

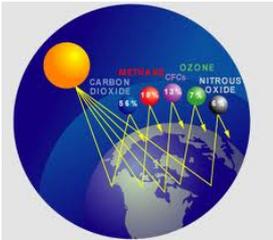
Global Warming

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Climate Change

The atmosphere of the Earth consists of gases known as [greenhouse gases](#). It plays an important role in allowing life to exist on earth. It is recording an alarming rise and is a sign of an ominous future.

Our planet absorbs energy from the sun to sustain life. It also releases part of this energy into the atmosphere in the form of infrared rays. These rays, invisible to the naked eye, are felt in the form of [heat](#). Greenhouse gases present in the atmosphere in small quantities are not allowing this heat to escape into space. Hence it flows back into the Earth's atmosphere, and helps maintain a temperature suitable for life to exist on Earth.



After the industrial revolution, the concentration of greenhouse gases rose considerably, causing the

Earth to become warmer. This rise in temperature has led to [climate change](#). This climate change of a place can happen over long periods of time when natural changes in the atmosphere lead to an increase in the greenhouse gases. Therefore over a period of time, the earth naturally gets warmer.

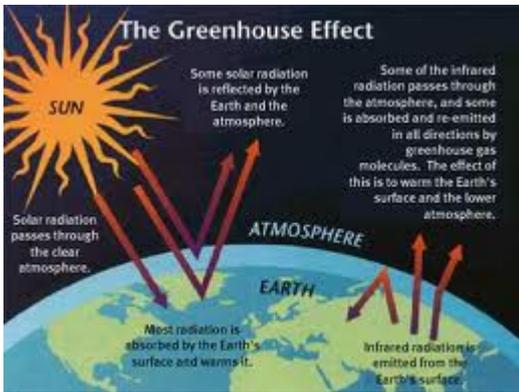
Definitions:

- Global warming is the increase in the [average temperature](#) of [Earth's](#) near-surface area and oceans.
A greenhouse gas is a gas in an atmosphere that [absorbs](#) and [emits](#) radiation within the [thermal infrared](#) range.
- Climate change is a long-term change in the statistical distribution of [weather](#) patterns over [periods of time](#)

Reasons for Global Warming

Human activity, such as burning of fuel, coal and gas has interfered with the natural carbon cycle and it is these carbon emissions that are the predominant reason for global warming.

The Greenhouse Gases



Green house effect on earth

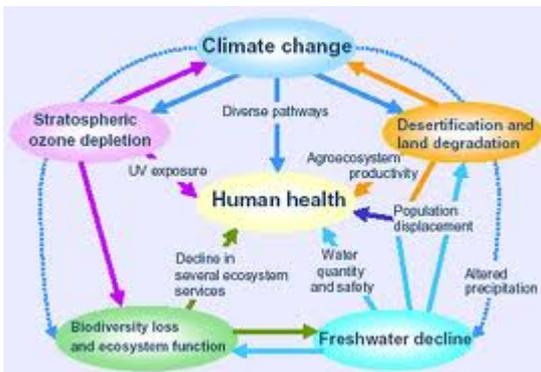
Methane: Produced in places where oxygen-free decomposition takes place, (Paddy fields)

Nitrous oxide: Released into the atmosphere through burning fuels.

Carbon dioxide: CO₂ was the first greenhouse gas what was recorded to have increased (burning of fuel). Prior to the industrial revolution, CO₂ emissions were fairly stable, but industrial activity has seen CO₂ increase by nearly 31%.

How Carbon is added to the atmosphere?

- Man's dependence on gas and power is constantly on the rise.
- The vehicular traffic
- Increase in the number of vehicles invariably leads to high carbon emissions.



Kyoto Protocol

- The [Kyoto Protocol](#) was created in Japan in 1997 and came into effect in 2005.
- In accordance with the agreement, the target was to achieve an aggregate fall of 12% by 2012.

Scientists have identified 2°C as the maximum rise emissions that the earth will be able to sustain. If continue to rise, each degree rise will spell disaster, not only for the ecology but for man as well and may even lead to mass extinction.

Want to know more about Global warming? [click here](#) to schedule live online session with e Tutor!

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Reference Links:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming
- <http://www.globalwarming.org.in/>
- http://library.thinkquest.org/CR0215471/global_warming.htm
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenhouse_gas
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJAbATJCugs>

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