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CLIMATE EXPLAINED

“The evidence is compelling on human activity as the principal cause of global warming.

“Research conducted worldwide makes clear that it’s overwhelmingly human activities – in particular combustion of fossil fuels – that can explain observed global temperature increases, especially over the past seven decades.”

By Gary Yohe, Henry Jacoby, and Richard Richels | Friday, September 25, 2020

“In our previous essay in this series, we showed that the global average temperature has increased since early in the industrial revolution, rising at an accelerating pace in the past 50 years. It is no longer controversial that warming has been established: It’s been proven using a long time-series of high-quality scientific data collected through well-understood measurement techniques.

“So, *Why* is the planet warming? An early answer to that question dates from more than a century ago. Nobel Laureate Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius in 1896 published an analysis concluding that a doubling of CO₂ in the atmosphere would “raise the temperature of the earth’s surface by several degrees Celsius”. Arrhenius thought it would take several hundred years to burn enough fossil fuel to achieve that doubling, but we of course are on track to reach that troubling milestone much more quickly.

“The science community has very high confidence that Arrhenius was right in hypothesizing the connection of CO₂ to climate change...”

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