

# We May Have Already Passed the Tipping Point on Climate Change

By JIM SMITH, Realtor®

Each January, political leaders shower us with speeches on the State of the Union, the State, the City and other jurisdictions. No one presents a State of the Planet speech, but if someone did, I suspect climate change would be topic #1 — and for good reason.

My friend and mentor, Steve Stevens, forwarded this chart showing the decline in late summer Arctic sea ice. If it isn't a wake-up call regarding climate change, I don't know what is.

I don't have a degree in science, but I do understand science enough to know this chart's significance.

If you studied any science — or own an automobile — you know that white surfaces reflect solar heat,

whereas dark surfaces (open ocean, for example) absorb it. The loss of sea ice does not just indicate global warming, it accelerates it, which makes one worry whether it's already too late to reverse the effects of human-caused global warming.

Climate change deniers may celebrate the fact that the Arctic Ocean is becoming increasingly navigable in the summer, but they need to connect the dots between global warming and the whipsawing we now see in our day-to-day weather.

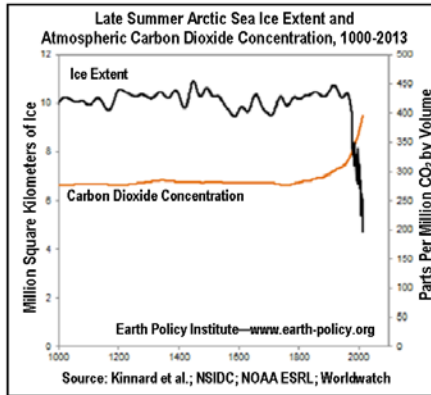
cold weather proves that the earth is not warming, but how naive is that? It's global warming that is causing extremes, both of temperature and precipitation — which is caused by warming. I don't hear them questioning El Nino, in which natural changes in ocean temperature affect climate.

I'd be curious to see the statistics on how many times the network news programs featured severe weather reports in 2013 versus previous years. I can't remember an evening in which weather wasn't a major or lead story.

Our earth's climate has been de-stabilized. Had you heard of the polar vortex before this year? I hadn't. The uninformed will say that our

Is there time to reverse this situation? Maybe not. But we certainly don't have time to debate its existence with climate change deniers.

Rita and I are about to replace her gas-powered Lexus with an electric-powered Tesla. Solar panels on our home and office will charge it and my Chevy Volt. These technologies are now proven. We don't do this for the savings alone, but because it contributes to saving our planet.



## Meet the Broker Associates of Golden Real Estate



**Mark Spencer**

(303) 842-4480

Mark@GoldenRealEstate.com

Having grown up in the construction business, Mark is very knowledgeable about home construction and renovation. This comes in handy with his own residence and investment property. As a Realtor, this knowledge furthers Mark's ability to serve clients.

**Carrie Lovingier**

(303) 907-1278

Carrie@GoldenRealEstate.com

Carrie recently earned the MCNE designation (Master Certified Negotiation Expert), which nicely complements her degree in Finance. She specializes in Golden, the mountains, and horse properties, but has 12 years' experience working throughout the Denver metro area.



**April Westbrook**

(815) 529-6026

April@GoldenRealEstate.com

Recently returned to Colorado, April is in the current class of Leadership Golden, which typifies her spirit, which won her our company's "Rising Star" award



for 2013. She specializes in serving relocating buyers & sellers. She looks forward to serving you too!



**Kristi Brunel**

(303) 525-2520

Kristi@GoldenRealEstate.com

Kristi and her husband are long time Golden residents, real estate investors and property managers. Kristi is active in the Golden community, a graduate of Leadership Golden, on the board of the Christian Action Guild and is active in Golden schools.

**Jim Swanson, CRS**

(303) 929-2727

BrokerSwanson@aol.com

Raised in Golden, Jim's exceptional knowledge of the area is a benefit to both buyers and sellers. His energy earned him the company's "Top Producing Broker Associate" award for 2013.



**Suzi Nicholson**

(303) 908-4873

Suzi@GoldenRealEstate.com

Suzi has been a resident of Jefferson County for over 23 years. As a mother of two graduates of Bear Creek High School, she has exceptional knowledge of Lakewood and the surrounding areas.

**Karon Hesse**

(303) 668-2445

Karon@GoldenRealEstate.com

Karon brings over twenty years of real estate experience to Golden Real Estate, having been a part of the Golden community since 2001. Karon provides a free staging consultation on all her listings. She is committed to following the "Golden Rule" in serving her clients.



**Jim Smith**

Broker/Owner

**Golden Real Estate, Inc.**

DIRECT: 303-525-1851

EMAIL: Jim@GoldenRealEstate.com

17695 South Golden Road, Golden 80401

WEBSITE: www.GoldenRealEstate.com



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