

Welcome to this week's presentation & conversation hosted by the **Canadian Association for the Club of Rome**, a Club dedicated to intelligent debate & action on global issues.

The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker & do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of CACOR.

The Rapidly Deteriorating Global Climate Emergency and What Must Be Done.

Our speaker today is Peter D. Carter, MD, a retired family and emergency physician with a background in environmental health protection policy, who is now director of the Climate Emergency Institute. He has been an expert reviewer for the IPCC and is co-author of *Unprecedented Crime: Climate Science Denial and Game Changers for Survival*.

DESCRIPTION: We live in the age of abrupt and accelerating collapse. According to NOAA's *The Power of Greenhouse Gases*, "We are committing Earth, and ourselves, to climate chaos for thousands of years." Dr. Carter will present the latest trends and indicators of unprecedented climate system, ecological and biodiversity collapse. Today's evidence reinforces the Club of Rome's *Case for a Planetary Emergency Plan*: "We are living beyond the carrying capacity of the planet, putting human systems on a collision course with natural systems.... The stability of these systems—commons on which we so fundamentally depend—is now at risk." Peter will then discuss what must be done to mitigate the hell on Earth we are bequeathing all the world's children...and any future generations.

The presentation will be followed by a conversation, questions, & observations from the participants.

CACOR acknowledges that we all benefit from sharing the traditional territories of local Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, & Inuit in Canada) and their descendants.



Website: canadiancor.com

Twitter: [@cacor1968](https://twitter.com/cacor1968)

YouTube: [Canadian Association for the Club of Rome](https://www.youtube.com/Canadian Association for the Club of Rome)

2023 Nov 15 Zoom #171



CLIMATE EMERGENCY INSTITUTE

The Health and Human Rights Approach to Greenhouse Gas Pollution

An Intensifying Global Climate Emergency and What Must Be Done

Peter D. Carter

Climate Emergency Institute, Victoria, BC

on the territory of the ləkʷəŋən-speaking peoples (Songhees & Esquimalt)

Deepening Climate Catastrophe Denial

1.5°C is out of the question



The Dire Climate Emergency

1.5°C = Globally disastrous

2.0°C = Globally catastrophic

In 2023, global emissions are increasing as fast as ever



**“We are committing Earth, and ourselves,
to climate chaos for thousands of years.”**

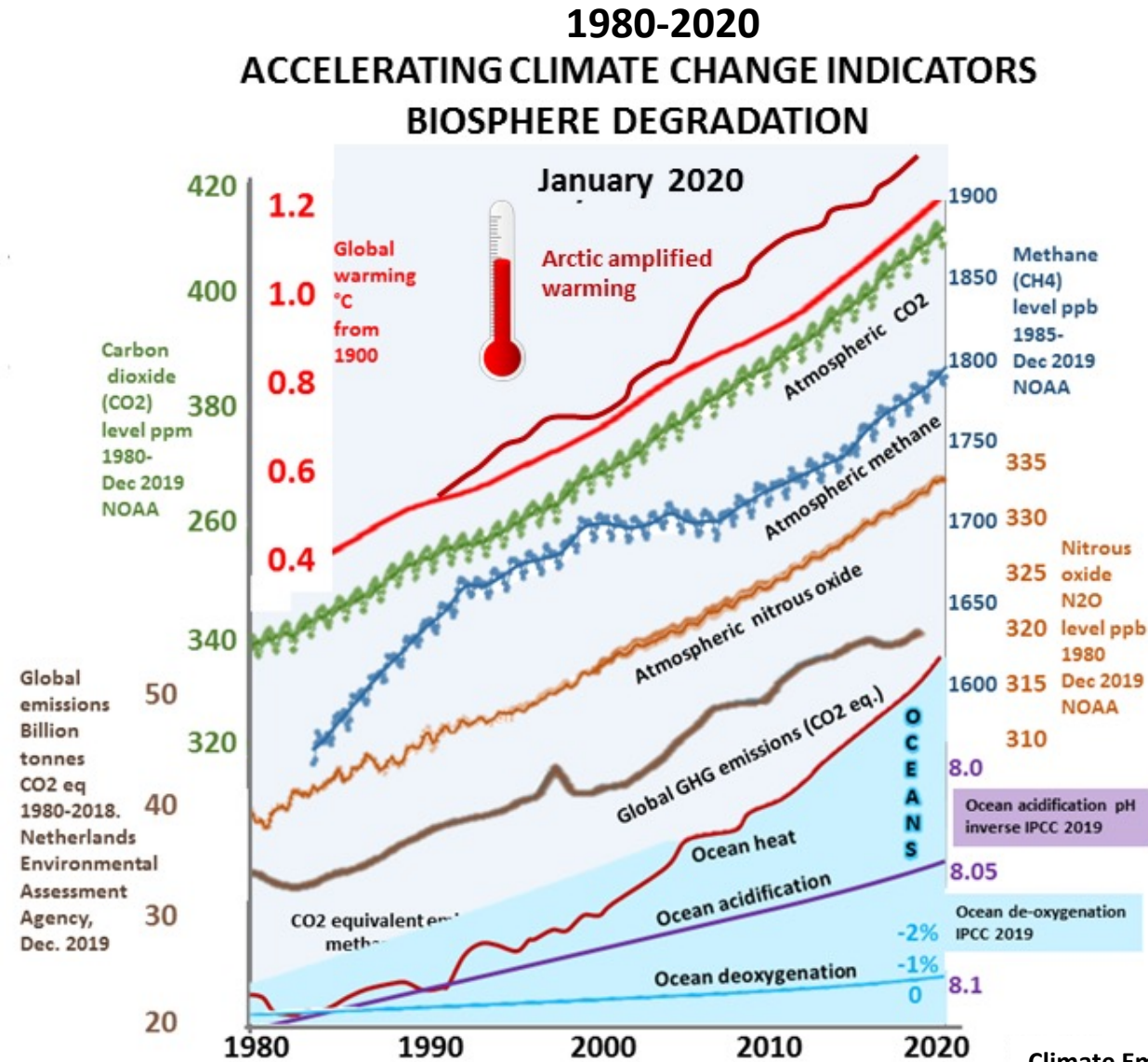
— NOAA Power Greenhouse Gases, May 2023

IPCC 6th Assessment, Working Group 2 (Impacts) 28 February 2022 Press release

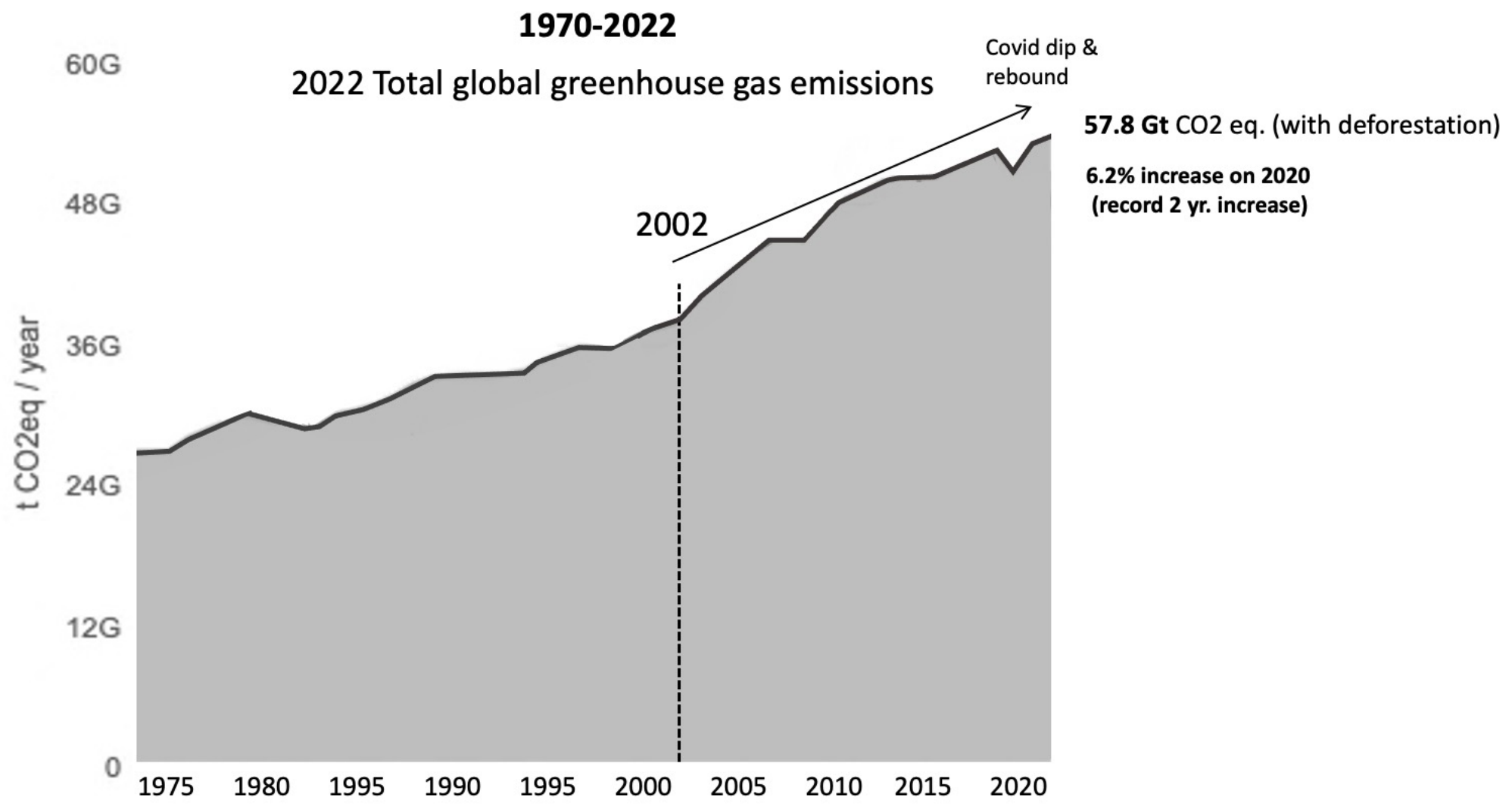
- **“This report is a dire warning about the consequences of inaction.”**
- **“The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C.”**
- **“Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future.”**

Multiple climate change indicators: Rapid trend to climate breakdown and biosphere collapse

Everything is
getting worse —
faster

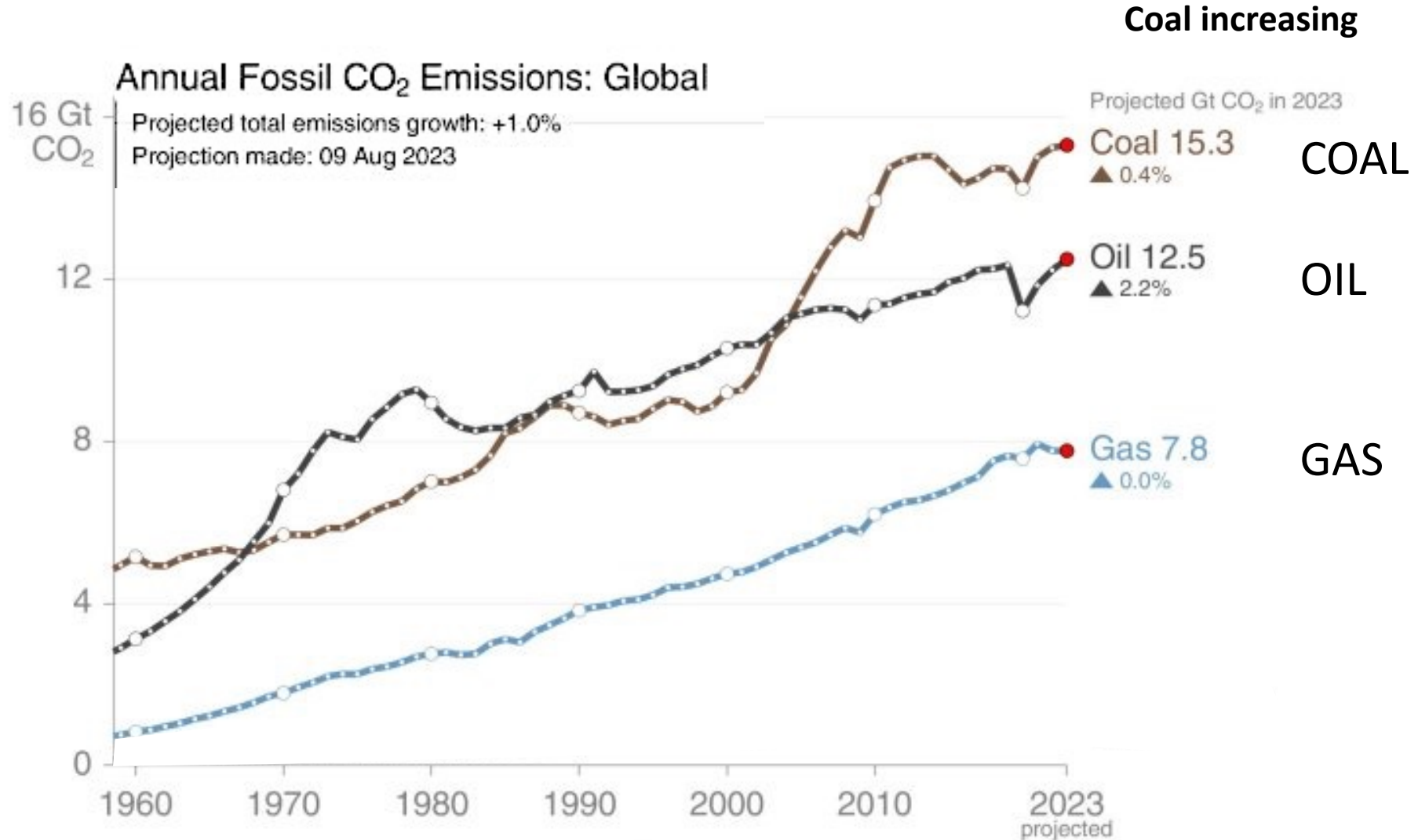


2022: Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions Record High Increasing As Fast As Ever



The Defining Indicator

Global fossil fuel CO₂ emissions will reach a new high in 2023, increasing 1%

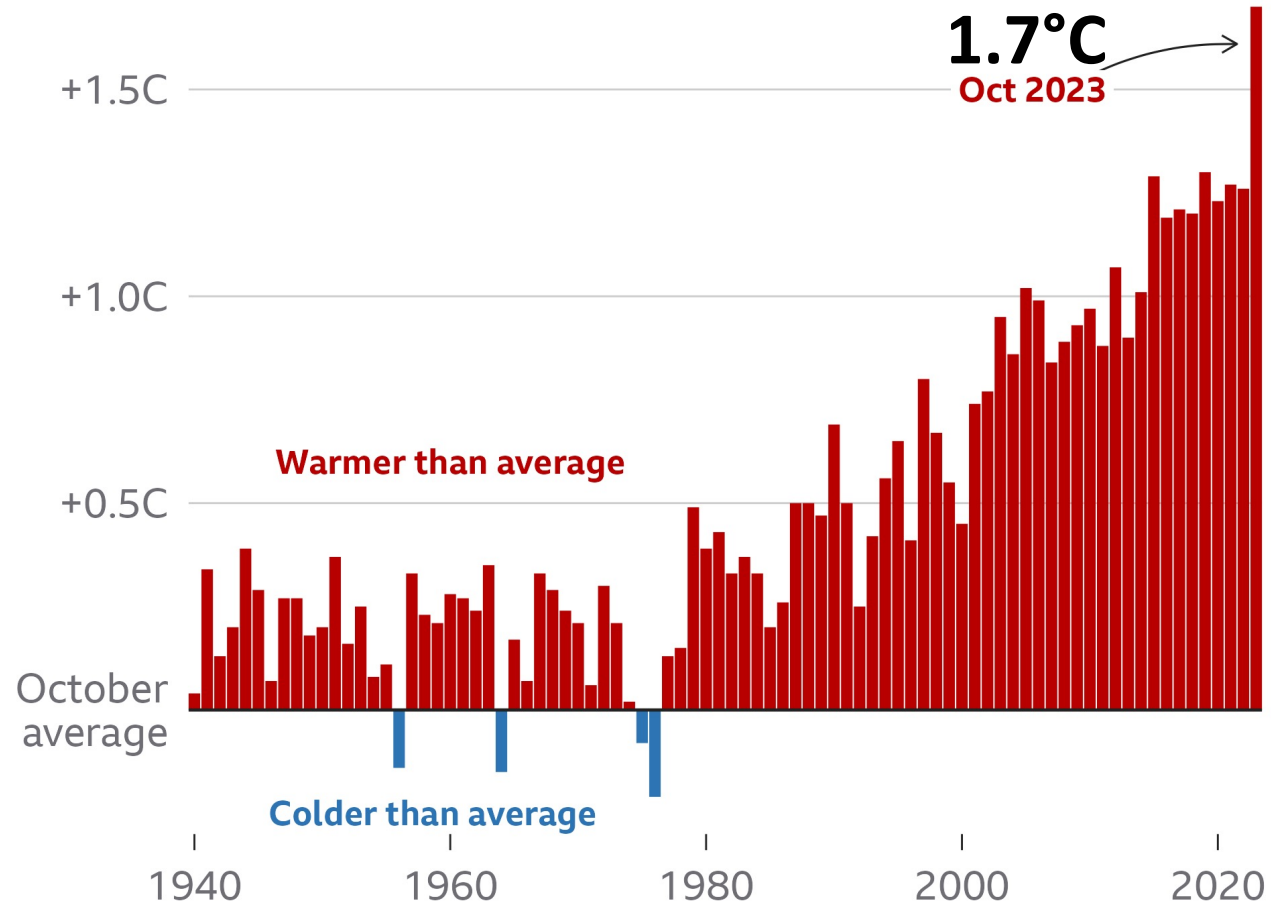


October 2023

Record October — Record highest warming

October 2023 hottest on record

Global average October temperature by year, compared with the average for October, 1850-1900

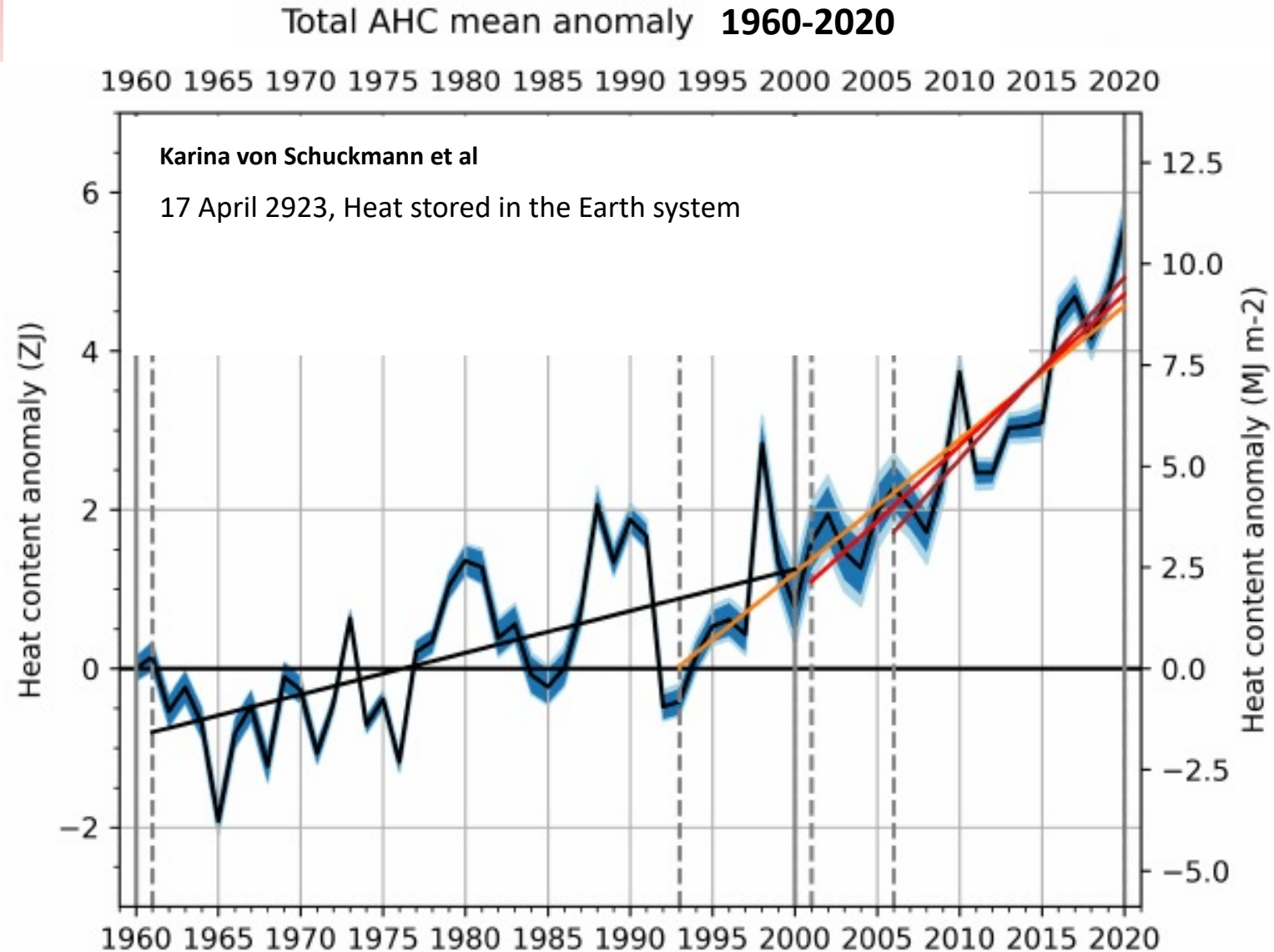


Source: ERA5, C3S/ECMWF

BBC

Accelerating increase in atmospheric heat

Why global warming is accelerating



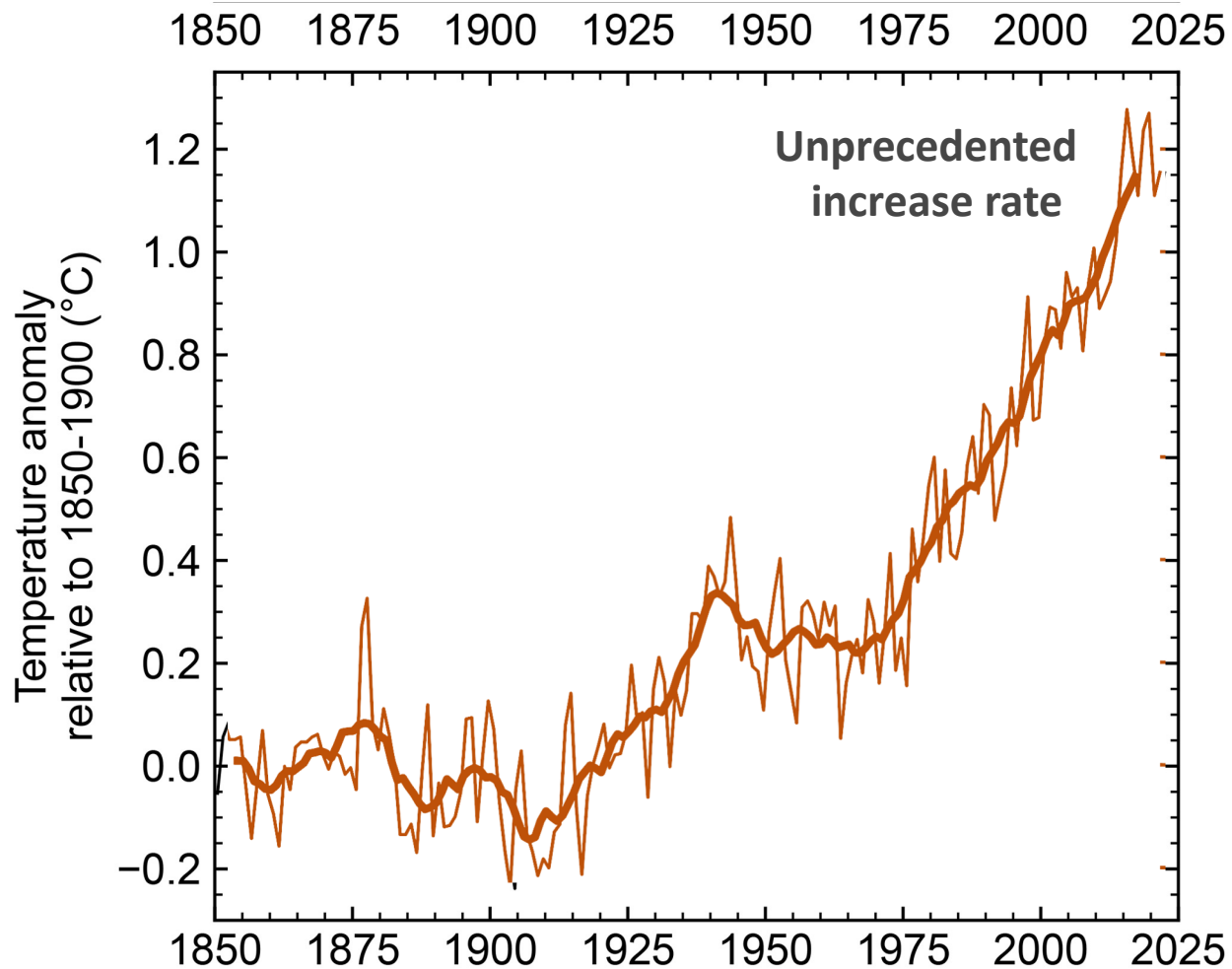
Accelerating increase of global surface temperature

from 1980-2022

driving extreme weather events

Update to IPCC
indicators (2019)

8 June 2023

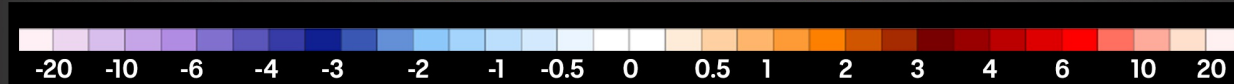
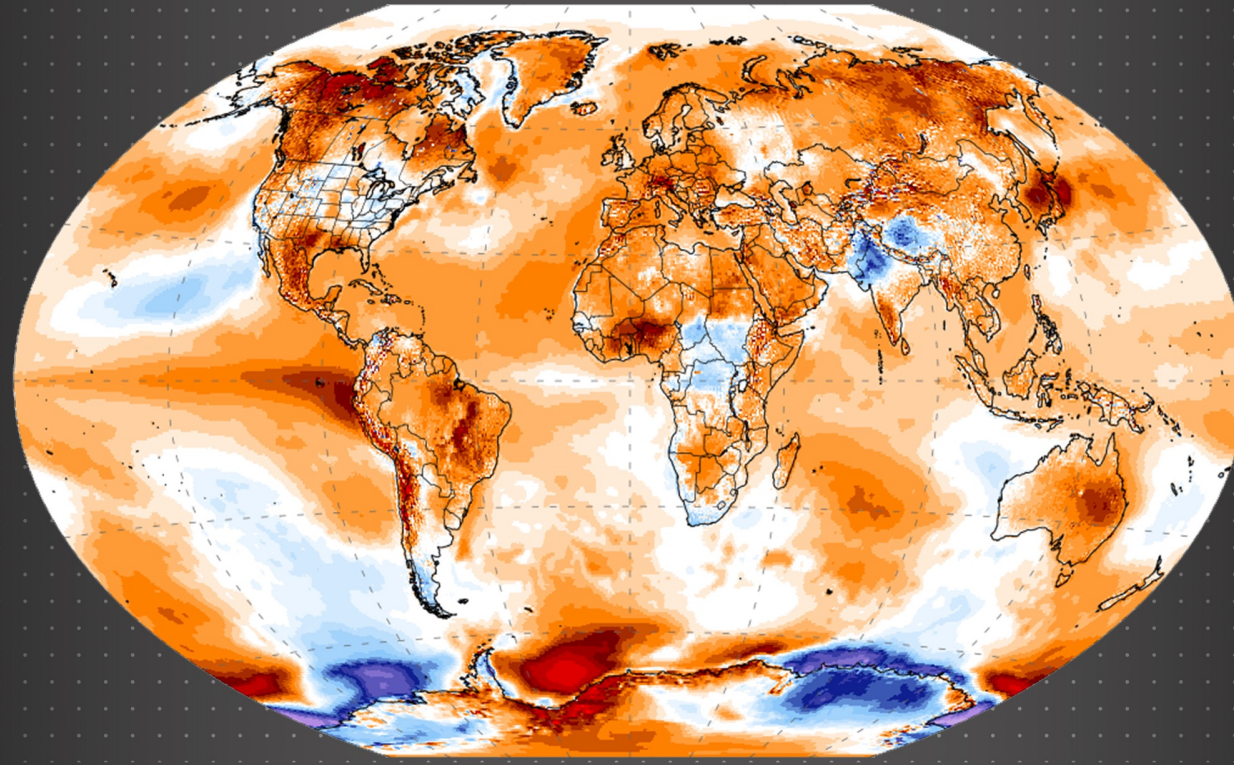


**Unprecedented increase
rate over past 10 years**

Over the 2013–2022 period, human-induced warming has been increasing at an **unprecedented rate** of over 0.2°C per decade.

