



The Truth and Lies about Climate Change

Mark Norbury OP



Truth



The Greenhouse Effect

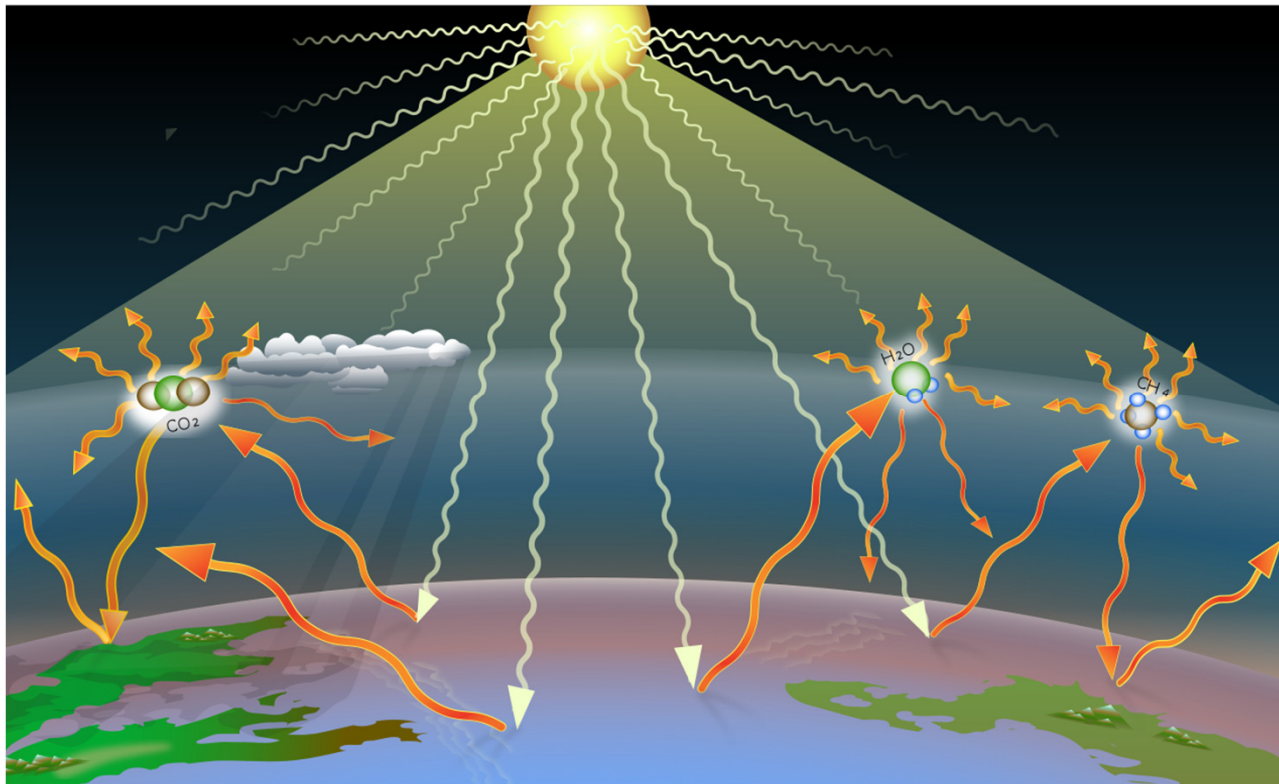


Diagram courtesy of Wikipedia's 'A loose necktie' - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=80356809>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- ▶ For governments and policy-makers.
- ▶ Regular scientific assessments.
- ▶ The implications of climate change.
- ▶ Potential future risks.
- ▶ Adaptation and mitigation options.



