

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE PART 1

Logline 2012-12-15

As I write this we have 5 more days until the world ends, yet I am sure you will all still be able to read this. The fascination with the Mayan calendar apocalypse by the general population and media is amazing even with a proclamation from Mayan scholars that the claim is false. Yet, we have some 4,000 climatologists who say that global climate change is real and potentially catastrophic and we cannot get the world to agree that it's true, let alone do something about it. What gives?

Few of us are capable of making our own analysis of the science. So we are stuck with believing what others tell us. We tend to believe what we want or expect to hear and who wants to hear that the end of our civilization is possible. Yet, that is what those in the know are telling us. Maybe you have seen an interview between two scientists arguing about climate change and it seems a stalemate on a one-on-one basis. But imagine watching a debate with 4,000 scientists (IPCC) arguing for climate change and some 134 (ICSC) scientists arguing against it; some of whom are not qualified in the field. The sheer numbers would lend credence to climate change protagonists.

Or perhaps you have seen anecdotal evidence against climate change; say a warming trend where a cooling one was predicted. If they get one part wrong, maybe the whole theory is wrong? Let's hope so, but we are already seeing real changes in nature based on warming trends. Animal migration patterns are changing, the ocean is now about 11 mm higher than it used to be, ice is disappearing at fantastic rates: many of the predictions are happening and some faster than expected. The US agriculture region is experiencing a dramatic drought and the World Bank indicates the Earth is on track to gain 4 C this century. I have references for all of this but space is limited.

Forget about trying to read up on the subject. A search of Amazon indicates some 27,000 books on global climate change. So we are left with trusting what we hear, and the people who are talking. Further, I personally think most people are hopeful that someone else will do something, or we might manage to muddle through; just keep our heads down and wait for the danger to pass. I personally believe that is not enough this time, and hope to convince you as well. Take a moment to think about where you stand on global climate change and why. For most scientists, the debate is over about the phenomena, and all that is left is to refine the potential damage predictions and look for solutions. How about you?

How is this relevant to NYC and its members? That will be explained next time.