

Claim: There is a 97% consensus that carbon dioxide from human activity is driving runaway climate changes

The scientific method does not involve a poll or vote by scientists (that is in the realm of politics where you vote on a law or candidate), but rather involves the validation of a theory by rigorous and unbiased application of the scientific method, no longer taught in schools where students are now taught what to think, not how to think. The theory must be specified as a falsifiable hypothesis as per the typical Alarmist Claim above. The theory is invalidated if it can be falsified in rigorous, unbiased testing.

The 97 percent claim is a convenient fiction to imply a scientific **consensus**.

Michael Crichton, PhD, MD, famous author, producer, screenwriter and lecturer often talked about claims of a consensus.

“Historically the claim of consensus is the first refuge of scoundrel; it is a way to avoid debate by claiming the matter is already settled”.
“Whenever you hear the consensus of scientists agrees on something or other, reach for your wallet, because you’re being had. Let’s be clear: the work of science has nothing whatever to do with consensus. Consensus is the business of politics.”

The fact that a VP and failed presidential candidate with a D in the only science class he ever took produced the movie An Inconvenient Truth seen by our children numerous times in schools (even in gym class) should raise eyebrows. It did in the UK where the courts ruled in order for the film to be shown that teachers must make clear that the Film is a political work and promotes only one side of the argument, and if teachers present the Film without making this plain they may be in breach of the 1996 Education Act and guilty of political indoctrination. They required the eleven most egregious inaccuracies had to be specifically drawn to the attention of school children.

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

The scientific method in science was a long-established iterative process. The scientific method starts with a theory or hypothesis. The data needed to test it and all possible factors involved are identified

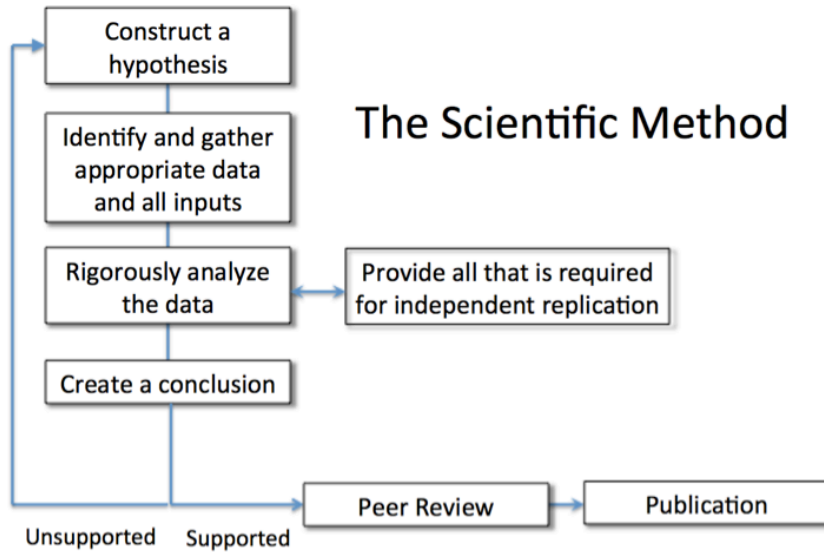
and gathered. The data is processed and the results rigorously tested. The data and methods are made available for independent replication. Reviewers for the proposed theory must have the requisite skills in the topic and in the proper statistical analysis of the data to judge its validity. If it passes the tests and replication efforts, a conclusion is made and the theory may be turned into a paper for publication. If it fails the tests, the hypothesis or theory must be rethought or modified.

Astronomer Carl Sagan, Professor and Director of Cornell University's Laboratory for Planetary Studies in a 1995 book *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* explained the scientific method and encouraged critical and skeptical thinking. He emphasized the importance of recognizing the difference between what is considered valid science and which is in reality pseudoscience.

