

A Climate Counternarrative

“The Science” is Wrong: It’s Soil, Not Oil

Denis de Bernardy <ddebernardy@proton.me>

Denis de Bernardy

Appalled Environmentalist

- Engineer triggered by dubious climate science and solutions
- Agroecology, permaculture
- Author of A Natural Language:
 - Environmental big lies
 - Carbon accounting chicanery
 - Solutions to actual problems

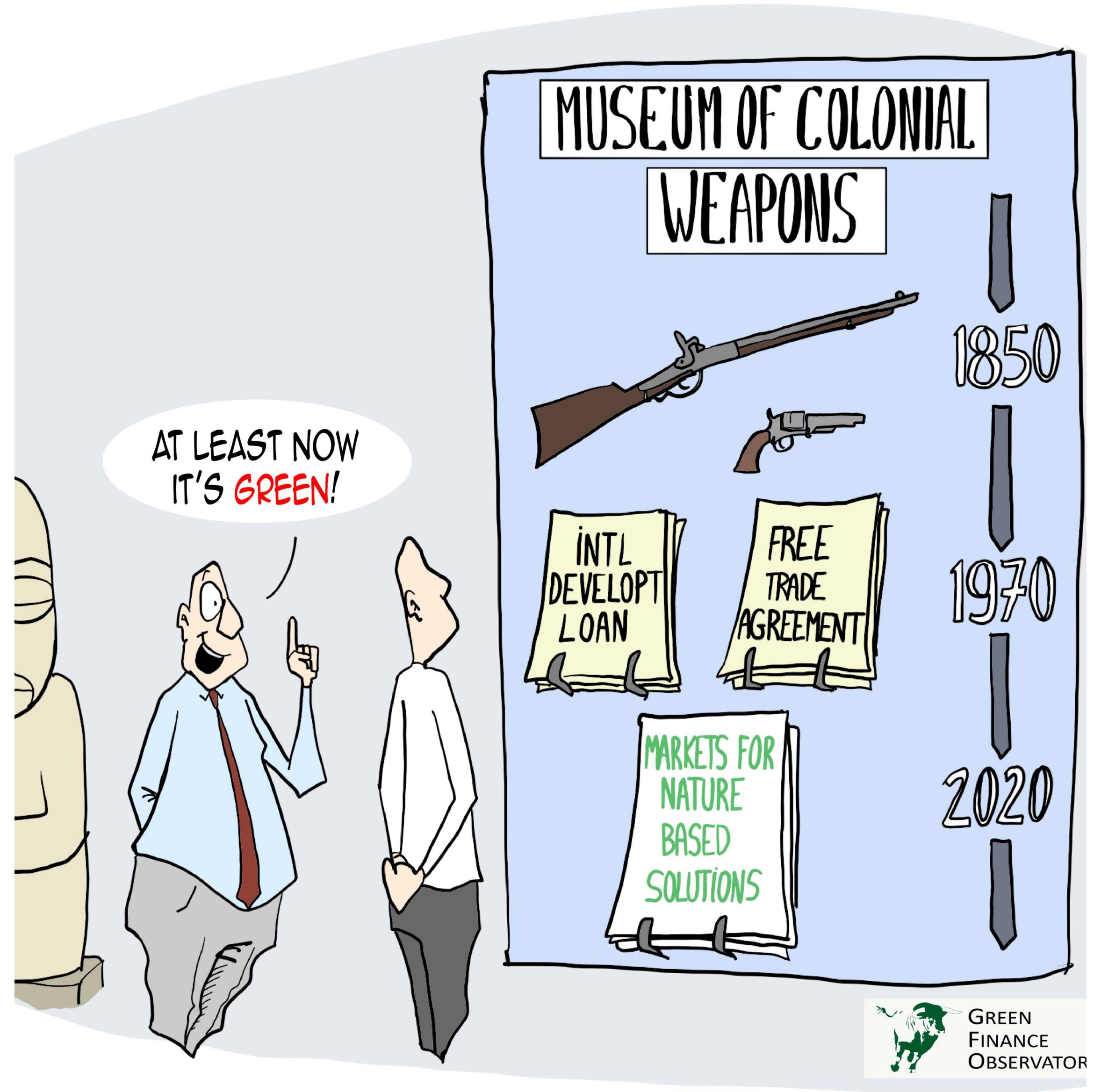


Environmental Big Lies

Climate “Solutions”

