



## The Heat Sponge of Global Warming

By Meghan Taylor

Global warming is having a big effect on temperature of the planet. Some scientists think that global warming is a problem and that man is a part of it. Other scientists think that global warming is not a problem and that we can do nothing to reverse or at least slow down the effects of global warming. Who is right?

Global warming is when the temperature of the atmosphere rises all over the world. Global warming happens when gasses (called greenhouse gasses) like carbon dioxide and methane get in the air and act like a heat sponge that absorbs heat and doesn't want to let it go. This makes the atmosphere heat up. Global warming has some severe effects like glaciers melting which will lead to sea levels rising. Sea levels rising will lead to flooding in coastal areas. Global warming will cause problems for man.

There are some people that think man has played a big part in creating the global warming problem and some that think man hasn't caused global warming. The people that say man has played a part in causing global warming are saying that more and more greenhouse gasses are entering the atmosphere from cars, factories and machines, all made and used by man. "...it is said that some, but not all, of these extreme events are caused by the increase of man-made greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere." Greenhouse gasses in the air act like heat sponges – these gases hold onto the heat from the sun instead of letting it go back out to space. These people are also saying that proof that there is global warming is that last year was the warmest year on record.. "Last year was the warmest year on record globally since instruments were first used." Last year was very warm according to average temperatures of past years and as a result these people think the case against people and global warming is becoming stronger.

“A major reanalysis of the unit’s global climate records had strengthened the evidence for warming since industrialization.” The evidence that global warming has been caused by man is getting stronger and stronger since scientists’ reanalysis of temperature records since industrialization when man started putting a lot of carbon dioxide into the air with his factories. These scientists believe global warming is a problem, one man has been causing since industrialization.

There are also some people that think that there is no global warming and that therefore man has not a part of it. These people are saying that the temperature readings may be wrong. “It is necessary to believe that the instrumental temperature record is wrong.” Another thing these people are saying is that there has been little or no change in temperature during the last ten years according to some studies. “Research data shows that there has been no increase in world temperatures for a decade.” This is just saying that study results show that there has been no rise in temperature for a while. Finally people are saying there are big uncertainties in the information on which temperature information is based. “Yet the consistency among the three complaints masks large uncertainties in the raw data on which they are based.” What this is saying is that scientists do not agree on interpreting data and whether the data shows global warming.

I personally think that we, humans, are part of the global warming problem. I think we are part of the problem because we are using more and more things that put carbon dioxide and methane in the air-like cars, factories, and machines. When we put these gasses in the air they go up and they basically just sit there causing the atmosphere to warm up. Perhaps these greenhouse gasses could be reused if people actually concentrated on getting them out of the air and put them to use in ways that would not cause global warming to get worse.

Some people think there is global warming. Some people think there isn’t global warming. Given the research, man seems to be a huge part of the global warming problem. We can be part of the solution or we can be part of the global warming problem.

### Works Cited

“New Arctic Temperature Records Strengthen Climate Change Case”. Times (United Kingdom). November 12 2011

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