

global warming.^[227]

change

have found that the public's
in the **wording choice** used

Preface

Wording Choice is 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 issues of neutrality in the rhetoric of a developing article.

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.

Wording Choice is a curated set of edits from Wikipedia history regarding language used on the “Global warming” page. 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 from 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

14 January 2002

*“ This is no place
for debate or hyperbole.
We need to be encyclope-
dic. 90% certain?
What is that? ”*

Digby Dalton

20:29, 11 January 2002

“ Sorry, Ed. Get some real figures please. I checked the SEPP source. Much talk, not too much substance. Claims not proved which could be easily proved. ”

edit from:

Hannes Hirzel

Global Warming

The main evidence for global warming comes from thermometer measurements from land stations all over the world since 1860. ~~According to one source, the~~ The data, corrected for the [urban heat island effect](#), shows that the average surface temperature has increased by 0.6 ± 0.2 C during the 20th century. Most of the warming occurred during two periods: 1910 to 1945 and 1976 to 2000. (Source: IPCC)

~~Another source says disagrees, saying that well-controlled surface thermometer data for the United States show no warming trend since about 1940, once “urban heat island” effects are removed. Furthermore, proxy temperatures, as deduced from tree rings, ice cores, etc., show no perceptible warming trend in the past 60 years.~~
(Source: SEPP)

23:43, 10 January 2002

“issue is not ‘settled’ — rather, some groups CLAIM it is settled (also changed ‘scientific’ and ‘political’ references to ‘favors’ and ‘opposed’ ”

edit from:

Ed Poor

Global Warming

~~“Global warming” is a world-wide climatic phenomenon—the average global surface temperature increased over the last 150 years.~~ According to the **global warming** theory, the earth’s atmosphere is gradually becoming too hot, due to man-made causes. Scientists are divided on whether this is actually so, although some political groups insist that “the science is settled.”

~~Scientific Discussion~~ Arguments in favor of global warming

Many land-based thermometer readings in computerized databases show a warming trend since 1940. Extrapolating this trend for the next hundred years shows an alarming rise.

~~Political Discussion~~ Arguments against global warming

Thermometer readings from land-based weather stations show warming more warming the closer they are to cities. This is called the **urban heat-island effect**. Weather balloons and weather satellites show that the atmosphere is not warming at all.

18:04, 11 January 2002

“Note on terminology”

edit from:

Ed Poor

Global Warming

According to the “**global warming**” theory, the earth’s atmosphere is gradually becoming too hot, due to man-made causes. Scientists are divided on whether this is actually so, although some political groups insist that “the science is settled.”

Note on terminology

The terms global warming and global warming theory are often used interchangeably, which can cause confusion, especially in a sentence such as, “Global warming is a fact.” To avoid taking sides in this controversy, this article uses global warming in the sense of a rise in the average temperature of the earth’s atmosphere; and global warming theory to describe claims that global warming is occurring, that it is harmful, and that it is anthropogenic (caused by people).

Arguments in favor of global warming

Many land-based thermometer readings in computerized databases show a warming trend since 1940. Extrapolating this trend for the next hundred years shows an alarming rise.

Arguments against global warming

Thermometer readings from land-based weather stations show warming more warming the closer they are to cities. This is called the urban heat-island effect. Weather balloons and weather satellites show that the atmosphere is not warming at all.

18:24, 11 January 2002

*“ Reverted to version
81; see /talk ”*

edit from:

Hannes Hirzel

Global Warming

~~According to the “global warming” theory, the earth’s atmosphere is gradually becoming too hot, due to man-made causes. Scientists are divided on whether this is actually so, although some political groups insist that “the science is settled.”~~

Global warming is a world-wide climatic phenomenon—the average global surface temperature increased over the last 150 years.

Whether this increase is significant or not is subject to debate. Natural and anthropogenic (man-made) causes were proposed to explain the phenomenon.

Scientists generally believe that increased concentrations of anthropogenic **greenhouse gases** in the **atmosphere**, which causes more of the energy radiated from the **Sun** to be absorbed by the **Earth** (through the **greenhouse effect**), play an important role in global warming.