Green Imperialism

- Green tech: military-driven mining
- Carbon allowances (caps), taxes, and offsets: control infrastructure
- Carbon capture and storage:
 - Subsidies for fossil fuel giants and tree plantation operators
 - Land grabs by conservancies
- Geo-engineering: weather warfare

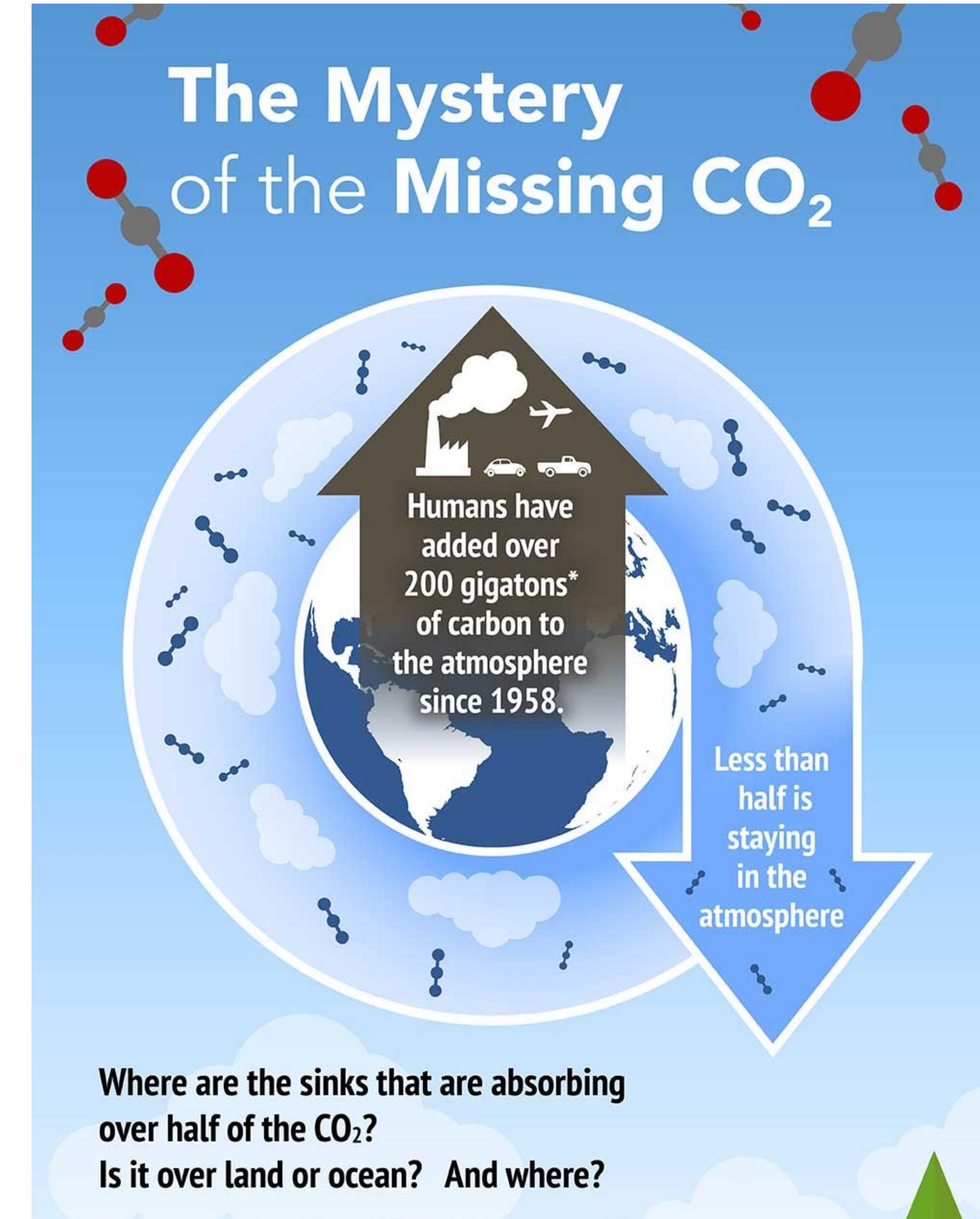


Credit: [Green Finance Observatory](#)

Climate “Science”

A Manufactured Consensus

- Doctored research that ignores:
 - Solar and cloud impacts
 - Geological impacts
 - Land stewardship impacts
- Malthusian and religious twists:
 - Ecological overshoot
 - Nature worshipping



Credit: [NASA OCO-3 mission / science](#)

“The Science” is so bad it doesn’t even get the CO₂ attribution right.

