

EVIDENCE PACKET

CLIMATE PESSIMISM

World Schools, TOC, September 11 to 13, 2026

HMDC Forensics

THE MOTION AND THE INFORMATION SLIDE

This House welcomes climate pessimism.

Information slide, and it is binding: climate pessimism is the viewpoint that catastrophic global heating and severe ecological breakdown cannot be fully prevented, and that we should make decisions based on this fact.

The slide decides what this debate is about, so we read it before we reach for a single card. The motion does not ask whether the science is bleak. It asks whether taking that outlook as the basis for our decisions is desirable, which is a different question and the one the judge is listening for.

Welcoming climate pessimism means accepting that some harm can no longer be prevented and then planning on that basis. It does not mean claiming everything is already destroyed, and it does not mean giving up. If we let the other side define it as giving up, we will spend the whole round defending something we never said.

HOW THIS PACKET IS ORGANISED

Ten arguments, five for each side, and five cards under every argument. Every card carries the publication, the author, the date, the full link and a paragraph copied word for word from the live page. Ten rebuttal cards sit at the back, five for each side, and those are the ones we reach for after the other team has already spoken.

We read the card, not the summary. The Original is the sentence a judge can check, and it is the only part of the card we quote aloud. The Fact line is our plain restatement, and the Consequence line is what we say next, because a card that is read without a consequence has not yet done any work.

A NOTE ON HONESTY

Where a source places a limit on its own finding, that limit is printed under the card as a warning. We read the warnings before the round, because the fastest way to lose is to

overstate a source that the other team has also read.

Two limits matter more than the rest in this file. Clean energy is not outrunning the forecasts, and we never say that it is. A plateau in one country's emissions is not a peak, and we never call it one.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT ONE

THE WORLD IS NOT PAYING FOR THE PREPARATION THE DAMAGE ALREADY NEEDS

CARD P1-1

Tagline: First... Needing twelve times more

Source: According to... the United Nations Environment Programme, October 29 2025

Link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2025>

Citation: [United Nations Environment Programme, "Adaptation Gap Report 2025", October 29 2025]

Original: "The report updates the cost of adaptation finance needed in developing countries, putting it at US\$310 billion per year in 2035, when based on modelled costs. When based on extrapolated needs expressed in Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans, this figure rises to US\$365 billion a year. Meanwhile, international public adaptation finance flows to developing countries were US\$26 billion in 2023: down from US\$28 billion the previous year."

Fact: It states... that poorer countries will need about 310 billion dollars every year by 2035 to prepare for climate damage, and that they are being given about 26 billion dollars a year, which is less than they were given the year before.

Consequence: This means... that the money for surviving the harm is roughly one twelfth of what is needed and it is shrinking, so the millions of people who will lose homes, crops and lives to the next flood will lose them because a world that kept promising to prevent the harm never paid to prepare for it.

CARD P1-2

Tagline: Also... Widening the preparation gap

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, October 29 2025

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/un-report-five-charts-which-explain-the-gap-in-finance-for-climate-adaptation>

Citation: [Ayesha Tandon and Cecilia Keating, Carbon Brief, "UN report: Five charts which explain the 'gap' in finance for climate adaptation", October 29 2025]

Original: "With current levels of international adaptation finance estimated at \$26bn a year, the report calculates that developing countries are facing an 'adaptation finance gap' in the range of \$284-339bn per year by 2035."

Fact: It states... that the hole between what poorer countries are given and what they need will be between 284 and 339 billion dollars every year by 2035.

Consequence: This means... that the gap is not closing but growing, and a gap of that size is not an accounting problem, because it is measured in sea walls that are never built and in warning systems that never reach the village.

Warning for the team: this is the same United Nations report as the card above, told by a second publication. We use one of the two in a speech, never both, because a judge will notice.

CARD P1-3

Tagline: Also... Choosing prevention over preparation

Source: According to... the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics, August 14 2024

Link: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/how-is-adaptation-included-within-the-international-climate-agenda/>

Citation: [Sam Kumari and Georgina Kyriacou, reviewed by Timo Leiter and Anna Beswick, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics, "How is adaptation included within the international climate agenda?", August 14 2024]

Original: "Adaptation has historically been deprioritised in favour of mitigation in international climate governance and, according to the 2023 UN Environment Programme's Adaptation Gap Report, it remains significantly underfunded."

Fact: It states... that for many years the world's climate agreements have put stopping the warming ahead of preparing for the warming that is already coming, and that preparing is still

badly underpaid.

Consequence: This means... that hope itself made the choice, because a world that believed the harm could still be prevented saw no reason to prepare for it, and the countries that will be hit first are the ones left standing without defences.

CARD P1-4

Tagline: Also... Warning only some countries

Source: According to... the World Meteorological Organization, November 12 2025

Link: <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/early-warning-systems-reach-new-heights-critical-gaps-jeopardize-global-progress>

Citation: [World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Early warning systems reach new heights, but critical gaps jeopardize global progress", November 12 2025]

Original: "60% of all countries now report having a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, but variations exist between regions, with the highest coverage percentage in Asia-Pacific (72%) and the lowest coverage in the Americas and Caribbean (51%)."

Fact: It states... that four countries in every ten still have no system for warning their people that a storm, a flood or a heatwave is coming.

Consequence: This means... that the cheapest life-saving tool we have is missing from almost half the world, and every year that we spend arguing about whether the harm can still be prevented is another year those families are told nothing until the water is at the door.

Warning for the team: this counts whether a country reports having a system, not how well the system works. We say four in ten countries have no system, and we do not say the other six are protected.

CARD P1-5

Tagline: Finally... Funding survival with pennies

Source: According to... The New Humanitarian, November 18 2025

Link: <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2025/11/18/big-questions-loss-and-damage-funds-250m-trial-run>

Citation: [Will Worley, Staff reporter and editor for policy, The New Humanitarian, "Big questions hang over Loss and Damage Fund's \$250m trial run", November 18 2025]

Original: "Behind the carefully scripted communications, tensions familiar to loss and damage linger: The Fund is only worth \$431.14 million (having been pledged \$788.8 million), but at least \$724.43 billion a year in loss and damage finance is needed, according to the Loss and Damage Collaboration, a campaign group."

Fact: It states... that the fund the world built to pay for damage that could not be prevented holds about 431 million dollars, while the estimated need is more than 724 billion dollars every year.

Consequence: This means... that the fund is holding less than one thousandth of the yearly need, so a family whose island is going under is being offered a promise rather than a plan, and that gap exists because the world is still budgeting as though the harm can be stopped.

Warning for the team: the 724 billion dollar figure comes from a campaign group, not from the United Nations. We say the fund holds 431 million dollars, which is the reporter's own figure, and we name the campaign group when we use the larger number.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT TWO

THE SCIENCE ITSELF SAYS SOME OF THIS HARM CAN NO LONGER BE PREVENTED

CARD P2-1

Tagline: First... Melting whatever we do

Source: According to... the British Antarctic Survey, October 23 2023

Link: <https://www.bas.ac.uk/news/increased-west-antarctic-ice-sheet-melting-unavoidable/>

Citation: [Kaitlin Naughten and Paul Holland, British Antarctic Survey, and Jan De Rydt, Northumbria University, "Increased West Antarctic Ice Sheet melting 'unavoidable'", British Antarctic Survey, reporting research published in Nature Climate Change, October 23 2023]

Original: "The West Antarctic Ice Sheet will continue to increase its rate of melting over the rest of the century, no matter how much we reduce fossil fuel use, according to British Antarctic Survey (BAS) research published this week in the journal Nature Climate Change. A substantial acceleration in ice melting likely cannot now be avoided, which implies that Antarctica's contribution to sea level rise could increase rapidly over the coming decades."

Fact: It states... that West Antarctic ice will melt faster for the rest of this century no matter how much fossil fuel the world stops burning, and that the sea will rise faster because of it.

Consequence: This means... that accepting this piece of the harm is not pessimism at all, it is reading the science, and the hundreds of millions of people who live on a coast need their governments building now rather than waiting for a prevention that this paper says will not arrive.

CARD P2-2

Tagline: Also... Locking changes in permanently

Source: According to... the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Last Accessed: August 2026

Link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers/>

Citation: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report, Summary for Policymakers", Last Accessed: August 2026]

Original: "Continued emissions will further affect all major climate system components, and many changes will be irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales and become larger with increasing global warming."

Fact: It states... that many of the changes already under way cannot be undone for hundreds or even thousands of years, and that they grow larger the more the world warms.

Consequence: This means... that some of this is already permanent on any timescale a child alive today will live through, so a government that plans only to prevent, and never to live with what is irreversible, is planning for a world that no longer exists.

Warning for the team: the same sentence says the changes become larger with more warming, which is our opponents' best line. We accept it openly, because our case is that some harm is locked in, not that effort has stopped mattering.

