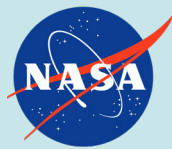


SUMMARY AUDIT:
EXECUTIVE BRANCH WEBSITES
PROMOTING
GLOBAL WARMING ALARMISM
AND PROPAGANDA



National Institutes
of Health



United States
Global Change
Research Program

DECEMBER 2018



THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE
FREEDOM RISING

Overview

In multiple federal agencies, political operatives posing as civil servants continue to propagate numerous global warming myths and alarmist claims, even though President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he and his administration are committed to promoting climate realism. For example, many federal agency websites that address climate topics aggressively push the assertion global warming is a human-caused crisis resulting from fossil-fuel use.

Federal agency websites should only contain scientific facts about climate change, not left-wing propaganda. This means numerous existing websites must be corrected to reflect climate realism or taken down altogether. Making these reforms to government websites would not only remove bias promoting dubious scientific

claims from websites paid for by taxpayers, many of whom don't believe humans are causing catastrophic climate change, it would also put an end to the publication of embarrassing media stories alleging the Trump administration's own agencies contradict and disagree with the president on climate change. "You have scientists on both sides" of the global warming debate, Trump observed in an October 2018 interview with the Associated Press.

Despite the fact Trump has made it clear he sides with skeptics of the theory of catastrophic man-created climate change, executive branch webpages continue to undermine the president by presenting propaganda rather than objective scientific data.

The following is a partial list and overview

of federal agency webpages that continue to push global warming alarmism, often conflicting directly with statements made by President Trump. This overview is merely the tip of the iceberg, and there are many additional webpages that require review and updating. However, even this small sample illustrates the widespread politicization of science on federal agency websites, which undercuts the views of the chief executive.

For context and comparison, much of the scientific propaganda documented below explicitly cites and advances the political views expressed by President Barack Obama. Federal agencies under the Obama administration politicized what should be objectively educational reports and webpages. This audit aims to roll back the politicization of these federal resources.

"Federal agency websites should only contain scientific facts about climate change..."



NASA
climate.nasa.gov



Image One shows NASA's portal to an avalanche of misleading climate alarmism: climate.nasa.gov. The entry portal of the website provides more than a dozen internal links to additional climate.nasa.gov webpages, with most of those webpages linking to several more climate.nasa.gov webpages. Taken together, the climate.nasa.gov portal hosts dozens of distinct webpages. The entire portal should be disassembled, stripped of its agenda-driven activism content, and replaced with realistic and factual climate data and information.

The portal claims, "NASA's role is to make

detailed climate data available to the global community, including the public, policy- and decision-makers, and scientific and planning agencies." However, the NASA website does much more than make detailed climate data available. Although it contains a relatively small amount of objective data, the vast majority of content espouses a left-wing environmental agenda and climate alarmism.

For example, a "Solutions" sub-portal states, "The goal is to reduce our vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change (like sea-level encroachment, more intense extreme weather events or food

insecurity)." This statement stands in complete contradiction to overwhelming scientific evidence that shows there is no link to recent global warming and an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Further, food production and yields continue to set new records almost every year.

The "Solutions" sub-portal also implicitly but clearly advocates for international climate agreements like the Paris Climate Agreement. (In 2017, Trump announced that he plans to pull the United States out of this economically destructive agreement.) According to the sub-portal,

