**Climate change denial (A manufactured Controversy) \***

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*This article is about alleged campaigns to undermine public confidence in [scientific opinion on climate change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_opinion_on_climate_change" \o "Scientific opinion on climate change). For dissent from the scientific consensus, see [global warming controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy" \o "Global warming controversy).*

**Climate change denial** is a set of organized attempts to downplay, deny or dismiss the [scientific consensus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_consensus" \o "Scientific consensus) on the extent of [global warming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming" \o "Global warming), its significance, and its connection to human behavior, especially for commercial or ideological reasons.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial" \l "cite_note-Routledge-1)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-klein2011-2) Typically, these attempts take the rhetorical form of legitimate scientific debate, while not adhering to the actual principles of that debate.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial" \l "cite_note-definition-3) [Climate change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change) denial has been associated with the [energy lobby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_lobby" \o "Energy lobby), industry advocates and [free market](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_market" \o "Free market) [think tanks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Think_tank), often in the United States.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial" \l "cite_note-G1-4)[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-G2-5)[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-Gelbspan-6)[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-Michaels-7)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-Hoggan-8) Some commentators describe climate change denial as a particular form of [denialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denialism" \o "Denialism).[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-Newsweek-9)[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-NewsweekTimeline-10)[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-denial_ind_guardian-11)[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-goodman-12)[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-Christoff-13)[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-ConnellyHarm-14)

Peter Christoff, writing in *[The Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Age" \o "The Age)* (2007), said that climate change denial differs from [skepticism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skepticism" \o "Skepticism), which is essential for good science. He went on to say that "almost two decades after the issue became one of global concern, the 'big' debate over climate change is over. There are now no credible scientific skeptics challenging the underlying [scientific theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_theory" \o "Scientific theory), or the broad projections, of climate change."[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial" \l "cite_note-Christoff-13) The relationships between industry-funded denial and public climate change skepticism have at times been compared to earlier efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine what is now widely accepted scientific evidence relating to the dangers of secondhand smoke, or even linked as a direct continuation of these earlier financial relationships.[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial" \l "cite_note-merchants_of_doubt-15) Aside from private industry groups, climate change denial has also been alleged regarding the statements of elected officials.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial" \l "cite_note-Monbiot_royal_flush-16)

Scientists (notably [climatologists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climatology" \o "Climatology)) [have reached scientific consensus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_opinion_on_climate_change) that global warming is occurring and is mainly due to [human activity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_impact_on_the_environment" \o "Human impact on the environment).[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-The_MIT_Press-17) However, [political](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_global_warming" \o "Politics of global warming) and [public debate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy" \o "Global warming controversy) continues regarding the reality and extent of global warming and the [economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics_of_global_warming" \o "Economics of global warming) of possible responses. Numerous authors, including several scholars, say that some conservative think tanks, corporations and business groups have engaged in deliberate denial of the science of climate change since the 1990s.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial" \l "cite_note-Michaels-7)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-Hoggan-8)[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-merchants_of_doubt-15)[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-requiem-18)[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-19)[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-20)[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-21) On the other hand, some commentators have criticized the phrase as an attempt to delegitimize skeptical views and portray them as immoral.[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial" \l "cite_note-22)[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-NewsweekSimplicities-23)[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial#cite_note-prager-24)

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**Global warming controversy**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **global warming controversy** concerns the debate over the existence of [global warming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming), its causes and [effects](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effects_of_global_warming), and what (if any) actions should be taken. In the [scientific literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_literature), there is a [strong consensus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_opinion_on_climate_change) that global surface temperatures have increased in recent decades and that the trend is caused primarily by human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy#cite_note-OreskesBeyondTheIvoryTower-2)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy#cite_note-AmericasClimateChoices-2010-SciPanel-3)[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy#cite_note-USNAS-2008-ClimateChoices-4) No scientific body of national or international standing [disagrees with this view](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_opinion_on_climate_change#Statements_by_dissenting_organizations),[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy#cite_note-AQAonAAPG-5) though a few organizations hold [non-committal positions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_opinion_on_climate_change#Non-committal_statements).[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy#cite_note-The_MIT_Press-6) Disputes over the key scientific facts of global warming are now more prevalent in the [popular media](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_coverage_of_climate_change) than in the scientific literature, where such issues are treated as resolved, and more in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) than [globally](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World).[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy#cite_note-7)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy#cite_note-merchants_doubt-8)[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_controversy#cite_note-9)