CARD P2-3

Tagline: Also... Rising seas for centuries

Source: According to... the World Meteorological Organization, March 23 2026

Link: <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/earths-climate-swings-increasingly-out-of-balance>

Citation: [World Meteorological Organization, "Earth's climate swings increasingly out of balance", March 23 2026]

Original: "Ocean warming and sea level rise will continue for centuries, according to projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Changes in ocean warming, and deep ocean pH are irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales."

Fact: It states... that the ocean will keep warming and the sea will keep rising for centuries, and that these particular changes cannot be reversed within any human lifetime.

Consequence: This means... that a coastal city planning on the idea that the sea will stop rising if emissions fall is planning on something the world's weather agency says will not happen, and the cost of that mistake is paid by everyone who lives there.

CARD P2-4

Tagline: Also... Crossing an Antarctic threshold

Source: According to... Nature Climate Change, February 16 2026

Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-025-02554-0>

Citation: [Ricarda Winkelmann, Julius Garbe, Jonathan F. Donges and Torsten Albrecht, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology, and colleagues, "Mapping tipping risks from Antarctic ice basins under global warming", Nature Climate Change, volume 16, issue 3, pages 341 to 349, published online February 16 2026]

Original: "The Antarctic Ice Sheet is subject to amplifying feedbacks which can accelerate ice loss and lead to effectively irreversible retreat."

Fact: It states... that the Antarctic ice sheet contains feedbacks that speed up its own melting, and that the retreat this produces is effectively impossible to reverse.

Consequence: This means... that one of the largest single sources of future sea level rise has a point of no return built into it, and a world that refuses to say so out loud will not fund the defences that the people living behind them are going to need.

Warning for the team: the same paper says a threshold could be reached at one to two degrees, and it says "potentially as low as", which is a possibility rather than a measurement. We read the irreversible retreat sentence and we leave the threshold number alone.

CARD P2-5

Tagline: Finally... Owing three feet already

Source: According to... the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, September 29 2015

Link: <https://sealevel.nasa.gov/news/23/warming-seas-and-melting-ice-sheets/>

Citation: [Maria-Jose Vinas and Carol Rasmussen, Earth Science News Team, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, "Warming Seas and Melting Ice Sheets", quoting Steve Nerem of the University of Colorado, Boulder, lead of the Sea Level Change Team, September 29 2015]

Original: "Given what we know now about how the ocean expands as it warms and how ice sheets and glaciers are adding water to the seas, it's pretty certain we are locked into at least 3 feet [0.9 meter] of sea level rise," said Steve Nerem of the University of Colorado, Boulder, and lead of the Sea Level Change Team.

Fact: It states... that the person leading the sea level team at the American space agency says the world is already locked into at least three feet of sea level rise.

Consequence: This means... that three feet of water is coming whatever any country decides next, and the only question left is whether the towns in its path are built up before it arrives or drowned because nobody was willing to admit it was coming.

Warning for the team: the very next line of this page has the same scientist say that nobody knows whether it takes one hundred years or two hundred. We say the amount is locked in, and we never put a date on it.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT THREE

THE HOPEFUL TARGETS ARE ALREADY BEING MISSED, IN PUBLIC AND ON THE RECORD

CARD P3-1

Tagline: First... Passing the agreed line

Source: According to... the Copernicus Climate Change Service, January 14 2026

Link: <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-2025-was-third-hottest-year-record>

Citation: [Copernicus Climate Change Service, operated by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts on behalf of the European Commission, "Copernicus: 2025 was the third hottest year on record", January 14 2026]

Original: "Global temperatures from the past three years (2023-2025) averaged more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level (1850-1900). This marks the first time a three-year period has exceeded the 1.5°C limit."

Fact: It states... that the last three years together were more than one and a half degrees warmer than the world used to be, and that this has never happened over three years before.

Consequence: This means... that the line the whole hopeful plan was built around has now been crossed for three years running, so a country still telling its people that the line will hold is asking them to prepare for a world that the temperature record says has already gone.

Warning for the team: the Paris goal is measured over a long average, not over three years, so we say that a three-year average has passed the line, and we never say the Paris goal is formally broken.

CARD P3-2

Tagline: Also... Missing the Paris goal

Source: According to... the United Nations Environment Programme, November 4 2025

Link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2025>

Citation: [United Nations Environment Programme, "Emissions Gap Report 2025", November 4 2025]

Original: "Nations remain far from meeting the Paris Agreement goal to limit warming to well-below 2°C, while pursuing efforts to stay below 1.5°C."

Fact: It states... that countries are still far from meeting the promise they made in Paris.

Consequence: This means... that the optimistic plan is being judged by the body that wrote the scorecard, and it is being marked as far behind, so the people who will live with the extra warming deserve governments that plan for it rather than governments that keep reciting the target.

CARD P3-3

Tagline: Also... Bending the curve slowly

Source: According to... the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, October 28 2025

Link: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2025_08.pdf

Citation: [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, "Nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement: Synthesis report by the secretariat", document reference FCCC/PA/CMA/2025/8, October 28 2025]

Original: "According to their NDCs, Parties are bending their combined emission curve further downward, but still not quickly enough."

Fact: It states... that when every country's promise is added together the world is cutting emissions, and that the cutting is still too slow.

Consequence: This means... that even the treaty body whose whole purpose is to encourage countries says plainly that the promises do not add up in time, and a plan that does not add up in time is a plan that leaves someone behind.

Warning for the team: the same report also credits real and increasing progress. We read the sentence above, and if our opponents read the progress sentence we agree with it, because our case is that the pace is short, not that nothing has happened.

CARD P3-4

Tagline: Also... Heading for two point six

Source: According to... the Climate Action Tracker, November 13 2025

Link: <https://climateactiontracker.org/press/release-global-update-2025/>

Citation: [Climate Action Tracker, produced by Climate Analytics and the NewClimate Institute, "RELEASE: little change in warming outlook now for four years; new 2035 climate targets make no difference", November 13 2025]

Original: "Warming under governments' policies and climate action - the CAT's Current Policies Pathway - has seen a small 0.1°C drop, from 2.7°C to 2.6°C, but largely due to a CAT methodological update to extend and better reflect China's emissions pathways to 2100, rather than new and substantial policy action."

Fact: It states... that the world is heading for about two point six degrees of warming, and that the small improvement came from a change in how the sums were done rather than from anything governments actually did.

Consequence: This means... that four years of promises have moved the outcome by almost nothing, so a family in a country that floods every year is being asked to trust an improvement that exists on a spreadsheet rather than in the sky.

CARD P3-5

Tagline: Finally... Planning without credible plans

Source: According to... the Climate Change Committee of the United Kingdom, June 25 2025

Link: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/progress-in-reducing-emissions-2025-report-to-parliament/>

Citation: [Climate Change Committee, "Progress in reducing emissions - 2025 report to Parliament", June 25 2025]

Original: "We assess that 61% of the required reduction in emissions to hit the 2030 NDC is covered by either credible plans or has some associated risks, mostly in the electricity supply and surface transport sectors. For the remaining 39%, there are either significant risks, or insufficient or unquantified plans."

Fact: It states... that for almost four tenths of the cuts the United Kingdom has promised by 2030 there is either serious risk or no proper plan at all.

Consequence: This means... that even a wealthy country with a climate law and its own watchdog cannot show a plan for a large part of its own target, and if that is true where the money and the lawyers are, then trusting the same promise everywhere else is how the harm arrives unprepared for.

Warning for the team: the same page says the United Kingdom can still hit its targets with further action. We say that four tenths lacks a credible plan today, and we never say the watchdog has declared the target lost.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT FOUR

OPTIMISM IS WHAT IS BUYING THE DELAY

CARD P4-1

Tagline: First... Naming technological optimism delay

Source: According to... Global Sustainability, July 1 2020

Link: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-sustainability/article/discourses-of-climate-delay/7B11B722E3E3454BB6212378E32985A7>

Citation: [William F. Lamb, Giulio Mattioli, Sebastian Levi, J. Timmons Roberts, Stuart Capstick, Felix Creutzig, Jan C. Minx, Finn Muller-Hansen, Trevor Culhane and Julia K.

Steinberger, "Discourses of climate delay", Global Sustainability, volume 3, article e17, July 1 2020]

Original: "Technological optimism is a prime example, holding that technological progress will rapidly bring about emissions reductions in the future."

Fact: It states... that ten researchers list technological optimism, which is the belief that a future invention will fix this quickly, as one of the standard ways that action gets delayed.

Consequence: This means... that hope has its own name in the research on delay, so when our opponents say pessimism excuses inaction we can answer that optimism has been excusing inaction for longer, and the people waiting on that promise are waiting in the path of the harm.