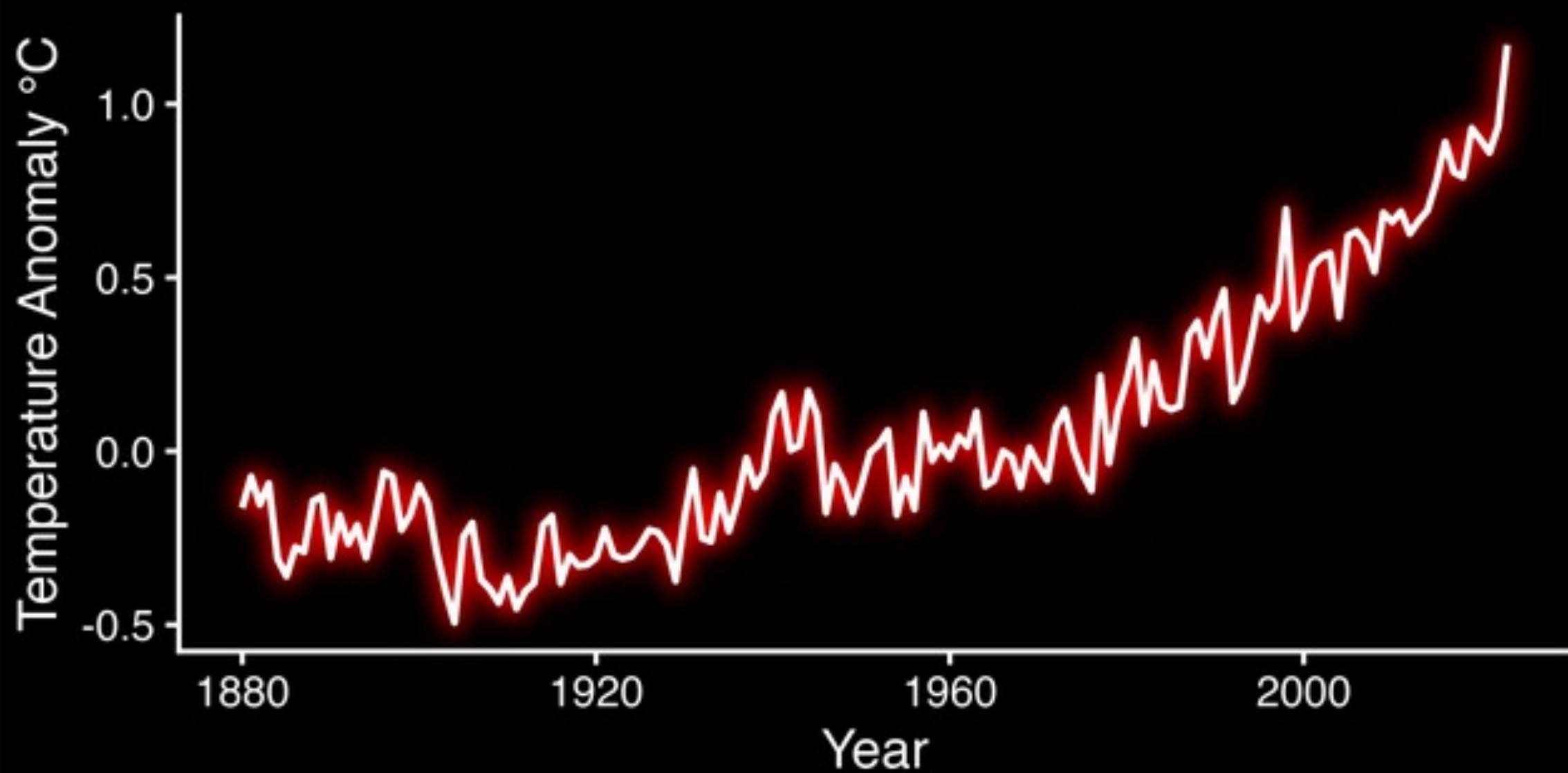
2023: Hottest Summer On Record

**JUNE TO AUGUST
TEMPERATURE ANOMALY °C**
RELATIVE TO 1979 - 2000 AVERAGE



By ABC meteorologist Tom Saunders

NASA Summer 2023 Global Temperature

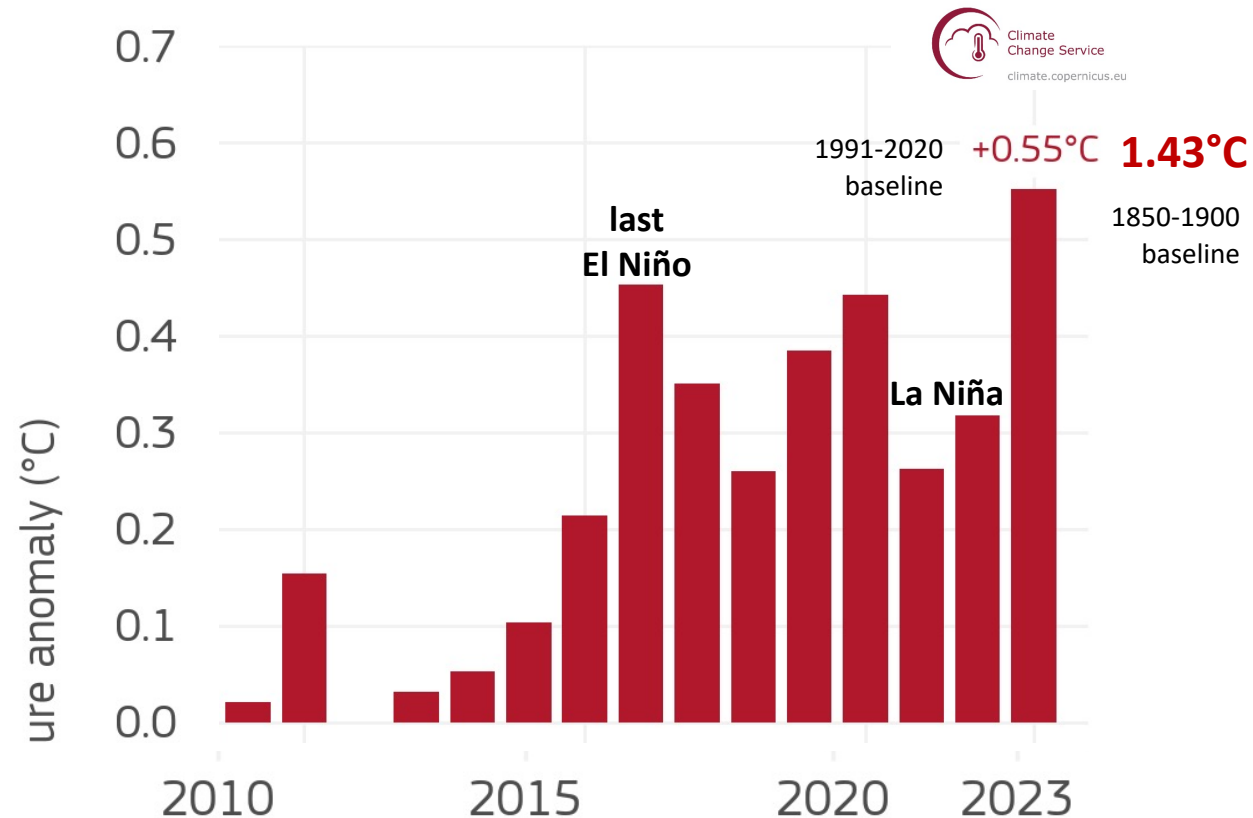


This year so far is **1.43°C** higher than 1850-1900 pre-industrial level

YEAR-TO-DATE GLOBAL SURFACE AIR TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES

Average anomalies for January–October • Data: ERA5 • Reference: 1991-2020 • Credit: C3S/ECMWF

The El Niño – Southern Oscillation has a huge effect on global surface temperature

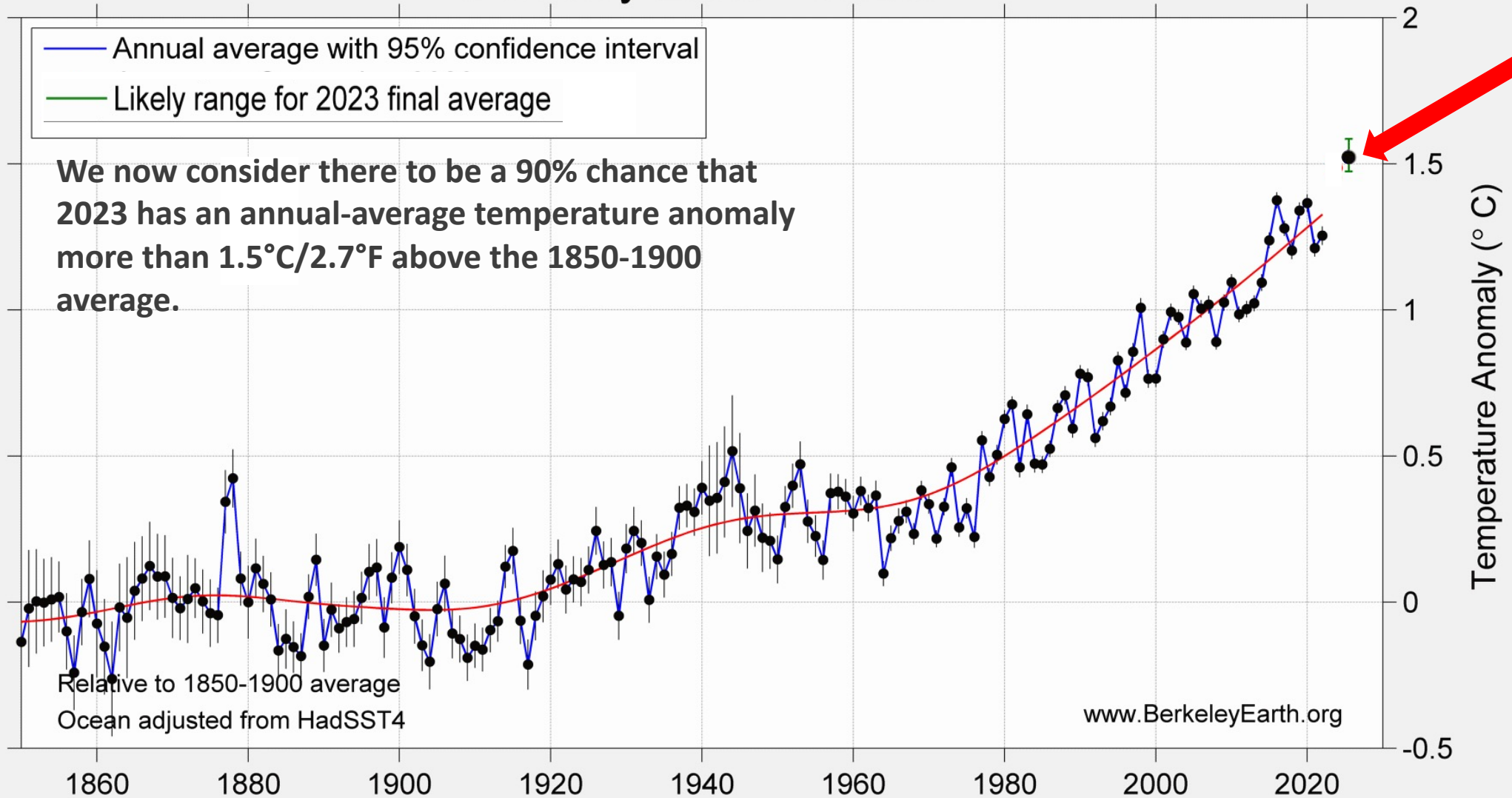


2023 will be a new record temperature year and reach 1.5°C

Berkeley Earth - Global

- Annual average with 95% confidence interval
- Likely range for 2023 final average

We now consider there to be a 90% chance that 2023 has an annual-average temperature anomaly more than 1.5°C/2.7°F above the 1850-1900 average.

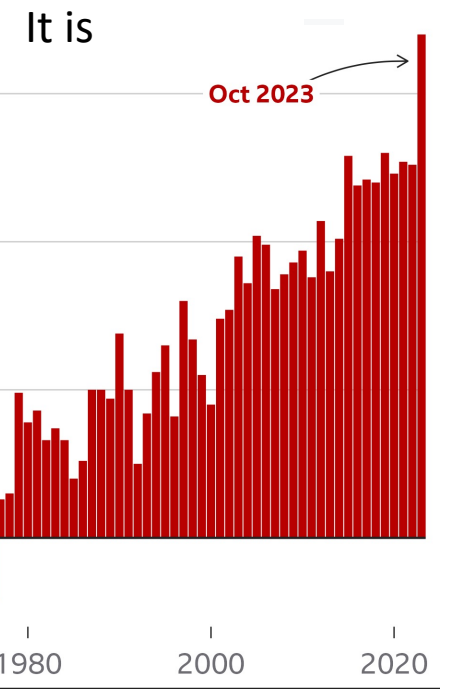
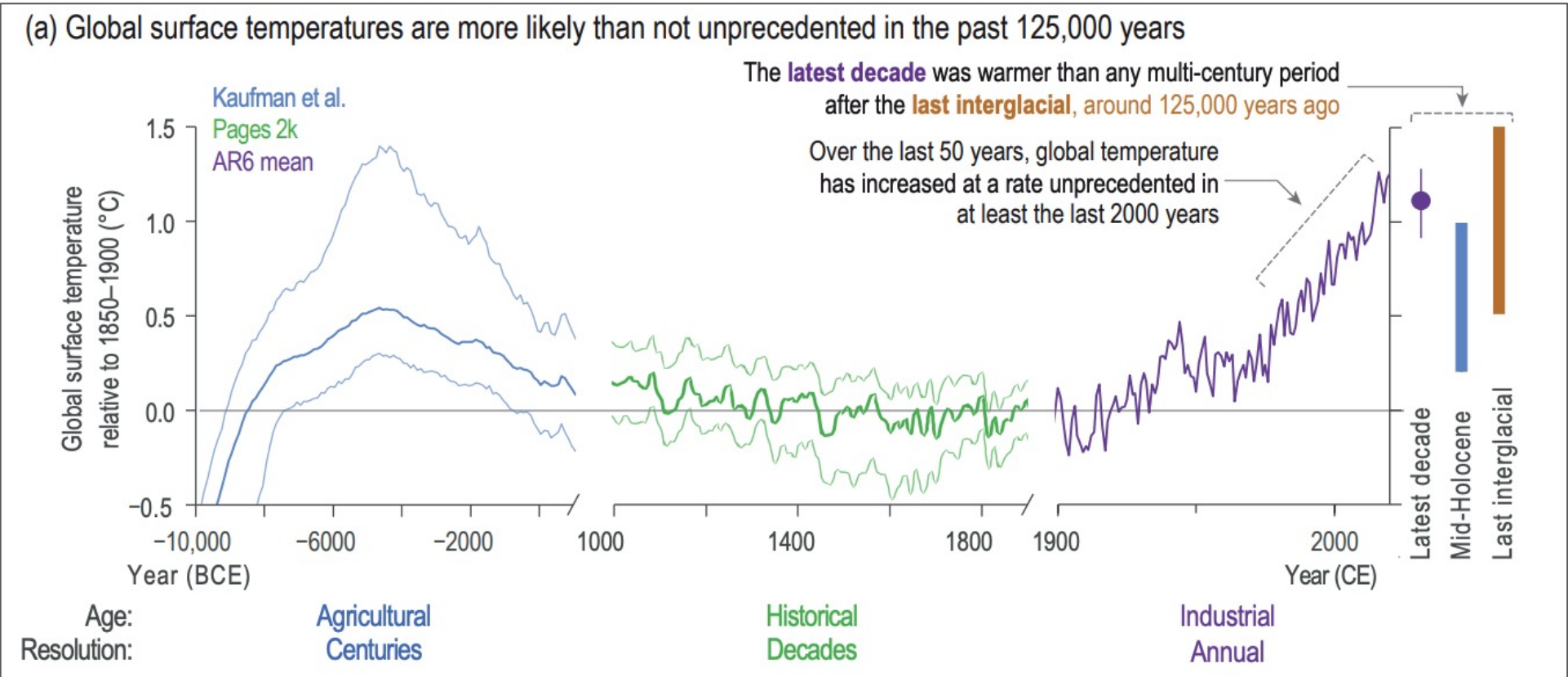


IPCC AR6: “Global surface temperatures are more likely than not unprecedented in the past 125,000 years”

Changes in surface temperature

IPCC, AR6, WGI, Figure 2.11.

Temperature data graphs from IPCC AR6 data 2019

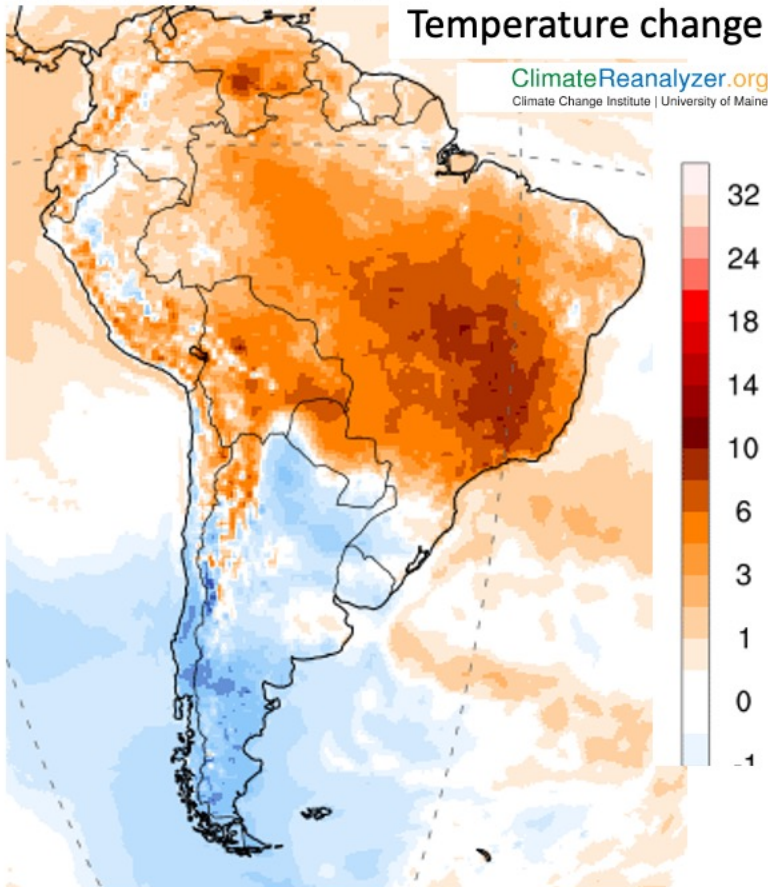


Brazil: Health warnings as country gripped by unprecedented 'unbearable' heatwave- in their Springtime

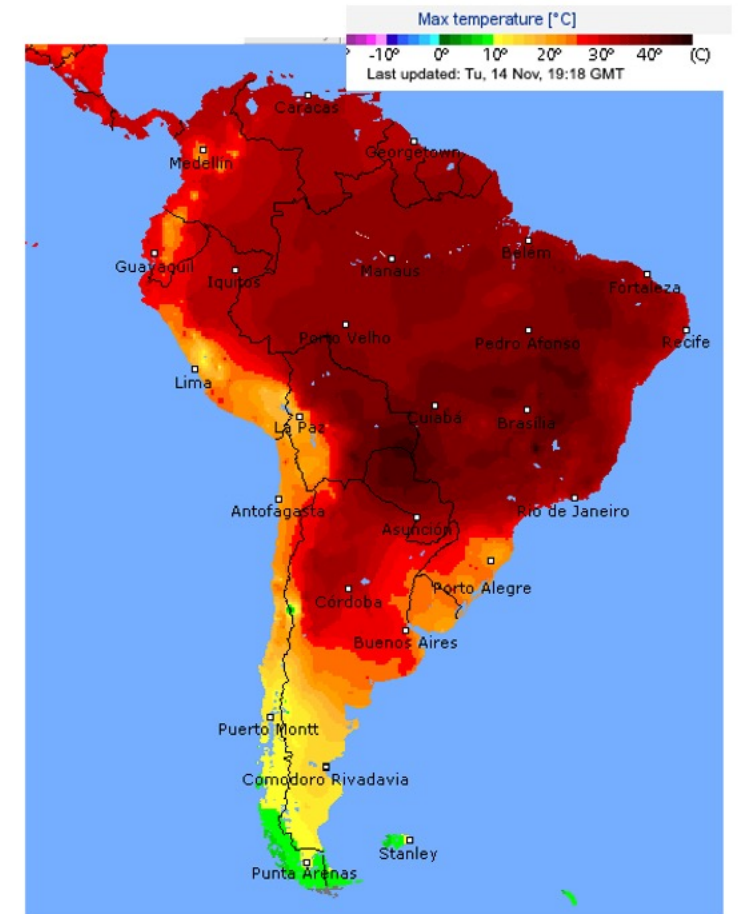
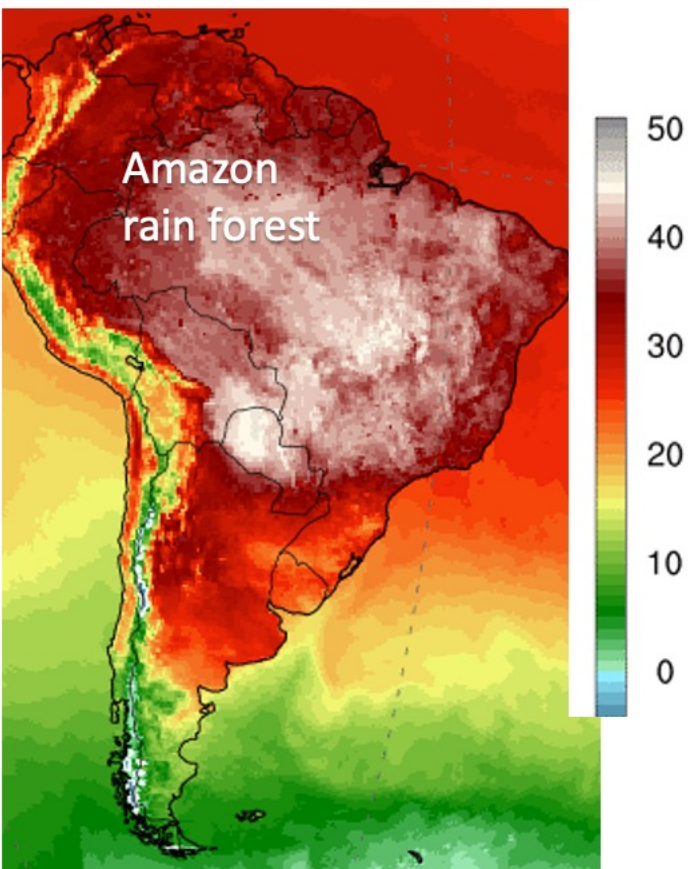
BBC, 14 Nov. 2023

