

# The Urgency of the Climate Crisis: Responding as People of Faith



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Photo from [cnn.com](#)

# The Urgency of the Climate Crisis: Responding as People of Faith

*Why is climate change now a crisis with urgency?*

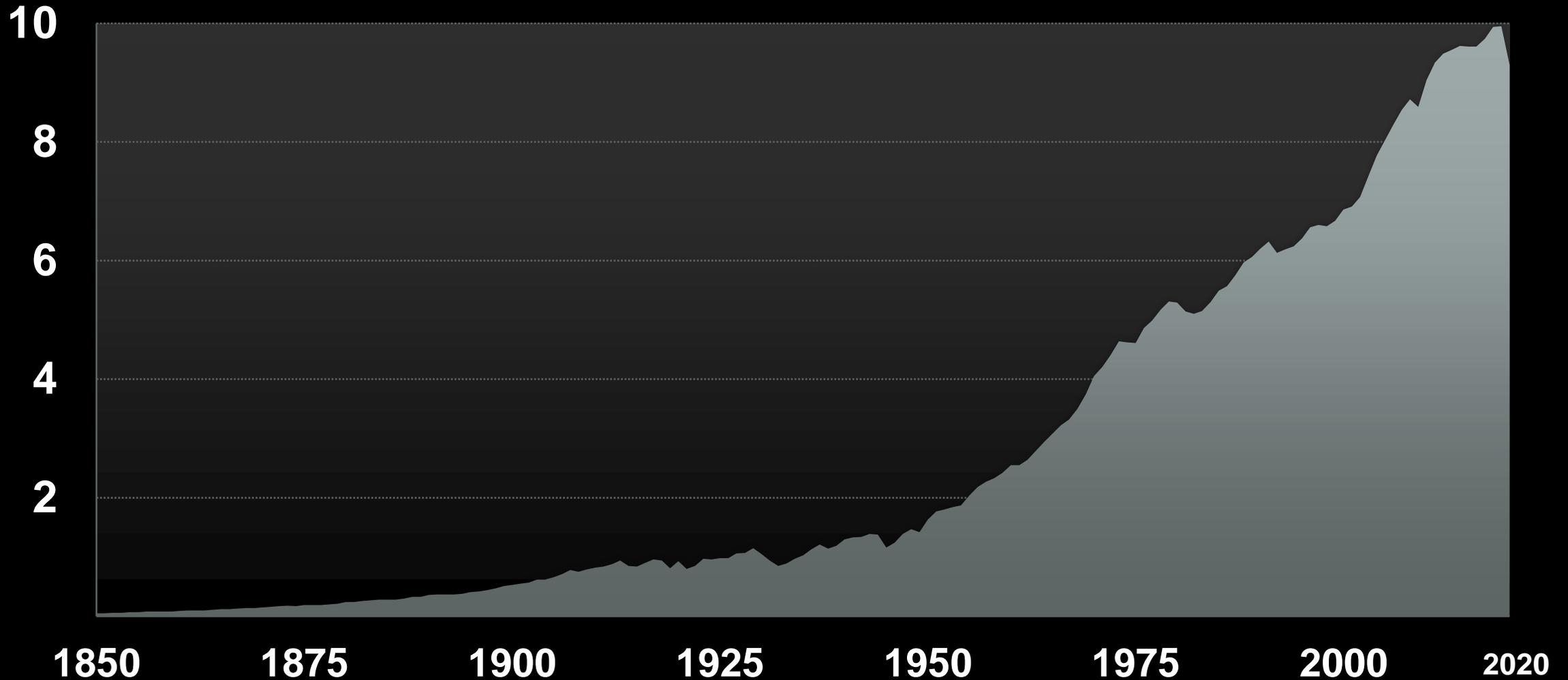
*Why should people of faith respond?*

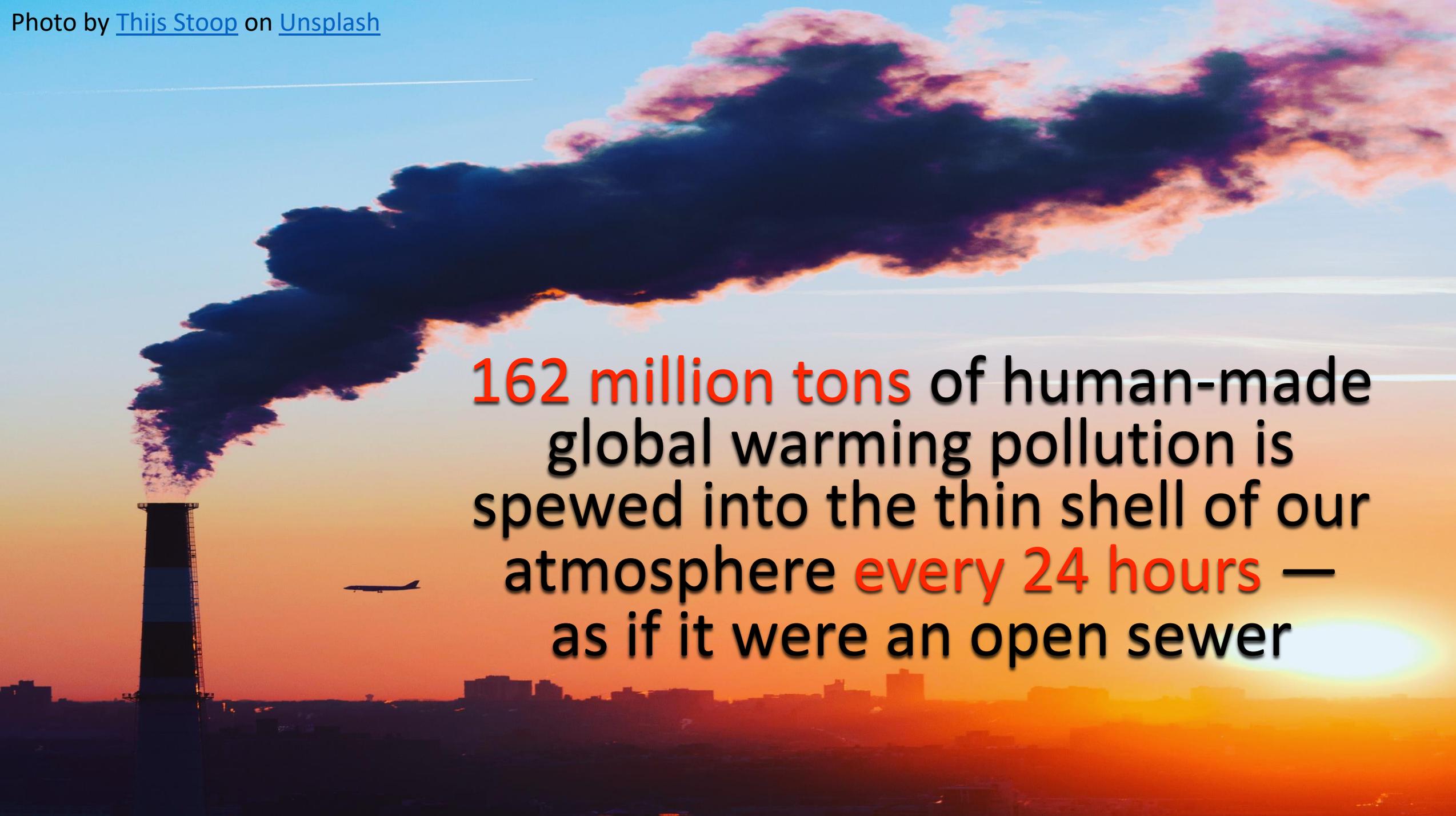
*How can people of faith respond?*

# Envision What Can Be

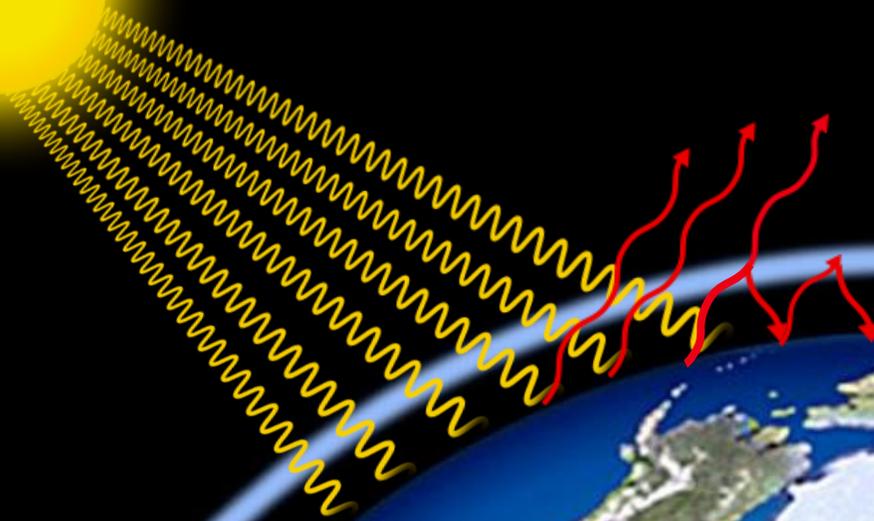


