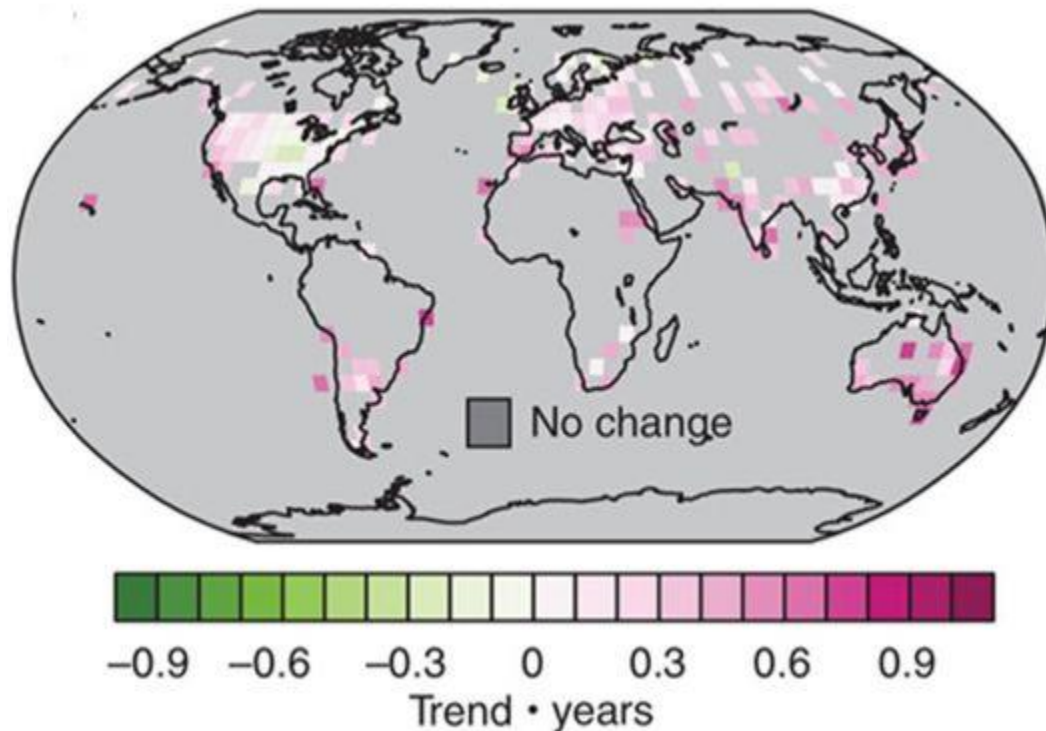


Report makes clear we must act now on climate change

Gill M. Sorg Published 8:19 p.m. MT Dec. 1, 2018



(Photo: Diffenbaugh Lab)
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I have been interested in global warming, better called climate change, since the 1980s. That was when NASA's Goddard Scientist, James Hansen, warned Congress about the effects of increasing carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere.

He explained that global temperatures were rising, continuing to rise as more CO₂ is added through burning of fossil fuels, coal, oil and natural gas. You see, CO₂ acts like a blanket around the Earth, letting sunlight energy in but holding heat energy from escaping to space. It was so alarming that numerous conferences, councils and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were formed in the '90s by the United Nations to study it in detail. Since then, each time reports, from both the IPCC and our own federal government agencies, have been released the results have become more and more grave.

Now, the 13 federal governmental agencies have released a report (4th Global Climate Change Assessment) that has the most alarming warnings, shrinking the economy and kill thousands. Releasing it on Black Friday, less people would have seen it. But the new

federal report finds that climate change is affecting the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, and human health and welfare across the U.S. and its territories.

Without substantial and sustained global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and regional initiatives to prepare for anticipated changes, climate change is expected to cause growing losses to American infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century.

One of the reasons I decided to run for office in 2009 was because the City Council was already beginning to address the issue with the new Sustainability Office and plan proposed and championed by then-City Councilor Nathan Small, now a state representative. I knew the city had a good start and I wanted to carry it through.

Now, with the 4th U.S. assessment on climate change released on Friday, Nov. 23, we see we must step up our efforts to curb climate change. Local and state governments must shoulder the efforts. The city passed a resolution last spring setting the goals of using 25 percent of the city's energy from renewable sources; 50 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050. It's not too ambitious of a goal; it mirrors the recommendations by the IPCC, the federal government assessments and others (California for example).