Red alerts have been issued for almost 3,000 towns and cities across Brazil, which have been experiencing an unprecedented heatwave. Records have been broken in areas including the city Rio de Janeiro - where temperatures felt as high as 52°C. More than a hundred million people have been affected by the heat, more than a month before their summer

GFS 2m T Anomaly (°C) [CFSR 1979-2000 baseline]
1-day Avg | Wed, Nov 15, 2023



GFS 2m Temperature (°C)
1-day Max | Wed, Nov 15, 2023



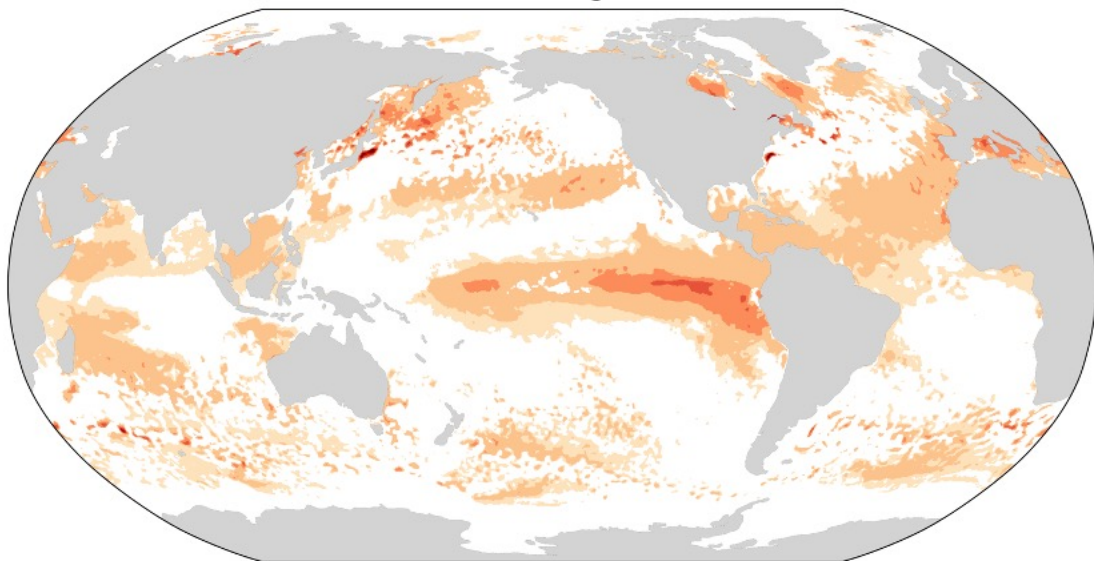
30% Global Ocean Marine Heat Waves

NOAA, Marine Heatwave Forecast Monthly Report

Forecasts predict that MHW coverage will remain elevated with over 30% of the global oceans experiencing MHW conditions through the end of 2023

5 November 2023

OISSTv2 highs



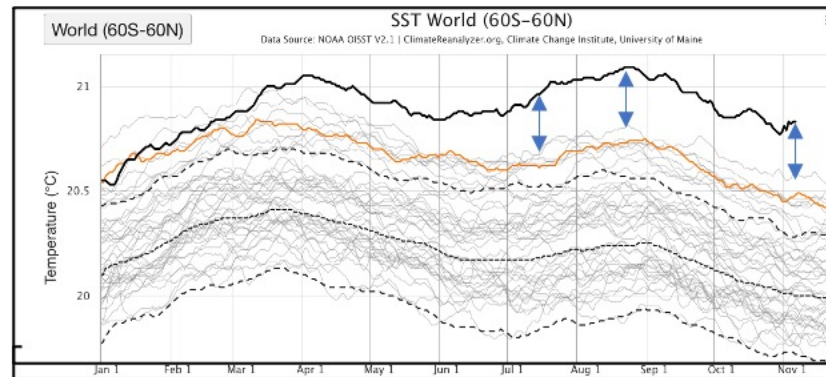
(new methodology)

[October-07-2023 to November-05-2023]



Past 30 Days Marine Heatwave Magnitude (°C)

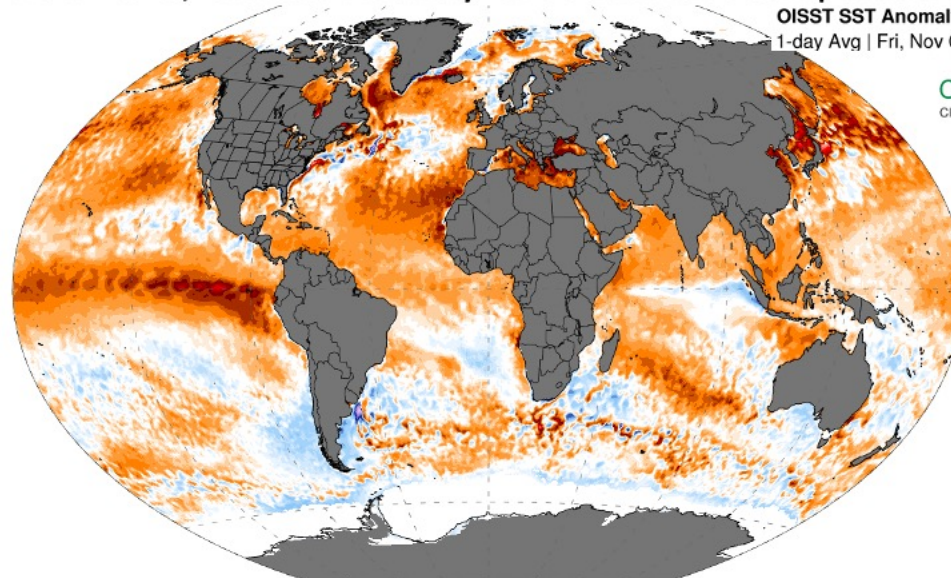
Record sea surface temperatures since July persist



6 Nov. 2023
20.8°C

5 Nov. 2023, Climate Reanalyzer Sea surface temperature change

OISST SST Anomaly (°C) [1971-2000 baseline]
1-day Avg | Fri, Nov 03, 2023



ClimateReanalyzer.org
Climate Change Institute | University of Maine



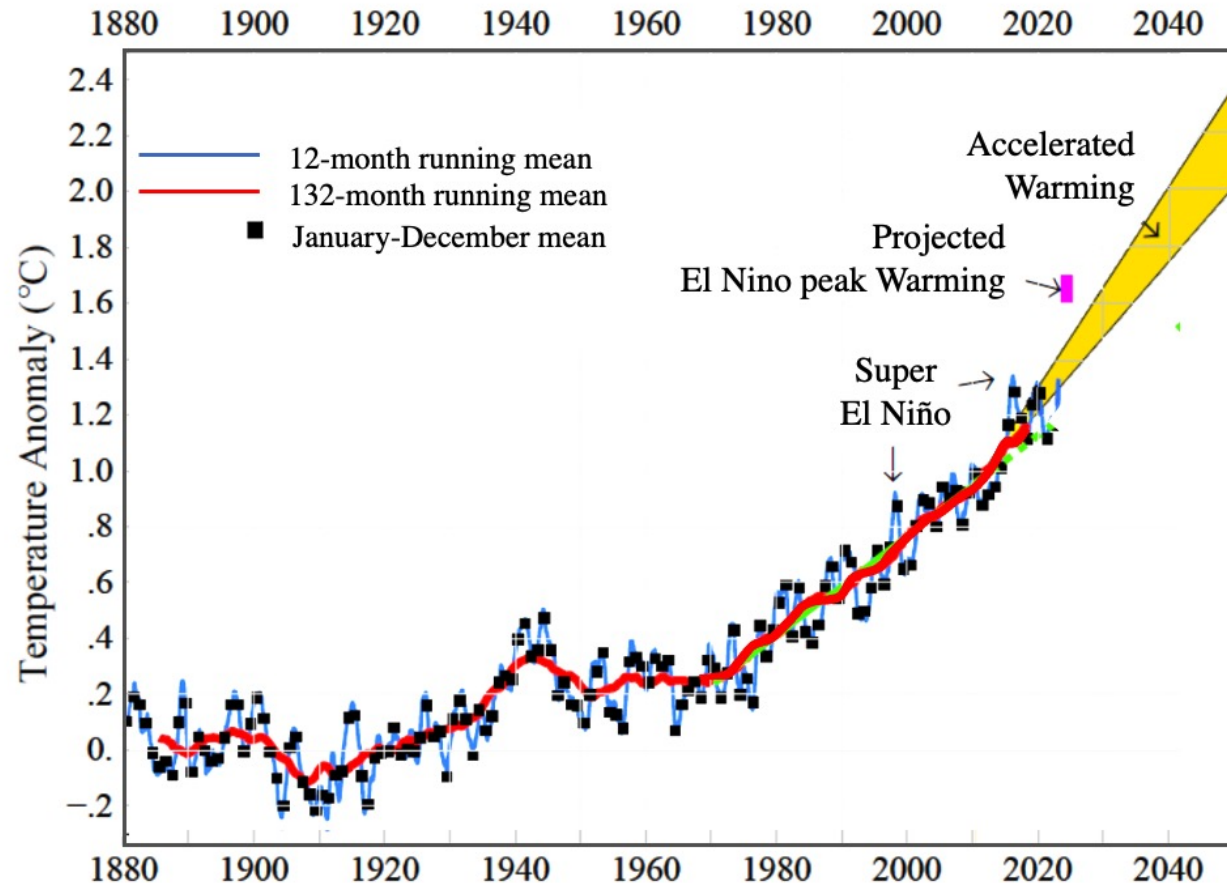
It's now too late to avoid 1.5°C and 2°C Warming in pipeline is 1.8°C

Global warming in the pipeline

James Hansen et al

10 November 2023

- Global warming of 1.5°C will be reached by the late 2020s.
- Global warming of 2°C will be reached by the late 2030s.
- Warming still in the pipeline for 3 W/m² forcing is 1.8°C, exceeding warming realized to date (1.2°C). Excluding the large slow feedbacks.



How We Know that Global Warming is Accelerating
and that the Goal of the Paris Agreement is Dead

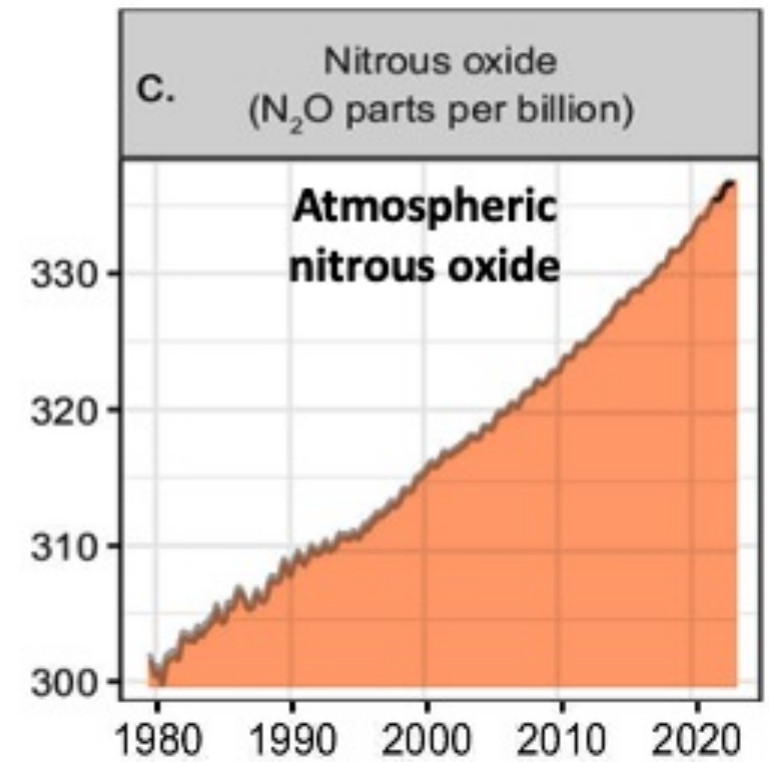
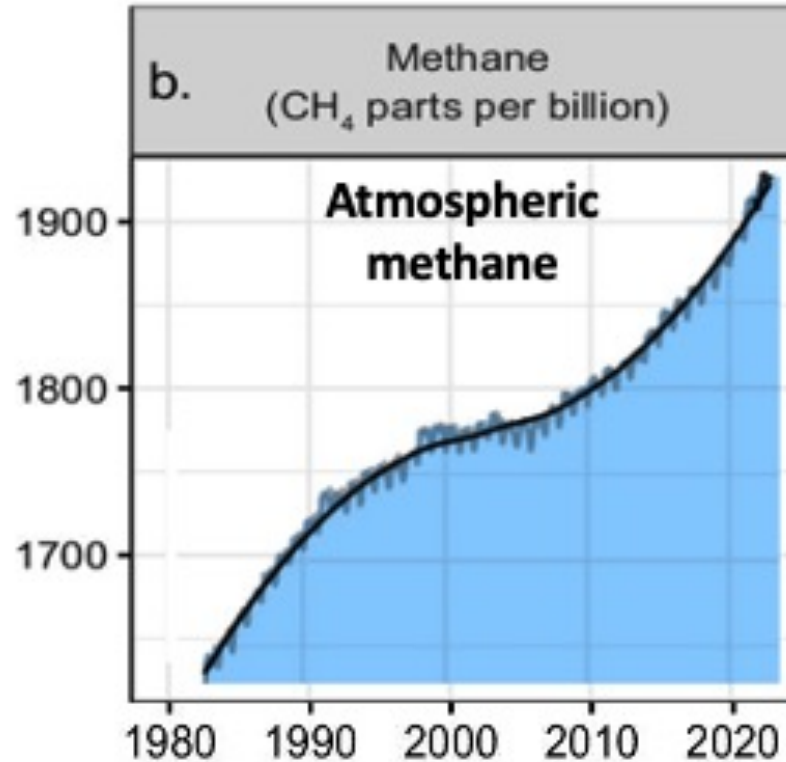
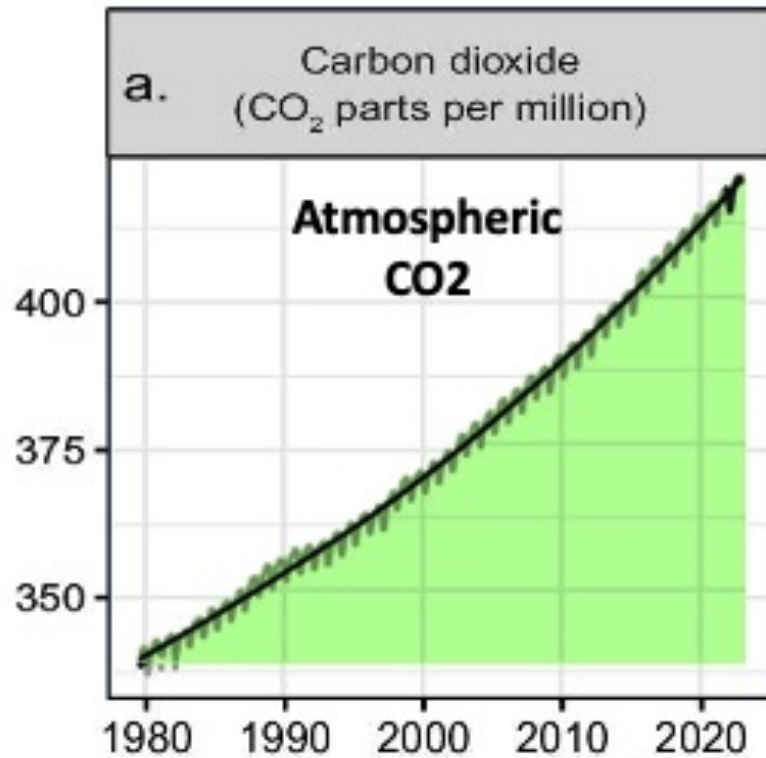
Accelerating increase in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations

from 1980

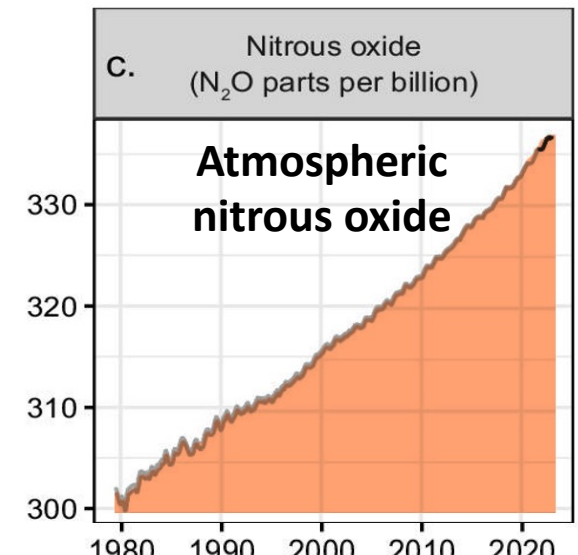
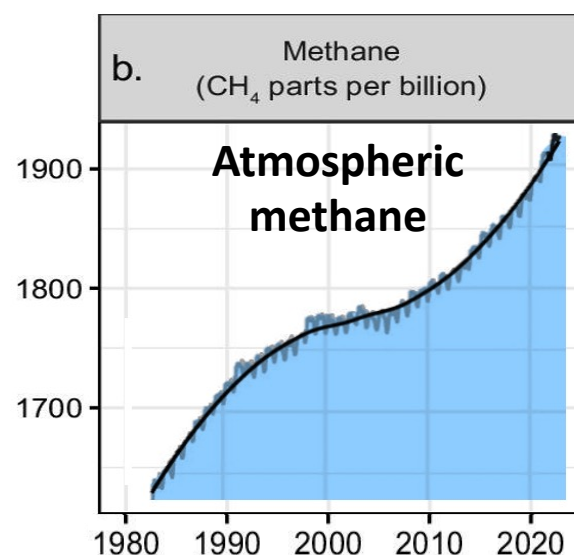
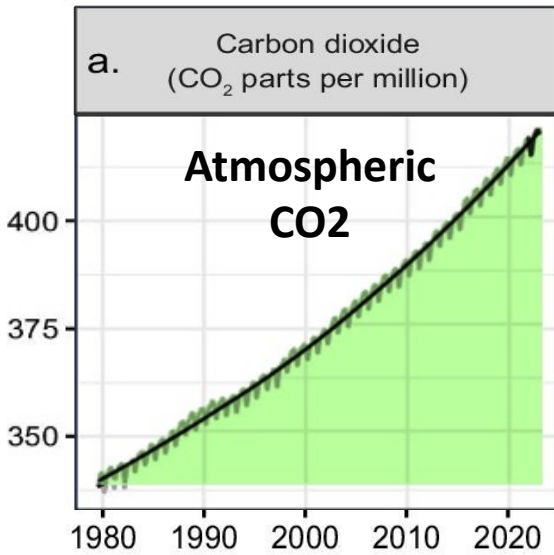
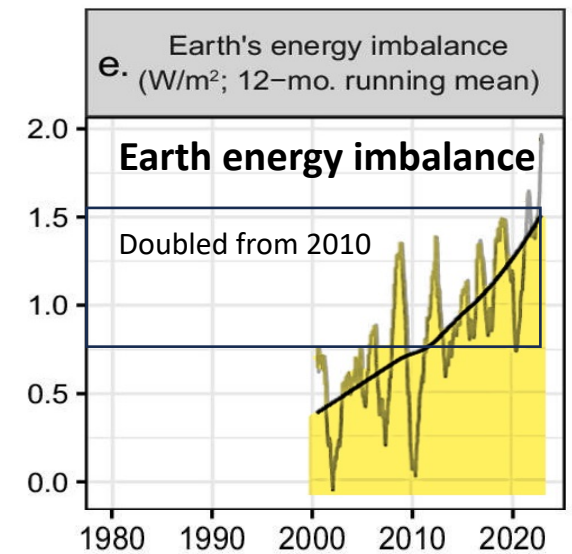
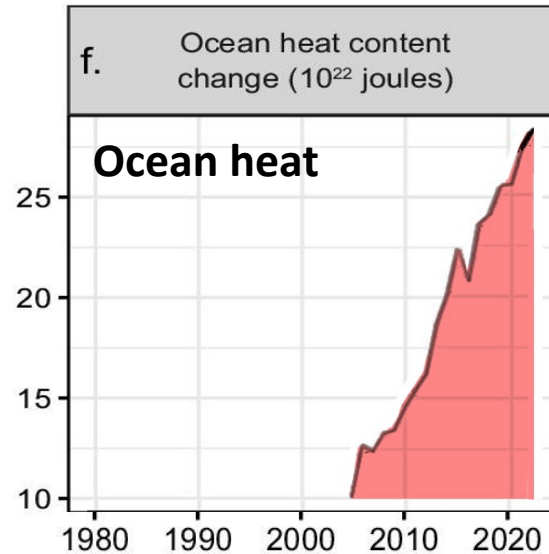
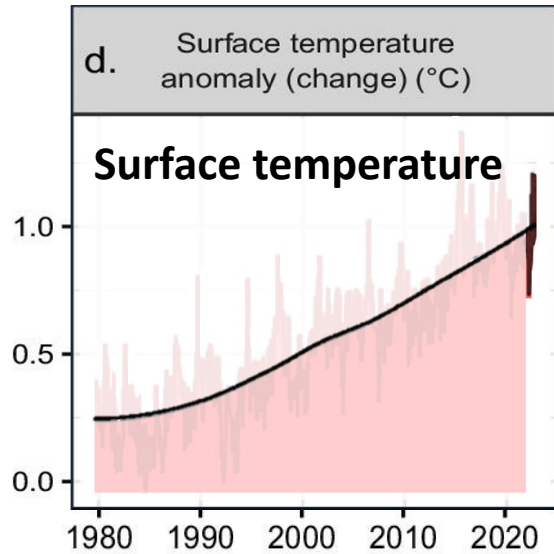
24 October 2023

Ripple et al

Higher than ever,
Increasing faster than ever

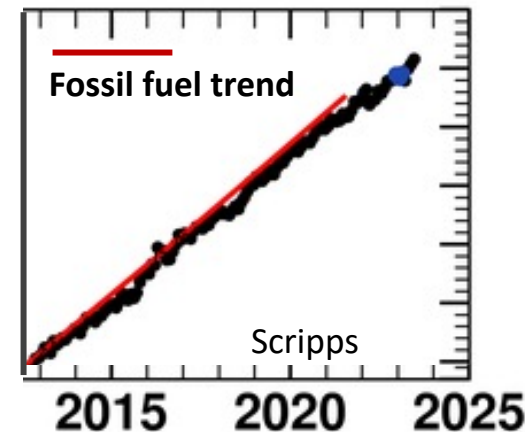
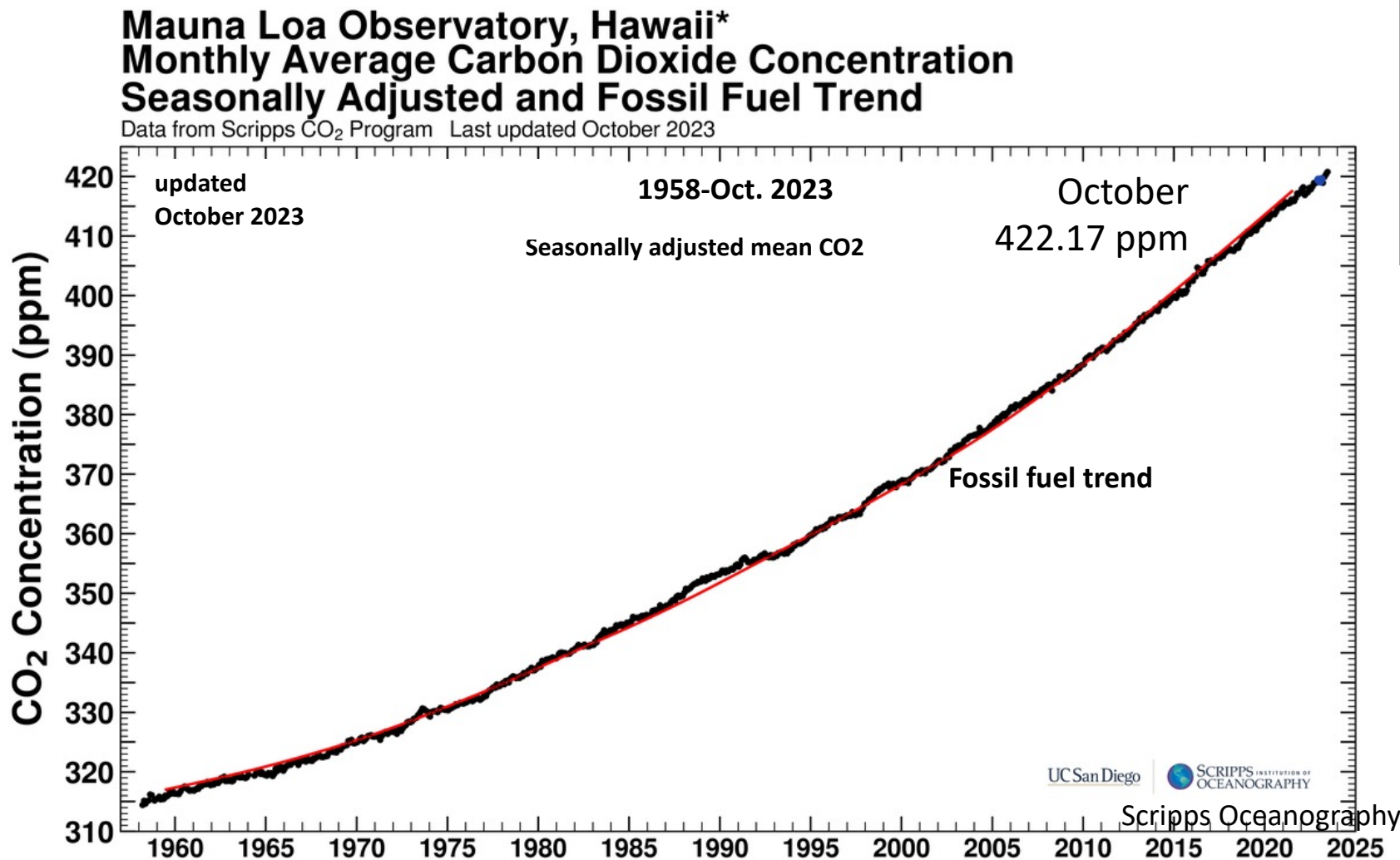


