

Climate change a fact of life, McCrory says

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On Sunday talk shows, he says he wants focus on air, water cleanup

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RALEIGH North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory went on two national talk shows Sunday to talk about climate change and the winter storms that have iced the state over during the past two weeks.

On both "Face the Nation" and "This Week with George Stephanopoulos," McCrory was asked about his comments while running for governor in 2008, when he said he doesn't get caught up in the global warming debate because he thinks it's in God's hands.

McCrory said Sunday he thinks there has always been climate change.

"I think the big debate is how much of it is man-made and how much will just naturally happen, as the Earth evolves. And the question then is what do we do about it," the governor said on "This Week."

Instead of focusing on global warming, McCrory said people should concentrate on keeping the air and water clean.

"My main argument is let's clean up the environment. As a mayor and now as a governor I'm spending my time cleaning our air, cleaning our water and cleaning the ground," the governor said on "Face the Nation."

But environmental protection must also strike a delicate balance with economic development, McCrory told host Bob Schieffer.

"As a governor, we're walking that fine line of keeping our environment clean but also continuing the economic recovery and making sure things like power are affordable for the consumer," McCrory said.

Both shows also spoke to the governor about the two winter storms that battered North Carolina over the past two weeks. McCrory pointed out the beautiful North Carolina sun was out and the weather was going to warm this week. He also thanked public employees who worked hard to keep people safe.

"It about depleted our budget. It's also going to have an impact on our economy in North Carolina because people were stuck inside and not spending money," McCrory said of the storms on "Face the Nation."