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The claim that U.S. temperatures are not trending upward is false



28-Feb-2023 10:05 AM EST, by [Newswise \(/institutions/newsroom/2658/\)](/institutions/newsroom/2658/)



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Truthfulness: False



Claim:



Zero US warming in 18 years, per US Climate Reference Network temp stations. That's no US warming despite 30% of total manmade CO2. Emissions-driven warming is a hoax.



Claim Publisher and Date: [Steve Milloy](https://twitter.com/JunkScience/status/1630037662017941504) (https://twitter.com/JunkScience/status/1630037662017941504) on 2023-02-26

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FACT CHECK DETAILS

Claim:
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Claim Publisher: Steve Milloy
Date of Claim: 2023-02-26
Author of Article: Newswise
Truthfulness: False

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[SCIENCE \(/Articles/List?Category=Science\)](/Articles/List?Category=Science)

CHANNELS

A tweet shared by thousands by Steve Milloy, founder of Junk Science and former member of the EPA transition team under the Trump Administration, says, "Zero US warming in 18 years, per US Climate Reference Network temp stations. That's no US warming despite 30% of total manmade CO2." This claim is similar to [ones in the past](https://www.factcheck.org/2023/01/scicheck-viral-tweet-misrepresents-noaa-report-on-rising-global-temperature/) (https://www.factcheck.org/2023/01/scicheck-viral-tweet-misrepresents-noaa-report-on-rising-global-temperature/) where skeptics of human-caused climate change cherry-pick data (using a fraction of the data to prop up claims that are false globally) to suit their ideology. It is simply false to claim that data from the Climate Reference Network show no warming over the last 18 years. There is a warming trend. Even if it was true, the US represents only 1.9 % of the Earth's surface. It's hard to extrapolate much about global temperature change from an 18-year period in 2% of the globe.

According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), nine of the top 10 warmest years on record for the contiguous 48 states have occurred since 1998, and 2012 and 2016 were the two warmest years on record. Some parts of the United States have experienced more warming than others. According to NOAA, the North, the West, and Alaska have seen temperatures increase the most, while some parts of the Southeast have experienced little change. This warming trend is consistent with the long-term trend of global warming, primarily driven by human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Chris Cappa, chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis has this to say...

“

As usual, Steve Milloy is contributing to a disinformation campaign about the reality and seriousness of climate change through selective cherry picking of information. He conveniently ignores the undeniable global trend in surface temperatures to mention only the continental US, which is only 2% of the total Earth surface area. He misleads the public here by spinning a tale that is the equivalent of someone living in Chicago and saying they don't believe that hurricanes are real because they've never seen one. Milloy peddles this same nonsense year after year and refuses to engage with the actual science.

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