2023 State of the Climate Report



Atmospheric CO₂: Increasing Faster Than Ever

October 2023: Year-on-year increase = 3.108 ppm



Unprecedented Still Accelerating Rate of Atmospheric CO2 Increase

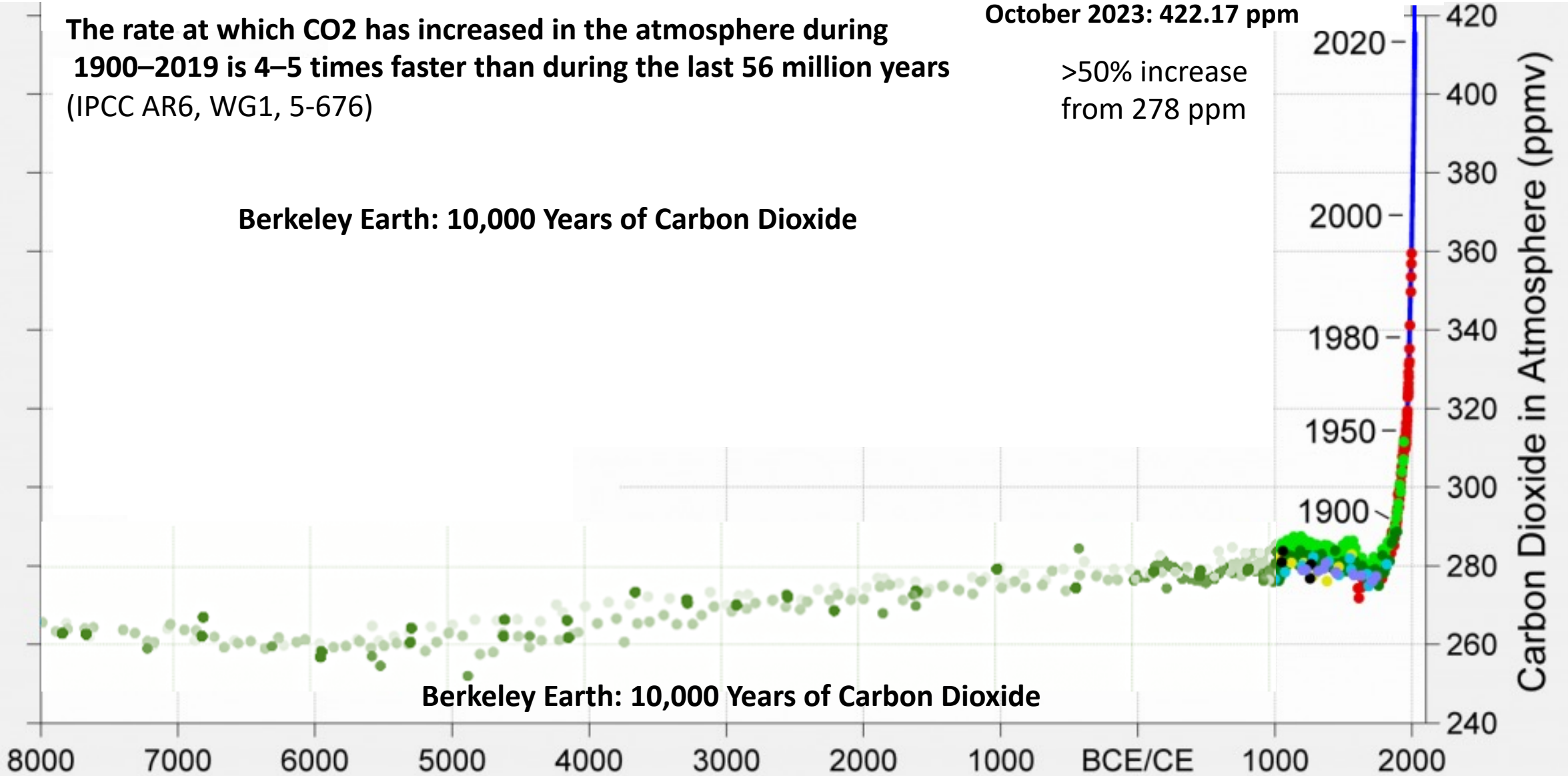
The rate at which CO2 has increased in the atmosphere during 1900–2019 is 4–5 times faster than during the last 56 million years (IPCC AR6, WG1, 5-676)

October 2023: 422.17 ppm

>50% increase from 278 ppm

Berkeley Earth: 10,000 Years of Carbon Dioxide

Berkeley Earth: 10,000 Years of Carbon Dioxide



Atmospheric CO₂: Increasing Faster Than Ever

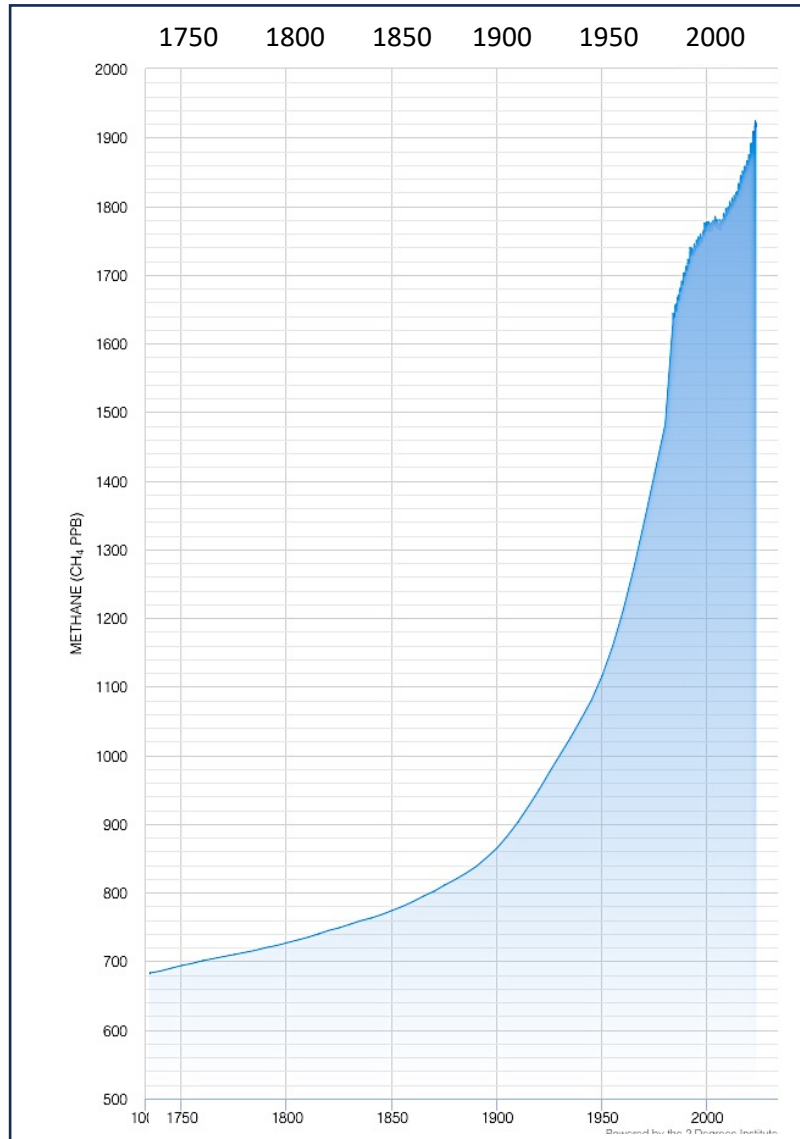
“Global average atmospheric carbon dioxide was **417.06** ppm (parts per million) in 2022, setting a new record high.

“**The rate at which CO₂ has increased in the atmosphere during 1900–2019 is 4–5 times faster than during the last 56 million years**” (IPCC AR6, WG1, 5-676).

- **CO₂ can last in the atmosphere for thousands of years.**
- Atmospheric carbon dioxide is now **50 percent higher** than it was before the Industrial Revolution.
- The annual rate of increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide over the past 60 years is about **100 times faster than previous natural increases**, such as those that occurred at the end of the last ice age 11,000-17,000 years ago.
- **The ocean has absorbed enough carbon dioxide to lower its pH by 0.1 units, a 30% increase in acidity.**

Atmospheric methane increasing faster than ever — record 266% increase

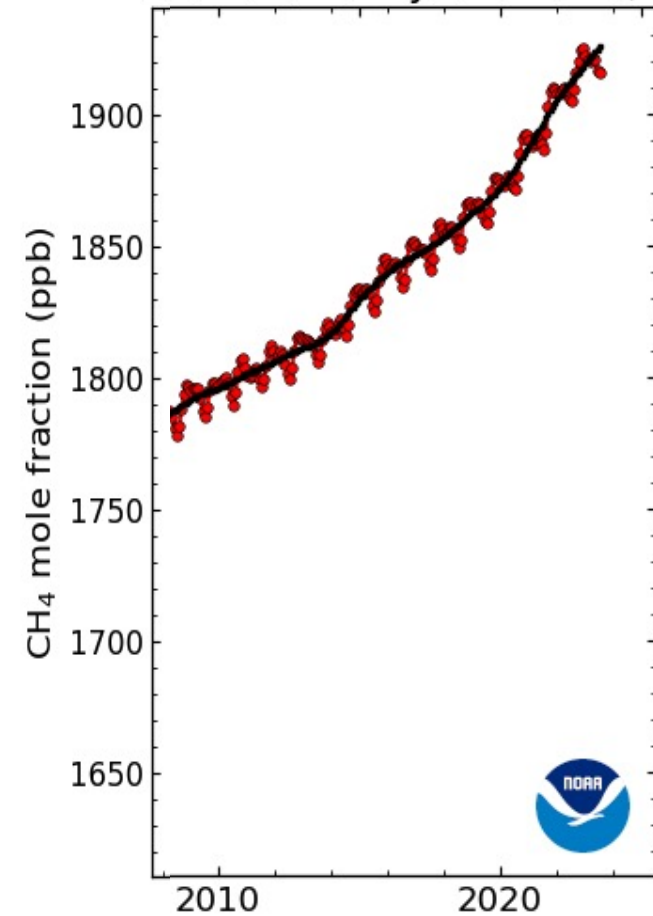
from 1750



from 2010

5th November, 2023

Global Monthly Mean CH₄



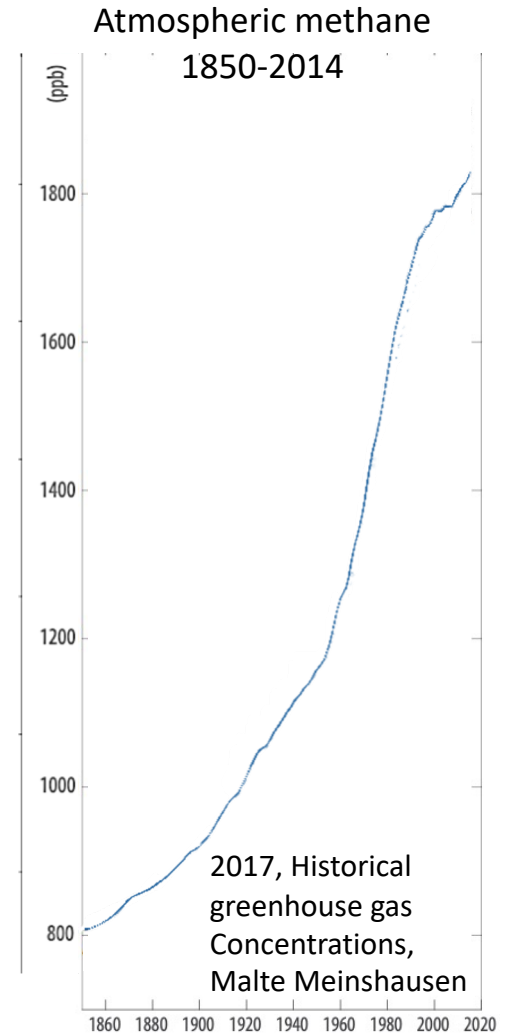
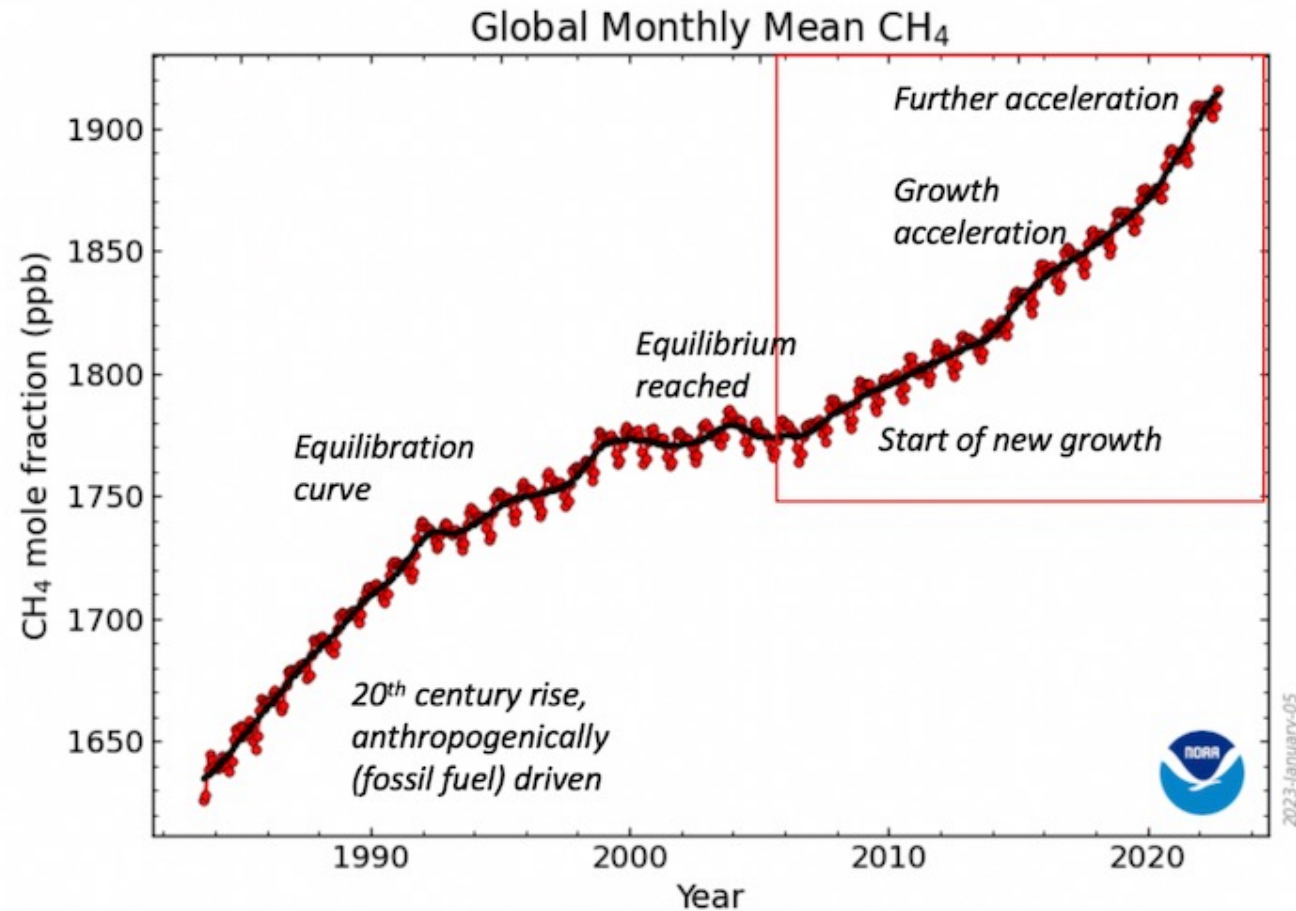
1,928 ppb
from 722 ppb

Accelerating increase in atmospheric methane now driven faster by wetland feedback emissions

The world has been pushed into the catastrophic carbon feedback stage of global warming

Global wetlands are emitting more methane (CH₄)

Methane in the air rose rapidly from 2006 – then it rose again, and again. NOAA/Nisbet et al. (2023)



Vulnerable carbon pools

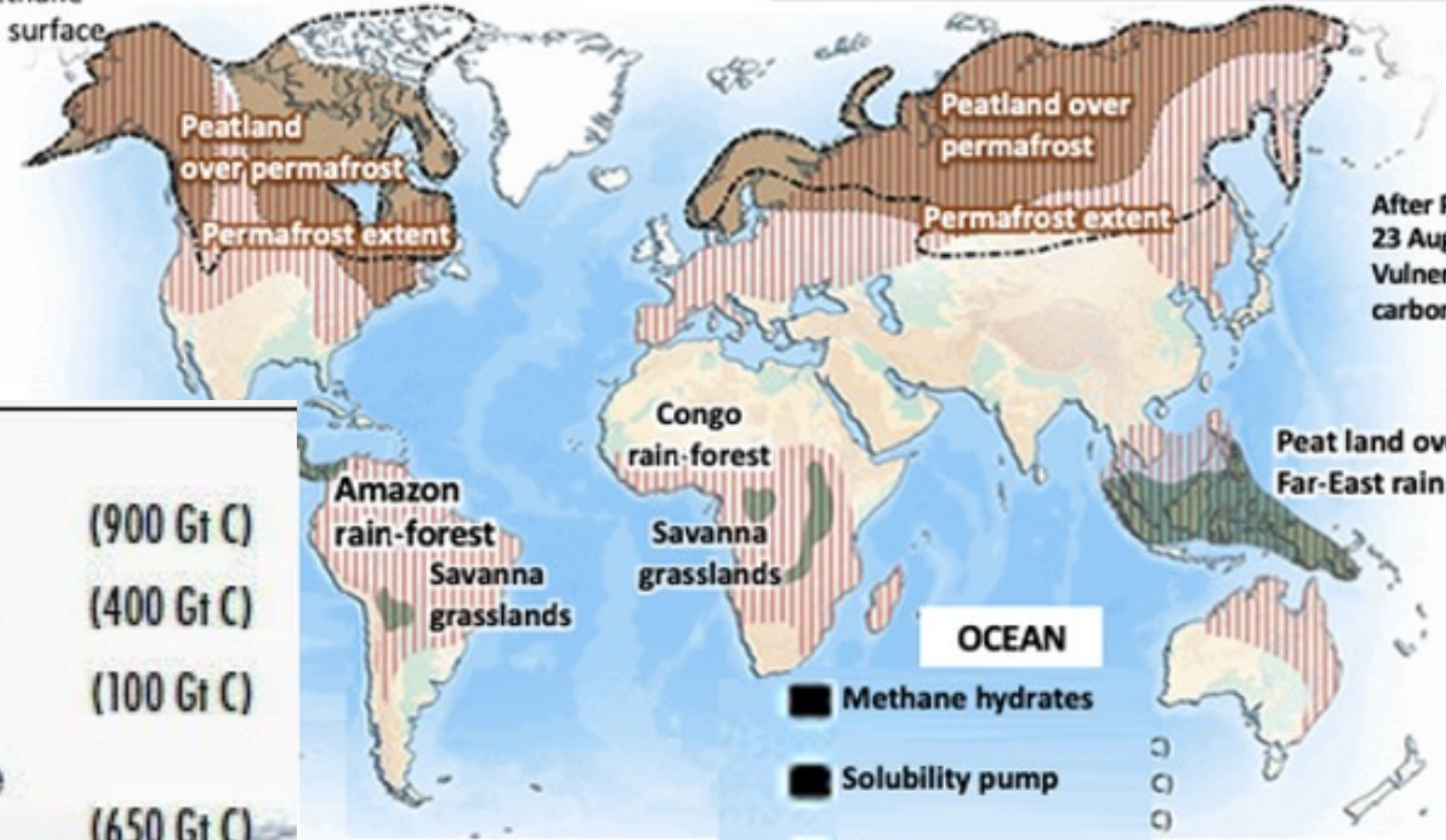
Enormous sources of amplifying feedback carbon emissions

Canadell, 2006

Global warming causes carbon to be emitted as CO₂ and/or methane (CH₄) from the surface



Boreal forest added- fire risk



After P. Canadell et al, 23 August 2006
Vulnerabilities of the global carbon cycle in the 21st century

LAND	
	Permafrost (900 Gt C)
	High-latitude peatlands (400 Gt C)
	Tropical peatlands (100 Gt C)
	Vegetation subject to fire and/or deforestation (650 Gt C)

- OCEAN**
- Methane hydrates
 - Solubility pump
 - Biological pump

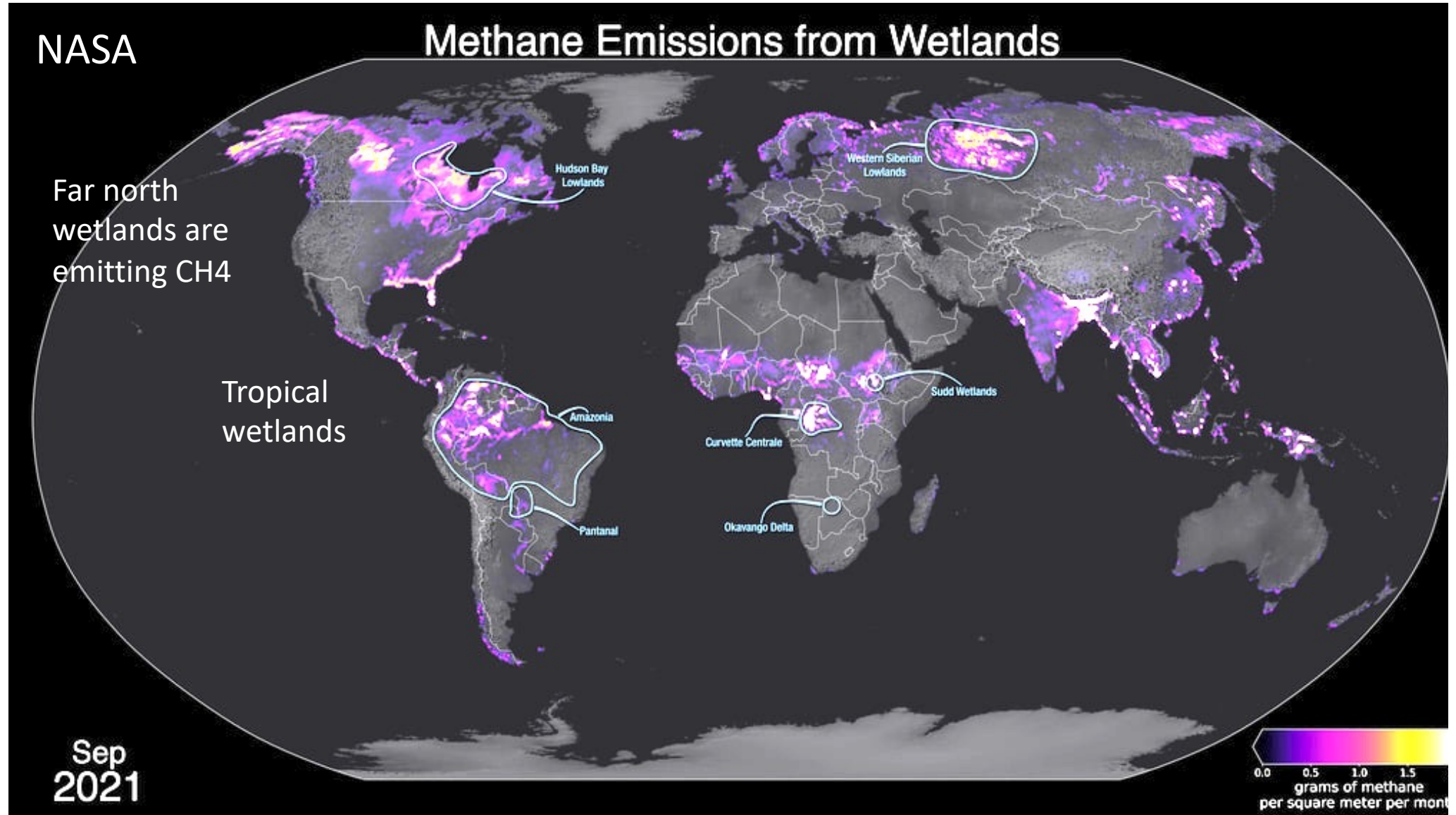
Savanna grasslands added- subject to huge fires

**The world has been pushed
into the catastrophic
CARBON FEEDBACK STAGE
of global warming**



Atmospheric methane increasing faster than ever, now driven faster by wetland methane feedback emissions

All human sources of methane emissions are being increased – including cattle and natural gas (mainly methane)