Note on terminology

~~The terms global warming and global warming theory are often used interchangeably, which can cause confusion, especially in a sentence such as, “Global warming is a fact.” To avoid taking sides in this controversy, this article uses global warming in the sense of a rise in the average temperature of the earth’s atmosphere, and global warming theory to describe claims that global warming is occurring, that it is harmful, and that it is anthropogenic (caused by people).~~

Arguments in favor of global warming

~~Many land-based thermometer readings in computerized databases show a warming trend since 1940. Extrapolating this trend for the next hundred years shows an alarming rise.~~

Arguments against global warming

~~Thermometer readings from land-based weather stations show warming more warming the closer they are to cities. This is called the urban heat-island effect. Weather balloons and weather satellites show that the atmosphere is not warming at all.~~

18:27, 11 January 2002

*“ Note on terminology; inserted
several to-do items into the
body of the text ”*

edit from:

Ed Poor

Global Warming

~~Global warming is a world-wide climatic phenomenon—the average global surface temperature increased over the last 150 years.~~

According to the **global warming theory**, the earth's atmosphere is gradually becoming too hot, due to man-made causes. Scientists are divided on whether this is actually so, although some political groups insist that “the science is settled.”

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Arguments in favor of global warming

Many land-based thermometer readings in computerized databases show a warming trend since 1940. Extrapolating this trend for the next hundred years shows an alarming rise.

Arguments against global warming

Thermometer readings from land-based weather stations show warming in proportion to their proximity to cities. This is called the urban heat-island effect. Weather balloons and weather satellites show that the atmosphere is not warming at all.

18:38, 11 January 2002

“rv 81”

edit from:

Hannes Hirzel

Global Warming

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10:08, 15 January 2002

“ Changed SEPP link to reference within the article; made SEPP position sentence more neutral. ”

edit from:

Hannes Hirzel

Global Warming

Some scientists dispute the arguments of the IPCC report, on the grounds that the corrected data as well as satellite and weather balloon data disprove the IPCC thesis (see SEPP below). ~~But people~~ People who favor the global warming view ~~routinely censor these objections, claiming them~~ claim SEPP to be politically biased.

Secondary evidence comes from observed variations on the snow cover and ice extent, global average sea level, precipitation, cloud cover, El Nino and extreme weather events during the 20th century. For example, satellite data shows a 10% decrease of snow cover since the late 1960s.

08:39, 1 March 2002

*“Added weather balloon data
and other problems with IPCC
predictions; some copy-editing;
generally removed advocacy of
catastrophe hypothesis ”*

edit from:

Ed Poor

Global Warming

Climate Models

Climate simulations show that warming occurring from 1910 to 1945 can be explained by internal and natural forcing (variation in solar radiation) only, but proponents claim that warming occurring from 1976 to 2000 needs anthropogenic greenhouse gases emissions to be explained. ~~The majority of the scientific community is now convinced that a significant proportion of observed global warming is caused by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. (Source: IPCC)~~

Predicted Effects

Due to potential effects on human health, economy and the environment, global warming is the cause of great concern. Some important environmental changes have been observed and were linked to global warming.

09:15, 24 June 2002

*“ link global warming
hypothesis (Axel, the term
is actually in use) ”*

edit from:

Ed Poor

Global Warming

Global warming is an increase over time of the average [temperature](#) of the [earth's atmosphere](#). As a public policy issue, global warming means such an increase leading to a worldwide harm to the [environment](#) and damage to [agriculture](#) (see [global warming hypothesis](#)). When global warming is attributed to man-made causes, it is called [anthropogenic global warming](#).

Historical warming periods

[Climate](#) scientists agree that the earth has undergone several cycles of global warming and global cooling in the last 20 thousand years. The earth's temperature has fluctuated throughout history by about 3 degrees [Celsius](#) (5 degrees [Fahrenheit](#)). For example, about 300 years ago, the Earth was experiencing the [Little Ice Age](#) after descending into this relatively cool period from a warm interval about 1,000 years ago known as the [Medieval Warm Period](#).

20:02, 24 January 2003

*“specialists should come before
non-specialists”*

edit from:

Graft

Global Warming

Global warming is the projected increase over time of the [average temperature](#) of [Earth's atmosphere](#) and [oceans](#), held to result in worldwide harm to the [environment](#) and damage to [agriculture](#).