Not only would we have solar PV facilities supplying the electrical energy that the city uses, but the necessary solar to have an all-electric fleet by 2050, eliminating the gas and oil we use. We are on our way to that goal, with five new electric busses for Roadrunner in the next two years and beginning to use electric cars soon.

To extend the goal to the whole city, we would have to find a way to wean ourselves (including city government) off natural gas in our homes and businesses, but we have 25 or more years to find a way. We know we will have hotter summers and less water in the future, putting our agriculture in jeopardy.

The city of Las Cruces cannot make the goals by ourselves. We will need the state government to pass enabling legislature to achieve them. I will push to have that legislation a high priority for the city and all of New Mexico. We can be thankful that our state elected the people that are champions of such legislation.

Gill M. Sorg is mayor pro tem of Las Cruces.



David McGruer

I recommend that the Mayor pro-tem read what scientists are actually finding rather than referring to political documents. See *Climate Change Reconsidered* for a review of the science literature explaining how ALL the claims of man made climate doom are false, exaggerated or misleading. Thousands of studies show nothing unnatural is happening in our climate that we should fear. Don't take my word for it, do the thinking and reading yourself, it is not hard to find.

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Robert Endlich

If The Commissioners are so interested in saving the combustion of fossil fuels, why don't they synchronize the traffic signals, and late at night, turn the traffic signals off and revert to signs? It would save us a lot of wasted fuel waiting for poorly synchronized traffic signals. The reason why it is now called "climate change," instead of global warming is because after the great El Nino of 1998, global temperatures stopped rising despite the increasing amounts of CO2 in the air. You can see the actual data here:

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

Notice that the temperatures have been falling since the large El Nino of 2015-16, and the current greenhouse (lower troposphere) temperatures are about what they were 20 years ago.

The all-electric fleet that Sorg mentions gets its energy mostly from fossil fuels. New generators put on line by El Paso Electric turns natural gas, a fossil fuel, into electricity, read all about it here:

<https://www.epelectric.com/.../epe-announces-operation-of...> and

<https://www.epelectric.com/.../new-generation-project-at...>

but electric busses are probably better than the dirty diesel-powered busses of the past.

Now, if they don't duplicate the bus mess in Albuquerque, <https://www.abqjournal.com/.../abq-rejecting-all-byd-art...>

and <https://www.abqjournal.com/.../art-buses-head-back-to...>

This is another ignorant piece on this subject by Commissioner Sorg and USA Today, the Sun-News parent organization, because it is based on anti-free market propaganda, not facts, measurements, observations and data.

Commissioner Sorg has not bothered to look at measurements, so I will cite some more for him; the data plainly contradict Sorg's statements.

About hotter summers, you can see that in rural stations in New Mexico, the hottest temperatures were in the dust bowl years or earlier, if you look at the data from the Western Regional Climate Center, <https://casf.me/climate-shorts/>

climate short 8, "Examining the hypothesis..."

The wettest period in the past 2000 years in New Mexico was the 1980s and 1990s, concurrent with the Pacific Decadal Oscillation Warm period of that time; the data were analyzed by the Tree Ring Laboratory of the University of Arizona and published in the New York

Times, <https://archive.nytimes.com/.../12drought-horizch.html>

Rainfall at Jornada Range have been increasing during the period of time that records have been kept, over 100 years: <https://jornada.nmsu.edu/.../usda-noaa-nws-monthly...>

, then click on the "download data" button.

Despite all the clamor over rising temperatures, the US Climate Research Network station at Jornada Range has fallen 3F during the period 2007-2016; the data are

here: https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/.../CRNM0102-NM_Las_Cruces_20...

If you want to see the data plotted, I have the graphs in my presentation on line

here: <https://casf.me/casf-monthly-meeting-presentations/>

, and click on the June 2018 presentation, slides 127, 129 and 130.

I discussed the 60-year cycle of plentiful precipitation and drought, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, in this column,

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/.../drop-elephant.../1665119002/>

Gil Sorg, politician, quoting political documents.

Bob Endlich, Meteorologist since 1964, quoting actual measurements.

Believe who you want, people, but the data say vastly different stories from what your political “leaders” are saying.

ROBERT W. ENDLICH