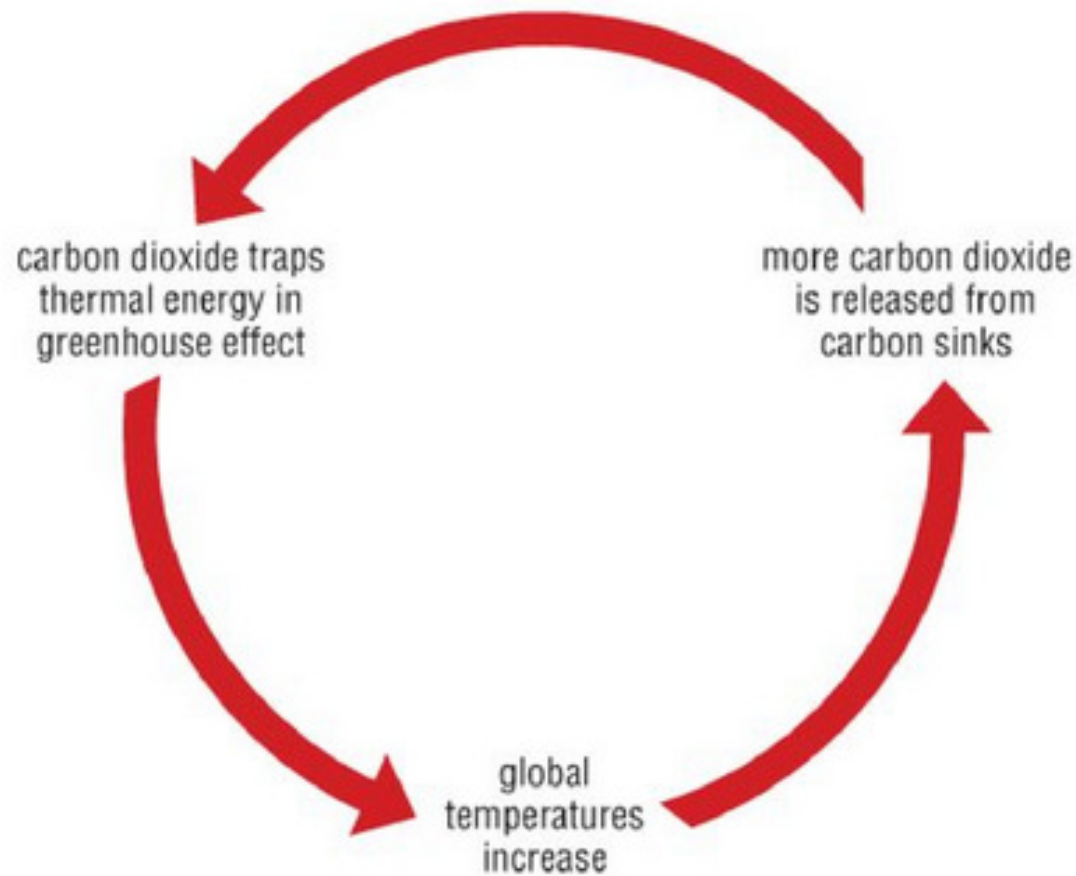
IPCC Assessment Report 1, 1990

- ▶ Emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases, resulting on average in an additional warming of the Earth's surface.
- ▶ Global mean surface air temperature has already increased by 0.3 to 0.6°C over the last 100 years.
- ▶ Under a "business as usual" scenario, global mean temperature will increase by about 0.3°C per decade during the 21st century.

IPCC Assessment Report 4, 2007

- ▶ Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level.
- ▶ Most of the global average warming over the past 50 years is due to human activities.
- ▶ Anthropogenic (human-caused) warming and sea level rise is expected to continue for centuries due to the time scales associated with climate processes and feedbacks.

