

Meteorologist Hajo Smit of Holland, a former member of the Dutch IPCC committee and a snow forecaster for Dutch wintersports, who holds a masters degree in environmental science and has presented his research on soil moisture's role in global climate models at National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), reversed his views of man-made global warming. "After the range of very warm years and 'advent' Al Gore, I became a reluctant climate change believer for about 6 months," Smit wrote EPW on April 11, 2008. Smit credited Gore with ultimately turning him into a skeptic. Gore "prompted me to start delving into the science again and I quickly found myself solidly in the skeptic camp," Smit wrote. In addition, Smit also critiqued the climate models that predict future catastrophe. "I am troubled by the practices I had seen at work in GCM (global climate models), the whole field seemed highly suspicious to me." "During my full year working at the Department of Atmospheric Sciences of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I became suspicious about the way modeling science is done. Odd arbitrary parameterizations seemed the rule rather than the exception," Smit explained. The "practice of simplifying models so that accurate measurements can be used to calibrate them, seemed to be abandoned by GCM groups in favor of a childish delight in presenting colorful computer printouts of when and where which temperature changes will occur. Climate models can at best be useful for explaining climate changes after the fact," Smith wrote. "The vast amount of new research since my graduation points to clear cut solar-climate coupling and to a very strong natural variability of climate on all historical time scales. Currently I hardly believe anymore that there is any relevant relationship between human CO₂-emissions and climate change," he added. [Updated 04/27/2008]