~~The belief that global warming is caused chiefly by emissions of [carbon dioxide](#) and other other “[greenhouse gases](#)” is promoted by environmentalist organizations and supported by most Western journalists. Some politicians, such as [Tim Wirth](#), have admitted ulterior motives for using the global warming issue.~~

The proportion of scientists who support or oppose any of the various global warming theories is a matter of controversy in its own right. Environmentalists and their allies claim virtually unanimous support for the global warming theory from the scientific community. Opponents maintain that it's the other way around, claiming that the overwhelming majority of scientists either dismiss global warming altogether or merely consider it “unproven” (see [global warming scepticism](#)).

The belief that global warming is caused chiefly by emissions of [carbon dioxide](#) and other other “[greenhouse gases](#)” is promoted by environmentalist organizations and supported by most Western journalists. Some politicians, such as [Tim Wirth](#), have admitted ulterior motives for using the global warming issue.

00:19, 1 February 2003

*“ some rephrasing of first parts,
please check for npov ”*

edit from:

Eloquence

Global Warming

Global warming is the observed increase over time of the [average temperature](#) of [Earth's atmosphere](#) and [oceans](#). ~~It~~ The increase itself is ~~somewhat~~ disputed ~~as-~~
~~a phenomenon~~ only by a small minority of scientists and by a considerably larger political faction in the US -- see 'Historical temperature record' and 'Evidence against a warming period' below. The theory that the ~~human-release~~ [emission](#) of various greenhouse gases is connected with the observed heating of the Earth's atmosphere in the 20th century — while politically contentious — has steadily gained adherents in the scientific community within the past 15 years, to the extent that the [US Academy of Sciences](#) (and many other national scientific bodies around the world) ~~has~~ [have](#) strongly endorsed it.

11:46, 7 February 2003

*“ Change ‘reflect’ to ‘re-radiate’
in desc of GHG; re-word ‘last
420,000’. Some of this should
go into a separate GHG page. ”*

edit from:

William M. Connolley

Global Warming

Automobile exhausts, coal-burning power plants, factory smokestacks, and other waste vents of the industrial age now pump six billion tons of carbon dioxide and other [[greenhouse gases]] into the earth's atmosphere each year. They are called greenhouse gases because they trap radiant energy from the sun that would otherwise be ~~reflected~~ re-radiated back into space. The fact that a natural greenhouse effect occurs is well-known and is not debated. ~~Without it, in fact,~~ It is estimated that without it, temperatures would drop ~~so low that~~ by approximately 30 ° C, the oceans would freeze and life as we know it would be impossible. What climatologists are concerned about, however, is that increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are causing more heat to be trapped. Concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are currently at approximately 25% above pre-industrial values. This is considerably higher than at any time during the last ~~their highest level~~ in 420,000 years, the period for which reliable data exists, from ice cores. From less direct geological evidence it is believed that values this high were last attained 40 million years ago.

13:20, 15 July 2004

“A bit redundant, but it’s a segue from layman’s terms to harder-to-understand scientific language. Also, ‘effects’ changed to ‘possible effects’ because the GW theory hasn’t been proven ”

edit from:

Ed Poor

Global Warming

The term **global warming** usually refers to the view that the world’s average temperature has been increasing since the [Industrial Revolution](#), due to “pollution” from [carbon dioxide](#) and similar “[greenhouse gases](#)”. The term has also been used to refer to other increases in average atmospheric temperature ~~believed to~~ [which](#) have occurred in history . ~~Scientists universally agree that, until the twentieth century, every period of global warming has been followed by a period of global cooling and that for all of human history the average yearly temperature has remained within a range of a few degrees (Centigrade).~~ , regardless of cause.

[Scientists universally agree that, until the twentieth century, every period of global warming has been followed by a period of global cooling and that for all of human history the average yearly temperature has remained within a range of a few degrees \(Centigrade\).](#)

[a](#) A stricter definition of global warming favored by scientists is “an increase over time of the [average temperature](#) of [Earth’s atmosphere](#) and [oceans](#).” In this sense, the term is generally used to describe [both](#) the temperature rise over the past century or so, and the [possible](#) effects of human activity on the temperature.

