

## A Message from Reclaiming Earth Committee – Sept. 3

Does climate change cause hurricanes? NO! These weather events have been happening for eons, *but* climate change does make hurricanes stronger and more dangerous. WHAT?! This can't be true, but it is.

“Hurricanes start when warm, moist air from the ocean surface begins to rise rapidly, where it encounters cooler air that causes the warm water vapor to condense and to form clouds and drops of rain. The condensation also releases latent heat, which warms the cool air above, causing it to rise and make way for more warm, humid air from the ocean below.

“As this cycle continues, more warm, moist air is drawn into the developing storm and more heat is transferred from the surface of the ocean to the atmosphere. This continuing heat exchange creates a wind pattern that spirals around a relatively calm center, like water swirling down a drain.

“High-pressure air at high altitudes...also pulls heat away from the storm's center and cools the rising air. As high-pressure air is drawn into the low-pressure center of the storm, the speed of the wind continues to increase.” ([thoughtco.com/what-causes-hurricanes-1203855](http://thoughtco.com/what-causes-hurricanes-1203855))

“Scientists say the world's oceans are warming far more quickly than previously thought, a finding with dire implications for climate change because almost all the excess at absorbed by the planet ends up stored in their waters. A new analysis, published [early January, 2019] in the journal Science, found that the oceans are heating up 40 percent faster on average than a United Nations panel estimated five years ago. The researchers also concluded that ocean temperatures have broken records for several straight years.” ([nytimes.com/2019/01/10/climate/ocean-warming-climate-change.html](http://nytimes.com/2019/01/10/climate/ocean-warming-climate-change.html))

With Category 5 (now a Cat 2) hurricane Dorian creating havoc in the Bahamas and East Coast, it is difficult to say that there is no correlation. By the way, at Category 5, wind gusts were clocked at over 200 miles per hour. Wow! *Do we have any moral or ethical responsibilities for what is happening? Pray about it.*

