

# DOGE and Climate Change

---

What's Really Happening  
at EPA and NOAA, and  
Why it Matters



# Meet the Speakers



**Kyla Bennett, PhD**

*Director of Science Policy  
Public Employees for Environmental  
Responsibility (PEER)*



**Monica Medina, JD**

*Former Principal Deputy Undersecretary  
of Commerce for Oceans and  
Atmosphere  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration (NOAA)*



**David Cash, PhD**

*Former Region 1 Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

# Agenda

4:05 – 4:18

**The Reality of Climate Change**

**Q&A**

4:20 – 4:33

**What the Gutting of NOAA Really Means**

**Q&A**

4:35 – 4:48

**Climate Crisis, Constitutional Crisis and the EPA**

**Q&A**

4:50 – 4:55

**Panel Discussion - What Actions Can Viewers Take?**

4:55-5:15

**Moderated Q&A**

# The Reality of Climate Change Under Trump/DOGE



**Kyla Bennett, PhD**

*Director of Science Policy*

*Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)*

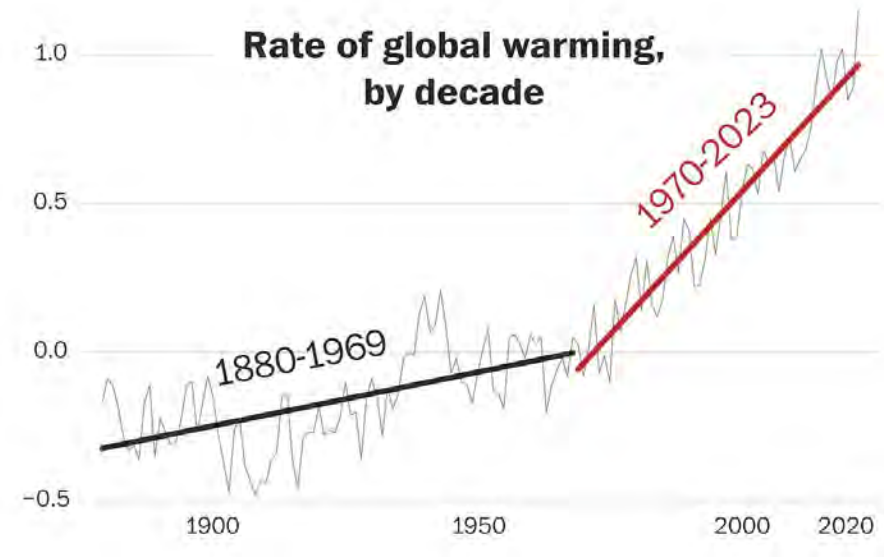
# Highest-Ever Mauna Loa\* CO<sub>2</sub> Levels

in recorded human history  
(and millions of years before that)

Averages	NOAA MLO	Scripps MLO
		
Daily CO <sub>2</sub>	430.60 ppm Mar 7 2025 NOAA Daily	428.63 ppm Apr 26 2024 <a href="#">Twitter</a>
Weekly CO <sub>2</sub>	427.94 ppm Apr 21 -27 2024 <a href="#">data</a>	TBD** <a href="#">data</a>
Monthly CO <sub>2</sub>	426.91 ppm Jun 2024 <a href="#">data</a>	425.22 ppm** Mar 2024 <a href="#">data</a>
Yearly CO <sub>2</sub>	418.56 ppm 2022	416.45 ppm 2021

# Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is higher now than at any time in the past 200,000 years of human history

