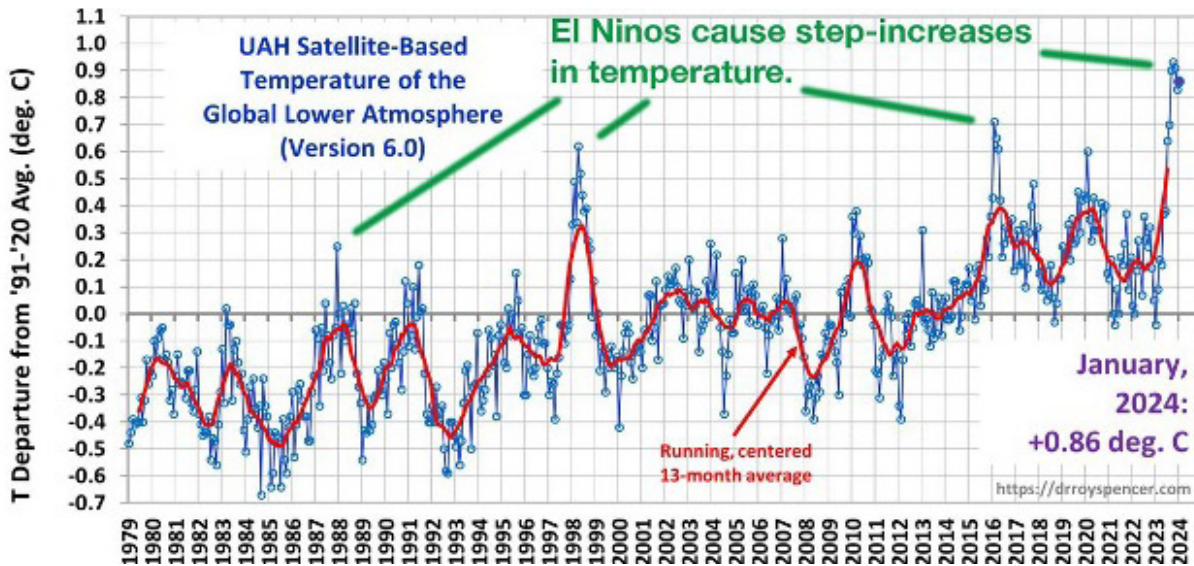


# CLIMATE FACT CHECK: JANUARY 2024 EDITION

## The End of the 'End of Snow'?

Any way that you look at the "average global temperature" for January 2024, the notion of emissions-driven warming fails.

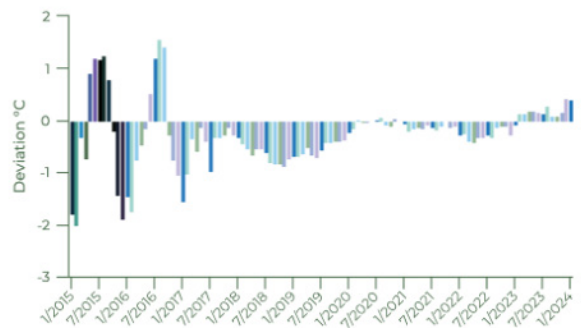
Per the NASA satellite record, January's temperature confirms what we [predicted](#) last year: i.e., a 2023 El Nino would cause a step increase in temperature as it has since the 1980s.



Per the real-time surface station record maintained by [Temperature.global](#), there still has been no global warming since the last El Nino in 2015-2016.

You may choose to believe either, both or neither. It really doesn't matter since there is no such thing as "[average global temperature](#)" in the first place. It is a non-physical and imaginary guesstimate around which the global warming controversy swirls. On to the fact checks for January 2024.

### GLOBAL TEMPERATURE



Average (Jan 2015-Jan 2024): -0.258°C  
 Source: Temperature.Global  
 Data: NOAA global METARs 2015-current  
 NDBC global buoy reports 2015-current  
 MADIS Mesonet Data, NOAA OMOs  
<https://temperature.global>

# EUROPE'S "RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURE"?

The Associated Press reported in "UN agency confirms 119.8-degree reading in Sicily two years ago as Europe's record high temperature": "The World Meteorological Organization says the Sicilian scorcher was picked up on Aug. 11, 2021, at a time when temperatures were soaring across much of Europe — renewing concerns about climate change caused by human activity."



