



Climate Change

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How to Make a Difference

Christ Church Bedford, Lent Course 2024



The Anthropocene...

= the current geological age, when human activity is the dominant influence on climate and environment.

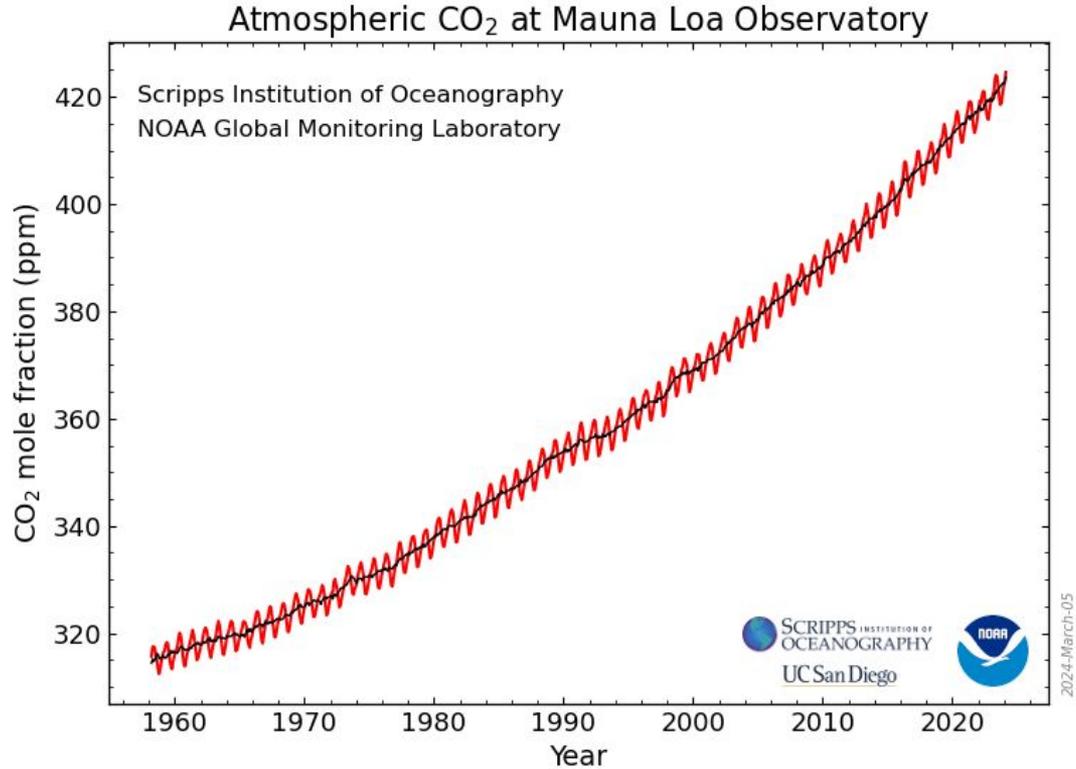
- Population growth
- Resource depletion
- Loss of biodiversity
- Waste disposal
- Climate change



Outline...

- What's happening to our climate?
- What are the consequences?
- What does the Bible say about caring for creation?
- How is the world currently addressing climate change?
- What part can we play?

Some facts and figures...



