

Climate change is now a certainty

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The (previous letter writer) says climate change science is not settled, but offered no supporting scientific facts. I'm a rabbi and (the previous letter writer) is a family practitioner. We don't know climate science. But my husband is a research mathematician, specializing in probability theory, rare events and data analysis, with a physics background. I asked Alan: how can climate science be settled if uncertainties exist? He said: "The law of gravity isn't known with 100 percent certainty.

We accept gravity as true because we're satisfied with 99.9999 percent, and even much lower standards. Climate science has passed the point of certainty, ethically requiring global action."

Clergy understand ethical obligations: businesses generate waste, ethically they must dispose of it properly. Dumping is unethical, hurtful to others.

If world governments only keep current emissions promises, the odds of temperature rise of 6 degrees C (11 F) by 2100 is about 10 percent. Alan says events with 10 percent probability happen all the time. Not everyone has the emotional fortitude to hold global warming's prognosis in their hearts. Doctors know fossil fuel pollution poisons: mercury causes neurological damage; particulates, coal ash; smog causes lung diseases and cancer. Doctors have steadfast, loyal hearts.

The best policy for slowing climate change simultaneously improves health and saves lives. What if studies show this policy also spurs the economy, creates jobs, and induces international emissions cooperation?

Stanford just released a survey indicating two-thirds of Americans would support a carbon tax if proceeds are rebated to the public. Please contact Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers for more information.

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