**Fact Check.** Assuming the temperature reading was truly verified, the implication of it being caused by "global warming" is problematic. On August 11, 2023, that same location in Sicily recorded a temperature of only 85°F, which is 34.8°F less than the temperature recorded for 2021. So despite there being two years more of emissions and 2023 being labeled by climate alarmists as "the hottest year in 125,000 years," there was a drop of more than 30°F. It's also doubtful that the Sicily claim can with certainty be distinguished from the 118°+ temperatures that were recorded in Greece in 1977. Different technologies, thermometer surroundings, imprecision could easily explain the differences and biases. Record temperatures, hot and cold, happen all the time. They could be due to weather, measurement errors and bias, or both. There's no case to be made that they are caused by emissions.



AccuWeather Catania, Sicily 45°

August 2023							DAILY →
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
88° 68°	92° 69°	89° 67°	89° 70°	89° 68°	91° 71°	90° 70°	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
86° 68°	86° 62°	85° 65°	85° 64°	85° 64°	85° 66°	85° 66°	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	

# SCOTLAND'S POTHOLES CAUSE BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Times (UK) reported in "'Potholes deep as buckets': the grim state of Scotland's roads": "Funding cuts and climate change have made a perfect storm for the country's mean streets."





**Fact Check.** The average annual temperature in Scotland has not changed much over the past couple decades. So, “climate change” is an unlikely cause of potholes in Scotland. But what has changed is funding for roads. “Scottish government spending on big road projects has shrunk from £502 million in 2016 to just £12.5 million for the coming year,” the Times reported. The pothole problem is more likely related to the 97.5% cut in budget for road projects. Ironically, the part of “climate change” that might make road conditions worse is the part played by electric vehicles. EVs are much heavier than gas-powered cars and will inflict [more wear-and-tear damage on roads](#).

## EMPEROR PENGUINS AT RISK OF EXTINCTION?

CNN reported in “[Antarctica’s emperor penguins at risk of extinction due to the climate crisis](#)”: “With global warming melting the sea ice the penguins depend on for their survival, the US Fish and Wildlife Service now categorizes the species as threatened.”



### Antarctica’s emperor penguins at risk of extinction due to the climate crisis

By Ashley Strickland, CNN  
5 minute read · Published 9:16 AM EDT, Sat October 29, 2022



See the tiny robot that’s spying on penguins in Antarctica

Video Ad Feedback

**Fact Check.** Although this CNN report is from October 2022, a new development makes it relevant for January 2024. First and as we have previously reported, there has been no warming in Antarctica for [70 years](#), none at the West Antarctic ice sheet over the past [20 years](#) and there is [no long-term trend](#) in Antarctic sea ice. The new development is that new and previously unknown Emperor penguin colonies have been [identified](#). Before proclaiming warming is pushing a species toward extinction, it seems like there should be warming and a reasonably firm grip on the population in question.

### Once unknown emperor penguin colonies have been spotted in Antarctica — though some are moving away



Let JI This included photo provided by the British Antarctic Survey in January 2024 shows adult emperor penguin with a chick near Halley Research Station in Antarctica. Scientists have located previously unknown colonies of emperor penguins in new satellite imagery. At least some emperor penguins are leaving their colonies as melting glaciers...

BY CHRISTINA LARSON  
Updated 12:01 PM EST, January 22, 2024

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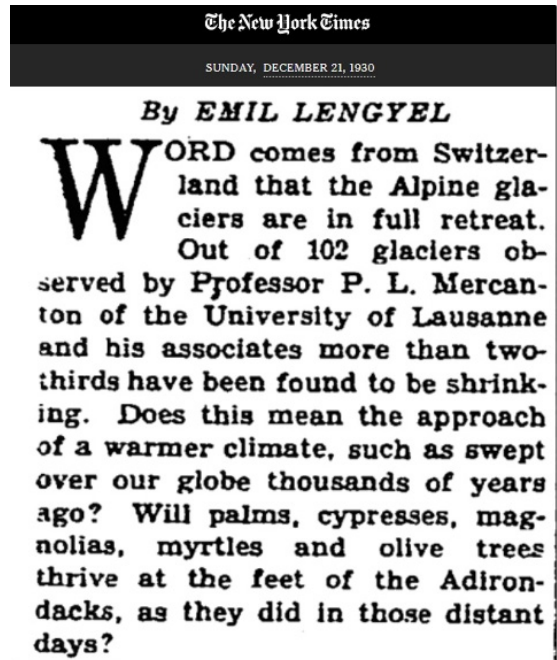
# GLACIERS FADING AWAY?