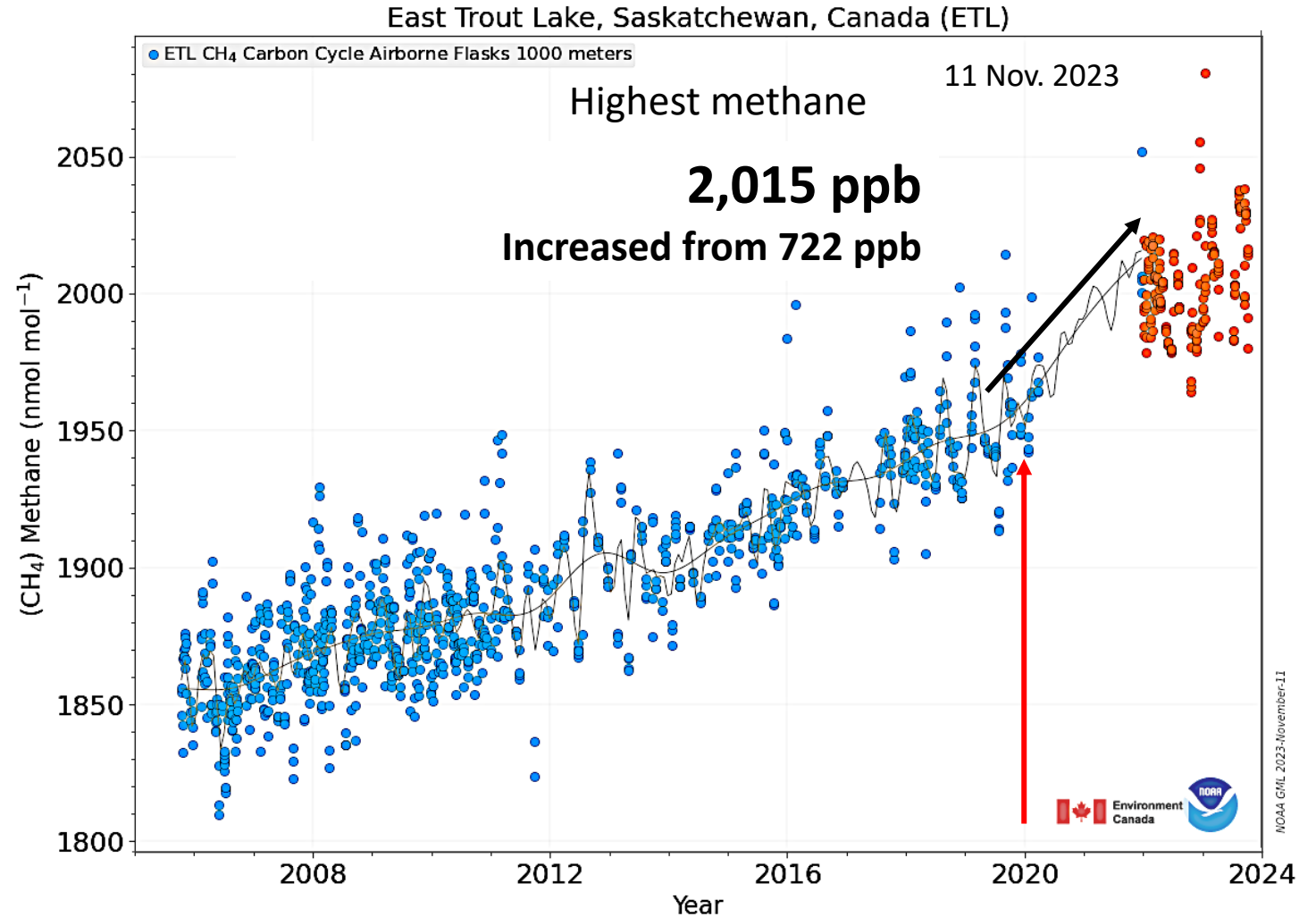
A higher rate of increase in atmospheric methane from 2020

Wetland methane feedback emissions

Southern edge of vast Canada wetlands



East Trout Lake Northern Saskatchewan



**Rapidly increasing climate-change-driven
extreme weather events
(including forest fires)**

1.5°C = Globally disastrous

2.0°C = Globally catastrophic

31 October 2023

Canada's Northwest Still Burns

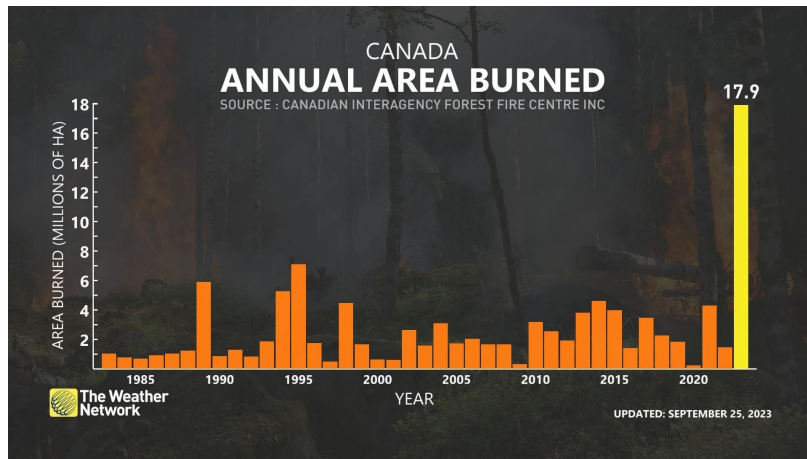
End-October persistent severe widespread western drought

2023

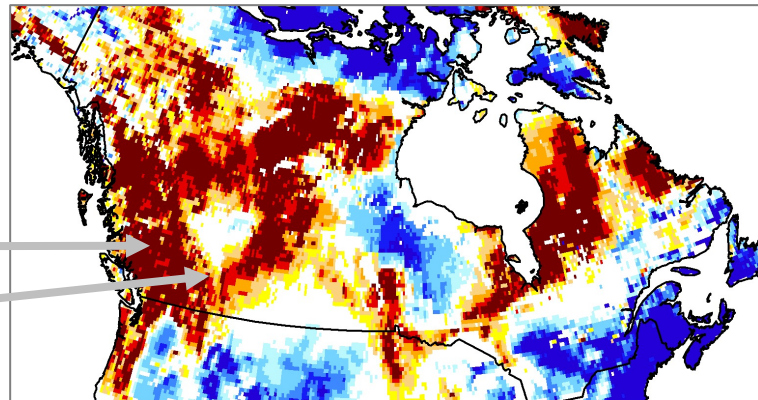
Record fires

71,042.8 square miles burned

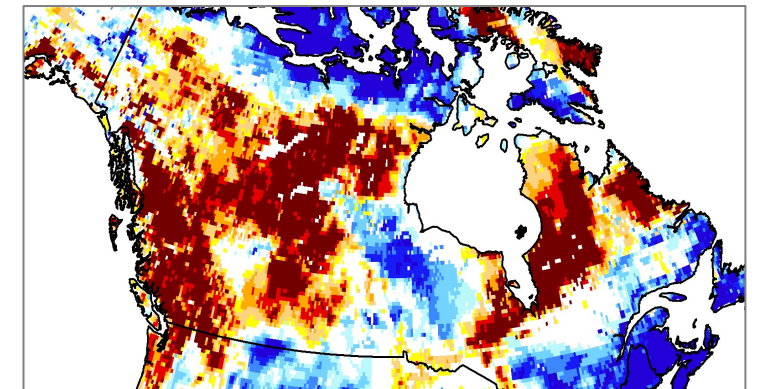
Size of Washington State
4th largest area burnt in history



Ground water drought



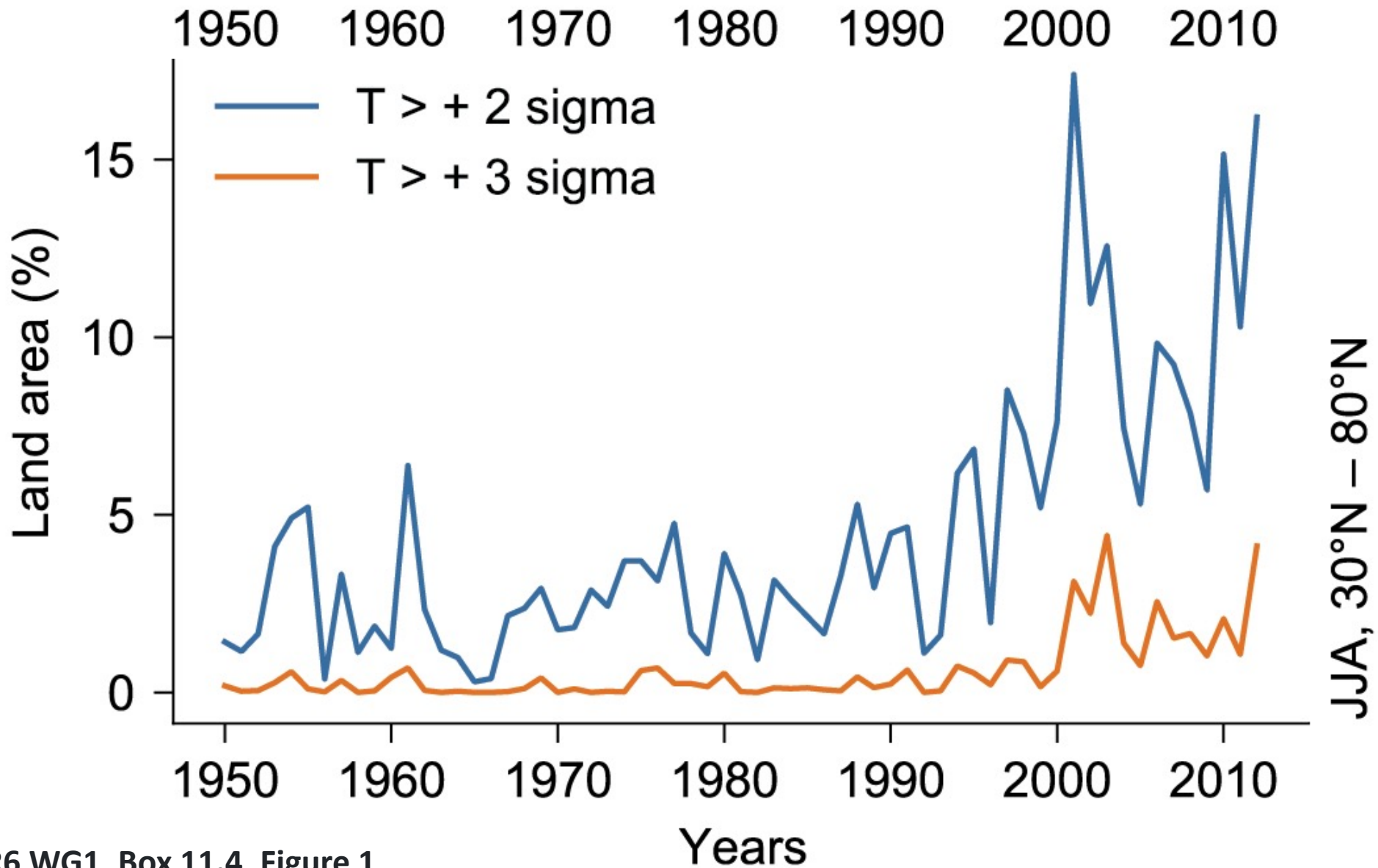
Surface soil moisture drought



+ CO2 FEEDBACK

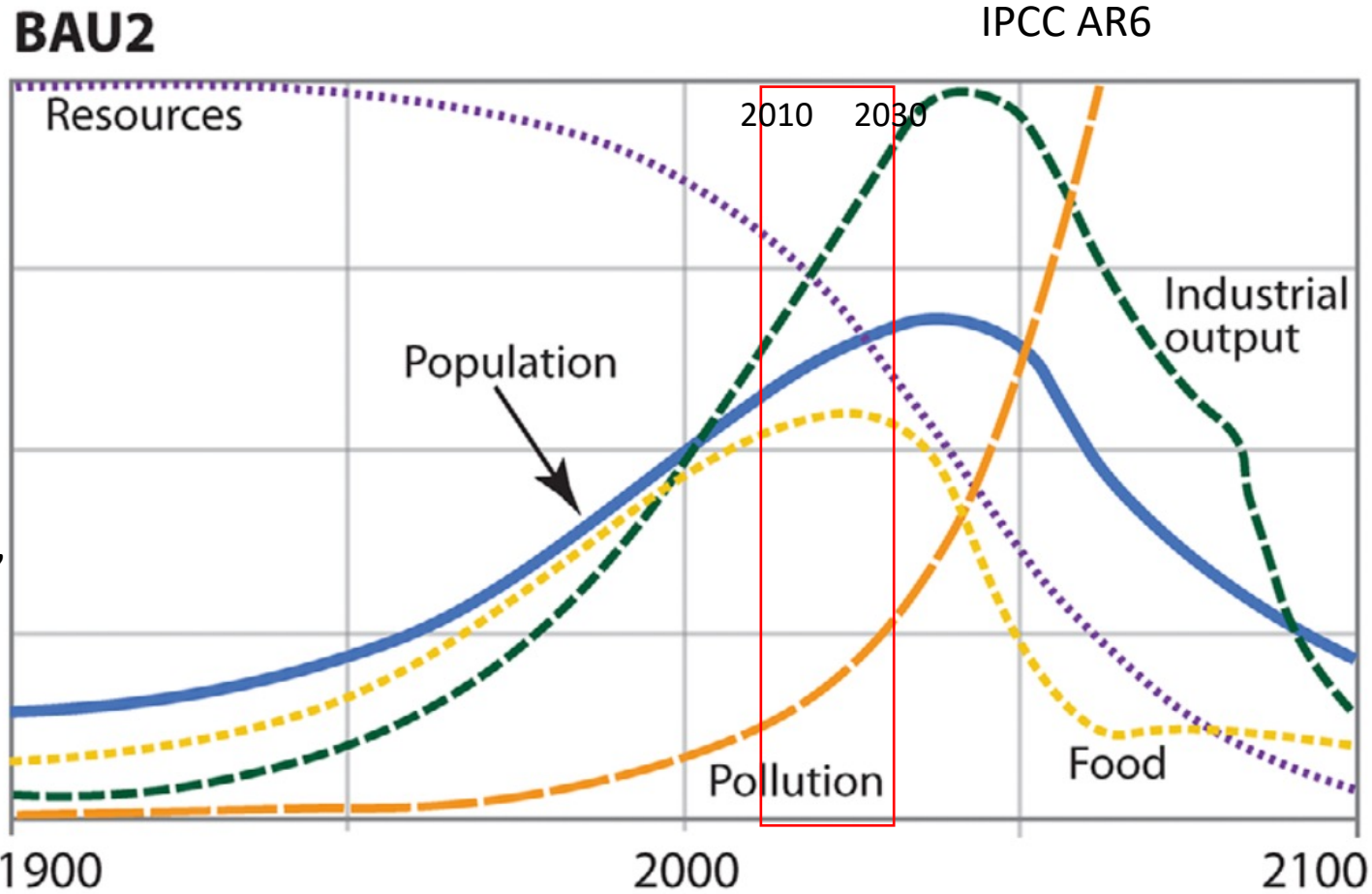
Land area affected by temperature extremes

IPCC AR6



Extreme Weather is Slowing the Increase in World Food Productivity

30 November 2020, Updates to Limits to Growth
Gaya Herrington



Agricultural productivity:

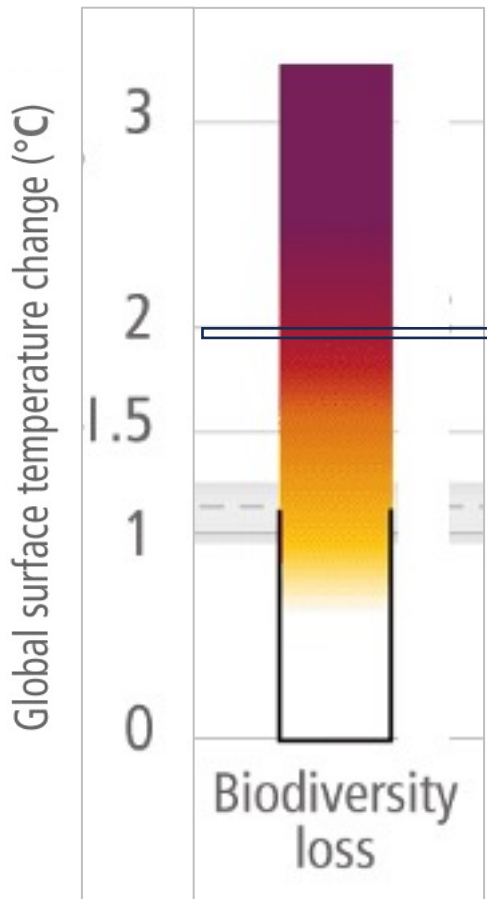
- slows from 2010
- **is happening from 2013 (FAO)**
- declines from 2030
- plummets from 2040

BAU2
'Double resources of BAU
Collapse due to pollution
(climate change equivalent)'

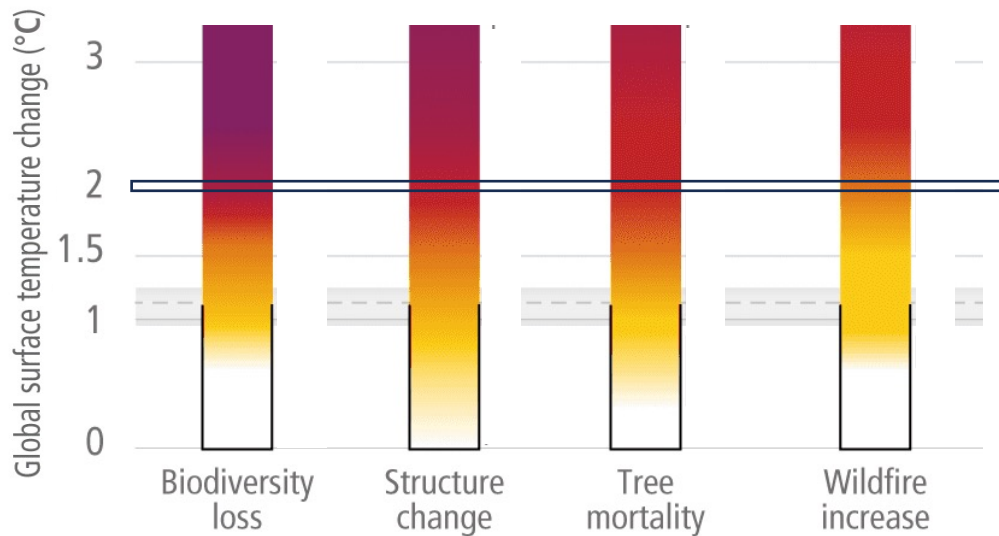
30 November 2020, Updates to Limits to Growth, Gaya Herrington, Industrial Ecology,

Impacts to Nature

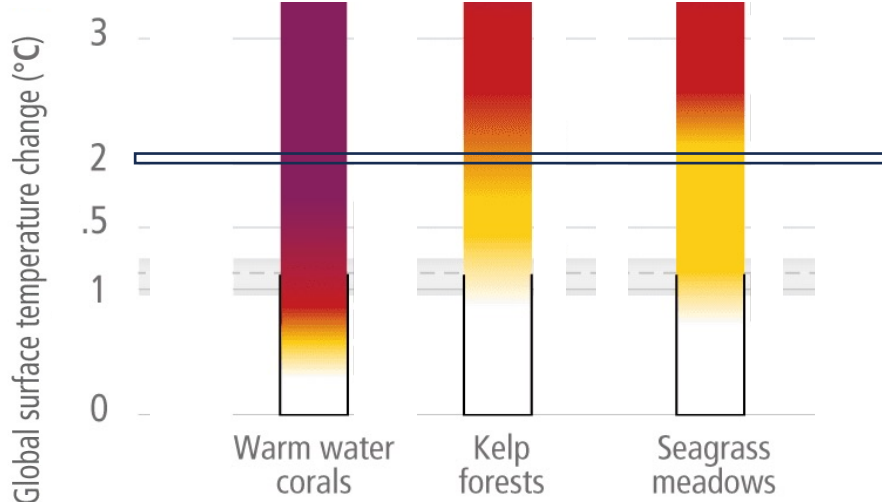
Biodiversity Loss



Impacts and risks to terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems



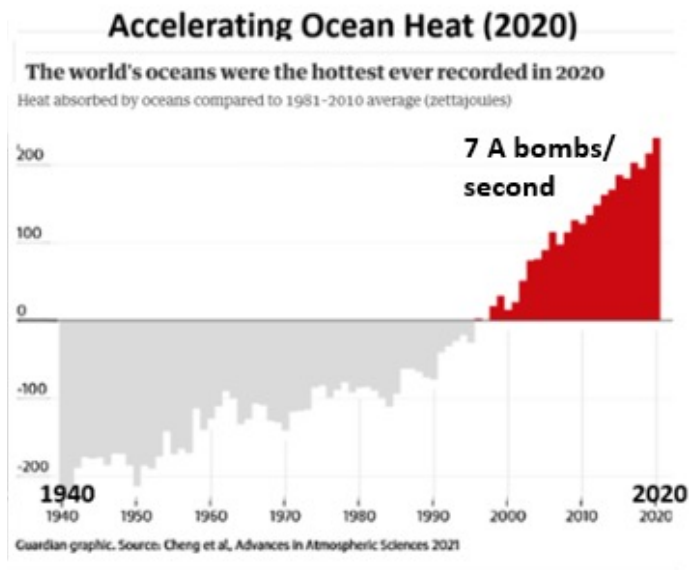
Impacts and risks to ocean ecosystems



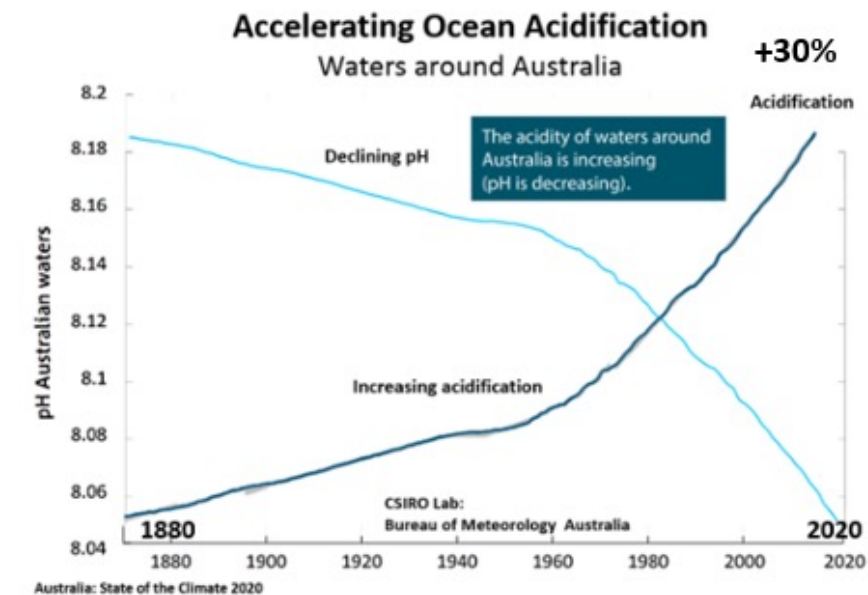
1.5°C Globally disastrous
2°C Global catastrophe

impacts/risks.
Red indicates severe and widespread impacts/risks.
Yellow indicates that impacts/risks are detectable and attributable to climate change with at least medium confidence.

