





## Activity 2: Student Worksheet *Climate Catastrophe Cancelled*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Read over the questions below before watching the short video clips. You may want to take notes as you view the clips. You will then be given time to write your answers.

### **Title of Film Clip: *Climate Catastrophe Cancelled***

1) List three points the clip makes about climate change and global warming. For each point, list the evidence used in the clip to back up the claim.

ANSWERS

EVIDENCE

2) List the ways in which the excerpt contradicts and undermines claims that current warming is unprecedented.

3) What questions do you have about these claims?



## Activity 3: Student Worksheet Trust and Sponsorship

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

You have just analyzed two video clips offering very different perspectives on the validity of global warming. Is global warming an over-hyped invention based on faulty science, as claimed by the Friends of Science, or a scientifically established and potentially catastrophic reality, as claimed by Peter Cox of the IPCC? How do we decide which to believe? How do we make well-informed decisions about such an important yet divisive issue?

We can start by thinking critically about conflicting media messages. We need to identify and compare the scientific claims, as we have already begun to do. We typically evaluate conflicting claims based on our own knowledge of the subject, our own beliefs, and our own biases. For complex scientific questions, we typically rely on experts to help distinguish fact from myth. But which experts do we trust? We can seek more complex truths through asking a series of critical questions about any media message:

- 1) **Who produced and who sponsored this message and for what purpose?**
- 2) **How current and accurate is the information? How credible is the source?**
- 3) **What is the bias of the producers and how does that influence the message?**

On the back, you will find information about the two organizations that are behind the conflicting scientific claims in the two video clips. Think about the above questions as you read over this information and answer the questions below.

- 1) **Which organization you think has more credibility, Friends of Science or the IPCC?  
Explain your reasoning.**

- 2) **Do you think that global warming is a fact or a myth? Explain your thinking.**



**Friends of Science**  
Producers of *Climate  
Catastrophe Cancelled*

**From the Friends of Science website:**

"Friends of Science is a non-profit organization made up of active and retired engineers, earth scientists and other professionals, as well as many concerned Canadians, who believe the science behind the Kyoto Protocol is questionable. Friends of Science has assembled a scientific advisory board of esteemed climate scientists from around the world to offer a critical mass of current science on global climate and climate change to policy makers, and any interested parties."

**Goals of FOS:**

"To encourage and assist the Canadian Federal Government to re-evaluate the Kyoto Protocol by engaging in a national public debate on the scientific merit of Kyoto and the Global Warming issue, and to educate the public through dissemination of relevant, balanced and objective technical information on this subject."

**Membership of FOS:** "Scientific Advisory Board:

Dr. Sallie Baliunas, Research scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, MA  
Dr. Chris de Freitas, Associate Professor of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Auckland  
Dr. Madhav Khandedkar, Meteorologist retired, formerly with Environment Canada  
Dr. Tim Patterson, Professor of Geology and Paleoclimatology, Carleton University

**Financial Sponsorship of FOS:**

While there is no information on the Friends of Science website concerning the funding of this non-profit organization, an August 12, 2006, article in Canada's *Globe and Mail* claimed that FOS receives funding from the oil and gas industry.

**Contact information:**

Friends of Science Society  
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**IPCC**  
Source of the scientific  
claims behind *The Truth  
About Global Warming*

*The Truth About Global Warming* was produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The clip you saw featured Professor Peter Cox, one of the lead authors in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC.

**From the IPCC website:**

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been established by the WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and UNEP (the United Nations Environment Programme) to assess scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts, and options for mitigation." It was first established in 1988 and its fourth global assessment report was produced in 2007.

**Goals of IPCC:**

"The Panel's role is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, and open and transparent basis the best available scientific, technical and socio-economic information on climate change from around the world" and to produce "a series of publications, which have become standard works of reference, widely used by policymakers, scientists, other experts and students."

**Membership of IPCC:**

The IPCC is made up of over 2,000 scientists representing more than 100 countries. It is divided into three working groups". As an example of membership, the Technical Summary produced by Working Group #1 of the Third Assessment Report (produced in 2001) included 20 lead authors, 35 contributing authors, and four review editors representing 21 different countries.

**Financial Sponsorship of IPCC:**

The IPCC is supported financially by the joint WMO/UNEP IPCC Trust Fund and is administered by mutual agreement between the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), both agencies of the United Nations.

**Contact information:**

The IPCC Secretariat: [IPCC-Sec@who.int](mailto:IPCC-Sec@who.int)  
URL: [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)