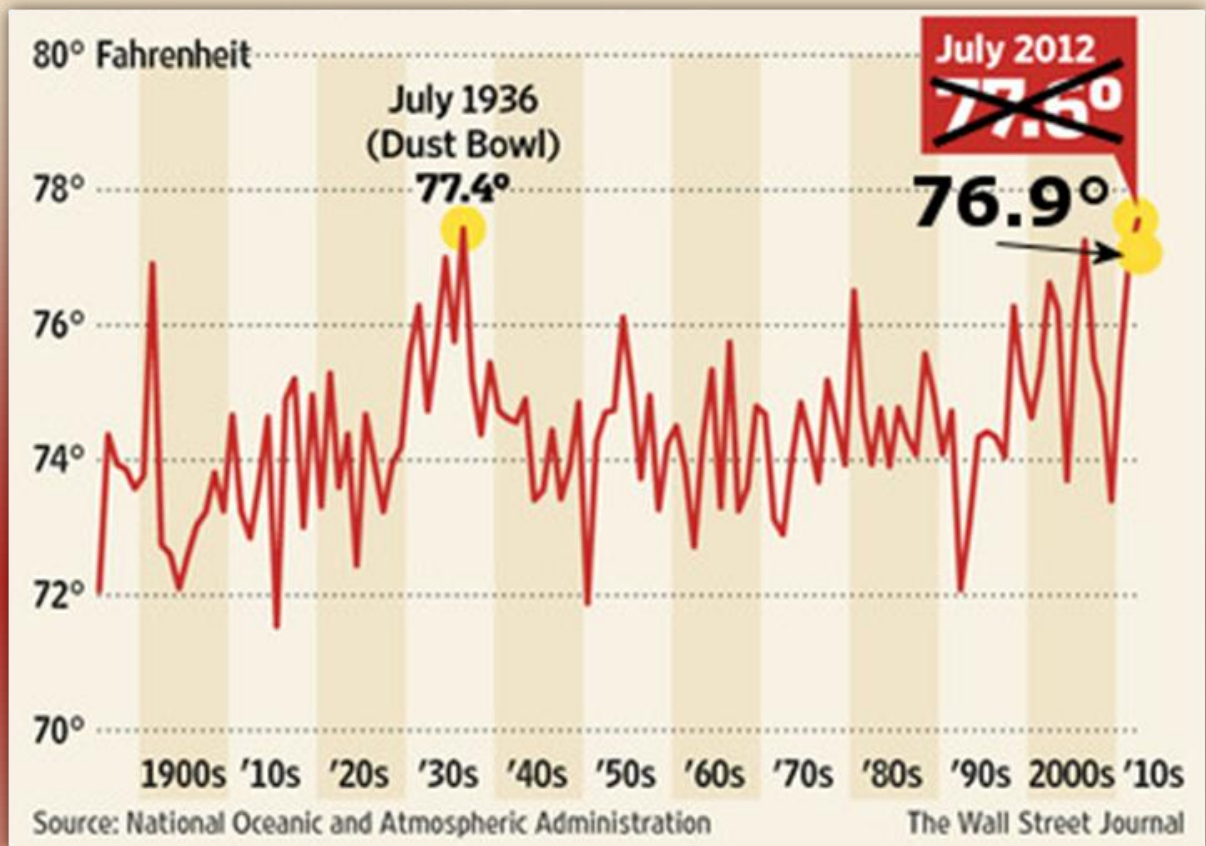


# NO GLOBAL WARMING FOR ALMOST TWO DECADES

*by Christopher Monckton of Brenchley*



SPPI ORIGINAL PAPER ♦ January 14, 2013

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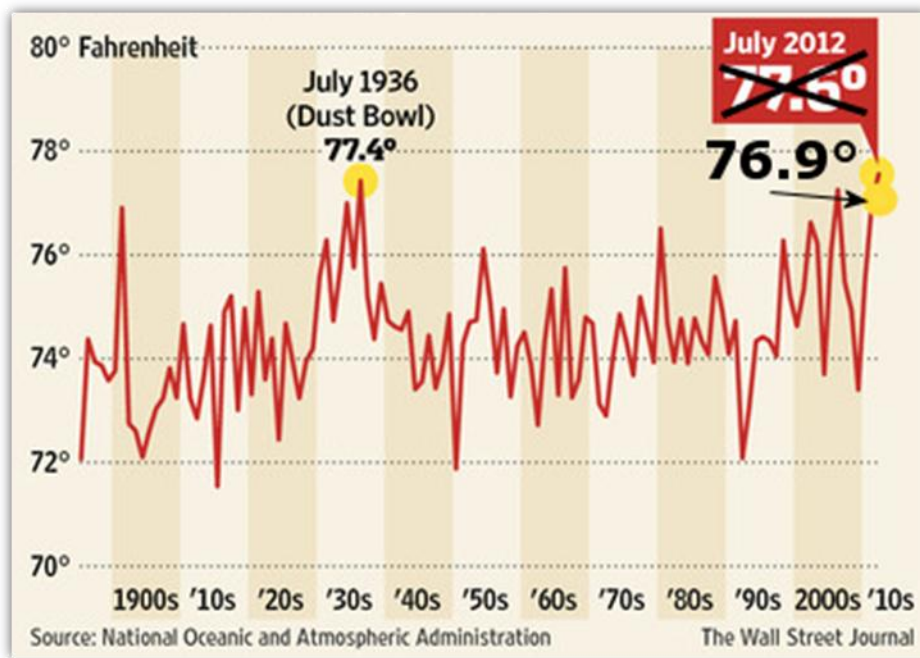
The Science and Public Policy Institute has been asked to comment on the apparent inconsistency between the news that July 2012 was the warmest July since 1895 in the contiguous United States and the news that the Meteorological Office in the UK has cut its global warming forecast for the coming years. The present paper is a response to that interesting question.

Early in August 2012, the NOAA issued a statement to the effect that July 2012 had been the hottest month in the contiguous U.S. since records began in 1895. NOAA said the July 2012 temperature had been 77.6 degrees Fahrenheit, 0.2 F° warmer than the previous July record, set in 1936.

However, NOAA's statement was based on incomplete information that has since been revised. Updated data available at the NCDC website (NCDC is the division of NOAA that maintains national climatic data for the United States) show that July 2012's temperature was not 77.6 °F, as NOAA had previously claimed, but 76.9 °F, half a degree Fahrenheit below the record 77.4 °F set in July 1936.



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Mean surface temperatures, contiguous U.S., July 1900-July 2012. Source: NOAA. Graph by Wall Street Journal, updated by Anthony Watts.



*For some unaccountable reason, NOAA has not issued any statement correcting its original false claim that July 2012 was the warmest July since 1895.*

Even this revised value may be a considerable exaggeration. In response to criticisms of the siting of U.S. temperature monitoring stations, in 2008 NOAA introduced a new network of carefully sited stations with up-to-date, standardized, properly monitored equipment. The Climate Reference Network, as