

GEORGE C. MARSHALL INSTITUTE
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 502
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Jeffrey Salmon

Telephone: (202) 296-9655

Human Activity Is Not Cause of Global Warming

Fears of Extreme Weather Increase Unfounded

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 10, 1996 -- A new report released today by the George C. Marshall Institute finds that CO₂ and other greenhouse gases released by human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels, have not had a discernible influence on climate.

Basing much of its report on peer-reviewed studies completed in the past year, the Marshall study found that most climate data point to a modest rate of temperature increase consistent with natural climate change.

"As the climate models improve, the predictions get closer to a small, gradual warming indistinguishable from the natural warming we have been experiencing for the last several hundred years," stated Dr. Sallie Baliunas, Harvard astrophysicist and Chair of the Marshall Institute Science Advisory Board.

Fears that greenhouse warming causes extreme weather events are also unfounded, according to the Marshall report.

"Severe hurricanes and tornadoes have not increased in recent decades," Dr. Baliunas noted.

The following are specific, major findings of the study:

1. **Extreme weather events are not increasing in frequency.** Hurricanes and tornadoes show no increase in either frequency or intensity despite warming temperatures in this century.
2. **There is no evidence that human activity causes global warming.** Examination of the evidence on regional temperature patterns cited in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change analysis gives no indication of a warming due to human-made greenhouse gases.

According to Dr. Baliunas, "The science does not suggest dangerous global warming. If there is any trace at all of a greenhouse warming, it is too small to be seen in the climate record. That means future warming due to human activities will be quite small -- well under one degree C."

The study, *Are Human Activities Causing Global Warming?*, is a review of recently published technical literature on climate science, and was released at a press conference conducted by Dr. Baliunas and Jeffrey Salmon, Executive Director of the Marshall Institute. The report, produced by the Marshall Institute, is the fifth in a series on climate change by the Institute.

The George C. Marshall Institute was founded in 1984 to conduct technical assessments of scientific issues with an impact on public policy. The Institute is supported by grants from private foundations and individual donors and receives no government or industry funding.

###