Canopy Loss

Biomass Energy

The Giveaway

- Reviled by just about everyone
- Logging produces biogenic CO₂ emissions that get reported as land-use emissions (i.e. zero)
- To avoid double counting, no CO₂ gets reported for burning forestry waste as energy
- Lavish **green subsidies** (Drax, biomass co-firing in Korea)



The CO₂ tied to burning forestry waste is the tip of the iceberg.

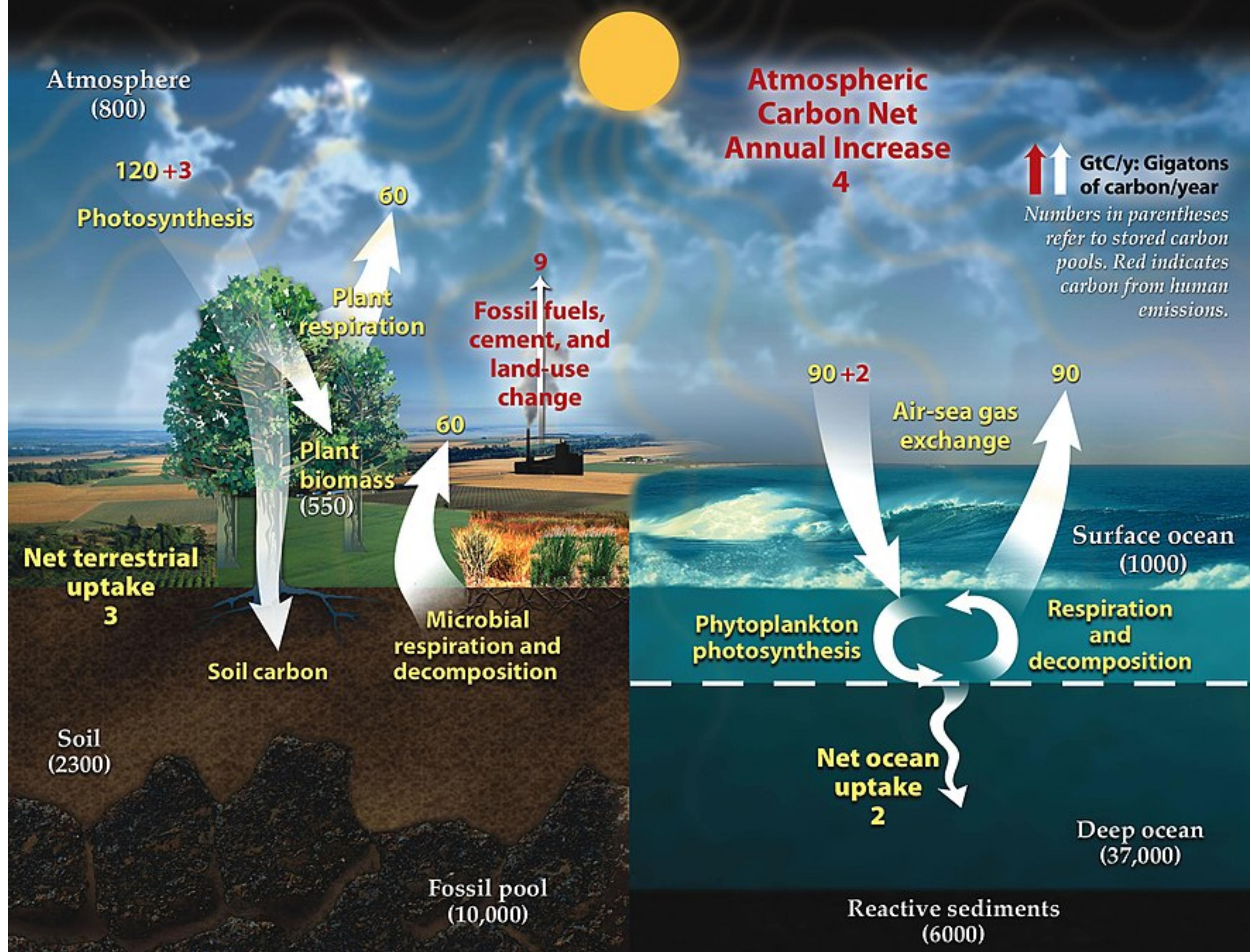
Forest Clear-Cuts

Avoidable Plumes of CO₂

- Plume of CO₂ when you clear a forest (Korkiakoski et al, 2019)
- Continues until the canopy is mature enough to soak it up
- No plume when you thin a forest instead (Vesala et al, 2015)
- Trees keep the fungi alive, break the wind, and **soak up the CO₂** emitted beneath the canopy



Carbon cycle research, charts,
and visualizations distract from
these surface level interactions.



