph Bast, CEI's Myron Ebell and Chris Horner, and JunkScience.com's Steve Milloy.

The Heritage Foundation has received (http://www.exxonsecrets.org/html/orgfactsheet.php?
id=42) funding (http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Heritage_Foundation) from ExxonMobil and the Koch Family Foundations.

Cato Institute And Patrick Michaels

The Cato Institute (/tags/cato-institute), a libertarian think tank, contributes to the climate confusion by amplifying the voice of Patrick Michaels

(http://www.cato.org/people/patrick-michaels), the only climate scientist on our list of prominent climate contrarians. Michaels, who previously estimated that "40 percent (http://www.youtube.com/watch?

feature=player_embedded&v=fguJod_voPc)" of his funding comes from the oil industry, is Cato's sole climate change expert. He is **frequently**

(/blog/2011/08/02/climate-skeptics-cant-get-on-tv-says-climate-sk/183781) quoted (/blog/2011/07/07/heartland-institutes-climate-contrarians-

enjoy/185131) by major media outlets and has a Forbes column that he uses to downplay

(http://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickmichaels/2012/07/08/associated-presson-global-warming-no-fact-checks-please/) the threat of climate change. Other scientists have criticized him for misrepresenting

(http://www.skepticalscience.com/patrick-michaels-serial-deleter-of-inconvenient-data.html) their work.



UPDATE (7/11/13): Michaels has also made several claims that have been **proven wrong** (/research/2013/07/10/patrick-michaels-catos-climate-expert-has-histo/194800) over time. For instance, he "bet" that there would be a "statistically significant cooling trend" from 1998 to 2008. There was not.

American Enterprise Institute

In 2007, The Guardian reported

(http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/feb/02/frontpagenews.climatechange) that the conservative American Enterprise Institute (AEI) was offering scientists and economists \$10,000 each to write articles critical of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report on climate change. The Guardian noted that AEI has received (http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=American_Enterprise_Institute) substantial funding from ExxonMobil and that former Exxon CEO Lee Raymond -- a vocal

(http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1079483,00.html) climate change skeptic -- served as AEI's Vice Chair. AEI criticized

(http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/013/275tmktp.asp) the story, saying they merely sought to subject the IPCC report to "serious scrutiny and criticism" but were not doubting the "existence of global warming."

Nevertheless, AEI scholars have repeatedly downplayed the threat of climate change. Steven Hayward, who writes (http://www.weeklystandard.com/author/steven-f.-hayward) for National Review, has said (http://www.aei.org/issue/energy-and-the-environment/acclimatizing-issue/) that climate concerns are based on "propaganda" and that efforts to reduce emissions are "based on exaggerations and conjecture rather than science." Former AEI president Christopher DeMuth acknowledged

(http://www.christopherdemuth.com/the-kyoto-treaty-deserved-to-die.html) in 2001 that the earth has warmed but claimed "it's not clear why this happened." But some other AEI scholars have (http://www.aei.org/podcast/society-and-culture/protecting-ports-rethinking-border-security/) endorsed (http://www.aei.org/article/economics/one-answer-to-global-warming-a-new-tax/) a carbon tax to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Marc Morano

Marc Morano runs the climate denial website ClimateDepot.com. He previously worked (http://www.desmogblog.com/marc-morano) for Rush Limbaugh and Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) -- both (/research/2011/12/19/rush-limbaugh-climate-change-misinformer-of-the/185495)vocal (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXcribQLjeE) climate change deniers.





Although he has no scientific background, Morano has declared that the science of manmade climate change is "collapsing (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3A0vXh-Z-8)." He has called (http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=climate-cyber-bullying) global warming a "con job" and said that climate scientists "deserve to be publicly flogged." Morano often (/video/2011/08/08/fox-hostsmorano-to-announce-death-of-a-thousan/182335)appears (/video/2011/04/29/morano-linking-extremeweather-to-climate-chang/179208) on Fox News to spread misinformation on climate change, and Rush Limbaugh (/research/2011/12/19/rush-limbaugh-climate-change-misinformer-of-the/185495) has repeatedly used (http://www.climatedepot.com/a/12859/Rush-Limbaugh-Praises-Climate-Depot-Youremember-Our-Man-in-Washington-Marc-Morano-Hes-now-a-global-warming-watchdog-and-hes-got-awebsite-called-Climate-Depot) his material to attack climate scientists.

