# Consensus Climate Science

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE



Fast Facts Series

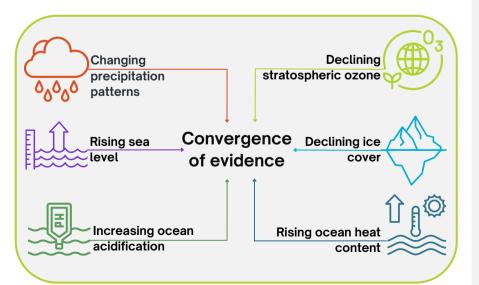
Virtually all scientific evidence finds that climate change is caused by human activity.

#### How was consensus reached?



By thousands of independent scientists from across the world

In climate science, evidence and knowledge come from areas like meteorology, geology, geophysics, and chemistry, to name a few. Scientists studied different aspects of the issue and converged on results that indicate that warming is due to human activities. A 2021 study concluded that over 99% of scientific papers agree on the human cause of climate change.



#### Experts agree that...

- It is **unequivocal** that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land.

  Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Scientists have known for some time, from multiple lines of evidence, that **humans are changing Earth's climate**, primarily through greenhouse gas emissions.
  - National Academies of Sciences (NAS)
- Earth's climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities.
  - U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA)

### SO Why should judges care

Climate cases may raise issues about what has caused the impacts that are the subject of the case.



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#### **Sources**

NAS

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers*, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis - Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2021), https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/resources/spm-headline-statements/.

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