

Let's go back to 1987, when as a young meteorologist and environmental reporter, I started writing stories on "global warming," as it was then called. I reported occasionally on the solid science on which the concerns were based, but nearly all of it was focused on what was likely to happen in the **future**. Fast forward just over one California kid's career, now at 38 years, when I've had the opportunity, or burden, of watching the story go from projection to horrendous reality. "Climate change" can only be avoided if you live under the proverbial rock. Every day, even multiple times a day, we're confronted with reports, but not about what climate change could do, but what it IS doing to our planet, our ways of life, our backyards, our bodies, even our mental health.

What you'll see and hear this evening is the distillation of almost four decades of discovery, observation, questioning and concern. I categorically do not have all the answers, but if you ask a question I can't answer, I vow to try to find out and get back to you. And I'll answer the most common question I get before we even start: no, we're not necessarily doomed.....yet. If I thought we were, I wouldn't waste your time or mine. But we have squandered way too much time, and our window of hope is steadily closing. That is not reason to turn away in disgust; I believe it's reason to grant us the honor of your full attention for the next hour of your life. We promise to honor the gift of your time with our best effort. Your children and grandchildren will be grateful that you did.

Chris Edwards

Meteorologist/Climate Change Communicator