



This is the print version of the [Skeptical Science](http://sks.to/warming) article '[It's not happening](http://sks.to/warming)', which can be found at <http://sks.to/warming>.

Evidence for global warming

What The Science Says:

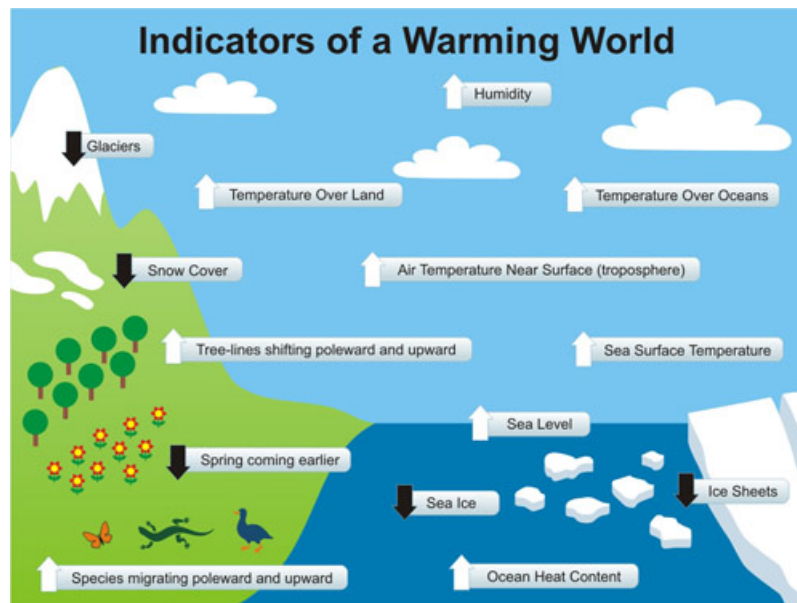
There are many lines of evidence indicating global warming is unequivocal.

Climate Myth: It's not happening

"...these global warming studies that now we're seeing (are) a bunch of snake oil science." [Sarah Palin](#)

The [2009 State of the Climate report](#) of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), released in mid-2010, brings together many different series of data "from the top of the atmosphere to the depths of the ocean". The conclusion? All of these independent lines of evidence tell us unequivocally that the Earth is warming.

The very accessible [10-page summary](#) examines the trends for 10 key climate indicators using a total of 47 different sets of data. All of the indicators expected to increase in a warming world, are in fact increasing, and all that are expected to decrease, are decreasing:



The 10 indicators are:

1. [Land surface air temperature](#) as measured by weather stations. You know all those skeptic arguments about how the temperature record is biased by the urban heat island effect, badly-sited weather stations, dropped stations, and so on? This is the only indicator which suffers from all those problems. So if you're arguing with somebody who tries to frame the discussion as being about land surface air temperature, just remind them about the other nine indicators.
2. [Sea surface temperature](#). As with land temperatures, the longest record goes back to 1850 and the last decade is warmest.
3. [Air temperature over the oceans](#).
4. [Lower troposphere temperature](#) as measured by satellites for around 50 years. By any of these measures, the 2000s was the warmest decade and each of the last three decades has been much warmer than the previous one.
5. [Ocean heat content](#), for which records go back over half a century. More than 90% of the extra heat

from global warming is going into the oceans – contributing to a rise in...

6. [Sea level](#). Tide gauge records go back to 1870, and sea level has risen at an accelerating rate.
7. [Specific humidity](#), which has risen in tandem with temperatures.
8. [Glaciers](#). 2009 was the 19th consecutive year in which there was a net loss of ice from glaciers worldwide.
9. [Northern Hemisphere snow cover](#), which has also decreased in recent decades.
10. Perhaps the most dramatic change of all has been in [Arctic sea ice](#). Satellite measurements are available back to 1979 and reliable shipping records back to 1953. September sea ice extent has shrunk by 35% since 1979.

Science isn't like a house of cards, in that removing one line of evidence (eg. land surface air temperature) wouldn't cause the whole edifice of anthropogenic global warming to collapse. Rather, "land surface warming" is one of more than ten bricks supporting "global warming"; and with global warming established, there is [a whole other set of bricks](#) supporting "anthropogenic global warming". To undermine these conclusions, you'd need to remove most or all of the bricks supporting them – but as the evidence continues to pile up, that is becoming less and less likely.

Basic rebuttal written by James Wight



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 **SkepticalScience.com**



Skeptical Science explains the science of global warming and examines climate misinformation through the lens of peer-reviewed research. The website won the Australian Museum 2011 Eureka Prize for the Advancement of Climate Change Knowledge. Members of the Skeptical Science team have authored peer-reviewed papers, a [college textbook on climate change](#) and the book [Climate Change Denial: Heads in the Sand](#). Skeptical Science content has been used in university courses, textbooks, government reports on climate change, television documentaries and numerous books.



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