13:20, 15 July 2004

*“redunzel, redunzel,
let down your hair”*

edit from:

Raymond Arritt

Related Climatic Issues

A variety of issues are often raised in relation to global warming. One is [ocean acidification](#). ~~the ongoing decrease in the pH of the Earth's oceans~~. Increased atmospheric CO₂ increases the amount of CO₂ dissolved in the oceans. CO₂ dissolved in the ocean reacts with water to form [carbonic acid](#) resulting in acidification. Ocean surface pH is estimated to have decreased from approximately 8.25 to 8.14 since the beginning of the industrial era,^[64] and it is estimated that it will drop by a further 0.14 to 0.5 units by 2100 as the ocean absorbs more CO₂.^{[1][65]} Since organisms and ecosystems are adapted to a narrow range of pH, this raises [extinction](#) concerns, directly driven by increased atmospheric CO₂, that could disrupt food webs and impact human societies that depend on marine ecosystem services.^[66]

21:38, 8 July 2007

*“ let’s stop playing cutesy.
description now taken from the
article itself. hows that for a fair
compromise? ”*

edit from:

Anastrophe

External Links

- [IPS Inter Press Service](#) — Independent news on global warming and its consequences.
- [Indonesia Counts Its Islands Before It Is Too Late](#)
- World Environment Day 2007 “Melting Ice” image gallery at The Guardian
Climate Counts - corporate watchdog
- [An Inconvenient Truth](#) - documentary film about current climate change presented by Al Gore
- [The Great Global Warming Swindle](#) - ~~polemic Controversial~~ documentary film ~~sug-~~
~~gesting~~ which argues against the scientific opinion that ~~climate scientists have got it~~
~~all wrong~~ human activity is the main cause of global warming.

05:03, 27 September 2007

“ Don’t say ‘many’. Don’t say ‘few’. Both are opinions on the number. Use a number or just say that they exist. Then let reader decide. ”

edit from:

Blue Tie

Global Warming

The measured global average air temperature near the Earth’s surface rose 0.74 ± 0.18 °C (1.33 ± 0.32 °F) during the last 100 years. The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) concludes, “most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in [anthropogenic](#) greenhouse gas concentrations”^[1] via the [greenhouse effect](#). Natural phenomena such as [solar variation](#) combined with [volcanoes](#) probably had a small warming effect from pre-industrial times to 1950 and a small cooling effect from 1950 onward.^{[2][3]} These basic conclusions have been endorsed by at least 30 [scientific societies and academies of science](#), including all of the national academies of science of the [major industrialized countries](#). However, [a few there are individual scientists who](#) disagree with some of the main conclusions of the IPCC.^[4]

05:14, 26 December 2007

“ removed weasel words ”

edit from:

Jeff dowter

Causes

The Earth's climate changes in response to external forcing, including variations in its orbit around the sun ([orbital forcing](#)),^{[7][8][9]} volcanic eruptions, and atmospheric [greenhouse gas](#) concentrations. The detailed [causes of the recent warming](#) remain an active field of research, but the [scientific consensus](#)^{[10][11]} identifies elevated levels of greenhouse gases due to human activity as the main influence. This attribution is clearest for the most recent 50 years, for which the most detailed data are available. Some other hypotheses departing from the consensus view have been suggested to explain the observed increase in mean global temperature. One such hypothesis ~~proposes that~~ [indicates](#) warming ~~may be~~ [is](#) the result of variations in solar activity.^{[12][13][14]}

22:56, 28 December 2007

*“ removed weasel words
‘some benefits’ ”*

edit from:

Unnatural gas

Attributed and Expected Effects

Increasing deaths, displacements, and economic losses projected due to [extreme weather](#) attributed to global warming may be exacerbated by growing population densities in affected areas, although temperate regions are projected to experience ~~some minor~~ benefits, such as fewer deaths due to cold exposure.^[60] A summary of probable effects and recent understanding can be found in the report made for the [IPCC Third Assessment Report](#) by Working Group II.^[58]

22:56, 28 December 2007

*“ not weasel words, they are
from the sources ”*

edit from:

Brusegadi

Attributed and Expected Effects

Increasing deaths, displacements, and economic losses projected due to [extreme weather](#) attributed to global warming may be exacerbated by growing population densities in affected areas, although temperate regions are projected to experience [some minor](#) benefits, such as fewer deaths due to cold exposure.^[60] A summary of probable effects and recent understanding can be found in the report made for the [IPCC Third Assessment Report](#) by Working Group II.^[58]