

# Is climate change happening?

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Climate change seems to have become more of a matter of faith, not science.

Either you believe the scientists — and Al Gore — that higher levels of carbon are raising the global temperature or you don't. Unless meaningful action is taken soon to reduce the burning of fossil fuels, the polar ice caps will melt and before you know it, Arizona will be beachfront property.

Or you're a skeptic who believes it's all bunk, that temperature changes are simply natural variances that come and go through the ages. Last fall's "ClimateGate," in which Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists were accused of manipulating e-mails, added credence to the skeptics.

The Desert Sun editorial board doesn't believe it has the expertise to say whether man-made global warming is really happening. But as we get ready to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on Thursday, we do believe that efforts to reduce the burning of fossil fuels make sense.

Wouldn't it be great to tell the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries that we don't need its crude product anymore?

Beyond that, efforts to develop alternative energy sources are wise for our environment and our unique economy — especially in this desert, where the potential of wind, sun and geothermal is abundant. We want our children's children to see an azure sky over our majestic mountains, to drink clean water and to celebrate many more Earth Days.