CARD P4-2

Tagline: Also... Digging twice the limit

Source: According to... the Stockholm Environment Institute, November 8 2023

Link: <https://www.sei.org/about-sei/press-room/governments-plan-to-produce-double-the-fossil-fuels-in-2030-than-the-1-5c-warming-limit-allows/>

Citation: [Stockholm Environment Institute, "Governments plan to produce double the fossil fuels in 2030 than the 1.5°C warming limit allows", released with the Production Gap Report partners, November 8 2023]

Original: "A major new report published today finds that governments plan to produce around 110% more fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C, and 69% more than would be consistent with 2°C. This comes despite 151 national governments having pledged to achieve net-zero emissions and the latest forecasts which suggest global coal, oil, and gas demand will peak this decade, even without new policies."

Fact: It states... that governments plan to dig up about twice as much coal, oil and gas in 2030 as their own one and a half degree limit allows, and that 151 of those same governments have promised to reach net zero.

Consequence: This means... that the promise and the plan are being made by the same people at the same time, so the optimistic pledge is not slowing the digging, it is covering for it, and every extra tonne lands on the countries that did the least to cause this.

CARD P4-3

Tagline: Also... Promising a billion hectares

Source: According to... Nature Communications, October 23 2024

Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-53466-0>

Citation: [Kate Dooley, Kirstine Lund Christiansen, Jens Friis Lund, Wim Carton and Alister Self, "Over-reliance on land for carbon dioxide removal in net-zero climate pledges", Nature Communications, volume 15, article number 9118, October 23 2024]

Original: "Here, we show that countries' climate pledges require approximately 1 (0.9-1.1) billion ha of land for removals."

Fact: It states... that the promises countries have already made would need about one billion hectares of land to soak carbon back out of the air, which is an area larger than the whole of China.

Consequence: This means... that a large part of the hopeful plan depends on land that nobody has set aside and that people already live and farm on, so a country resting its future on that promise is resting it on something the researchers say the land cannot deliver.

CARD P4-4

Tagline: Also... Relying on unproven technology

Source: According to... the Carbon Tracker Initiative, May 27 2021

Link: <https://carbontracker.org/oil-majors-net-zero-plans-still-far-from-paris-targets/>

Citation: [Helena Gray, Carbon Tracker Initiative, "Oil majors' net zero plans still far from Paris targets", May 27 2021]

Original: "It also finds that most companies' implementation plans, including those with the strongest targets, rely on both carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) and negative emissions technologies (NETs) to mitigate continued oil and gas production. However, most technical solutions are unproven at scale, while so-called nature-based solutions like tree planting have huge land use implications."

Fact: It states... that the largest oil companies, including the ones with the strongest targets, plan to keep producing oil and gas and to cancel it out later with technology that has not been shown to work at a large size.

Consequence: This means... that the optimistic story is doing work for the companies causing the harm, because a promise about a future machine is what lets today's drilling continue, and the bill for that delay is paid by people who never bought a barrel of it.

Warning for the team: this analysis is from 2021 and it covers ten named companies. We say this is what those ten companies planned then, and we do not claim it describes every company today.

CARD P4-5

Tagline: Finally... Missing targets without consequence

Source: According to... the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, March 11 2025

Link: <https://newsroom.haas.berkeley.edu/research/study-nearly-40-of-companies-missed-or-abandoned-2020-climate-targets-with-no-consequences/>

Citation: [Laura Counts, Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley, reporting research co-authored by Shawn Kim, Assistant Professor of Accounting, published in Nature Climate Change, "Study: Nearly 40% of companies missed or abandoned 2020 climate targets with no consequences", March 11 2025]

Original: "A new study co-authored by Haas School of Business professor Shawn Kim and featured on the cover of the March issue of Nature Climate Change found that almost 40% of the companies that set 2020 emissions targets either missed the mark or simply stopped reporting on them before the deadline."

Fact: It states... that almost four in every ten companies that set a climate target for 2020 either missed it or quietly stopped reporting on it before the date they had promised.

Consequence: This means... that a target with no penalty is a story rather than a plan, so a world that keeps accepting those stories keeps postponing the preparation, and the postponement is what turns damage into disaster for the people underneath it.

PROPOSITION, ARGUMENT FIVE

ONCE A COUNTRY ACCEPTS THE DAMAGE IS COMING, IT SAVES LIVES

CARD P5-1

Tagline: First... Cutting deaths by thousands

Source: According to... the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, December 16 2019

Link: <https://www.undrr.org/news/bangladesh-goes-beyond-cyclones>

Citation: [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Bangladesh goes beyond cyclones", December 16 2019]

Original: "A new record for evacuations was set in Bangladesh a month ago when the government Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) evacuated 2.1 million people before Cyclone Bulbul made landfall on the Sundarbans coast."

Original, second passage, which is not next to the first: "Cyclone Bulbul resulted in 19 deaths including four persons who left the cyclone shelters before the all-clear was given."

Fact: It states... that Bangladesh moved 2.1 million people to safety before a cyclone reached the coast, and that nineteen people died, four of them because they left the shelters too early.

Consequence: This means... that a country which accepted that the storms were coming and built shelters for them turned a disaster into a headline about an evacuation, and that is what accepting the harm looks like when it is done properly.

Warning for the team: the same page gives 138,000 deaths in the 1991 cyclone and a much larger figure for 1970 that other sources dispute. We use 1991 and 2019, because both are on the page and neither is contested.

CARD P5-2

Tagline: Also... Halving weather deaths worldwide

Source: According to... the World Meteorological Organization, Last Accessed: August 2026

Link: <https://wmo.int/about-us/world-meteorological-day/wmd-2022/early-warnings-save-lives-and-livelihoods>

Citation: [World Meteorological Organization, "Early Warnings Save Lives and Livelihoods", Last Accessed: August 2026]

Original: "Worldwide, death tolls have fallen decade by decade - from over 50 000 deaths on average per year in the 1970s to less than 20 000 in the 2010s."

Fact: It states... that deaths from weather disasters fell from more than fifty thousand a year in the 1970s to fewer than twenty thousand a year in the 2010s.

Consequence: This means... that thirty thousand people a year are alive because the world learned to warn them and shelter them rather than only to argue about preventing the weather, and that is the single clearest case for planning around harm we cannot stop.

Warning for the team: this page carries no date, so we use our Last Accessed form. The fall also comes from better forecasting and building, not from warnings alone.

CARD P5-3

Tagline: Also... Returning ten to one

Source: According to... the Global Commission on Adaptation, September 2019

Link: https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GlobalCommission_Report_FINAL.pdf

Citation: [Global Commission on Adaptation, chaired by Ban Ki-moon, Bill Gates and Kristalina Georgieva, "Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience", September 2019]

Original: "The Commission found that the overall rate of return on investments in improved resilience is very high, with benefit-cost ratios ranging from 2:1 to 10:1, and in some cases even higher."

Fact: It states... that every dollar spent on getting ready for climate damage returns between two and ten dollars, and sometimes more.

Consequence: This means... that preparing is not the sad second choice our opponents describe, it is the best value in the whole field, and refusing to make that investment because it admits the harm is coming is how a government spends more to save fewer people.

CARD P5-4

Tagline: Also... Saving eleven hundred yearly

Source: According to... PreventionWeb, June 3 2019

Link: <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/india-new-evidence-shows-pioneering-heat-action-plan-helps-millions-avoid-killer-heat>

Citation: [Natural Resources Defense Council, published by PreventionWeb, the knowledge platform of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "India: New evidence shows pioneering heat action plan helps millions avoid killer heat", June 3 2019]

Original: "Ahmedabad, a major Indian city, avoided more than 1100 deaths each year after it implemented the region's first-ever Heat Action Plan in 2013."

Fact: It states... that one Indian city stopped more than eleven hundred deaths every year once it built a plan for the heat it knew was coming.

Consequence: This means... that a single city accepting a hotter future saved more lives every year than most climate promises have saved anywhere, and it did it by planning for the harm rather than waiting for the harm to be prevented.

Warning for the team: the figure comes from the Natural Resources Defense Council, which campaigns on this issue, although the number itself traces back to a study of the city's death records. We name the council when we read it.

CARD P5-5

Tagline: Finally... Warning before the heat

Source: According to... Current Environmental Health Reports, August 21 2025

Link: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40572-025-00496-5>

Citation: [Sai Venkata Sarath Chandra N and Jason Kai Wei Lee, Department of Physiology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, "A Systematic Review of Heat Health Warning Systems: Enhancing the Framework Towards Effective Health Outcomes", Current Environmental Health Reports, August 21 2025]

Original: "Introduction of a HHWS in France after the 2003 European heat wave resulted in saving an estimated 4400 lives during the 2006 European heat wave [9]."

Fact: It states... that France built a heat health warning system after the European heatwave of 2003, and that the system is estimated to have saved about four thousand four hundred

lives when the next heatwave came in 2006.

Consequence: This means... that a country changed its mind about what was preventable, planned for the heat instead, and four thousand four hundred people lived because of it, which is the whole argument in one country and one number.

