

Roy W. Spencer: Global Warming and Nature's Thermostat



We live in an invisible atmospheric sea of water vapor, Earth's primary greenhouse gas. Our atmosphere could hold much more water vapor than it does, which would then lead to a much warmer Earth -- but it doesn't. So, why is the greenhouse effect limited to its current value? We don't know; scientists simply "assume" that it magically stays that way.

Current computerized climate models that predict large amounts of global warming only do so after making very crude assumptions about why the Earth's natural greenhouse effect is limited to its present average value.

In the following article I will explain why predictions of global warming ultimately depend upon our understanding of how precipitation systems interactively regulate water vapor and cloud amounts, the two biggest components of the Earth's natural greenhouse effect.

Even though all climate models DO contain the "average effects" of precipitation systems -- this is NOT the same as knowing how precipitation systems will act to stabilize (or destabilize) the climate system in the presence of the warming influence of manmade greenhouse gas emissions.

Al Gore likes to say that mankind puts 70 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every day. What he probably doesn't know is that mother nature puts 24,000 times that amount of our main greenhouse gas -- water vapor -- into the atmosphere every day, and removes about the same amount every day. While this does not 'prove' that global warming is not manmade, it shows that weather systems have by far the greatest control over the Earth's greenhouse effect, which is dominated by water vapor and clouds.

For more see: <http://www.weatherquestions.com/Roy-Spencer-on-global-warming.htm>