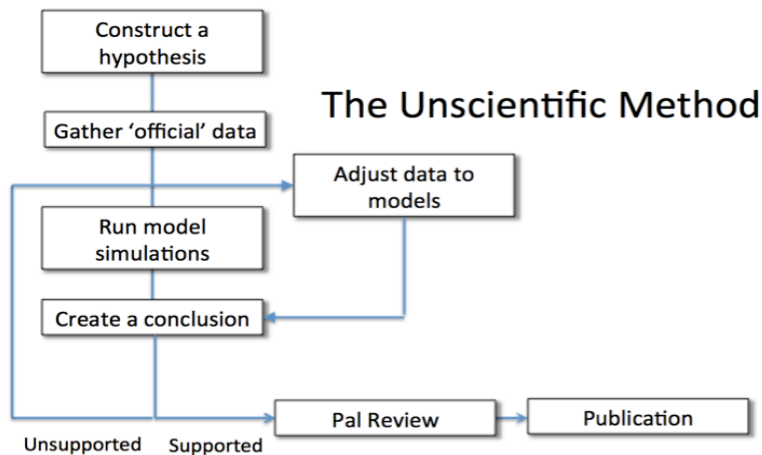
Sagan like fellow Cornell physicist/lecturer Richard Feynman argued when new ideas are offered for consideration, they should be tested by means of skeptical thinking and should stand up to rigorous questioning. Feynman lectured:

"If a theory or proposed law disagrees with experiment (or observation), it's wrong. In that simple statement is the key to science. It doesn't make any difference how beautiful your guess is, it doesn't matter how smart you are who made the guess, or what your name is.... If it disagrees with experiment, it's wrong. That's all there is to it."

Sir Karl Popper, an Austrian-British philosopher and professor is generally regarded as one of the greatest philosophers of science of the 20th century. Popper is known for his rejection of the classical inductive views on the scientific method, in favor of empirical falsification: A theory in the empirical sciences can never be proven, but it can be falsified, meaning that it can and should be scrutinized by decisive experiments. When repeated experiments are not possible then all relevant empirical data must suffice. This is the case in say Macroeconomic and Climate modeling/hypothesis testing.



The Scientific Method and the peer review process are failing due to political and economic pressures that have altered the scientific method to virtually ensure a politically correct or economically fruitful theory can never fail. When the tests fail, instead of rethinking the theory or including other factors, there is an alarming tendency to modify input data to more closely fit the theory or models.



In this Climate Modeling/hypothesis testing case, because it is largely political in its origins, very significant pressure has been applied to make it appear that the vast majority of climate scientists supported the theory and climate model -based alarmist claims.

THE 97% CONSENSUS FABRICATION

The first attempt was an online survey that was published in 2009 by Peter Doran and Maggie Kendall Zimmerman from the University of Illinois. The survey was sent to 10,257 scientists to, which 3,146 scientists responded to.

There were two primary questions in the survey. The first “When compared to pre-1800 levels, do you think mean global temperatures have generally risen, fallen, or remained relatively constant?”

Based on Tree and Ice Core data, history has recorded a prolonged global cold era know as “The Little Ice Age” that lasted from about 1400 to 1850 AD. Since that time the Earth’s temperature has risen. I know of no meteorologist, climatologist or anyone involved in the study of the earth’s temperature, who would argue this point.

Question number two asked: “Do you think human activity is a significant contributing factor in changing mean global temperatures?”

What constitutes “human activity”? The burning of fossil fuels to make energy is one. The changing of land surfaces to make cities, farmland and deforestation is “human activity” that can change temperature as well. Changing mean temperature can be accomplished by changing the environment around a climate recording station. This is also “human activity”. As rural climate recording stations are gradually surrounded by urban sprawl and eventually larger buildings and infrastructure, the temperature of the site will warm due to the “Urban Heat Island (UHI)” effect.

The results from the survey do not address the variety of just what constitutes “human activity”. A “yes” response to question two implies the responder is referring to fossil fuels but that is not necessarily the case. It is however, what the survey likely wanted to convey.

Question number two also does not address what the word “significant” means to each individual respondent. What constitutes “significant” can be very different from person to person.

Finally, it should be noted that it is not even possible to compute a credible measure of Global Average Surface Temperature over the period say, 1900 to date, because the requisite raw temperature data simply does not exist (e.g., for the SH oceans.)

