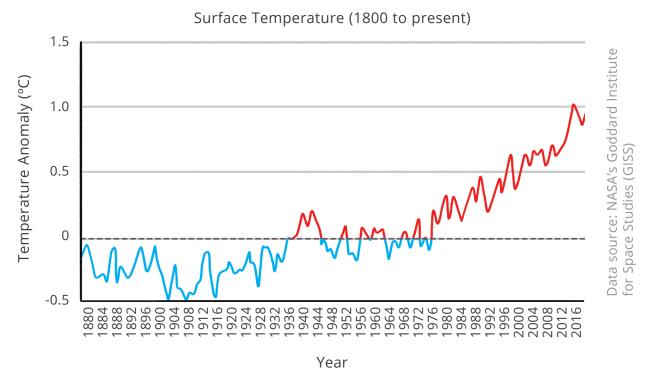


Evidence for Climate Change: Global Temperature Data **Fact Sheet**

Global temperature data is based on satellite readings and thousands of ground weather stations. NASA suggests that the average global temperatures have risen by 0.6°C since 1950 and 0.85°C since 1880.

Figure 1: Global surface temperature data from 1800 to the present.



The Central England Temperature (CET) is a succession of average temperatures typical of a central area of the United Kingdom. The once-a-month sequence started in 1659 and daily statistics were added from 1772 to the present day. The CET is the longest existing data record of temperature in the world.

Scientists Develop Lists to Show the Hottest and Coldest Years

- The year 2020 is tied with 2016 for the hottest year on record since record-keeping began in 1880 (source: NASA/GISS).
- Nineteen of the hottest years have occurred since 2000.

How Reliable is Temperature Data?

The global temperature data readings have improved over time, and as more thermometers are used, the data becomes more reliable. The main issue with using only data from global temperature data is that this information has only been available since relatively recent times. Measurements (particularly early ones) may not be as consistent or widespread as data from more recent years.