it is called, shows that the July temperature for the continental U.S. was 75.6 °F, lower by 1.3 °F than stated by the NOAA in August 2012 based on incomplete data from its older, poorly-sited stations influenced by urban heat-island effects, and lower by 2 full Fahrenheit degrees than the 77.6 °F that NOAA had published in August 2012.



For some unaccountable reason, NOAA has not issued any statement correcting its original false claim that July 2012 was the warmest July since 1895. Indeed, the accurately-sited and properly-maintained Climate Reference Network is consistently delivering significantly lower contiguous-US temperatures than the older network: yet, again unaccountably, NOAA finds it expedient not to draw attention to the inconvenient results from its new network.

To summarize: NOAA, on incomplete data from an outdated, ill-sited, poorly-maintained network, stated in August 2012 that the July 2012 temperature in the contiguous U.S. had been 77.6 °F. The temperature in July 1936, the previous record, had been 77.4 °F. By the end of 2012, corrections to the NOAA dataset, but still based on the outdated network, showed that the July 2012 temperature in the contiguous U.S. had been 76.9 °F, half a degree below the July 1936 record. Also, the new Climate Reference Network shows that the July 2012 temperature in the contiguous U.S. had been 75.6 °F, two full degrees Fahrenheit below the erroneous value the NOAA had erroneously trumpeted as a new July record.

So to the UK Met Office. It has issued a revised projection of temperature change to 2017. Its previous projection, made last year, had predicted that global temperature would rise by around 1 Fahrenheit degree more than its revised projection, based on a new computer model, "HadGEM3". If the new projection proves correct, by 2017 the global warming in the 20 years since 1997 will have been statistically indistinguishable from zero for two full decades.