The Carbon Dioxide Positive Feedback Loop



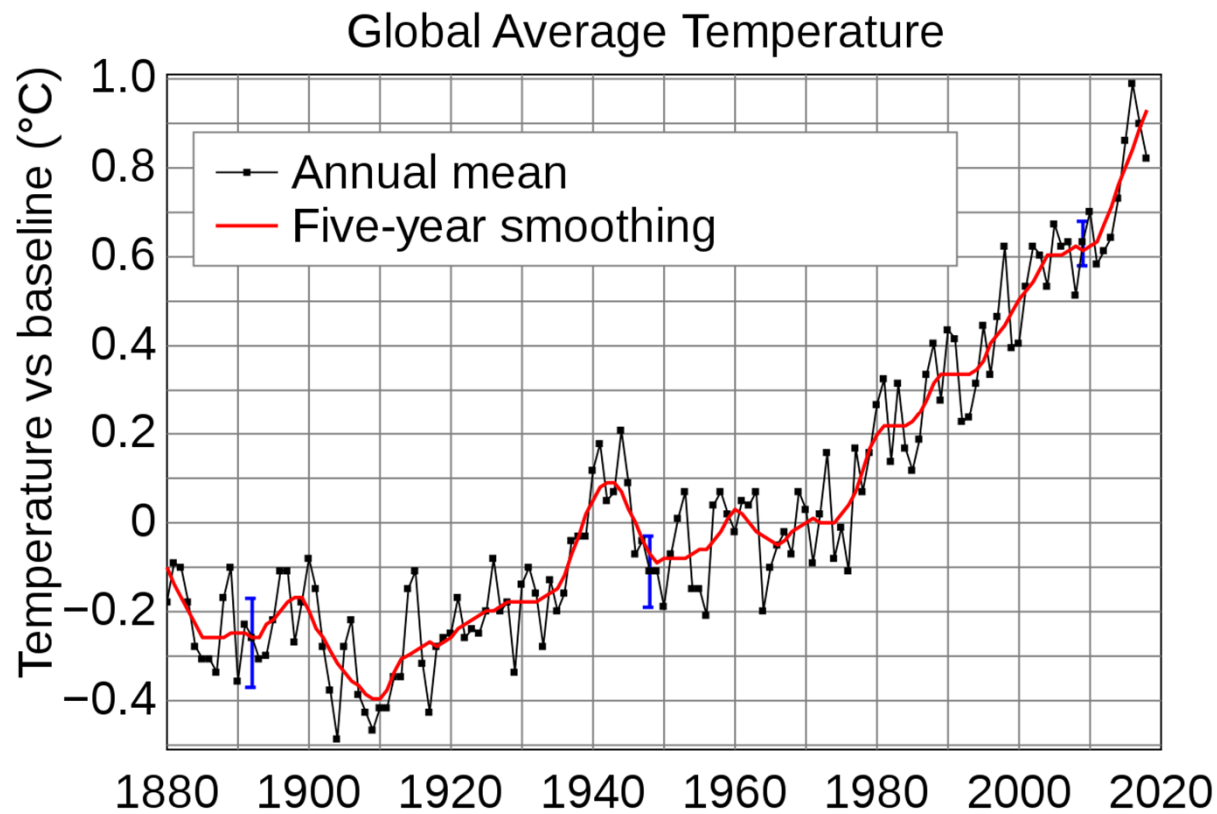
IPCC Assessment Report 4, 2007

- ▶ Some planned adaptation (of human activities) is occurring now; more extensive adaptation is required to reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- ▶ Unmitigated climate change would, in the long term, be likely to exceed the capacity of natural, managed and human systems to adapt.

IPCC Assessment Report 5, 2014

- ▶ Each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850.
- ▶ The rate of sea level rise since the mid-19th century has been larger than the mean rate during the previous two millennia. This is due to melting glaciers and increasing water temperature.

