

CLIMATE FACT CHECK: OCTOBER 2024 EDITION

The monthly Climate Fact Check is intended to correct misinformation constantly spewing from mainstream media. Many of our fact checks focus on correcting the Washington Post. In explaining his decision to not endorse a presidential candidate, Post owner Jeff Bezos wrote this op-ed, excerpted below:



"In the annual public surveys about trust and reputation, journalists and the media have regularly fallen near the very bottom... We must be accurate, and we must be believed to be accurate. It's a bitter pill to swallow, but we are failing on the second requirement. Most people believe the media is biased. Anyone who doesn't see this is paying scant attention to reality, and those who fight reality lose. Reality is an undefeated champion. It would be easy to blame others for our long and continuing fall in credibility (and, therefore, decline in impact), but a victim mentality will not help. Complaining is not a strategy. We must work harder to control what we can control to increase our credibility."

As Bezos noted, "Reality is an undefeated champion." The Climate Fact Check is our effort to vindicate that statement. Now on to this month fact checks:

HURRICANE HELENE FLOODING UNPRECEDENTED?

NBC News reported in "[Officials are calling the North Carolina flood disaster 'unprecedented'](#)" that: "Officials are calling the flooding in North Carolina an 'unprecedented' disaster - with flooding wiping out parts of the popular tourist town of Asheville, where residents are struggling to get fuel, food and clean water. "

 **NBC NEWS**

Fact Check. Asheville experienced similar flooding events in 1916 and 1940. [Get more information.](#)

GLOBAL WARMING CAUSED FAUCI'S WEST NILE VIRUS?

Former federal infectious disease chief Anthony Fauci wrote in a *New York Times* op-ed, entitled "A Mosquito in My Backyard Made Me the Sickest I've Ever Been" that: "As climate change makes it easier for mosquitoes to proliferate in many places, West Nile virus disease and other mosquito-borne illnesses are emerging as greater threats in this country and elsewhere."

The New York Times

Fact Check. Mosquitoes are endemic to North America, having been reported as far north as Canada in the 18th century. The diseases they carry, like malaria, have also been endemic throughout US history. Disease-carrying mosquitos in Fauci's Washington, DC area backyard are not historically unusual or unexpected. [Get more information.](#)

HALLOWEEN 'SCARILY WARM'?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Why Halloween week in the eastern U.S. will be scarily warm](#)" that Washington DC would hit 80°F on October 31.

The Washington Post

Fact Check. Washington, DC hit a high of 85°F on October 31, 1950, 74 years and many emissions ago.

EMISSIONS ENABLE BRITAIN TO MAKE CHAMPAGNE?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[In a warming world, English sparkling wine challenges French champagne](#)" that: "Not too long ago, if you asked a French bon vivant if they would like a nice glass of British bubbly, they may have laughed, as in, surely you jest. Not anymore. English sparkling wines are winning gold medals in blind tastings and routinely competing with (and occasionally besting) wines from the fabled champagne houses in France. You probably can guess why: climate change."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. Vineyards thrived in England during the Medieval Warm period from 900-1300, A.D. [Get more information.](#)

'PLANT-WARMING POLLUTION'?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Planet-warming pollution is growing at the fastest rate in history, scientists say](#)" that: "Concentrations of carbon dioxide — the most important driver of global warming — are now growing faster than at any time since our species evolved, according to the World Meteorological Organization's annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. Carbon dioxide emissions are colorless, odorless and plant food. There is no direct or scientific evidence that they have had any adverse effect on the atmosphere. Calling emissions "pollution" is without a basis in fact and is mere propaganda.

EMISSIONS INCREASED THE PROBABILITY OF HURRICANE HELENE FLOODING?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Planet-warming pollution is growing at the fastest rate in history, scientists say](#)" that: "Concentrations of carbon dioxide — the most important driver of global warming — are now

Fact Check. Past the facts that: (1) emissions have no discernible effect on hurricanes or weather and (2) the practice of attributing weather to emissions lack a basis in science, the *Washington Post* omitted this key sentence from the authors of the "early research" cited: "For this event, we have low confidence in the robustness of our approach given the available climate data."

growing faster than at any time since our species evolved, according to the World Meteorological Organization's annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin."

The Washington Post

GLOBAL WARMING CAUSING VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS?

Reuters reported in "[Is climate change lighting a fuse under Iceland's volcanoes?](#)" that: "The University of Iceland received government funding for a pioneering research project across 12 institutions to test a theory that could have dire implications not just for Iceland, but for every person on the planet: Whether the rapid retreat of glaciers as a result of human-caused climate change will trigger increased volcanic activity."



Fact Check. "[The Global Volcanism Program does not see any evidence that volcanic activity is actually increasing](#)," reports the Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program.

VALENCIA, SPAIN FLOODING MADE MORE LIKELY BY EMISSIONS?