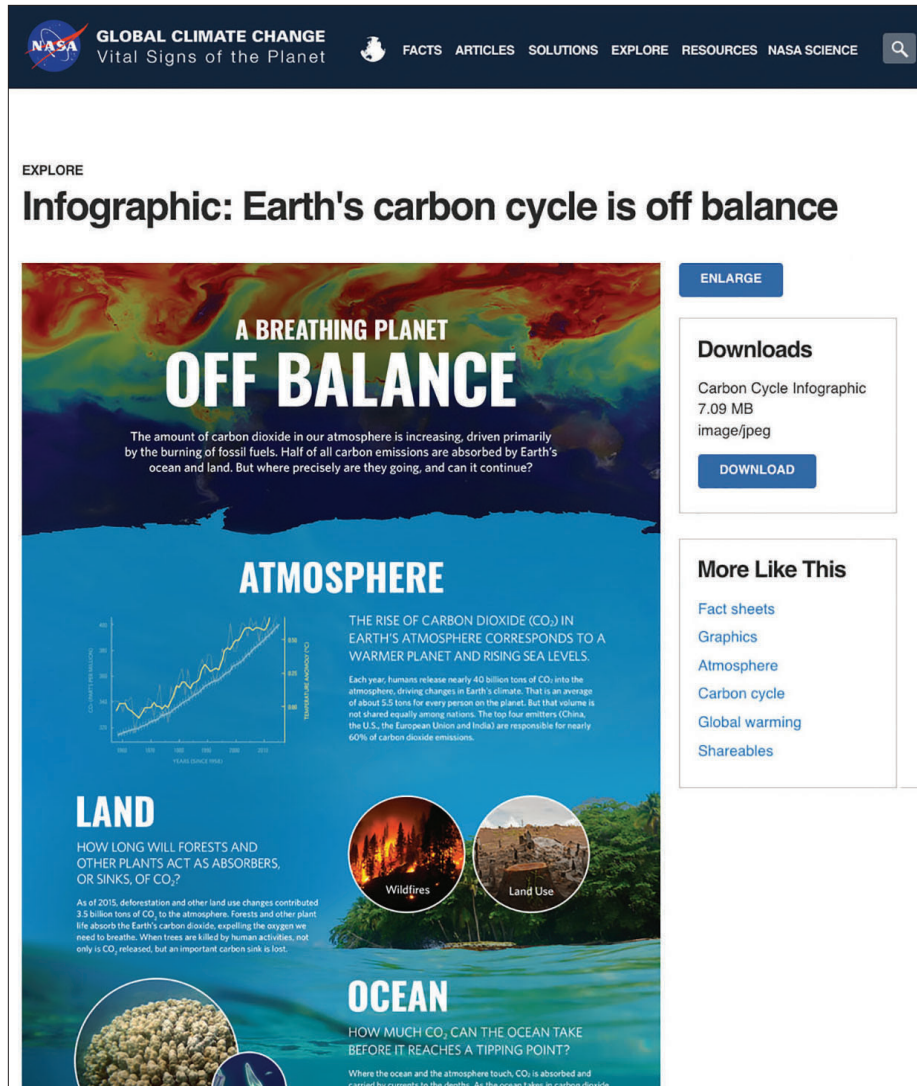


Image 1: "Infographic: Earth's Carbon Cycle Is Off Balance," NASA, accessed November 21, 2018, climate.nasa.gov

“In the absence of national or international climate policy direction, cities and local communities around the world have been focusing on solving their own climate problems.”

Even the small portion of the climate.nasa.gov portal that contains actual climate data—rather than unfounded, biased assertions—needlessly misrepresents the objective data to promote climate alarmism. For example, one webpage states, “Earth’s climate has been relatively stable for the past 12,000 years and this stability has been crucial for the development of our modern civilization and life as we know it. Modern life is tailored to the stable climate we have become accustomed to.” This part of NASA’s website ignores the

numerous scientific analyses, peer-reviewed studies, and even materials from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that have acknowledged global temperature has varied much more in other periods of the past 12,000 years than it has during the past century. Rather than present false and misleading propaganda and editorializing when presenting historical temperature data, climate.nasa.gov should present temperature data in a completely unbiased manner.

Another particularly troubling NASA webpage is titled “Scientific Consensus: Earth’s Climate Is Warming,” which publishes appalling misinformation about an alleged “scientific consensus” that humans are creating a catastrophic

global warming crisis. The webpage lists several statements by organizations that promote climate alarmism, but it ignores many other organizations that are more skeptical. For instance, the webpage cites a statement by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) that asserts humans are unquestionably responsible for most of Earth’s recent warming, yet the webpage fails to mention that multiple surveys of AMS meteorologists themselves reveal meteorologists are quite skeptical of alarmist global warming claims. The “Scientific Consensus” webpage also favorably cites thoroughly debunked claims by radical global warming activists John Cook and Naomi Oreskes. (See, for example, *Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming*, pp. 10–30).