Global average temperature

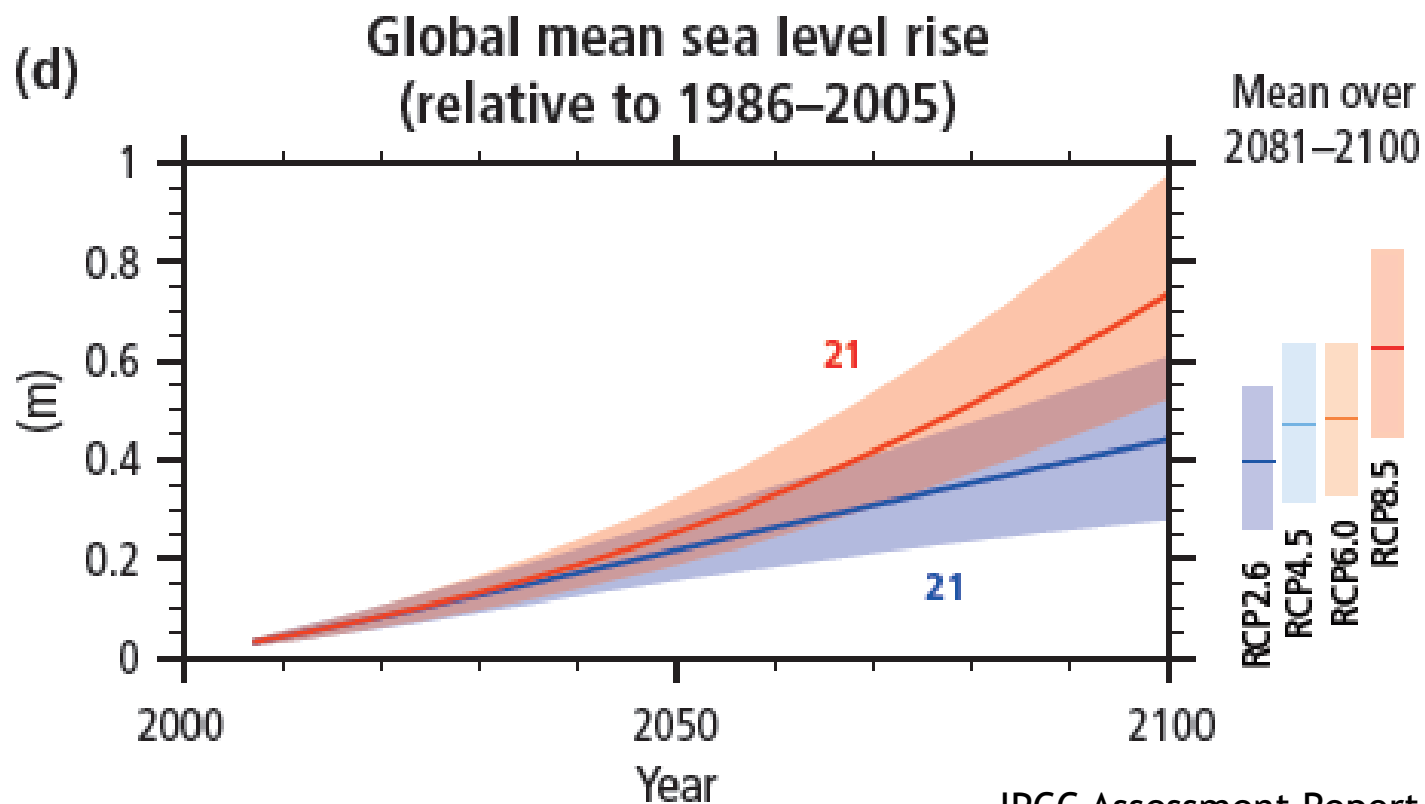


By NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies - <http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/graphs/>, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24363898>

The effects of climate change

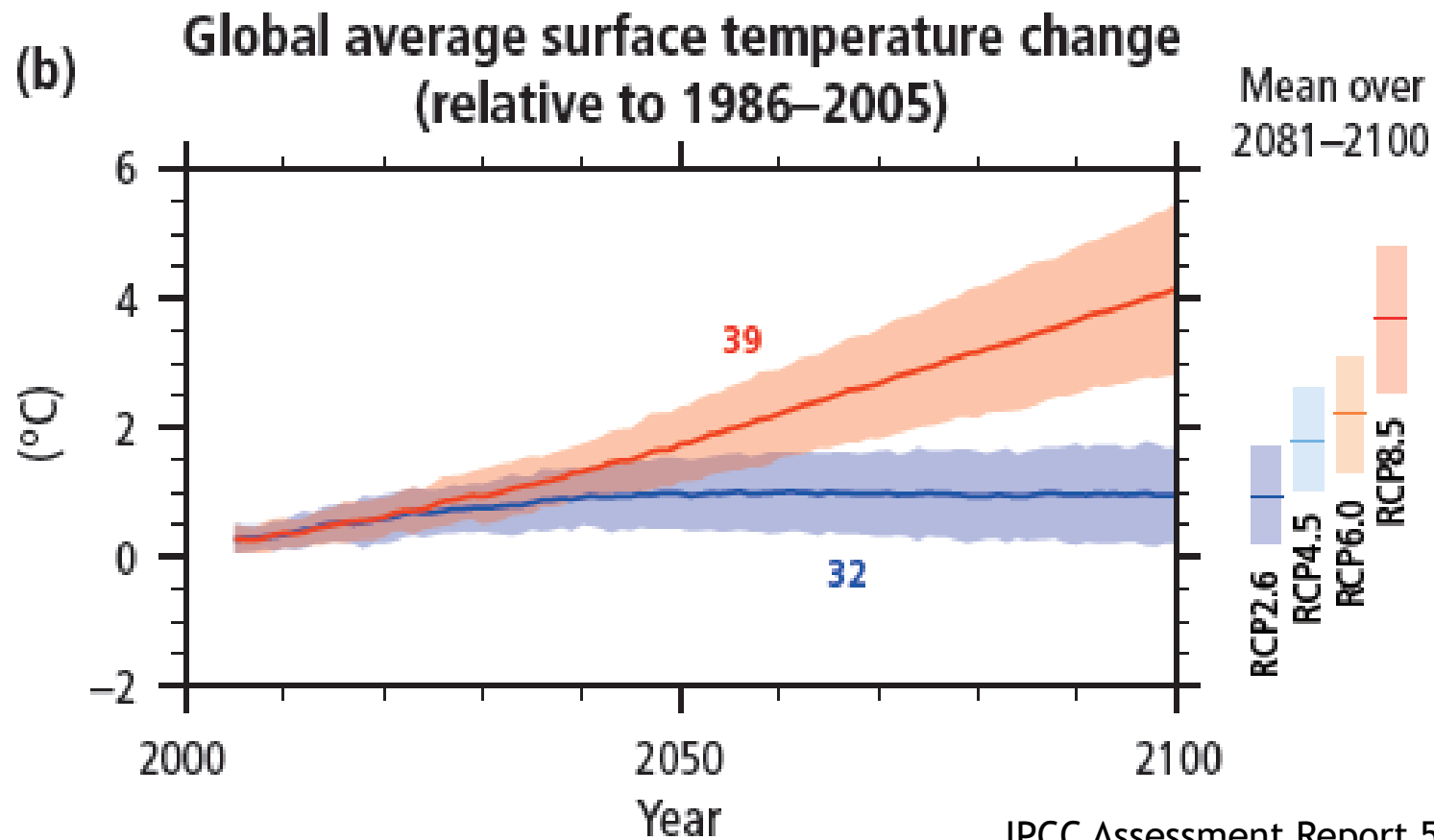
- ▶ Lower crop yields.
- ▶ Tree mortality.
- ▶ Increase in the frequency and intensity of:
 - ▶ Droughts
 - ▶ Windstorms
 - ▶ Fires
 - ▶ Pests
- ▶ Snow melts earlier and provides an earlier spring peak flow of water.
- ▶ Increased frequency and intensity of daily temperature extremes.
- ▶ Increase in heat waves in Europe, Asia and Australia.