The Associated Press reported in "[Spain's horrific flooding another nasty hit in a fall where climate extremes just keep coming](#)" that: "The world has warmed 1.3 degrees Celsius because of greenhouse gases, so it's about 9% to 10% heavier rain, at the least, said Imperial College climate scientist Friederike Otto. She helps run World Weather Attribution that checks for human fingerprints in extreme weather..."



Fact Check. First, it is impossible to scientifically link weather with emissions. Weather is the product of a chaotic, nonlinear atmospheric system that is not explained by any probability distribution. There is no statistical basis for saying that weather events were made more probable by emissions. Next, similar torrential rain and flooding hit Valencia in October 1957, 67 years, and many emissions ago. [Get more information.](#)

LOSING SLEEP OVER GLOBAL WARMING?

Bloomberg reported in "[Climate Change Is Driving Sleep Loss as Nights Get Warmer](#)" that: "High nighttime temperatures led to 5% more hours of sleep lost worldwide over the past five years compared to the period between 1986 and 2005, according to the latest edition of the Lancet's study of climate and health."

Bloomberg
Law

Fact Check. The relatively small study (N=47,000) is based on (unreliable) self-reported sleep data and no temperature data. It is not credible to claim a slight worldwide loss of sleep based on such scanty and incomplete evidence.

STORM DAMAGES CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate alarmists have for decades blamed storm damages on emissions-driven climate change. CNBC, for example, reported in "2023 severe weather: \$57 billion in damage and 253 people dead so far" that: "President Joe Biden attributed the growing number of severe weather events to climate change: 'I don't think anybody can deny the impact of the climate crisis anymore,' Biden said last month during remarks at the White House after Idalia made landfall. 'Just look around — historic floods, more intense droughts, extreme heat, significant wildfires have caused significant damage like we've never seen before,' Biden said.

The Washington Post

Fact Check. The Washington Post admitted this month in "[The real reason billion-dollar disasters like Hurricane Helene are growing more common](#)" that: "Over time, migration to hazard-prone areas has increased, putting more people and property in harm's way. Disasters are more expensive because there is more to destroy. The billion-dollar disaster dataset is 'quoted a lot and people use it as a way of saying that climate change is already influencing what we see. And yet, unless you get the economics right, you can't really justify that,' said D. James Baker, the physicist and oceanographer who led NOAA from 1993 to 2001, the longest tenure as administrator in the agency's history.

We'll close out this month by spotlighting the annual "Emissions Gap Report" from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The report contained this graph that shows despite much alarmist propaganda and trillions of dollars spent on reducing emissions to below 1990 levels, nothing of the sort has occurred. Emissions have steadily increased since the dawn of climate alarm.

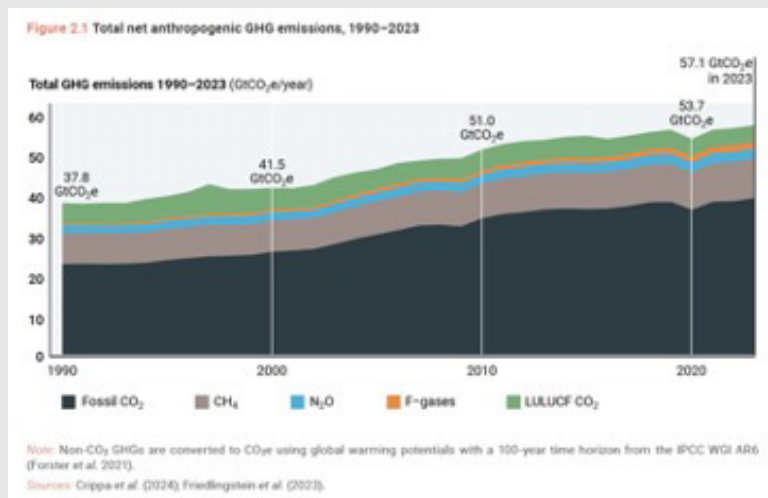
And don't forget to check out these and more great fact checks:

[ClimateRealism.com](https://www.climate-realism.com)

- [No, CBS, Climate Change Will Not Put Chicago at Heightened Risk for Hurricanes](#)
- [No, Bloomberg, Climate is Not "Killing Buildings"](#)
- [Wrong, The Hill, Climate Change Is Not Causing Emigration](#)
- [No Seattle Times, the Top of Mount Rainier Is NOT Shrinking...](#)
- [No, Media. Hurricane Helene was not Worsened by Climate Change](#)

[WattsUpWithThat.com](https://www.wattsupwiththat.com)

- [Flash Floods in Spain](#)
- [Oops, Science Was "Settled"—Until It Wasn't: Plants Absorb 31% More CO₂ Than We Thought](#)
- [Urban Heat Island Effects Have Not Yet Been Removed from Official GHCN Warming Trends](#)
- [Gulf Stream Collapsing Again!](#)
- [BBC Claim Hurricanes Are Getting Stronger—IPCC Says They Are Not!](#)



See you in December for the November Climate Fact Check!