

What You Can Do



Climate Change Action 2025

As of August 19, 2025

Chris Edwards, Meteorologist

Tina Catron, EDF

Working for Change

More than 50% of Americans “don’t know where to start” when it comes to climate action.*

Working for change helps inoculate us against despair: young people anxious about climate change aren’t paralyzed by it if they are able to act.**

** Climate Change in the American Mind - Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, Nov. 2019*

***”Associations Between Climate Change Related Efficacy Beliefs, Social Norms and Climate Anxiety Among Young People in Germany” presented at EARA Conference, 2020*

Three Prong Approach to Change



“There is urgency, but we have agency.” Dr. Michael Mann

10 Things You Can Do to Combat Climate Change

1. Talk to people about Climate Change
2. Plant trees and/or preserve existing ones
3. Fly less/purchase carbon allowances (carbonlighthouse.org)
4. Eat less meat and dairy (try for locally produced food) save \$
5. Leave the car at home more save \$
6. Reduce your energy use save \$
7. Invest/bank responsibly
8. Cut consumption and waste save \$
9. Join local groups
10. Vote with Climate in mind

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5 Tips to Help You Talk about Climate Change

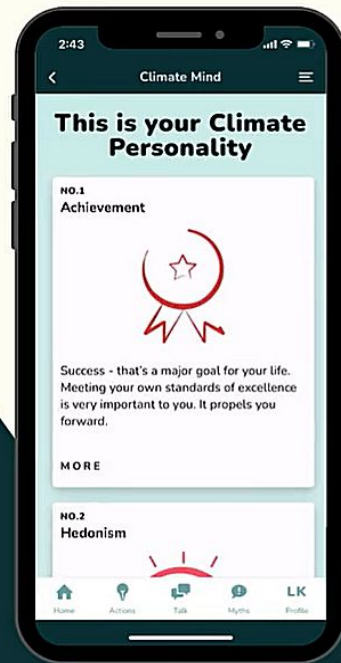
1. Focus on important people first (family, friends, co-workers).
2. Introduce it casually, ask lots of questions and LISTEN (what do they care about?).
3. Come prepared w/ some facts (i.e. 2024 was warmest on record) but know when to back off.
4. Make it personal; share why you care and focus on shared values.
5. Focus on solutions since individual action isn't enough. We need government, corporate action also, and need it now.

OK, Here's 5 More...

1. Forget the trolls and deniers (they're down to about 12% of Americans).
2. Repel false narratives; science is NOT on the fence about climate change.
3. Focus on hope, not fear (solutions abound, with many positive impacts).
4. Envision future life with a calmer climate (dream, have fun).
5. Continue the conversation later - it could be a long process.

**Talking about
climate change
does make a
difference.**

Climate Mind



climatemind.org

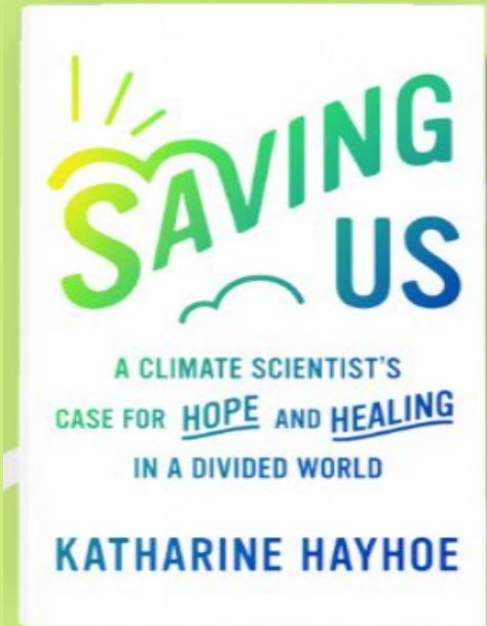
Powering climate conversations

Introducing our free app
designed to make
conversations about
climate change easier!



**“ONE OF THE NATION’S
MOST EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS
ON CLIMATE CHANGE”**

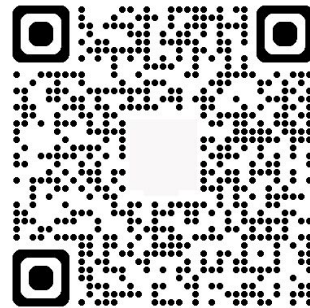
—THE NEW YORK TIMES



Read Section 5 of this book (p. 195-245)

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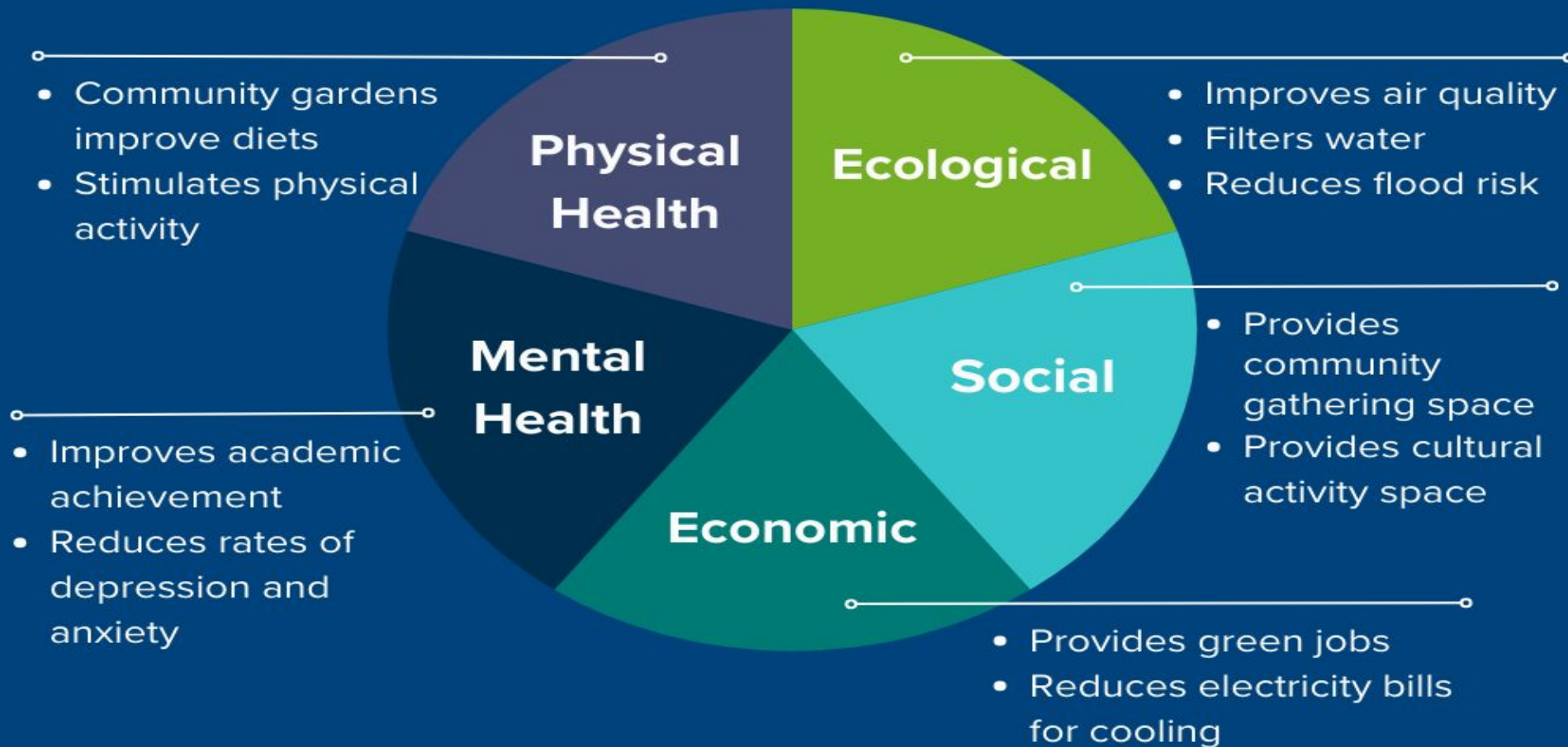


Our Mission

Inspiring sustainable growth of a healthy urban community through trees, green spaces, healthy living, education, training and job opportunities.