Future effects - sea level



IPCC Assessment Report 5, 2014

Future effects - surface temperature



IPCC Assessment Report 5, 2014

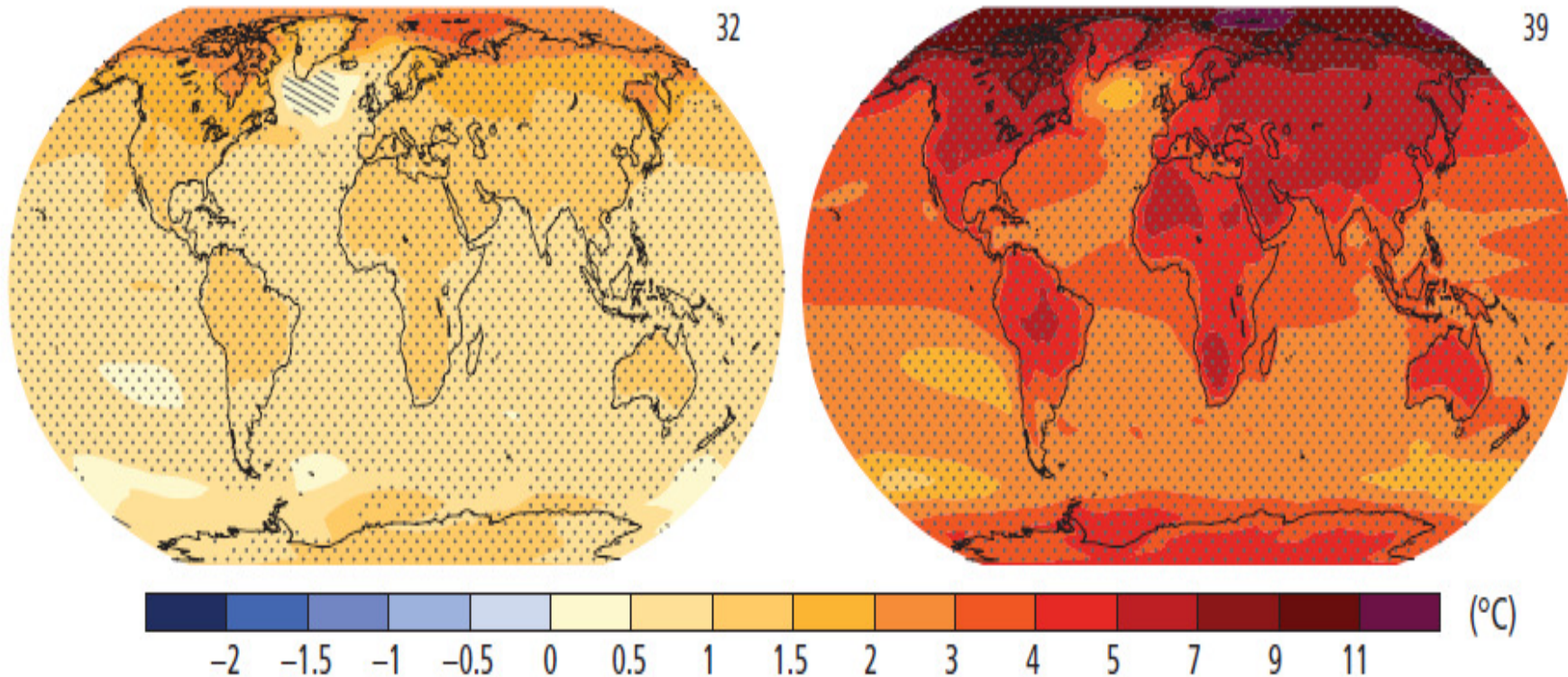
Future effects - surface temperatures

RCP2.6

RCP8.5

(a)

Change in average surface temperature (1986–2005 to 2081–2100)



IPCC
Assessment
Report 5,
2014

Who is
affected?

Everyone

The poor are most
vulnerable

Those living close to sea
level are affected sooner

IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C

- ▶ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris, 2016.
- ▶ IPCC Special Report in October 2018.
- ▶ Deep emissions reductions.
- ▶ Rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.
- ▶ Carbon dioxide emissions must decline by 45% by 2030.
- ▶ Net zero by 2050.