Warning for the team: the four thousand four hundred figure is an estimate from an earlier study that this review is quoting. We say estimated, every time.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT ONE

EVERY FRACTION OF A DEGREE STILL DECIDES WHO LIVES

CARD 01-1

Tagline: First... Escalating with every increment

Source: According to... the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022

Link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/>

Citation: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group Two, co-chaired by Hans-Otto Portner and Debra C. Roberts, "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers", 2022]

Original: "The magnitude and rate of climate change and associated risks depend strongly on near-term mitigation and adaptation actions, and projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages escalate with every increment of global warming (very high confidence)."

Fact: It states... with the highest confidence the panel uses, that the harm grows with every extra fraction of a degree, which also means that every fraction of a degree we prevent is harm that never happens to anyone.

Consequence: This means... that there is no point at which effort stops mattering, so a world that formally decides the fight is lost throws away the one thing that still reduces suffering for hundreds of millions of people who are alive right now.

CARD 01-2

Tagline: Also... Halving the water stress

Source: According to... the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, October 6 2018

Link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>

Citation: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Global Warming of 1.5°C, Summary for Policymakers", October 6 2018]

Original: "Depending on future socio-economic conditions, limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C may reduce the proportion of the world population exposed to a climate change-induced increase in water stress by up to 50%, although there is considerable variability between regions (medium confidence)."

Fact: It states... that holding warming to one and a half degrees instead of two degrees could cut in half the share of the world's people who face a worsening shortage of water.

Consequence: This means... that half a degree is the difference between having water and not having it for an enormous number of families, and that difference only exists for as long as somebody is still fighting for it.

Warning for the team: the panel writes "up to 50%" and marks it medium confidence. We say up to half, and we never say half flat.

CARD 01-3

Tagline: Also... Sparing four hundred million

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, October 8 2018

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/in-depth-qa-ipccs-special-report-on-climate-change-at-one-point-five-c>

Citation: [Carbon Brief Staff, "In-depth Q&A: The IPCC's special report on climate change at 1.5C", Carbon Brief, October 8 2018]

Original: "Holding warming to 1.5C rather than 2C will see around 420 million fewer people being frequently exposed to extreme heatwaves, the report notes."

Fact: It states... that keeping warming at one and a half degrees instead of two degrees means about 420 million fewer people are often caught in extreme heatwaves.

Consequence: This means... that half a degree is worth four hundred and twenty million people, and a motion that asks us to build our decisions on the idea that the fight is over is asking us to stop fighting for them by name.

CARD 01-4

Tagline: Also... Counting each third degree

Source: According to... Nature Sustainability, May 22 2023

Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-023-01132-6>

Citation: [Timothy M. Lenton, University of Exeter, Chi Xu, Nanjing University, Jesse F. Abrams, Ashish Ghadiali, Sina Loriani, Boris Sakschewski, Caroline Zimm, Kristie L. Ebi, Robert R. Dunn, Jens-Christian Svenning and Marten Scheffer, "Quantifying the human cost of global warming", Nature Sustainability, volume 6, issue 10, pages 1237 to 1247, May 22 2023]

Original: "Thus, each 0.3 °C decline in end-of-century warming reduces hot exposure by 4.3% or 410 million people"

Fact: It states... that every three tenths of a degree the world avoids by the end of the century takes about 410 million people out of dangerous heat.

Consequence: This means... that the number of people saved by a fraction of a degree is larger than the population of most countries on earth, and there is no version of welcoming defeat that does not hand that number over.

CARD 01-5

Tagline: Finally... Losing all the reefs

Source: According to... the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, October 6 2018

Link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>

Citation: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Global Warming of 1.5°C, Summary for Policymakers", October 6 2018]

Original: "Coral reefs, for example, are projected to decline by a further 70-90% at 1.5°C (high confidence) with larger losses (>99%) at 2°C (very high confidence)."

Fact: It states... that at one and a half degrees most coral reefs are lost, and that at two degrees more than ninety-nine in every hundred are lost.

Consequence: This means... that even between two painful outcomes there is a difference of almost every reef on the planet, and the hundreds of millions of people who eat from those reefs are the ones who pay for a decision to stop caring which outcome we get.

Warning for the team: this card admits large loss at one and a half degrees, which the Proposition will use. We read it anyway, because the gap between most and nearly all is the point we are making.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT TWO

THE CHANGE IS ALREADY UNDER WAY, AND SURRENDER WOULD ABANDON IT

CARD 02-1

Tagline: First... Overtaking coal at last

Source: According to... Ember, April 21 2026

Link: <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/global-electricity-review-2026/>

Citation: [Nicolas Fulghum, Wilmar Suarez, Katye Altieri and Kostantsa Rangelova, Ember, "Global Electricity Review 2026", April 21 2026]

Original: "For the first time in 100 years, renewables (33.8%, 10,730 TWh) overtook coal power (33.0%, 10,476 TWh) in the global electricity mix as continued rapid growth in solar and wind pushed the share of renewables above a third of global generation."

Fact: It states... that in 2025 renewable power passed coal in the world's electricity supply for the first time in a hundred years.

Consequence: This means... that the change our opponents want us to give up on has just passed the milestone people spent a generation saying was impossible, and telling children the fight is lost in the year it started being won is how a country talks itself out of finishing.

Warning for the team: the same report says the transition remains uneven and incomplete and that fossil fuels still play a significant role. We say renewables passed coal, and we never say the problem is solved.

CARD 02-2

Tagline: Also... Lowering the projected warming

Source: According to... the Climate Action Tracker, November 13 2025

Link: <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/warming-projections-global-update-2025/>

Citation: [Climate Action Tracker, produced by Climate Analytics and the NewClimate Institute, "Little change in warming outlook for four years; new 2035 climate targets make no difference", November 13 2025]

Original: "Back in 2015, our assessment of existing policies showed the world was on track to around 3.6°C of warming by 2100. Now, ten years later, our latest projections show that this has been reduced by roughly 1°C to around 2.6°C."

Fact: It states... that in 2015 the world was heading for about three point six degrees, and that ten years later it is heading for about two point six degrees, which is a whole degree less.

Consequence: This means... that one degree of future warming has already been taken off the table by people who refused to accept that nothing could be done, and every one of those tenths is a group of people who now live somewhere that stays habitable.

Warning for the team: the same source says the progress made in the first five years after Paris has flattened off since about 2020. We say a whole degree has come off since 2015, and we accept openly that the improvement has slowed.

CARD 02-3

Tagline: Also... Holding emissions flat now

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, February 12 2026

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-chinas-co2-emissions-have-now-been-flat-or-falling-for-21-months/>

Citation: [Lauri Myllyvirta, Lead Analyst, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, "Analysis: China's CO2 emissions have now been 'flat or falling' for 21 months", Carbon Brief, February 12 2026]

Original: "The latest analysis shows China's CO2 emissions have now been flat or falling for 21 months, starting in March 2024. This trend continued in the final quarter of 2025, when emissions fell by 1% year-on-year."

Fact: It states... that the country producing more carbon dioxide than any other has held its emissions flat or falling for twenty-one months in a row, and that they fell again at the end of 2025.

Consequence: This means... that the hardest single part of the problem has begun to turn, and a generation taught that nothing can be done will not be the generation that finishes turning it.

Warning for the team: the same analysis says a small jump could push emissions above the old peak. We say emissions have been flat, and we never say they have peaked, because the moment we overstate it the Proposition reads the next sentence of our own source back to us.

CARD 02-4

Tagline: Also... Investing double in clean

Source: According to... the International Energy Agency, June 5 2025

Link: <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-investment-2025/executive-summary>

Citation: [International Energy Agency, "World Energy Investment 2025", June 5 2025]

Original: "Around USD 2.2 trillion is going collectively to renewables, nuclear, grids, storage, low-emissions fuels, efficiency and electrification, twice as much as the USD 1.1 trillion going to oil, natural gas and coal."

Fact: It states... that the world is now putting about two point two trillion dollars a year into clean energy, which is twice what it puts into oil, natural gas and coal.

Consequence: This means... that the money has already changed sides, and money does not move like that towards something people believe is finished, so declaring the fight lost would be arguing against the largest bet the world has ever placed on winning it.

Warning for the team: the same summary says that in Africa the cost of servicing debt is equal to more than eighty-five percent of all energy investment. The money has moved, and it has not moved everywhere.

CARD 02-5

Tagline: Finally... Adding record clean capacity

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, March 27 2025

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/massive-increase-world-adds-record-levels-of-new-renewables-capacity-in-2024/>

Citation: [Carbon Brief, "'Massive increase': World adds record levels of new renewables capacity in 2024", reporting the annual statistical release of the International Renewable Energy Agency, March 27 2025]

Original: "The latest International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) annual statistical release shows that 585GW of new "clean" power capacity was added globally last year,

reports BusinessGreen. Renewables accounted for 92.5% of all electricity capacity brought online in 2024, with the sector delivering a record annual growth of 15.1%, it adds."

