Myth: Global warming is unprecedented

Today’s global warming is unprecedented.

The facts

The earth’s average temperature has increased over the last 30 years, and many point to this as evidence of a dangerous human-induced warming. But temperatures have risen and fallen many times before that.

- The Medieval Warm Period (c. 1100-1450) and earlier periods
- Evidence of a dangerous human-induced warming.
were likely as warm or warmer than the present.

- The earth was cooling as recently as the period from the 1940s to the 1970s, giving rise to fears of a coming ice age, until temperatures began to increase in the mid-1970s up through the present day.

While it is likely that mankind’s activities have made a contribution to warming, current temperatures are within the range of natural variability.

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