Climate Depot is sponsored by the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow) (CFACT), a conservative think tank that has received

(http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/10/us/politics/10morano.html) funding

(http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Committee_for_a_Constructive_Tomorrow) from ExxonMobil and Chevron. CFACT dismisses (http://www.cfact.org/issues/climate-change/climate-changetruth-file/) the scientific consensus on climate change and maintains (http://www.cfact.org/issues/climatechange/) that "real world evidence" shows that "global warming claims are failing." To spread its message, CFACT organized (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/copenhagen-climate-changeconfe/6765032/Copenhagen-climate-summit-Behind-the-scenes-at-the-sceptics-conference.html) the Copenhagen Climate Challenge -- a conference of climate contrarians -- to coincide with the UN climate conference in 2009.

UPDATE (12/5/12): CFACT's 2011 financial disclosure form reveals

(http://www.cfact.org/pdf/CFACT_IRS990_2011.pdf) that it received over \$300,000 from Donor's Trust, an anonymously funded group that PBS called

(http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/environment/climate-of-doubt/transcript-31/) the "number one supporter of the groups" that deny climate change. It lists Morano as the highest paid member of its staff at a salary of over \$150,000 a year.

Anthony Watts

Anthony Watts (/tags/anthony-watts), a former television weatherman and climate skeptic (http://wattsupwiththat.com/about-wuwt/about2/) who believes the U.S. temperature record is "unreliable (http://wattsupwiththat.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/surfacestationsreport spring09.pdf)," runs the blog (http://wattsupwiththat.com/) Watts Up With That. The blog features the fringe views of climate misinformers like Christopher Monckton (http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/04/why-mitigating-co2-emissions-is-costineffective/) and Fred Singer (http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/02/29/climate-deniers-are-giving-usskeptics-a-bad-name/) as quest authors and conservative media have previously seized (/research/2011/01/27/fox-tries-to-debunk-global-warming-fails-misera/183174#watts) on (/research/2011/11/11/daily-caller-practices-art-of-climate-distracti/148979) its misleading content.

In 2009, Watts was a driving force



(http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2011/04/climategate-timeline) behind the controversy over

leaked "Climategate" emails. In September 2012, he was at the center of a controversial (/blog/2012/09/18/pbs-newshour-propagates-confusion-on-climate-ch/189966) PBS segment that aired his views as a "counterbalance" to climate experts without mentioning his ties (http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/02/15/some-notes-on-the-heartland-leak/) to the industry-funded

Heartland Institute. Watts was paid (http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/02/15/some-notes-on-the-heartland-leak/) by the Heartland Institute for his work on temperature stations and is a regular speaker (http://www.desmogblog.com/anthony-watts) at Heartland conferences.

Steve Milloy

Steve Milloy is a lawyer and former tobacco industry consultant (/research/2011/05/23/steve-milloy-advises-republicans-to-spread-clim/179910) who was hired (http://www.esquire.com/features/marc-morano-0410) by the American Petroleum Institute to develop a PR strategy to downplay the threat of climate change. He has called (http://junkscience.com/2011/05/26/chris-christie-new-jerseys-al-gore/) those concerned about global warming "whacked out, intellectually and morally bankrupt." The Washington Times regularly (/research/2011/07/08/wash-times-op-ed-denies-health-benefits-of-clea/179080) publishes (/research/2011/05/23/steve-milloy-advises-republicans-to-spread-clim/179910) columns (/blog/2011/11/04/wash-times-milloy-twists-epa-admins-words-to-co/181681) by (/research/2011/07/27/smog-screen-conservative-media-contradict-healt/183368) Milloy, and he frequently appears on Fox News to dismiss (/blog/2011/09/03/fox-decides-the-epa-is-no-longer-necessary/181135) the need for government action to address climate change and air pollution.