Fact: It states... that more than nine tenths of all the new electricity capacity built in the world in 2024 was renewable, and that this was a record.

Consequence: This means... that when the world builds anything new now it almost always builds clean, and a country that adopts pessimism as its official position would be walking away from a machine that is already running at record speed.

Warning for the team: the same article says the world is still expected to fall twenty-eight percent short of the goal to triple renewable energy by 2030. We read the record, and we admit the shortfall before the Proposition finds it.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT THREE

HOPELESSNESS IS WHAT STOPS PEOPLE ACTING

CARD 03-1

Tagline: First... Outnumbering doubt with despair

Source: According to... Frontiers in Communication, May 3 2024

Link:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/communication/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2024.1380092/full>

Citation: [Caitlin Johnstone and Elise Stickles, Department of English Language and Literatures, University of British Columbia, "Navigating the climate change minefield: the influence of metaphor on climate doomism", Frontiers in Communication, May 3 2024]

Original: "Climate doomism is an increasing concern for climate change communication. In the United States, this opinion regarding anthropogenic climate change is now more prevalent than climate skepticism, and is the primary reason cited for opposition to climate action. Doomism is the belief that catastrophic warming of the planet is now inevitable, and that effective mitigation is impossible. The behaviors resulting from this view are comparable to the result of climate skepticism: doomism produces paralyzing eco-anxiety and subsequently inaction."

Fact: It states... that the belief nothing can be done is now more common than doubting the science, and that it is the main reason people give for opposing climate action.

Consequence: This means... that despair has already overtaken denial as the largest obstacle we have left, so a motion asking us to welcome pessimism is asking us to feed the very thing that is stopping the world from acting.

Warning for the team: the survey evidence behind this is from the United States. We say that in the United States despair has overtaken doubt, and the Proposition cannot then ask us whether it holds everywhere.

CARD 03-2

Tagline: Also... Acting only when hopeful

Source: According to... Climatic Change, June 20 2014

Link: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-014-1173-5>

Citation: [Connie Roser-Renouf, Edward W. Maibach and Xiaoquan Zhao, Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University, and Anthony Leiserowitz, Project on Climate Change Communication, Yale University, "The genesis of climate change activism: from key beliefs to political action", Climatic Change, June 20 2014]

Original: "Respondents with high risk perceptions, but who did not believe that humans are causing the problem or could solve it were no more likely to have taken action than people who were not certain global warming is happening (Table 2). Only 3 percent of this group had engaged in some type of activism, compared to 40 percent of the group with all four key beliefs."

Fact: It states... that people who are frightened of climate change but do not believe it can be solved act at a rate of three in a hundred, while people who believe it can be solved act at a rate of forty in a hundred.

Consequence: This means... that fear without belief produces almost nothing, so teaching a country that the harm cannot be stopped would take its most worried people and turn them into its least active ones.

CARD 03-3

Tagline: Also... Predicting who turns up

Source: According to... Frontiers in Communication, May 21 2019

Link:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/communication/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2019.00020/full>

Citation: [Jennifer R. Marlon and Matthew T. Ballew, Yale University, Brittany Bloodhart, Colorado State University, and Justin Rolfe-Redding, Connie Roser-Renouf and Edward Maibach, George Mason University, with Anthony Leiserowitz, "How Hope and Doubt Affect Climate Change Mobilization", Frontiers in Communication, May 21 2019]

Original: "Regression analyses suggest that constructive hope and doubt predict increased policy support and political engagement, whereas false hope and fatalistic doubt predict the opposite."

Fact: It states... that people who hold a useful kind of hope support climate policy and take part in politics more, while people who hold a hopeless kind of doubt do the opposite.

Consequence: This means... that the outlook a country adopts changes how many of its people show up, and adopting pessimism as the official view is choosing the outlook that empties the room.

Warning for the team: this study measures a pattern across surveys rather than proving one thing causes the other. We say it predicts, which is the word the authors use.

CARD 03-4

Tagline: Also... Believing before doing anything

Source: According to... PLOS ONE, June 18 2024

Link: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0304945>

Citation: [Lindsay B. Miller and Ronald E. Rice, Department of Communication, University of California Santa Barbara, "(Mis)matched direct and moderating relationships among pro-environmental attitudes, environmental efficacy, and pro-environmental behaviors across and within 11 countries", PLOS ONE, June 18 2024]

Original: "Pro-environmental attitudes and efficacy have direct relationships with pro-environmental behavior, but efficacy has little moderation effect."

Fact: It states... that across eleven countries, believing that action can achieve something is directly linked to how much people actually do for the environment.

Consequence: This means... that the finding is not limited to one country, so a world that decides together that action cannot achieve anything is switching off the belief that the research says the behaviour depends on.

Warning for the team: this study is about environmental behaviour in general rather than about climate alone. We use it to show the pattern holds in many countries, not to make a

claim about climate policy specifically.

CARD 03-5

Tagline: Finally... Feeling that nothing matters

Source: According to... the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, July 8 2025

Link: <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/climate-change-in-the-american-mind-beliefs-attitudes-spring-2025/toc/7>

Citation: [Anthony Leiserowitz, Edward Maibach, Seth Rosenthal, John Kotcher and colleagues, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication, "Climate Change in the American Mind: Beliefs & Attitudes, Spring 2025", July 8 2025]

Original: "In comparison, 44% of Americans either "strongly" (20%) or "somewhat" (24%) agree that individual actions won't make a difference."

Fact: It states... that more than four in every ten people surveyed already believe that what one person does will make no difference at all.

Consequence: This means... that the belief this motion wants to welcome is already sitting in almost half the population without any help, and formally endorsing it would push it into the half that still believes their choices count.

Warning for the team: the same page says fifty-five percent disagree with that statement, so the majority still believes individual action matters. We read the forty-four percent as a warning, not as a majority.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT FOUR

SURRENDER IS A NAMED DELAY TACTIC, AND IT SERVES THE PEOPLE CAUSING THE HARM

CARD 04-1

Tagline: First... Naming surrender a discourse

Source: According to... Global Sustainability, July 1 2020

Link: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-sustainability/article/discourses-of-climate-delay/7B11B722E3E3454BB6212378E32985A7>

Citation: [William F. Lamb, Giulio Mattioli, Sebastian Levi, J. Timmons Roberts, Stuart Capstick, Felix Creutzig, Jan C. Minx, Finn Muller-Hansen, Trevor Culhane and Julia K. Steinberger, "Discourses of climate delay", Global Sustainability, volume 3, article e17, July 1 2020]

Original: "This discourse implies that mitigation is futile and suggests that the only possible response is adaptation - or in religious versions, by trusting our fate to "God's hands". As with many other discourses of delay, the surrender category does not favour the difficult work of building climate engagement and deliberating over effective solutions."

Fact: It states... that ten researchers list surrender, which is the belief that preventing the harm is pointless and that only preparing is left, as one of the recognised ways climate action gets delayed.

Consequence: This means... that the exact position this motion asks us to welcome already has a name in the research, and the name is a delay tactic, so welcoming it is welcoming the thing that keeps the delay going.

CARD 04-2

Tagline: Also... Attacking solutions not science

Source: According to... Global Sustainability, August 4 2025

Link: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-sustainability/article/new-denial-climate-solution-misinformation-on-social-media/F10A70013E056587C9881DFBC3E4F877>

Citation: [Emily Nicolosi, Richard Medina, Simon Brewer, Madi Vorkink and Andrew Allred, School of Environment, Society and Sustainability, University of Utah, "The new denial: climate solution misinformation on social media", Global Sustainability, volume 8, article e31, August 4 2025]

Original: "A remarkable shift in climate change misinformation has taken over social media streams. The conversation is no longer totally absorbed with denying that climate change exists. Instead, the 'New Denial' is bent on condemning solutions to climate change and their supporters."

Fact: It states... that after studying more than two hundred thousand messages, researchers found that the argument online has moved from denying the science to insisting the solutions will not work.

Consequence: This means... that saying the fight is already lost is now the most common shape that climate denial takes, so a debate that hands it official approval is handing the argument straight to the people it came from.

CARD 04-3

Tagline: Also... Profiting from spreading despair

Source: According to... the Center for Countering Digital Hate, January 16 2024

Link: <https://counterhate.com/research/new-climate-denial/>

Citation: [Center for Countering Digital Hate, "The New Climate Denial: How social media platforms and content producers profit by spreading new forms of climate denial", January 16 2024]

Original: "These lies, welcomed, enabled, and often funded by oil and gas tycoons who benefit financially, are cynically used by political leaders to explain why they remain stubbornly incapable of taking urgent corrective action."

Fact: It states... that the messages telling people that climate action cannot work are often paid for by oil and gas owners who profit from nothing changing, and are then used by politicians to explain their own inaction.

