

# Glacier photos illustrate climate change

March 30 2017

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Retreat of the Columbia Glacier, Alaska, USA, by ~6.5 km between 2009 and 2015. Credit: James Balog and the Extreme Ice Survey.

Climate is changing—there should be zero doubt about this circa 2017. The outstanding issue for the geoscience community has been how we best portray this to the public. In their *GSA Today* article posted online on 30 March 2017, a team of experts in the field—Patrick Burkhart, Richard Alley, Lonnie. Thompson, James Balog, Paul E. Baldauf, and Gregory S. Baker—present an exceptional example.

With contrasting photographs, they document the loss of ice across Earth's surface, an almost assured consequence of anthropogenic carbon emissions. One cannot dismiss it—the photographs don't lie. The real problem for [geoscientists](#) is what we are going to do about, when much of our science and society lies intertwined with [fossil fuels](#).

**More information:** Patrick A. Burkhart et al. Savor the Cryosphere, *GSA Today* (2017). [DOI: 10.1130/GSATG293A.1](https://doi.org/10.1130/GSATG293A.1)

Provided by Geological Society of America

Citation: Glacier photos illustrate climate change (2017, March 30) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-03-glacier-photos-climate.html>

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