

Surveyor: _____

Respondent: _____

Date: _____

CLIMATE CHANGE

Opinions

- Climate alarmists are pushing a hoax. There is no global warming.
- What global warming may be happening is not a crisis. We are seeing normal variations in climate.
- Climate change is happening, but it is not primarily due to human activity.
- Climate change is a global crisis. We must dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions or our descendants face catastrophe within this century
- It is too late. We cannot prevent climate change. We need to focus on adapting to global warming and accommodating extreme weather.
- _____

Beliefs

- There is broad scientific consensus that human activity is primarily responsible for current climate change.
- It is possible to identify the type of CO2 that comes from human activity, and that type of CO2 is increasing and responsible for warming beyond what natural causes can explain.
- The rate of change is more rapid than historical climate change events
- We can see evidence of warming: glaciers melting, sea level rise, record heat and weather events (drought, floods)
- Climate change is a threat: rising sea levels, food chain species dying off
- Some members of the scientific community challenge the methods and conclusions of climate change proponents.
- To model the last century of climate change, you need both 'forcing factors' (like increased sun activity) and human factors (like industrialization)
- Current warming is within the range of temperature fluctuations over the past few thousand years
- Prior ancient warm periods in earth's history were much warmer than current global mean temperatures
- There are other causes of climate change besides greenhouse gases: ocean currents, solar forcing, urban heat islands
- Earth's climate is complex and difficult to model. There are a range of climate models and their validity can be challenged. Scientists and laypersons are cherry-picking versions of models and data
- We can solve climate change if we act in time to reduce fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions dramatically.
- We can solve climate change with new technologies: carbon sequestration and geoengineering.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

INSTRUCTIONS

For the Respondent

Review the survey. You should be able to find some statements that you agree with and check them off. Feel free to add some of your own opinions and beliefs. Perhaps add a personal note. Then, ask that the document be stored in a way that a future generation will discover it.

For the Surveyor

Find someone in your life who is part of an older generation. Don't confront them. Just work with them to capture their point of view. Archive the document in a way that someone you trust can access it in the year 2070. Storing a digital image is a fine idea, but how many of the thousands of images you have stored will ever see the light of day? Consider preserving a physical copy.

Background Information

There are many strongly held opinions about this survey topic. There is some uncertainty about how it will play out over the next few decades. Many of us will not be here to defend ourselves when future generations judge us. More importantly, how will our direct descendants remember us?

You can fill out and archive this survey for yourself. Or you can ask someone else to fill it out and archive it for them. The survey is meant to cover a wide range of beliefs about a topic without being biased. Whoever fills out the survey should be able to find a few comments that they agree with. There are blank lines for respondents to write-in their own beliefs. If respondents do not have clearly defined beliefs on this topic, then it is OK for them to take a little time and do some research.

This survey may inspire you to archive hard copy versions of documents and photos that are important to you. We all have thousands of digital files and images stored in the cloud or backup drives. It won't hurt to print and store key items from your life: birth and marriage certificates, concert tickets, family portraits, and this survey! Use acid-free paper (most ordinary copy paper will do). Keep items away from sunlight, heat, humidity – a closet is better than the attic or garage.

Call to Action

Be ready for the year 2070. We may not be there, but our adult children or grandchildren probably will be. At a family gathering, our descendants might be pulled aside by a young child. That child will ask about the olden days, back in the early 21st century, saying, "What were they thinking?" Don't let your adult descendants be caught flat-footed. Don't let them misrepresent your views – throw you under the bus – and blame you and your generation for the state of the world in 2070. Make sure your adult descendants have a record of your thoughts and beliefs. This survey is the simplest way to do that.

Good luck