

GLOBAL WARMING IS AN EXPENSIVE HOAX

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“It is vital to understand public misperception about climate change and the natural environment - but not just so that we can bombard people with more information.”

(Bobby Duffy, Professor of Public Policy, 2019)

In contemporary times, global warming is a widely discussed and highly politicized issue. As the chorus of climate change and its irreversible effects on environment gets louder, there are skeptics who question the premise and legitimacy of the phenomenon in its entirety. Hence, the discourse on global warming remains divided with one side considering it to be a myth while the other side considers it a reality. Opponents of global warming downplay the debilitating effects of climate change, arguing that mainstream media exaggerates its risks and falsely suggests that no solution exist. They also claim that scientists cannot precisely predict the future because they cannot determine how

humans will ultimately respond. As voices for change, introspection and international regulations reverberate the world over, a divide over the issue of global warming persists, with dissenting voices gaining considerable traction that cannot be ignored.

Global warming refers to a gradual increase in atmospheric temperature. In simple words, it means that the atmosphere of the Earth is becoming by the day. Those calling it a myth believe that it is nothing but a fiction. For instance, **Jerry Falwell** dismissed global warming as a "fiction that does not have connection with reality" in a well-publicized **2007** sermon. But the real debate emerged when **President of United States Donald Trump** called global warming a hoax in **2012**. He said, "the concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make US manufacturing non-competitive." On **2024** campaign trail, Trump called **2022 Inflation Reduction Act** as "Green New Deal" which

is one of the biggest hoaxes. He also referred to **wind energy** as the **most expensive hoax in the world.**

Ironically, China also denies the existence of global warming or climate change. Additionally, years of talks and conferences have taken place without significant breakthroughs, which only fuels climate skepticism.

To determine whether global warming is a myth or reality, the following factors need to be analyzed. To begin with, climate change has always been cloaked in layers of lobby-driven controversy. Urgent challenges often fall prey to politics of resistance by powerful stakeholders that are unattractive at worst or negligent at best. Global warming deniers claim that climate crisis has opened new areas for **great power rivalry**. There is an increasing quest for dominance in climate-adaptive technologies or access to critical minerals that enable these. Decarbonization requires binding emissions reductions from major industrial powers, but negotiations are hindered by **disagreements over burden-sharing between United States and**

China. This suggests climate action is more about economic competition and geopolitical interest. Therefore, it reinforces denialist view that climate change is not as urgent or real as portrayed.

Similarly, the shift to a decarbonized world involves reducing global reliance on fossil fuels for energy production, with nearly all remaining carbon dioxide emissions being captured and compensated. This will have major impact on the political systems of oil and gas producing states. According to **2024**

Report by International Energy Agency (IEA), those states could lose **US\$7 trillion** in revenues

by **2040**. Likewise, **China's policies** through

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have adverse effects on environment despite being presented as green initiative. These include coal dumping in developing countries, and Arctic oil extraction through Polar Silk Road along with excessive cement production. By highlighting these discrepancies, climate skeptics assert that climate change is manipulated for power against developing world.

In a similar manner, critics argue that climate finance mechanisms disproportionately favour elites over the Global South. According to **Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2024 Report by Climate Policy Initiative**, global climate finance reached **USD 1.46 trillion** in 2022. However, substantial portion was allocated to mitigation efforts in high-income countries, with adaptation projects in developing states receiving less attention. Additionally, at the **COP29 Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan**, states agreed on **\$300 billion** annual global finance target. However, the deal drew criticism from recipient countries who deemed it as lacking ambition and hastily finalized. Hence, skeptics of climate policies claim that they benefit developed nations as geopolitical tensions and economic pressures threaten progress.

Furthermore, climate scientists have been at the centre of discussions over evidence that the Earth is warming and projections about future effects climate change could cause. While people are more open to hearing from climate

scientists, skeptics view global warming as a plot devised by scientists to secure funding or exert control. **2022 Pew Research Center**

Survey found that **23% of Americans** have little or no trust in climate scientists to

provide accurate information on climate change.

Additionally, **Climategate Scandal** emerged in 2009 when various emails were stolen from the servers of **Climate Research Unit (CRU)** of **University of East Anglia** in UK and leaked online. The emails were seen by some as evidence of climate scientists manipulating data to support theory of global warming.

Moreover, critics argue that mainstream climate narrative often dismisses scientific dissent and alternative explanations for climate phenomenon. They claim that climate change is a natural part of the Earth's cycle, beyond human control. They dismiss claims of an impending crisis threatening human lives as alarmist. In **2023**, several prominent climate scientists, including **Judith Curry**, voiced concerns over the lack of open debate in

climate science. Therefore, scientific dissent persists on whether global warming is driven by natural factors like solar radiation and volcanic activity, rather than solely human actions.

In addition, global warming skeptics raises concerns about the pace and practicality of transition towards renewable energy sources. They argue that it is not a viable alternative to fossil fuels due to high costs of installation and maintenance, technological limitations and dependence on rare-earth metals. For instance, **in 2022, Biden administration in United States** enacted significant climate legislation, **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**. It provided funding for clean energy construction and manufacturing projects. However, local opposition, delays in grid connections and the larger land requirements for solar and wind power slowed clean energy transition. **Donald Trump**, current president of the United States and scornful critic of climate change, also froze IRA funding in **January 2025**.

Likewise, opponents of global warming policies state that net-zero strategies lead to energy shortages, rising costs and economic destabilization. The transition to net-zero would require the deployment of tools such as tax and subsidy, resulting in an increasing abatement costs. This can potentially generate price shocks and increase aggregate inflation. For instance, in 2023, Germany decided to phase out nuclear energy as part of its greater **Energiewende**, or energy transition. To fill the supply gap left by shrinking nuclear energy, Germany increased its reliance on natural gas. As a result, the country faced a severe **energy crisis** worsened by **Russia-Ukraine war**. The high energy prices forced Germany to transition away from reliance on Russian fossil fuels and temporarily postponed complete phase-out of its nuclear power plants.

Additionally, climate skeptics emphasize that the role of national government is to help protect the environment without

restricting individual freedoms. In 2024, France and the United Kingdom expanded their 15-Minute City initiative. It aims to design cities where all essential services are accessible within a short walk or bike ride. While promoted as a way to reduce emissions, critics claim it restricts personal mobility and increases state control over urban movement. Climate skeptics further highlight that people should not be forced to change their lifestyles through restrictive policies and surveillance-driven measures.

In conclusion, despite multitude of scientific research available, skepticism persists regarding climate change. The intersection of politics and corporate lobbying has led to policy inconsistencies, where climate commitments are made but rarely upheld. With each passing year, the global community stacks up unmet climate promises, as targets set at previous COP summits slip further out of reach. While agreements like Paris Accord and net-zero pledges suggest progress, implementation remains

sluggish, raising doubts about sincerity of climate action. Critics argue that climate policies disproportionately burden developing countries, forcing costly transitions while major emitters continue unsustainable practices. Moreover, climate activists often rely on exaggerated crisis language. This fear-driven narrative not only fuels public anxiety but also justifies sweeping restrictions on individual freedoms. To effectively address climate skepticism, transparency in policymaking and climate science is crucial. Open debates should be encouraged to include diverse perspectives rather than dismissing alternative explanations outright. Until climate action is made more equitable, the perception of global warming as a manufactured crisis benefiting political elites will continue.