Milloy runs JunkScience.com, which has previously obscured

(http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/JunkScience.com) the risks of pesticides, ozone depletion, breast implants, asbestos and secondhand smoke and now seeks to similarly "debunk (http://junkscience.com/climate-features/)" global warming.

The site was initially sponsored by **The Advancement of Sound Science Coalition** (http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/The_Advancement_of_Sound_Science_Coalition) (TASSC), a now-defunct PR front group funded

(http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2006/sep/19/ethicalliving.g2) by tobacco giant Philip Morris to downplay the danger of cigarette smoke. TASSC later received funding from Chevron, ExxonMobil, Dow Chemical, Occidental Petroleum and other corporate donors. JunkScience.com is currently run by the Citizens for the Integrity of Science

(http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Citizens_for_the_Integrity_of_Science) (CFIS), which does not disclose its donors.

Joe Bastardi

Joe Bastardi is a meteorologist (/research/2011/08/17/why-is-fox-going-to-joe-bastardi-for-climate-ch/183022) for WeatherBell Analytics, where he provides weather forecasts for energy companies and other corporate clients. He also serves as an advisor to the American Tradition Institute and a Fox News contributor. Although he has no climate expertise, Fox regularly turns to him to analyze climate research. Bastardi, who has called manmade global warming "an obvious fraud (/research/2011/08/17/why-is-fox-going-to-joe-bastardi-for-climate-ch/183022)," has often been criticized (/blog/2012/09/24/utter-nonsense-10-scientists-who-have-criticize/190093) by scientists for his "utter nonsense (/blog/2012/03/09/fox-news-science-again/186029)" on climate change.

Bastardi is not the only dubious source of climate misinformation on Fox News. Fox anchors and contributors **regularly mock**

(/research/2012/10/24/timeline-fox-news-role-in-the-climate-of-doubt/190906) the threat of climate change and suggest (/blog/2011/12/21/video-seasons-greetings-from-fox/185610) that winter weather invalidates global temperature records. Rather than talking to actual climate scientists, the network turns to industry-funded climate denialists -- including CEI's Chris Horner (/research/2009/12/04/fox-news-repeatedly-advanced-cei-fellows-accusa/157756), the Manhattan Institute's Robert Bryce



(/research/2011/10/07/who-is-robert-bryce/181888), Climate Depot's Marc Morano (/video/2011/08/08/fox-hosts-morano-to-announce-death-of-a-thousan/182335) and JunkScience.com's Steve Milloy (/blog/2011/09/03/fox-decides-the-epa-is-no-longer-necessary/181135) -- to mislead its viewers on climate science. Fox Nation, a branch of FoxNews.com, regularly (/research/2012/10/15/fox-falls-for-tabloid-science/190630) cites (/blog/2012/04/02/fox-again-turns-to-tabloid-for-climate-science/184778) the (/research/2012/02/01/conservative-media-repeat-tabloids-climate-misi/184390) British tabloid *The Daily Mail* and distorts (/blog/2012/10/11/fox-nation-science-global-warming-means-more-ar/190558) climate (/blog/2011/08/01/climate-science-once-again-twisted-beyond-recog/185135) research (/blog/2011/06/15/fox-twists-scientific-research-to-announce-a-mi/180611) to declare that global warming isn't happening.

Matt Ridley

Science writer Matt Ridley frequently uses his *Wall Street Journal* column to **dismiss** (/research/2012/10/29/meet-the-wall-street-journal-columnist-dismissi/190989) the threat of climate change and argue that climate scientists should not be trusted. Ridley has suggested that "the threat of a dangerously large warming is so improbable as to be negligible" and has compared climate scientists to eugenicists. The *Journal* does not disclose that Ridley is an unpaid advisor to the Global Warming Policy Foundation, which was **founded (http://www.carbonbrief.org/profiles/global-warming-policy-foundation)** by the chairman of a company that represents several major oil companies.