We aspire to provide a greener tomorrow for our Detroit.

Benefits of Urban Green Space



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TRIPLE IMPACT

By purchasing and indefinitely holding one allowance, you are:

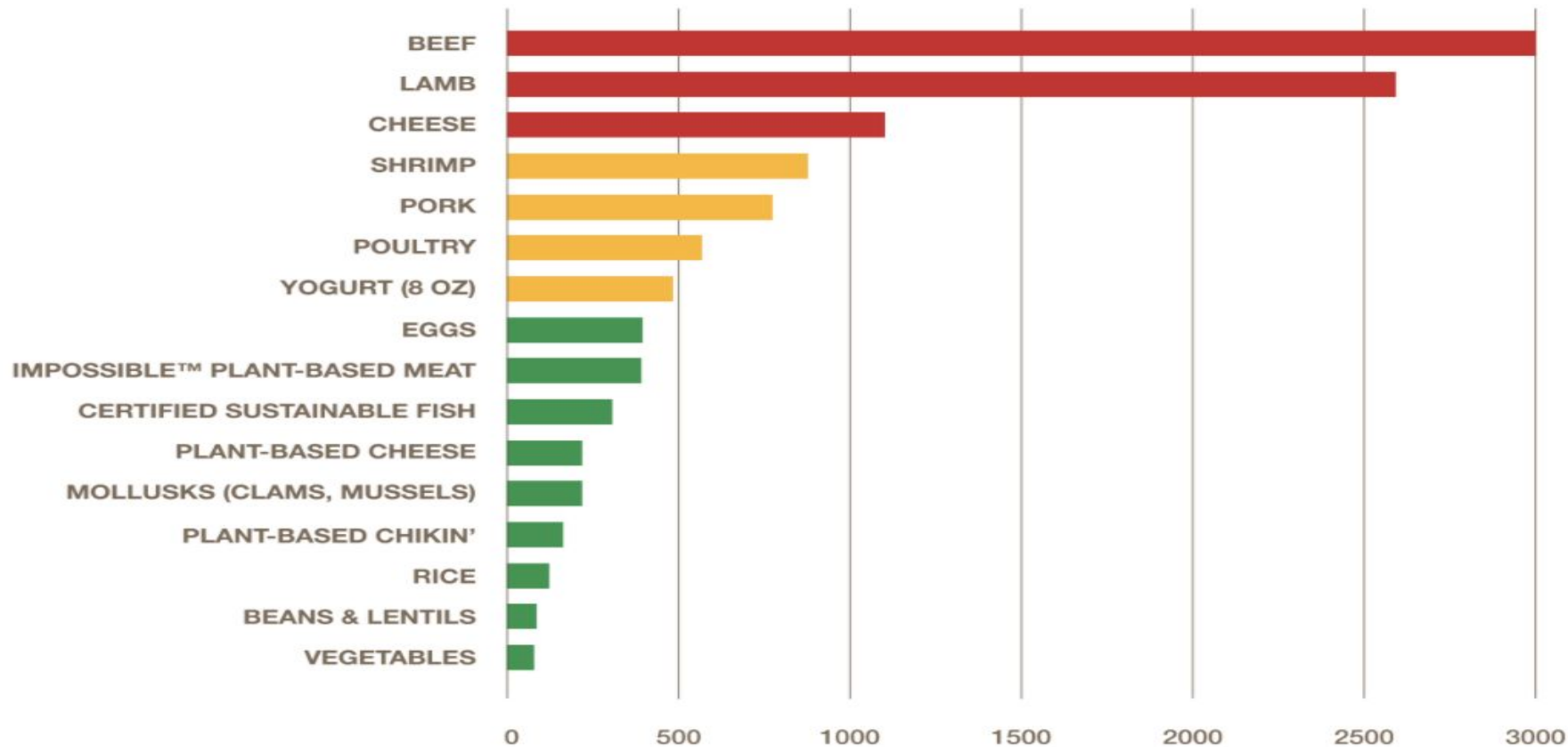
1. Preventing a fossil fuel company within the cap and trade program from using that allowance to emit 1 ton of CO₂.
2. Increasing the demand for allowances thereby putting pressure on prices, making renewable energy and investments in green technologies an increasingly attractive economic option for our grid.
3. Directing the funds used to buy the allowance to fund local green projects, doubling the impact/dollar, and lowering the cost of electricity for all consumers in the RGGI region.

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CARBON FOOTPRINT SCORECARD

Greenhouse Gas Emissions per 4 oz. Serving



Data Sources: Heller & Keoleian (2014), Clune et al. (2017), Quantis & Impossible Foods (2019)

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TIPS TO REDUCE ENERGY/FUEL CONSUMPTION AND EMISSIONS



STOP IDLING

Turn off your car when you make a stop. Don't leave the car running longer than it needs to.



CAR MAINTENANCE

Maintain your engine's health to have the best energy efficiency.



HYBRID OR FUEL EFFICIENT

If you can consider investing in an electric or hybrid vehicle to reduce gasoline consumption. Otherwise, choose one with high gas mileage.



SLOW DOWN

Obey traffic laws and drive the speed limit; speeding increases fuel use by up to 33%.



CARPOOL

Carpool with neighbors or co-workers as frequently as possible to reduce fuel use, daily wear on your car, and local traffic.



MAINTAIN TIRES

Maintain tires that are in good shape reduce road resistance and help cars to operate more smoothly.



USE BUSES

Athens Transit or the UGA Bus System offer free local transit!



WALK OR BIKE

Bike or walk instead of driving when possible.



USE THE GREENWAY

Take advantage of the Athens Greenway Network!

EV CHARGING STATIONS

2016



Public EV charging stations on January 1 each year, 2016-2025.
Source: U.S. DOE Alternative Fuels Data Center.

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

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Tips to Save Energy at Home



Turn off lights when leaving a room



Switch to energy efficient appliances



Use LED lights



Unplug devices when not in use



Keep thermostat at low temperature



Reduce water consumption



Use smart automated devices



Switch to double glazing



Cook with the lid on



Use a smart meter to track usage



Wash at a cold temperature



Use solar powered devices



Sealing air leaks with caulk and weatherstripping



Insulating your home to improve energy efficiency



Conducting an energy audit to identify areas of energy waste

HEAT PUMP MYTHBUSTERS



MYTH #1

"Heat pumps are too expensive."



FACT

Actually, there are generous incentives available right now to help make this energy-efficient upgrade more affordable. Incentives vary based on the type and size of heat pump. You may also qualify for additional federal or state tax credits.

MYTH #2

"A heat pump can't heat my home effectively during a cold Northeast winter."



FACT

Next generation, cold-climate heat pumps are efficient, reliable and highly effective at heating your home—allowing you to eliminate your old fossil-fuel system.

MYTH #3

"My home is too old for a heat pump."