# The Largest Source of Global Warming Pollution is the Burning of Fossil Fuels

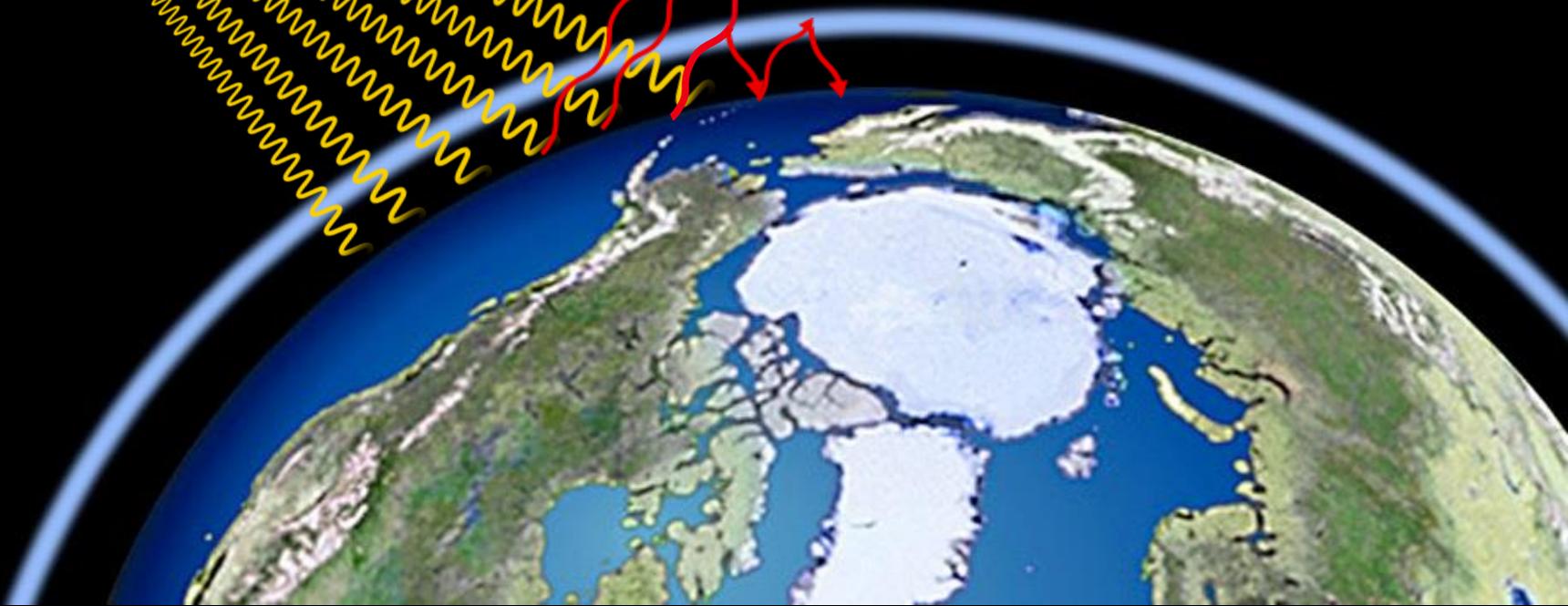




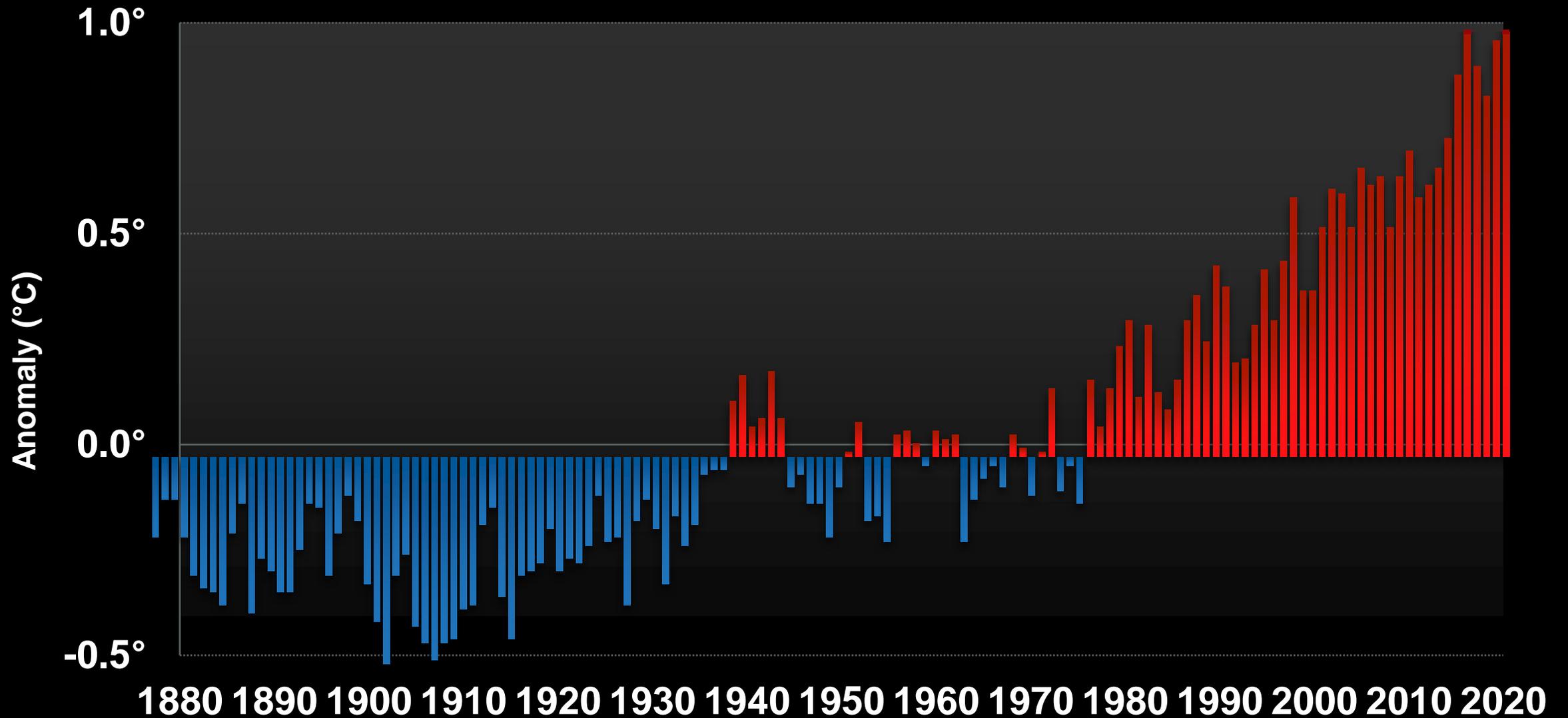
**162 million tons** of human-made global warming pollution is spewed into the thin shell of our atmosphere **every 24 hours** — as if it were an open sewer



As the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration increases, more of the outgoing infrared radiation is trapped.



