
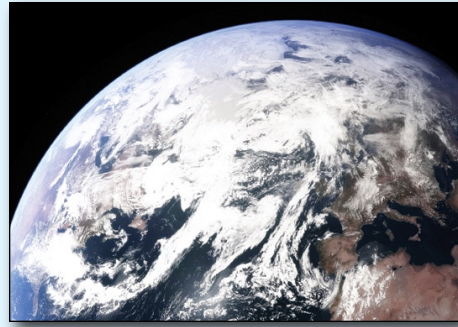


# The Earth's climate is changing

 Most scientists and governments agree that the Earth's climate is changing. It is getting warmer.

Some changes are natural. But people are changing the climate in many ways too. Here are two examples.



## 1 We are changing the air

We are changing the air. We are adding carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the air. These gases change the Earth's climate.



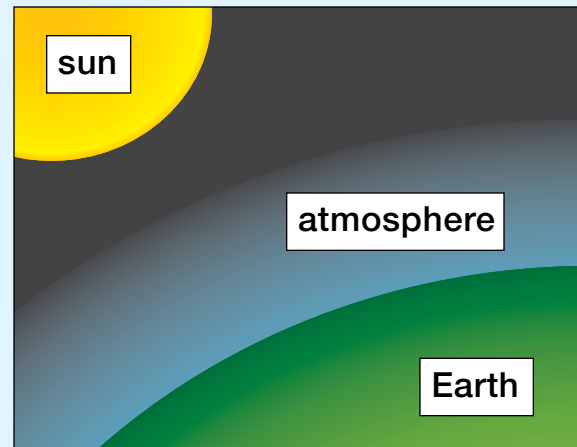
Carbon dioxide goes into the air when we burn oil, gas and coal. We use these fuels for many things.

✓ Now there is **too much** of these greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. So the Earth is warming too quickly.

✓ Many countries are making plans to reduce greenhouse gases.

### What are greenhouse gases?

The Earth's atmosphere contains gases. Some gases help keep the Earth warm. They are called greenhouse gases. For example: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).



Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere. They are like the glass in a greenhouse. The Earth would be very cold without these gases.

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## 2 We are changing the land



We are changing the land. These changes affect the Earth's climate.

For example, we are cutting down trees and burning forests. How do trees affect climate? They remove carbon dioxide from the air.



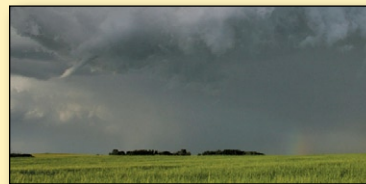
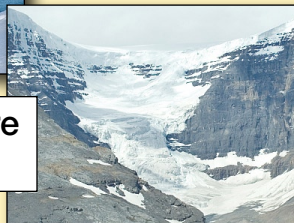
### Climate change now

How is climate change affecting us now? Scientists see changes in many places. For example, air and ocean temperatures are rising.



There is less ice in the Arctic.

Glaciers are melting.



✓ Sea level will rise. Water will flood areas in some countries. Millions of people may have to leave their homes.



### Climate change in the future

Scientists are predicting many changes for the future. Many changes will be bad. For example:



✓ There may be more storms, floods, droughts, forest fires and insects in Canada. There may be less water in our lakes.

### What to do

Climate change is a world problem. It will affect our lives for hundreds of years.

How can people help slow climate change? They can use less energy.

For example, they can use their cars less often. They can use compact fluorescent light bulbs.



Sources: Environment Canada, CanWest News Service, Climate Change Central, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
Climate photos: iStockphoto • Art—beetle: Nola Johnston; Earth: Corinna Ruhl