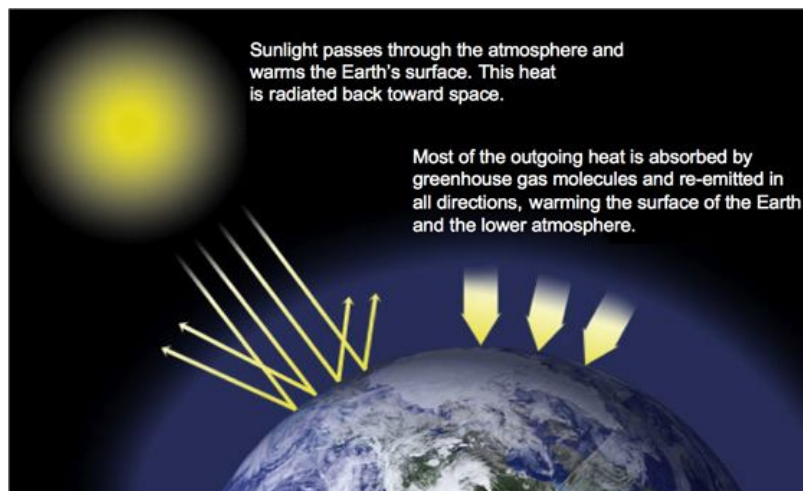


Climate Change: How It Is Affecting Our World

Climate change has disrupted the balance of our ecosystems. This huge issue is happening all over the world because of increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This throws off the balance of heat distribution. The warmth from the sun is vital for life on Earth, and once it has warmed the earth, the extra heat is rebounded back into space. Humans are creating greenhouse gases by burning fossil fuels to make energy, and these gases are disrupting the natural heat cycle. The greenhouse gas molecules are absorbing the rebounding heat and re-emitting it back to Earth in all different directions. This results in more heat being trapped in the atmosphere which leads to the warming of our Earth. All the carbon being stored in rocks, trees, soil, the ocean, and even in humans is being released by burning fossil fuels and cutting down trees. There is now 42% more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today than during the Industrial Revolution. All this carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases has created an atmospheric blanket that is trapping heat. This issue should no longer be questioned whether it exists, but rather how to fix it.



Picture acquired from <https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/>

Climate change is affecting Earth at a phenomenal rate. For instance, it has caused extreme weather events to occur, such as an increased number of natural disasters. As well, the many transformations in the climate are changing the habitats of where animals can survive best. Therefore, many animals are becoming endangered due to habitat loss. In British Columbia there has been many appalling changes. Wildfires are occurring more often due to the more frequent and severe heat waves and elongated drought seasons. The warmer temperatures are melting the polar ice and glaciers, causing all BC's local lakes and rivers to lose their ice much earlier in the spring. This includes our very own Fraser river becoming much warmer. Consequently, the sea levels are rising and our drinking water is decreasing in quality and quantity. As well, the annual temperature is warming and the annual precipitation levels are rising. Most terrifying of all, infectious diseases are shifting, affecting human health, agriculture, and the health of ecosystems. This means that many of our cures will now be rendered useless as the diseases are changing at a rate faster than we can supply the cure. Climate change is a terrifying issue that can no longer be ignored.