The Wall Street Journal editorial page has also cast doubt (/research/2012/08/02/the-wall-street-journal-dismissing-environmenta/189063) on climate change, calling it a "fad-scare

(http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704662604576202770757822548.html)" and claiming that the science is "disputable

(http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703630404575053781465774008.html)." In January 2012, the *Journal* published (/research/2012/01/30/the-journal-hires-dentists-to-do-heart-surgery/184002) an oped by 16 scientists and engineers -- most of which do not conduct climate research -- to muddle the science and undermine action on climate change, yet reportedly

(http://www.forbes.com/sites/petergleick/2012/01/27/remarkable-editorial-bias-on-climate-science-at-the-wall-street-journal/) rejected a climate change essay by 255 members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Larry Bell

Larry Bell (/tags/larry-bell), an architecture professor (http://www.desmogblog.com/larry-bell) who has not published any peer-reviewed climate research, wrote (http://www.climateofcorruption.com/) Climate of Corruption, in which he argues (http://www.aim.org/podcast/take-aim-larry-bell/) that "politics is responsible for the global warming hoax." Forbes provides Bell a weekly column where he often

(http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/07/17/that-scientific-global-warming-consensus-not/) casts (http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/07/24/carbon-taxomania-bipartisan-stupidity-on-steroids/) doubt (http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/08/21/gullible-warming-a-contrived-crisis-that-is-too-good-to-waste/) on manmade climate change, which he incorrectly (http://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/) says (http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/05/29/global-warming-alarmism-when-science-is-fiction/) is "based upon speculative theories, contrived data and totally unproven modeling predictions" when in fact there are several observed lines of evidence (http://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/) of rapid climate change.







Short Link

http://mm4a.org/Wvz

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Person	Rush Limbaugh (/people/rush-limbaugh), Chris Horner (/people/chris-horner), Marc Morano (/people/marc-morano), Joe Bastardi (/people/joe-bastardi), Patrick Michaels (/people/patrick-michaels), Steve Milloy (/people/steve-milloy), James Taylor (/tags/james-taylor), Larry Bell (/tags/larry-bell), Anthony Watts (/tags/anthony-watts), Robert Bryce (/tags/robert-bryce), Matt Ridley (/tags/matt-ridley), Koch Brothers (/tags/koch-brothers)
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Updated rules for commenting are here (/rules).





Swift2 · 4 years ago

Interesting how many tobacco lobbyists seem to have developed a PhD in climate science in the last 20 years.

62 A V Reply Share



Guest → Swift2 · 4 years ago

A good lobbyist/lawyer/liar is a lucrative career path.

If these industries invested the time, effort, money, and resources into projects and technologies to reduce their impact on the environment, they probably wouldn't need to fund these fraudulent think tanks.

To me, this is evidence of cult-like behavior and bitter intransigence.

31 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



matt → Guest • 4 years ago

like a lil kid knowing what he's doing is wrong but doing it anyway.

6 ^ | V - Reply - Share >



fuckyou → Swift2 · 4 years ago

Whores go where the money is.

3 ^ V Reply · Share ›



Guest → fuckyou · 4 years ago

Pretty much explains the warmers

5 ^ V Reply · Share ›



foundfrolicking → Guest · 4 years ago

Yea, all those climate scientists driving Rolls-Royce and living in big mansions. Oh wait, that is oil and coal exec's...never mind.

17 ^ V · Reply · Share ·



Guest → foundfrolicking • 4 years ago

If they are on the US guberment payroll they sure do>>>

2 ^ V · Reply · Share ·



Easy_to_Refute_Wingnuts → Guest · 4 years ago

Yet another lie from the troll.

3 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



Guest → Easy_to_Refute_Wingnuts • 4 years ago

The avg Fed makes \$130,000 a year

2 ^ Reply · Share ·



Guest → Swift2 · 4 years ago

Yea Al Gore who barely got though college is now the lefts primary source for warming with his PHD in everything

7 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



John Deever → Guest · 4 years ago

Conversations I'm Tired Of: Episode 350:

Us: "Climate change is happening, so let's discuss what options we have and which are best."

Them: "Al Gore!"

27 A Reply · Share ›



Guest → John Deever • 4 years ago

yea as he flies in his private jet from the \$\$ made trading carbon futures

6 ^ V · Reply · Share ·



Easy_to_Refute_Wingnuts → Guest · 4 years ago

Jealousy doesn't become you, moron.

