



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Energy Institute Launches They-Knew.com — The Definitive Record of the RCP8.5 Scandal

WIMBERLEY, TX — June 24, 2026 — The American Energy Institute launched [They-Knew.com](https://www.they-knew.com), a comprehensive public record documenting the systematic misuse of RCP8.5, the extreme climate scenario that powered nearly every alarming headline, regulation, court filing, and school curriculum on climate change for over a decade — and that the UN's own scenario committee officially declared "implausible" in April 2026.

The site chronicles one of the most consequential scientific integrity failures of the century: scientists flagged RCP8.5 as unrealistic as early as 2017, published those warnings in the world's most prestigious journals, and watched as governments, central banks, courts, educators, and advocacy organizations kept using it anyway.

The Institutional Record

They-Knew.com names the institutions that continued using RCP8.5 after the scientific community's warnings were on the record, including:

- **The IPCC**, which cited RCP8.5 more than 1,359 times in its 2021 assessment
- **140+ central banks**, which stress-tested the global financial system against a scenario now officially deemed implausible
- **The World Bank**, which applied SSP5–8.5 to Country Climate and Development Reports covering more than 100 nations
- **The U.S. Government**, which published the 2023 National Climate Assessment using the scenario even after the EPA's internal conclusion
- **Courts and litigation teams**, which used RCP8.5-based projections to pursue tens of billions in damages
- **K–12 educators** in six states, where curricula treat extreme-scenario projections as established fact

The Misuse Continues

SSP5–8.5 was officially retired in April 2026. Studies citing it without disclosure are still appearing at roughly 25 per day. They-Knew.com's [Continued Misuse Tracker](#) logs every one.

All claims on the site are sourced to peer-reviewed research, government documents, and primary sources, including the landmark 2020 *Nature* paper by Hausfather and Peters, the EPA's 2022 external review draft, and the 2026 scenario committee announcement.

The Human Cost

They-Knew.com presents the downstream consequences of 15 years of alarming projections built on a scenario scientists knew was broken:

- [59% of young people](#) report being "very or extremely worried" about climate change
- [1 in 4 young Americans](#) aged 16–24 question whether to have children because of climate fears — and nearly 1 in 3 say "maybe"

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