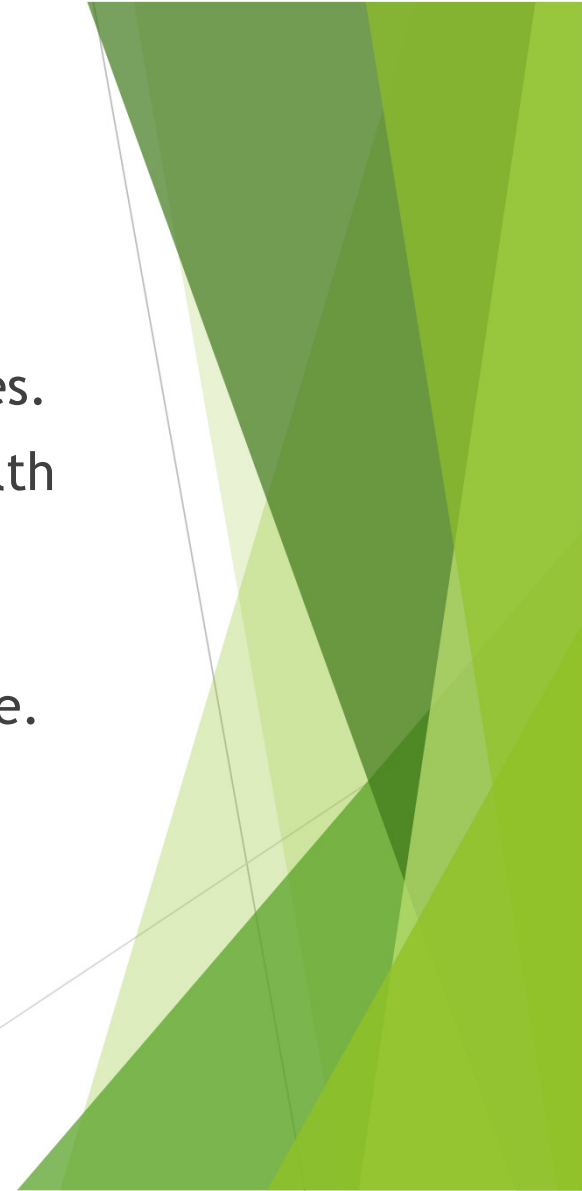
Lies, lies, lies

- ▶ Climate change is not happening.
- ▶ Climate change is happening, but it's a natural process, not man-made.
- ▶ We're just coming out of the last ice age.
- ▶ Climate change is actually beneficial to the human race.
- ▶ Environmentalists are a nuisance and need to be stopped.



Lies, lies, lies

- ▶ Caring for the environment is bad for the economy.
- ▶ We'll need to go back to how we lived in the middle-ages.
- ▶ All this talk of climate change is just to further the wealth or political power of environmentalists.
- ▶ There's no real evidence for climate change.
- ▶ Scientists are divided in their opinions on climate change.



The role of the oil companies

ExxonMobil



ConocoPhillips



American Petroleum
Institute (API)

Gutstein, "The Big Stall", 2018.
Sluyterman, "Royal Dutch Shell: Company strategies for dealing with environmental issues,"
The Business History Review, vol 84, No 2, Summer 2010.
DeMelle and Grandia "There is no doubt" The Narwhal, 26 April 2016.

Global Climate Coalition

- ▶ Their mission was to convince the US government and the media that the idea of human-caused global warming was not true.
- ▶ Their strategy was to spread the notion that global warming was a dangerous myth and to emphasize the lack of absolute proof.

Helvarg: "The war against the greens", 1994

Bruno et al: "Greenhouse gangsters vs climate justice", 1999

Caring for the environment is bad for the economy???

The Environment versus the Economy

The Environment versus the Oil Companies

The Economy versus the Oil Companies

The role of the government



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Lies amongst Christians

- ▶ Caring for the environment is about caring for mother earth, which is paganism.
- ▶ We are Masters of Creation and God tells us to subdue it (Genesis 1:28) so can do what we like with it.
- ▶ Christians should primarily be focussed on caring for humans not for nature.
- ▶ Our primary concern is to evangelise and prepare people for heaven, so caring for this world is not important.

Prayer of repentance

“I brought you to a country of plenty, to enjoy its produce and good things; but when you entered you defiled my country.”

Jeremiah 2v7



“The earth is mourning, pining away, the pick of earth’s people are withering away. The earth is defiled by the feet of its inhabitants, for they have transgressed the laws, violated the decree, broken the everlasting covenant. That is why the curse has consumed the earth and its inhabitants pay the penalty. That is why the inhabitants of the earth have been burnt up and few people are left.”