# Global Surface Temperature - Departure from Average

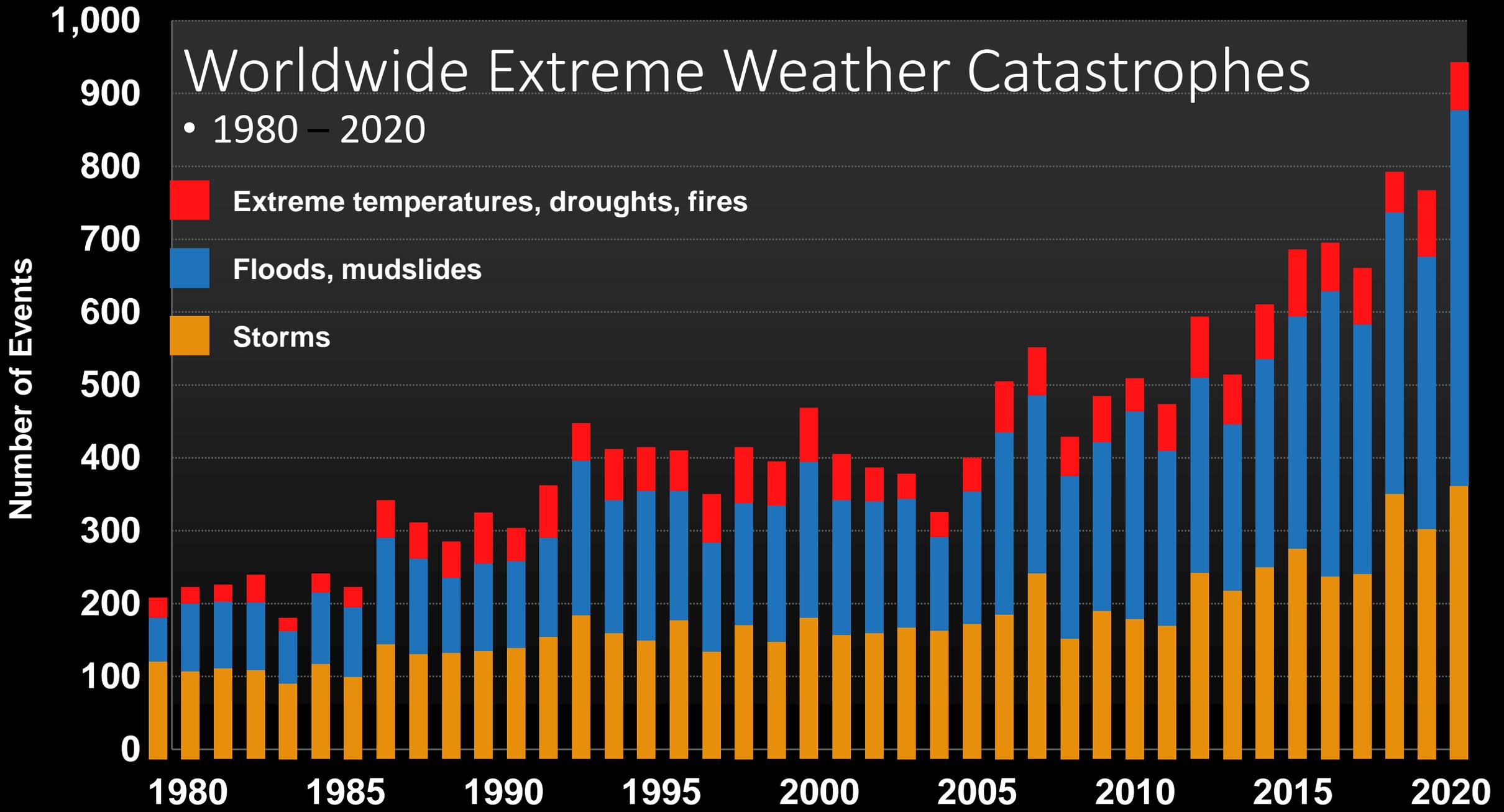


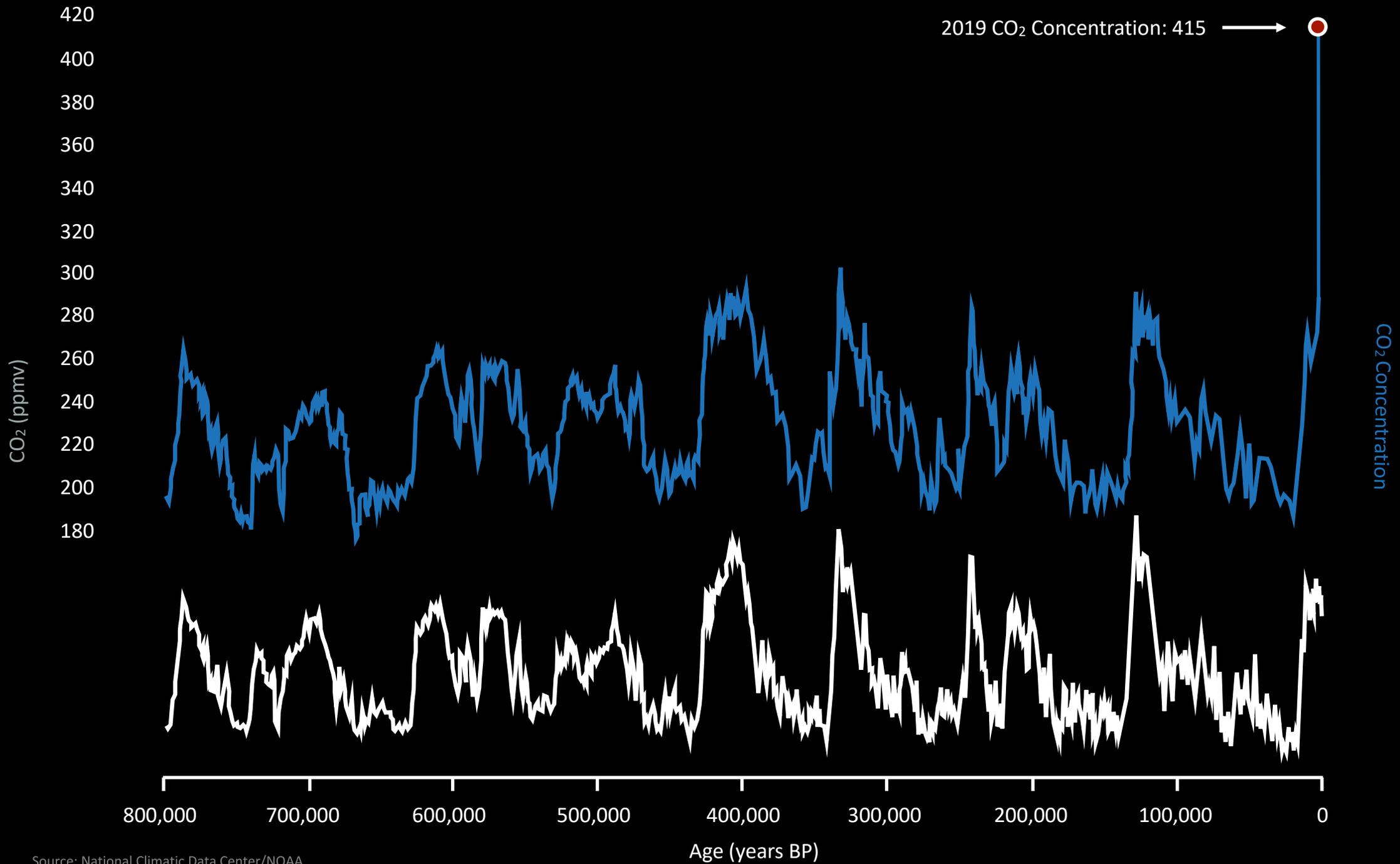


National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# Worldwide Extreme Weather Catastrophes

