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Cape Dwarf Chameleon--Photo by Sharp

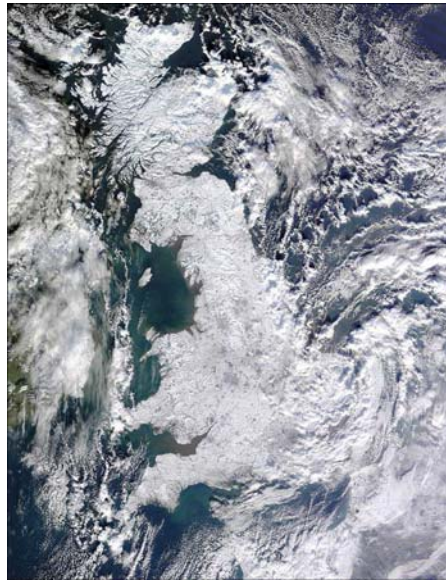
## **Climatism: That Climate Change Chameleon**

By Steve Goreham

Climatism, the belief that man-made greenhouse gases are destroying Earth's climate, is a remarkably flexible ideology. Called "global warming" for many years, advocates renamed the crisis "climate change" after the unexpected cooling of global surface temperatures from 2002-2009. Last month John Holdren, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, [urged](#) everyone to start using the term "global climate disruption." What's next, "catastrophic climate calamity?"

Decreasing snowfall was once claimed as an indication of man-made

climate change. After years of declining snowfall in England, Dr. David Viner, senior scientist at the Climate Research Unit of East Anglia, [predicted](#) that winter snowfall would become “a very rare and exciting event.” Others predicted that snow cover in the United Kingdom would disappear by 2020. But last winter, at the same time that much of the eastern U.S. received record snowfalls, the U.K. was entirely blanketed by snow, as shown in the following NASA satellite [photograph](#)—a rare occurrence. The heavy snow in England was very embarrassing for the U.K. Meteorological Office, which had predicted a mild winter.



So what have the alarmists done? Attend almost any lecture today by an advocate of man-made global warming and you'll find that “heavy snowfall” is now included in the list of impacts from climate change. Now *both* heavy snow and lack of snow are evidence of man-made warming.

To anyone who studies geologic history, the 1.3°F rise in global surface temperatures over the last century is unremarkable. Yet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations calls this rise “[unprecedented](#)” and evidence of man-made climate change. This recent temperature rise is well within the +/-2.5°F range of Earth's average surface [temperature](#) over the last 10,000 years. It's a remarkably small change, given the titanic forces exerted on our world by the sun, the

planets, and Earth's own terrestrial forces of weather and ocean cycles. Even though the average surface temperature of Earth has stayed in a narrow range, local temperatures vary widely. In Chicago for example, the average annual range is from about -5°F to +95°F. Such wide local variation means that a “hundred-year weather event” is occurring somewhere on our planet at any given time.

Climatism uses these local weather variations, and increasingly the term “climate volatility,” to raise alarm. A recent example is the August [report](#) from the World Bank warning that “climate volatility” is expected to “worsen poverty vulnerability in developing countries.” This year we've had drought in Russia and record floods in Pakistan. Both [occurrences](#) were seized upon by climate alarmists as evidence of increasing man-made climate volatility. Record cold temperatures in July in [Bolivia](#), which killed millions of fish in South American rivers, were ignored. Natural local weather events, selectively amplified, provide an endless source of fodder for promoting the coercive governmental policies of Climatism.

Yet, scientific evidence shows that weather would be *less* extreme in a warmer world. Peer-reviewed studies on droughts, floods, hurricanes and storms show that 20th Century occurrences have been of equal or lesser severity than similar events in past centuries, when Earth's climate was in the cooler period of the Little Ice Age. The bulk of [science](#) shows that today's climate is not more volatile as alarmists claim.

A latest initiative from the climate change chameleon is to frame global warming as detrimental to the health of U.S. citizens. On September 28, a joint [letter](#) from 120 of America's health organizations was delivered to President Obama, supporting efforts by the Environmental Regulatory Agency to regulate greenhouse gases. The letter claims that man-made global warming is now a U.S. public health issue especially for “older adults.” Yet, senior citizens continue to retire to Florida, Texas, and Arizona rather than North Dakota and Minnesota. Don't they know that warmer temperatures are a serious health risk?

Steve Goreham is Executive Director of the [Climate Science Coalition of America](#) and author of [Climatism! Science, Common Sense, and the 21st Century's Hottest Topic](#).