5 ^ V Reply Share



HarryWiggs → Guest • 2 years ago

Ah, perfect example of the "No True Scotsman" logical FAIL.

∧ V • Reply • Share •



Hermes Mercury → Guest • 4 years ago

ER - well, no. The consensus of nearly every Ph.D. in climate science in the world is our primary source for an understanding of climate change.

22 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



Guest → Hermes Mercury • 4 years ago

Strange that when ever a paper is publish or a lobbyist position is printed there is a scarcity of these so called experts. But the list is filled with sociology PHD's polisci degrees and GED's

4 ^ V · Reply · Share ·



fuckyou → Guest · 4 years ago

If you heard that the American Academy of Sciences and Britain's Royal Society denied global warming, you would be mentioning that every chance you could. But they don't. They support the IPCC findings. They are the world's pre-eminent scientists. Just name one scientific organization in the world that denies global warming.

16 ^ V Reply Share



Guest → fuckyou · 4 years ago

You mean the folks that doctored their records and admitted that their data was in fact "made up" that Royal Society??

3 ^ | V · Reply · Share ›



Harry Black → Guest • 4 years ago

Jack Noir has it right. But if you don't want to believe the scientists, you might take a hint from Mother Nature. The unprecedented droughts, floods, and hurricanes of recent year demonstrate that global warming is happening.

13 ^ Reply · Share ›



MichaelDSmith → Harry Black • 4 years ago

Amazing. Another brainwashed soul. Unprecedented? Like in the last 15 minutes, or what?

Droughts? Where? 2012 barely shows up on the PMDI

Floods? Where? That's a new one.

Hurricanes? Where? The USA is going through the longest stretch of no major hurricanes since the civil war. By next spring it will probably be an all time record.

Probably talking about Sandy, huh? Just be glad extra-tropical storm Sandy wasn't like the storm of 1938 when enough trees were destroyed on Long Island alone to build 31 MILLION homes. Harry is worried about a few beach houses that shouldn't be there in the first place.

Have a little more Kool-Aid.

7 ^ Reply · Share ·



Harry Black → MichaelDSmith • 4 years ago

Brainwashed? Keep flacking for the Koch brother bro'--their profits take precedence over the future of humanity.

11 ^ V · Reply · Share ·



MichaelDSmith → Harry Black • 4 years ago

Didn't think you could respond with facts. Case closed.

5 ^ | V · Reply · Share ›



Harry Black → MichaelDSmith • 4 years ago

Oh puhleeze! As if the scientific community's consensus and thousands of scientific studies weren't enough. Not to mention the mounting empirical evidence, obvious to anyone not invested in paranoid Tea Party fantasies. Give it a rest.

10 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



Michael Smith → Harry Black • 4 years ago

Thousands of studies? You have studies that show that:

- 1) Droughts are unprecedented
- 2) Floods are unprecedented
- 3) Hurricanes are unprecedented, and
- 4) These unprecedented things are proof of global warming.

Funny that I've been studying this for years and have not seen anything of the sort. There are exactly zero studies that show what you are saying. So quit LYING to people. It drives the rest of us who actually study this stuff crazy. Or post up ONE study that shows ONE conclusion that supports ANY of that tripe.

Hint: Item 3 is close. You will have to wait until next year for it to possibly be unprecedented (to the good side).

6 ^ V Reply · Share ·



Harry Black → Michael Smith • 4 years ago

I am not lying to anyone. Massive floods in Pakistan, drought in the US, super storm Sandy, etc., etc.. Also see the Media Matters post above. It is the Koch bros and their allies, surrogates, and puppets, the talk radio ranters and the Glenn Becks who are lying--and you are helping them. What you guys are doing adds up to a massive crime against humanity.

10 ^ V Reply · Share ›



Michael Smith → Harry Black • 4 years ago

You said unprecedented. Give me something unprecedented. Anything. PLEASE. 1 out of 4. You can't do it, can you? Not without admitting you have been lied to. Do you like being lied to? Why?