• 1980 – 2020





Source: National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

# The Hottest 20 All-time Best Years on Last Great Day Years Occurred Since the Year 2002

2020 2016 2019 2017 2015 2018 2014 2010 2013 2005

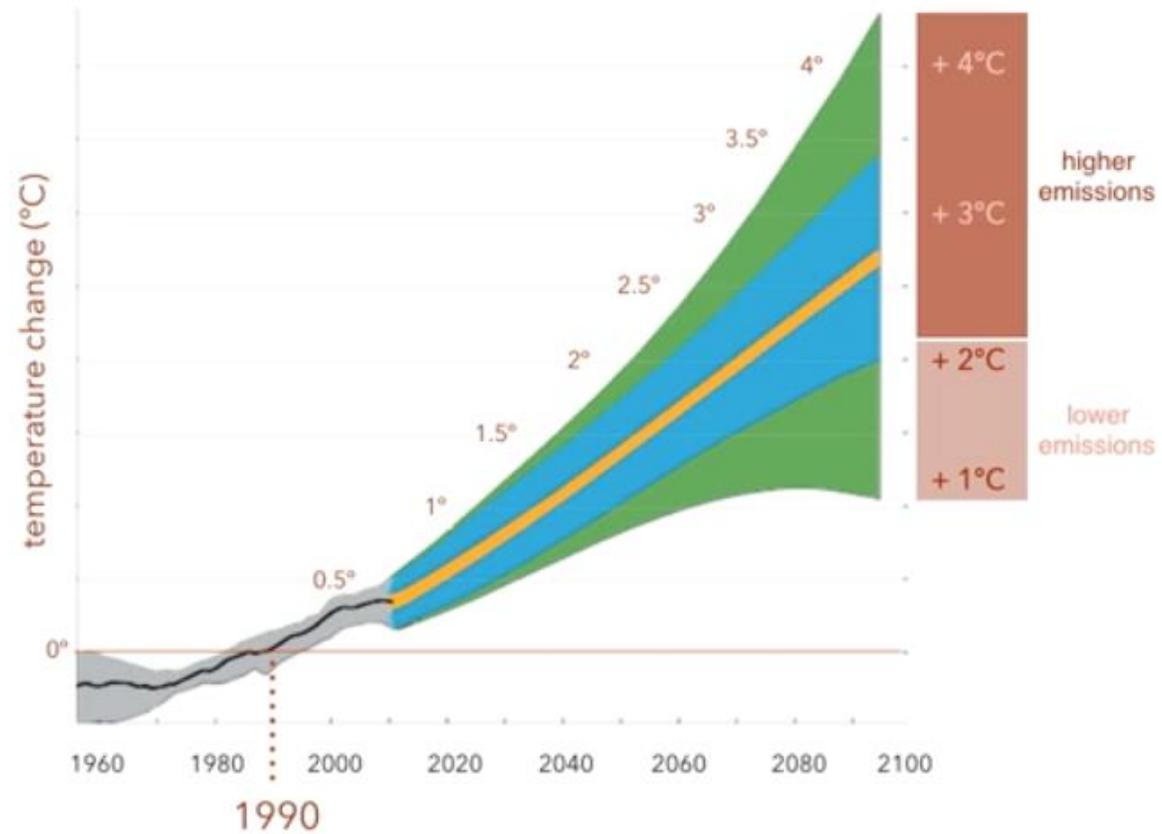
2007 2009 2012 2006 2002 2003 2011 1998 2008 2004

# Current Projections

- Even if nations keep their promises, GHG will increase 14% over next 9 years.
  - This makes it highly unlikely a global temperature rise to just 1.5 degrees C; It is more likely to rise to 2.4 – 2.7 degrees.
  - Our current path could increase global temperature by as much as 4.4 degrees Celsius.
- 
- <https://www.npr.org/2021/11/13/1055542738/cop26-climate-summit-final-decision>
  - <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/fastfacts-what-is-climate-change.pdf>

# Surface Temperature

## 21st Century Projections



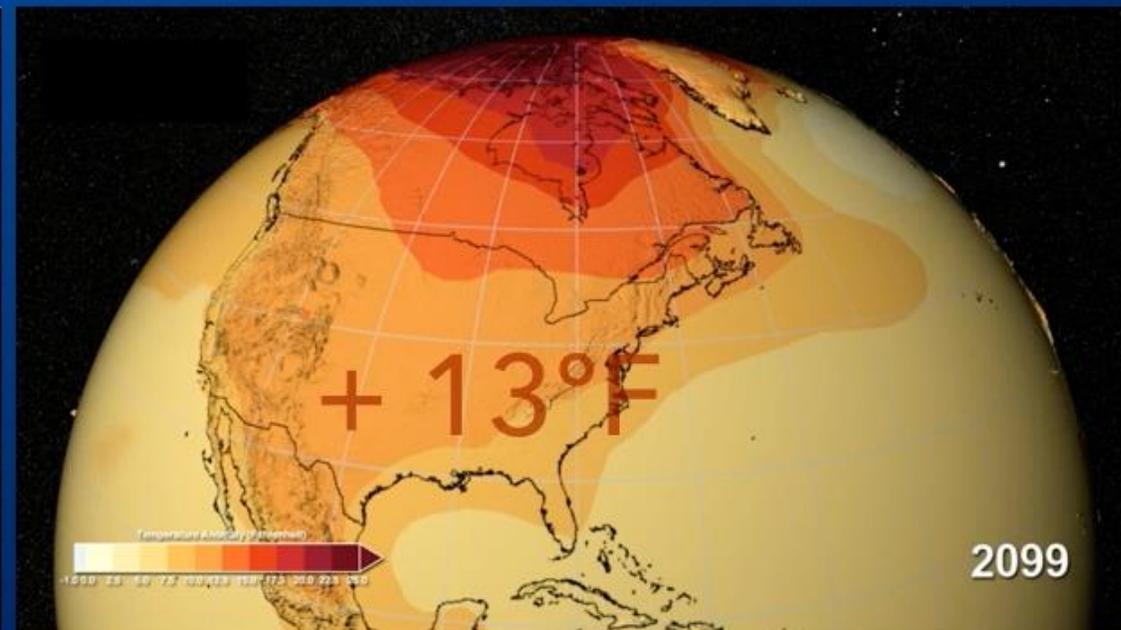
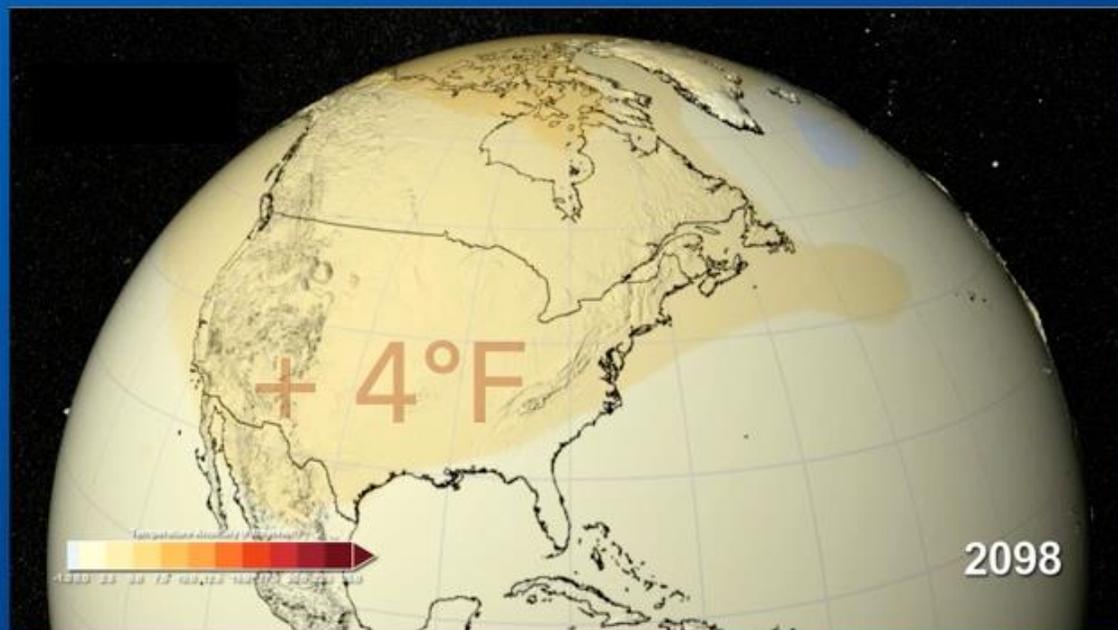
Dr. Robert Davies, [christianscaringforcreation.com/projecto-4](http://christianscaringforcreation.com/projecto-4)