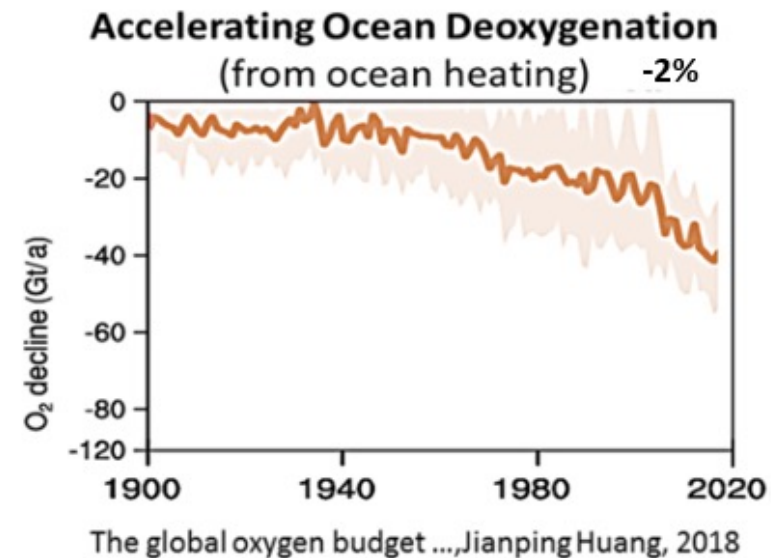
Triple Assault on the Oceans to 2020



**Accelerating
Ocean Heat
= 7 atomic bombs
per second**



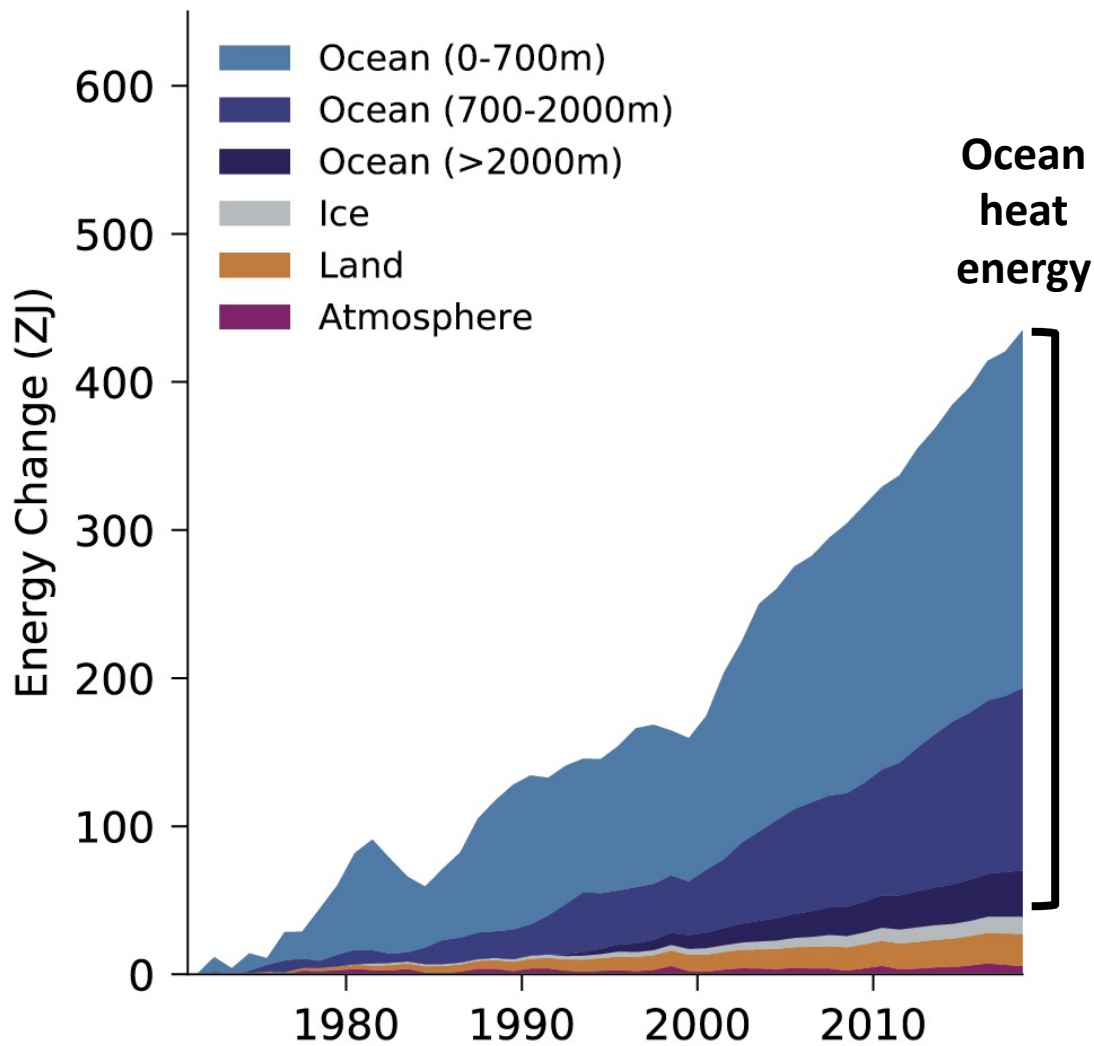
**Accelerating
Ocean Acidification
= 30% more acidic**



**Accelerating
Ocean Deoxygenation
= 2% decrease in oxygen**

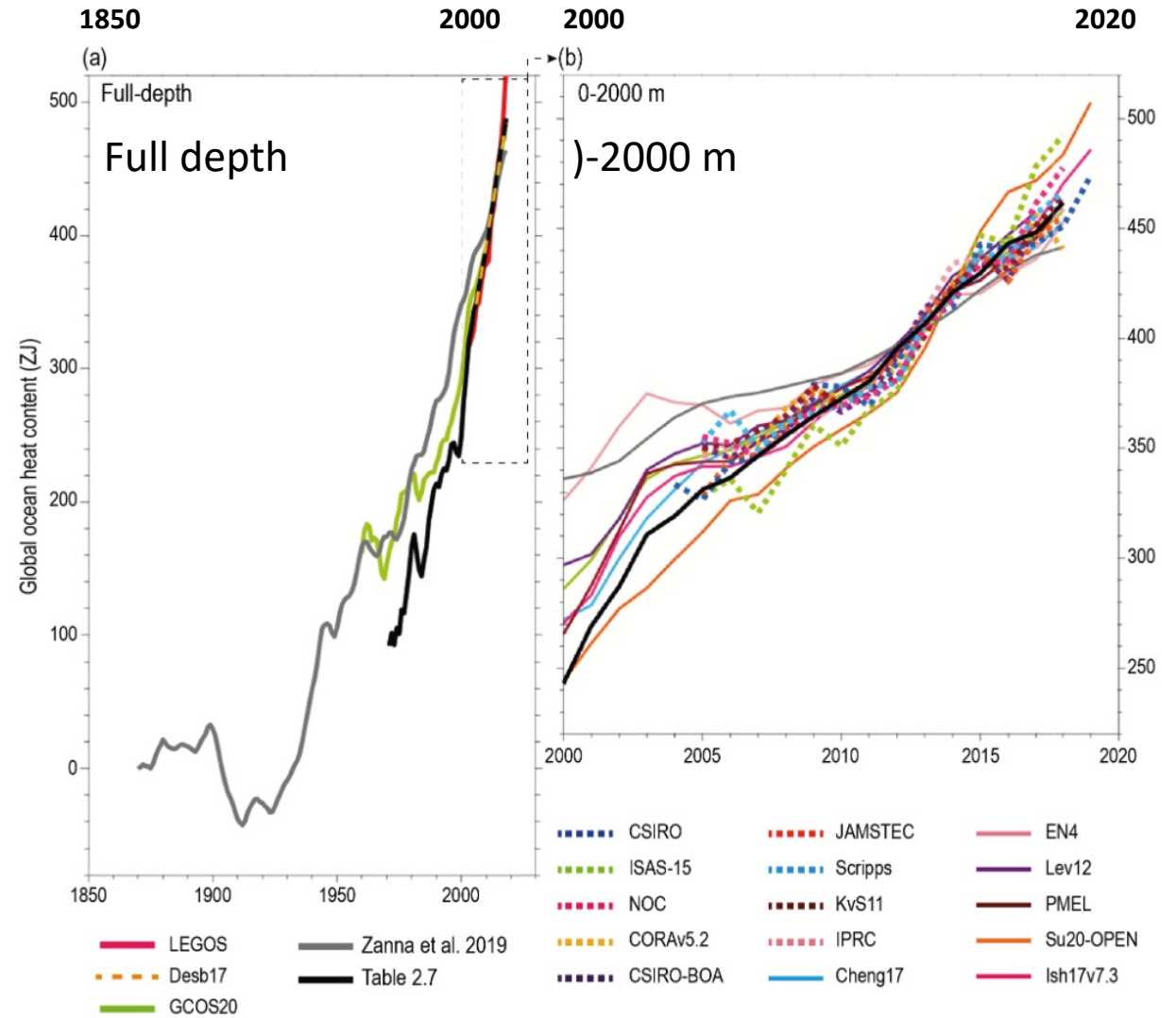
Accelerating Explosive Ocean Heat

(a) Global Energy Inventory



IPCC Ar6 WG1 Cross-Chapter Box 9.1, Figure 1

Ocean Heat Content

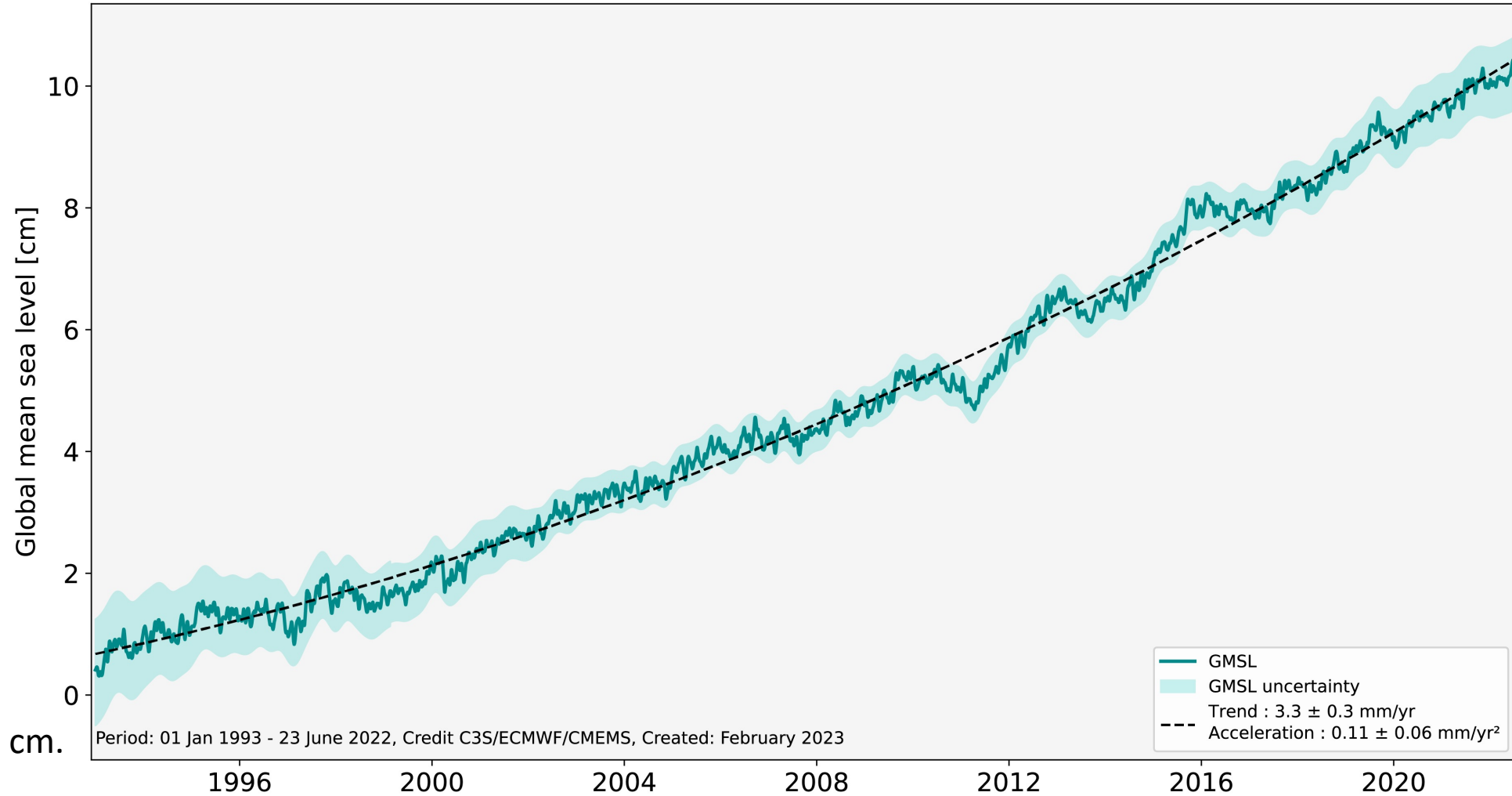


IPCC Ar6 WG1, Figure AR6 | Climate Change 2021

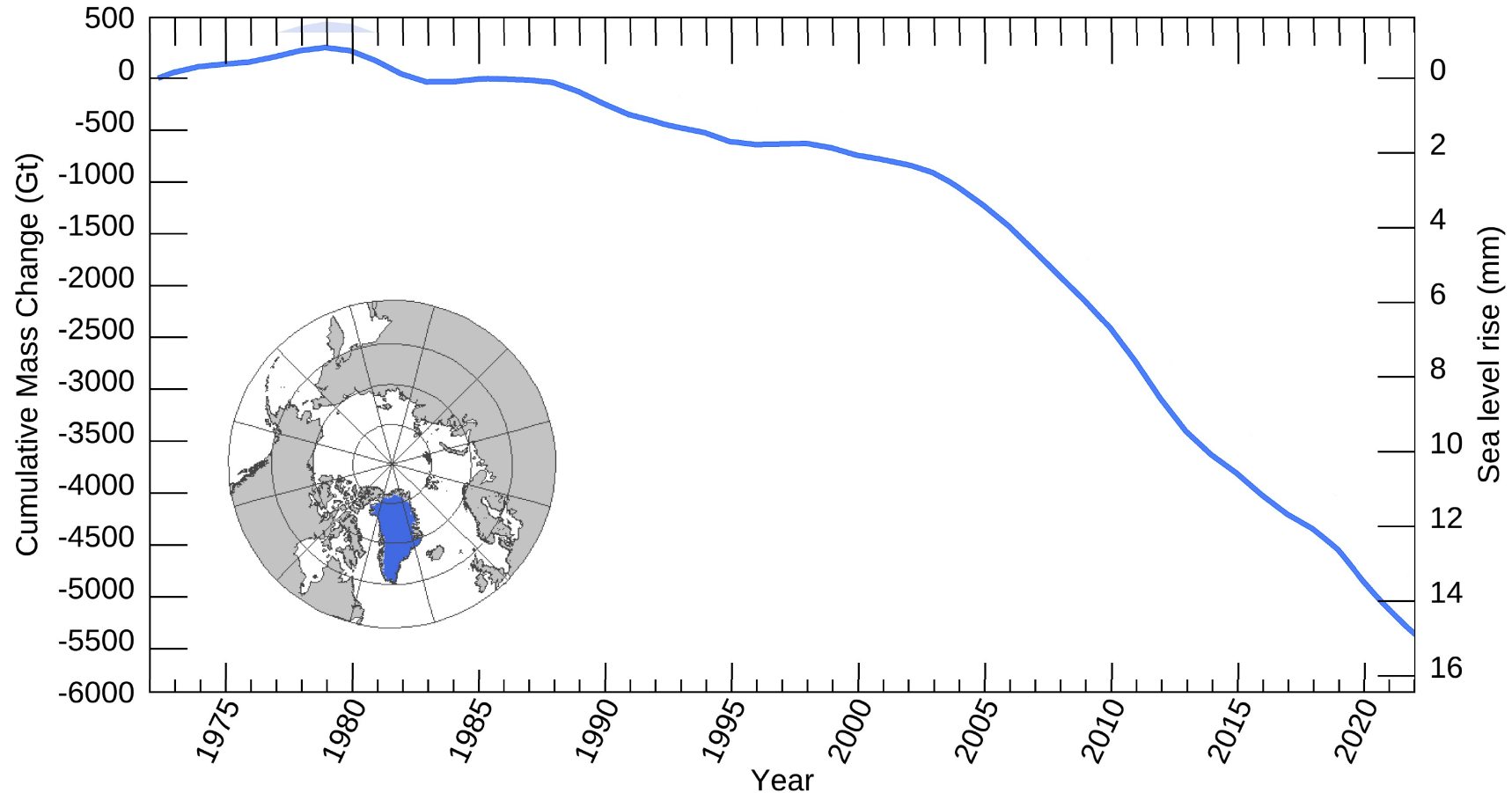
-
- Heat energy of 25 billion Hiroshima atomic bombs has been added to the climate system in just 50 years, with over 90% gone to ocean heat.
 - Now at least 10 bombs are being added per second.



Global Mean Sea Level Rise



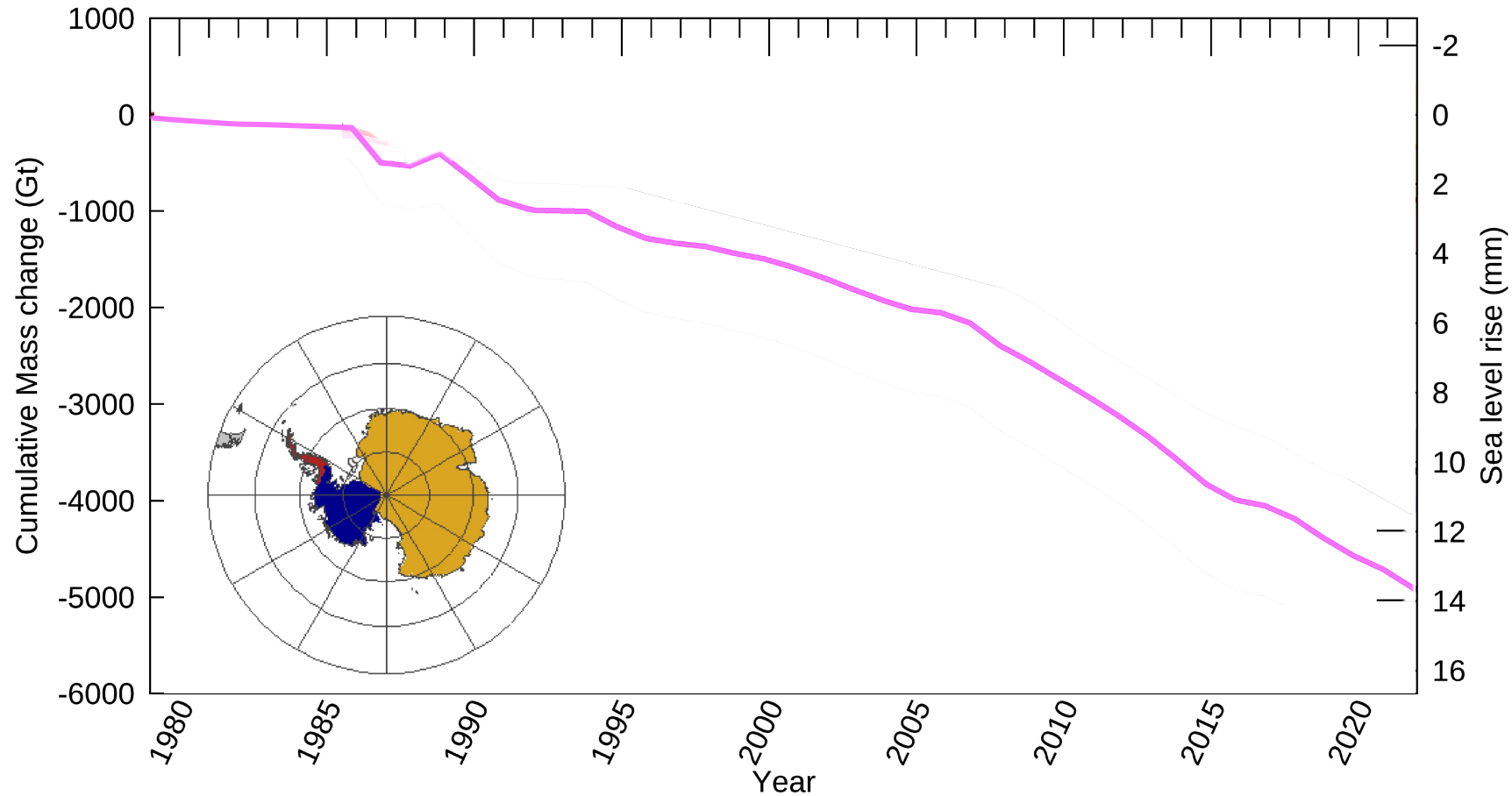
Mass Balance of the Greenland Ice Sheet



Data Source: IMBIE

Credit: IMBIE/ESA/NASA

Mass Balance of the Antarctic Ice Sheet



Data Source: IMBIE

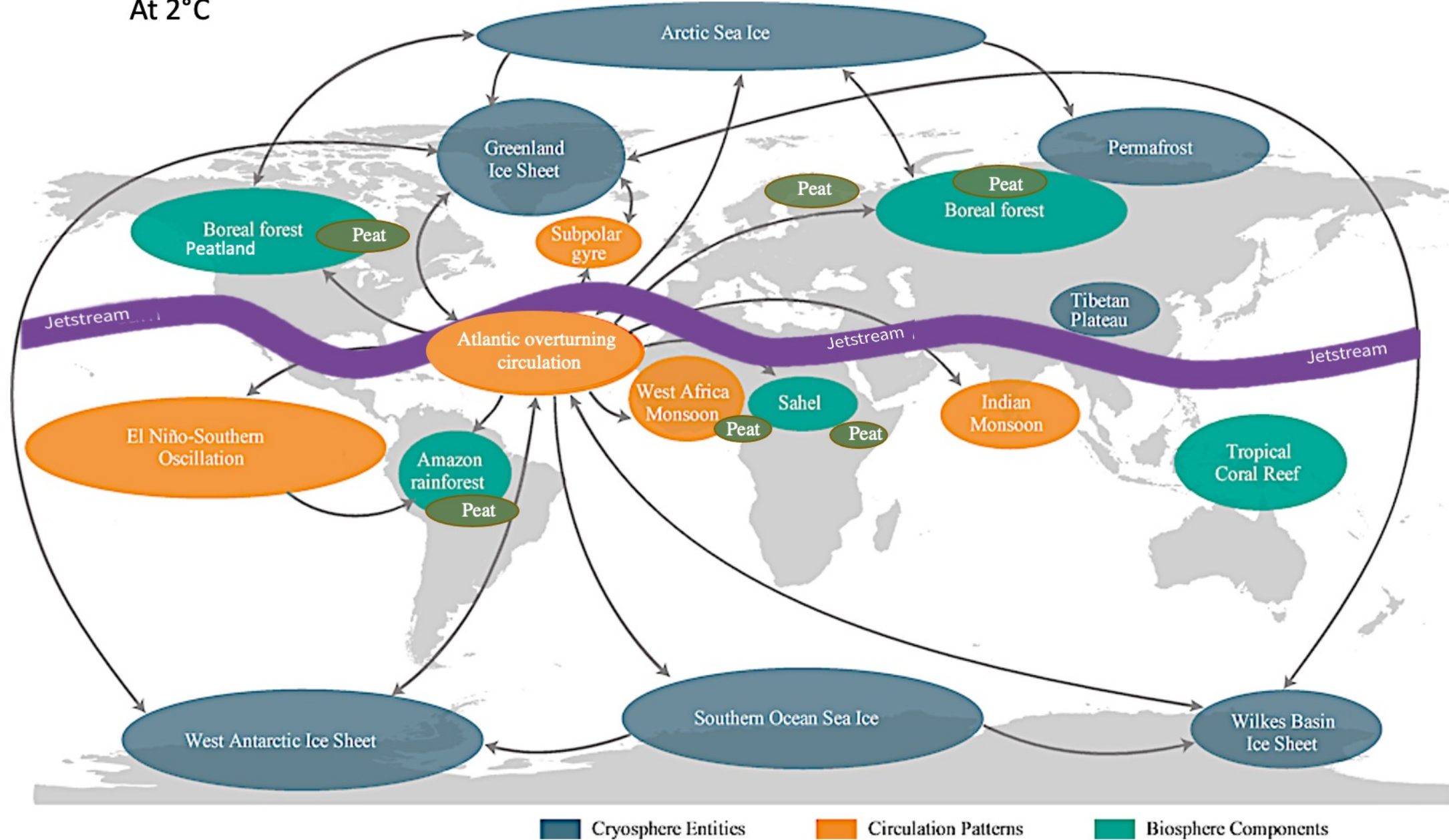
Credit: IMBIE/ESA/NASA

Many Planetary Tipping point Systems

vulnerable to climate change

Source: OECD

At 2°C



Its INERTIA and momentum sank the great ship Titanic, despite repeated warnings of ice ahead

It was believed to be unsinkable.



Mitigation calculations must include climate system inertias/long lag times

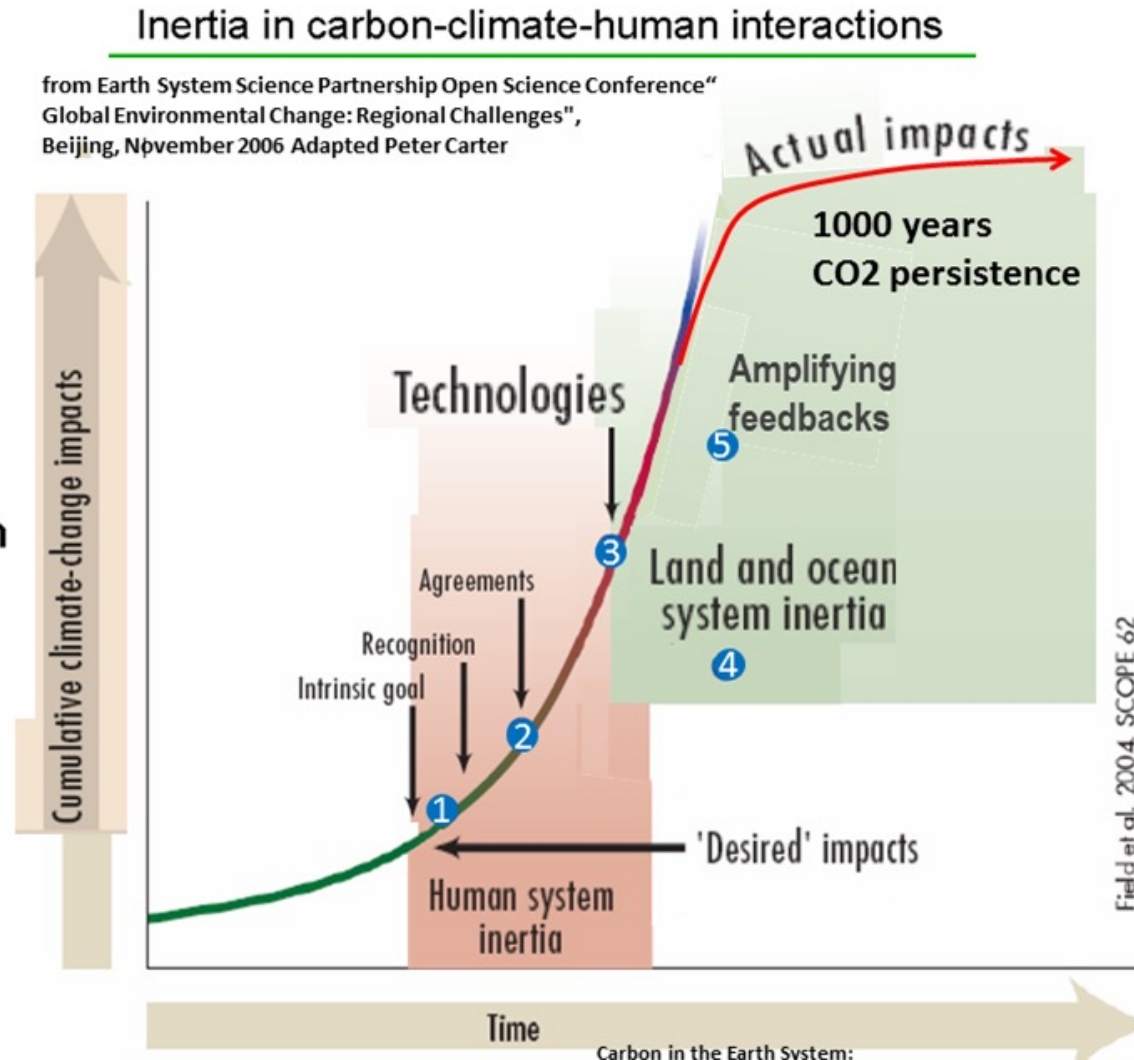
Many sources of inertia - commitment

Components

- ◆ Recognition of climate change
- ◆ Negotiation of agreements
- ◆ Deploying technologies
- ◆ Land and ocean system inertia
- ◆ Amplifying feedbacks

Implication

- ◆ Start now (or sooner)

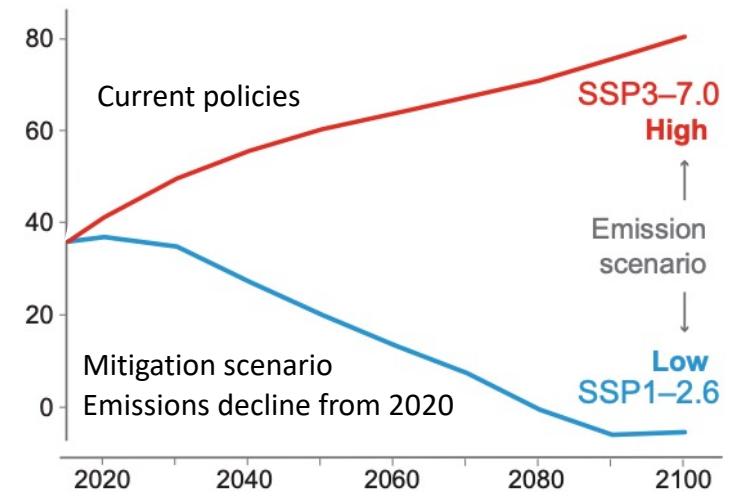


Mitigation calculations must include climate system inertias/long lag times

It takes decades for stabilization after emissions are put into decline under a strong mitigation scenario.

