

WHAT THE CO₂?

CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) IS IS THE FOURTH MOST-ABUNDANT GAS IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE:

- WE BREATHE OUT CARBON DIOXIDE
- PLANTS USE IT TO GROW!
- CO₂ HAS THOUSANDS OF USES - IT PUTS THE BUBBLES IN OUR BEVERAGES!

SO, WHATS THE PROBLEM?

CO₂ LEVELS IN OUR ATMOSPHERE ARE HIGHER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN FOR OVER 800,000 YEARS AND ARE CLIMBING RAPIDLY.

Atmospheric CO₂ levels are currently at nearly 412 parts per million (ppm) and rising (47% more than at the beginning of the Industrial Age and an 11% more than in 2000).

Once added to the atmosphere, CO₂ hangs around, for a long time:

- About 50% of a CO₂ increase will be removed from the atmosphere within 30 years
- The next 30% will be removed within a few centuries
- The remaining 20% may stay in the atmosphere for many thousands of years!

Carbon dioxide is trapping heat in our atmosphere amplifying the heating of the planet. This is speeding up melting of ice caps, raising sea levels and species are shifting to find more suitable habitats!

CO₂ dissolves in water to form carbonic acid. Our coral reefs and other animals are finding it harder to form their skeletons/shells due to ocean acidification.

Where does CO₂ come from?

The top four sources are: Coal, Oil, Gas and Cement.

Land clearing is also a major cause of increasing emissions as it reduces the ability for CO₂ to be stored in our environment.

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