Isaiah 24v4-6

Lord have mercy

Lord, have mercy on us,
Come and heal our land,
Cleanse with Your fire, heal with Your
touch.
Humbly we bow and call upon You now.
O Lord, have mercy on us.
O Lord, have mercy on us.

© Graham Kendrick 1991

Truth leads to Justice



Eco-friendly
Ecology-friendly
Life-friendly
Pro-life



St. John the Baptist

A voice of one that cries in the desert.

Luke 3v4

Proclaiming repentance. (Μετάνοια)

Luke 3v3

What must we do then?

Luke 3v10



God called great prophets to foretell
The coming of His Son;
The greatest, called before His birth,
Was John, the chosen one.

That lonely voice cried out the truth,
Derided and denied.
As witness to the law of God
His mighty martyr died.

Benedictine Nuns of Stanbrook Abbey

Questions?



Recommended Reading

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: www.ipcc.ch

Environment and Climate Change Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange.html>

Pope Francis “Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home”, 2015.

<https://www.exxonsecrets.org>

Gutstein, Donald “The Big Stall”, 2018.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/04042018/climate-change-fossil-fuel-company-lawsuits-timeline-exxon-children-california-cities-attorney-general>

What must we do then? (Luke 3:10)

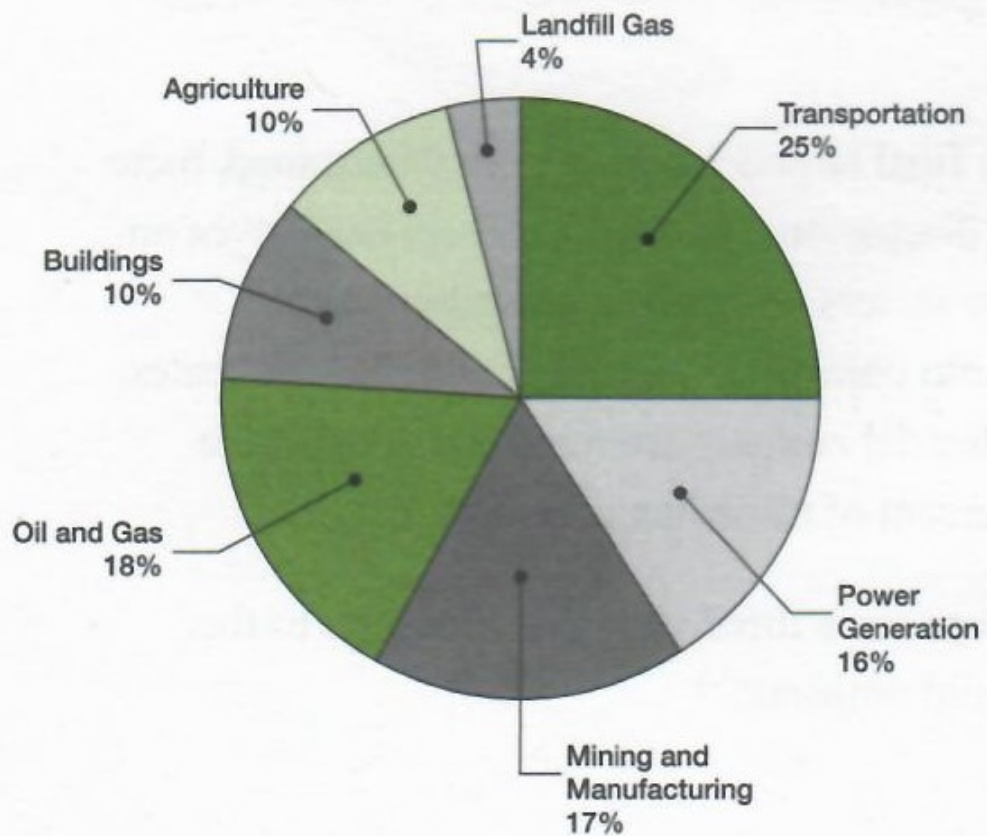
1) Discuss ways that we can persuade people to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in the areas of transport and housing.

2) How can we as individuals and a society reduce greenhouse gases so that we achieve the 1.5 °C target, such that carbon dioxide emissions reach net zero by 2050? Brainstorm a few original ideas.

3) How could we realistically and practically achieve these?