SOURCE: IPCC AR5 WGI, FAQ 1.1, Fig. 1

# Temperature Change PROJECTIONS (2010-2100)

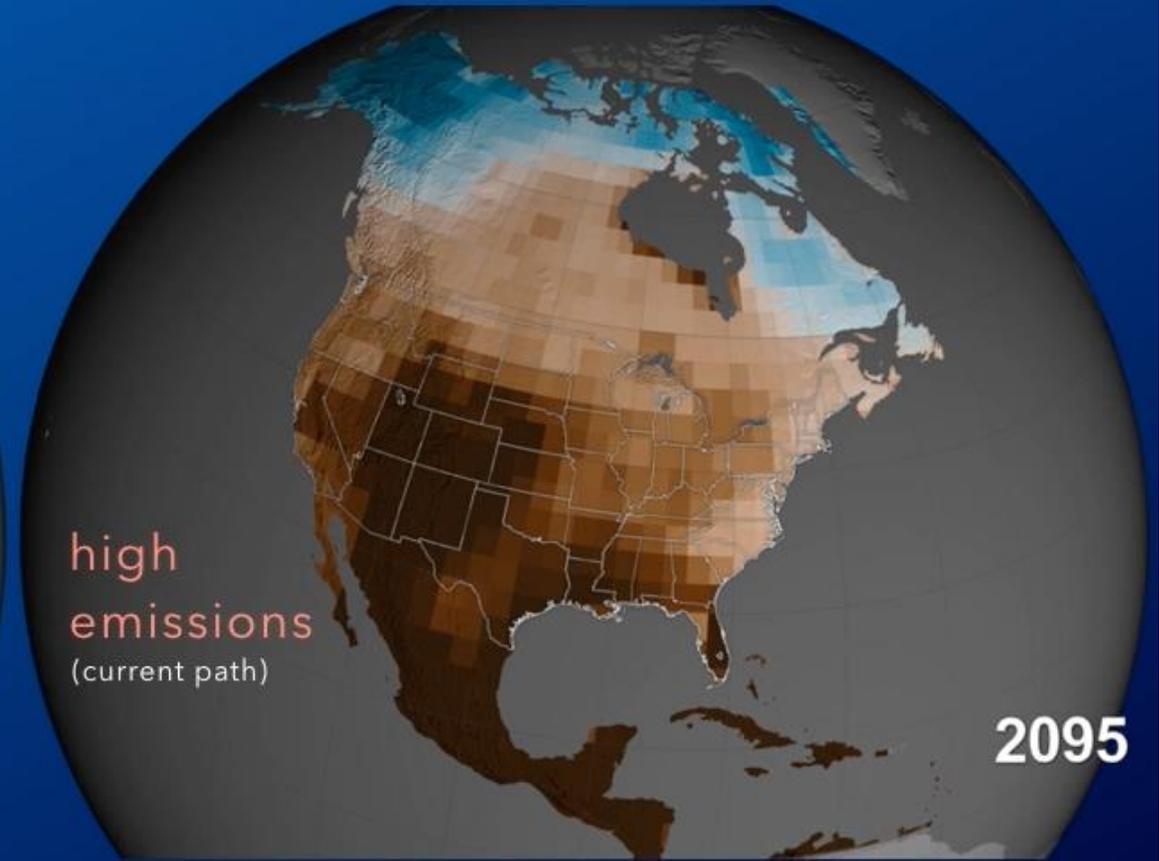
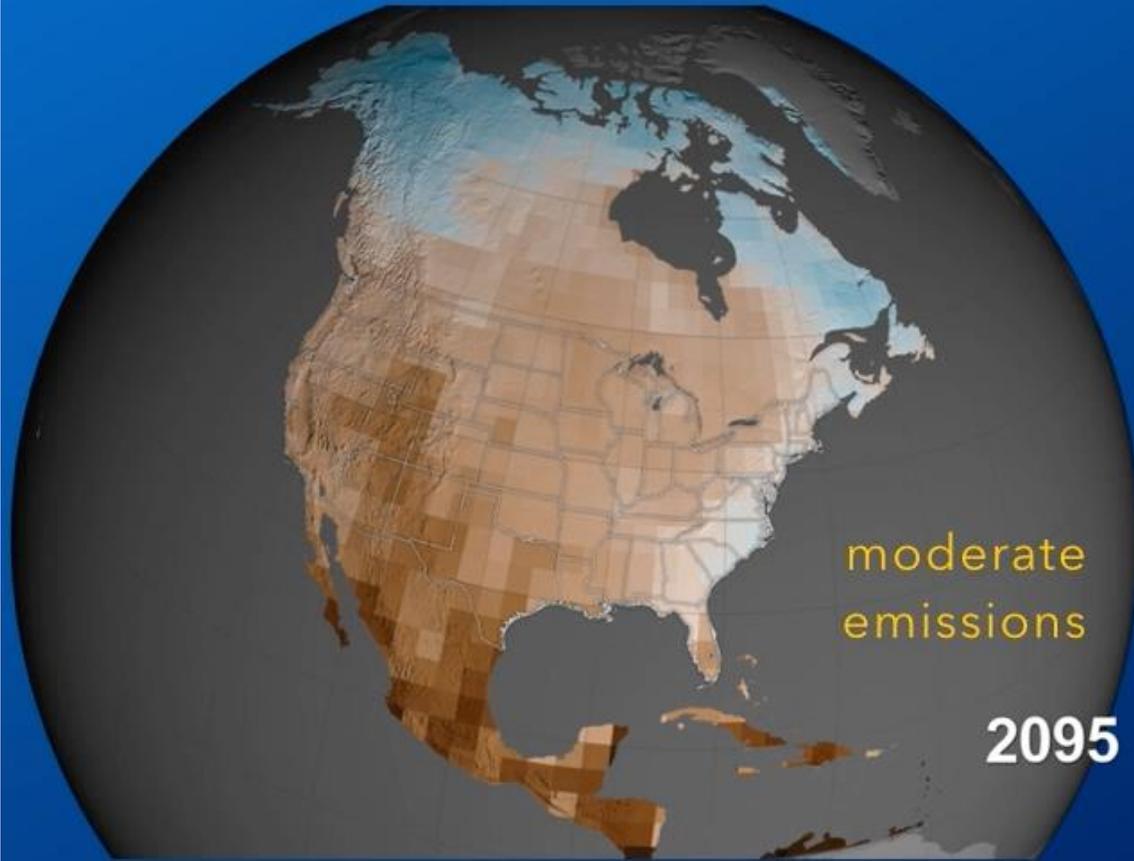
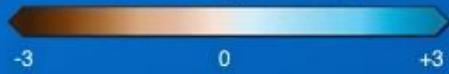
Low Carbon

High Carbon



# Soil Moisture

Soil Moisture (SM - 30 cm)



Credit: NASA Scientific Visualization Studio

[christianscaringforcreation.com/projecto-4](http://christianscaringforcreation.com/projecto-4)

# What is Needed

- Cut our greenhouse gases by 45% (or roughly half) by 2030.
- Cut them again in half again by 2040.
- Then cut them again in half again by 2050 and move toward zero carbon.
- That means reducing greenhouse gases by 6-7% per year.