The *New York Times* reported in "[As Switzerland's Glaciers Shrink, a Way of Life May Melt Away](#)": "Rising temperatures and retreating glaciers threaten Europe's water tower, forcing local farmers to adapt and presaging larger troubles downstream."

*The New York Times*



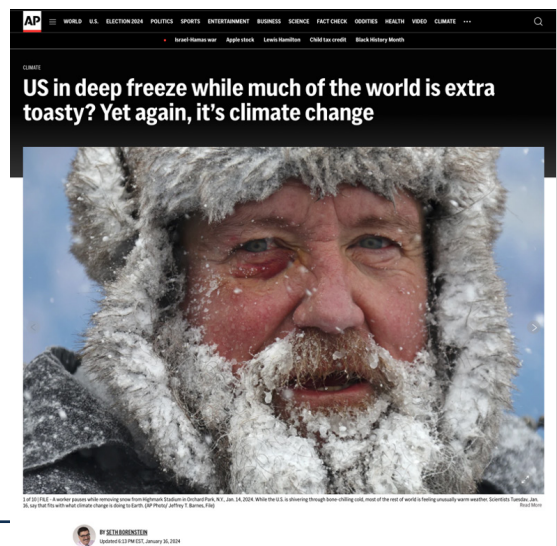
**Fact Check.** The Alps were [ice-free 6,000 years ago](#) when atmospheric greenhouse gas levels were at pre-industrial levels. Plenty of alpine glaciers remain today, though many are retreating. The *New York Times* itself reported as far back as 1930 that Swiss glaciers were in "full retreat." More recently, there has been [no significant alpine warming since the 1970s](#).



# GLOBAL WARMING FROZE THE US?

The Associated Press reported in "[US in deep freeze while much of the world is extra toasty? Yet again, it's climate change](#)": "The way the cold is invading is through a weather phrase that is becoming increasingly familiar to Americans: The polar vortex. It's a weather term that goes back to 1853 but has only been frequently used in the past decade or so."

**AP** Associated Press



**Fact Check.** The polar vortex is the current of air that circulates around Arctic air. It is occasionally disrupted for unknown and unpredictable reasons. During a winter disruption, Arctic air will be blown into the United States. As the Associated Press admits, the polar vortex-related cold has always occurred. The question is: Does “global warming” make polar vortex events more common? As was pointed out in *Nature* magazine in 2014 when the term polar vortex became popularized: If the Arctic-warming-polar-vortex-weakening claim were true, the effects would be strongest in the summer, not winter -- [which is not what is observed](#).

**Do scientists agree that Arctic warming could be driving these weather patterns?**

These ideas are hotly contested. The exact mechanisms at work are not clear. Some researchers say it is just as likely that warmer air currents from the south could be destabilizing the jet stream. If Arctic warming were to blame, the effect should be the strongest in the northern hemisphere's summer and fall, says Kevin Trenberth, a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. Moreover, Trenberth says, it is unclear how this seasonal warming effect would persist into the dead of winter.

**Is this kind of unstable jet-stream activity on the rise?**

Probably not, according to research<sup>3</sup> published in September by Elizabeth Barnes, an atmospheric scientist at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Barnes' analysis of data from 1980 to 2011 found no evidence that this kind of weather system is increasing in frequency. She also did not find any connection between a warming Arctic and a meandering of the jet stream.

## GREENLAND LOSING MORE ICE THAN THOUGHT?

The *Washington Post* re-reported in "[Greenland is losing more ice than we thought. Here's what it means for our oceans](#)": "The [Greenland ice sheet](#) has lost 20 percent more ice than scientists previously thought, posing potential problems for ocean circulation patterns and [sea level rise](#)."

The Washington Post

The Washington Post  
Democracy Dies in Darkness

### Greenland is losing more ice than we thought. Here's what it means for our oceans.

By [Kasha Patel](#) and [Chris Mooney](#)  
Updated January 17, 2024 at 2:43 p.m. EST | Published January 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. EST



Icebergs that broke off from a glacier in Greenland. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

**Fact Check.** Despite *Washington Post* handwringing about sea level rise, the study authors reported nothing but buzzkill: "The mass loss we report has had minimal direct impact on global sea level."

