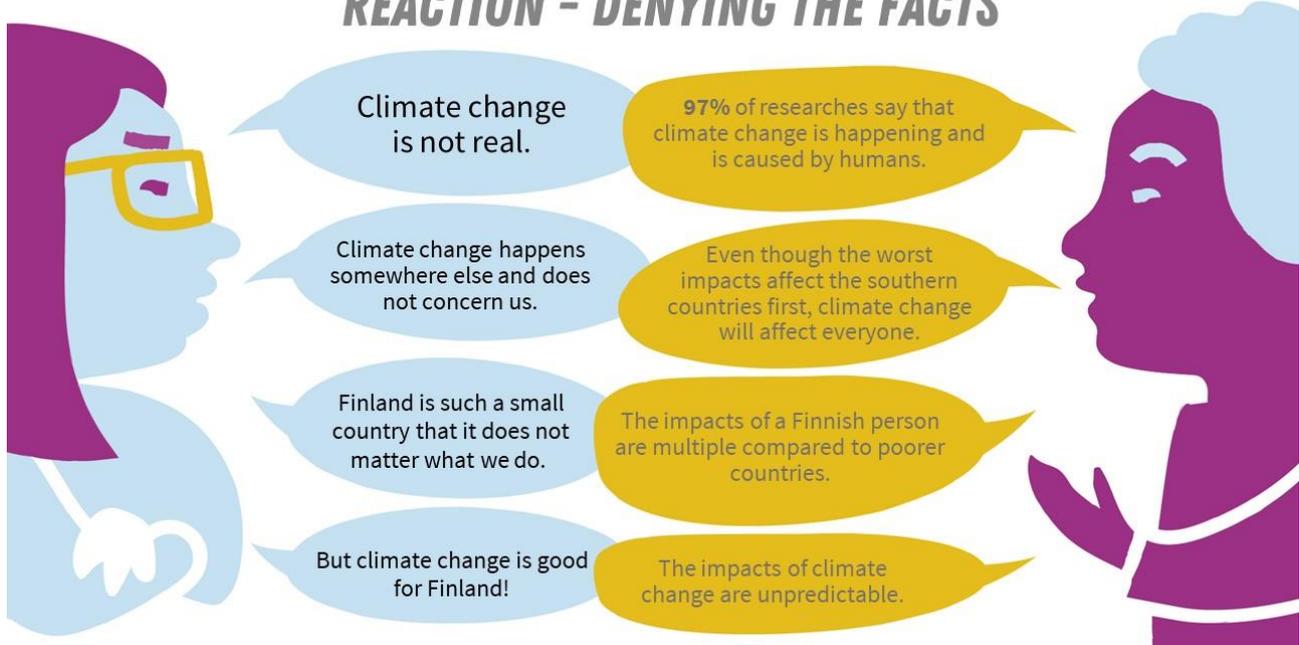


REACTION - DENYING THE FACTS



DENYING THE FACTS: One reaction is to deny the facts because they are so unpleasant.

- The questioning of the facts also serve many instances with a lot of power and money, for example, the oil industry. Because if climate change is taken seriously oil companies will run out of business.

Let's take a look at the typical anti-climate change arguments more closely.

"Climate change caused by humans is not real."

→ There is a scientific consensus that humans have an impact on climate change.

- Approximately **97% of scientific publications** agree on it and only 3% claim something else.
- According to researches, the so-called "denialists", i.e., those who question the existence of climate change, have been given relatively more media coverage.
- many of them are lobbyists financed by oil companies.

→ Sometimes you also hear the argument "Climate has always changed."

- It is true that the climate has always changed but it has never changed this **rapidly, and as a result of the actions of one species.**
- Weather and climate are two different things – weather refers to short-term changes while climate describes the variation over a long period of time. One cold winter or a cold, snowy period does not mean that the average temperature over a longer period of time has not risen.

"Climate change happens somewhere else and does not concern us. "

→ Although many of the most severe impacts of climate change are first seen in the Global South and many Southern countries are in a more vulnerable position in adapting to climate change, **the changes are unpredictable**; we cannot completely know what they will be in the future since various **chain reactions** are possible.

- For instance, the changes in the salinity and temperature of oceans caused by climate change cause changes in ocean currents. As a result, the Gulf Stream is slowing down. If it stopped, the whole Europe would grow significantly colder.
- Extreme weather phenomena have affected Finland as well. For example, as a result of the drought of summer 2018, Finland had the worst harvest in 26 years, even though the growing season has lengthened due to global warming.
- Northern species and ecosystems are threatened.
- Risks of flooding grow.
- Displacement and unrest all around the world affect us too.

"Finland is such a small country that it does not matter what we do." and "China or India should act."

→ The Finnish individual **consumes and produces many times more emissions compared** to the Chinese or Indians.

→ Our **products have mainly been produced in the Southern countries**, which means that the emissions caused by production have also been externalised to these countries.

→ India and China have already taken considerable actions to mitigate climate change:

- **India's** goal is to be the third largest solar energy producer in the world. At the moment, India is building so many solar energy plants that when the sun is shining, the amount of electricity they produce is equivalent to hundred nuclear power plants. The world's largest solar energy plant (you will be transferred to another service) was just completed. ((HS,2017)
- **China**, on the other hand, has become the world's biggest investor in renewable energy. The country has just suspended the construction of hundred large coal power plants (you will be transferred to another service) , and the growth in carbon dioxide emissions has stagnated a few years ago. (HS,2017)

→ **We need everyone to act.** Rich countries such as Finland if any, has a chance to be an example and lead the way towards a carbon neutral welfare society (if countries like Finland cannot then who can?)

- This also means creation of new jobs in sectors like renewable energy.
- The transition needs to be just and avoid harm to the most vulnerable.