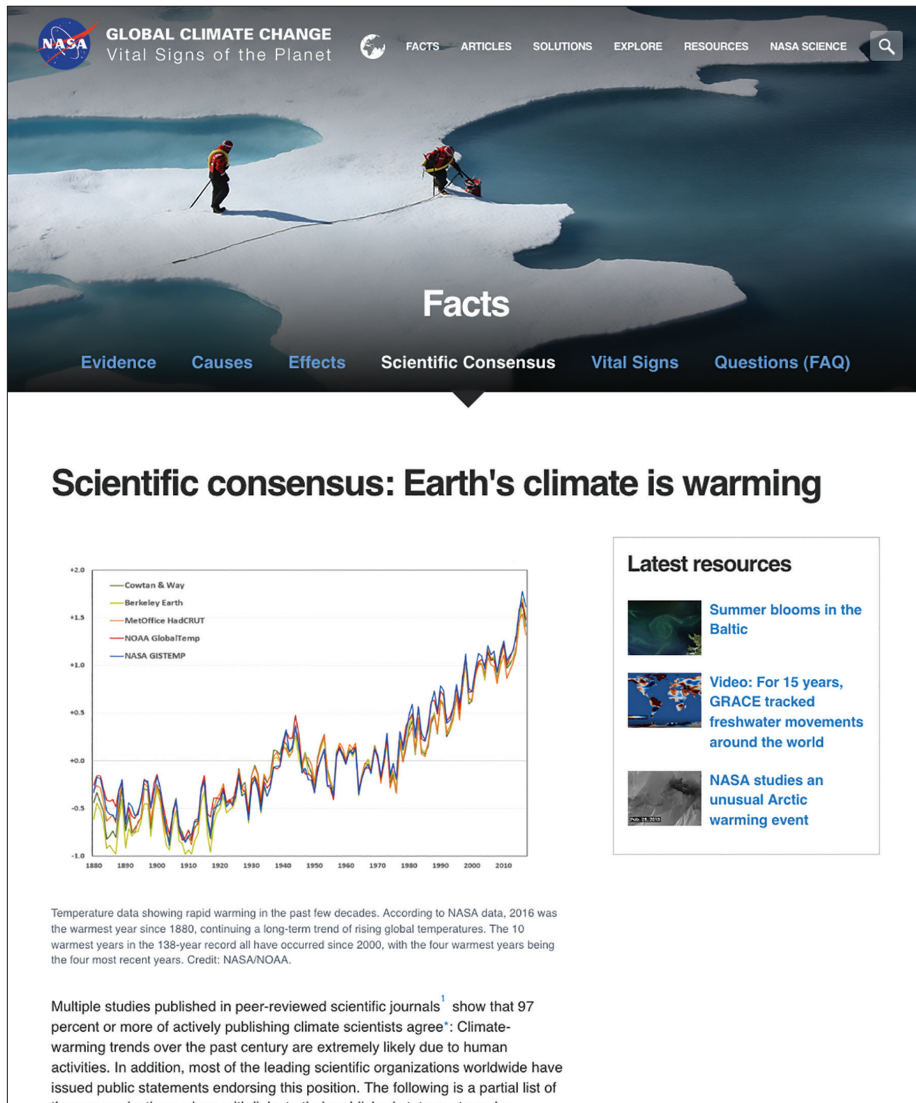


Image 2: “Scientific Consensus: Earth’s Climate Is Warming,” NASA Global Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet, NASA, accessed November 21, 2018, climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus

In addition to promoting the work of radical alarmists, the climate.nasa.gov portal also repeatedly cites and links to propaganda papers produced by the Union of Concerned Scientists, a left-wing advocacy group. There is no place for such blatantly biased, one-sided political advocacy on a federal government “science” website.

Even when the NASA website presents what appear to be objective data, the data are often doctored to fit the alarmist climate narrative. For example, NASA’s “Global Temperature” page features a graph showing a nearly uninterrupted increase in temperatures since 1910, with the increase accelerating during the past 40 years. This is problematic because NASA (and

NOAA) record-keepers have been caught doctoring the data they use to produce such temperature graphs.

There is so little objective scientific information and so much propaganda on many pages within the climate.nasa.gov portal that the entire portal should be completely overhauled to focus on objective climate data, or it should be taken down.

The most troubling climate.nasa.gov propaganda appears on the *Climate Kids* sub-portal, which is clearly designed to brainwash children into believing in climate alarmism. It includes approximately a dozen interactive games promoting left-wing environmentalism and

global warming alarmism. The sub-portal provides very little scientific information.

One “educational” summary on *Climate Kids* is titled “The Story of Fossil Fuels.” The overarching message is fossil fuels are bad and we must switch to wind and solar power immediately. For example, the summary states, “Since more people want natural gas, people will get it however they can. One way to get natural gas is with something called hydraulic fracturing, or ‘fracking.’ Fracking is expensive, but people want natural gas so much, they’ll use this method. ... Sadly, there are environmental concerns over fracking. People worry that these chemicals can get into drinking water.”



Image 3: “Keeping Transportation Green,” Climate Kids, NASA, accessed November 21, 2018, climatekids.nasa.gov

The truth is fracked natural gas provides much more affordable power than wind or solar, and there has never been a single instance where the fracking process itself has been shown to cause water pollution. Even more importantly, what do left-wing political attacks on fracking have to do with climate science?

The *Climate Kids* summary also includes a section titled “The King Who Banned Coal.” The page is an unabashed vilification of affordable coal power, which is largely responsible for much of the economic growth and rising living standards that occurred during the twentieth century. The summary states, “King Edward I of England tried to ban coal in 1306. The air was dark and polluted. The smoke from coal was too much. It was poisoning the city. The king banned coal. It may have been the first environmental law ever. ... Things got worse after the steam engine was invented. The Industrial Revolution was happening.

There was now lots of pollution. It caused acid rain, sickness, and even death.” Why is NASA, a science administration, teaching children radical left-wing political propaganda that the invention of the steam engine was a horrible development and the Industrial Revolution made people’s lives worse?

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
www.climate.gov



Climate.gov, the portal for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) material focused on climate change, contains dozens of webpages, including many targeting children, that promote false information about global warming. Like NASA’s climate.nasa.gov portal, NOAA’s climate.gov contains very little objective, educational scientific

information. The entire portal should be completely overhauled to focus on objective climate data or taken down.

One example of NOAA’s bias is its website’s “Teaching Climate” sub-portal. A section of that sub-portal titled “Teaching Essential Principle Seven: Climate Change Will Have Consequences for the Earth System and Human Lives” is especially egregious. The webpage warns that without proper teaching and messaging, students and the public might “succumb to [climate change] denial.” The webpage then asserts numerous false warming scares, such as “dying forests” and “species extinction.” The entire “Teaching Climate” portal should be rewritten or taken down.