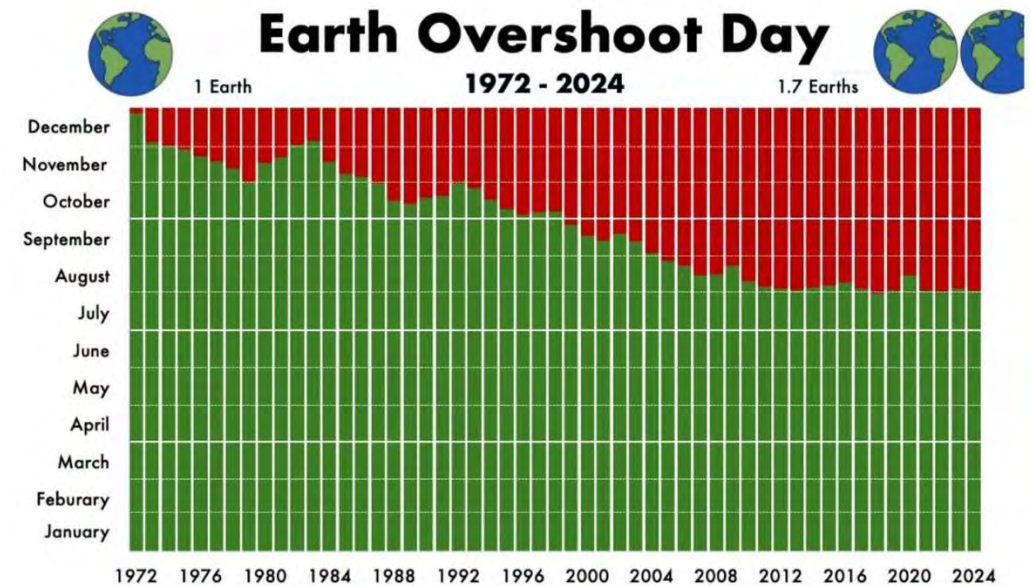
- In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> levels have been lower than 400 ppm for the past **23 million years**
- The **speed** of this change is critical; it is > 100x faster than before the Industrial Revolution
- At this rate, adaptation of living things becomes difficult, if not impossible





# Why can't we get a handle on climate change?

- climate change is a ***symptom***, not the problem
- the problem is ecological overreach, and to address this, we need to change the way we live



# Changing Administrations, Changing Goals?

## Tracking the Biden Administration's Progress on Climate Action



Source: WRI.





## Under Biden, US oil and gas production surged to record highs

# Climate change in the era of Trump and DOGE



# Overarching Goals of Trump/DOGE

unrestrained executive power

privatization

dismantling civil service

largest data breach in human history

hostility to all federal regulation, especially  
environmental

**“They’re  
eating the  
checks, they’re  
eating the  
balances”**

attacks on civil service (administrative leave, mass firings, RIFs)

attacks on oversight bodies (MSPB, OSC, IG, unions, etc.)

judiciary not equipped to address this level of illegality

SCOTUS deferential to Trump/executive power

# What are they saying?

- **Zeldin**: Spending money on climate change is “inexcusable, unjustifiable and illegitimate.”
- **Johnson**: “They have cracked the code. They’re inside the belly of the beast of the bureaucracy, and the algorithms are crawling through.”
- **Trump**: “It costs much more to do things environmentally clean.”
- **Musk**: “The risk is not as high as a lot of people say it is with respect to global warming. But I think if you just keep increasing the parts per million in the atmosphere long enough, eventually it actually simply gets uncomfortable to breathe.”



# What is the forecast?

---

Trump now going after states and municipalities: directed DOJ to block all “burdensome and ideologically motivated ‘climate change’ or energy policies that threaten American energy dominance and our economic and national security.”



# What the Gutting of NOAA Really Means



**Monica Medina, JD**

*Former Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*



# NOAA Hit by DOGE Cuts

- NOAA has been targeted with climate science and weather office staffing cuts, now nearly ALL RESEARCH is likely being cut
- Weather forecasting has been particularly impacted
- Coastal communities and climate resilience are at risk from poor forecasting and cuts in grant funding



# Attacks are Political, Not Science

- Weather forecasts and forecasters are NOT making forecasts political – they serve all communities and all states – RED AND BLUE
- MAGA shamelessly spread disinformation alleging Biden Administration weather modification – and people BELIEVED IT
- People who fly into hurricanes are not political appointees and cannot be easily replaced

BBC


Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Arts Travel Earth Audio Video Live

## They fly into hurricanes – and still got caught in Doge's cuts

13 March 2025

Share Save

Kayla Epstein  
BBC News



Damage from Hurricane Helene, which struck North Carolina and parts of the US south in October 2024.