FACT

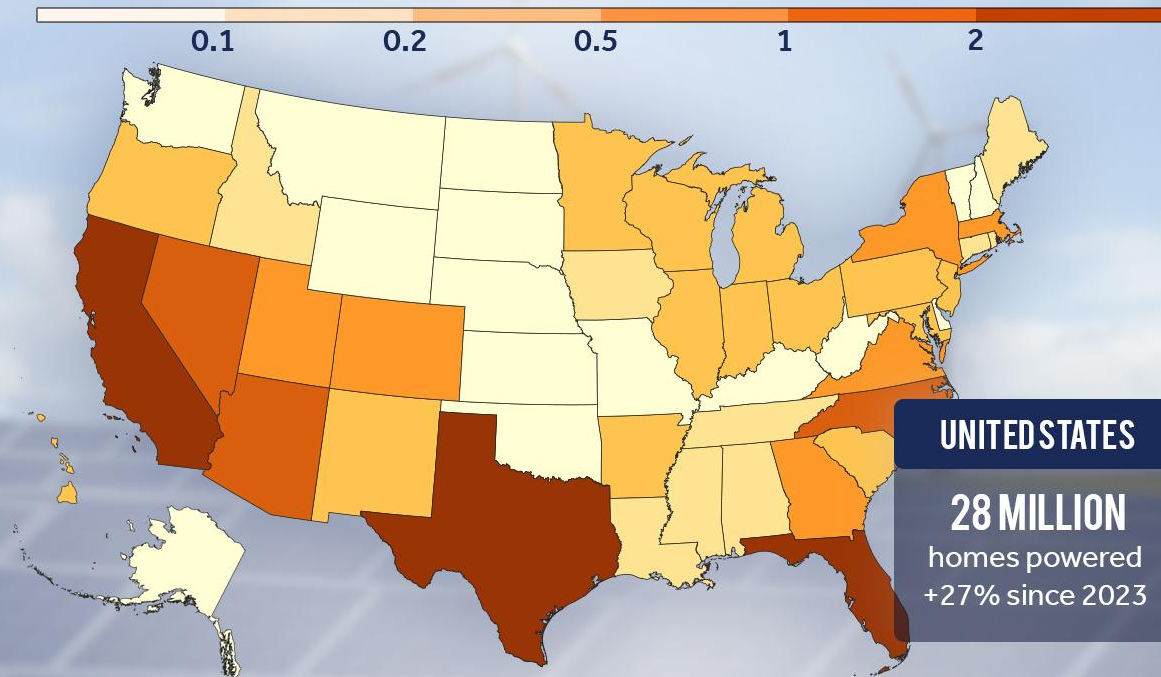
Truth is, no home is too old for a heat pump system. Non-ducted homes can take advantage of ductless solutions like mini-split heat pumps—or be retrofitted to accommodate ducted alternatives like central air-source or ground-source heat pumps.

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SOLAR POWER IN 2024

Equivalent homes powered (millions)

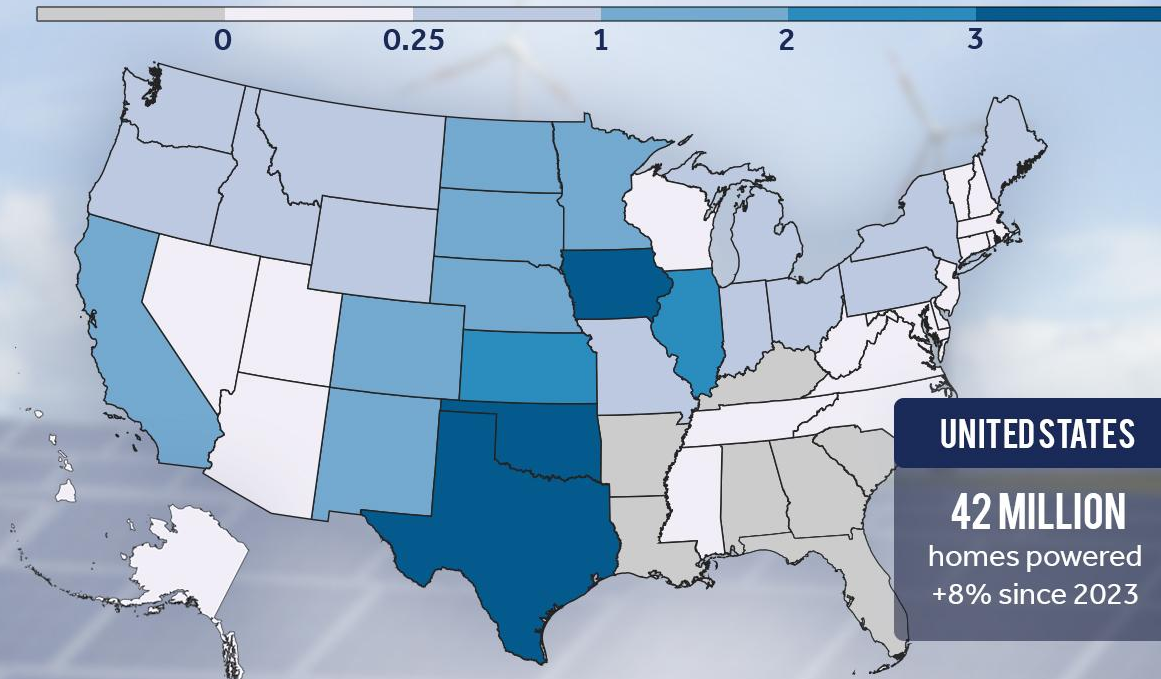


Average annual U.S. household electricity use = 10.8 kWh.
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

WIND POWER IN 2024

Equivalent homes powered (millions)



Average annual U.S. household electricity use = 10.8 kWh.
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

Take action

Do you watch or read climate crisis news and think: "Ok, this is bad, but what now? What can I do about this?"

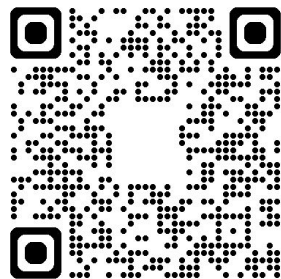
We do too. Even this website, as it alerts you to the destructive cycle that our money is stuck in, might be making you feel overwhelmed and powerless.

Well, no more! It's time to take action:

Pressure

Switch

Share



Apply pressure

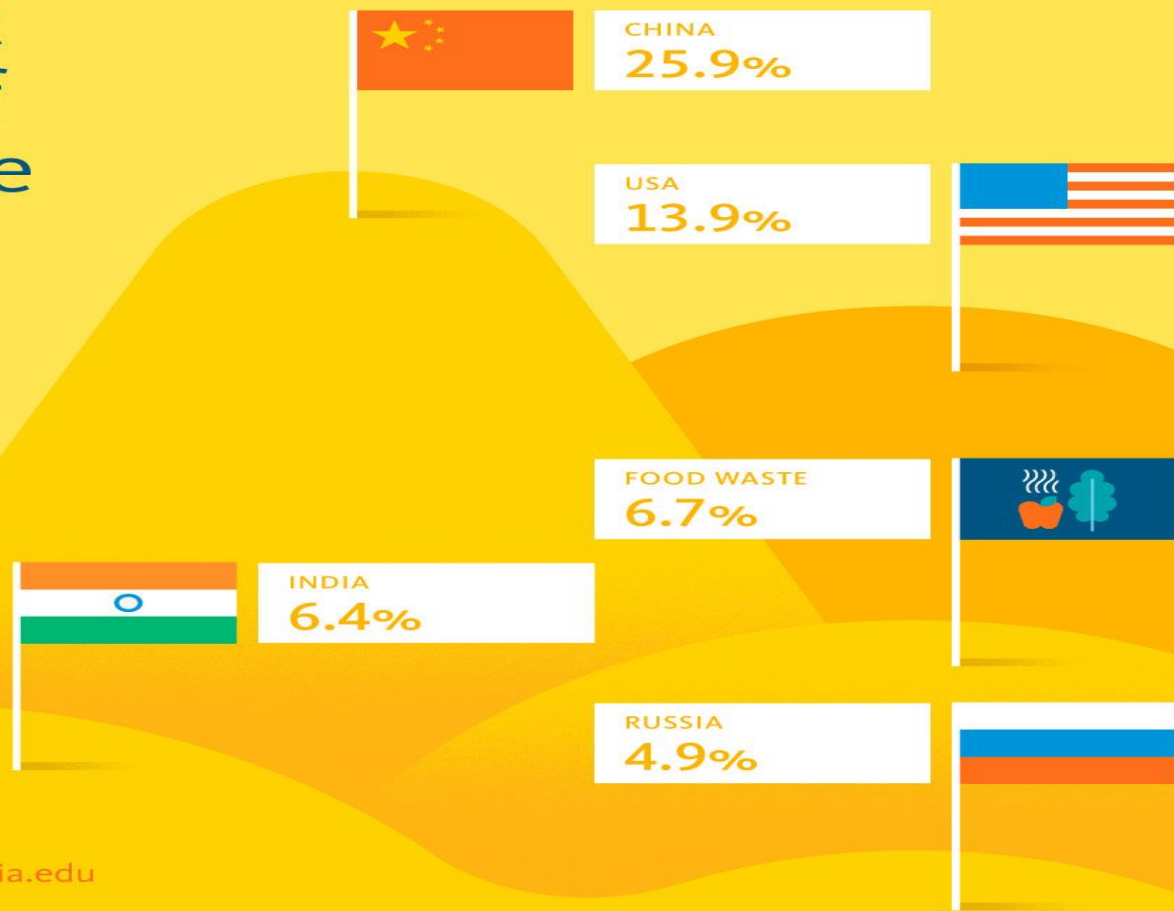
It has been proved over and over again that people power creates **change**. Some would say it's the *only* thing that creates change. So, whatever your personal banking situation and intentions are, this is your

