Global warming - to act or not to act

A basic risk management approach

Measures:

Disutility on a scale of 0 to 100

- 1 economic inconvenience
- major challenge to humanity
- catastrophic for humanity

OPINION 1:

"There are arguments on both sides, I'm keeping an open mind"

(= 50% probability Global Warming is not real)

	50%	50%			
	Not Real	Real	E	xpected	Outcome
Do Nothing	0	100	\longrightarrow	50	
Act	1	10	\longrightarrow	5.5	= least bad option

Recommended Decision: Act

OPINION 2:

[&]quot;I'm 80% sure Global Warming doesn't exist"

	80%	20%			
	Not Real	Real	Е	xpected	Outcome
Do Nothing	0	100	\longrightarrow	20	
Act	1	10	\rightarrow	2.8	= least bad option

Recommended Decision: Act

OPINION 3:

[&]quot;I'm 99% sure Global Warming doesn't exist"

	99%	1%			
	Not Real	Real	Ex	xpected	Outcome
Do Nothing	0	100	\longrightarrow	1	= least bad option (just!)
Act	1	10	\longrightarrow	1.09	

Recommended Decision: Do Nothing

- but you'd better be 99% sure AND think that a global human catastrophe is only 100 times worse than economic inconvenience

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