It is only after a few decades of reducing CO2 emissions that we would see global temperatures starting to stabilize.

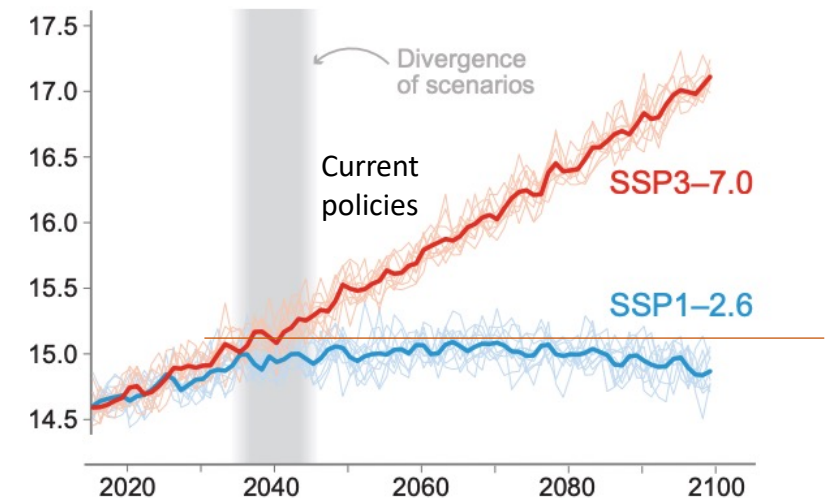
CO₂ emissions (billion tonnes of CO₂ per year)



Best case

Temperature increase slows 2040 (20 years after emissions peak)
Does not peak to decline until 2070

Global surface temperature (°C)



Climate system inertia

Climate change domino effect

Today is the climate's Titanic moment

Commitment (warming "in the pipe")

Great inertia of the climate system (the ocean is 99% of the biosphere)

Delayed catastrophic responses (e.g., permafrost GHG feedback)



What Must Be Done (... what must *have been* done)

Quit the catastrophic climate change
deaf, dumb and blindness denial



Think of climate action in terms of loving
the children in your life

(Note: Considering only the science — not “feasibility”)

IPCC mitigation for 2°C and 1.5°C limits

IPCC reports over the past 10 years say that global emissions have to decline by 2020 and drop to near zero (IPCC 2014 5th Assessment).

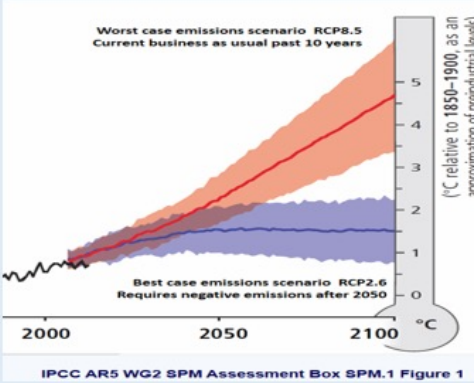
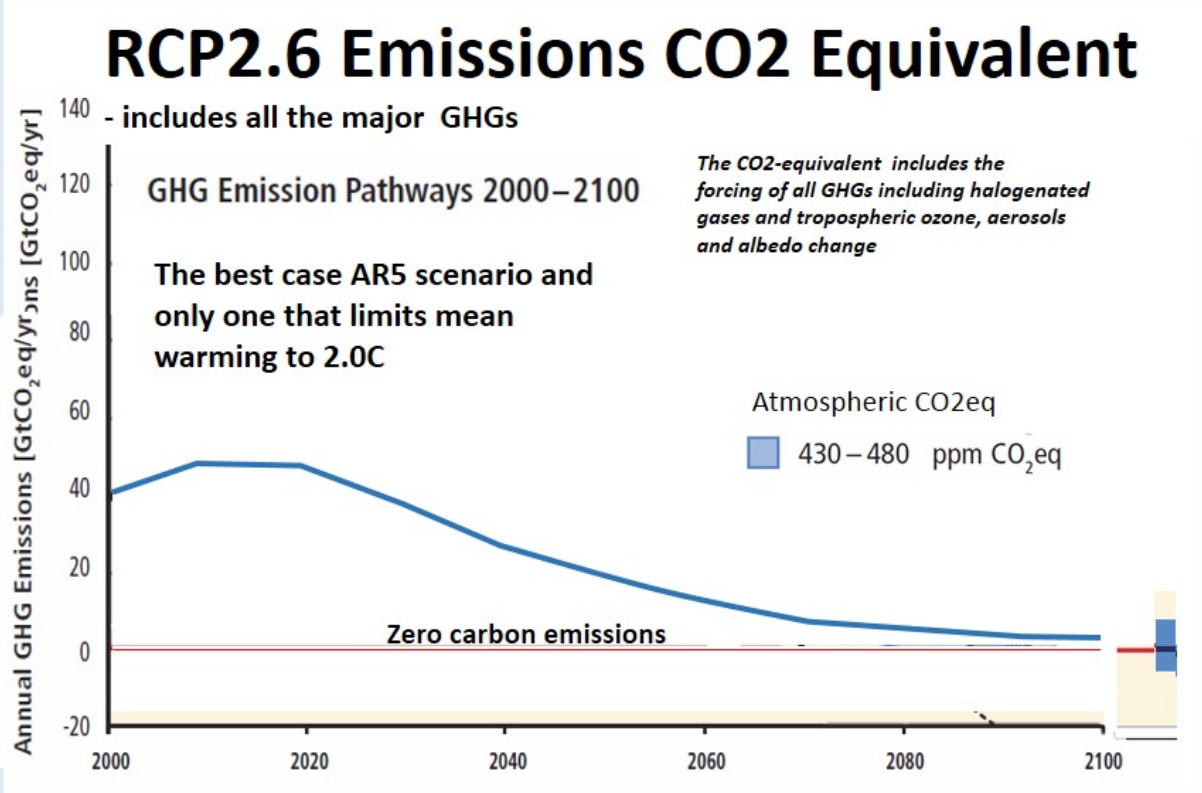


Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers

“Mitigation pathways that are likely to limit warming to below 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels require substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades and near zero emissions of carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gases.”

Emissions of CO2 and methane had to decline by 2020 and be cut to “near zero” (for 2°C)

IPCC 2014 5th Assessment
Best-case RCP2.6 for 2°C
Only scenario under 2°C by 2100



IPCC AR5 WG2 SPM Assessment Box SPM.1 Figure 1



IPCC has told the world that global emissions have to be put into rapid decline on an immediate basis for 1.5°C and 2°C.

— IPCC Chair, Hoesung Lee, 2019 Madrid COP25 & 2021 Glasgow COP26

This is not being reported or repeated



**1.5°C has been missed
2.0°C is being missed**

“Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during this century unless immediate, rapid, and large-scale reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, especially of carbon dioxide and methane, occur.”

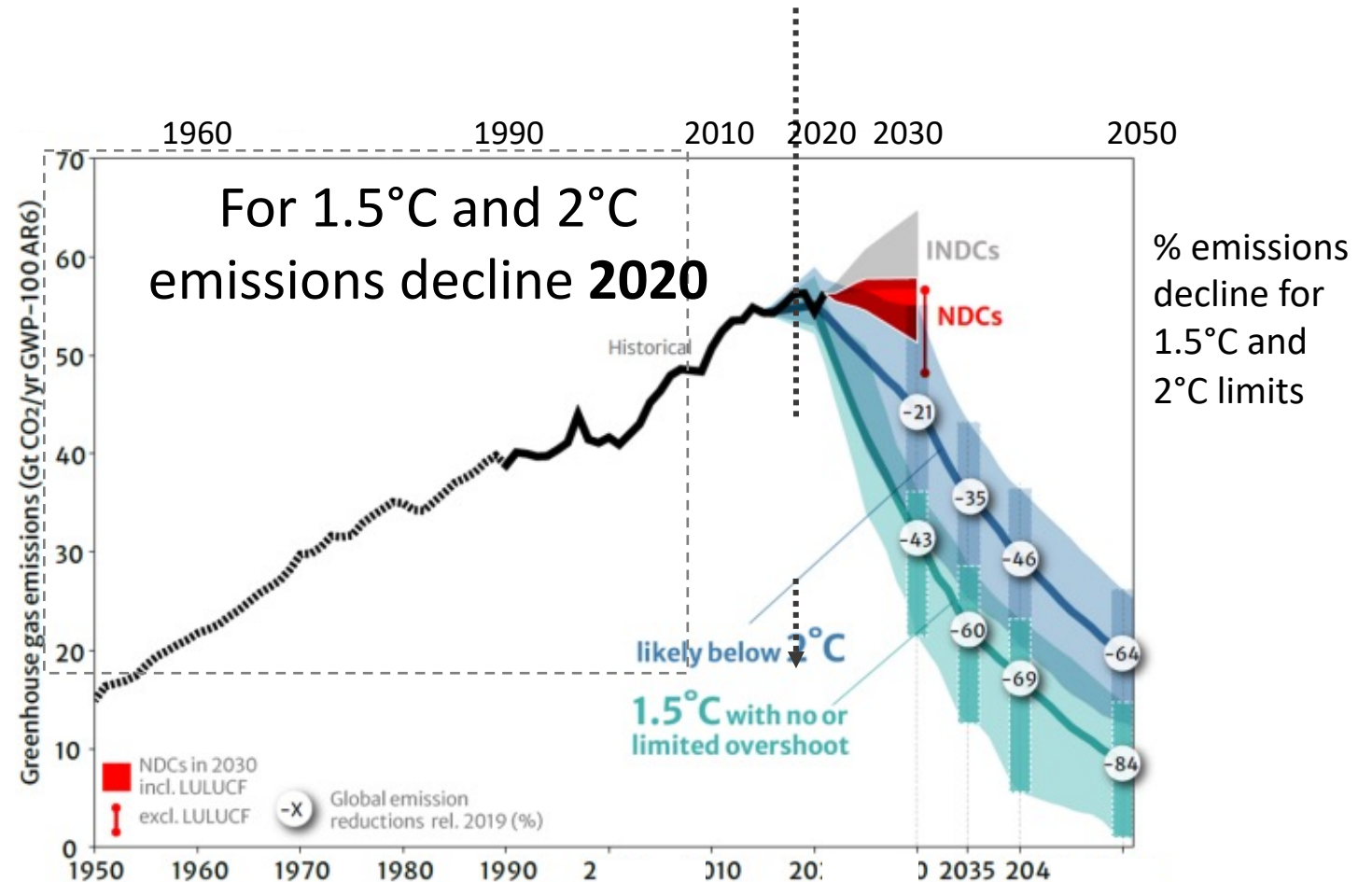
Keynote address by the IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee at the ceremonial opening of COP26
Glasgow, 31 October 2021

UN Climate Secretariat, Global Stocktake Technical Report

October 2023

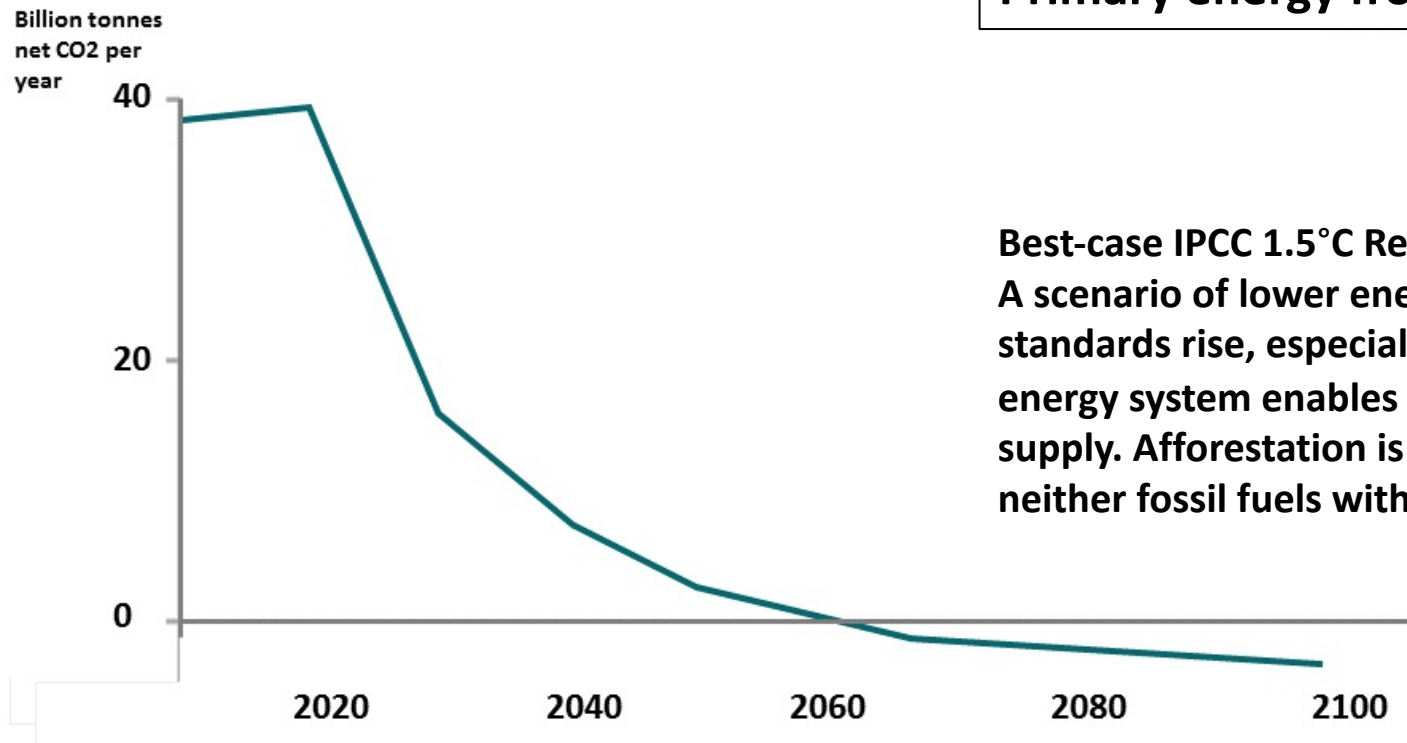
IPCC requires immediate decline and 45% reduction by 2030, compared to 2010.

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C (>50% chance) implies a reduction of around 43, 60 and 84 per cent in global GHG emissions below the 2019 level by 2030, 2035 and 2050 respectively, as assessed by the IPCC.



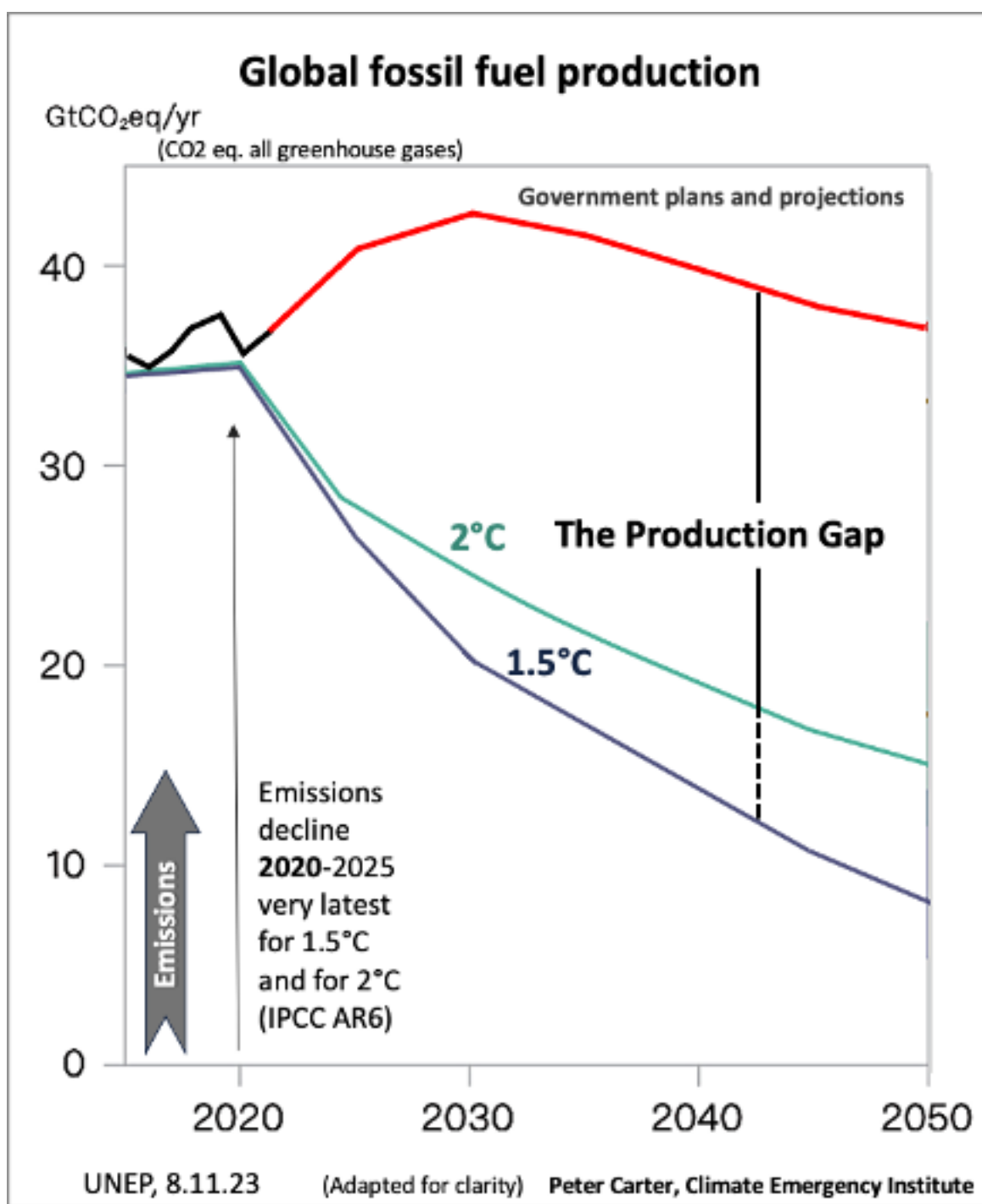
Five years ago, IPCC 1.5°C Report required global CO2 emissions to decline rapidly from 2020, to decline 45% on 2010 by 2030, with the fossil energy age over by 2050

In model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C, global net anthropogenic CO2 emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030



Primary energy from coal in 2050	– 97%
Primary energy from oil in 2050	– 87%
Primary energy from gas in 2050	– 74%

Best-case IPCC 1.5°C Report scenario P1
A scenario of lower energy demand up to 2050 while living standards rise, especially in the global South. A downsized energy system enables rapid decarbonization of energy supply. Afforestation is the only CDR option considered; neither fossil fuels with CCS nor BECCS are used.



The Production Gap Report, UNEP

8 November 2023

World powers continue to push and pollute with fossil fuel emissions, regardless of the IPCC science.

They must be held accountable.

IPCC AR6 projects that on continued current policies, we are headed to 3.2°C.

Global emissions have to decline rapidly immediately (IPCC AR6)

1.5°C Globally disastrous
2°C Global catastrophe

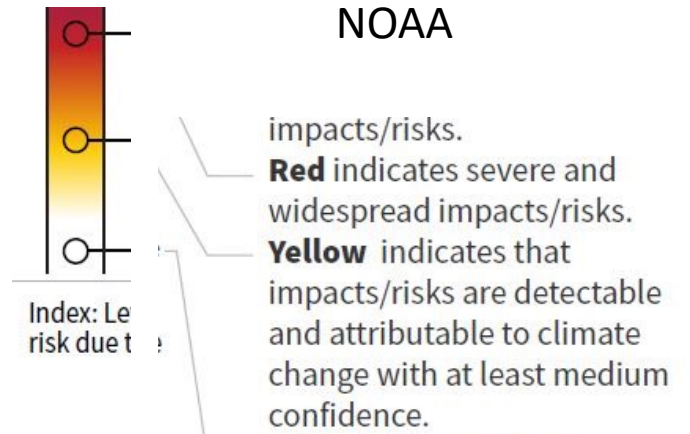
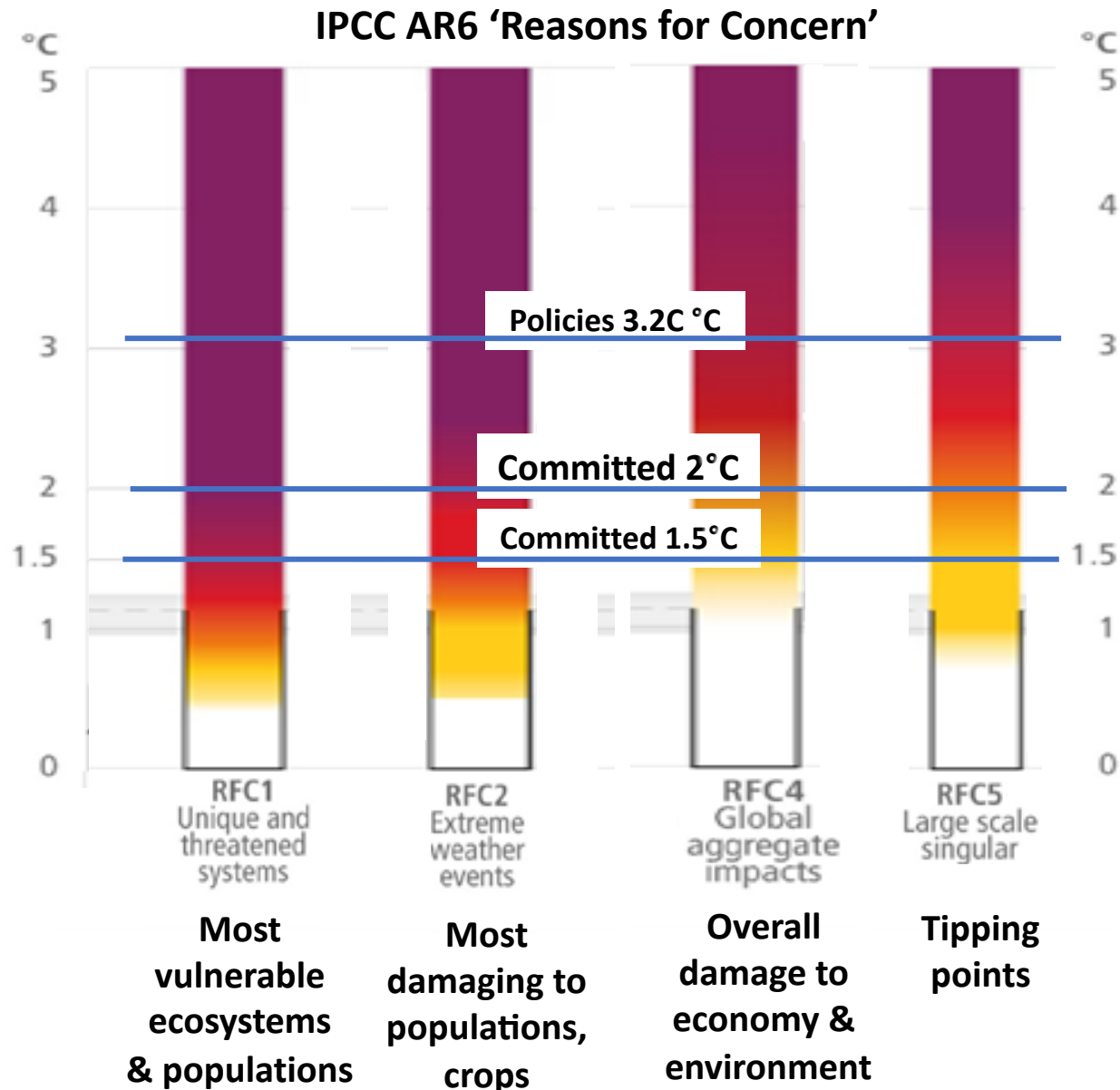
Large Inertias =
lots of warming
in the pipe

Long lag times from
agreement to decline
in global emissions
to a global temperature
response

Climate system
commitment

This century,
commitment is double
(1.8°C).

