

# Letter To The Editor: A Predictable Climate

Rocky Barker wrote a fantastic article about noticeable climate change effects, both small ones (higher chance of West Nile virus) and big ones (20 percent drop in precipitation, 20 percent forests burned, frost-free period grows by month).

The most powerful statement in his article was “Sometimes you have to try things, you have to experiment,” Schoen said. “Sometimes you have try new things without perfect knowledge.” Only sheep keep moving without paying attention to their surroundings and go right off the cliff without trying to change direction.

For millennia, thoughtful, industrious, people have paid attention to hints and have changed plans. Ancient Babylonians looked for agricultural planning omens in animal intestines and the movement of planets. Egyptians tried to predict the annual flooding of the Nile by stars. The Greeks wrote extensively about the stars, constellations and planets and their affect on weather. In later eras, people valued almanacs which suggested, based on calendars, planetary motions and plain guesswork, how weather may vary and planning might be optimized. Now we have scientists explaining with pretty high levels of certainty (95 percent that the climate is warming due to human use of fossil fuels) and we’re ignoring them because of lack of certainty?

We see changes everywhere. They are obvious and some are dangerous. Let’s work to lower emissions to slow climate change. Readers should please ask their U.S. senators and U.S. representative to draft national legislation to reduce emissions and charge a tax on imports from countries that don’t enact similar emissions-reducing legislation. No state and no country can slow the climate by themselves.

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Editor’s note: Judy Weiss is a volunteer member of Citizens’ Climate Lobby, a national organization of volunteers lobbying Congress for legislation to stabilize the climate.