[Read more...](#)

**Article**

### Ubiquitous acceleration in Greenland Ice Sheet calving from 1985 to 2022

Chad A. Greene<sup>1,2</sup>, Alex S. Gardner<sup>3</sup>, Michael Wood<sup>2</sup> & Joshua K. Cuzzone<sup>3</sup>

Received: 3 August 2023  
Accepted: 9 November 2023  
[Check for updates](#)

Nearly every glacier in Greenland has thinned or retreated over the past few decades<sup>1–4</sup>, leading to glacier acceleration, increased rates of sea-level rise and climate impacts around the globe<sup>5–9</sup>. To understand how calving-front retreat has affected the ice-mass balance of Greenland, we combine 236,328 manually derived and AI-derived observations of glacier terminus positions collected from 1985 to 2022 and generate a 120-m-resolution mask defining the ice-sheet extent every month for nearly four decades. Here we show that, since 1985, the Greenland Ice Sheet (GrIS) has lost 5,091 ± 72 km<sup>2</sup> of area, corresponding to 1,034 ± 120 Gt of ice lost to retreat. Our results indicate that, by neglecting calving-front retreat, current consensus estimates of ice-sheet mass balance<sup>10</sup> have underestimated recent mass loss from Greenland by as much as 20%. [The mass loss we report has had minimal direct impact on global sea level](#) but is sufficient to affect ocean circulation and the distribution of heat energy around the globe<sup>10–12</sup>. On seasonal timescales, Greenland loses 193 ± 25 km<sup>2</sup> (63 ± 6 Gt) of ice to retreat each year from a maximum extent in May to a minimum between September and October. We find that multidecadal retreat is highly correlated with the magnitude of seasonal advance and retreat of each glacier, meaning that terminus-position variability on seasonal timescales can serve as an indicator of glacier sensitivity to longer-term climate change.



# THE END OF SNOW?

The *New York Times* op-ed “The End of Snow”, the author blamed the lack of snow in Omaha, Nebraska during December on warmer temperatures. “I’m not sure our grandkids will even know what snow is,” the author wrote.

**The New York Times**



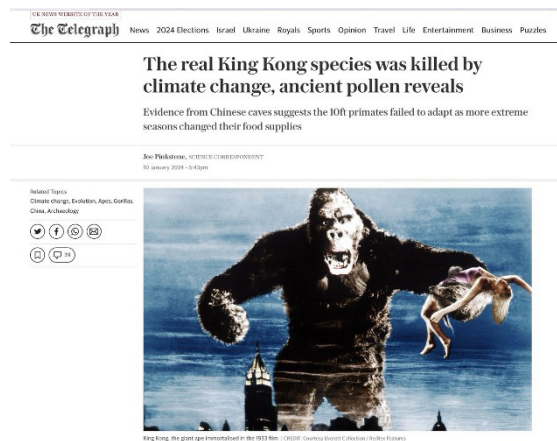
**Fact Check.** Less than a week later, the New York Times reported in “[U.S. Faces Week of Extreme Weather, Including Blizzards and Flooding](#)”: “A series of powerful major weather systems are moving across the United States this week, bringing 'extremely dangerous' blizzard conditions to the center of the country” – exactly where Omaha is located. Sure enough, it snowed in Omaha, closing schools.



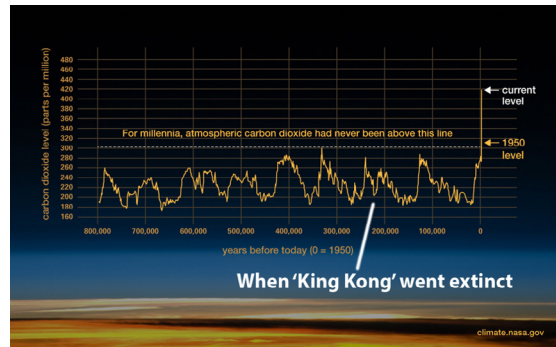
# KING KONG KILLED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Telegraph (UK) reported in “[The real King Kong species was killed by climate change, ancient pollen reveals](#)”: “King Kong may be able to fight off Godzilla, climb the Empire State building and swat helicopters out of the sky, but his real-life counterpart had more trouble with climate change, a study has found. The largest primate to ever live, Gigantopithecus blacki stood 10 feet tall, weighed more than half a ton and lived in what is now southern China. But an unpredictable climate wiped out the species about 215,000 years ago.”

