

# *Are We Causing Global Crisis?*

Everywhere we look, we see a call to honor the environment. How can you be a thinking adult and not agree that we are living out a global crisis that may culminate in a major shift in the climate and landmass of the earth. Ninety-seven percent of our global scientists as well as over 200 scientific agencies agree that we are in global crisis. That said the earth has shifted for various reasons over the eons. But really, pay attention, it is not a done deal. How fortunate for us that for once, we can influence what happens on this planet. The earth is evolving, in my worldview, for the better, yet there is always that potential for more negative outcomes if we don't stay on top of this shift.

This is our moral obligation to our families, future generations and us. This includes conscientious reading to assess the bottom line of any article as we seek to evaluate what we might do next. So often articles will begin with some observation of how the world is going to hell in a hand basket. Many readers either stop reading or only selectively read the material that stirs our emotions, skipping over solutions. Why? Because with solutions come a responsibility to act. I know, more to do is never welcomed; we live such busy lives, but stay with me. Sometimes it is so simple, a habit to relearn that will make all the difference in the world.

Perhaps a starting place might be carefully assessing what we read to keep fear at bay. I was fortunate to have studied under an OU professor during my masters who had undergraduate degrees in journalism. After some years she decided that she could not in good conscience, use media sensationalism tactics to sway public opinion, instill fear and sell papers or media time. So as we learned organizational behavior, communication and human relations from her, she also included writing for the media.

Recently, I received article links from someone that wanted to prove that we were in for catastrophes of major proportion by the year 2015--2020. Will those catastrophes come at the proscribed time? We don't know the "when," but the important thing here is it doesn't have to come at all. Indeed articles can be scary, but I noticed that the articles, when written by reputable sources, nearly always give some solutions, sometimes they even tell you what you can do specifically to help. However, sometimes they are purposely vague.

**From four articles on global warming noted in the references, a few general sensationalizing statements.**

- U.S. Mid-Atlantic coastline between New York and Virginia *rose faster* than in any other century -- could mean anything --could mean 1.2% rather than 0.07% or 50% rise, leave reader to guess and fear the worst.

- “geological data when making ***predictions***” -- predictions are not certainties, they are guesses
- ***Assuming*** continued groundwater extraction rates – remember ass-u-me
- “*increases* in storm surge **risk**” a general statement, not specific
- **Global Warming Forecasts** –from the title of this blog, it is a “***forecast***” or a *projection* or a *prediction*
- The results show ***projected trends***

**However, within each of these articles are also solutions or statements of reversal**

1. Yet a global response to crisis has proven effective. For instance, in 1987, 197 countries signed the Montreal Protocol, agreeing to end use of chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs, which break down into chlorine and hurt the ozone layer. That action is at least in part credited for what NASA projects will be a full restoration of holes in the ozone layer by 2070.
2. Long and others offered solutions to curb global warming...If it sounds alarmist, Denning makes it clear that the problem is that serious. He says it's **simple, serious and solvable**.<sup>\*</sup> It's simple to understand, he says. Energy use continues to drive global warming.... "Population growth is not driving this problem," Denning said "Population growth will increase by 30 percent in this century, but *energy use will increase by more than 300 percent.*"<sup>\*</sup>
3. While the study shows that the main component of future sea level rise will be from global sea level rise, local land elevation changes should be factored into development decisions, since they will influence the rate and extent of relative sea level rise at the local level. The study noted that there are currently limited tools for policymakers to use to factor in sea level rise to the planning process.
4. Florida can be a leader in providing guidance to other states on how best to put in place workable solutions. (for) “...policy programs aimed at adapting to these large coastal and other impacts as a result of climate change.”

**\*Bolding and italics my emphasis**

True enough there are weather phenomena and patterns that are causing our planet much serious concern; flooding, fowl weather, drought, pollution, increases in cancer and other illnesses, etc. Changing weather patterns have occurred over thousands of years, but no scientist is predicting with certainty that those kinds of catastrophes are going to happen at X time in Earth's life. More generally they are saying within the next 50 years or by the year 2100. They may offer scenarios that “might happen if we are not careful with our resources.” Get your facts from reputable resources, as they nearly always come with solutions. The facts are that global warming is unquestionably a current major societal issue that also has solutions. NASA cites that “Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities,<sup>1</sup> and most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position.”

**Overwhelmingly, scientists are putting the state of environmental issues in perspective.**

- The American Chemical Society "Comprehensive scientific assessments of our current and potential future climates clearly indicate that climate change is real, largely attributable to **emissions from human activities**, and potentially a very serious problem."
- American Geophysical Union "**Human-induced** climate change requires urgent action. Humanity is the major influence on the global climate change observed over the past 50 years. Rapid societal responses can significantly lessen negative outcomes."
- American Meteorological Society "It is clear from extensive scientific evidence that the dominant cause of the rapid change in climate of the past half century is **human-induced** increases in the amount of atmospheric greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), chlorofluorocarbons, methane, and nitrous oxide."
- U.S. Global Change Research Program "The global warming of the past 50 years is due primarily to **human-induced** increases in heat-trapping gases. Human 'fingerprints' also have been identified in many other aspects of the climate system, including changes in ocean heat content, precipitation, atmospheric moisture, and Arctic sea ice."
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level." (And) "Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely\* due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations." (Anthropogenic is defined as environmental pollution and pollutants originating in **human activity**.)

**\*Bolding and italics my emphasis**

So, if you are concerned about climate change and global warming, don't just sit there and wait for Florida, Manhattan or California to drop into the ocean, or widespread cancers or drought conditions to affect your communities, neighborhoods, and families, do something in your area. Global catastrophic conditions do not have to happen, so work for your community, and your life. An example might be simply not to buy products that cause pollution. Ask the question, do all families need a car for every person—say a family of 4 has 4 cars. You can recycle, conserve water, honor and respect the environment, essentially, make opportunities to do those things that help your corner of the planet. Most importantly, I am saying again, be careful what you think, because it becomes a wish and wishes are then fulfilled.

Shirley Ryan, PhD, CCHt is a practicing hypnotherapist and spiritual mentor. See more at <http://www.shirleyryan.net>

### ***Notes and References***

1. **Tampa Bay Times** <http://www.tampabay.com/news/perspective/on-climate-change-floridas-been-warned/2157959>
2. **Climate Central** <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/sea-level-and-risk-of-flooding-rising-rapidly-in-mid-atlantic-16822>
3. **Sea Level Rising** (perhaps a blog?) <http://www.global-warming-forecasts.com/sea-levels-map.php>
4. **Bright Surf** (Looks like this is a blog that is selling books on climate change, there are 10 books listed at the bottom with buy at an Amazon button at the bottom of the page.  
[http://www.brightsurf.com/news/headlines/40440/New\\_studies\\_find\\_global\\_warming\\_will\\_have\\_significant\\_economic\\_impacts\\_on\\_Florida\\_coasts.html](http://www.brightsurf.com/news/headlines/40440/New_studies_find_global_warming_will_have_significant_economic_impacts_on_Florida_coasts.html)
5. **Consortium of 18 different agencies** <http://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus>
6. **List of worldwide scientific organizations** *The following page lists the nearly 200 worldwide scientific organizations that hold the position that climate change has been caused by human action.*  
[http://opr.ca.gov/s\\_listoforganizations.php](http://opr.ca.gov/s_listoforganizations.php)

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