Total multi-century
commitment is 8°C
(J. Hansen).



Tipping points crossed at 2°C

Fight Fossil Fuels Through Mobilization

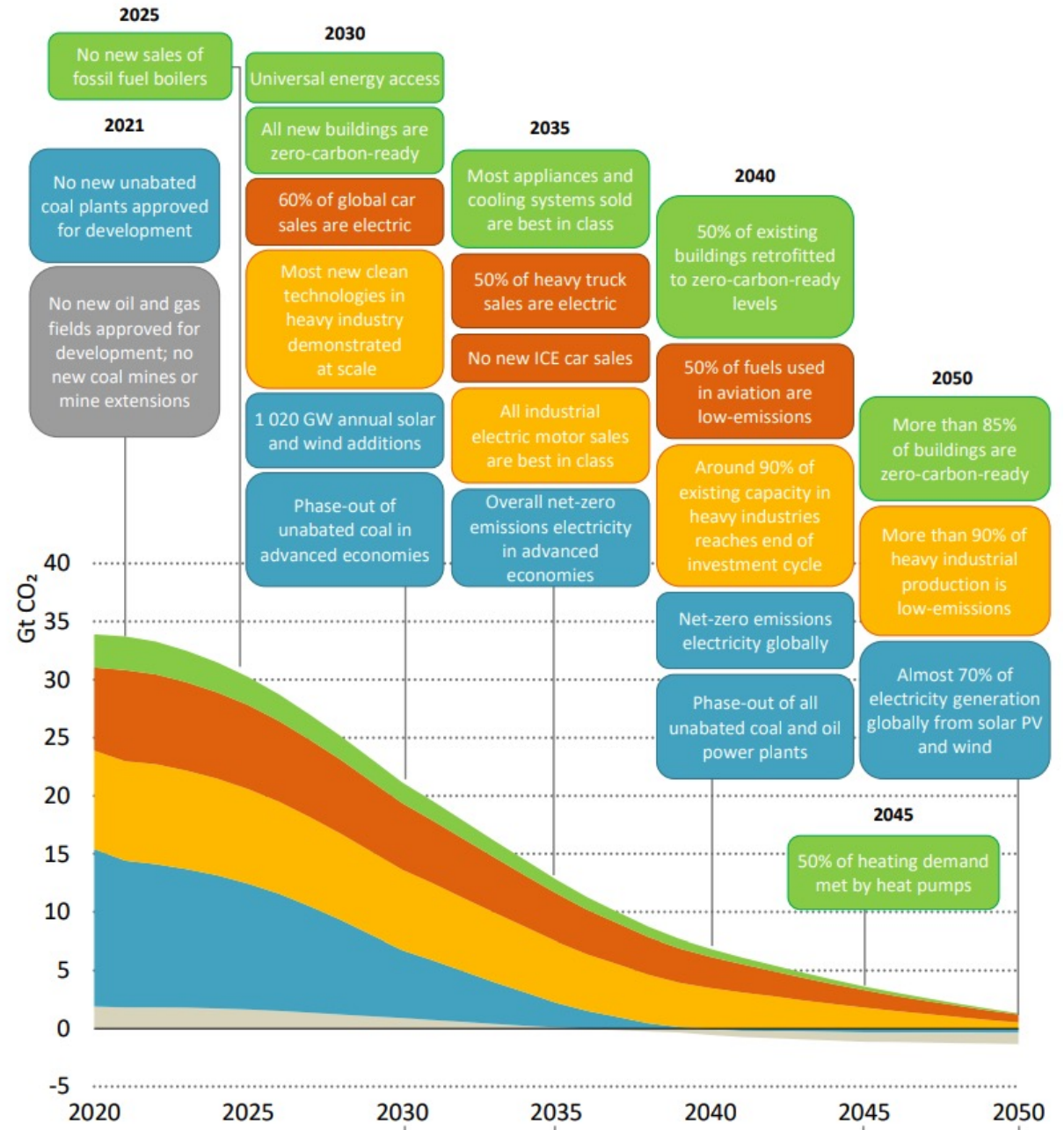
- New fossil fuel development projects must NOT be given the go-ahead.
- Fossil fuel extractions MUST be stopped immediately.
- Fossil fuel subsidies MUST be stopped immediately

Governments must be compelled to act.

The only institution with the influence to compel governments is national science academies and royal societies.



The IEA published a climate emergency mitigation plan (only for energy)

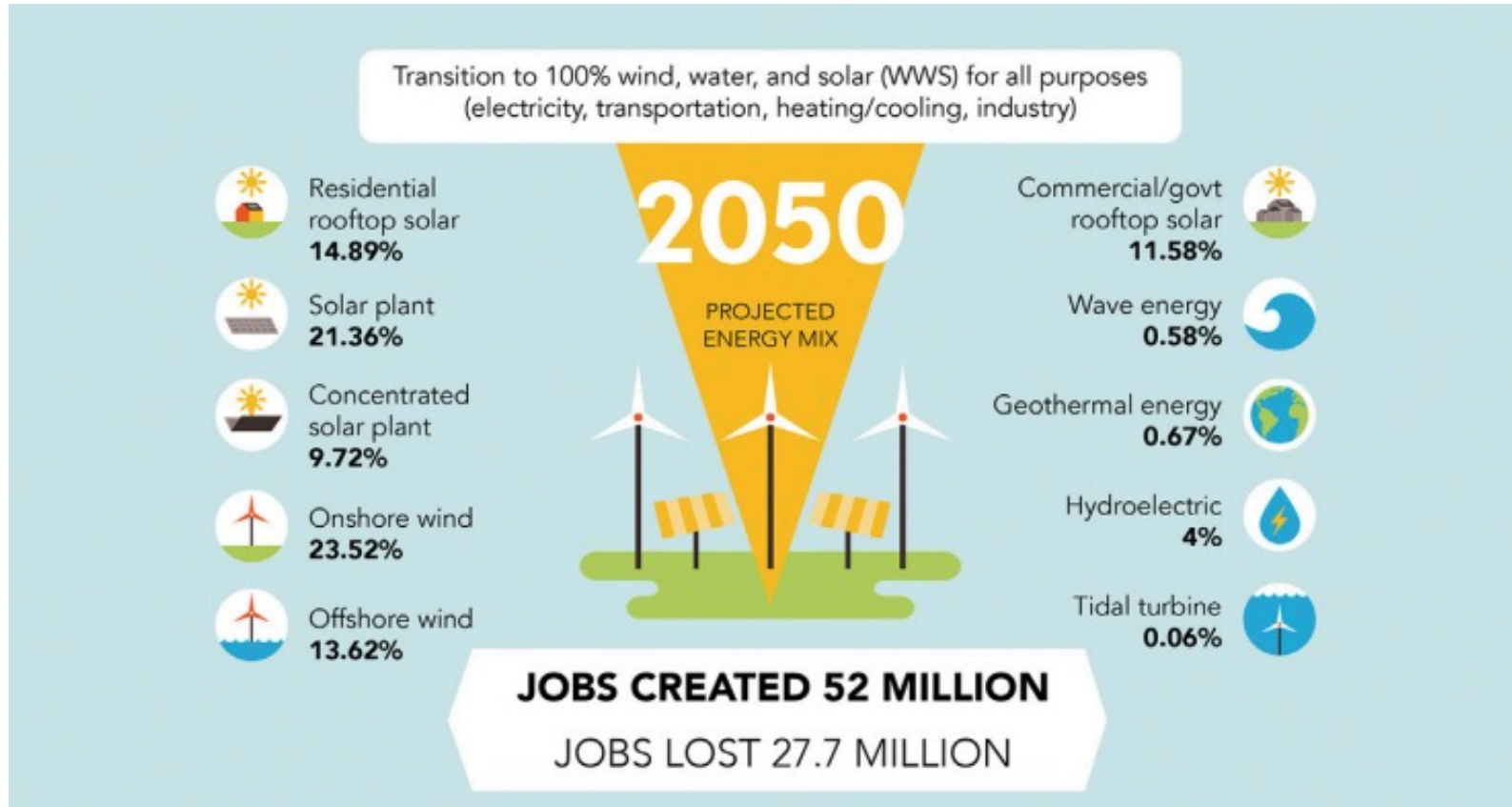


The Solutions Project

The Burning age for energy is over

100% clean and renewable wind, water and sunlight (with energy efficiency and conservation)

All-Sector Energy ONLY • No burning for any energy, any way



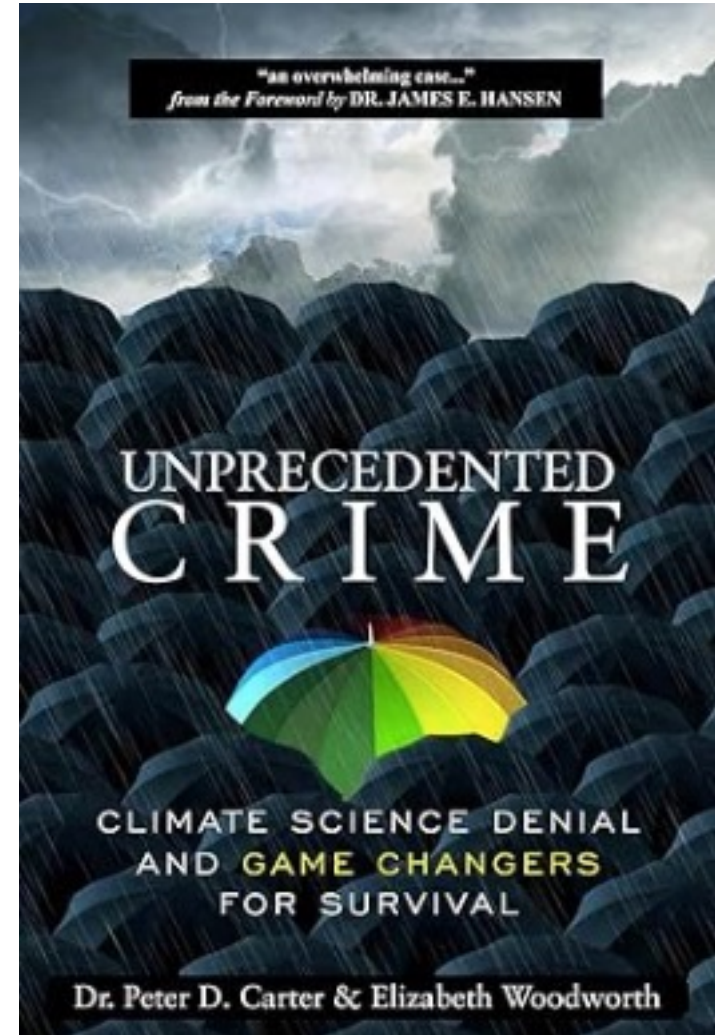
Current nuclear fission energy should not be terminated.

Conversion is the Climate Change Solution

Emissions of CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide have to decline to “near zero” (IPCC).

All our goods and services that emit GHGs do so constantly.

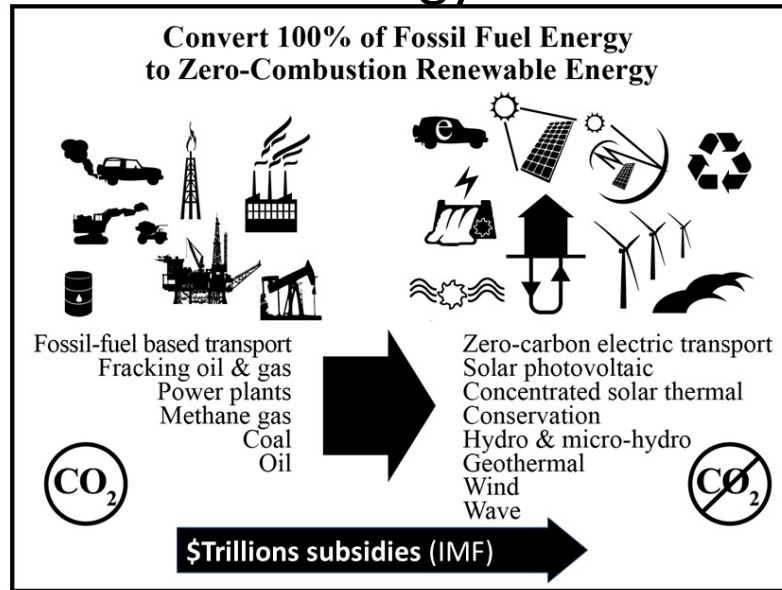
They have to be converted to the non-emitting, much better alternatives.



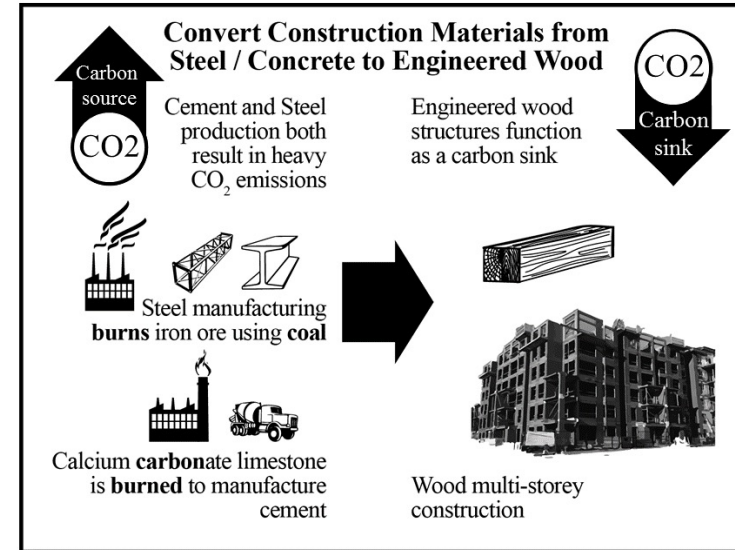
See [Unprecedented Crime: Climate Science Denial and Game Changers for Survival](#)

Conversion for climate change mitigation

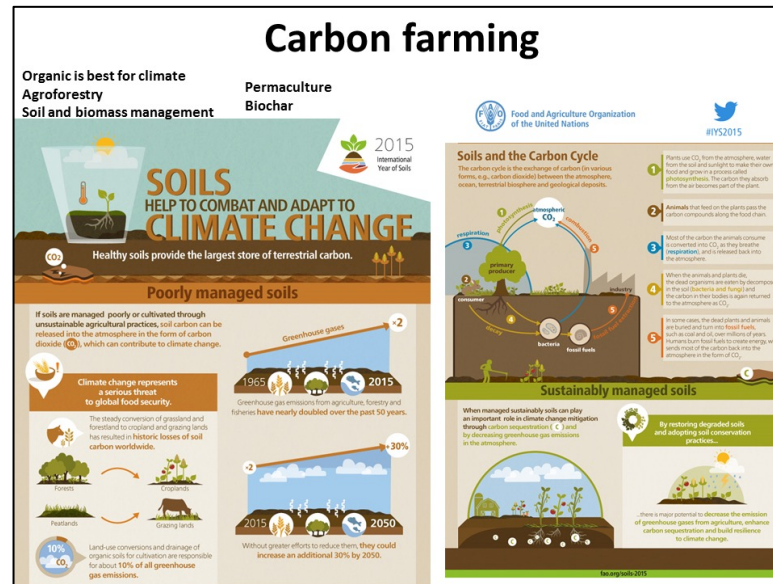
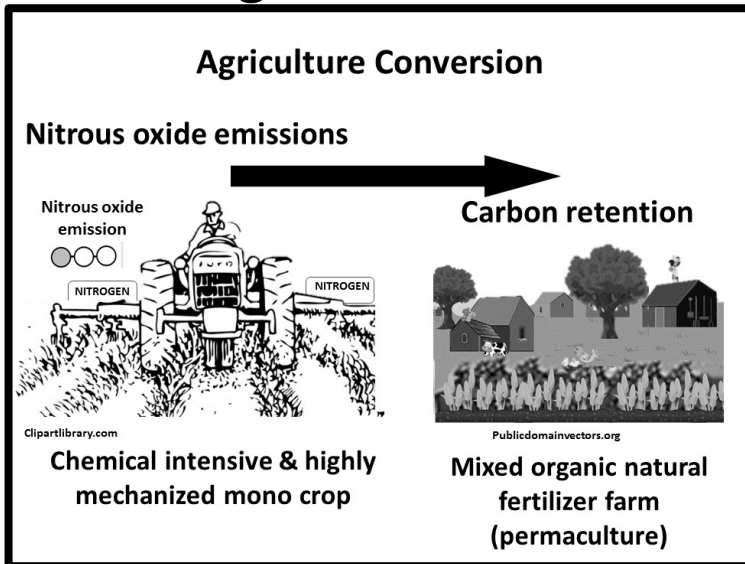
Energy



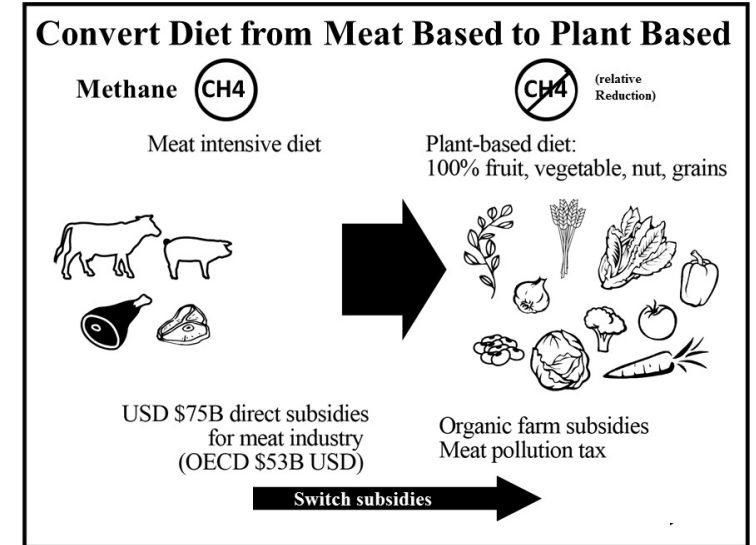
Construction



Agriculture



Diet



World Military Conversion

Swords to ploughshares

- Highest number of military conflicts since World War 2
- Total global military expenditure increased by 3.7 per cent in real terms in 2022, to reach a new high of \$2240 billion (International Peace Research Institute).
- The world's militaries are responsible for ± 6 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions (Scientists for Global Responsibility).
- Absolutely essential for global survival
- Climate change mitigation requires an unprecedented degree of national and international co-operation.
- Many benefits. Total replacement of all fossil fuel energy by clean zero-combustion renewable energy will greatly diminish international conflict.



World **Manhattan–Apollo–Marshall** Type Venture

Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) — now a priority

- must develop and deploy safe, effective, feasible, carbon dioxide removal at scale

World energy conversion

- must develop and deploy best possible technology to replace all fossil fuel energy with clean renewable zero-combustion energy
- we need a lot of clean energy, so we need a new source

Construction

- rebuild for the zero-combustion world
- convert from steel & concrete to construction with engineered wood

Arctic cooling

- stabilize sea ice and northern carbon (James Hansen says cooling is now required)

Climate Survival is Job 1

There is a silver bullet — it's called subsidies

Compel governments to immediately
terminate all fossil fuel subsidies unconditionally

- Not just so-called “inefficient” fossil fuel subsidies
- Carbon “tax” — governments (of course) must charge the large central polluters the full cost of their pollution
- Specifically, fossil fuel air pollution **kills 10 million people a year**
- Tax meat (methane)



\$7 TRILLION/year globally
(IMF, August 2023)

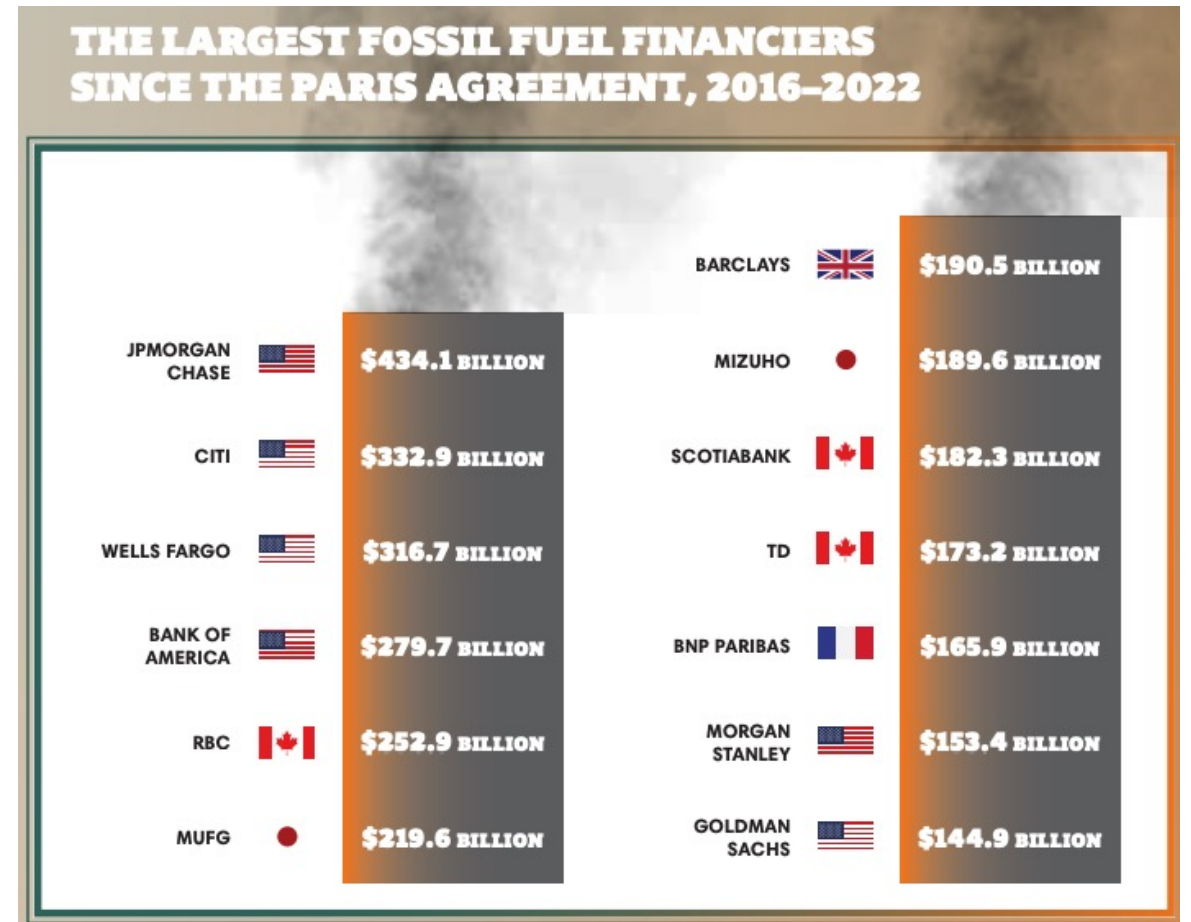
<https://www.greenmatters.com/p/fossil-fuel-air-pollution-deaths>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935121000487>

Prohibit banks from financing more fossil fuel extraction

Banks' financing of fossil fuel projects was \$669 billion in 2022

Fossil fuel financing from the world's 60 largest banks has reached USD \$5.5 trillion in the seven years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, with \$669 billion in fossil fuel financing in 2022 alone.



Many currently proposed solutions do not avoid global climate planetary catastrophe because they allow continued fossil fuel combustion

The COP28 Ruses

CO2 emissions must drop to NEAR ZERO

There is NO solution without replacing all fossil fuel energy by 100% with clean renewable energy

Many current mitigation proposals allow continued fossil fuel combustion, and are excuses for delay

Carbon budget is indefinite — there is NO MORE allowable carbon to burn

There is NO substitute for rapid global emissions decline with no delay

Net-zero emissions is undefined — it has to include with zero-combustion and no fossil fuels

Carbon offsetting — no delay (new forests don't grow fast enough)

Carbon capture storage (CCS) — includes bioenergy CCS, which is not zero-combustion

Fossil fuel 'abatement' (relies on CCS)

'Negative emissions' technology (relies on CCS)

Biomass combustion emits as much CO2 as coal

Climate Action Mass Mobilization

This is essential because all institutions are either encouraging or ignoring constant emissions, and constantly increasing emissions.

Public information and persuasion campaign (Stern Commission, 2006)

Conversion: Consumer to Conserver

Climate mitigation diet → World conversion to vegan diet



Adaptation, of course

There is no climate change adaptation without mitigation

Adaptation will not work (for long) in the absence of previous effective mitigation

Climate change and climate risks cannot be reversed

Adaptation mainly requires major upgrading of (free) public services

Early warning systems for disasters



**“We are committing Earth, and ourselves,
to climate chaos for thousands of years.”**

— NOAA Power Greenhouse Gases, May 2023





CLIMATE EMERGENCY INSTITUTE

The Health and Human Rights Approach to Greenhouse Gas Pollution

Thank you ...
Questions? Thoughts? Uplifting flute music?

Peter D. Carter
Climate Emergency Institute, Victoria, BC

