Consequences of Warming

Human activity has added about 2,040 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere since 1750. In response, the planet is warming. Change is already visible. Severe droughts, storms and heat waves are becoming more common. Global sea level is rising as the ocean warms and ice sheets melt, leading to more coastal floods. Climate is changing, and we are seeing the consequences.

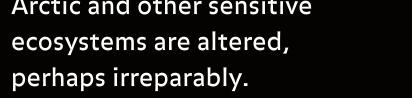
How Do Impacts Progress?

Some consequences of climate change are visible now, and more are developing over time and as warming increases. Without major CO₂ reductions, rising temperatures may trigger severe impacts. What could this mean over the next 100 years?

Record-breaking heat is becoming more frequent p and extreme.

NOW TO SOON—

Arctic and other sensitive



Vulnerable species could migrate or go extinct in greater numbers, disrupting ecosystems worldwide.

OVER THE NEXT

FEW DECADES

BEFORE AND AFTER

SLIDE to see changes over time

PRESS for next location



Extreme weather events

p were in the early 1900s.

are more frequent than they

The future is uncertain.

But the risk of catastrophe becomes greater as CO_2 emissions continue.

Sea-level rise could displace millions of people in the second half of the century.

inall of the century.

Food and water shortages could set the stage for political instability.

OVER THE NEXT
50-100 YEARS

Droughts, floods and forest fires may reduce global food and water supplies.

Warming of 3°C (5.4°F)

or more could bring severe, widespread consequences.

2001

Average global temperature in 2001 was 0.4°C (0.7°F) above the 1901–2000 baseline.

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