

ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE...

Climate change is making the weather more severe and less predictable. In the coming years, the Southern Great Plains (TX, OK, KS) will experience **MORE HEAT, MORE DROUGHT, MORE FLOODING and MORE WILDFIRES.**

2023 was the HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD.

- 2023 included the hottest single day on record (July 6) and the hottest month on record (July).
- The past nine years have been the hottest years on record.
- A new study estimates that carbon dioxide levels have not been this high in 14 million years.
- Both global warming and natural variability have played a role in breaking the records.

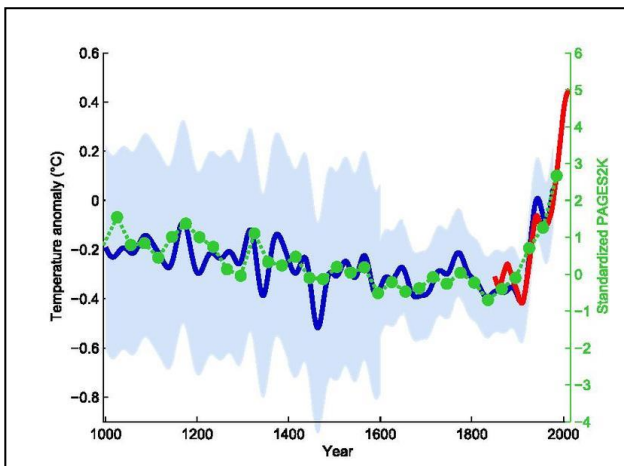
Carbon dioxide traps heat, like a puffy coat



Humans have increased the amount of CO₂ in our atmosphere by 50% since 1750.

We've made Earth's insulating "puffy coat" thicker than it's been in millions of years. As a result, **our climate is warming rapidly.**

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Texans believe that human-caused climate change is both REAL and THREATENING.

- 72% believe global warming is happening
- 64% are worried about global warming
- 63% believe developing clean energy should be a priority for government officials
- 56% believe that global warming is mostly caused by human activities

UNDER PRESIDENT BIDEN

President Biden has tackled the climate crisis like no other U.S. president before him. On his first day in office, he re-committed the U.S. to the global fight against climate change by rejoining the *Paris Agreement*.

Following the COVID pandemic, Democrats passed historic climate-smart economic stimulus laws – *the Inflation Reduction Act* and *the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

- *The Inflation Reduction Act* makes the largest investment in climate action in the country's history.
- These two laws will give a huge boost to clean technologies (such as solar panels, heat pumps, induction stoves, and electric vehicles) by offering major tax credits and other incentives to individuals and businesses that make or use clean energy projects.
- In 2023, because Democrats passed the *Inflation Reduction Act*, U.S. climate pollution fell by 2-3% compared to prior years. Climate pollution is now 18-19% below 2005 levels despite significant economic growth since then.

Super-pollutants like methane (a primary ingredient in natural gas) are emitted in smaller quantities than carbon dioxide, but pound-for-pound trap much more heat. In fact, methane is more than 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Cutting methane emissions is the fastest way to slow global warming.

- In November 2022, the Biden administration released an updated *Methane Action Plan* which includes 50 specific measures backed by \$20 Billion in funding from the Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and annual appropriations.
- In 2021, at COP 26, Biden signed on to the Global Methane Pledge along with 155 other countries. The pledge will reduce methane by 30% by 2030.
- Biden created the first-ever National Climate Task Force, with more than 25 Cabinet-level leaders working together on ground-breaking goals such as reducing U.S. greenhouse emissions by at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2035.

UNDER REPUBLICANS

Coal is the dirtiest of all fossil fuels and burning it for energy is the single-largest source of global temperature rise. Republicans nonetheless:

- gave a boost to the fossil fuel industry, especially the coal sector, by opening up unprecedented expanses of public land to mining, and
- used the power of the state (i.e., federal government intervention) to try to force utility companies to keep burning coal even when other power sources were cheaper. These added costs are passed along to the consumers.

Republicans repealed the *Clean Power Plan*, the landmark policy meant to reduce emissions from power plants. They replaced it with the ACE rule, which would allow an increase in carbon emissions and keep dirty coal plants running longer.

- This is how a former EPA Administrator described the Republican's ACE rule: *"I believe this is the first rule in EPA's history that acknowledges the existential threat of climate change but by the agency's own admission does absolutely nothing to stop it."*

Many Republican legislatures (including Texas') are trying to punish banks and other companies seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by denying them government contracts.

Republican lawmakers have tried, unsuccessfully, to repeal much of the *Inflation Reduction Act*, including tax credits for such things as purchasing electric cars.

IF TRUMP IS REELECTED

- Trump and his advisers have promised to quash crucial environmental regulations and boost the planet-heating fossil fuel sector. Those plans include systemically dismantling the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal body with the most power to take on the climate emergency.
- A second Trump administration would foster closer relationships with the fossil fuel industry – a sector scientists say must be phased out to avert climate catastrophe – and would cut programs focused on justice and outreach that are not *"part of the core function or don't deliver on the core mission."*
- Trump would also seek to throw out important clean air regulations. A 2023 proposal to tighten carbon pollution standards for U.S. coal and gas-fired power plants would be reevaluated for the purpose of rescinding it. So would a 2023 proposal to increase fuel efficiency requirements for new vehicles. Trump has repeatedly vowed to repeal Biden's "insane electric vehicle mandate."

"We've already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis. We can't wait any longer. We see it with our own eyes, we feel it. We know it in our bones. And it's time to act."

President Joe Biden