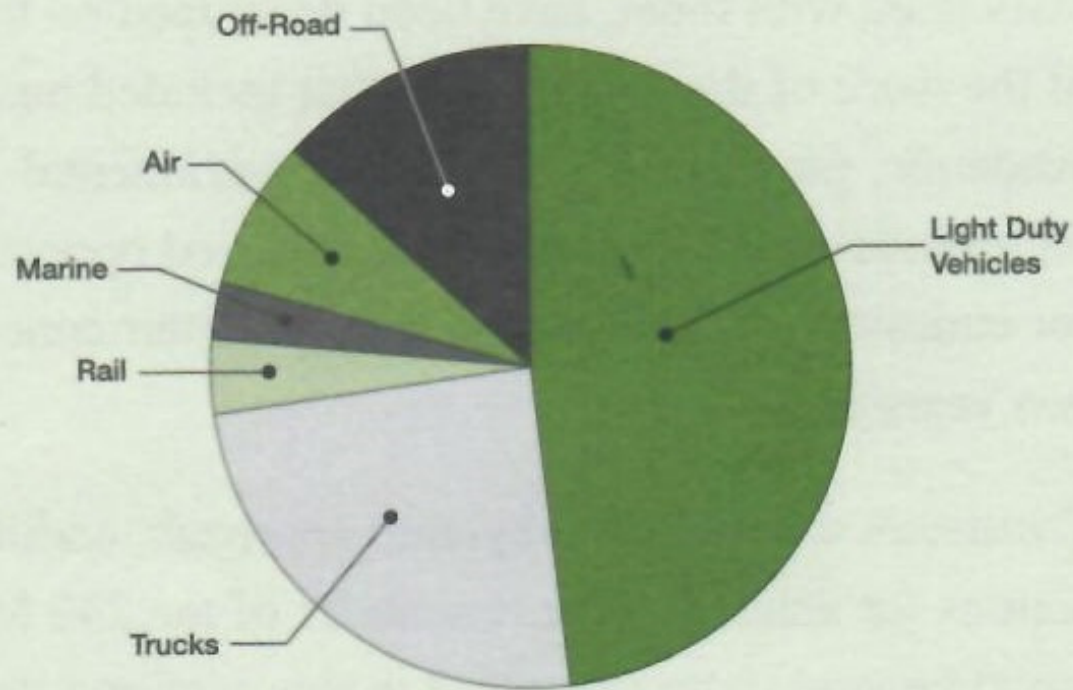
Afterwards there will be opportunity for each group to share some of the best ideas with the whole room.

Emissions by Sector in 2010



Climate Change Plan for Canada,
P30
Government of Canada

Sources of Emissions



Focus on
Transport

Climate Change Plan for Canada, P20
Government of Canada

Motor Vehicle Registrations in Canada 2018

Type of vehicle	Registrations
Motorcycles and mopeds	729,627
Cars and other light vehicles (under 4.5 tons)	23,137,203
Other road motor vehicles	1,193,569
Total road motor vehicles	25,060,399

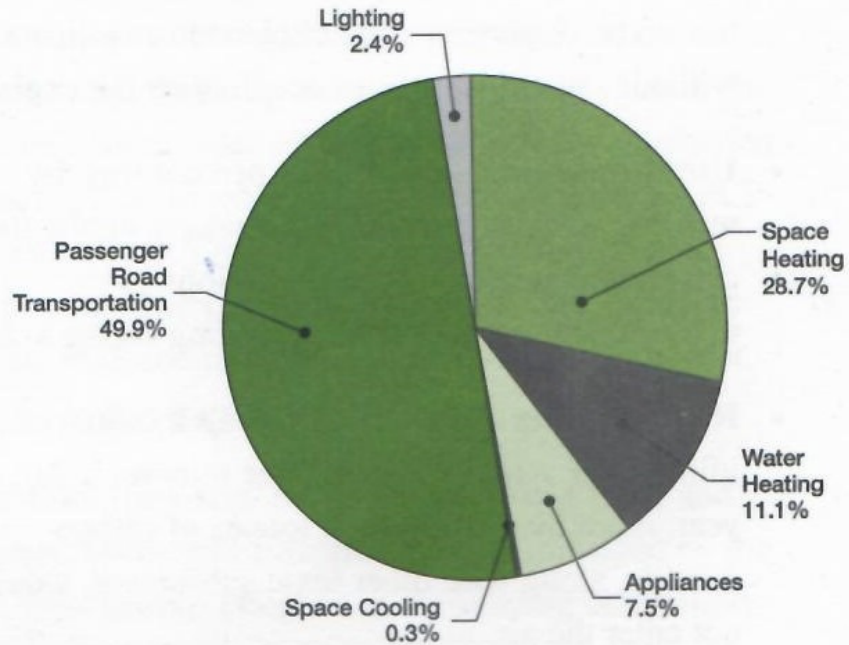
Age	Population
Under 18	7,170,000
18 and over	29,880,000
Total	37,050,000

Source: Statistics Canada

Mode	Annual cost
Car ownership and usage	\$8600 to \$13,000
Translink 1 zone pass	\$1176

Source: Global News, Nov 2017
Source: Translink

Sources of Personal GHG Emissions in Canada



Climate Change Plan for Canada
Government of Canada