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The largest emitters of greenhouse gases

Percent of global greenhouse gas emissions*



Learn more at
climate.universityofcalifornia.edu

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

*Based on UN FAO Food Wastage Footprint (2013) and WRI 2013 country-level emissions.
Presented for scale; all countries contribute to food waste.



WASTE LESS

Rock secondhand style
and buy fewer new items.
depop.com

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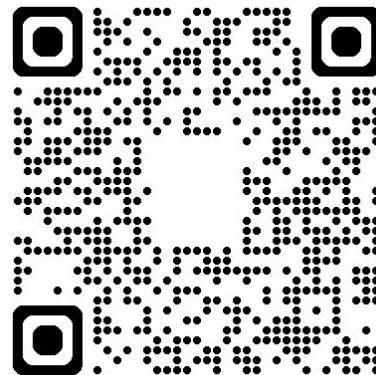
Environmental Volunteer Opportunities

[Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) > [About Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) > [Chapters](#)

Citizens' Climate Lobby organizes by establishing local chapters in congressional districts. If you don't live near a CCL chapter, we will connect you with other CCL volunteers in your state. Working as a team, in your chapter or in your state, you'll experience the profound difference people can make by empowering and inspiring their elected representatives, local media, and community.

510

Active Chapters

[About CCL](#)[Core Values](#)[Chapters](#)[Founder's Story](#)[What we do](#)

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Important Websites

greeningofdetroit.com

carbonlighthouse.org

<https://Bank.green>

citizensclimatelobby.org

climatecentral.org

PROJECT
DRAWDOWN

DRAWDOWN® CLIMATE SOLUTIONS LIBRARY

Our scientific analysis shows that the world can reach drawdown – the point in time when levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stop climbing and start to steadily decline – by mid-century if we make the best use of all existing climate solutions. Each solution presented here reduces greenhouse gases by avoiding emissions and/or by sequestering carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere.

Project Drawdown reviews and analyzes practices and technologies that can reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in Earth's atmosphere and also are



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THE NEW CLIMATE WAR shows how fossil fuel companies have waged a thirty-year campaign to deflect blame and responsibility and delay action on climate change, and offers a battle plan for how we can save the planet.



Supplementary Graphics

These additional slides can help you further explore a specific topic, if desired

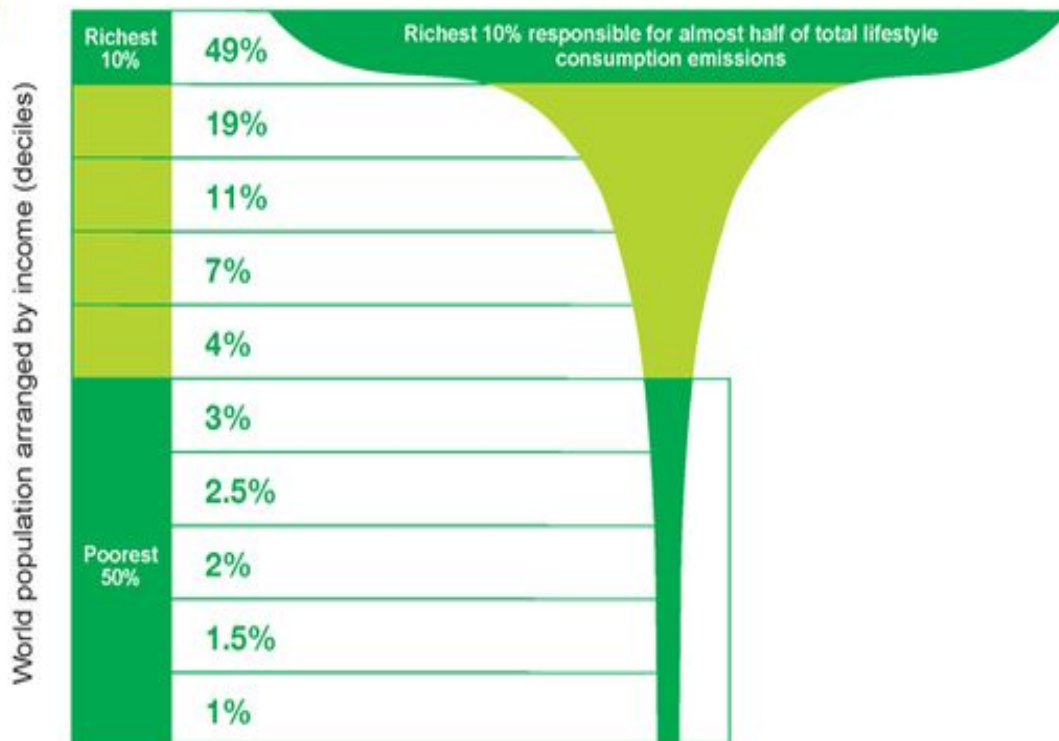


OXFAM

The poorest **50%** is only responsible for around **10%** of total lifestyle consumption emissions.

OXFAM MEDIA BRIEFING:
EXTREME CARBON INEQUALITY

Percentage of CO₂ emissions by world population



ADDITIONAL SLIDES

For those wanting to go deeper into some topics

- **Supplementary Slides:** *premade slides with main points provided*
 - Greenhouse effect – animation (58)
 - Longer term glacial retreat – Muir Glacier (59)
 - Paleoclimate reconstruction and long term carbon dioxide time series data (60-62)
 - Length of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (63)
 - Rising Temperatures, US and global (64-66)
 - Astronomical influences (67-68)
 - Ocean temperatures – Time series with ENSO fluctuations (69)
 - Consensus science (70)
 - Projections and pathways (71-73)
- **Local + Extra Slides:** *collection of local and extra graphics organized by topic*
 - Extreme Weather
 - Rising Temperatures
 - Ice & Snow
 - Sea Level Rise & Ocean Warming
 - Health Impacts