Koch bros? You really think those little pipsqueaks can match the Climate Industrial Complex in terms of funding or influence? That is hilarious! A few hundred grand here and there to worthwhile projects against \$Billions (\$Trillions by some estimates?). You obviously haven't looked at the funding, have you?

Let's take a look at some green funding. Here is an estimate done during FakeGate earlier this year (If you get confused by all of the "gates", because you and I both know Climate Science has more than world cup slalom, this one is from when the ethics officer of a green foundation allegedly forged documents and then quit).

http://joannenova.com.au/2012/...

see more

3 ^ V · Reply · Share ·



Harry Black → Michael Smith • 4 years ago

You say I've been lied to. You're right. You are lying. Or rather you are propagating lies. You may not be doing so consciously, but you're doing it anyway since you've bought the entire climate denial scenario. It takes a heap of paranoia to believe that NOAA and NASA are destroying evidence produced by "real science." Rave on . . .

10 ^ Reply · Share ›



Steve Johnson A Harry Black · 3 years ago

A picture is worth a thousand words. Amazing. NASA was good enough to put us on the moon, but now...according to you (nobody in the scientific community)...they are wrong. Lol! The ice loss is UNPRECEDENTED!!

www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/feat...

4 ^ V Reply · Share ›



Michael Smith → Harry Black • 4 years ago

Did you find any evidence yet? Are you going to answer the question or continue to attempt to deflect it?

2 ^ | V · Reply · Share ·



Harry Black → Michael Smith • 4 years ago

OK Mr. Smith. Start with this:

"With the exception of rapid atmospheric changes triggered by major

volcanic events, asteroid impacts and methane release, which led to the

great mass extinction of species [1], the current rate of CO2 rise (2005-08: 1.66-2.55 ppm/year) is unprecedented in the recent history of

the Earth, driving polar ice melt and sea level rise rates in excess of

IPCC projections. Warming of large parts of the Arctic and Antarctic

circles by 3-4oC during 1975-2009 (~0.09–0.12 degrees C/year) triggers fast feedback effects from ice melt, albedo loss and open water infrared absorption, and from the carbon cycle. Estimates of future sea level rise derived from 40 years records (1.6-3.7 mm/year), glacier flow rates and ice shelf collapse dynamics, and

see more

7 ^ V · Reply · Share ·



Michael Smith → Harry Black • 4 years ago

I thought we were talking about floods, droughts and Hurricanes? You have a lot of outdated info there. You could do better citing Bill McKibben or some other teary-eyed watermelon, especially if you want claims that have no basis in fact. (for instance quantities like a 0.1 change in ocean pH, which is less than the measurement error) The fact that you cite from an article from a

non-profit whose goal is globalization is telling.

CO2 rise, sure. Antarctica continues to cool as it has been for decades, with the exception of the small area of the WAIS. The notion of 3-4C in Antarctica will get you laughed out of the room. 2°C potential rise is dependent on feedbacks being positive while the real world data continues to indicate very negative in the tropics, mixed bag in mid latitudes depending on humidity and storm potential, and possibly positive at the poles.

I agree that governments are working for the climate profiteers and they want to be in on the game to fund their social agenda.

see more

2 ^ Reply · Share ·



Harry Black → Michael Smith • 4 years ago

we could go back to floods, droughts, and hurricanes, we can continue to sling studies back and forth but I seem to believe what most scientists believe and you believe the "scientists" you want to believe. This conversation is a waste for both of us since I won't convince you of anything and you won't convince me. As I said a while ago, give it a rest.

8 ^ V Reply Share



Eskatology → Harry Black • 4 years ago

This arrogant fellow isn't worth the trouble. He's an expert at cherrypicking data that he thinks he can dispute with high-school math, and he's fond of citing his pals inside the tiny skeptics' blog-bubble as if they are authorities on the subject.

15 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



Guest → Harry Black • 4 years ago

This guy is a skilled obfuscator. Don't let him waste your time.

8 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



Steve Johnson Michael Smith · 3 years ago

Oh yes. Joanee Nova. Us in the Climate business know her well. Well...here's a CLEAR debunking of her theories. Let me know when you've figured out why she is publishing this garbage? www.skepticalscience.com/How-J...