Canopy Loss

What Actually Changed

- Loggers switched to clear-cutting
- Farmers removed hedgerows:
 - Fewer, larger landowners
 - Industrialized farming
- Other canopy-related changes:
 - US Midwest, Great Steppes
 - Deforestation, dead waters (?)



Avoidable Plumes

Keep Plants in the Ground

- **Simple and profitable** to curb:
 - Forest thinning, mosaic system
 - Alley cropping, intercropping
 - Sylvopasture, rotational grazing
- Short-cycle coppicing for biomass would keep crop yield impacts low
- Would also solve biodiversity loss (roadsides, “re-wilded” gardens)



**Open question: best approaches
to use the inevitable CO₂ plumes?**

Carbon Accounting Chicanery

Forestry Models

Designed in Good Faith

- Transition matrixes move carbon stocks from one discrete state to the next
- Sound choice, since continuous tracking would be impractical
- That tracks the net contribution of these avoidable plumes
- These avoidable plumes thereby go **uncounted and unreported**



Credit: [Andreas Pommer for the European Forest Institute](#)

The numbers reported under Land Use 4.A.1 “Forest land remaining forest land” are based on models.

Carbon Accounting

Contrived By Financiers

- Works like a financial statement
- Cherrypicked emission sources get vilified as reducible expenses
- Carbon stocks are more like balance sheet entries:
 - Tracked as stock changes
 - Keeps internal emissions out of view (and out of scrutiny)



Makes sense if and only if the avoidable emissions hidden in stocks are negligible.

Soil Emissions

Logging Emissions

Anything But Negligible

- A few kg of CO₂ per sq. meter
(Korkiakoski et al, 2019)
- About 10 tons per acre
- Loggers clear over 60 million acres per year
- A German economy or so worth of avoidable CO₂ emissions
- Kicker: Reduced-Impact Logging