The Greenhouse Effect

SIMPLE

Atmosphere

climate.nasa.gov



1941



photo: William O. Field

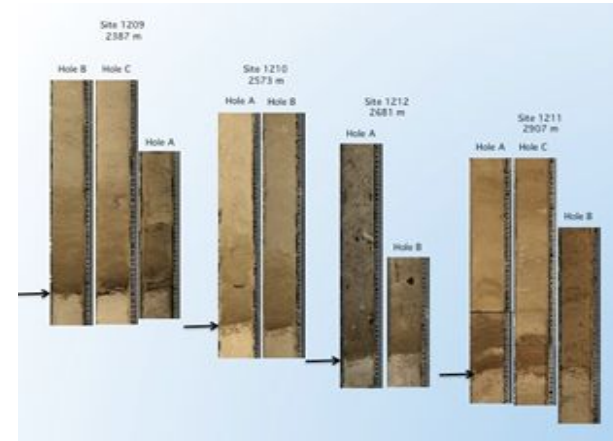
2004



photo: Bruce F. Molnia

Alaska's Muir Glacier

Reconstructing Past Climates



GREENHOUSE GASES LAST A LONG TIME

 METHANE 10
YEARS

 NITROUS OXIDE 100
YEARS

 CARBON DIOXIDE 1000+ YEARS

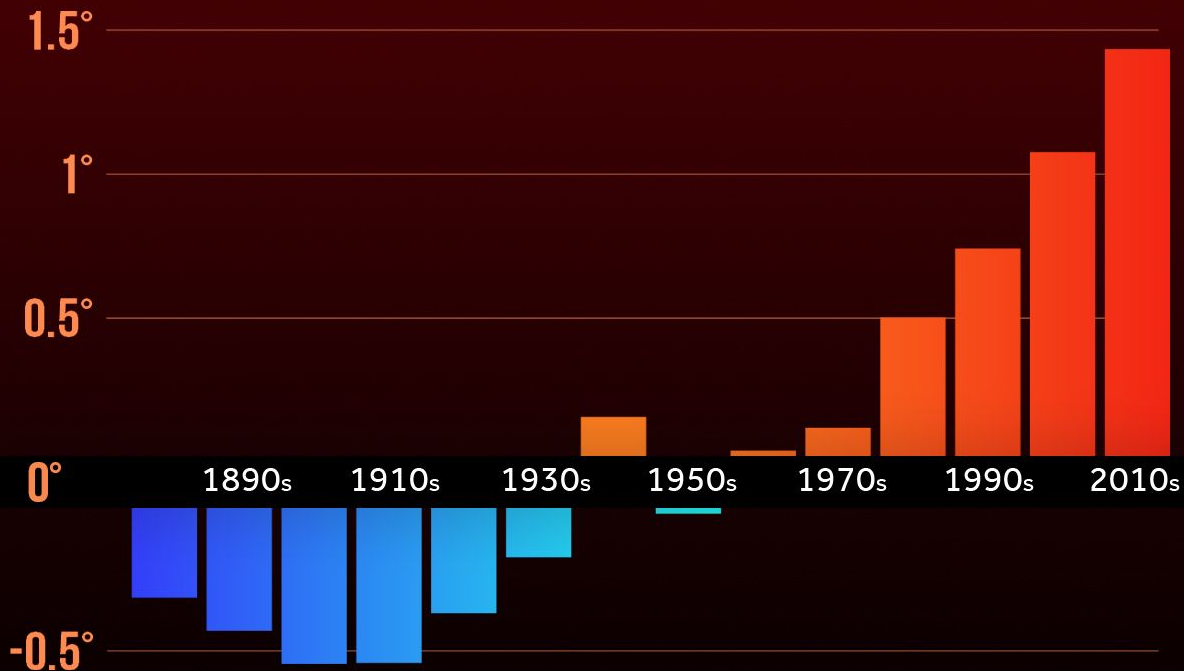
Numbers based on lifetime in atmosphere, not their warming potential

CLIMATE  CENTRAL



Local Graphic Available

GLOBAL DECADES OF WARMING



Average decadal temperature anomalies from 20th century average (°F). Data through October 2019.
Source: NOAA

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

Natural Climate Change - Takes Much Longer

Axial Precession (Wobble)

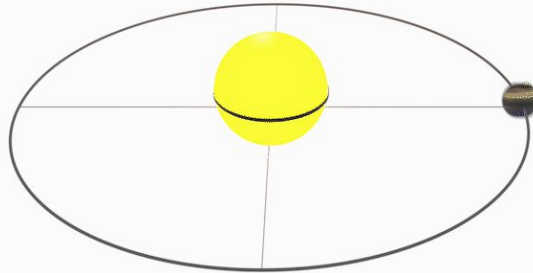
26,000-year cycles



climate.nasa.gov

Changes in Eccentricity (Orbit Shape)

100,000-year cycles

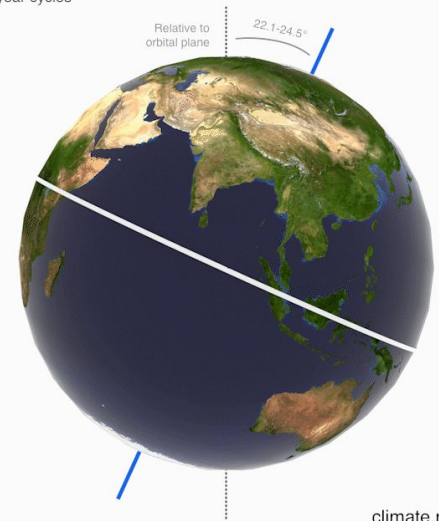


*Changes in eccentricity exaggerated so the effect can be seen. Earth's orbit shape varies between 0.0034 (almost a perfect circle) to 0.058 (slightly elliptical).

climate.nasa.gov

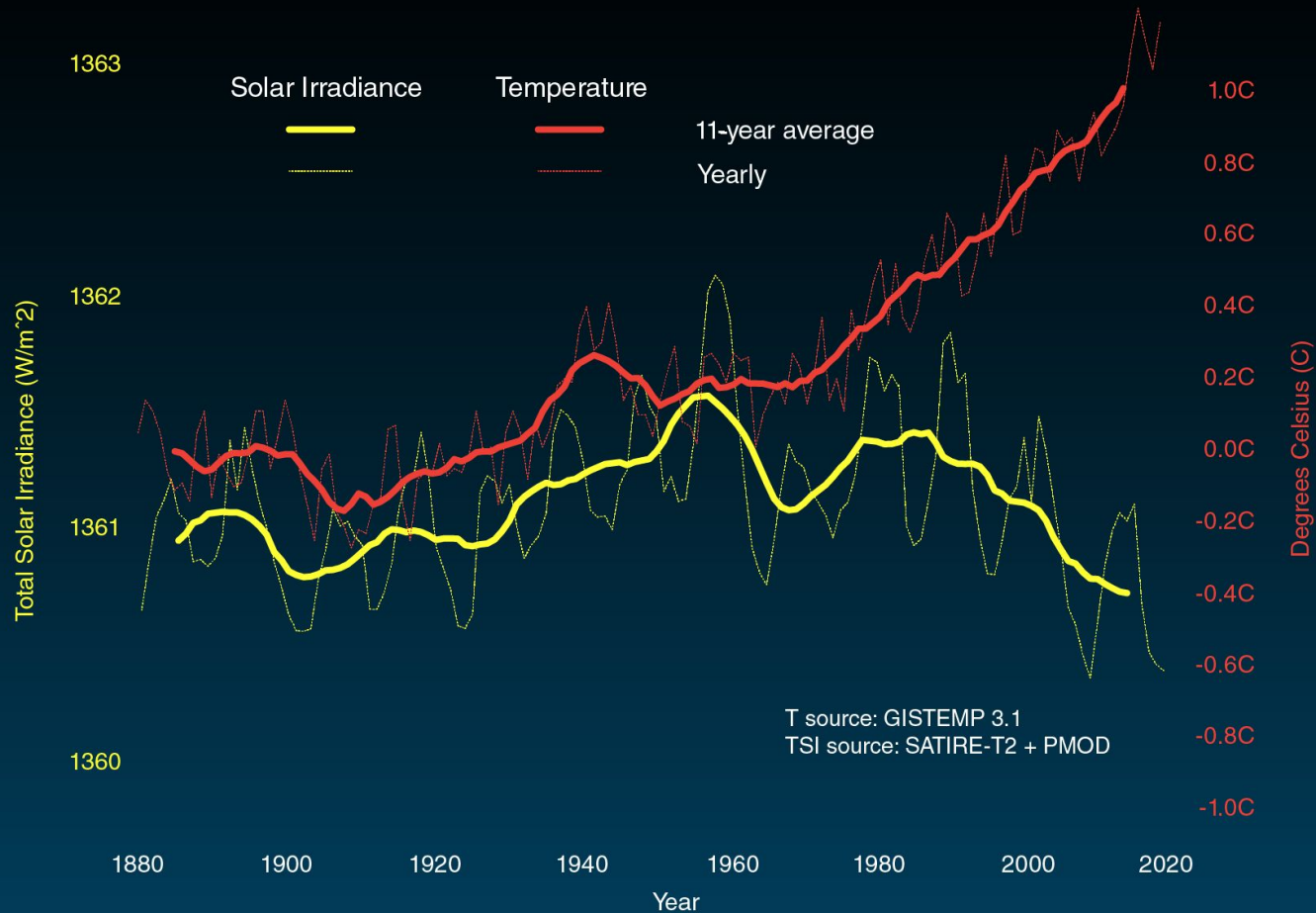
Changes in Obliquity (Tilt)

