Sam Loyd

DSC 640

Invisible Crisis Blog Documentation

February 2021

For the Invisible Crisis blog, a blue color pallet was selected for emphasizing or distinguishing metrics. Almost all aspects were kept simple given the general audience. Photos were downloaded from multiple free and open source sites. These were used to make the blog more relatable and to keep it interesting. Citations for those were provided in the blog.

I tried to stick to common vernacular in the text as this blog was intended for the public in general. The text was kept intentionally short. I used a larger sized 14-point font with 1.5-inch lines spacing to improve readability. I also used simple graphs such as bar charts, line graphs and geographic heat maps that were all created in Tableau. I used the default embedded blog size in Tableau as much as possible to avoid issues when viewed on smaller screens such as cell phones and for pdf conversions. This forced several changes and compromises on graph formats originally focused on aesthetics. I removed some spacing and adjusted titles to help with formatting. Eight graphs were selected in total to weave a story together outlining the problem with carbon dioxide, expert consensus, current consequences, focusing blame, and closing with a call to action. Sub-headings were frequently used given the general public’s tendency to scan blogs for portions that they find interesting.

The data for the first graph about the last 800,000 years of carbon levels was provided by our World in Data (2020). The carbon release per second data was taken from a video provided by NASA (n.d.). The data on climate expert consensus was provided by John Cook et al. and found at IOP Science (2016). Data for the line graphs on increasing ocean temperatures, rising water levels and coastal sea level map were gathered by the EPA (2016). In addition, a pdf from the EPA was linked to highlight problems with lost wetlands in Louisiana (2016). The data from ice extents in the arctic was collected by the National Snow and Ice Data Center (2020). Additional reporting on polar bears was provided by Peter Molnar et al. and published in Nature (2020). Data for the final map on China and the United States’ carbon dioxide emissions was provided by Climate Watch (2020).

References:

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EPA (2016, August). What Climate Change Means for Louisiana. Retrieved from <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-la.pdf>

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