**Loggers stand to pocket carbon
offsets to curb these plumes.**

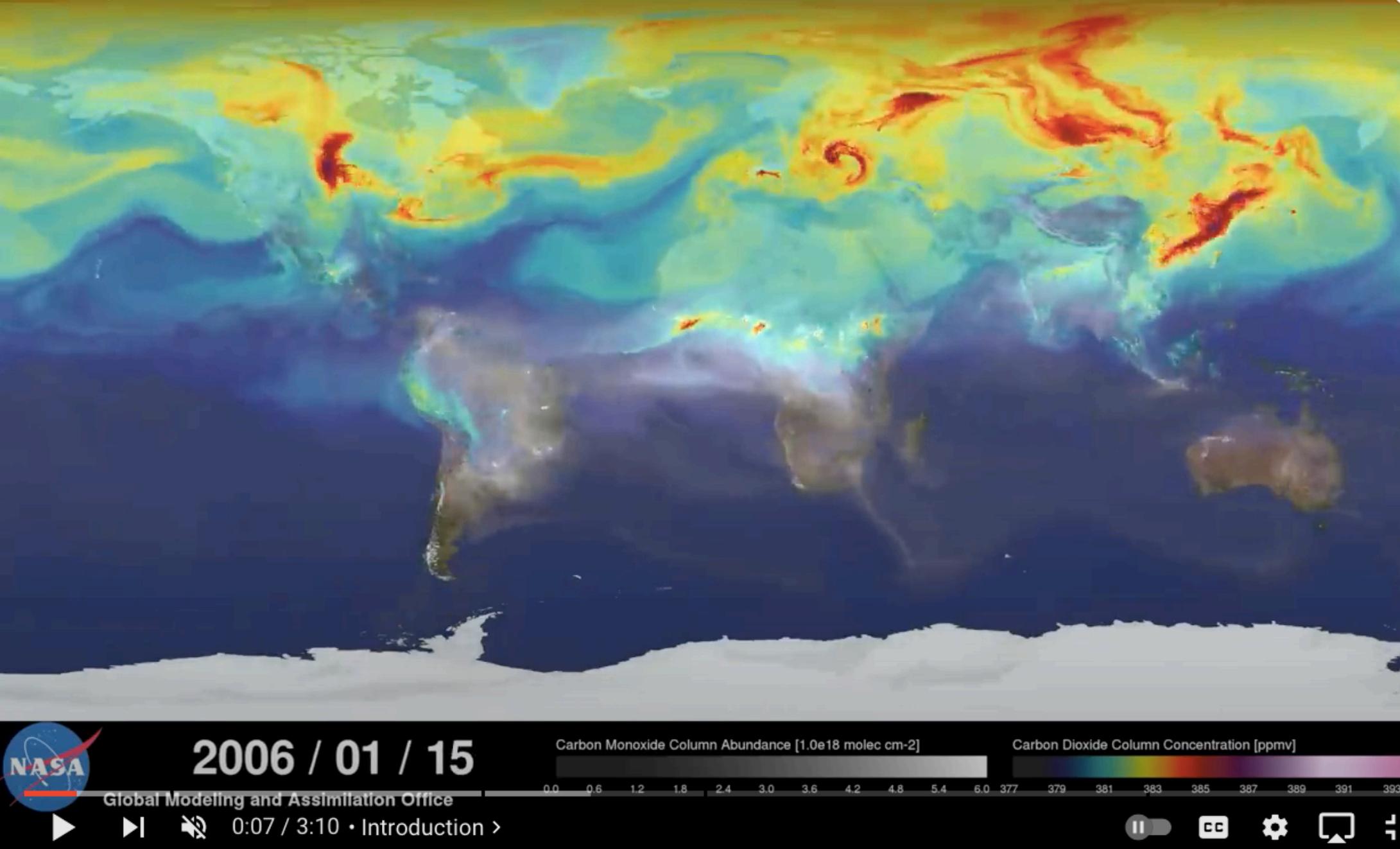
Farming Emissions

The Elephant in the Room

- Vary widely (Abdalla et al, 2016)
- Localized: a few grams (no-till) to dozens of grams (till) of CO₂ per sq. meter in 5h (Reicosky, 1997)
- About 25kg (no-till) or 100-400kg (till) of CO₂ per acre
- 340 million acres of farmlands under temporary crops in the US alone (~8.5Gt of no-till CO₂)



You can tell when farmers are tilling,
harvesting, or using fire to clear fields.