**The Telegraph**



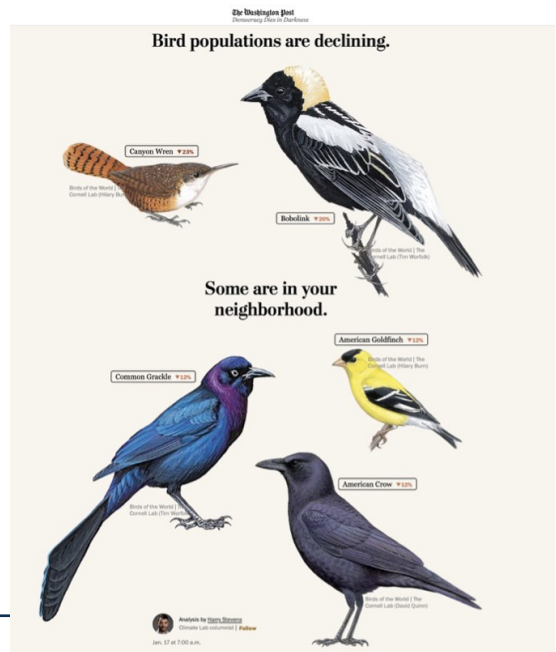
**Fact Check.** If 'King Kong' really did become extinct 215,000 years ago it clearly had nothing to do with industrial era emissions. Whatever climate change may have happened to affect the species, it may well have occurred at a carbon dioxide level far below the pre-industrial level. Such a low CO2 level could possibly have led to plant failure and starvation of the ape species.



## BIRD POPULATIONS DECLINING BECAUSE OF CLIMATE?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Bird populations are declining](#)": "Declines from [2012-2022] were associated with climate change, particularly decreased precipitation," the researchers wrote, and warned that 'declines could accelerate with future climate change, as this region is predicted to become drier and hotter by the end of the century.'"

*The Washington Post*



**Fact Check.** First, the claim is based on a "the crowdsourced database of bird observations," which is not any sort of systematic data collection system that would lead to a credible population count. Next, population declines were then attributed to "climate change," a term without meaning. Even so, there's not really been any measurable global warming in the US since 2006, if not longer. Human development/encroachment can reduce habitat and move bird populations around. And wildlife populations move around on their own. The [spotted owl hoax](#) is an infamous example. While it's plausible that some bird populations have declined, the most likely culprit would be habitat loss to urbanization and agriculture. Those two factors are behind most of the known species' declines and extinctions in the past 200 years. There is no evidence that it has anything to do with emissions.

# SNOW DROUGHT IN THE HIMALAYAS CAUSED BY CLIMATE?

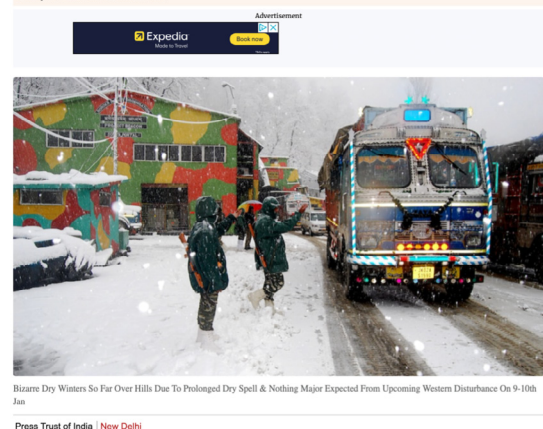
The *New York Times* reported in "[It's January at a Big Himalayan Resort. Where's the Snow?](#)": "Indian meteorologists said the unusual weather was linked to global warming and to El Niño, the sporadic climate phenomenon that can create warm, dry conditions in the Indian subcontinent and other parts of Asia."

**Fact Check.** The *New York Times* got its causation sentence wrong. We are currently experiencing an El Niño, and El Niños causes warming and otherwise change the weather. Indian media more accurately [reported](#) the phenomenon.



## Snowless NW Himalayas: El Niño leads to dry winter, may have ripple effect

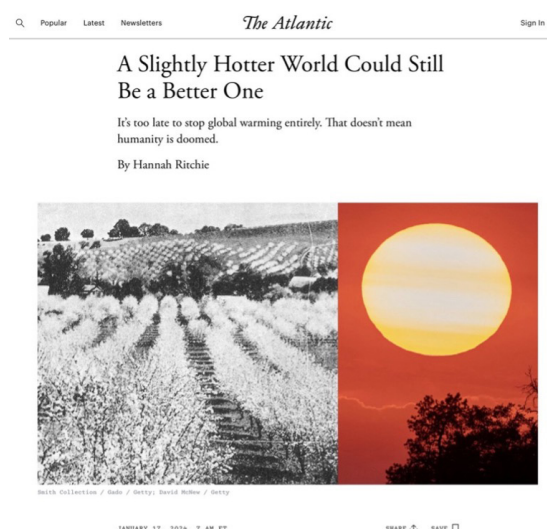
According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), 2023 was the warmest-on-record year and the warming El Niño event is likely to further fuel the heat in 2024