See: <https://thsresearch.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/ef-gast-data-rr-press-release-063017.pdf>

The 97% figure from the aforementioned online survey comes from a whittling down of the accepted number of responses from 3,146 to 79. The 79 scientists are those that said they have recently published 50% of their papers in the area of climate change. Of these, 76 of 79 answered “risen” to questions one (96.2%). How this number is not 100% was a surprise. As to question two, 75 of 77 answered “yes” (97.4%).

An attempt at a more rigorous approach to confirm the 97% number followed and failed. Cook et al. (2013) attempted to categorize 11,944 abstracts [brief summaries] of papers (not entire papers) to their level of endorsement of AGW. They found 7930 (66%) held no position on AGW, while only 64 papers (0.5% of the total) explicitly endorsed humans are the primary (50%+) as the cause. This was 97% of those who explicitly identified a cause. A later analysis by [Legates et al. \(2013\)](#) found there to be only 41 papers (0.3%) that supported this definition.

Cook et al. (2013) was published in the journal Environmental Research Letters (ERL) which conveniently has multiple outspoken alarmist scientists on its [editorial board](#) (e.g. [Peter Gleick](#) and [Stefan Rahmstorf](#)) where the paper likely received substandard “[pal-review](#)” instead of the more rigorous peer-review. The paper has since been refuted five times in the scholarly literature by [Legates et al. \(2013\)](#), [Tol \(2014a\)](#), [Tol \(2014b\)](#), [Dean \(2015\)](#) and [Tol \(2016\)](#).

All the other “97% consensus” studies: e.g. [Doran & Zimmerman \(2009\)](#), [Anderegg et al. \(2010\)](#) and [Oreskes \(2004\)](#) have been refuted by peer-review.

WHAT DO SCIENTISTS REALLY THINK?

Climatology wasn't a recognized specialty or profession even at colleges into the 1970s into the early 1980s. It was mostly a small part of introductory classes on weather or in geography or geology courses. When climate change became part of an anti fossil fuel agenda and big money suddenly appeared, teachers never trained in climate suddenly became 'climate scientists.' And, Environmental Sciences emerged as a career path.

The UN, politicians, industry, the mainstream media and much of the on-line media want the general public to believe that all scientists have now seen the light, that there is a consensus.

That is not the case. Most honest scientists know so. Many are forced into silence or if they vocalize their dissent, find their careers endangered or even destroyed. Still many when past the stage of their career where they can speak the truth, do so.

There have been many polls and declarations that actually demonstrate that a very large percentage of scientists believe in climate change BUT most actually believe that natural factors are the primary driver.

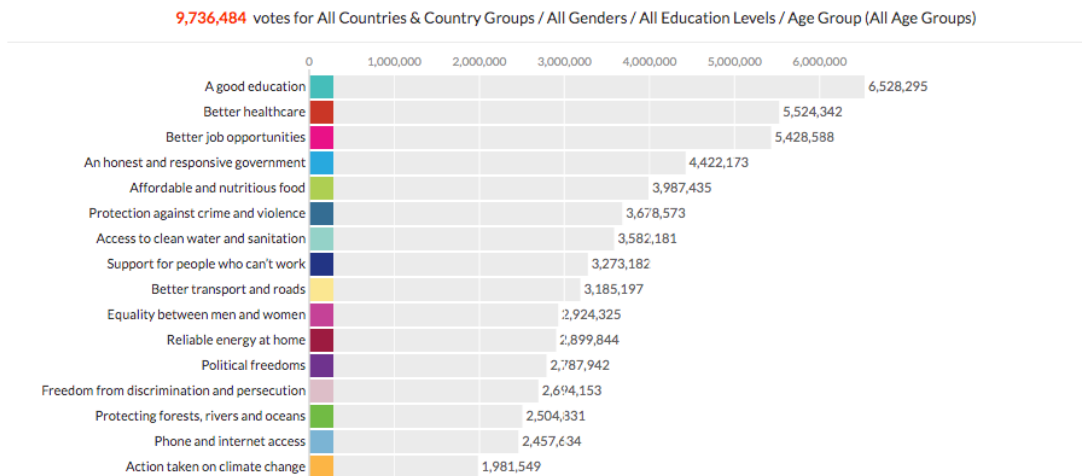
[The Oregon Petition](#) was signed by 31,487 scientists in response to the December 1997 Kyoto Protocol, including 9,029 with PhDs in their fields that states: "There is no convincing scientific evidence that the human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth".