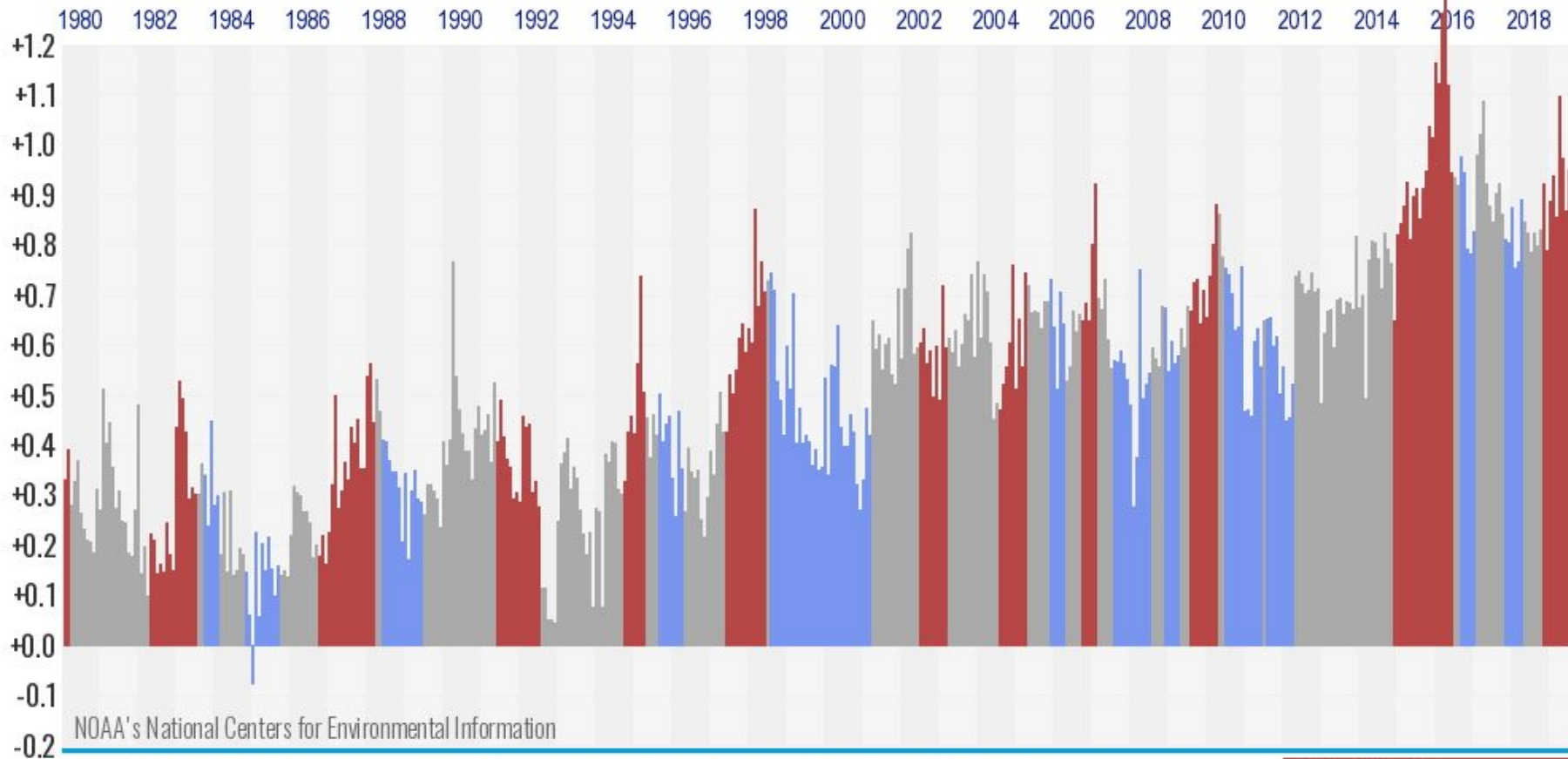
41,000-year cycles



climate.nasa.gov

Temperature vs Solar Activity





Global Surface Temperature Departures in °C, colored by monthly ENSO values
Jan 1980 through Jun 2019

El Niño Months
ENSO Neutral Months
La Niña Months

Human-caused Climate Change is widely agreed upon...

97%

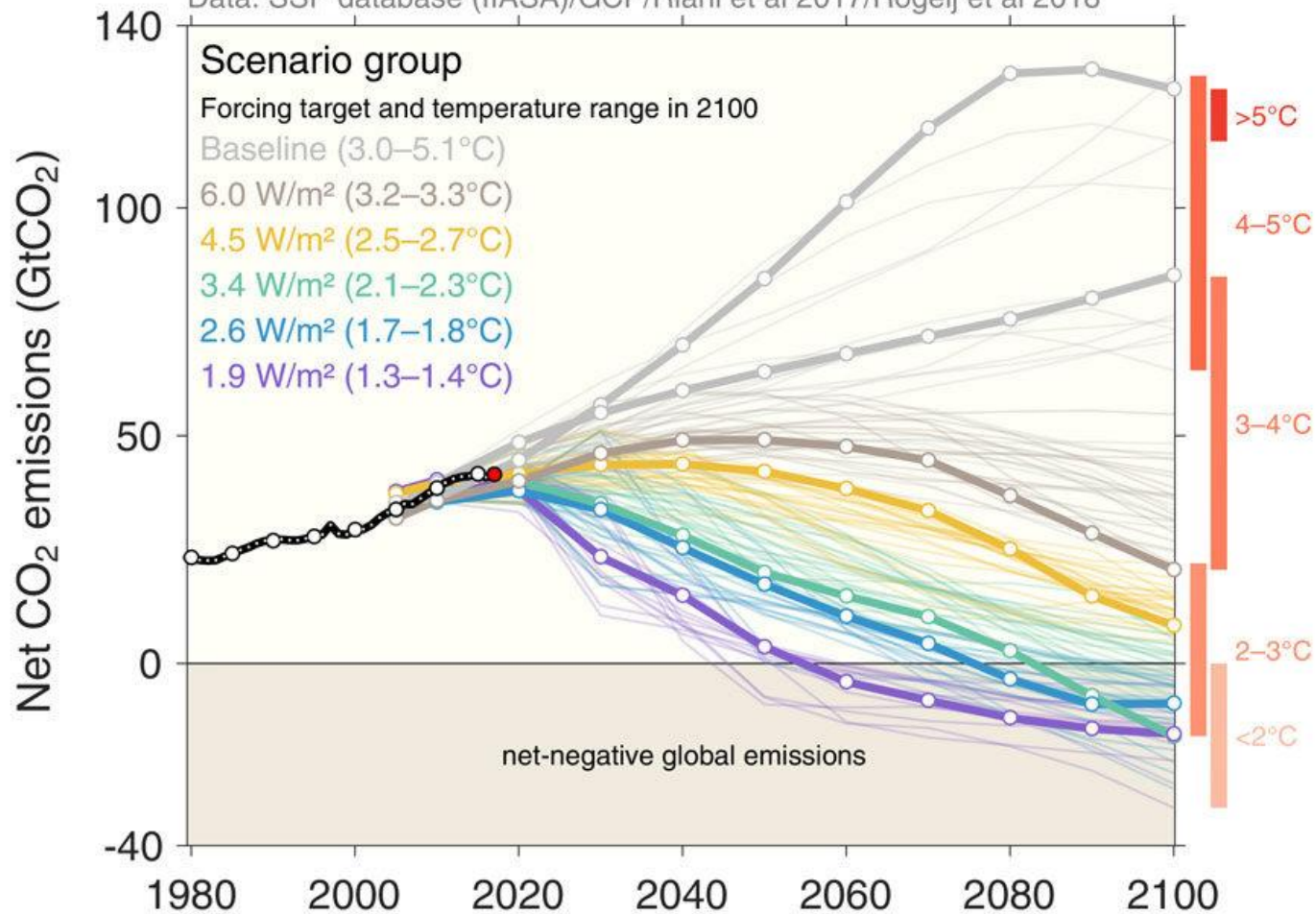
of actively publishing climate scientists agree that human-caused climate change is happening.

