



Home Energy Check-up Information Sheet

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Some of the arguments put forward and some suggestions for counter arguments.

Some of the reasons behind denial:

- Fear
- Selfishness
- Small mindedness
- Inability to see beyond their small world
- They cannot see that it is something we are doing to ourselves – easier for people to react when they feel others are causing harm to us
- Human nature to be reactive rather than proactive
- Unwillingness to take responsibility
- No feeling of moral responsibility towards the poorer nations to help solve a problem which the rich west has been responsible for
- Helplessness

Their arguments	Counter arguments
Too large a problem for me to do anything about. My small effort won't make any difference.	Every little helps. Think of the difference the slight figure of Mother Teresa made for the homeless children of Calcutta “ She was just one drop in the ocean but without that drop the ocean was that much the less.”
I don't want my comfort zone upset.	None of us do, this argument is just selfishness
I'm too old to change my habits	I'm elderly? too, as are many of the activists
It's not a problem in the U.K. so why worry	Actually is already is –though those flooded out in recent times and increasing loss of biodiversity
We've got loads of time	What we are seeing now is caused by CO ₂ emissions of 30 years ago when emission levels were a lot less than they are today – CO ₂ stays in the atmosphere for up to 100 years. Even with the right political will and action, there will still be a time lag before emission levels begin to fall. We are already close to the tipping point
It's a problem for governments, not Joe public	It's a problem for us all and the stronger grass roots willingness is to take action the more prepared government will be to take action which might otherwise be unpopular
It's a problem for our children and grandchildren	Yes and one of our making – they will be the ones to suffer because of our inaction. What will they think of us?
There's contra evidence, parts to the world are getting colder	True but climate is a very complicated thing and there will always be local variations – it is the global trends we must look at
History proves the small minority are eventually proved right	This is true – The green activists were concerned 30 years ago and are being proved right.

It's a con by governments to get more taxes and spoil my fun	All political parties, leaders of industry etc etc. all recognise the "threat" is very real and immediate
There isn't scientific consensus	There never is – but look behind their claims and you will find financial support from the oil and coal lobby. The overwhelming majority (and it is increasing) of scientists are very concerned
Caused by sun spots and natural variation in solar radiation	Sun spots do make a tiny difference but never as great as what is happening now. They are also of relatively short duration – what we have is a growing trend, acceleration over the past 200 years since the industrialised increase in the burning of fossil fuels.
There have always been variations in climate	Yes there have but they have occurred naturally – what we have now has been caused by human activity
No accurate facts – lets wait and see	Nothing in nature can be 100% accurate but overall trends can be measured and have been for decades – overall temperature is increasing. The people of Bangladesh, those in areas of prolonged drought are living / dying proof of what is happening.
It would be economic disaster to reduce consumption of energy and consumer goods.	. Think of the cost of not taking action
Get China to take action then I will	China already is BUT who started it – the industrialised west. We have a moral responsibility to lead the way
I already do my bit by recycling	These folk haven't grasped the enormity of the problem. Recycling is good (and relatively easy with little pain) but will never be enough by itself. People have to take far more responsibility for personal carbon emissions
It's too late	In some ways true but if we take no action the consequences will be far, far worse
We could do with it being a bit warmer in the U.K.	If we have it a bit warmer, others will have it life threatening warmer. There is also the problem of climate migration, conflict, world wide food shortages etc.
Save the rain forests and the problem will be solved.	It will help but is only part of the solution
Renewable technology will help	A few high tec solutions will not be enough. Also, some of them e.g. carbon capture, are unproven. Sometimes scientific solutions provide other side effects. Another argument here is that such things tend to benefit the big corporations and richer nations to the detriment of poorer ones. What is needed is thousands of different solutions and an acceptance that we cannot continue to take from our planet things that are finite in supply.
Stop over population and the problem will be solved.	It will help but we are still faced with finite resources of fossil fuel. Also countries with runaway population increases tend to be the lowest carbon emitters.
Once we run out of oil the problem will be solved.	If we do nothing 'till that happens it will be too late and even then there will still be many decades of coal reserves which when burnt produce even more CO ₂
Not my problem.	Then whose is it?