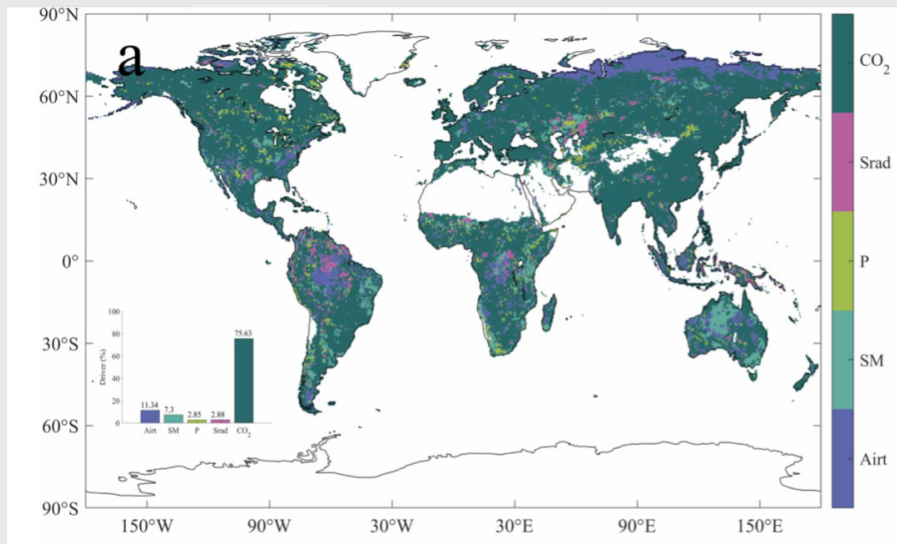
We'll close out this month on an interesting and non-doomer moment from the other side.

Possibly to sell her new book "Not the End of the World," Oxford University climate alarmist Hannah Ritchie wrote in her *Atlantic* article "[A Slightly Hotter World Still Could be A Better One](#)": "Human progress can continue in a slightly warmer world."

Ms. Ritchie has perhaps come to grips with the reality that the Earth seems to have been warming since the coolest of the Little Ice Age in the late 17th century, a period that has seen humanity flourish from about 500 million to over 8 billion today. A new [study](#) published in January also spotlighted the ongoing greening of the Earth largely due to increasing carbon dioxide.







Carbon dioxide rise (dark green) accounts for more than ¾ of the increase in plant leaf area index across the world."

Until next month... check these and other great fact checks from our sites.

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

- [Wrong, New York Times and BBC, A New Study Doesn't Prove Climate Change Is Causing the Amazon's Drought](#)
- [Wrong, Harvard, Alarmists' Media Stories, Not Climate Change, Are to Blame for Mental Trauma](#)
- [King Tides Are Not Becoming the "New Normal" In San Fran, Mercury News](#)
- [False, Washington Post, Low Great Lakes Ice Levels Are Not Proof of Climate Change](#)
- [CNN Claims the "Hottest Year on Record" Caused More Extreme Weather, Facts Say Otherwise](#)

### [CO2 Coalition](https://www.co2coalition.org)

- [Have You Heard About Record-Low Temps Around The World? Of Course Not — It Doesn't Fit The Narrative](#)
- [Today's 'Climate Crisis' Is a Fairy Tale](#)
- [Shaking Off Old Climate Lies for the New Year](#)
- [Sorry Biden, CO2 Is Not Pollution. It's The Currency Of Life](#)
- [Net Zero: Three Graphs That Might Make You Skeptical](#)

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

- [Further Investigations on Errors in Weather Station Data Evaluations](#)
- [Urban Heat Island Studies – Do Pristine Weather Stations Even Exist?](#)
- [NOAA's Graph Provides Best Evidence That Solar Heating Is Warming the Oceans, Not CO2](#)
- [NOAA's Year 2023 "Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events" Diagram Misrepresents both Anomalies and Events](#)
- [Models Wrong Again: "Hotter Weather Not Diminishing Runoff, River Discharge"!](#)