

## FAST FACTS ON GLOBAL WARMING

The term "greenhouse effect" was coined by Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius in the late 19th century.

The greenhouse effect is a natural process responsible for the life-sustaining necessity of heating the earth. The "enhanced greenhouse effect" is responsible for global warming.

The United States is the world's leading emitter of carbon dioxide. While it comprises only 4-5% of world population, it produces 20-25% of carbon emissions.

Atmospheric volume of greenhouses gases has increased 70% since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

If not for the necessary volume of greenhouse gases, the Earth's surface temperature would be approximately 60 degrees Fahrenheit cooler, which could not sustain our ecosystem.

Humans add approximately 7 billion metric tons of carbon to the atmosphere annually, half of which cannot be absorbed and continues to accumulate.

Greenhouse gases from human activity is likely responsible for most of the global temperature rise over the last 50 years.

Even if we stopped emitting greenhouses gases immediately, it would take decades for the already accumulated gases to reduce and stabilize the climate.

The average global temperature has increased by 0.5 to 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.3 to 0.6 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century.

The rate of warming has greatly accelerated over the past two decades.

Ten of the hottest years on record have occurred in the past 15 years, with 2005 being the hottest year on record.

By the end of this century the average global temperature could increase 2.5 degrees to 10.5 degrees Fahrenheit (approximately 1.4 degrees to 5.8 degrees Celsius).

In the next 100 years, the average rate of increase in the Earth's surface temperature could be greater than at any time in the last 10,000 years.

Depletion of the ozone layer increases human exposure to ultra-violet rays (UV) which are known to cause skin cancers such as melanoma.