NOAA’s “Climate” portal also promotes global warming alarmism, although the propaganda on this site is not as voluminous or pervasive as NOAA’s climate.gov portal.

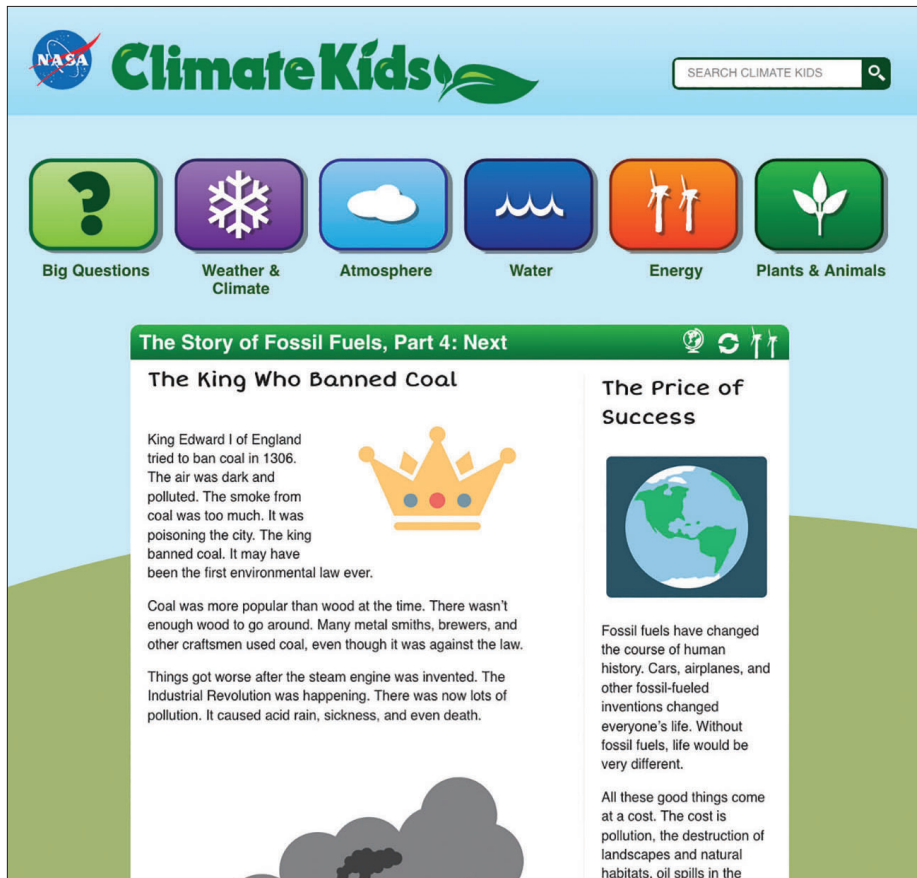


Image 4: “The King Who Banned Coal,” Climate Kids, NASA, accessed November 21, 2018, climatekids.nasa.gov

The National Climatic Data Center's climate portal presents dubiously adjusted climate data and analyses, including the false assertion "the number of extreme climate events (those which place among the most unusual of the historical record) has been rising over the last four decades."

Department of Energy
www.energy.gov



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) website states its mission is "to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions."

Supplementing its mission statement, DOE's website asserts its goal is to

"Catalyze the timely, material, and efficient transformation of the nation's energy system." The "transformation" is a relic from the Obama administration, which actively worked to suppress abundant, affordable conventional energy sources and impose expensive, unreliable wind and solar power on the American people.

The website states, "A clean energy revolution is taking place across America, underscored by the steady expansion of the U.S. renewable energy sector. The clean energy industry generates hundreds of billions in economic activity, and is expected to continue to grow rapidly in the coming years. There is tremendous economic opportunity for the countries that invent, manufacture and export clean energy technologies."

Imposing expensive, unreliable energy

on U.S. households and the economy will raise the cost of living and cost of doing business and will kill jobs throughout the economy. When government puts its thumb on the scale in favor of wind and solar power, it doesn't "create" jobs; it merely shifts them from working coal and natural gas industries to the highly inefficient renewable-energy market. Many jobs end up getting destroyed in the process.

On its "Fossil Fuels" page, DOE states at the outset, "Fossil energy sources, including oil, coal and natural gas, are non-renewable resources." Defining fossil fuels first and foremost as "non-renewable" is pointless, misleading, and unjustifiably negative. America has sufficient oil, coal, and natural gas resources to power our economy for hundreds of years. If and when—at some point in the very distant future—those resources run scarce before other