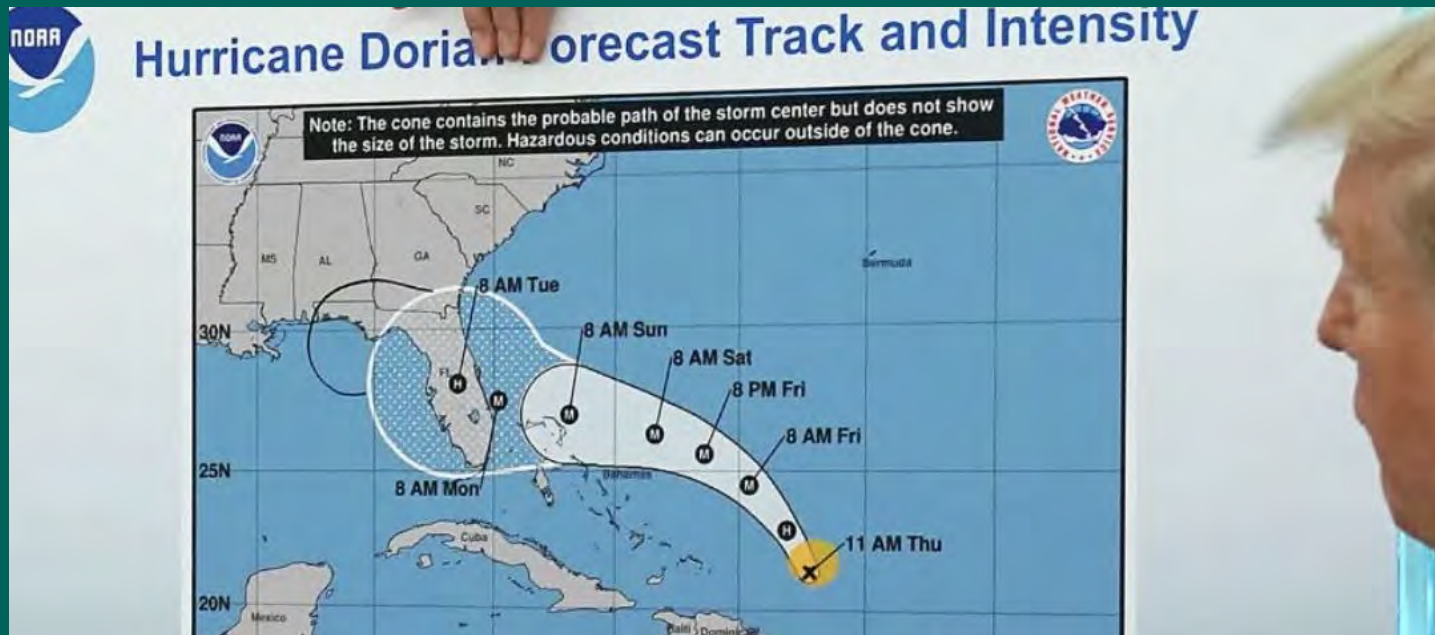
As an engineer who flies into hurricanes for the US government, Josh Ripp is accustomed to turbulence. But the last two weeks have been far bumpier than he's used to.

In late February, the Trump administration fired Mr Ripp and over 800 recently hired

16




# NOAA Targeted for Retribution



- "Sharpie-gate" was one of Trump's greatest embarrassments
- Weather scientists corrected this whopper of a lie he created – and now are paying the price
- Trump has nominated the same person to run NOAA, a yes-man

# Communicating About Climate Change

- Climate change is impacting more Americans, and most think global warming is happening
- Most people think it is impacting someone else
- We need to connect the dots linking climate change to higher costs for household goods



YALE PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change  
Communication

AboutNews & MediaOur ResearchTools & InteractivesPartnerships

Home / Climate Change in the American Mind: Beliefs & Attitudes, Fall 2024

REPORT · Feb 13, 2025

## Climate Change in the American Mind: Beliefs & Attitudes, Fall 2024

By Anthony Leiserowitz, Edward Maibach, Seth Rosenthal, John Kotcher, Emily Goddard, Jennifer Carman, Teresa Myers, Marija Verner, Jennifer Marlon, Matthew Goldberg, Joshua Ettinger, Julia Fine and Kathryn Thier  
Filed under: Beliefs & Attitudes, Climate Impacts and Behaviors & Actions

[Go back to Executive Summary](#)[Read the Next Section Online  
2. Perceived Risks of Global Warming](#)


### 1. Global Warming Beliefs

#### 1.1 Most Americans think global warming is happening.

Americans who think global warming is happening outnumber those who think it is not by a ratio of about 5 to 1.

Seven in ten Americans (73%) think global warming is happening. By contrast, only 14% of Americans think global warming is not happening. Additionally, 14% say they don't know if global warming is happening (refer to data tables, p. 26).

