From 1990–1997 in the U
challenge the legitimacy c
the scientific evidence, arg
serted that proposed solu

Some people dispute as
such as the libertarian Co
tors, and some companies
change scenarios, funded
and provided their own pr
[223][224][225]

Preface

*Some People Dispute i*s one of a series of three books about the development of knowledge on Wikipedia, as viewed through the lens of the “Global warming” article. This book examines the contributions of an individual editor: William M. Connolley.

Any person with an internet connection can edit almost any Wikipedia article. When an edit is made, editors typically leave a comment - an “edit summary” - explaining what they have changed and why they changed it. Wikipedia stores the history of edit summaries, along with what was changed, and makes this information publicly available.

Some People Dispute is a curated set of edits from the history of the “Global warming” article by William M. Connolley and corresponding reactions to his edits. The spreads contain edit summaries and the article content that was changed by the editor. Highlighted blue text was added by editor, and text with a red strikethrough was deleted by the editor.

Glossary of Terms

RV - Revert. The editor has rolled the article back to a previous version.

NPOV - Neutral point of view. One of Wikipedia’s five pillars states: “Wikipedia is written form a neutral point of view.”

POV - Point of view. Used to indicate a non-neutral point of view.

Talk page - A Wikipedia discussion board where editors have long form conversations and debates about the content of an article

Weasel words - Discreet words that drastically change the meaning of the content

Wikipedia User Profile

“ In a former life I was a climate modeller at BAS; even further back I was a mathematician at SEH. My username is my real name. I’m famous. ”

William M. Connolley

Statement to Wikipedia arbitration committee, 2005

“ I am a climate modeller and I know a lot about climate change and related issues. I have made contributions to almost all of the pages on glossary of climate change (which I created) many of which are non-controversial. I have happily collaborated with a number of other editors, as the discussion on global warming will make clear. ”

William M. Connolley

Wikipedia arbitration committee 2005

“ In the Abd-William M. Connolley arbitration case (July–September 2009), William M. Connolley was found to have misused his admin tools while involved. ”

Wikipedia arbitration committee ruling

21:08, 24 May 2004

“ Delete ‘one thing...’ speculation from intro. Because its wrong: the heat comes from the politics. ”

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Global Warming

Since 1990, the prospect that the earth’s surface might become dangerously overheated — because of heat trapped by carbon dioxide and other “greenhouse gases” — has been a hotly debated topic. ~~One thing that heats the debate may be the multiple and interacting causal factors involved. Some of these factors, such as a cyclical increase of insolation causing the earth to warm, a natural increase in greenhouse gases causing the earth to retain more of the received solar energy, and natural earth processes such as increased albedo due to greater cloud cover, make control in experiments designed to identify the effects of activities that are possibly causing global warming difficult. Along with the experimental difficulty, the complex situation makes arriving at a scientific concensus also a nebulous prospect.~~

WRONG

21:30, 16 November 2004

“ Some —> All. Septics haven’t yet managed to build a climate model that doesn’t show warming. ”

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions CO_2 increasing the “greenhouse effect”.

~~Some~~ All climate models further predict that temperatures will continue to increase in the future, if human emissions of greenhouse gases continue.

SOME, MOST, OR ALL

16:33, 29 November 2004

“ Not ALL Climate models predict global warming ”

edit from:

Denorris

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions CO_2 increasing the “greenhouse effect”.

~~All~~ Many climate models further predict that temperatures will continue to increase in the future, if human emissions of greenhouse gases continue and there are no significant changes in solar output or volcanic activity.

SOME, MOST, OR ALL

16:52, 29 November 2004

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*“ They *all* do. Name one that doesn’t, if you disagree. ”*

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions CO_2 increasing the “greenhouse effect”.

~~Many~~ All climate models further predict that temperatures will continue to increase in the future, if human emissions of greenhouse gases continue and there are no significant changes in solar output or volcanic activity.

SOME, MOST, OR ALL

18:42, 16 December 2004

“ All models —> Most models, (there exist others, ex: global cooling) ”

edit from:

Cortonin

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions CO_2 increasing the “greenhouse effect”.

