



## Climate Report Accused of Bad Data

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A preliminary draft of a report by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was leaked to the public this month, and climate skeptics say it contains fresh evidence of 20 years of overstated global warming.

The report -- which is not scheduled for publication until 2014 -- was leaked by someone involved in the IPCC's review process, and is available for download online. Bloggers combing through the report discovered a chart comparing the four temperature models the group has published since 1990. Each has overstated the rise in temperature that Earth actually experienced.

"Temperatures have not risen nearly as much as almost all of the climate models predicted," Roy Spencer, a climatologist at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, told FoxNews.com.

"Their predictions have largely failed, four times in a row... what that means is that it's time for them to re-evaluate," Spencer said.

The IPCC graph shows that the midpoints of the various models predicted that the world would warm by between about 0.5 degrees Fahrenheit and 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit between 1990 and 2012. Actual warming was much less than that: 0.28 F, according to the data the IPCC cites.

But that doesn't mean the IPCC models are wrong, others argue.

"It's important to keep in mind that there are natural short-term variations in global temperature that happen right alongside human-induced warming," Aaron Huertas, of the Union of Concerned Scientists, told FoxNews.com.

"For instance, it would have been impossible for the IPCC to predict if a volcanic eruption might temporarily cool the Earth, as the Mount Pinatubo eruption did in 1991."

The IPCC's climate report draft also notes that "the model projections ... do not fully account for natural variability."

Other types of natural anomalies include solar variability and weather patterns such as the El Nio southern oscillation.

Scientists include a "margin of error" in their models to account for unpredictable variations like volcanoes and weather patterns. Yet one of the IPCC's models missed the actual warming trend entirely -- in other words, the actual temperatures were outside its "margin of error." In the other three models, the actual warming trend fell within the very lower bounds of what they predicted would happen.

At least that's what the IPCC's chart shows. One scientist who recently published a study that found that the IPCC predictions were very accurate argues that it is likely wrong.

"The IPCC graph you refer to is just a draft version which still has a number of problems that will be ironed out," Potsdam University physics professor Stefan Rahmstorf told FoxNews.com.

Skeptics such as Spencer also say that the chart does not mean that global warming is a hoax.

"The IPCC's claim is that they are 90 percent sure that humans have 'contributed to' the observed warming. Hell, even I would agree with that innocuous statement."

But he says it does indicate that greenhouse gases are having less of an affect on climate than the IPCC thought.

"It is evidence that CO2 is not nearly as strong a climate driver as the IPCC has been assuming. This is the possibility they do not allow to be considered, because it would end all of their policy-changing goals," he said.

Huertas said that the criticisms "are an attempt to obscure the bigger picture."

"Climate change is happening, it is due to human activities, and the emissions choices we make today will have the largest influence on the extent of future climate change."