

# The real word on climate change

Of all the issues facing humanity today, climate change and global warming are probably the most important for all of us to comprehend as clearly and accurately as we can. Given the ever-closing horizons for action to prevent dangerous climate change, it's something we all need to apply ourselves to – myths, fuzzy logic and inaccuracies will just fuel unnecessary conflict and stall global, collaborative efforts to curb the worst of it.

So it's reassuring to know that the word has spread among interested journalists, politicians, concerned citizens and even the scientific community about the award-winning RealClimate website.

RealClimate is a climatology 'commentary site' that has an edge over run-of-the-mill climate change blogs: all nine contributors are climate scientists who take pains to explain current scientific issues, myths and misconceptions about climate and climate change.

The contributors state that the aim



[www.realclimate.org](http://www.realclimate.org)

of the site is to provide a context that is sometimes missing in mainstream commentary. The discussion is restricted to scientific topics: the RealClimate crew say they will not get involved in debating the political or economic implications of the science. The prestigious science magazine *Nature*, however, has applauded the RealClimate team for using the blog format to provide quick rebuttals to those who

downplay the risk of global warming.

The topics discussed are wide-ranging and include IPCC reports, Arctic and Antarctic climate, climate modelling, hurricanes and other extreme events, global warming, greenhouse gases, glacier retreat, oceans, paleo-climate, responses to contrarians, solar forcing, future climate projections, climate in the media, geo-engineering and sun-earth connections. Apart from the discussion index, there are FAQs, a glossary and news and reviews pages.

If you're new to the site, there is an excellent 'Start here' page, a 'one-stop link for resources that people can use to get up to speed on the issue of climate change'. This page includes links to resources for complete beginners, FAQs for people with a little more understanding of the issue, and further links for those 'informed, but in need of more detail ... or more serious discussion'.

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