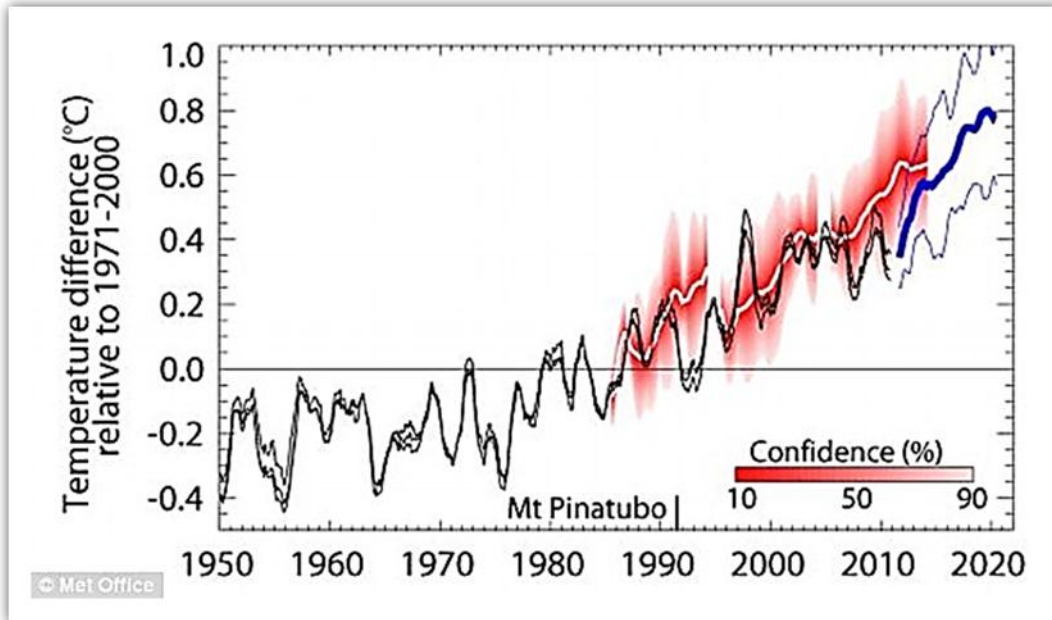


*The least-squares linear-regression trend on the HadCRUt4 monthly global mean surface temperature anomaly data for the past 18 years is statistically indistinguishable from zero.*

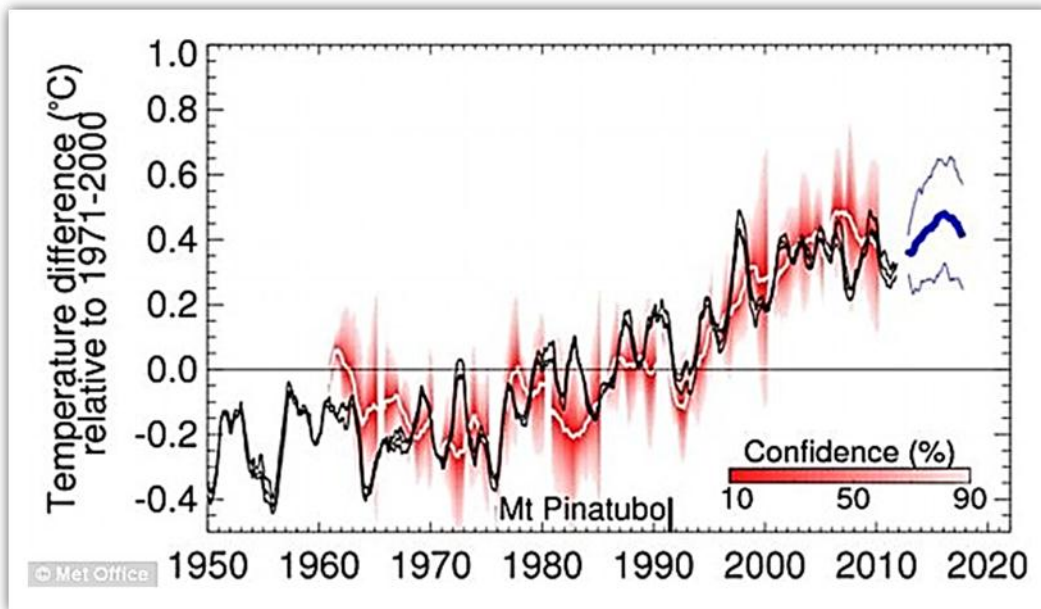


For comparison, the least-squares linear-regression trend on the HadCRUt4 monthly global mean surface temperature anomaly data for the past 18 years is statistically indistinguishable from zero; similarly for the HadCRUt3 for the past 19 years; and similarly for the RSS satellite lower-troposphere dataset for the past 23 years.

