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Introduction.

Global warming is understood from an overall, long term increases in the retention of the sun heat around Earth due to blanketing by

The average global warming temperature & major greenhouse gases, have fluctuated on the earth position relative to the sun has varied.

Global Warming

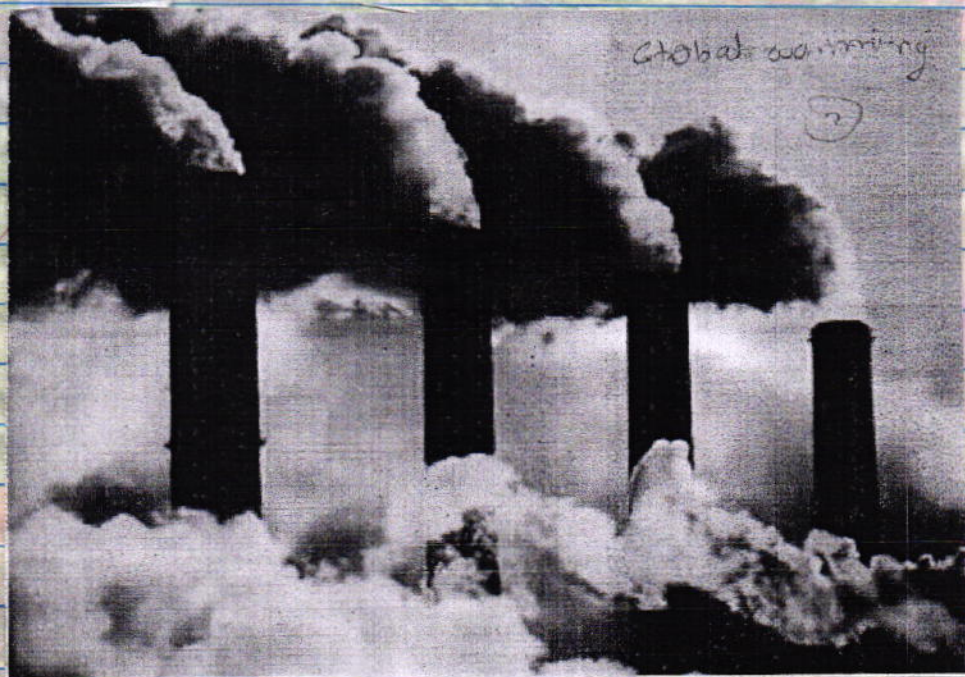
Understanding the causes of and responses to global warming requires interdisciplinary cooperation betⁿ social and natural scientists. The theory behind global warming has been understood by climatologists since at least the 1980s, but only in the new millennium, with an apparent tipping point in 2005, has the mounting empirical evidence convinced most doubters, politicians, and the general public as well as growing sections of business that global warming caused by human action is occurring.

DEFINITION OF GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is understood from an overall, longterm increase in the retention of the sun heat around earth due to blanketing by "greenhouse gases" especially CO₂ and methane. Emissions of CO₂ have been rising at a speed unprecedented in human history, due to accelerating

Fossil fuel burning that began in the
began in the Industrial Revolution.

