

Climate change denial

By Lennart Kiil

Opposition to the idea of [climate change](#) that is not based on evidence.

Climate change denial is usually attributed to groups that have an interest in making people believe there is no climate change, or no climate change [caused by humans or human activity](#).

Climate change denial is believed not to be motivated by a fair evaluation of the evidence, but by a wish to make sure people do not stop using [fossil fuel](#). There are examples of campaigns spreading misinformation even when the groups sending the message know the information to be misleading. Climate change denial, therefore, has more in common with propaganda than with information.

Sometimes the term 'denial industry' is used, because some of the opposition to the idea of global warming has support from a very economically strong and politically powerful industry.

For those who oppose the idea of [anthropogenic global warming](#) on the basis of the evidence and not out of economical self-interest, the word [climate skeptic](#) is usually used instead of climate change denial.

Lately, many of the industries often accused of climate change denial have come out in support of the idea that human activity plays a significant role in climate change.

The opposition amongst some non-expert people to the idea of global warming is also sometimes labeled climate change denial. There is a significant part of most populations that are skeptical towards the idea of anthropogenic climate change. Interestingly, the opposition is strongest in countries with easy access to information.

How to cite this entry

Lennart Kiil: "Climate change denial". Climate Encyclopedia, climate-encyclopedia.com/climate-change-denial, retrieved 25 October 2026.

Climate Encyclopedia is free and needs no login.