Consequence: This means... that the despair is not arriving by accident, and a school, a country or a debate that welcomes it is doing free work for the industry that funded it.

Warning for the team: this organisation campaigns on this issue, so we name it clearly and we let the sentence do the work rather than calling it neutral research.

CARD 04-4

Tagline: Also... Amplifying a small group

Source: According to... the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, June 9 2022

Link: <https://www.isdglobal.org/isd-publications/deny-deceive-delay-documenting-and-responding-to-climate-disinformation-at-cop26-and-beyond-full>

Citation: [Francesca Arcostanzo, Jennie King and Lukasz Janulewicz, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, "Deny, Deceive, Delay: Documenting and Responding to Climate Disinformation at COP26 and Beyond", June 9 2022]

Original: "Our analysis has shown how a small but dedicated community of actors boast disproportionate reach and engagement across social media, reaching millions of people

worldwide and bolstered by legacy print, broadcast and radio outlets."

Fact: It states... that a small group of accounts reaches millions of people with messages that delay climate action, and that ordinary newspapers and broadcasters help carry them.

Consequence: This means... that the sense that everybody has given up is manufactured by a few and amplified to many, so treating that mood as a fact about the world is exactly the mistake the people producing it are hoping for.

CARD 04-5

Tagline: Finally... Protecting the existing power

Source: According to... PLOS ONE, November 12 2025

Link: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0334544>

Citation: [Peter J. Jacques, Monmouth University, and Riley E. Dunlap, Oklahoma State University, "Foundations of climate change denial: Anti-environmentalism and anti-science", PLOS ONE, November 12 2025]

Original: "This anti-reflexive DNA of climate denial serves to protect power and privilege systems formed since industrialization, which has been powered by fossil fuels."

Fact: It states... after examining one hundred and eight books that deny climate change, that the whole family of these arguments works to protect the wealth and power built on fossil fuels.

Consequence: This means... that arguments telling us to stop trying have an owner and a purpose, so welcoming them is not neutral realism, it is taking a side in a fight about who keeps the money.

Warning for the team: this study covers denial as a whole rather than fatalism on its own. We say the family of arguments, and we do not claim the authors studied pessimism by itself.

OPPOSITION, ARGUMENT FIVE

THE COST FALLS ON THE YOUNG AND ON THE COUNTRIES STILL ASKING FOR HELP

CARD 05-1

Tagline: First... Carrying the distress already

Source: According to... Frontiers in Psychology, July 25 2022

Link: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.872544/full>

Citation: [Terra Leger-Goodes, Melissa Genereux and Chantal Camden, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universite de Sherbrooke, Catherine Malboeuf-Hurtubise, Bishop's University, Trinity Mastine, McGill University, and Pier-Olivier Paradis, Universite de Sherbrooke, "Eco-anxiety in children: A scoping review of the mental health impacts of the awareness of climate change", Frontiers in Psychology, July 25 2022]

Original: "Youth are increasingly aware of the negative effects of climate change on the planet and human health, but this knowledge can often come with significant affective responses, such as psychological distress, anger, or despair."

Fact: It states... that young people know what is happening to the planet, and that this knowledge often arrives together with real distress, anger and despair.

Consequence: This means... that the burden this motion wants to make official is already being carried by children, so a world that formally welcomes pessimism is adding weight to the people who are least able to put it down and who will live with the result the longest.

CARD 05-2

Tagline: Also... Feeling betrayed by governments

Source: According to... the Social Science Research Network, September 7 2021

Link: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3918955

Citation: [Elizabeth Marks and Caroline Hickman, University of Bath, Panu Pihkala, University of Helsinki, Susan Clayton, College of Wooster, Eric R. Lewandowski, New York University Langone Health, Elouise E. Mayall, University of East Anglia, Britt Wray, Stanford University, Catriona Mellor, Oxford Health National Health Service Foundation Trust, and Lise van

Susteren, "Young People's Voices on Climate Anxiety, Government Betrayal and Moral Injury: A Global Phenomenon", posted September 7 2021]

Original: "Qualitative studies show climate anxiety is associated with perceptions of inadequate action by adults and governments, feelings of betrayal, abandonment and moral injury."

Fact: It states... that when young people believe adults and governments are not acting, they describe feeling betrayed and abandoned.

Consequence: This means... that the harm of official pessimism is not only what it stops governments doing, it is what it tells young people about whether anybody is coming, and a generation told nobody is coming does not grow into the generation that fixes this.

Warning for the team: this is a working paper rather than a finished journal article. We name it as a working paper when we read it.

CARD 05-3

Tagline: Also... Calling adaptation finance survival

Source: According to... the Least Developed Countries Group, November 21 2025

Link: https://www ldc-climate.org/ldc_chair_statement/cop30-closing-plenary-statement/

Citation: [Statement made by Malawi on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group of forty-four countries, "Statement made by Malawi on behalf of the LDC Group at the Closing Plenary of COP30", November 21 2025]

Original: "We must address the call to urgently scale-up finance for adaptation. 2035 can be too late. For us, adaptation finance is not about negotiation. It is about our survival, building resilience and adapting to the intensifying impacts of climate change."

Fact: It states... in the words of forty-four of the world's poorest countries, that money to prepare for climate damage is a matter of survival and that waiting until 2035 can be too late.

Consequence: This means... that the countries at the front of this are asking the world for more effort rather than less, and a world that officially decides the fight is lost withdraws its attention from exactly the people who are still asking it to stay.

CARD 05-4

Tagline: Also... Refusing to be abandoned

Source: According to... the Alliance of Small Island States, November 6 2025

Link: <https://www.aosis.org/at-cop30-aosis-takes-action-with-new-agenda-item-to-close-the-ambition-gap/>

Citation: [Alliance of Small Island States, quoting Ambassador Ilana Seid, Chair, "At COP30, AOSIS Takes Action With New Agenda Item to Close the Ambition Gap", November 6 2025]

Original: "Ambitious 1.5°C-aligned country targets must be matched by enhanced climate finance, scaled-up adaptation support, and equitable pathways for a just transition. Without urgent financial and technical backing for developing countries, the 1.5°C target will remain out of reach. 'For small island nations, this is not about negotiation tactics - it's about survival,' said Ambassador Seid."

Fact: It states... that the countries most likely to disappear under the sea are still fighting for the one and a half degree target, and that their chair calls it survival rather than tactics.

Consequence: This means... that the people who would have the most reason to give up have not given up, and it is difficult to argue that welcoming defeat helps the very nations who are standing in front of the world refusing to accept it.

CARD 05-5

Tagline: Finally... Risking a billion children

Source: According to... the United Nations Children's Fund, August 19 2021

Link: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/one-billion-children-extremely-high-risk-impacts-climate-crisis-unicef>

Citation: [United Nations Children's Fund, "One billion children at 'extremely high risk' of the impacts of the climate crisis - UNICEF", August 19 2021]

Original: "Young people living in the Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau are the most at risk of the impacts of climate change, threatening their health, education, and protection, and exposing them to deadly diseases, according to a UNICEF report launched today."

Fact: It states... that the children most at risk from climate change live in some of the poorest countries on earth, and that the risk reaches their health, their schooling and their safety.

Consequence: This means... that the outcome of this debate is not a mood, it is a decision about whether those children are still on the list, and every argument for welcoming pessimism has to explain what it offers them.

REBUTTAL CARDS

These are the cards we reach for after the other side has spoken. Every one is built from a source the other side is likely to be using, which is why they land harder than a fresh argument. The first five are for the Proposition and the second five are for the Opposition.

CARD R1, answering the Opposition claim that all of the harm can still be prevented

Tagline: First... Melting under every plan

Source: According to... the British Antarctic Survey, October 23 2023

Link: <https://www.bas.ac.uk/news/increased-west-antarctic-ice-sheet-melting-unavoidable/>

Citation: [Kaitlin Naughten and Paul Holland, British Antarctic Survey, and Jan De Rydt, Northumbria University, "Increased West Antarctic Ice Sheet melting 'unavoidable'", British Antarctic Survey, October 23 2023]

Original: "A substantial acceleration in ice melting likely cannot now be avoided, which implies that Antarctica's contribution to sea level rise could increase rapidly over the coming decades."

Fact: It states... that faster melting can no longer be avoided, and that the sea will rise faster because of it.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim every part of the harm is still preventable is incorrect, because the scientists who study this ice say the acceleration is already beyond reach, and a plan that denies that will arrive at the coast too late.

CARD R2, answering the Opposition claim that clean energy is moving fast enough

Tagline: Also... Falling short by twenty-eight

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, March 27 2025

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/massive-increase-world-adds-record-levels-of-new-renewables-capacity-in-2024/>

Citation: [Carbon Brief, "'Massive increase': World adds record levels of new renewables capacity in 2024", March 27 2025]

Original: "Despite the increase, the world is still not on track to reach the international goal of tripling renewable energy from 2023 to 2030, reports the Associated Press."