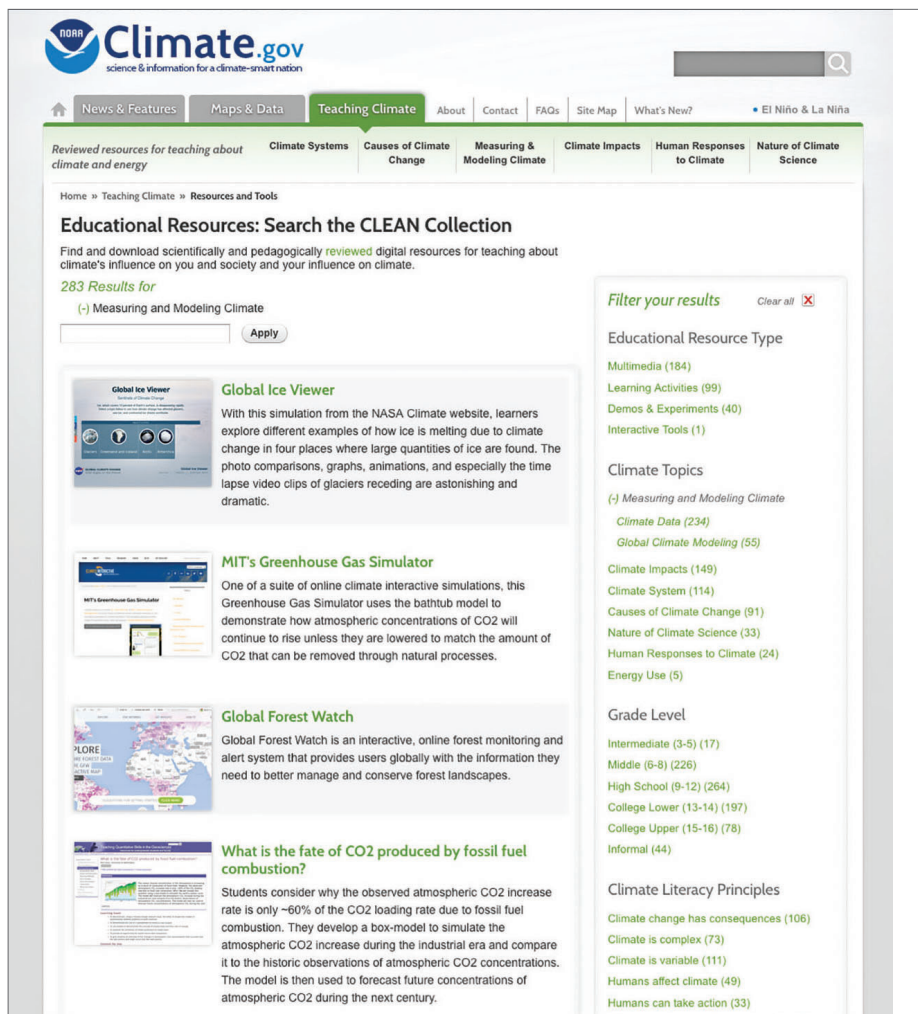


Image 5: "Educational Resources: Search the CLEAN Collection," climate.gov, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, accessed November 21, 2018, climate.gov

energy sources take their place, America has enough methane hydrate resources (another presently unutilized fossil fuel) to power our economy for hundreds of additional years. Defining fossil fuels by its “non-renewable” scarcity serves no purpose other than to prejudice readers of the website against fossil fuels.

The pro-renewable, anti-fossil-fuel propaganda on the DOE website appears to be motivated by global warming alarmism. For example, DOE’s “Fossil Fuels” webpage states, “Over the past 20 years, nearly three-fourths of human-caused emissions came from the burning of fossil fuels.”

An additional climate change suite in the DOE portal piles on with unsubstantiated climate alarmism to justify the portal’s cheerleading for renewable energy at the expense of fossil fuels. The portal’s “Climate Change” webpage states, “Addressing the effects of climate change is a top priority of the Energy Department. As global temperatures rise, wildfires, drought, and high electricity demand put stress on the nation’s energy infrastructure. And sever

weather – the leading cause of power outages and fuel supply disruption in the United States – is projected to worsen, with eight of the 10 most destructive hurricanes of all time having happened in the last 10 years.”

Objective data show global warming is having no harmful impact on wildfires, drought, and other stress factors for energy infrastructure. Yes, wildfires and droughts still occur, as they always have, but objective data show they are becoming less frequent and less severe. Moreover, “eight of the 10 most destructive hurricanes of all time” might have occurred during the past 10 years, but that is due to human prosperity and higher coastal property values and population concentrations, which make *any* hurricane more “destructive” by our modern measures. Objective data show hurricanes are not becoming more frequent and severe, despite the fact Earth has experienced modest warming. DOE’s alarmist and unsubstantiated propaganda on each of these points should be immediately removed.

The webpage presents additional alarmist global warming propaganda in additional webpages. For example, a webpage titled “QUIZ: Test Your Climate Change IQ” states, among other propaganda, “From shrinking glaciers to rising seas, climate change is threatening our planet in unprecedented ways. This urgent challenge will come into sharp focus as the world celebrates Earth Day. ... While the science is clear on climate change, how much do you know about it?”

The webpage then unabashedly promotes the Paris Climate Agreement, which President Trump wisely withdrew the United States from in 2017, stating/asking, “During the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, how many countries committed to doubling clean energy research and development?”

The alarmist climate propaganda and anti-fossil-fuel rhetoric throughout the DOE portal defies sound science and undermines the policy priorities and messaging of the Trump administration. The entire portal should be edited and rewritten.