\$6.0 T  
\$5.0 T  
\$4.0 T  
\$3.0 T  
\$2.0 T  
\$1.0 T  
\$0.0 T

# Global Energy Subsidies

Renewables

\$143 Billion

Fossil Fuels

\$6 Trillion

42x

Dr  
In

# Crisis

- An unstable or crucial time in which a decisive change is impending (Merriam-Webster)
- A turning point at which the trend of future events is determined, for better or for worse (Dictionary.com)

# Why Should People of Faith Respond?

In the beginning  
God created the  
Heavens and the  
Earth.



God saw everything  
made, and indeed,  
it was very good.

- Humanity (Adam) was created from earth's soil (adamah) and is part of the earth.
- God created humanity in God's image to care for the earth, as agents of God's benevolent reign.



Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) from [Pexels](#)

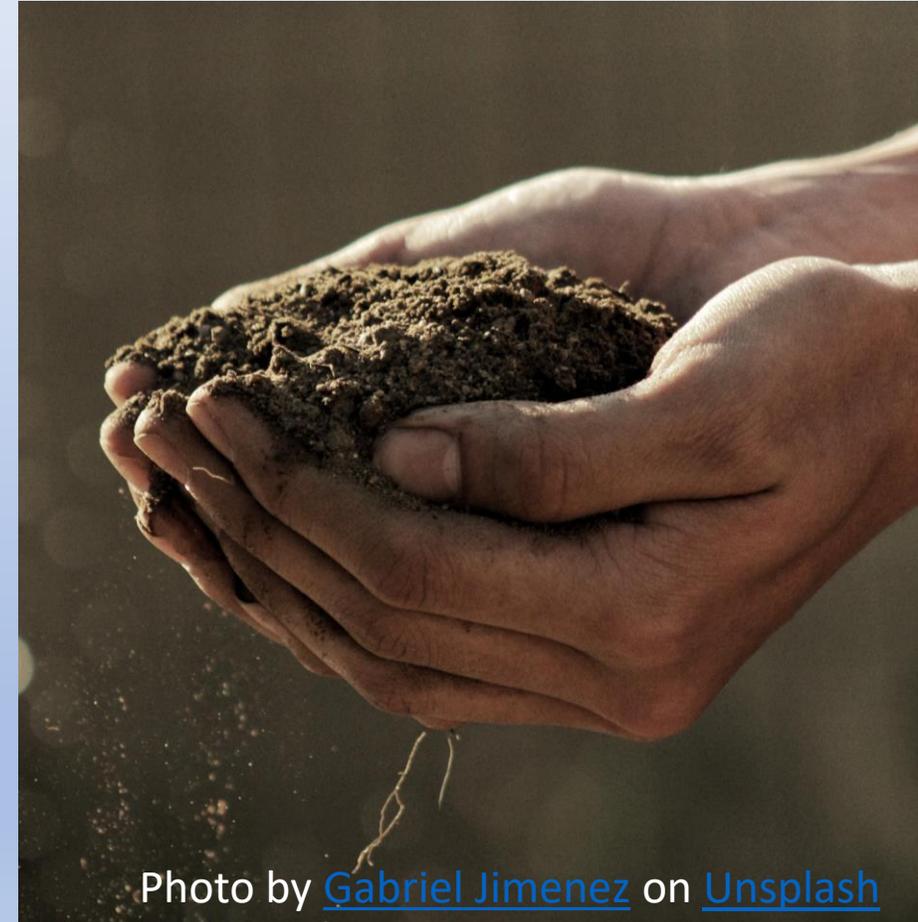
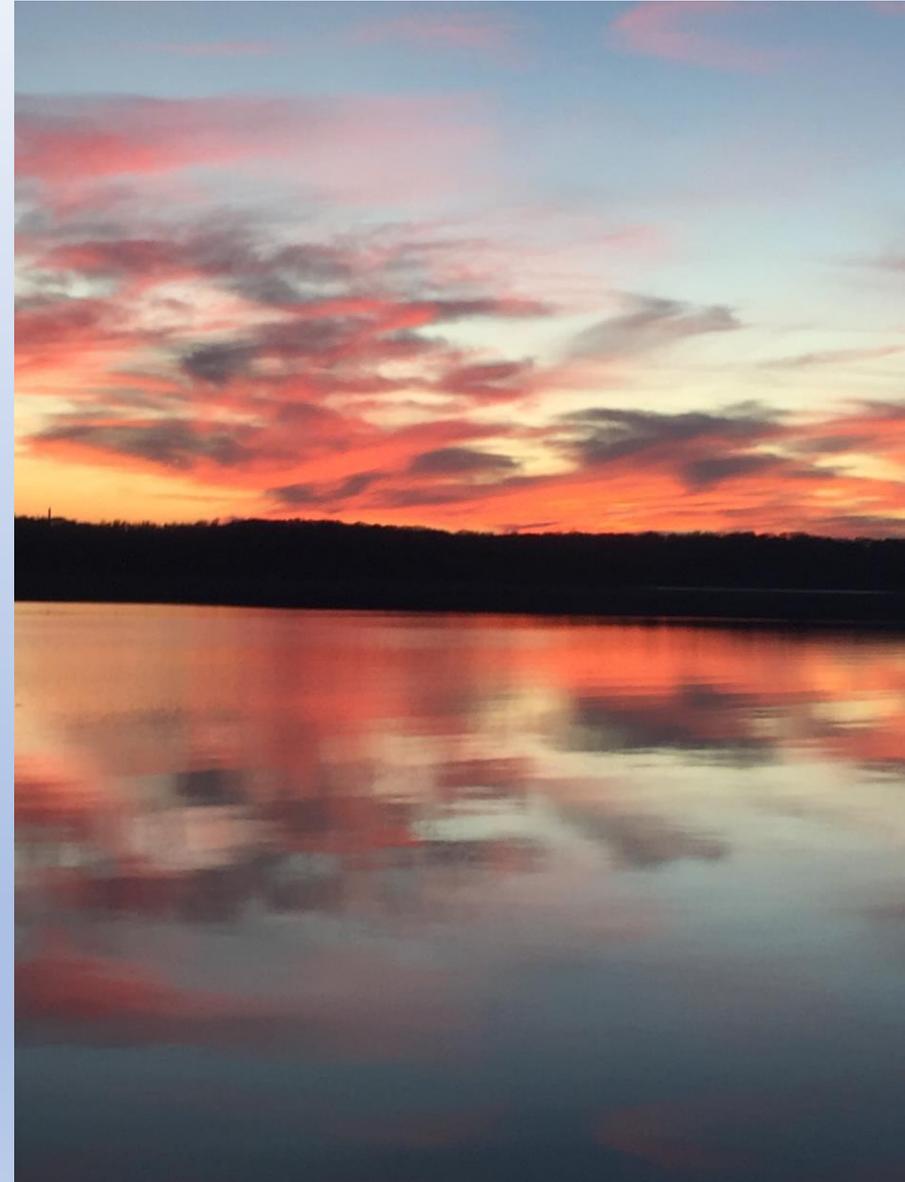


Photo by [Gabriel Jimenez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- God loves not only humans but the whole *kosmos* – the earth and all created beings.
- We experience God through nature.



