Estimating the Global Mean Temperature

Our Intent:

We are going to try to deliver near-real time global mean temperature readings.

We are aiming at no fewer than 1,000 sampling points, as broadly dispersed around the globe as is possible.

We are going to try to sample the globe in as near proportionate relation to the Earth's tropical, temperate and frigid regions as is practical.

We anticipate that the major influence on given sampling points will be the nocturnal/diurnal variation.

We will consider the Earth as a simple cross section for the purpose of proportion and representation of our sampling points (that should keep 'Flat Earth' accusers happy, too! ☺).

We will sum all reported temperatures and divide that sum by the number of actual reporting sites in the hourly cycle, calling that result the "global mean temperature."

We will store each hourly derived figure to use to estimate the daily, monthly and annual global mean temperature.

We will not attempt seasonal adjustment nor make allowance for Urban Heat Island effect, other than hoping to avoid it to some extent.

We will not declare climate emergencies – either toasted Earth or looming ice age – regardless of whether temperatures are apparently rising or falling.

We will declare when unforseen difficulties reduce our sampling or when regional absences induce significant anomalies – having frigid regions fail to report could reasonably be expected to bias the resultant temperature upwards while loss of some portion of the tropics would induce an apparent chill.