#### Most Americans think global warming is happening



Year	Think global warming is happening (%)	Think global warming is NOT happening (%)
2007	71	28
2008	61	37
2009	63	35
2010	62	36
2011	66	32
2012	70	29
2013	63	35
2014	62	36
2015	64	34
2016	66	32
2017	63	35
2018	67	31
2019	70	29
2020	70	29
2021	71	28
2022	70	29
2023	73	26
2024	73	27

#### Table of Contents

- Report Summary
- Executive Summary
- 1. Global Warming Beliefs
- 2. Perceived Risks of Global Warming
- 3. Worry About Global Warming
- 4. Personal and Social Impacts of Global Warming
- 5. Impacts of Global Warming on the Environment
- Appendix I: Data Tables
- Appendix II: Survey Methodology
- Appendix III: Sample Data

#### Download Full Report

PDF Document

18

# Critical Science at Risk

- NOAA science serves the public (e.g., weather forecasts, fisheries information, nautical charts, tides & currents data) and is available for free
- It is a lean agency (e.g., one person in the Pacific NW is responsible for the longevity of salmon hatcheries)

The New York Times

## ***NOAA Staffing Cuts Threaten Years of Salmon Harvests***

In Washington, where salmon is a multibillion dollar industry, government staff terminations and budget freezes may put salmon production at risk.

▶ Listen to this article · 5:15 min [Learn more](#)

📄 Share full article



💬 123



Salmon caught on the opening day of the spring Chinook salmon run in Washougal, Wash., in 2020. Grant Hindsley for The New York Times



By [Austyn Gaffney](#)

April 9, 2025

In Washington State, April is when millions of young Chinook salmon are released from hatcheries, where they started as tiny, pink globes, to swim downstream and rebuild the salmon population. They are part of an ecosystem that affects tribal, commercial, and recreational fishing and are a main source of food



# Governmental Function of Weather Forecasting

- Private weather apps use weather data collected by the government
- More frequent extreme weather requires accurate, timely forecasts
- These are NOT natural disasters as the media often portrays, but human-caused

EXPERT ANALYSIS.  
COMPLETE CLARITY.

[STM Gardens](#) [Services](#) [About](#) [Blog](#)

Mar 20, 2025 - Written By Lyndsay Williamson

## Why NOAA is Behind Your Weather App

Earlier this month, STM Weather expressed our **gratitude** for the dedicated civil servants within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) who work tirelessly to provide accurate and timely weather information. Their expertise and commitment to serving the public not only keep us informed, but also help us make crucial, and at times life-saving, decisions while navigating the challenges of weather.



In this week's blog, I wanted to break down how both NOAA and the NWS are actually behind a lot of the data provided to you directly through your weather app of choice. With more and more Americans

# National Weather Service

- When the Weather Service is hollowed out in one place, it degrades the weather system for everyone
- AI weather forecasting relies on physical data collected by the National Weather Service





# Climate Crisis, Constitutional Crisis and the EPA



**David Cash, PhD**

*Former Region 1 Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

# Addressing the Climate Crisis and Seizing Opportunities of the Clean Energy Future

Prior to January 20, 2025:

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (BIL) funding: ~ \$110,000,000,000 invested through EPA

- E-school buses; wind; solar; geothermal; weatherization; heat pumps; batteries; EVs; charging infrastructure; etc.
- Justice40: underserved and overburdened communities; righting past wrongs
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund – Green Banks \$20B

## Regulatory advances

- Power plants
- Manufacturing
- Vehicles
- Methane leaks

# Lawful\* and Likely Unlawful Actions\*

Since January 20, 2025:

Announcing roll back of 31 Regulations\*

Email waiver\*

Staffing reductions\*\*

Targeting Environmental Justice programs/grants\*\*

Freezing allocated funds\*

Terminating funds\* (400+)

Green Bank cancellation strategy

- Freezing funds\*
- Terminating contracts\*
- Criminal investigations\*

# Moderated Q&A



Type your question in the Q&A box



Upvote questions you'd like to hear answered



If you have a question that wasn't answered during the webinar, email us at [info@peer.org](mailto:info@peer.org)

# Call to Action

- Legal Action
- Direct Action
- Networking
- Education

Write your  
representatives at  
[peer.org/takeaction](https://peer.org/takeaction)

## Follow PEER

