

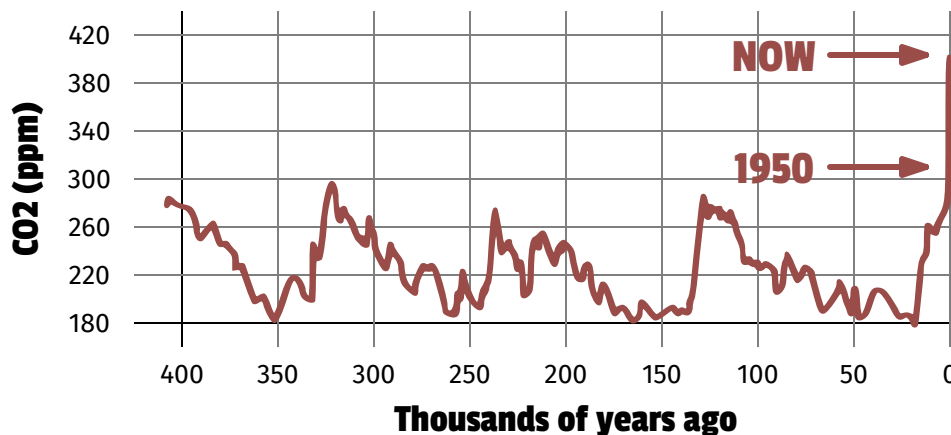


EARTH STRIKE

THE CAUSE

This leaves us with greenhouse gas levels, which have also risen and fallen historically in less predictable ways. Carbon dioxide, being the product of animal respiration, is the most common of these, and a graph of its prevalence in the atmosphere over time is shown below. Despite the graph's erratic, spiky nature, one big spike in particular might stand out to you.

Prevalence of Carbon Dioxide in the Atmosphere



Data source: Nature.com | <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature06949>

In short, while all three of these factors – insolation, particulates, and greenhouse gases – can contribute to changes in Earth's temperature over time, the most significant and pressing factor in our current period of warming is the accumulation of man-made carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere. We must change our habits dramatically if we are to reverse this warming trend.