**Global Warming: Is It Real?**

“It’s bitterly cold and there is a mountain of snow outside!”

The people who point to the cold weather and snowfall as proof that **global warming does not exist** do not understand **the difference between weather and climate**. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the preferred term is “**climate change**” as it reflects what is happening much better than the term “global warming.” There are other changes taking place rather than just a rise in temperature.

Canada, for example is experiencing numerous earthquakes as a result of melting polar icecaps. The release of pressure on the Earth is causing undersea landslides that trigger shifting tectonic plates. Northern Europe is expected to have increasingly colder winters. By the end of this century, it may become uninhabitable.

Climate is what is happening long term. Over the past 30 years, some parts of the country have noted a decrease in snowfall amounts and that spring seems to come earlier than it did a few decades ago. Early spring flowers that used to bloom at the end of April now bloom at the end of March. This is climate change.

Other indicators that climate change is taking place include:

* Migratory birds are now spending the winter an average of 35 miles farther north than they did 40 years ago.
* Hurricanes in the Atlantic are predicted to be more frequent with greater intensity.
* Sea levels are expected to rise as much as two inches by the end of the century. The US alone could lose as much as 10,000 acres of land.
* Stronger heat waves and melting glaciers are also indicators that the planet is undergoing climate change.
* Negative effects on human health and safety are being noted around the world.

Climate change is taking place throughout the world. It has nothing to do with local weather patterns, or temperatures that are affected more by the shifting of the Earth on its axis. Those who hold up the argument that the winter is cold and the snow fall is above average are actually displaying their misunderstanding of what is occurring.

**Climate change is very real** and having an adverse effect on the entire planet. The changes that are occurring are a direct result of human industrial activity. By the end of this century sea levels will rise and the US will lose massive amounts of land. Where will those people live who will be displaced? This is a problem that must be addressed today, not when the oceans are swallowing homes.



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