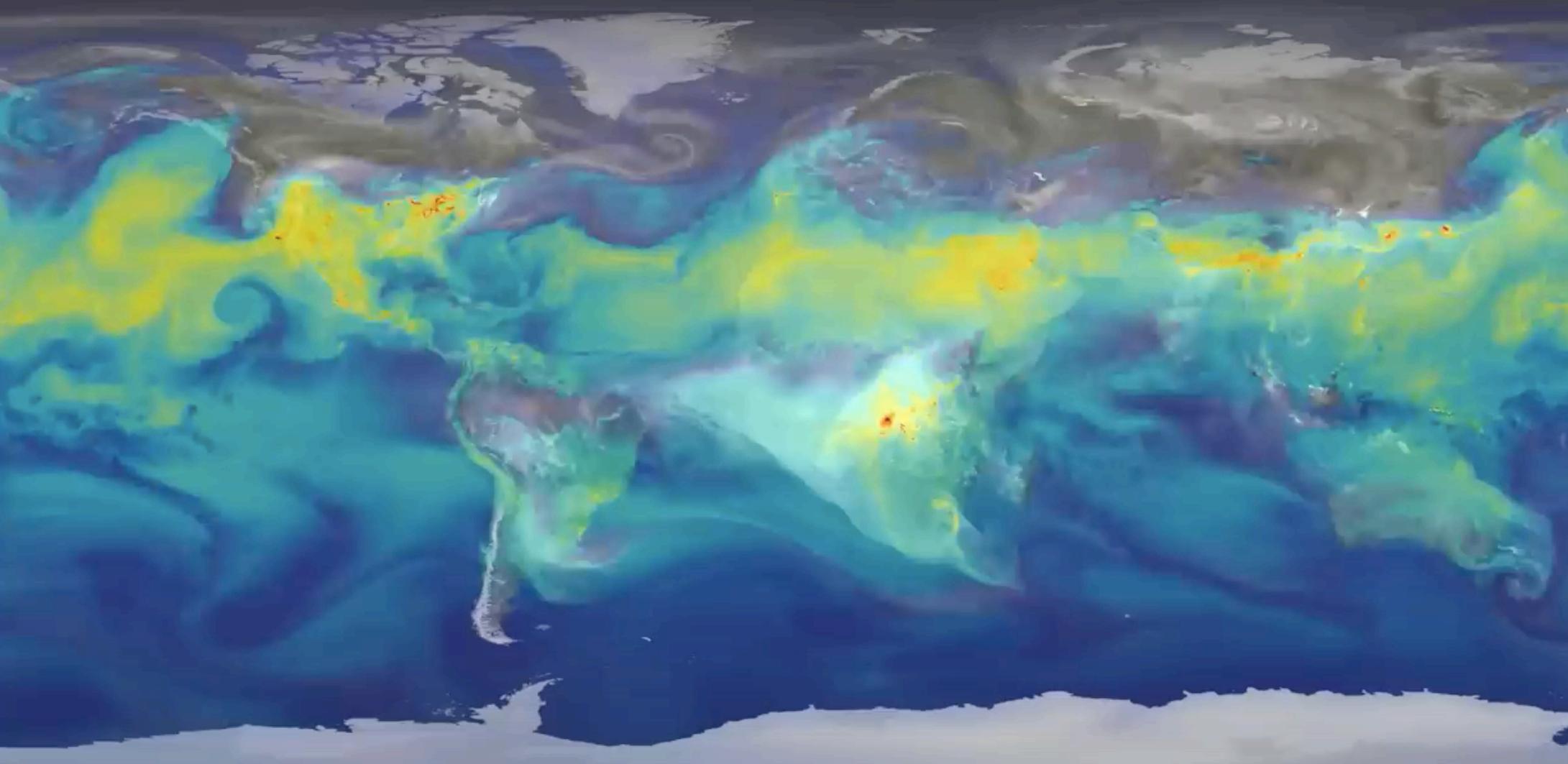
2006 / 01 / 15

Carbon Monoxide Column Abundance [1.0e18 molec cm⁻²] Carbon Dioxide Column Concentration [ppmv]

0.0	0.6	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.2	4.8	5.4	6.0
377	379	381	383	385	387	389	391	393	395	

Global Modeling and Assimilation Office

▶ ▶ 🔍 0:07 / 3:10 • Introduction >



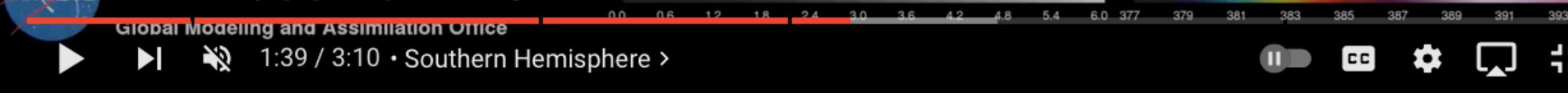
2006 / 07 / 15

Carbon Monoxide Column Abundance [1.0e18 molec cm⁻²] Carbon Dioxide Column Concentration [ppmv]

0.0	0.6	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.2	4.8	5.4	6.0
377	379	381	383	385	387	389	391	393	395	

Global Modeling and Assimilation Office

▶ ▶ 🔍 1:39 / 3:10 • Southern Hemisphere >



2006 / 12 / 01

Carbon Monoxide Column Abundance [1.0e18 molec cm⁻²] Carbon Dioxide Column Concentration [ppmv]

0.0	0.6	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.2	4.8	5.4	6.0
377	379	381	383	385	387	389	391	393	395	