Primary issues concerning the existence and cause of climate change include the reasons for the increase in [global average air temperature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instrumental_temperature_record), whether the warming trend is unprecedented or within normal climatic variations, whether [humankind has contributed significantly to it](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attribution_of_recent_climate_change), and whether the increase is wholly or partially an artifact of poor measurements. Scientists have resolved many of these questions decisively in favour of the view that the warming trend is unprecedented, that human activity is the primary cause and that it has been accurately measured. Additional disputes have concerned estimates of [climate sensitivity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_sensitivity), predictions of additional warming, and what the [consequences of global warming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effects_of_global_warming) will be. Although the primary issues are regarded in the scientific literature as settled, these additional disputes are still the subject of mainstream scientific debate.

Global warming remains an issue of widespread political debate, sometimes split along party political lines, especially in the United States. Many of the largely settled scientific issues, such as the human responsibility for global warming, remain the subject of politically motivated attempts to downplay, dismiss or deny them – a phenomenon widely known as [climate change denial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial). The sources of funding for those involved with climate science – both supporting and [opposing mainstream scientific positions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_scientists_opposing_the_mainstream_scientific_assessment_of_global_warming) – have been questioned by both sides. There are debates about the best [policy responses to the science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_mitigation), their cost-effectiveness and their urgency. Climate scientists, especially in the US, have reported [official and oil-industry pressure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politicization_of_science#Global_warming) to [censor or suppress their work](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial) and hide scientific data, with directives not to discuss the subject in public communications. Legal cases regarding global warming, its effects, and measures to reduce it, have reached American courts. The [fossil fuels lobby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fossil_fuels_lobby), oil industry advocates and [free market](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_market) [think tanks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Think_tank) have often been accused of overtly or covertly supporting efforts to undermine or discredit the scientific consensus on global warming.

**\* Manufactured controversy**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia A **manufactured controversy**, sometimes shortened into the [portmanteau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portmanteau" \o "Portmanteau) **manufactroversy**,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Wordspy-1)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Ceccarelli-2)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-HuffPo-3) is a contrived controversy, typically motivated by [profit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Profit_%28economics%29" \o "Profit (economics)) or [ideology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ideology" \o "Ideology), designed to create public confusion concerning an issue about which there is no substantial academic dispute.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy" \l "cite_note-Wordspy-1)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Ceccarelli-2) This concept has also been referred to as **manufactured uncertainty**.[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Michaels-4)

A **manufactured controversy**, sometimes shortened into the [portmanteau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portmanteau" \o "Portmanteau) **manufactroversy**,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Wordspy-1)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Ceccarelli-2)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-HuffPo-3) is a contrived controversy, typically motivated by [profit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Profit_%28economics%29" \o "Profit (economics)) or [ideology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ideology" \o "Ideology), designed to create public confusion concerning an issue about which there is no substantial academic dispute.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy" \l "cite_note-Wordspy-1)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Ceccarelli-2) This concept has also been referred to as **manufactured uncertainty**.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Michaels-4)

## Prominent examples

Examples of controversies that have been labeled manufactured controversies:

* The [health risks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_effects_of_tobacco) of [smoking tobacco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoking_tobacco)[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Attie-5)
* [Depletion of the ozone layer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ozone_depletion)[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Attie-5)
* [Climate change denial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Ceccarelli-2)
* Development of [skin cancer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skin_cancer) from exposure to [ultraviolet radiation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultraviolet_radiation) via [sunlight](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunlight) and [tanning lamps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanning_lamp)[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Michaels_.26_Monforton-6)
* [Denial of Armenian Genocide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Genocide_denial) by the government of [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey)[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-11)
* [Denial of the Holocaust of the Jews during WWII](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocaust_denial)
* [Vaccination controversies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaccine_controversy), particularly those alleging a causative relationship between the [MMR vaccine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MMR_vaccine_controversy) or [thiomersal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thiomersal_controversy) in the development of [autism spectrum disorders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autism_spectrum_disorder).[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Hall-12)
* [AIDS denialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AIDS_denialism)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Ceccarelli-2)
* The "[Teach the Controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teach_the_Controversy)" efforts of [intelligent design](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent_design) supporters[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Ceccarelli-2)
* The [carcinogenicity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carcinogen) of [hexavalent chromium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hexavalent_chromium)[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufactured_controversy#cite_note-Michaels.2C_Monforton.2C_Lurie-10)