Image 6: “Climate Change,” energy.gov, U.S. Department of Energy, accessed November 28, 2018, energy.gov/science-innovation/climate-change

Department of Agriculture **USDA**
nifa.usda.gov/topic/climate-change

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) website promotes unsubstantiated climate alarmism. For example, a webpage in the USDA portal, titled “Climate Change,” states, “Ongoing climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing the planet.”

disruptions that lead to local availability limitations and price increases, interrupted transport conduits, and diminished food safety, among other causes. Climate change can affect food availability, access, utilization, and the stability of each of these over time.”

growing seasons, fewer frost events, and more precipitation and atmospheric carbon dioxide are all contributing factors. The USDA website’s assertion that global warming threatens crop production is in complete contradiction to sound science, empirical evidence, and credibility. All sections on the USDA website addressing climate change should be edited and rewritten.

Another webpage in the USDA portal, titled “Food Security,” states, “Climate change is likely to diminish continued progress on global food security through production

These claims are false. U.S. and global crop production set new records nearly every year. While there are many reasons for this, warmer temperatures, longer

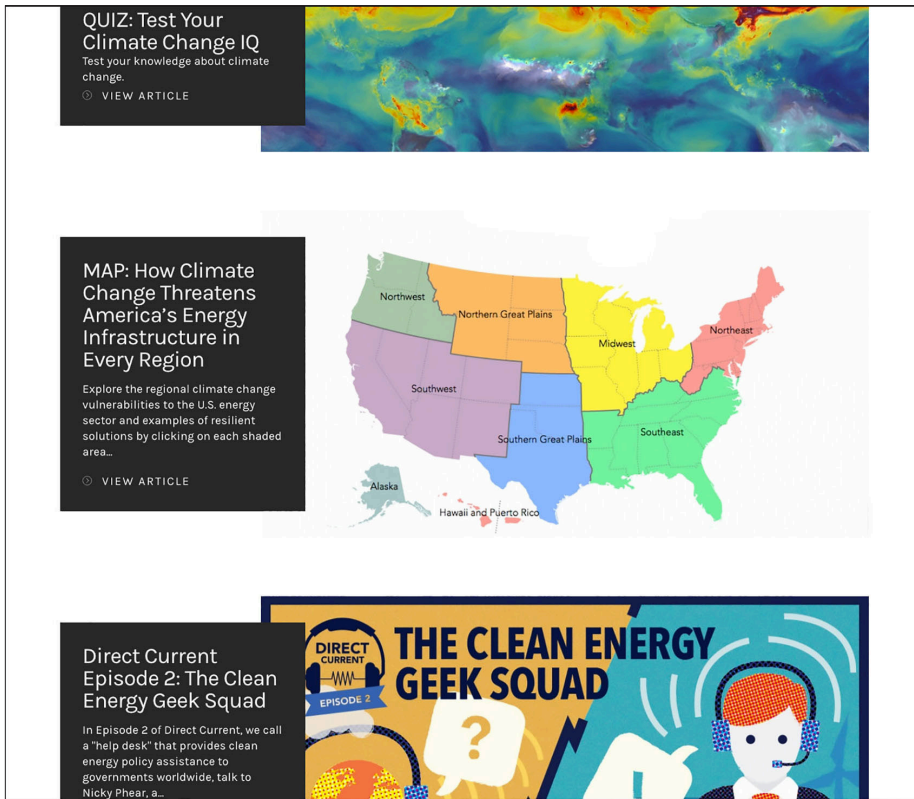


Image 7: “QUIZ: Test Your Climate Change IQ,” energy.gov, U.S. Department of Energy, accessed November 28, 2018, energy.gov/articles/quiz-test-your-climate-change-iq

OTHER EXAMPLES OF BIAS

U.S. Global Change Research Program



globalchange.gov

This website is a collaborative effort of 13 agencies and entities within the executive branch. It publishes alarmist *National Climate Assessment* reports, and it promotes numerous webpages advancing climate alarmist propaganda.

For example, the “Understanding Climate Change” page states, “Climate change is happening now. The United States and the

world are warming, global sea level is rising, and some types of extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe.” This claim is simply not true and is in direct contradiction with objective data provided by countless government agencies and private researchers.

USGCRP issued its most recent *National Climate Assessment* report in November

2017, nearly a full year into the Trump administration. Its authors make over-the-top global warming claims that contradict Trump’s views and sound science. The USGCRP’s “Resources for Educators” page is a particularly nefarious webpage that promotes alarmism to teachers and students.