According to IRENA's calculations, it is currently expected to be 28% short of this goal, the article adds."

Fact: It states... in the same article our opponents are using for the record, that the world is expected to fall twenty-eight percent short of its own renewable energy goal.

Consequence: This proves... that treating a record year as proof the problem is being solved is incorrect, because the agency counting the record is the same agency saying the target will be missed, and the shortfall is where the unprepared harm lands.

CARD R3, answering the Opposition claim that the largest emitter has peaked

Tagline: Also... Mistaking plateau for peak

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, February 12 2026

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-chinas-co2-emissions-have-now-been-flat-or-falling-for-21-months/>

Citation: [Lauri Myllyvirta, Lead Analyst, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, "Analysis: China's CO2 emissions have now been 'flat or falling' for 21 months", Carbon Brief, February 12 2026]

Original: "Notably, while emissions have stabilised or begun a slow decline, there has not yet been a substantial reduction from the level reached in early 2024. This means that a small jump in emissions could see them exceed the previous peak level."

Fact: It states... that the same analysis our opponents rely on says emissions could still rise above the highest level they have ever reached.

Consequence: This proves... that treating twenty-one flat months as the moment the problem turned is incorrect, because the author who counted those months says plainly they may not be the peak, and building a plan on a peak that has not happened is the false comfort we are arguing against.

CARD R4, answering the Opposition claim that pessimism is the delay tactic

Tagline: Also... Delaying through technological optimism

Source: According to... Global Sustainability, July 1 2020

Link: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-sustainability/article/discourses-of-climate-delay/7B11B722E3E3454BB6212378E32985A7>

Citation: [William F. Lamb and colleagues, "Discourses of climate delay", Global Sustainability, volume 3, article e17, July 1 2020]

Original: "Technological optimism is a prime example, holding that technological progress will rapidly bring about emissions reductions in the future."

Fact: It states... in the same paper our opponents are quoting, that optimism about future technology is itself one of the recognised ways action gets delayed.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim delay comes from pessimism is incorrect, or at least incomplete, because the paper that names surrender also names hope, and the hopeful version has been running for far longer and has cost far more time.

CARD R5, answering the Opposition claim that hopeful governments still fund preparation

Tagline: Finally... Neglecting resilience for headlines

Source: According to... the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom, October 16 2024

Link: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/achieving-environmental-improvement-and-responding-to-climate-change.pdf>

Citation: [National Audit Office, report presented to Parliament by the Comptroller and Auditor General, Gareth Davies, "Achieving environmental improvement and responding to climate change: enablers for success", Session 2024 to 2025, October 16 2024]

Original: "In 2023, we found that the government had done less to encourage private sector investment in resilience to extreme weather events and climate change than on other long-term challenges such as net zero and nature recovery."

Fact: It states... that the United Kingdom's own spending watchdog found the government had done less to attract investment in resilience than it had on the more hopeful goals.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim optimism and preparation grow together is incorrect, because in the country with the oldest climate law the hopeful agenda drew the effort and the preparation was left behind.

CARD R6, answering the Proposition claim that the fight is already lost

Tagline: First... Escalating with every increment

Source: According to... the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022

Link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/>

Citation: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group Two, "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers", 2022]

Original: "projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages escalate with every increment of global warming (very high confidence)"

Fact: It states... with the highest confidence the panel uses, that harm rises with every extra fraction of a degree, which means every fraction prevented is harm that never reaches anybody.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim there is nothing left to fight for is incorrect, because the same science our opponents use to show the harm is real also shows that the amount of it is still being decided.

CARD R7, answering the Proposition claim that no promise has ever been kept

Tagline: Also... Bending the curve downward

Source: According to... the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, October 28 2025

Link: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2025_08.pdf

Citation: [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, "Nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement: Synthesis report by the secretariat", October 28 2025]

Original: "According to their NDCs, Parties are bending their combined emission curve further downward, but still not quickly enough."

Fact: It states... that the promises countries have made are bending the world's emissions downward, and that the bend is not yet fast enough.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim nothing has been achieved is incorrect, because the curve is already bending, and a curve that is bending can be bent further by the same people who bent it the first time.

CARD R8, answering the Proposition claim that accepting the loss is simply realism

Tagline: Also... Paralysing the people needed

Source: According to... Frontiers in Communication, May 3 2024

Link:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/communication/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2024.1380092/full>

Citation: [Caitlin Johnstone and Elise Stickles, University of British Columbia, "Navigating the climate change minefield: the influence of metaphor on climate doomism", Frontiers in Communication, May 3 2024]

Original: "The behaviors resulting from this view are comparable to the result of climate skepticism: doomism produces paralyzing eco-anxiety and subsequently inaction."

Fact: It states... that believing catastrophe is unavoidable produces the same behaviour as doubting the science, which is doing nothing.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim pessimism is only a description is incorrect, because researchers who study how people respond to it find that it stops them acting, and a description that changes behaviour is a decision.

CARD R9, answering the Proposition claim that we should move to preparation alone

Tagline: Also... Needing help to cope

Source: According to... the World Health Organization, October 12 2023

Link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

Citation: [World Health Organization, "Climate change", fact sheet, October 12 2023]

Original: "Areas with weak health infrastructure - mostly in developing countries - will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond."

Fact: It states... that the countries with the weakest hospitals and clinics will not be able to cope without help from outside.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim preparation can replace prevention is incorrect for the places this debate is about, because preparation there depends on assistance that arrives only while the rest of the world still believes the effort is worth making.

CARD R10, answering the Proposition claim that nothing has changed since Paris

Tagline: Finally... Dropping one whole degree

Source: According to... the Climate Action Tracker, November 13 2025

Link: <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/warming-projections-global-update-2025/>

Citation: [Climate Action Tracker, produced by Climate Analytics and the NewClimate Institute, "Little change in warming outlook for four years; new 2035 climate targets make no difference", November 13 2025]

Original: "Back in 2015, our assessment of existing policies showed the world was on track to around 3.6°C of warming by 2100. Now, ten years later, our latest projections show that this has been reduced by roughly 1°C to around 2.6°C."

Fact: It states... that the warming the world was heading for has fallen by about a whole degree in ten years.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim the last ten years achieved nothing is incorrect, because a full degree of future warming has been removed by people who refused to accept that it could not be, and that degree is measured in hundreds of millions of lives.

HOW WE READ THESE ALOUD

We say the Tagline, then "According to," then the publication and the date, then the quotation. We read the quotation exactly as printed, including the awkward parts. Then we say "It states" and put it in our own plain words, and then "This means" for a constructive speech or "This proves" for a rebuttal.

We never read the link out loud. The link is there so a judge can check us afterwards, and knowing that they can is most of the reason they will not need to.

THE THREE SENTENCES WE NEVER SAY

We never say that clean energy is outrunning the forecasts. We never say that any country's emissions have peaked. We never say that the harm has all been prevented or that all of it is already unavoidable. Every one of those sentences is answered by a source that is already in this packet.

WHERE THESE SOURCES CAME FROM

Every source in this packet was opened on a live web page and the quotation was copied from it rather than remembered. Where a source places a limit on its own finding, that limit is printed under the card as a warning, and we read those warnings before the round, because the fastest way to lose is to overstate a source the other team has also read.

HMDC Presents is our branding and it is never a source. No card in this packet cites us, and no card cites a summary, a guide or a source pack that we wrote ourselves.

APPENDIX

THE FIRST ELEVEN CARDS

These are the cards built in August to check the videos, the graphic novels and the infographics against their sources. They are kept here because four of their sources appear nowhere in the main packet, which makes them a second line of evidence rather than a repeat of the first. The card numbers carry an A so that nobody confuses them with a main-packet card while calling for one across a table.

APPENDIX, PROPOSITION CARDS

CARD A-P1

Tagline: First... Cutting the preparation money

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, October 29 2025

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/un-report-five-charts-which-explain-the-gap-in-finance-for-climate-adaptation>

Citation: [Ayesha Tandon and Cecilia Keating, Carbon Brief, "UN report: Five charts which explain the 'gap' in finance for climate adaptation", October 29 2025]

Original: "In total, developed countries raised \$25.9bn in international adaptation finance - marking a decline on the \$27.9bn recorded in 2022."

Fact: It states... that the money rich countries gave poorer countries to prepare for climate damage fell from 27.9 billion dollars to 25.9 billion dollars.

Consequence: This means... that while the world keeps telling itself the harm can still be stopped, the money for surviving the harm is being cut, and the people who will drown or go hungry because that preparation was never funded number in the millions.

CARD A-P2

Tagline: Also... Choosing prevention over preparation

Source: According to... the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics, August 14 2024

Link: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/how-is-adaptation-included-within-the-international-climate-agenda/>

Citation: [Sam Kumari and Georgina Kyriacou, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics, "How is adaptation included within the international climate agenda?", August 14 2024]

Original: "Adaptation has historically been deprioritised in favour of mitigation in international climate governance."

