

Climate Change: Not Debatable

By: Jannie Gowdy

"We all contribute to climate change. If you would know the harm you're doing to the planet, you would care."

-Blake Hopkins, 10

Baxter is not nestled beside the rising ocean and is not on top of a melting icecap. The town is not in a hurricane zone and is not in the middle of a burning rainforest. Even though Baxter doesn't come instantly to mind when we think of climate change, it's being affected too. Climate change affects everyone who lives on our planet and we need to stop treating it as an opinion and start treating it as the problem it is.

Climate change refers to the changes in a region's climate (including precipitation, wind patterns, and temperatures) over time. Global warming is a part of climate change, which is described as a rise in temperatures across the globe due to the trapping of

people think that this is funny or that they've somehow disproved all the factual evidence gathered for climate change. The fact that the past few winters have been getting more intense and snow patterns have been increasing adds to the clear evidence that climate change is a problem that we're facing. The summers will keep getting hotter while the winters get colder. This directly affects rural Baxter due to many families relying on farming for an income. Blake Hopkins, 10, understands the immediate problem, "Climate change is going to affect farmers a lot. It gets colder earlier now, and the weather patterns are weird, which is going to affect crops." Corn and soybeans might not eventually be able to survive the colder climates in the fall. Even this past summer, wind storms knocked down a lot of corn and soybeans and caused a loss for farmers.

greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Baxter is already showing signs of climate change, just like the rest of the world.

Everyone sees it on social media, pictures of snow with the sarcastic caption 'look at all this global warming.' By simply showing snow,

Global warming keeps getting denied by our president and millions of other people who think simply ignoring the problem or refusing to acknowledge it will make it go away. All this does is make it worse. Jesse Zeimen calls out those who simply think that climate change is only a debatable topic in politics, "Climate change is a

For more information on climate change, scan the QR code!





human issue. Political issues only affect the ones who care, but climate change is going to catch up to all of us one day." The U.S. acts as if it will be the only country who will be affected (if it even IS real), but, as Zeimen says, the actions we take directly affect every other country in the world. If we do nothing we're failing ourselves as well as the billions of citizens that don't live in the U.S.

Change starts with us. We have seen that many higher officials in our government are choosing to do nothing about climate change while berating those who want to help. It will be us, the students, that will need to step up and take control. Though many students at Baxter are aware of the current issue, some also refuse to accept that if we do not do something soon we will die. Blake Hopkins says, "I wish that more students believed in climate change. Not believing is dangerous, not realizing what you're doing to the environment is

dangerous." Students need to realize that this is life and death we are playing with; not just for the planet, but for us and our future children. Our community is already suffering and will continue to suffer unless we promote and carry out change.

"Climate change is going to affect the air quality and people's health, and the air will be bad everywhere, including Iowa. People knew about climate change and global warming before, and now it's getting too far ahead." -Grace Gruis, 9

Climate change is not debatable. 97% of scientists agree that climate change is an impending problem and science has proved time and time again that our changes in our climates are increasing. Instead of faculty in our school discouraging climate talk because many consider it

'political,' they should instead encourage us to talk about the change that needs to happen. Though we may not need all the standards and subjects we are taught outside of high school, we will need the discussions we have with our peers. Unless our generation speaks up, we will continue to live on a dying planet. We all have experienced climate change first hand, and it's just going to keep getting worse.