3 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



Arationofreason → Harry Black • 3 months ago

Please, don't mind wading in cool aid but you poor fools are drowning us all in it.

∧ V • Reply • Share •



Steve Johnson → Michael Smith • 3 years ago

The physical evidence is overwhelming. When area's the size of Manhattan break off of Greenland....you have to take notice. THESE things ARE unprecedented. Watch the new 7 part series being aired by Showtime called "Years of living dangerously". Maybe it will open your eyes to the overwhelming PHYSICAL proof of where the planet is headed.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=brvhCn...
3 ^ | V - Reply - Share >



Steve Johnson → MichaelDSmith • 3 years ago

Scientific opinion on climate change

The massive amount of observed and modeled data is overwhelming. Make sure you read THE WHOLE PAGE. And while you're at it....please point to me ONE peer reviewed study that supports your belief that the planet is in a cooling trend. I'll be waiting for your peer reviewed study. You won't be the 1st guy I've destroyed and debunked.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S...

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3 ^ V · Reply · Share ·
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Guest → Harry Black • 4 years ago

The reason why the temps are changing is because its fall and it will get colder (winter) before it warms up (summer)

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2 ^ | V · Reply · Share ›
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Rihari_Wilson A Guest • 2 years ago

Where I am it's spring and it will get warmer before it gets colder.

Where I used to live 50 years ago, we had winter snow. It hasn't snowed there for several years



Steve Johnson → MichaelDSmith • 3 years ago

List of scientists opposing the mainstream scientific assessment of global warming

As of August 2012, fewer than 10 of the statements in the references for this list are part of the peer-reviewed scientific literature. The rest are statements from other sources such as interviews, opinion pieces, online essays and presentations. Academic papers almost never reject the view that human impacts have contributed to climate change. In 2004, a review of published abstracts from 928 peer-reviewed papers addressing "global climate change" found that none of them disputed the IPCC's conclusion that "Earth's climate is being affected by human activities" and that "most of the observed warming over the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations"[14] A 2013 survey of 3984 abstracts from peer-reviewed papers published between 1991 and 2011 that expressed an opinion on anthropogenic global warming found that 97.1% agreed that climate change is caused by human activity.[15] (see also Scientific opinion on climate change and Surveys of scientists' views on climate change).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L...

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1 ^ V · Reply · Share ›
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Guest → MichaelDSmith • 4 years ago

Okay, don't take a hint from Mother Nature. Rationalize to your heart's content.

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1 ^ V · Reply · Share ›
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John Hartshorn → Guest • 4 years ago

Is three misspellings and three missing punctuation marks per sentence the norm for you?

15 ^ V Reply · Share ›



zenlightenment → Guest · 4 years ago

What s also funny is that Einstein failed school (I believe it was math that troubled him) but since a drop out can develop the physics to create an atomic bomb some would consider him one of the smartest men this century. Just a thought about judging someone on there scholarly grades. (Let's be clear that I am not saying Al Gore is a genius either). $10 \land | \lor + \mathsf{Reply} + \mathsf{Share} > 0$



factsojourner → zenlightenment • 3 years ago

Interestingly, it was conservatives who rabidly denied Einstein's Theory of Relativity in much the same way they are denying climate change.

6 ^ V Reply · Share ›



HarryWiggs → Guest • 2 years ago

Wow....I've seen Teh Stoopid on folks, but you are definitely in the top ten!

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share •



Bob Armstrong → Swift2 · 4 years ago

You math fails on this stupidity, too.



Guest · 4 years ago

Anyone find it funny that conservatives are against actual conservation?

42 A V · Reply · Share ·



bilbodies → Guest • 4 years ago

Actually, conservatives are against change. As in, any change that might happen to affect them in any way, shape, or form. (e.g. Costs them a buck or some power)

17 ^ V · Reply · Share ›



Guest → bilbodies • 4 years ago

Might because they are the ones paying taxes...while obama squanders their \$\$ on worthless green initiatives. The avg Green kilowatt hour receives \$700 in taxpayer subsidies while coal receives \$4

3 A | V · Reply · Share ›

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