

CO2 Cause and Effect

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At this point the scientific story is so widely understood and so often told that it doesn't really need another telling. That said, it is important that everyone have some understanding because modern culture has to move into a radical change of its practices in energy production, as well as commerce and government more broadly, to avoid the accelerating damage from global climate change. This summer has been alarmingly hot, and in some places wet, as an indication of where the world is headed.

CO2 is a gas that has the effect of trapping heat in the atmosphere rather than letting it escape to space. Earth's climate is established, on a global scale, by solar heating balanced by heat (infrared) radiation back into space. By reducing the latter, CO2 causes heat to accumulate in the atmosphere, and in turn that conveys heat onto the land surface and into the ocean and ice.