Photo by [David Clode](#) on [Unsplash](#)



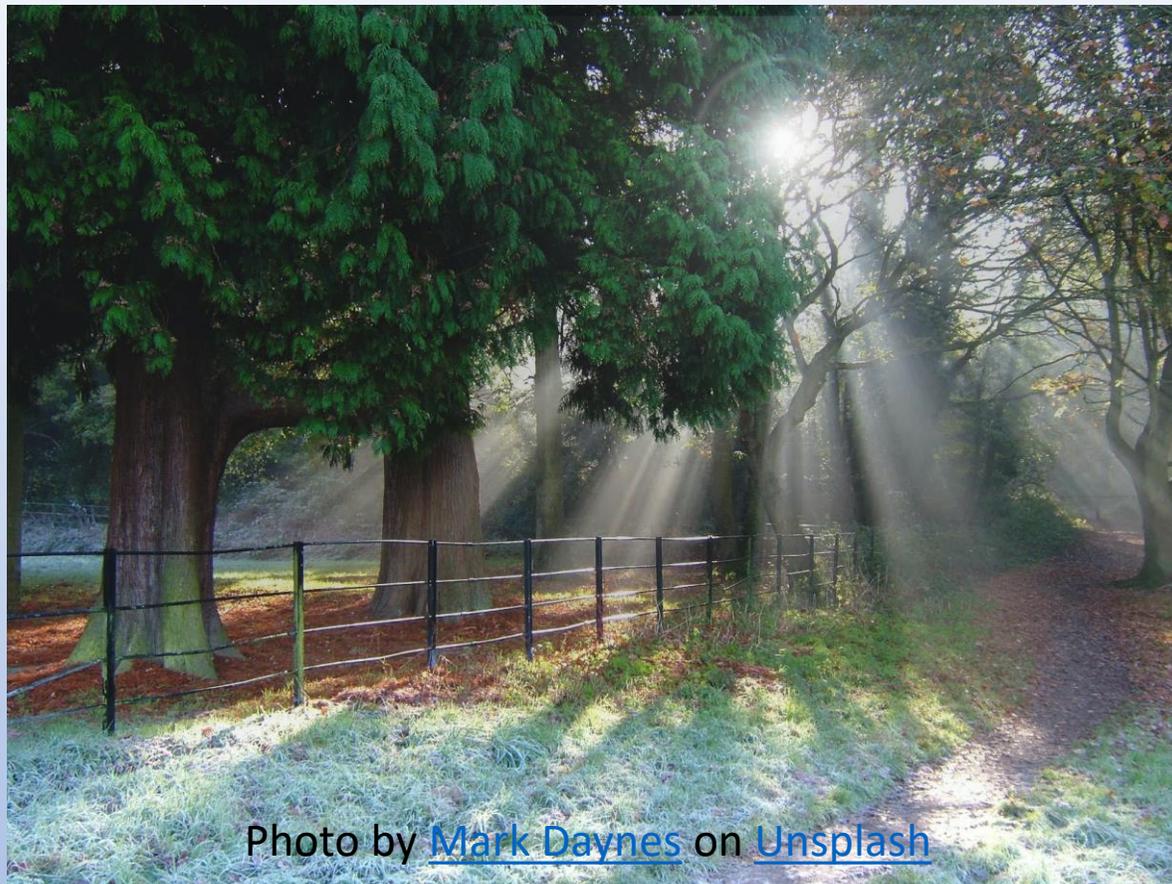


Photo by [Mark Daynes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Following Jesus in extending the reign of God today requires addressing climate change.

- Because the poor and most vulnerable suffer the most from climate change, our serving them requires climate action of their behalf.
- The climate crisis is an justice issue.



Photo by [Adrien Taylor](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [Timur Weber](#) from [Pexels](#)

- Concern for young people and future generations requires climate action.



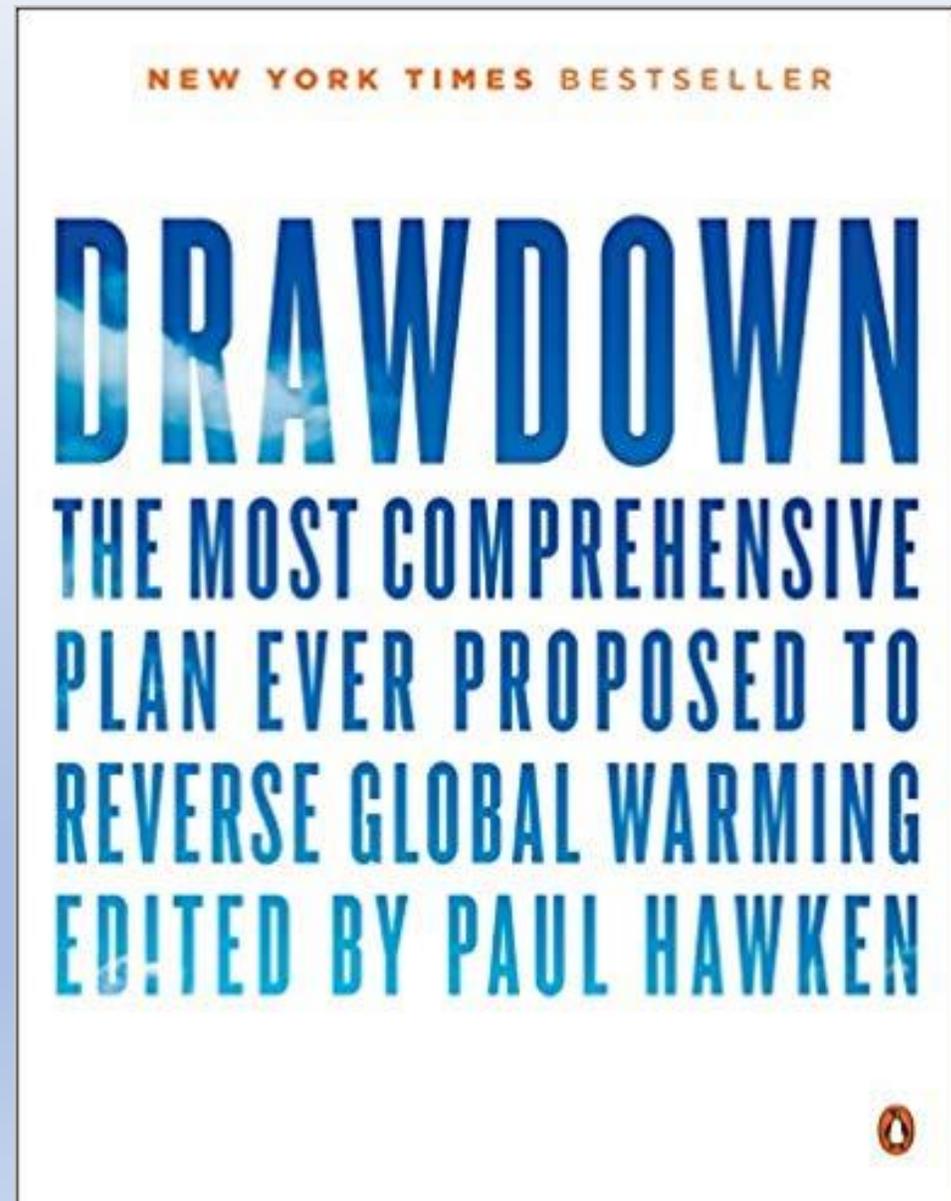
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Photo by [Callum Shaw](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# How can People of Faith Respond?

