

# Adapting to a Changing Climate

Josh Castleberry

Sumter Soil & Water Conservation District



**Environmental & Natural  
Resources Management**

# Part A: Key Topics

- Factors Contributing to a Changing Climate
  - Measuring and Monitoring a Changing Climate
  - Risks and Impacts to Natural Resources and Society from a Changing Climate
  - Policies and Programs for Adapting to a Changing Climate
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- All well covered by the NCF-Envirothon Current Topic study guide  
<https://envirothon.org/the-competition/2023-study-resources/>

# Part B

- Coming May 2023

# Pitfalls to avoid – logical fallacies

- Strawman
  - Oversimplification or exaggeration of an argument to make it easier to “beat”
- *Ad Hominem*
  - Literally “against the person”. Conflating a person with their ideas
- *Tu Quoque*
  - Literally “You too”. Arguing against an idea because the person is a hypocrite
- False Dichotomy (AKA Black & White or False choice)
  - Creates two contrasting choices when there are a continuum of options
- (False) Authority fallacy
  - My uncle said that’s a water moccasin
- Slippery Slope
  - If you take step X then it’s just a matter of time before Y

- No True Scotsman
  - Attempting to protect a universal generalization from a falsifying counterexample by excluding the counterexample “Not a real \_\_\_\_\_”
- Cherry picking (also look at confirmation bias)
  - Focusing on data that support your stance while ignoring data that may contradict it.
- Moving the Goalposts
  - Evidence presented in response to a specific claim is dismissed and some other (often greater) evidence is demanded, thus increasing the condition for a “win”
- The Fallacy Fallacy
  - The belief that because an argument has a fallacy that the entire argument is null and void
- Godwin’s Law
  - Internet adage asserting that as an online discussion grows longer (regardless of topic or scope), the probability of a comparison to Nazis or Adolf Hitler approaches 1

# One more thing to watch out for

- A square is a rectangle, but a rectangle isn't always a square
- Climate change is an atmospheric issue, but not all atmospheric issues are climate change
- Greenhouse gases
- Ozone
- NO<sub>x</sub>
- Smog

Scenario

# Politics

- SC's 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly
  - We're currently in the 125<sup>th</sup>
- Sabal Institute for Practical Solutions
  - a think tank dedicated to researching and implementing real world solutions to environmental issues in the Southeastern USA.
- Carbon Tax or Cap & Trade?
- Sectors (at a minimum): agriculture, energy production, forestry, manufacturing, outdoor recreation, transportation, and tourism
- The Governor WILL sign it if there is enough support



Questions?