~~All~~ Most climate models further predict that temperatures will continue to increase in the future, if human emissions of greenhouse gases continue and there are no significant changes in solar output or volcanic activity.

20:23, 16 December 2004

*“ Rv. *all* models is correct — find one that doesn’t if you disagree. second edit rv’d too... hard to interpret ”*

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions CO_2 increasing the “greenhouse effect”.

~~Most~~ All climate models further predict that temperatures will continue to increase in the future, if human emissions of greenhouse gases continue and there are no significant changes in solar output or volcanic activity.

Theories to explain temperature change

Given this, it is not correct to imagine that there is a debate is between those who “believe in” and “oppose” the theory that adding CO_2 to the Earth’s atmosphere will result in warmer surface temperatures on Earth, on average. Rather, the debate is about what the net effect of the addition of CO_2 will be, and whether changes in water vapor, clouds, and so on will cancel out its warming effect. The observed warming of the Earth over the past 50 years ~~shows that either climate feedback does not cancel out the CO_2 warming, or there are additional factors involved in climate temperature.~~

SOME, MOST, OR ALL

20:54, 16 December 2004

“ RV, I listed an example in the summary. May not be popular anymore, but still a model. ‘All models’ is blatantly incorrect. ”

edit from:

Cortonin

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions CO_2 increasing the “greenhouse effect”.

~~All~~ Most climate models further predict that temperatures will continue to increase in the future, if human emissions of greenhouse gases continue and there are no significant changes in solar output or volcanic activity.

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SOME, MOST, OR ALL

21:46, 16 December 2004

“ Rv. Please, listing a model in an edit summary (and you didn’t, you just said ‘global cooling’ — what is that supposed to mean?) isnt good enough. At least put it into talk. ”

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions CO_2 increasing the “greenhouse effect”.

~~Most~~ All climate models further predict that temperatures will continue to increase in the future, if human emissions of greenhouse gases continue and there are no significant changes in solar output or volcanic activity.

Theories to explain temperature change

Given this, it is not correct to imagine that there is a debate is between those who “believe in” and “oppose” the theory that adding CO_2 to the Earth’s atmosphere will result in warmer surface temperatures on Earth, on average. Rather, the debate is about what the net effect of the addition of CO_2 will be, and whether changes in water vapor, clouds, and so on will cancel out its warming effect. The observed warming of the Earth over the past 50 years ~~shows that either climate feedback does not cancel out the CO_2 warming, or there are additional factors involved in climate temperature changes~~ appears to be at odds with the skeptics’ theory that climate feedbacks will cancel out the CO_2 warming

SOME, MOST, OR ALL

11:44, 20 January 2005

“ Now, let’s try these changes — until someone can show what ALL climate models predict, we’ll avoid absolutes ”

edit from:

JonGwynne

Global Warming

Global warming is a term used to describe an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. 19th century (0.6 ± 0.2°C) [1] and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions of greenhouse gasses increasing the “greenhouse effect.”

Most climate models predict temperatures will increase in the future; however the precise magnitude of these increases is still uncertain.

SOME, MOST, OR ALL

22:32, 17 December 2004

“ Remove biased sentence, see talk ”

edit from:

Cortonin

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century (0.6 ± 0.2°C) [1] and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions of Carbon dioxide (CO_2) increasing the “greenhouse effect.” ~~All Climate models currently predict that, in the absence of changes in solar output or volcanic activity, human emission of greenhouse gases will cause temperatures to increase in the future.~~

22:34, 17 December 2004

“ Rv. If you’re going to be like that... ”

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century (0.6 ± 0.2°C) [1] and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions of Carbon dioxide (CO_2) increasing the “greenhouse effect.” All Climate models currently predict that, in the absence of changes in solar output or volcanic activity, human emission of greenhouse gases will cause temperatures to increase in the future.

Theories to explain temperature change

Given this, it is not correct to imagine that there is a debate is between those who “believe in” and “oppose” the theory that adding CO_2 to the Earth’s atmosphere will result in warmer surface temperatures on Earth, on average. Rather, the debate is about what the net effect of the addition of CO_2 will be, and whether changes in water vapor, clouds, and so on will cancel out its warming effect. The observed warming of the Earth over the past 50 years appears to be at odds with the skeptics’ theory that climate feedbacks will cancel out the CO_2 warming.