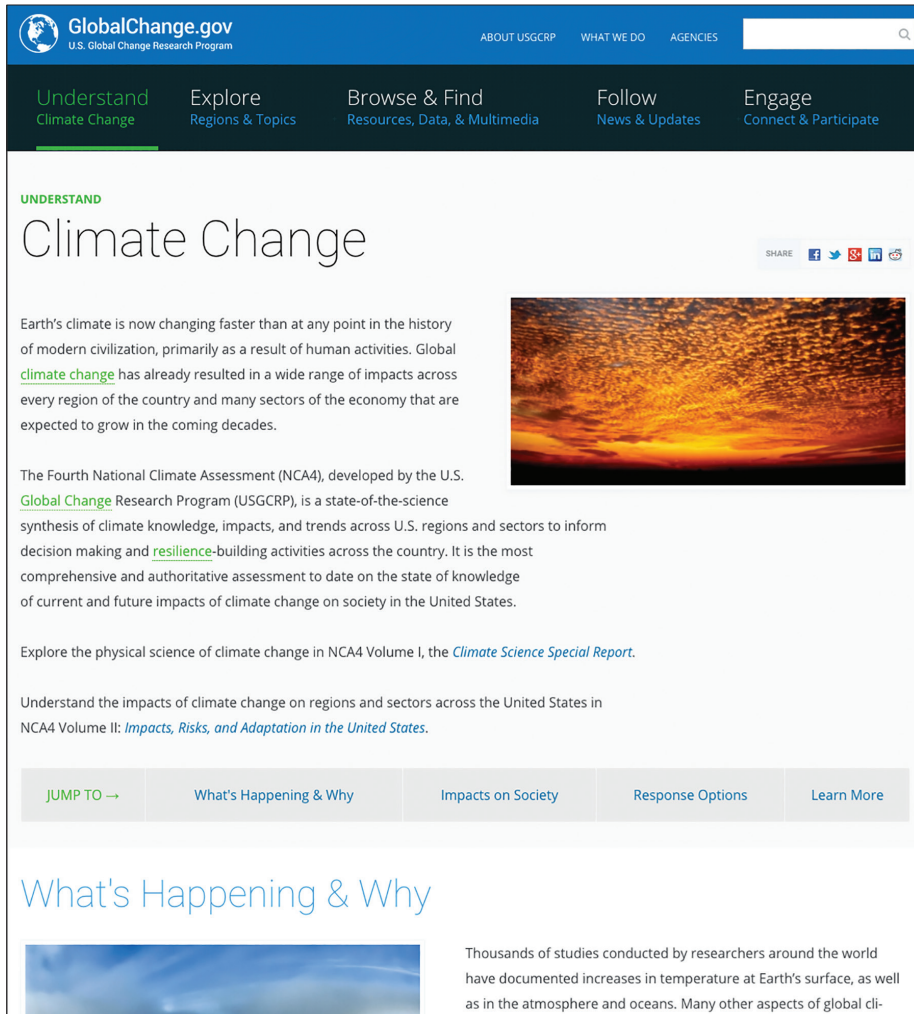


Image 8: Understand Climate Change, United States Global Change Research Program, globalchange.gov/climate-change

Department of Defense



dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/603440/

This Department of Defense (DOD) press release, published on DOD's official website, is riddled with climate alarmism. It also includes several links to additional alarmist DOD press releases that were published under the Obama administration. Updated

statements, press releases, and studies should be published so that alarmism does not remain the default position of the Defense Department. Some of the Obama administration's alarmist material has been taken down from the DOD website, a very

positive step forward, but there needs to be additional actions taken to counteract the Obama administration's environmental extremism.