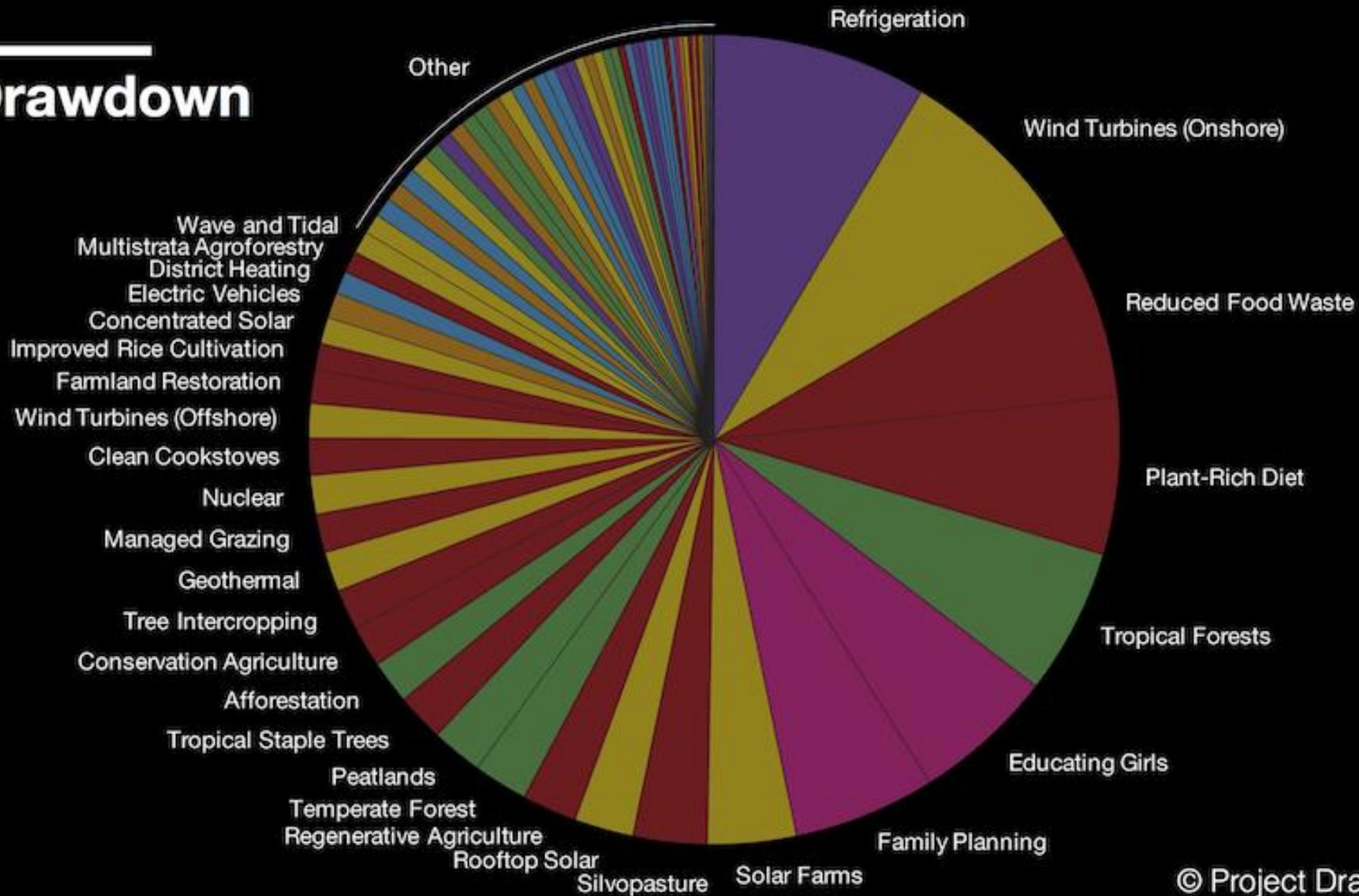
First need to understand the climate crisis  
and its solutions



# Solutions by Rank

Rank	Solution	Sector	TOTAL ATMOSPHERIC CO <sub>2</sub> -EQ REDUCTION (GT)	NET COST (BILLIONS US \$)	SAVINGS (BILLIONS US \$)
1	<b>Refrigerant Management</b>	Materials	89.74	N/A	\$-902.77
2	<b>Wind Turbines (Onshore)</b>	Electricity Generation	84.60	\$1,225.37	\$7,425.00
3	<b>Reduced Food Waste</b>	Food	70.53	N/A	N/A
4	<b>Plant-Rich Diet</b>	Food	66.11	N/A	N/A
5	<b>Tropical Forests</b>	Land Use	61.23	N/A	N/A
6	<b>Educating Girls</b>	Women and Girls	59.60	N/A	N/A
7	<b>Family Planning</b>	Women and Girls	59.60	N/A	N/A
8	<b>Solar Farms</b>	Electricity Generation	36.90	\$-80.60	\$5,023.84
9	<b>Silvopasture</b>	Food	31.19	\$41.59	\$699.37
10	<b>Rooftop Solar</b>	Electricity Generation	24.60	\$453.14	\$3,457.63

# Drawdown





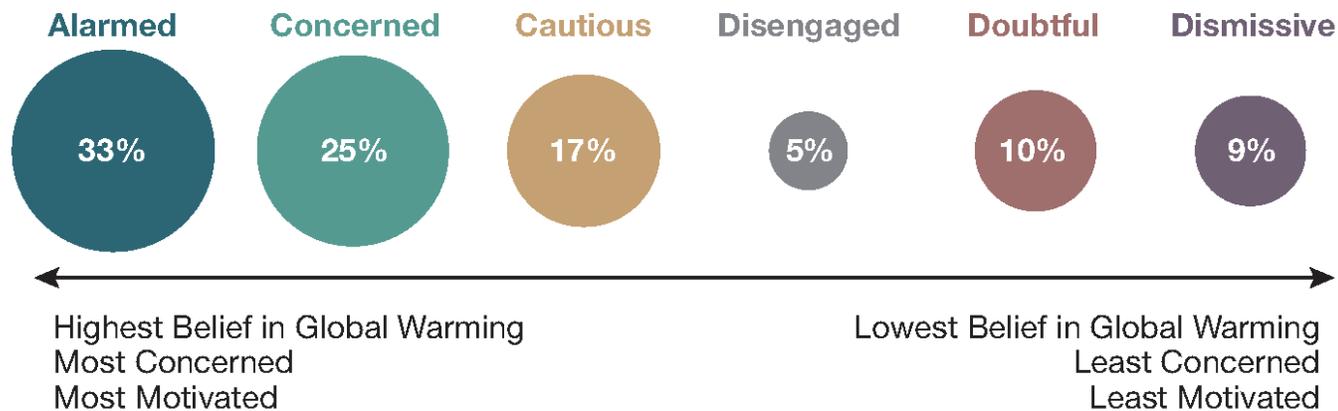
# Work with Others

- Become part of a coalition or mass movement to build political will for climate action.
- Become an active citizen.
- Work with others for changes at local, state or national levels.



# Talk with Others

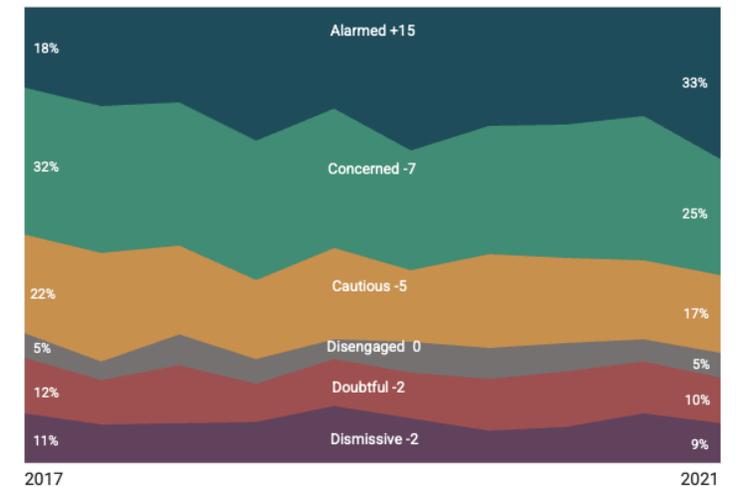
- Work within your sphere of influence to get others engaged.
- Build awareness carefully and compassionately.
- In talking with others, focus on listening, understanding their perspectives, building on common concerns, holding out hope, and offering opportunities for action.



September 2021  
(n=1,006)



### Global Warming's Six Americas: Five Year Trend



Data from 10 waves of the *Climate Change in the American Mind* national survey.  
June 2017 – September 2021. (n = 11,664).



# Congregations

- Congregational leaders need to provide teaching and leadership.
- Nurture love for nature.
- Grow to see addressing the climate crisis as an important part of the church's mission.
- Work together to decrease carbon emissions of church building and congregational activities.



*Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church in Minnesota. Photo by Matthew Cole*

# Personal Responses

- Work toward living the carbon free future now.
  - Transportation
  - Energy
  - Buying
  - Diet
  - Etc.



Care for yourself and Savor the Goodness  
of Nature and Those you Love.



# Questions

1. What do you need in order to move forward in taking action to address the climate crisis?
2. What do you need in order to help your congregation address the climate crisis?
3. How might I and the seminary be of help to you?
4. What are you or your congregation doing now to address the climate crisis?