22:36, 17 December 2004

“ ‘credible model’ is POV ”

edit from:

Cortonin

Theories to explain temperature change

Scientists have also studied this issue with computer models of the climate (see below). These models are accepted by the scientific community as being valid only after it has been shown that they do a good job of simulating known climate variations, such as the difference between summer and winter, the North Atlantic Oscillation, or El Niño. All climate models that pass these tests also predict that the net effect of adding CO_2 will be a warmer climate in the future. The amount of predicted warming varies by model, however, which probably reflects the way different models depict clouds differently. Skeptics point to the growing evidence that variation in cosmic ray flux represent an indirect effect of changes in solar activity that increase the warming response to increases in solar activity. Climate models that pass the above tests while modeling the only the direct effects of increases in solar activity will have attributed too much of the historical warming to greenhouse gas forcing, and will predict larger increases in temperature in the future. Skeptics of “global warming” point to potential feedbacks which current models poorly understand, such as changes in vegetation and cloud cover, and suggest that these processes reduce the sensitivity of the climate to greenhouse gas forcing; although the uncertainty could just as easily be in the other direction. ~~Skeptics have been unable to produce a credible model of the climate that does not predict that temperatures will increase in the future. Thus, the skeptics’ theory that climate feedbacks will eliminate any CO_2-warming effect has not been substantiated by either observations or modeling.~~

22:42, 17 December 2004

“ Labelling POV as such. ”

edit from:

Cortonin

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century (0.6 ± 0.2°C) [1] and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions of Carbon dioxide (CO_2) increasing the “greenhouse effect.” ~~All Climate models currently predict~~ Climate modeller William M. Connolley has stated that in the absence of changes in solar output or volcanic activity, human emission of greenhouse gases will cause temperatures to increase in the future.atmosphere and oceans.

22:45, 17 December 2004

“ Rv. Please stop playing silly games. But, to keep you happy, I’ll delete ‘credible.’ ”

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average temperature of Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Global warming theories attempt to account for the documented rise in average global temperatures since the late 19th century (0.6 ± 0.2°C) [1] and assess the extent to which the effects are due to human causes, principally emissions of Carbon dioxide (CO_2) increasing the “greenhouse effect.” All Climate models currently predict ~~Climate modeller William M. Connolley has stated~~ that in the absence of changes in solar output or volcanic activity, human emission of greenhouse gases will cause temperatures to increase in the future.atmosphere and oceans.

Theories to explain temperature change

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21:41, 14 March 2005

“ Bold experiment (reducing article size): delete all but first para and seemain. Rv if you don’t like it. ”

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Climate Models

The most recent climate models produce a good simulation of the global temperature change over the last century. Climate simulations do not unambiguously attribute the warming that occurred from approximately 1910 to 1945 to either natural variation or to anthropogenic forcing (see anthropogenic global warming). Climate models currently attribute the warming occurring from approximately 1975 to 2000 to anthropogenic causes. These conclusions depend on the accuracy of the models used and on the estimation of the external factors, such as direct and indirect solar forcing.

~~According to the IPCC, the majority of climatologists agree that important climate processes are incorrectly accounted for by the climate models but don’t think that better models would change the conclusion.~~

~~Critics point out that there are unspecified flaws in the models and unspecified external factors not taken into consideration that could change the conclusion above. Some critics say that the climate simulations are unable to fit the water vapor feedback or handle clouds. Some indirect solar effects may be very important and are not accounted for by the models (Source: The Skeptical Environmentalist). Skeptics also argue that if larger solar coupling exists than can be accounted for by direct insolation, models that don’t account for this effect’s role in past warming will attribute too much of that warming to greenhouse gases and will inevitably be biased to predict greater warming from future greenhouse gas increases.~~

21:49, 14 March 2005

“ RV. You deleted all the critical sections. If you want to reduce size, reduction has to be equal across POVs. ”

edit from:

Cortonin

Climate Models

The most recent climate models produce a good simulation of the global temperature change over the last century. Climate simulations do not unambiguously attribute the warming that occurred from approximately 1910 to 1945 to either natural variation or to anthropogenic forcing (see anthropogenic global warming). Climate models currently attribute the warming occurring from approximately 1975 to 2000 to anthropogenic causes. These conclusions depend on the accuracy of the models used and on the estimation of the external factors, such as direct and indirect solar forcing.