However, one should not make too much of the Met Office's revised projection, for two reasons. First, I recently complained to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to which the Met Office is answerable, with copies to the Secretary of State for Climate Change and to the Serious Fraud Office, when the Met Office issued two successive statements incorrectly denying statements by a reporter for the *Mail on Sunday* to the effect that there had been no global warming for 15 years. Inferentially, the Met Office is now under orders not to get caught lying again, so it is beginning to take a less extreme line on the climate question.



Last year's (above) and this year's (below) Met Office medium-term projections of global mean surface temperature for the next few years.



Secondly, the Met Office's revised global temperature projection out to 2017, though it looks very different from the previous year's Met Office projection out to 2020, is within the measurement uncertainty interval of the earlier projection and is accordingly statistically indistinguishable from it.

Notwithstanding a couple of decades of stasis in global warming, one should not assume that global warming has altogether ceased. The greenhouse effect is real, and our enhancement of it by enriching the atmosphere with CO<sub>2</sub> can be expected to cause some warming in the long run.

There are six good reasons why the small quantum of global warming that might fairly have been expected has not occurred for almost two decades: natural variability in general; the appreciable decline in solar activity since the Grand Maximum that peaked in 1960; the current 30-year cooling phase of the ocean oscillations, which began late in 2001 with the transition from the warming phase that had begun in 1976; the recent double-dip la Niña; the frequency with which supra-decadal periods without warming have occurred in the instrumental record since 1850; and the substantial spike in global warming in 1998, caused by the Great el Niño of that year, which has the statistical effect of reducing the warming slope even if the period under consideration starts in the years immediately preceding 1998.

On the other side of the argument, there is no doubt that the global warming profiteers are disconcerted by the now embarrassingly noticeable failure of the planet to warm at the rate that the computer models on which their case for climate panic are entirely but unsoundly founded had unanimously but erroneously predicted.



*Those who have profited mightily by the climate scare wish to continue to do so for as long as they can.*



One of the Climategate emails, written in 2009 by Kevin Trenberth, a central scientific figure in the climate-alarmist movement, says: "There has been no global warming for a decade. We cannot explain why. It is a travesty that we can't."

The Met Office's recent attempts to deny that there had been so long a period as 16 years without warming, and NOAA's readiness to issue alarming statements upon incomplete data



*On the modelers' own previously-stated criterion, then, the long period without warming indicates that the models have been exaggerating.*





from an outdated and inaccurate network while failing either to update its statements when the data were complete or to rely upon the new and accurate network that shows far less warming than the old, indicate that those who have profited mightily by the climate scare wish to continue to do so for as long as they can.

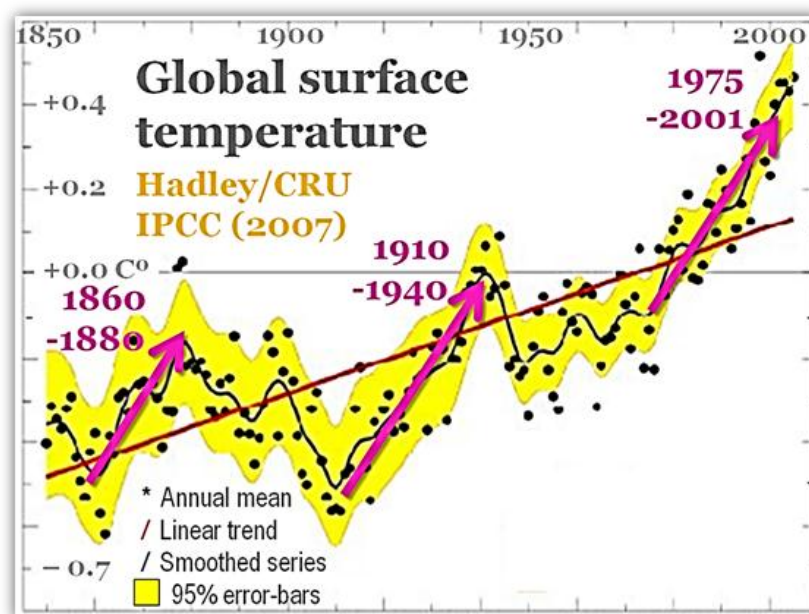
However, in the 23 years in which the lower troposphere has failed to warm, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has risen by at least 10%. Inferentially, the forcing generated by this very substantial increase in the partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> from about 350 to 394 micro-atmospheres has been altogether insufficient to overcome the naturally-occurring negative forcings mentioned earlier.

