August 2023 was the warmest August since the satellite record began in 1979. But it still is not the largest monthly temperature anomaly or deviation from an estimated “average global temperature,” the controversial metric invented for the global warming controversy. That record is still held by February 2016.

Another way to consider “average global temperature” is presented by Temperature.global, which uses unadjusted actual surface temperatures collected and calculated on a real-time basis going back to 2015. This data set shows there has been global cooling from January 2015 through August 2023.

Which is better representation? Does that even matter? Remember that the key global warming claim is that every emission warms the planet. While both data sets indicate that August was a relatively warm month, neither supports the notion that emissions have anything to do with that.
Fact Check. The wildfires are thought have been started by a power line downed by high winds that ignited non-native grasses during Maui’s dry season on land owned and managed by the County of Maui. The island of Maui has not been particularly warm or dry in 2023. High winds and wildfires are nothing new on Maui.

A wildfire of similar origin and location occurred on Maui in August 2018. The difference between 2023 and 2018 is that firefighters were able to contain the blaze. That ability was compromised this year because the fire hydrants had no water and a Maui government official delayed release of creek water for hours.

Compounding these errors was the government's failure to have warning, evacuation or emergency response plans in place. The local utility, Hawaii Electric, had proposed a wildfire mitigation plan to the Hawaiian government in June 2022, but no action had been taken by the government.

Although Hawaii Gov. Josh Green repeatedly tried to blame climate change, he eventually admitted: “Look guys, we just lost lives because we don’t have a water policy or a statewide plan that protects the land from burning.” Gov. Green also admitted personal incompetence: “This is the first time for me as an executive that I’ve been tasked with something outside my absolute comfort zone. Covid was not difficult for me to deal with because I was a health care provider practicing public health.” Even the Washington Post editorial board condemned govern failure: "Maui officials should have known what was coming."
Fact Check. Hurricane Hilary was preceded by a similar tropical storm with high winds and heavy rain that struck Southern California in September 1939. The National Hurricane Center later acknowledged there was precedence: “It’s rare, it doesn’t happen all the time, but it certainly has happened enough times in the past that we knew it could happen again... unusual but not unprecedented.”

Los Angeles Times

HURRICANE HILARY ‘UNPRECEDENTED’?
About the impending landfall of Hurricane Hilary, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass declared an August 20 news conference: “This is an unprecedented weather event.”

NBC Connecticut stated in its report, “‘Unprecedented’ Hurricane Idalia aftermath seen in before-and-after photos”: “Idalia was the first major hurricane to have swept through Florida’s Big Bend.”

Fact Check. Wrong again. A strong and deadly hurricane swept through Florida's Big Bend area in September 1896.
**PENGUIN BABIES KILLED BY GLOBAL WARMING?**

Bloomberg reported in “*Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels Is Killing Baby Penguins*” that: “As [Antarctic] sea ice melts, the fluffy chicks are drowning before they can learn to swim.”

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**Fact Check.** The *Nature* study that reported on a penguin chick death event during June 2022 specifically attributed the lack of sea ice in a part of Antarctic to the effects of La Niña event, not emissions. While the study authors suggested that more such death events lie in the future should the Antarctic warm, the Antarctic has not warmed in 70 years. Read more...

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**CLIMATE CHANGE DEADLY?**

In “*Vivek Ramaswamy says ‘hoax’ agenda kills more people than climate change,*” Washington Post “fact checker” Glenn Kessler gave Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy four Pinocchios for stating during the August presidential candidate debate that, “The climate change agenda is a hoax ... The reality is more people are dying of bad climate change policies than they are of actual climate change.”

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**Fact Check.** Kessler offered no examples of actual deaths from “climate change,” instead falsely attributing various heat wave deaths to climate change and offering World Health Organization predictions of future deaths starting in 2030. Kessler omitted the hundreds of thousands of deaths from climate change policies including deaths from the climate policy-caused war in Ukraine, European energy crisis, frozen wind turbines in Texas, e-vehicle explosions and much more. Kessler should give himself the four Pinocchios. Read more [here](#) and [here](#)...
Fact Check. First, wildfire is endemic to Greece. Homer even mentioned them in the *Iliad*, composed 3,500 years ago. Next, Greek wildfires do not correlate at all with emissions or warming. Fires in Greece have spiked recently. They have also had many years recently with fewer fires and less land burned. Finally, as is often the case, Greek police have been arresting arsonists for starting the wildfires.

Fact Check. Wildfires are a regular occurrence in Louisiana. Per the 1985 newspaper article below, an average of 67,000 acres burned in the state every year. That's a lot more than has burned this year. Louisiana's 2023 wildfires are not unprecedented.
By the way, NASA has reported a decline in global wildfire.

**MAINE’S PUFFINS SAVED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?**

The Associated Press reports in “Maine’s puffin colonies recovering in the face of climate change,” that: Atlantic puffins — clownish seabirds with colorful bills and waddling gaits — had their second consecutive rebound year for fledging chicks after suffering a catastrophic 2021, said scientists who monitor the birds. The news flies in the face of environmental trends, as scientists have said warming waters off New England jeopardize the birds because that reduces the kind of fish they need to feed their chicks.”

**Fact Check.** Climate changed was blamed in 2021 for puffin breeding problems. Now in 2023, climate change is credited with helping puffin populations recover. Since the key climate change claim is that every emission changes the climate for the worse, it is not plausible that climate change both harmed and helped the puffins within two years. The Associated Press quoted a scientist as stating: “It’s a sign the impact of climate change on ecosystems is not always as tidy as we think.” It could also be a sign that what is imagined to be “climate change,” i.e., more atmospheric CO2, is really irrelevant and that something else is at work.
Fact Check. Precipitation has trending up in Panama since 1990, about the beginning of climate hysteria. There is no correlation between precipitation in Panama and either emissions or warming, per World Bank data.

Fact Check. A new study in *Current Biology* reports that: “Humans may have artificially inflated the monarch population by making changes to the habitat of Eastern and North America. The numbers we see now may reflect an expanded population from precolonial sizes.” That would mean that “climate change” correlates with more Monarch butterflies.
We’ll close out this month with a final laugh from the Los Angeles Times: “How climate scientists feel about seeing their predictions come true.”

The article mentions no “dire prediction that has come true.” Not one. There is a passing general reference to James Hansen’s 1988 Senate testimony, but none of that came true either as detailed in “Wrong Again: James Hansen 1988 Senate Testimony Edition.” For more predictions that never came true, check out: “Wrong Again: 50 Years of Failed Eco-pocalyptic Predictions” and “Wrong Again: 2020’s Failed Climate Doomsaying.”

Until next month...