

TRANSPORTATION FACTS – Global Warming

- Coastal British Columbia has warmed at about the same rate as the global average—about 0.6 degrees over the past century. The interior of BC has warmed at twice the rate of the global average—over 1 degree during the past century. *(Source: British Columbia, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. 2000. “Environmental Trends in British Columbia 2000.”)*
- The globally averaged temperature of the air at the Earth's surface has warmed between 0.3 and 0.6°C (about 0.5 and 1°F) since the late nineteenth century. *(Source: “Has the World Warmed?” – Common Questions About Climate Change; US Global Change Research Information Office – Global Change Resources; <http://www.gcrio.org/ipcc/qa/02.html>)*
- The four warmest years on record since 1860 have all occurred since 1990. *(Source: “Has the World Warmed?” – Common Questions About Climate Change; US Global Change Research Information Office – Global Change Resources; <http://www.gcrio.org/ipcc/qa/02.html>)*
- The warming has been greatest at night over land in the mid-to-high latitudes of the northern hemisphere. *(Source: “Has the World Warmed?” – Common Questions About Climate Change; US Global Change Research Information Office – Global Change Resources; <http://www.gcrio.org/ipcc/qa/02.html>)*
- The warming during the northern winter and spring has been stronger than at other seasons. In some areas, primarily over continents, the warming has been several times greater than the global average. In a few areas, temperatures have actually cooled, e.g., over the southern Mississippi Valley in North America. *(Source: “Has the World Warmed?” – Common Questions About Climate Change; US Global Change Research Information Office – Global Change Resources; <http://www.gcrio.org/ipcc/qa/02.html>)*
- Other evidence of global temperature increases since the nineteenth century includes the observed rise in sea level of 10 to 25 centimeters (about 4 to 10 inches), the shrinkage of mountain glaciers, a reduction of northern hemisphere snow cover (1973 to present), and increasing sub-surface ground temperatures. *(Source: “Has the World Warmed?” – Common Questions About Climate Change; US Global Change Research Information Office – Global Change Resources; <http://www.gcrio.org/ipcc/qa/02.html>)*

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- Data derived from measurements of tree rings, shallow ice cores, and corals, and from other methods of indirectly determining climate trends, suggest that global surface temperatures are now as warm as or warmer than at any time in the past 600 years. *(Source: "Has the World Warmed?" – Common Questions About Climate Change; US Global Change Research Information Office – Global Change Resources; <http://www.gcrio.org/ipcc/qa/02.html>)*
- Data from a few locations can be used to trace temperatures even further into the past. For example, deep ice cores and North Atlantic deep sea sediments suggest that the recent warming stands out against a record of relatively stable temperatures over the past ten thousand years, with century-to-century variations of temperature seldom approaching the observed increase of global mean temperatures of about 0.3 to 0.6°C (about 0.5 to 1°F) over the last century. *(Source: "Has the World Warmed?" – Common Questions About Climate Change; US Global Change Research Information Office – Global Change Resources; <http://www.gcrio.org/ipcc/qa/02.html>)*