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Episode: Patt Morrison for May 5, 2011

Has Bjorn Lomborg—the poster child of environmental skeptics—changed his climate?



FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/Getty Images

Cracked mud is pictured at sunrise in the dried shores of Lake Gruyere affected by continuous drought near the western Switzerland village of Avry-devant-Pont.

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Bjorn Lomborg, Danish environmental academic, infuriated scientists around the world when he published *The Skeptical Environmentalist* in 2001. The book claimed that overpopulation, destruction of resources, and global warming are not imminent problems. It would be a waste of time, Lomborg wrote, and even detrimental, if countries focused on environmental problems like global warming instead of on bigger problems such as worldwide poverty and disease. Denmark's Committees on Scientific Dishonesty (DCSD) accused Lomborg of spreading a "deluge of inaccuracies" and violating "standards of good scientific practice." But the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MSTI), which oversees the dishonesty committee, annulled its decision. And now Lomborg is back with a new book that calls climate change "undoubtedly one of the chief concerns facing the world today." A mea culpa? A flip-flop? Lomborg says he just wants climate change money to be spent right. Patt sits down with Lomborg to ask: should our concern about global warming heat up or cool down?

Guest:

Bjorn Lomborg, adjunct professor at the Copenhagen Business School; director of the Copenhagen Consensus and author of *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. His most recent book, *Cool It: The Skeptical Environmentalist's Guide to Global Warming* is on shelves now

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