

# ACCESS TO ENERGY

A PRO-SCIENCE, PRO-TECHNOLOGY, PRO-FREE ENTERPRISE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
BOX 1250, CAVE JUNCTION, OREGON

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June 1, 2009

**Re: How reliable is the U.S. surface temperature record?**

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed is a complimentary copy of *Is the U.S. Surface Temperature Record Reliable?* by meteorologist Anthony Watts. This new report contains the results of the first-ever comprehensive review of the 1,221 climate-monitoring stations overseen by the National Weather Service—the stations that are used for U.S. temperature records.

Watts and his team of volunteers visually inspected *and photographed* more than 850 of the stations. "We found stations located next to the exhaust fans of air conditioning units, surrounded by asphalt parking lots and roads, on blistering-hot rooftops, and near sidewalks and buildings that absorb and radiate heat," writes Watts. "In fact, we found that 89 percent of the stations—nearly 9 of every 10—fail to meet the National Weather Service's own siting requirements ..."

**The U.S. temperature record, which is not adequately corrected for these siting problems, is therefore less reliable than widely supposed. As we point out in our review article at [www.petitionproject.org](http://www.petitionproject.org), global warming advocates preferentially use sites affected by these "heat island effects" in their compilations.**

News headlines touting small temperature fluctuations in this data are used by advocates of government taxation and rationing of energy to promote their political agenda. The National Weather Service stations were never intended to provide data for such a purpose. Watts and his coworkers show the stations are not sited and maintained to adequately measure the variations in temperature with location and time needed for this analysis.

*Is the U.S. Surface Temperature Record Reliable?* is available for free download at [www.globalwarmingheartland.org](http://www.globalwarmingheartland.org). Additional copies are available for \$12.99 from The Heartland Institute. Order online at [www.heartland.org](http://www.heartland.org) or call 312/377-4000.

Contributions from individuals and foundations (not corporations) are making it possible for The Heartland Institute to distribute 150,000 copies of *Is the U.S. Surface Temperature Record Reliable?* to elected officials, educators, journalists, civic and business leaders, and influential people like you.

I hope you will tell your friends about this very interesting new publication, and perhaps let The Heartland Institute know what you think about this important issue.

Sincerely,



Arthur B. Robinson, PhD