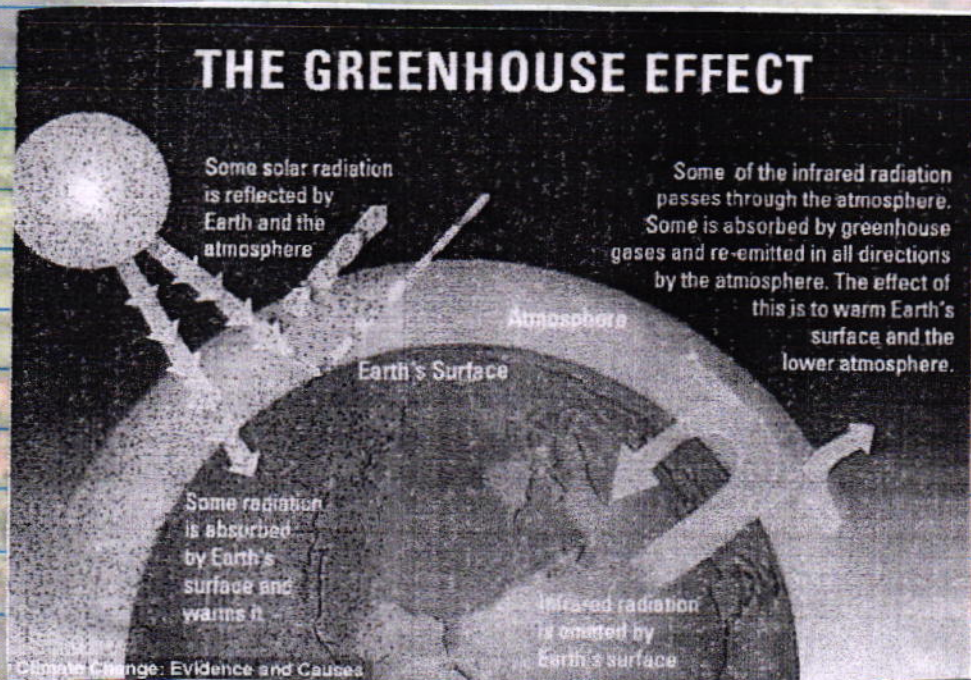
The effects of the resulting "climate
change" are uneven and can even
produce localized cooling (if warm currents
change direction). The climate change may
also initiate positive feedback in which
the initial impact is further enhanced by its own
effects. For example if melting ice reduces the reflective
properties of white surfaces (the "albedo" effect) or if
melting tundra releases frozen methane, leading to further
warming.



THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The "greenhouse effect" is the warming that happens when certain gases in earth's atmosphere trap heat. These gases let in light but keep heat from escaping, like the glass walls of a greenhouse.

First, sunlight shines onto the earth's surface, where it is absorbed and then radiates back into the atm. as heat. In the atm. "greenhouse" gases trap some of this heat, and the rest escapes into space. The more greenhouse gases are in the atm., the more heat gets trapped.



Aren't temperature changes natural...?

The average global temperature & concentrations of carbon dioxide (one of the major greenhouse gases) have fluctuated on a cycle of hundreds of thousands of years as the Earth's position relative to the sun has varied. As a result, ice ages have come and gone.

However for thousands of years now, emissions of GHGs to the atmosphere have been balanced out by GHGs that are naturally absorbed. As a result, GHG concentration and temperature have been fairly stable. The stability has allowed human civilization to develop within a consistent climate.

Occasionally, other factors briefly influence global temp. volcanic eruptions, for example, emit particles that temporarily cool the Earth's surface. Other but these have no lasting effect beyond a few years. Other cycles, such as El Niño, also work on fairly short and predictable cycles.

Now, human have increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by more than a third since the industrial revolution. Changes this large have historically taken thousands of years, but are now happening over the course of decades.

Why is this a concern.

