

It's Really Caused By Us

Dear Editor,

John Mason did a great job reporting on Rep. Chris Gibson's climate resolution, Citizens' Climate Lobby's proposal for a revenue-neutral carbon emissions fee, and ways in which local attitudes to climate change have changed over the years. It's interesting that many people see that the climate is changing, but much fewer understand that human activity is the main driver of our current global warming.

Perhaps there is a type of evidence that they will accept instead of the compelling scientific evidence. Perhaps you could write about the major international oil and gas companies who published an open letter in May 2015, saying that the climate is changing due to the use of fossil fuels and the world's nations must enact carbon pricing systems to cut fossil fuel use in order to curtail risks.

Perhaps you could write about the recent decision of major banks not to fund a new coal mine in Australia because of the climate impact. Perhaps you could write about Exxon's scientists who studied climate change in the 1970's and early 1980's and came to the conclusion that it's caused by human use of fossil fuels.

Maybe calls for carbon taxes coming from corporations who would benefit financially from continued fossil fuel use--not from environmentalists-- would convince more people that it's really caused by us.

Thank you,
Rabbi Judy Weiss

LINK- not on line
photocopy of article below

Register-Star

MARK P. VINCIGUERRA
Publisher

MARY DEMPSEY
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Changing views of global warming

Some Republican elected officials want Americans, including New Yorkers, to think that global warming is a hoax. A recent Yale University survey suggests otherwise.

The study, done between 2008 and 2014 by the Yale Project on Climate Change and the George Mason Center for Climate Change Communication, found that respondents in Greene and Columbia counties who believe that global warming is happening outnumber nonbelievers 4-to-1.

But when it comes to the question of whether human activity is behind global warming, the ratio narrows to 5-to-3. According to the study, 53 percent in Columbia County and 51 percent in Greene County believe global warming is caused mostly by human activity.

In Columbia County, 47 percent believe that "most scientists think global warming is happening," while 31 percent believe "there is a lot of disagreement." In Greene County, 42 percent think scientists agree it's happening, while 32 percent believe there's widespread disagreement.

As for the risks of global warming, the Yale study shows that 60 percent in Columbia County and 57 percent in Greene are worried about global warming, compared to 39 percent and 42 percent who are not worried. The majority in both counties, 54 percent in Columbia County and 55 percent in Greene, believe it will do little or no harm to themselves personally, but a greater majority — 69 percent in Columbia and 66 percent in Greene — believe it will harm future generations, while only 21 percent and 23 percent believe it will do little or no harm to generations to come.

About a month ago, Greene County marked the fourth anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene's rampage in Prattsville. Five years ago this winter, almost seven feet of snow buried Windham. Superstorm Sandy just skirted us three years ago. Two years ago the area baked in heat exceeding 90 degrees for more than 10 weeks.

Seems like the researchers at Yale and the George Mason Center are on to something here.

Register-Star
Jul 25/2015

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Daily Mail
9/25/2015

Letter to the editor It's really caused by us

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Rabbi Judy Weiss
Brookline, Mass.