99.9%

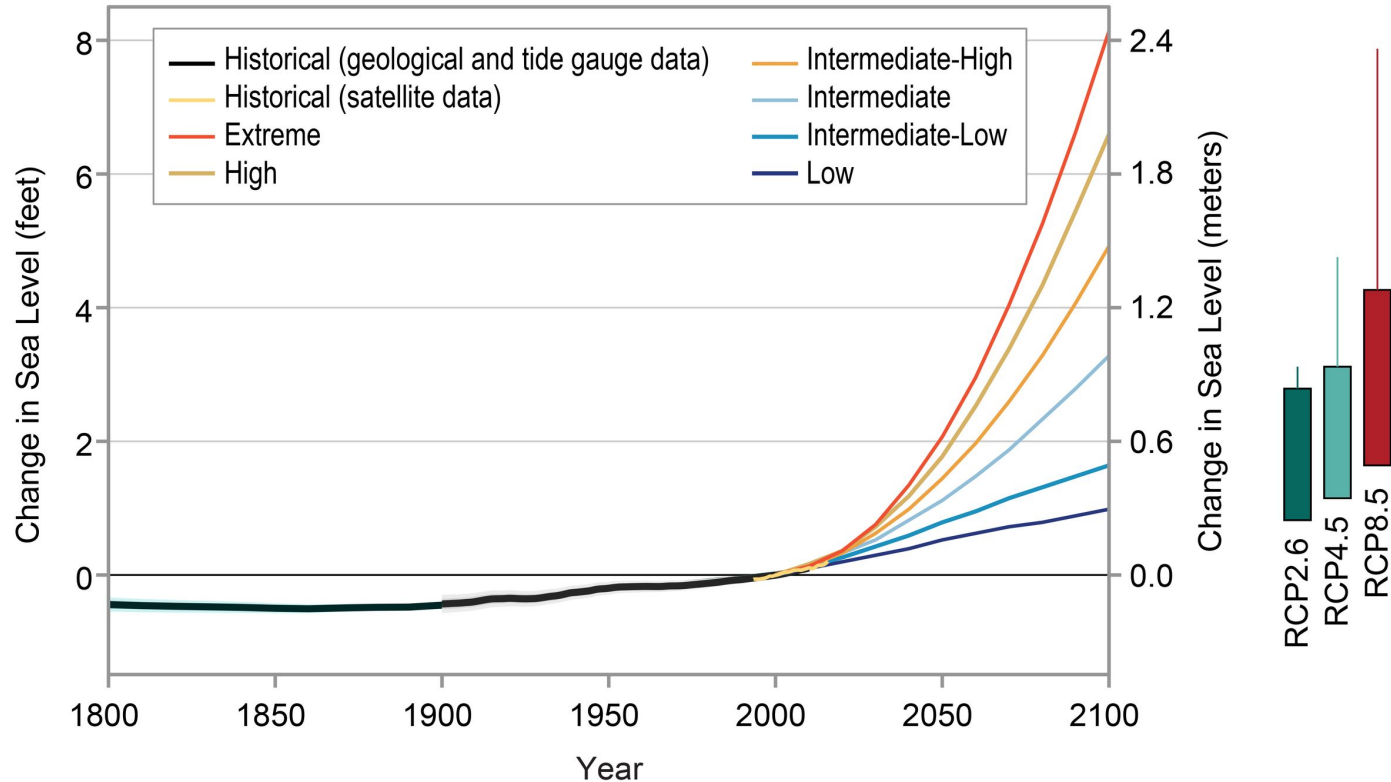
of scientific research studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals find that human-caused climate change is happening.



Data: SSP database (IIASA)/GCP/Riahi et al 2017/Rogelj et al 2018



Sea Level Rise Projections over a century



Local + Extra Graphics

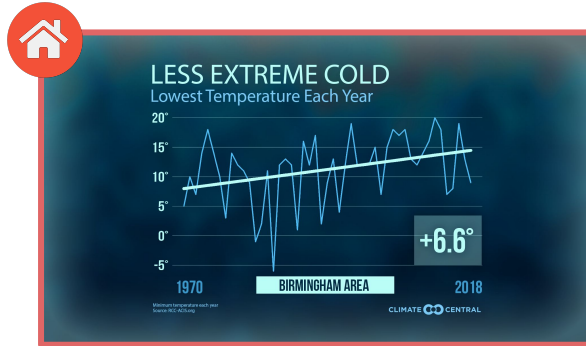
Directly copy or click on the URL in the slide notes to use the desired graphic

*look for the

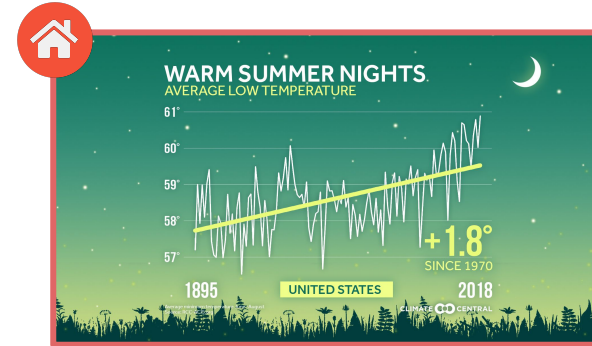


in the upper left of slides to indicate images with local data - URL in slide notes*

