

Cato adds climate scholars to counter ‘alarmist hype’ on global warming

By [Valerie Richardson](#)

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The Cato Institute announced Thursday that it will expand its Center on the Study of Science with the addition of two prominent climate scholars with a history of challenging the prevailing narrative on global warming.

Joining the free-market institute as adjunct scholars are Ross McKittrick, professor of environmental economics at the University of Guelph in Canada, and Terence Kealey, vice chancellor of the University of Buckingham and a professor of clinical biochemistry.

At a time when catastrophic climate-change forecasts hold sway in government and academia, the center "seeks to provide a credible source for media and members of the public who want a fresh perspective on scientific claims made by government and other research organizations," according to Thursday's press release.

"Yes — burning fossil fuels to get the energy we need to advance as a global society does create carbon dioxide that recycles warming in the lower atmosphere," said Patrick J. Michaels, the center's director, in a statement. "But despite what some scientists and politicians tell you, life as we know it will not end next week, next month or even in the next 500 years due to a warming planet. Policy makers need to know that there is a respectable group of scientists out there who don't buy in to the alarmist hype."

Founded in 2012, the center plans to bring on more scholars and scientists in the coming months, Mr. Michaels said in the statement.

The two adjunct scholars join Distinguished Senior Fellow Richard Lindzen, an emeritus professor of meteorology at both MIT and Harvard; Adjunct Scholar Edward J. Calabrese, a professor of environmental health sciences at the University of Massachusetts, specializing in toxicology; and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, the center's assistant director.

A year ago, President Obama outlined his Climate Action Plan aimed at cutting carbon pollution and helping "prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change."

"[T]he debate is settled," Mr. Obama said in this year's State of the Union address. "Climate change is a fact."

Cato President and CEO John Allison countered that "the science on climate change is not settled."

"The time is now to build a critical mass of credible scholars who can engage in the type of debate the public needs to hear in order to make informed decisions," said Mr. Allison in Thursday's release.