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23:37, 13 January 2005

“ Tone it down a bit. This is all from a TV program, remember, which is always a dubious source for anything. ”

edit from:

William M. Connolley

The relation between global warming and global dimming

Some scientists now consider that the effects of the recently recognized phenomena of global dimming (the reduction in sunlight reaching the surface of the planet, possibly due to ~~particulates in clouds~~ aerosols) may have masked some of the effect of global warming. If this is so, ~~resolving global dimming may have a major and previously unpredicted impact on temperatures and sea levels~~ the indirect aerosol effect is stronger than previously believed, which would imply that the climate sensitivity to CO_2 is also stronger.

Understanding of global dimming is at an early stage, and the implications are not clear. Initial work to incorporate the effects of global dimming suggests that world temperatures may rise by 2°C by 2030, and as much as 10°C ~~be~~ by 2100; this is a doubling of the widely accepted figure of a 5 degree rise in global temperature this Century. ~~If this were to be so, such large increases would lead to the melting of the Greenland icecap, major reductions in the extent of tropical rainforests, and significant rises in sea levels.~~

21:00, 24 August 2003

*“ Delete ‘cooling of particulates’ — makes no sense; add what IPCC say.; remove biased summary of IPCC since I’ve added what they *do* say ”*

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Climate models

Critics point out that there are flaws in the models and external factors not taken into consideration that could change the conclusion above (which are these?). Some critics (who?) say that the climate simulations are unable to ~~model the cooling effects of the particles, fitting~~ fit the water vapor feedback, and ~~handling~~ handle clouds. Critics also point out that the sun may have a share of responsibility for the observed global warming greater than now thought by the majority of the scientific community. Some indirect solar effects may be very important and are not accounted for by the models. So, they argue, the share of global warming caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gases may be lower than thought. (Source: The Skeptical Environmentalist)

The IPCC ~~science working group agrees with the first two statements above, that there are flaws in the models and they have problems with major effects. The climate system was also not well understood, thus it was possible to make major advancements, but more complexities have been found so simulations still are not more precise. (Source: IPCC TAR “The Scientific Basis”, Executive Summary[12])~~ ~~The IPCC summaries omit this information:~~ see IPCC TAR Summary Conflict says Complex physically-based climate models are required to provide detailed estimates of feedbacks and of regional features. Such models cannot yet simulate all aspects of climate (e.g., they still cannot account fully for the observed trend in the surface-troposphere temperature difference since 1979) and there are particular uncertainties associated with clouds and their interaction with radiation and aerosols. Nevertheless, confidence in the ability of these models to provide useful projections of future climate has improved due to their demonstrated performance on a range of space and time-scales [12].

04:49, 25 August 2003

“ Reverted unsupported change ”

edit from:

SEWilco

Climate models

Critics point out that there are flaws in the models and external factors not taken into consideration that could change the conclusion above (which are these?). Some critics ~~(who?)~~ say that the climate simulations are unable to model the cooling effects of the particles, fitting ~~fit~~ the water vapor feedback, and handling ~~handle~~ clouds. Critics also point out that the sun may have a share of responsibility for the observed global warming greater than now thought by the majority of the scientific community. Some indirect solar effects may be very important and are not accounted for by the models. So, they argue, the share of global warming caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gases may be lower than thought. (Source: The Skeptical Environmentalist)

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20:03, 25 August 2003

“ Revert. Shall we call in the moderators? ”

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Climate models

Critics point out that there are flaws in the models and external factors not taken into consideration that could change the conclusion above (which are these?). Some critics (who?) say that the climate simulations are unable to ~~model the cooling effects of the particles, fitting~~ fit the water vapor feedback, and ~~handling~~ handle clouds. Critics also point out that the sun may have a share of responsibility for the observed global warming greater than now thought by the majority of the scientific community. Some indirect solar effects may be very important and are not accounted for by the models. So, they argue, the share of global warming caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gases may be lower than thought. (Source: The Skeptical Environmentalist)

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