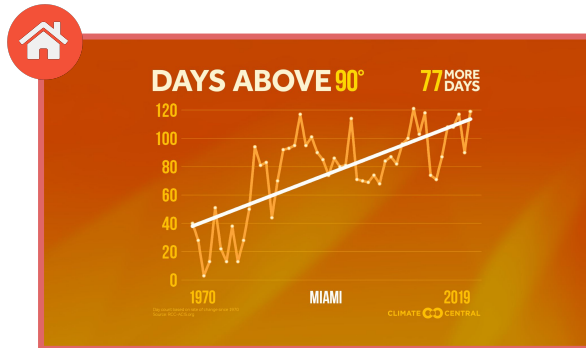
Rising Temperatures



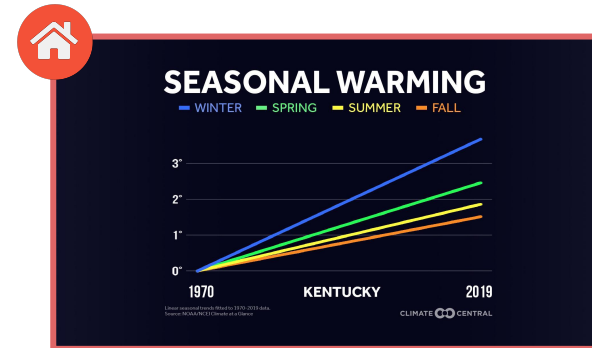
Not-So-Extreme Cold



Warm Summer Nights

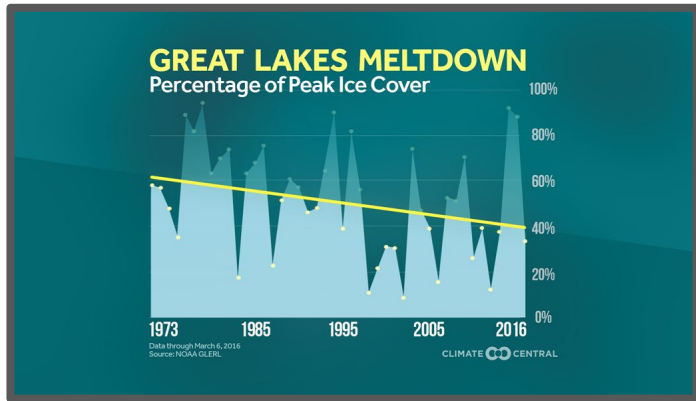


Days Above X

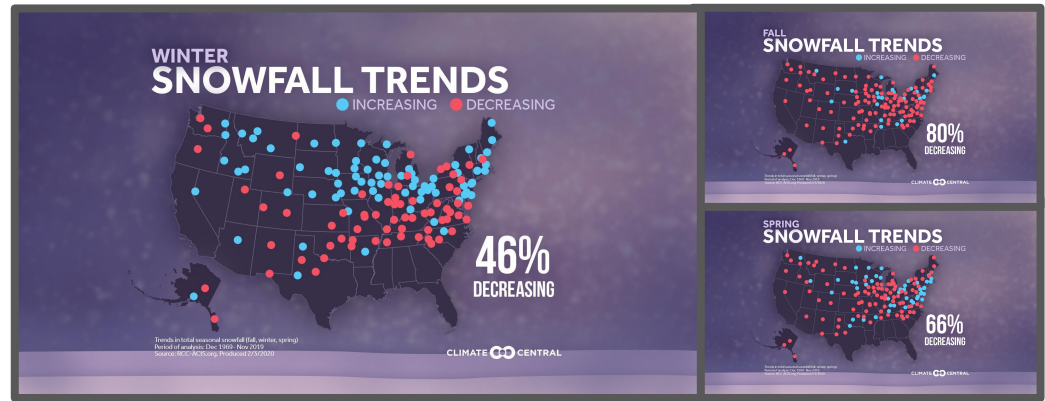


Seasonal Warming

Ice & Snow

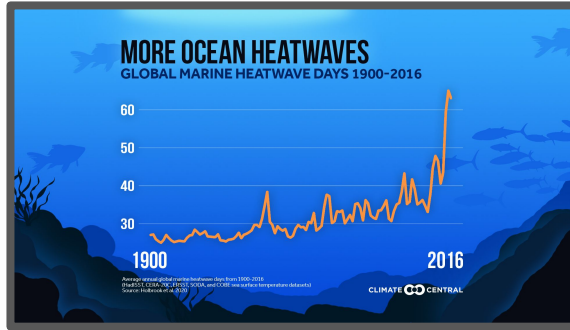


Great Lakes Meltdown

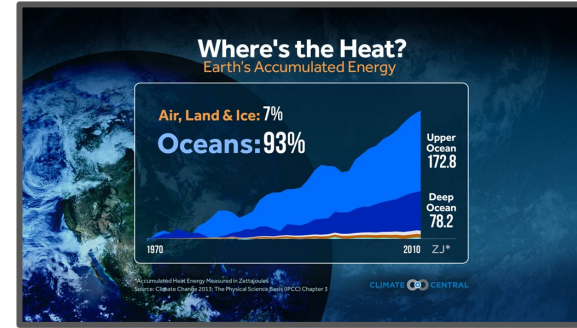


Snowfall Trends (Winter, Fall, Spring, Summer)

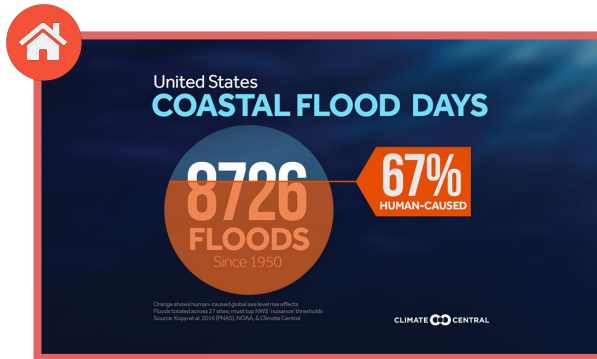
Sea Level Rise & Ocean Warming



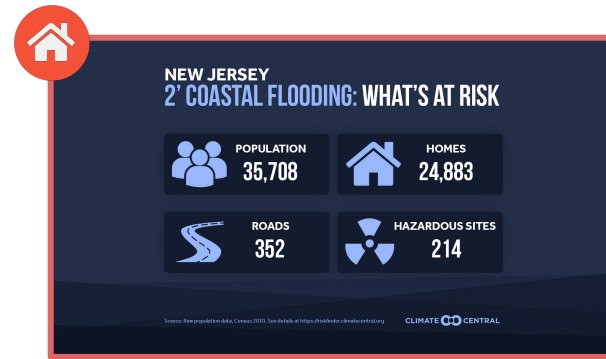
Ocean Heat Waves



Where's the Heat?

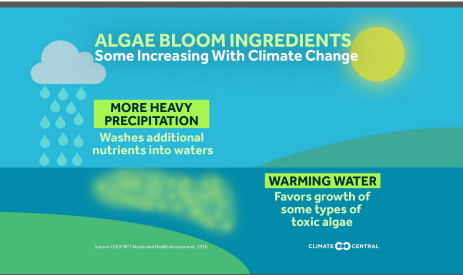


Coastal Flood Days

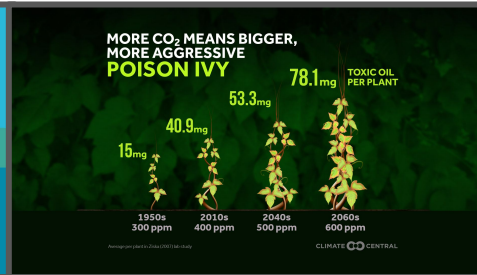


What's At Risk?

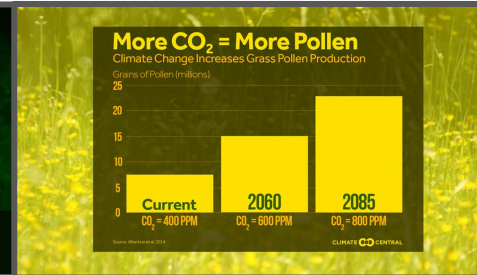
Health Impacts



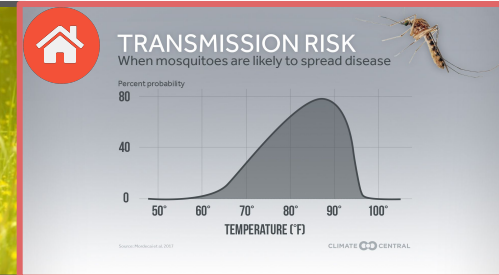
Algal Blooms



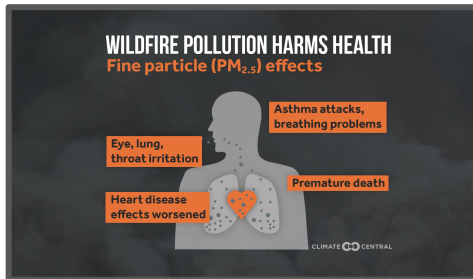
Poison Ivy



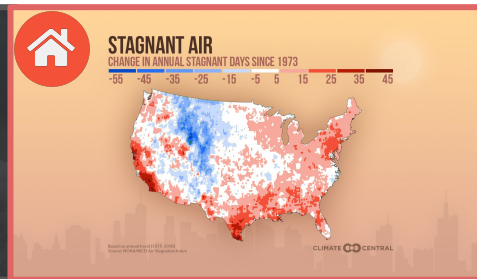
Pollen



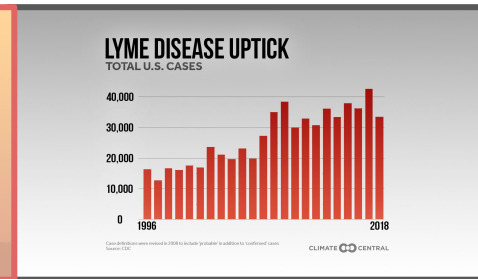
Mosquitoes



PM 2.5



Air Pollution



Ticks