

James Hansen

Quotes

Climate, Years, Energy, Long, Children, Humanity, World, Climate Change, Global Warming, Environment, Degrees, Special, Sea, Civilization, Issues, Environmental, Kyoto, Jobs, Coal, Heat

We're running out of time.

~James Hansen

Imagine a giant asteroid on a direct collision course with Earth. That is the equivalent of what we face now with climate change, yet we dither.

~James Hansen

We are on the precipice of climate system tipping points beyond which there is no redemption.

~James Hansen

It would be immoral to leave young people with a climate system spiraling out of control.

~James Hansen

Global warming has already triggered a sea level rise that could reach from 6 metres (19.69 ft) to 25 metres (27.34 yards).

~James Hansen

What we are doing to the future of our children, and the other species on the planet, is a clear moral issue.

~James Hansen

How long have we got? We have to stabilize emissions of carbon dioxide within a decade, or temperatures will warm by more than one degree... We don't have much time left.

~James Hansen

It's as certain that as long as fossil fuels are the cheapest energy, we will just keep burning them.

~James Hansen

What has become clear from the science is that we cannot burn all of the fossil fuels without creating a very different planet.

~James Hansen

We have at most ten yearsâ€”not ten years to decide upon action, but ten years to alter fundamentally the trajectory of global greenhouse emissions.

~James Hansen

Planet Earth, creation, the world in which civilization developed, the world with climate patterns that we know and stable shorelines, is in imminent peril.

~James Hansen

Politicians think that if matters look difficult, compromise is a good approach. Unfortunately, nature and the laws of physics cannot compromise - they are what they are.

~James Hansen

Recent warming coincides with rapid growth of human-made greenhouse gases. The observed rapid warming gives urgency to discussions about how to slow greenhouse gas emissions.

~James Hansen

The trains carrying coal to power plants are death trains. Coal-fired power plants are factories of death.

~James Hansen

There is still time to act and avoid a worsening climate but we are wasting precious time.

~James Hansen

Global warming isn't a prediction. It is happening.

~James Hansen

The climate system is being pushed hard enough that change will

become obvious to the man in the street in the next decade.

~James Hansen

The five warmest years over the last century occurred in the last eight years.

~James Hansen

The evidence for human-made climate change is overwhelming.

~James Hansen

Interference with communications of science to the public has been greater during the current administration than at any time in my career.

~James Hansen

I tend to be naive and gullible, I guess, but I try to believe that governments believe what they say.

~James Hansen

If we fail to act, we will end up with a different planet.

~James Hansen

...the global surface albedo [surface whiteness] and greenhouse gas changes account for practically the entire global climate change.

~James Hansen

The five-year mean global temperature has been flat for the last decade

~James Hansen

Because cap and trade is enforced through the selling and trading of permits, it actually perpetuates the pollution it is supposed to eliminate.

~James Hansen

The forcings that drive long-term climate change are not known with an

accuracy sufficient to define future climate change.

~James Hansen

The last time the world was three degrees warmer than today-which is what we expect later this century-sea levels were 25m higher. So that is what we can look forward to if we don't act soon.

~James Hansen

We have known since the 1800s that carbon dioxide traps heat in the atmosphere. The right amount keeps the climate conducive to human life.

~James Hansen

Policy decisions on climate change are being deliberated every day by those without full knowledge of the science, and often with intentional misinformation spawned by special interests.

~James Hansen

The 5-year mean global temperature has been flat for the last decade, which we interpret as a combination of natural variability and a slow down in the growth rate of net climate forcing.

~James Hansen

...99 percent confident that the world really was getting warmer and that there was a high degree of probability that it was due to human-made greenhouse gases.

~James Hansen

As species are exterminated by shifting climate zones, ecosystems can collapse, destroying more species.

~James Hansen

A level of no more than 350 ppm is still feasible, with the help of reforestation and improved agricultural practices, but just barely - time

is running out.

~James Hansen

Money has too big an influence on our politics in Washington and somehow we need to do something about that.

~James Hansen

The fact is fossil fuel carbon will stay in the surface climate system for millennia.

~James Hansen

Adding CO2 to the air is like throwing another blanket on the bed.

~James Hansen

As you get more global warming, you should see an increase in the extremes of the hydrological cycle - droughts and floods and heavy precipitation.

~James Hansen

The question is not whether to close the parks, but how to accomplish this goal.

~James Hansen

Burning all the fossil fuels will destroy the planet we know, Creation, the planet of stable climate in which civilization developed.

~James Hansen

Jail threats did not dissuade Martin Luther King - and intergenerational justice is a moral issue of comparable magnitude to civil rights.

~James Hansen

Rising carbon price is essential to 'decarbonize' the economy - to remove the nation towards the era beyond fossil fuels.

~James Hansen

As a government employee, you can't testify against the government.

~James Hansen

I was lucky to grow up at a time when it was not difficult for the child of a tenant farmer to make his way to the state university.

~James Hansen

Talking nice about sun and wind and green jobs is just greenwash.

~James Hansen

Some Democrats deserve to be criticized.

~James Hansen

Until the public demands otherwise, the policy makers will continue to serve their financiers.

~James Hansen

The democratic process is supposed to be one person one vote, but it turns out that money is talking louder than the votes.

~James Hansen

I think we have a very brief window of opportunity to deal with climate change. No longer than a decade at most.

~James Hansen

'Goals' and 'caps' on carbon emissions are practically worthless, if coal emissions continue, because of the exceedingly long lifetime of carbon dioxide in the air.

~James Hansen

The United States did not sign Kyoto, yet its emissions are not that different from the countries that did sign it.

~James Hansen

The urgency derives from the nearness of climate tipping points.

~James Hansen

The danger is that the compromises and special interests inherent in Kyoto-style targets and cap-and-trade will be accepted because of bureaucratic momentum.

~James Hansen

Well, you know what happens to crime when the heat goes up.

~James Hansen

The greatest danger hanging over our children and grandchildren is initiation of changes that will be irreversible on any time scale that humans can imagine.

~James Hansen

The scientific excitement in comparing theory with data, and developing some understanding of global changes that are occurring, is what makes all the other stuff worth it.

~James Hansen

I've tried to be a straight scientist doing the science and reporting it as best I can.

~James Hansen

Coal is the single greatest threat to civilization and all life on our planet.

~James Hansen

If we drive our fellow species to extinction, we will leave a far more desolate planet for our descendants than the world we inherited from our elders.

~James Hansen

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