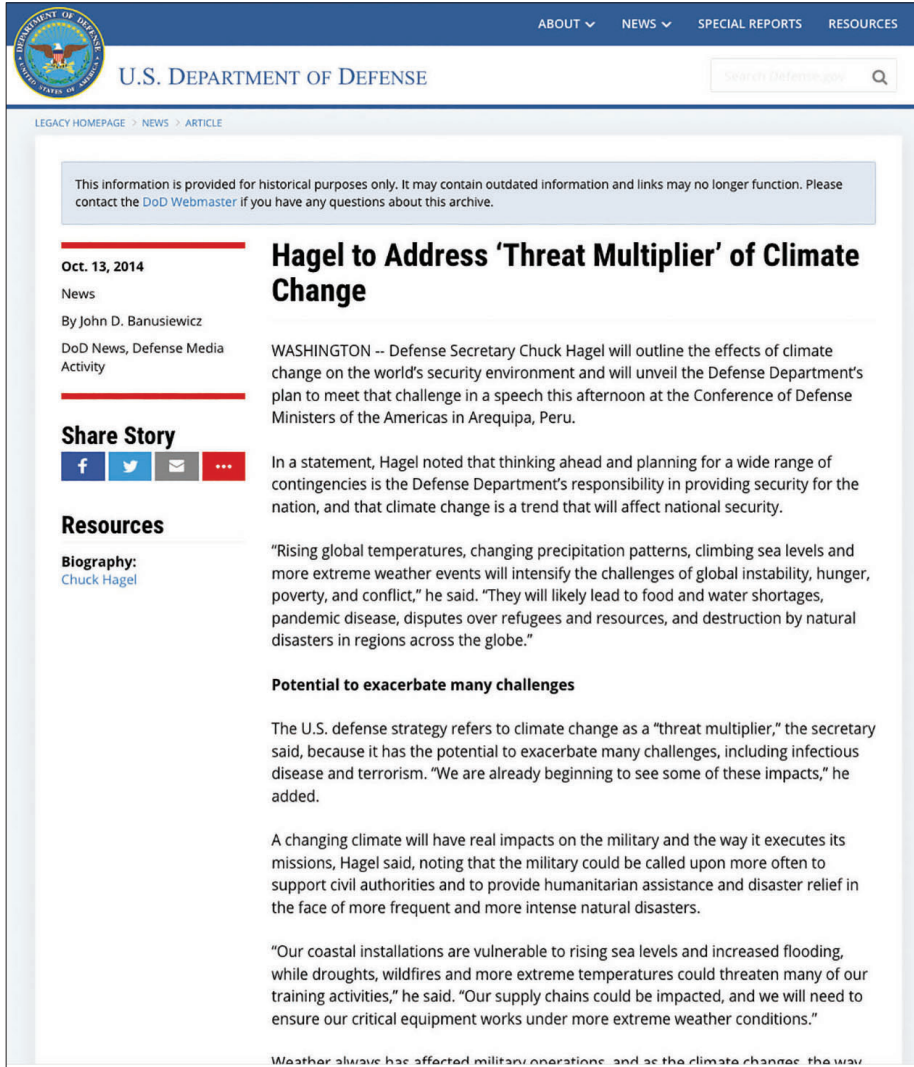


Image 9: "Hagel to Address 'Threat Multiplier' of Climate Change," press release, U.S. Department of Defense, October 13, 2014, dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/603440

National Institutes
for Health
bit.ly/2rNidFa



This 31-page “lesson plan” by the National Institutes of Health is clearly designed to indoctrinate students using unfounded and blatantly false climate alarmist claims. It should be removed immediately from all government websites.

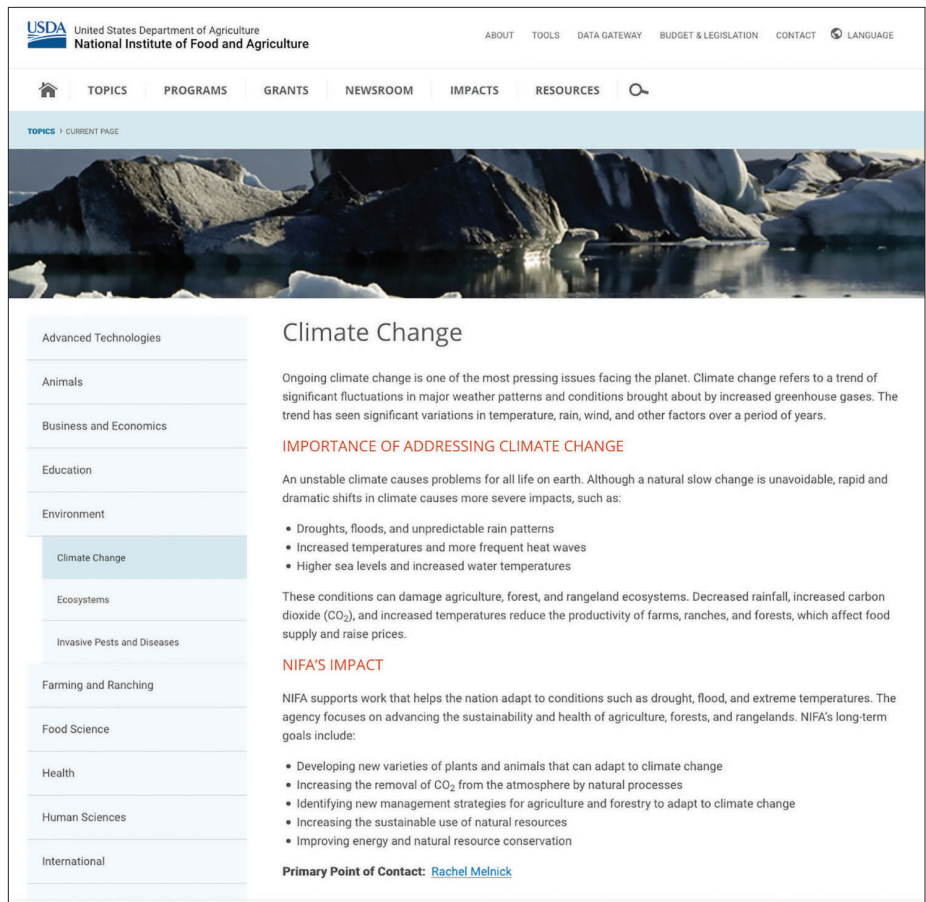


Image 10: “Climate Change,” usda.gov, U.S. Department of Agriculture, accessed November 28, 2018, nifa.usda.gov/topic/climate-change

Conclusion

The holdovers from the Obama administration continue to promote left-wing environmental agendas and global warming alarmism throughout federal agency websites. In many cases, these materials directly contradict statements

made by President Trump and violate sound scientific principles and data. The Trump administration should take steps to counter these false materials by removing or comprehensively revising the webpages and portals identified in this summary.

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