Climate extremists sometimes argue – correctly – that there have been many previous periods of ten years or more without warming during the global instrumental temperature record first compiled in 1850. However, the frequency with which these periods have occurred – and continue to occur – acts as a very powerful practical constraint on the rate at which the planet can warm.

The three periods of a decade or more with the fastest rate of warming were 1860-1880, 1910-1940 and 1976-2001. Only the last of these three periods could possibly have been caused by us, even in part. Yet the rates of warming in all three periods were statistically indistinguishable from one another, equivalent to just 1.7 Celsius degrees per century.



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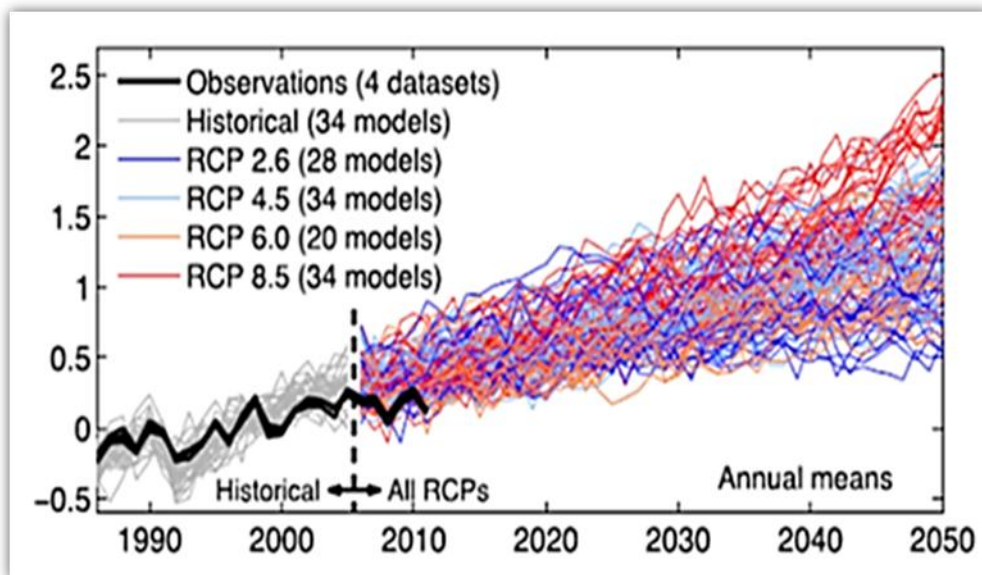


*The three periods of fastest warming that endured for more than a decade since global temperature records began in 1850 are shown. All three periods were at the same rate: 0.17 Celsius degrees/century.*

It is the long-run warming rate during the period of our significant atmospheric enrichment with CO<sub>2</sub> that is of key importance. Since 1950 that rate has been equivalent to just 1.2 Celsius degrees per century. Given that the CO<sub>2</sub> forcing equation is logarithmic, so that each additional molecule of CO<sub>2</sub> that we emit has less warming effect than any of its predecessors, there is little reason to foresee much acceleration from this small, harmless, beneficial rate of warming.

Even if the maximum supra-decadal rate of warming in the observed instrumental record were to become the mean rate, the warming by 2100 would be just 1.5 Celsius degrees compared with today.

The IPCC, in its draft 2013 *Fifth Assessment Report*, for which I am an expert reviewer, shows a graph revealing how exaggerated its projections are compared with the actually-observed temperature trend:



*Projections of global warming to 2050 (gray or colored) compared with observed temperatures (black). Source: IPCC (2013) draft.*

The four emissions scenarios modeled here all show that warming should be occurring at a substantially greater rate than that which is observed.

There was no climate crisis. There is no climate crisis. There will be no climate crisis.



*There was no  
climate crisis.*





**Science & Public Policy Institute**

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**Robert Ferguson**

*SPPI President*

bferguson@sppinstitute.org

202-288-5699

P.O. Box 209

5501 Merchants View Square

Haymarket, VA 20169

www.scienceandpublicpolicy.org

