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Global Warming- Summary/Reflection

In the article “Where Did Global Warming Go?” author Elisabeth Rosenthal depicts the unsympathetic attitude that Americans have for the issue of climate change. She begins by stating that after Obama had been elected he promised “a new chapter in America’s climate change.” However, instead of talking about ways to address this issue, President Obama is now talking about ways to improve the economy rather than the environment. Due to our economic recession, many Americans have seemed to take an “agnostic” view on the issue of climate change. According to a poll by the Pew Research Group, the number of Americans who believe in global warming has dropped 20 percent since 2006. Americans have become more worried about their big cars and big homes that they have slowly placed global warming at the bottom of their worry list.

While Americans remain skeptical, many other countries such as Europe, India, China, Australia and South Korea have all taken the time and effort to impose aggressive climate policies. The U.S. is not the only country that is going through an economic and financial crisis; Europe has also been facing the same issues. However, despite their economic condition, the E.U. has continued in their momentum on the issue of climate change. Europe has come to see combating climate change as about “opportunities rather than costs”. If Europe can commit to the importance of climate change, then what excuse does the U.S. have?

In my opinion, I believe that the U.S. can be doing more about the issue of climate change. The fact that we are in a financial and economic crisis, it is no excuse as to why global warming should not be important. Personally, I believe that global warming is as important as our economy. Although we may not be seeing all the direct affects that global warming has caused, other countries that have now understand the importance of global warming. Are we going to wait until things get worse for us to actually begin to care for our environment?