Fact: It states... that for many years the world's climate agreements have put stopping the warming ahead of preparing for the warming that is already coming.

Consequence: This means... that hope itself made the choice, because a world that believed the harm could still be prevented saw no reason to prepare for it, and the countries that will be hit first are the ones left without defences.

CARD A-P3

Tagline: Also... Living with locked-in loss

Source: According to... United Nations Climate Change, Last Accessed: August 2026

Link: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/adelle-thomas-loss-and-damage>

Citation: [Dr Adelle Thomas, Lead Author of the IPCC report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability and of the Special Report on 1.5°C, "Loss and damage: A moral imperative to act", United Nations Climate Change, Last Accessed: August 2026]

Original: "Existing global warming of 1.1°C has already caused dangerous and widespread losses and damages"

Fact: It states... that the warming that has already happened has already caused serious damage in many places, and that an author of the main climate science report is the person saying so.

Consequence: This means... that accepting some harm is not pessimism at all, it is simply reading the science, and the people already living with that damage deserve a world that plans for them instead of one that insists their loss can still be avoided.

CARD A-P4

Tagline: Finally... Melting under every plan

Source: According to... Nature Climate Change, October 23 2023

Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-023-01818-x>

Citation: [Kaitlin A. Naughten, Paul R. Holland and Jan De Rydt, "Unavoidable future increase in West Antarctic ice-shelf melting over the twenty-first century", Nature Climate Change, volume 13, pages 1222 to 1228, published online October 23 2023]

Original: "When internal climate variability is considered, there is no significant difference between mid-range emissions scenarios and the most ambitious targets of the Paris Agreement."

Fact: It states... that West Antarctic ice will keep melting faster this century whichever path the world takes, and that even the most ambitious plan in the Paris Agreement makes no measurable difference to it.

Consequence: This means... that for this one enormous piece of the problem the hopeful plan and the ordinary plan end in the same place, so a country that refuses to accept that outcome will build its sea walls too late for the hundreds of millions of people who live on a coast.

APPENDIX, OPPOSITION CARDS

CARD A-O1

Tagline: First... Saving every fraction still

Source: According to... the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, March 21 2023

Link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>

Citation: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report, Summary for Policymakers", March 21 2023]

Original: "Risks and projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages from climate change escalate with every increment of global warming"

Fact: It states... that the harm grows with every extra fraction of a degree, which also means that every fraction of a degree we prevent is harm that never happens.

Consequence: This means... that there is no point at which effort stops mattering, and a world that decides the fight is already lost gives up the one thing that still reduces suffering for hundreds of millions of people.

CARD A-02

Tagline: Also... Winning on price already

Source: According to... the International Renewable Energy Agency, July 22 2025

Link: <https://www.irena.org/News/pressreleases/2025/Jul/91-Percent-of-New-Renewable-Projects-Now-Cheaper-Than-Fossil-Fuels-Alternatives>

Citation: [International Renewable Energy Agency, "91% of New Renewable Projects Now Cheaper Than Fossil Fuels Alternatives", July 22 2025]

Original: "Solar photovoltaics (PV) were, on average, 41% cheaper than the lowest-cost fossil fuel alternatives, while onshore wind projects were 53% cheaper."

Fact: It states... that solar power now costs about 41 percent less than the cheapest fossil fuel option, and onshore wind about 53 percent less.

Consequence: This means... that the change our opponents say is too late is already the cheaper choice, and telling people the fight is lost at the moment the winning technology became the affordable one would slow the very thing that is working.

CARD A-03

Tagline: Also... Holding emissions flat now

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, February 12 2026

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-chinas-co2-emissions-have-now-been-flat-or-falling-for-21-months>

Citation: [Lauri Myllyvirta, Lead Analyst, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, "Analysis: China's CO2 emissions have now been 'flat or falling' for 21 months", Carbon Brief, February 12 2026]

Original: "China's CO2 emissions have now been flat or falling for 21 months, starting in March 2024."

Fact: It states... that the country producing more carbon dioxide than any other has held its emissions flat or falling for 21 months in a row.

Consequence: This means... that the hardest part of the problem has begun to turn, and a country whose students are taught that nothing can be done will not build the next twenty-one months of that.

Warning for the team: this source also says that a small jump could push emissions above the old peak, and that China's own plan still allows them to rise again before peaking before 2030. We say that emissions have been flat, and we never say they have peaked, because the moment we overstate it the Proposition reads the next sentence of our own source back to us.

CARD A-O4

Tagline: Finally... Stopping people through despair

Source: According to... Frontiers in Communication, May 3 2024

Link:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/communication/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2024.1380092/full>

Citation: [Caitlin Johnstone and Elise Stickles, Department of English Language and Literatures, University of British Columbia, "Navigating the climate change minefield: the influence of metaphor on climate doomism", Frontiers in Communication, volume 9, May 3 2024]

Original: "This has been demonstrated by de Pinto et al. (2019), who found that more people opposed action because of doomist beliefs than opposed it due to skepticism; and Leiserowitz et al. (2018), who demonstrated that more respondents believed that humans cannot address global warming even if it is happening than denied its existence."

Fact: It states... that more people now refuse to act because they think nothing can be done than because they doubt the science.

Consequence: This means... that despair has overtaken denial as the main reason people do nothing, so welcoming pessimism would feed the largest single obstacle we have left.

APPENDIX, REBUTTAL CARDS

CARD A-R1, answering the Opposition claim that clean energy has already turned the corner

Tagline: First... Paying triple for money

Source: According to... the International Renewable Energy Agency, July 22 2025

Link: <https://www.irena.org/News/pressreleases/2025/Jul/91-Percent-of-New-Renewable-Projects-Now-Cheaper-Than-Fossil-Fuels-Alternatives>

Citation: [International Renewable Energy Agency, "91% of New Renewable Projects Now Cheaper Than Fossil Fuels Alternatives", July 22 2025]

Original: "high capital costs, influenced by macroeconomic conditions and perceived investment risks, significantly inflate"

Fact: It states... in our opponents' own source, that borrowing to build clean power cost about 3.8 percent in Europe and about 12 percent in Africa, and that this gap pushes the real price far above the headline figure in the countries that need it most.

Consequence: This proves... that the claim that the cheap technology has already solved the problem is incorrect, because a price that only holds where money is cheap is not a price the poorest countries can pay, and those are the countries this motion is about.

CARD A-R2, answering the Opposition claim that the largest emitter has peaked

Tagline: Also... Mistaking plateau for peak

Source: According to... Carbon Brief, February 12 2026

Link: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-chinas-co2-emissions-have-now-been-flat-or-falling-for-21-months>

Citation: [Lauri Myllyvirta, Lead Analyst, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, "Analysis: China's CO2 emissions have now been 'flat or falling' for 21 months", Carbon Brief, February 12 2026]

Original: "a small jump in emissions could see them exceed the previous peak level"

Fact: It states... that the same analysis our opponents rely on says emissions could still rise above the highest level they have ever reached.

Consequence: This proves... that treating twenty-one flat months as the moment the problem turned is incorrect, because the author who counted those months says plainly that they may not be the peak, and building a plan on a peak that has not happened is exactly the false comfort we are arguing against.

APPENDIX, THE CARD BOTH SIDES USE

CARD A-B1, which both sides use

Tagline: First... Naming the delay tactics

Source: According to... Global Sustainability, July 1 2020

Link: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-sustainability/article/discourses-of-climate-delay/7B11B722E3E3454BB6212378E32985A7>

Citation: [William F. Lamb, Giulio Mattioli, Sebastian Levi, J. Timmons Roberts, Stuart Capstick, Felix Creutzig, Jan C. Minx, Finn Muller-Hansen, Trevor Culhane and Julia K. Steinberger, "Discourses of Climate Delay", Global Sustainability, volume 3, article e17, July 1 2020]

Original: discourses of surrender "raise doubt that mitigation is (still) possible, pointing to seemingly insurmountable political, social or biophysical challenges"

Original, second passage: pushing non-transformative solutions promotes "ineffective solutions and thereby draw attention away from more substantial and effective measures"

Fact: It states... that ten researchers sorted the ways people delay climate action into four kinds, being blaming someone else, offering solutions that change nothing, warning that acting would hurt too much, and saying it is already too late.

Consequence for the Opposition: This means... that saying it is already too late is one of the four recognised ways that action gets delayed, so welcoming pessimism would be welcoming a delay tactic that researchers have already named.

Consequence for the Proposition: This proves... that hope delays action too, because the same paper names promising distant technology as its own category of delay, and a world that keeps saying a future invention will save us is using optimism to avoid deciding anything today.

Note for the team: this is the most important card in the Climate file, because it is the one source both sides will reach for. Whichever side we are on, we must read the whole taxonomy before the round, so that when the other team cites it we can answer from the same paper rather than from memory.