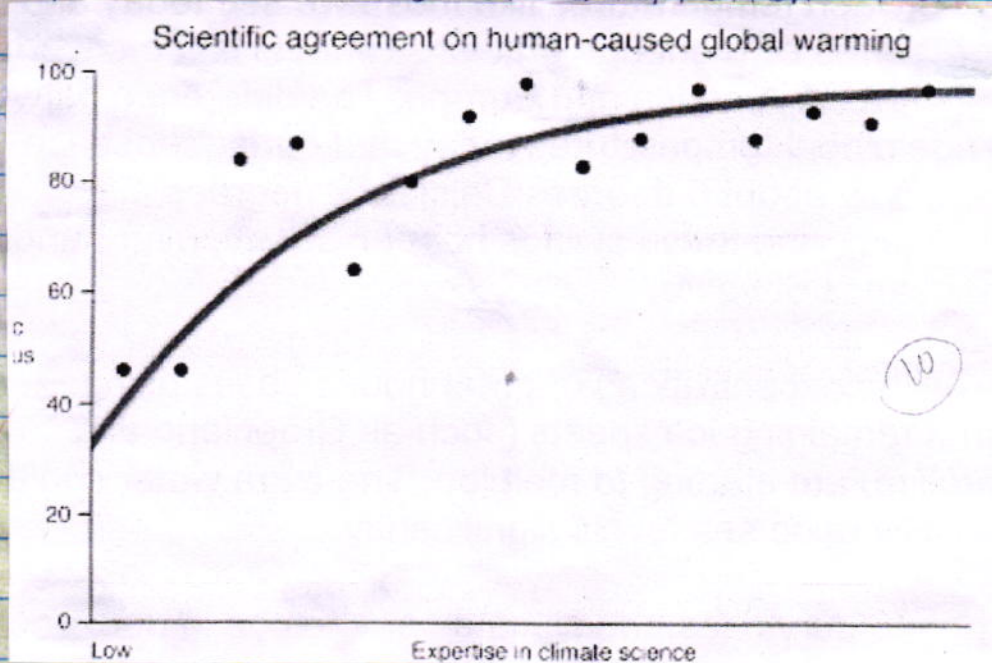


The rapid rise in greenhouse gases is a problem because it is changing the climate faster than some living things may be able to adapt. Also, a new and more unpredictable climate poses unique challenges to all life.

Historically, Earth's climate has regularly shifted back and forth betⁿ temperatures like those we see today and temp. cold enough that large sheets of ice covered much of North America and Europe. The difference betⁿ average global temp. today & during those ice ages is only about 5 degree Celsius.

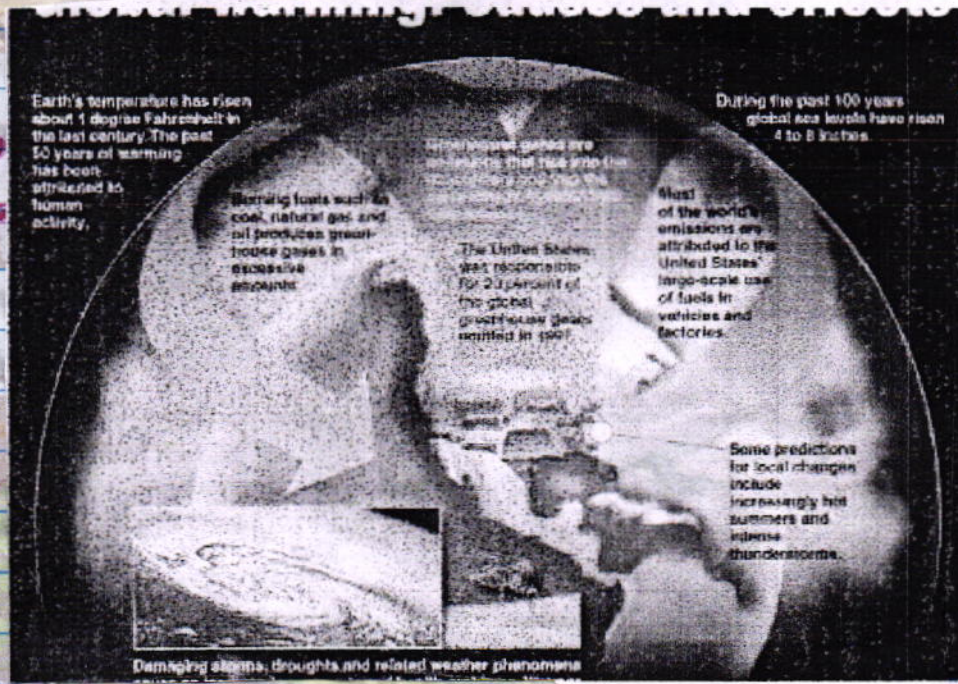
SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS

Global warming involves an unprecedented speeding up of the rate of change in natural processes, which now converges with the (previously much faster) rate of change in human societies, leading to a crisis of adaptation. Most



authoritative scientific bodies predict that on present trends a point of no return could come within ten years, and that the world needs to cut emissions by 50 percent by mid twenty first century.

EFFECT OF GLOBAL WARMING



- The planet is warming, from North pole to South pole, and everywhere in between. Globally, the mercury is already up more than 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.8 degree Celsius) and even more in sensitive polar regions. And the effects of rising temp. aren't waiting for some far-flung future. They're happening right now. Signs are appearing all over and some of them are surprising.
- The heat is not only melting glaciers & sea ice it's also shifting precipitation patterns and setting animals on the move.