This petition was attacked as being irrelevant because many signatories were not true climate scientists. This ignores the fact that it was only when climate change became part of an anti fossil fuel agenda and big money suddenly appeared in the last few decades, that teachers and researchers never trained in climate suddenly became 'climate scientists.'

A 2011 Scientific American [opinion poll](#) on the state of climate science provided eye-opening results cast by their “scientifically literate” readership. With a total of 5190 respondents, a consensus of 81.3% think the IPCC is “a corrupt organization, prone to group-think, with a political agenda” and 75% think climate change is caused by solar variation or natural processes vs. 21% who think it is due to greenhouse gases from human activity. 65% think we should do nothing about climate change since “we are powerless to stop it,” and the same percentage think science should stay out of politics. When asked, “How much would you be willing to pay to forestall the risk of catastrophic climate change?”, 76.7% said “nothing.” Scientific American removed the poll when pressured by environmental groups.

In a 2013 [Forbes article](#), it was reported only 36 percent of earth scientists and engineers believe that humans are creating a global warming crisis, according to a survey reported in the peer-reviewed Organization Studies. By contrast, a strong majority of the 1,077 respondents believed that nature is the primary cause of recent global warming and/or that future global warming will not be a very serious problem. The survey results show earth scientists and engineers hold similar views as meteorologists.

Even a global [UN 2015](#) my world survey received 9.7 million votes and found in prioritizing what should be focused on, action on climate change finished last.



AN UPHILL BATTLE

Climate Alarmists have the advantage of a huge 'social support' group of:

- (1) grant toting modelers and researchers
- (2) agenda driven or ratings driven journalists,
- (3) environmentalists and corporations that have realized green is their favorite color and see this as a way to keep green paper flowing into their coffers and pockets
- (4) farmers who are benefiting from the misplaced focus on alternative fuel from crops which has sent the cost for their crops to record levels,
- (5) traders and major market firms licking their chops at the prospects of big-time money from alternative energy companies that have realized this is the vector to bigger profits
- (6) politicians and political activists who see it as a way to accomplish ulterior goals about changing society and increasing their powerbase

Now, universities, professional societies and even congress has taken serious and alarming steps to eliminate (punish) doubters and public opinion. They even attack their own, who speak out. That includes formerly outspoken environmentalists like Dr. Patrick Moore, co founder of Greenpeace and [Michael Shellenberger](#), formerly Time Magazine 'Hero of the Environment' whose apology for the false scare, was published by Forbes but then forced to be removed. A team of politicians and university professors benefiting greatly from this issue even threatened (2015) to use [RICO](#) against any vocal doubters that remain and dared to speak out.

We were warned about this kind of behavior for money or power.

H.L. Mencken, famous columnist: *"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed - and hence clamorous to be led to safety - by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."* And, *"The urge to save humanity is almost always only a false face for the urge to rule it."*

Well before the climate change scare started, President Eisenhower warned in his farewell address in 1961.

“... [In] the technological revolution during recent decades... research has become central ... complex, and costly. A steadily increasing share is conducted for, by, or at the direction of, the Federal government ... the solitary inventor ... has been overshadowed by task forces of scientists in laboratories and testing fields ... the free university, historically the fountainhead of free ideas and scientific discovery, has experienced a revolution in the conduct of research. Partly because of the huge costs involved, a government contract becomes virtually a substitute for intellectual curiosity. The prospect of domination of the nation’s scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present and is gravely to be regarded.”

- President Eisenhower in his Farewell address

His words have been proven remarkably prophetic. [Here](#) are quotes from some of the leaders in that movement that exposes their true motivations and intentions. It proves this is political not scientific.

Conclusion

The 97% consensus claim is shown here to be simply a convenient fiction to bypass the scientific method and any inconvenient facts that arise to drive policies.

The Scientific Method and the Peer Review Process failed here due to political and economic pressures designed to ensure a (politically correct or economically fruitful to some) GHG theory can never fail to be validated.

NOTE: It should be noted here that every other Key Climate Alarmist Claim has also been invalidated. See:

<https://alarmistclaimresearch.wordpress.com/>

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