CO₂ = carbon dioxide

https://gml.noaa.gov/webdata/ccgo/trends/co2_data_mlo.png

Consequences of global warming

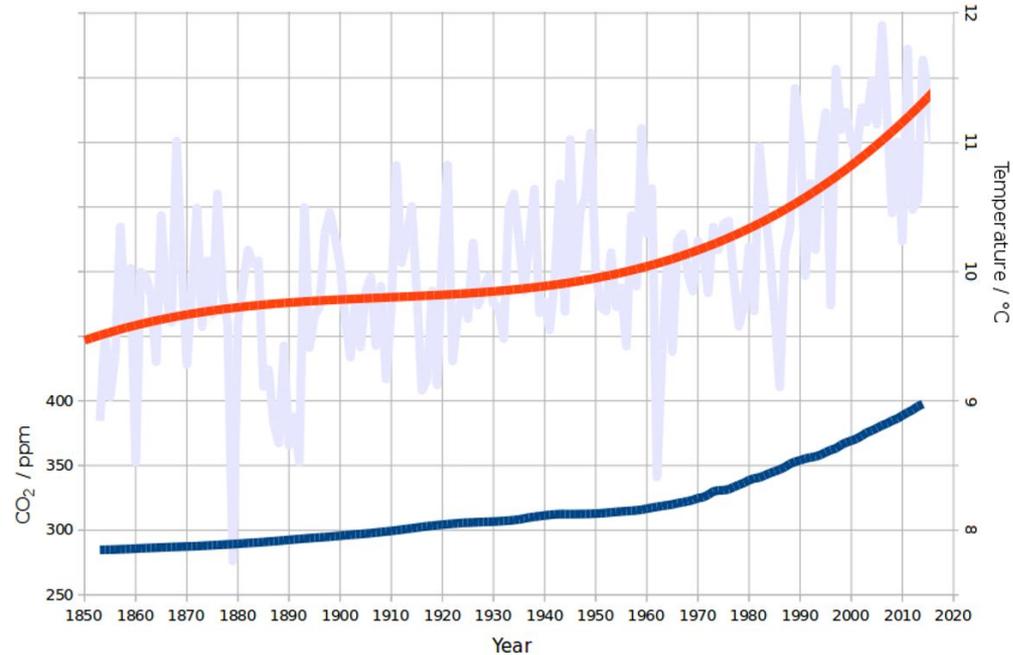


- ?More extreme weather.
- ?Rise in sea level => flooding, inundation.
- ?Loss of habitat => extinctions
- ?Others...
- Urgent, sustained action needed!

Some facts and figures...



Annual atmospheric CO₂ concentrations (compiled IAC, Switzerland)
and Oxford weather station average temperatures
1853 to 2015



Annual CO₂ / ppm
<https://www.co2.earth/historical-co2-datasets>
<https://data.iac.ethz.ch/atmos>
World Climate Research Program CMIP6

Temperature / °C
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/stationdata/oxforddata.txt>
Average of the monthly min. & max. recorded temps.

Temperature trend line / °C
(standard 3rd order polynomial fit)

CO₂ = carbon dioxide

<https://nenomacadamiatrust.org/carbon.html#graphs>



Sources of CO₂ emissions

- ?Industry
- ?Fossil fuel burning (coal, oil, gas)
- ?Air travel
- ?Car travel
- Forest reduction
- ?Others...



What does the Bible say about caring for creation?

- The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it (Psalm 24:1a)
- The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to mankind. (Psalm 115:16)

Stewards of the Earth, not rapacious plunderers.
Stewardship = managing resources according to the values, wishes and plans of their owner. Sustainability!



What does the Bible say about caring for creation?

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals...” God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.” (Genesis 1:26&28a)



What does the Bible say about caring for creation?

- What are our responsibilities to the Earth, given God plans to provide a new heaven and a new Earth when Jesus returns (Revelation 21 & 22)?
- Tom Wright, *Into the Heart of Romans*, pp128&9.
- An inaugurated eschatology! Working for it to be “on Earth as it is in heaven” now. *Now* as a foretaste of the glorious *not yet* to come.

What's the world doing about it?



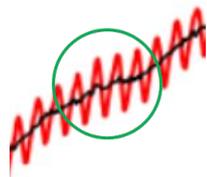
Intergovernmental
Panel on Climate
Change



 [ipcc.ch](https://www.ipcc.ch)



Renewables energy



1990 CO₂ blip

 Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Towards *Net Zero*

Research and analysis

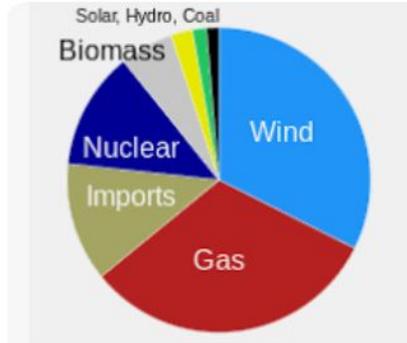
**Traded carbon values used for modelling
purposes, 2023**

Published 30 November 2023



What can we do about it?

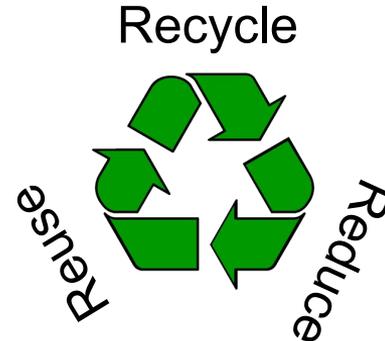
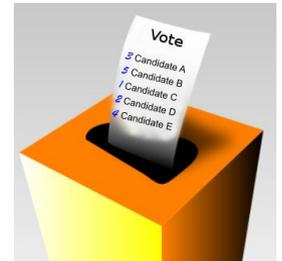
Choose energy suppliers carefully



Reduce single use plastic



At election time, consider the climate



Carbon offset our air travel & other fossil fuel emissions

TOTAL

1.62 tonnes CO₂ = £ 48.60

- Single payment
 - Monthly
 - Purchase order
- Monthly payments:
£ 4.05 x 12 = £ 48.60
- Please add me to the NMT newsletter mailing list
 - Purchase certificate as a gift

Purchase using:



You can buy certificates from the  NMT system built by Will here:

<https://nenomacadamiatrust.org/NMTCarbonCalculator.html>