



## A LOOK INSIDE THE DETAILS OF THE 97% CONSENSUS STUDIES

The recent Cook et al (2013) study claimed 97% consensus in a review of 12,000 climate technical paper abstracts. The Cook study categorized only 65 abstracts, or 0.5%, as “explicitly quantifies” (that greenhouse gases cause more than 50% of the warming). This is far less than the IPCC position of 90%.

[Alan Carlin](#), Ph.D. Economics, MIT, Senior Operations Research Analyst, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Retired) rejected Cook’s classification of his work as did [many other high profile scientists](#). The study categorized their work as supporting the IPCC’s position when they strongly disagree.

Dr. Nicola Scafetta rejected Cook’s work: "My paper says that the IPCC view is erroneous because about 40-70% of the global warming observed from 1900 to 2000 was induced by the sun."

The Anderegg et al (2010) paper is often cited as another 97-98% consensus, but the [Columbia Journalism Review](#) recommends that it “be treated as a Wikipedia site – a useful starting point, to be treated warily.”

Doran & Zimmerman (2009) is based on Zimmerman’s MA Thesis “[The Consensus on the Consensus: An Opinion Survey of Earth Scientists on Global Climate Change.](#)” The survey sourced 10,000 earth scientists in a 2 minute on-line poll.

Only 3,147 scientists replied out of the 10,000 surveyed; of those, Zimmerman and Doran identified 77 who appeared to be climate scientists. The 75 of 77 scientists (97%) agreed that humans had a "significant" effect on global temperatures.

Zimmerman wrote to a participant saying: “I can honestly say that I have heard very convincing arguments from all the different sides, and I think I’m actually more neutral on the issue now than I was before I started this project. There is so much gray area when you begin to mix science and politics, environmental issues and social issues, calculated rational thinking with emotions, etc..”

[Naomi Oreskes](#) (2004) paper in Science Magazine said she reviewed 908 abstracts and she wrote: “But there is a scientific consensus on the reality of anthropogenic climate change”. Scientist Roger A. Pielke Jr. rebutted Oreskes’ research in a letter “Consensus About Climate Change?” published in Science Magazine May 13, 2005.

Pielke said: “...we should not be surprised if a broader review were to find conclusions at odds with the IPCC consensus, as “consensus” does not mean uniformity of perspective. ...” He further stated “The actions that we take on climate change should be robust to (i) the diversity of scientific perspectives, and thus also to (ii) the diversity of perspectives of the nature of the consensus.”