Global Modeling and Assimilation Office

▶ ▶ 🔍 2:49 / 3:10 • Conclusion >

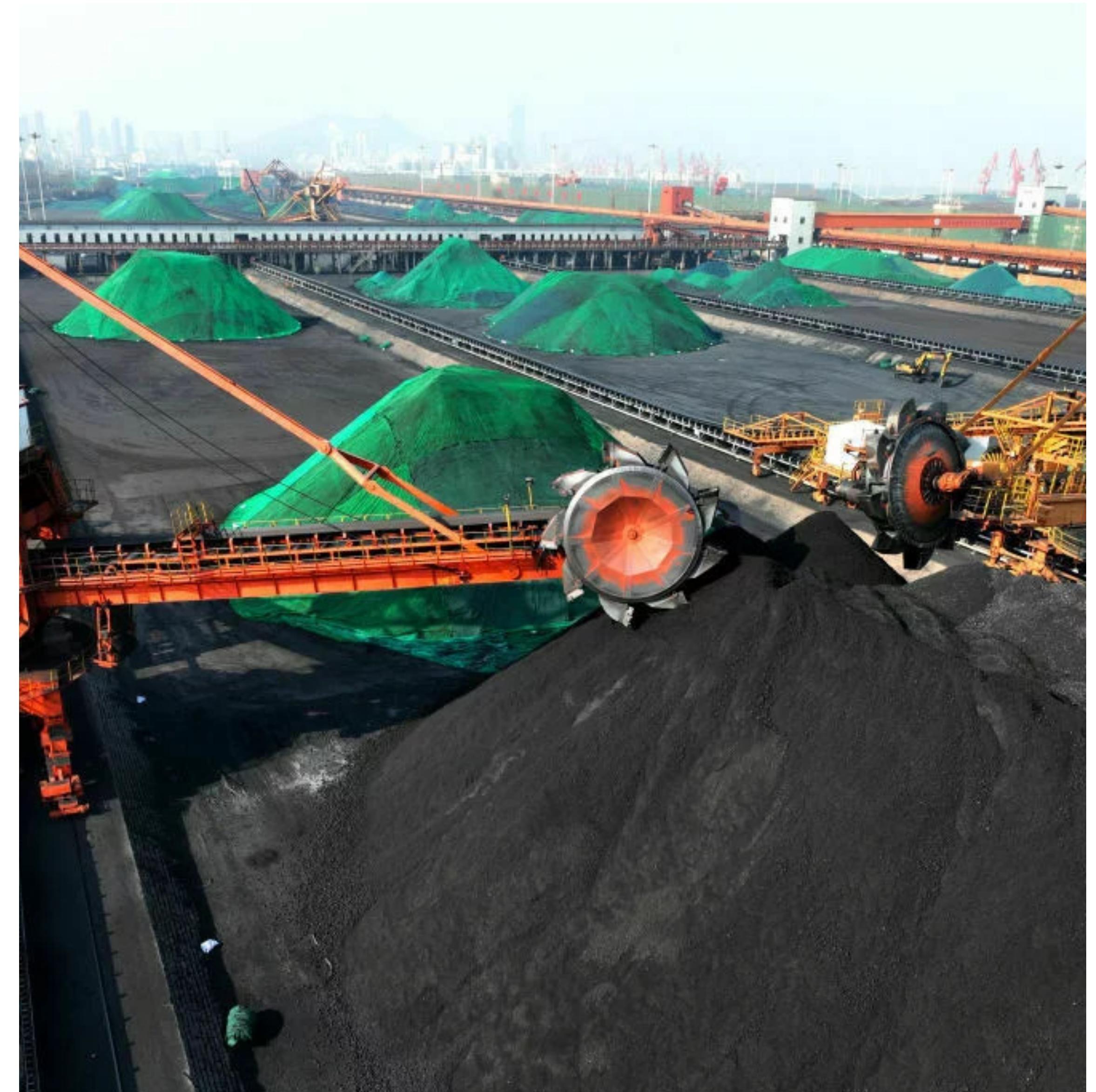
“The Science” is confusing a canopy loss problem for an energy problem.

Industrialized Bio-Sequestration

Fossil Fuels

(Not So) Unfairly Vilified

- Naive isotopic analyses can't tell if plants are cycling the fossil fuel carbon or not
- Only 12% of the CO₂ is tied to fossil fuels (Skrable et al, 2022):
 - CO₂ increased like clockwork despite the 2020 lockdowns
 - Sources with little or no nearby plants (planes, smokestacks)



Credit: Visual China Group

**Make no mistake: there isn't much to love about fossil fuels (or any mining).
But energy is critical, and so is CO₂.**

CO₂ is Plant Food



385 ppm



535 ppm



685 ppm



835 ppm

Dr. Sherwood B. Idso showing the effects of CO₂. ([Idso and Idso, 1994](#))

Bio-Sequestration

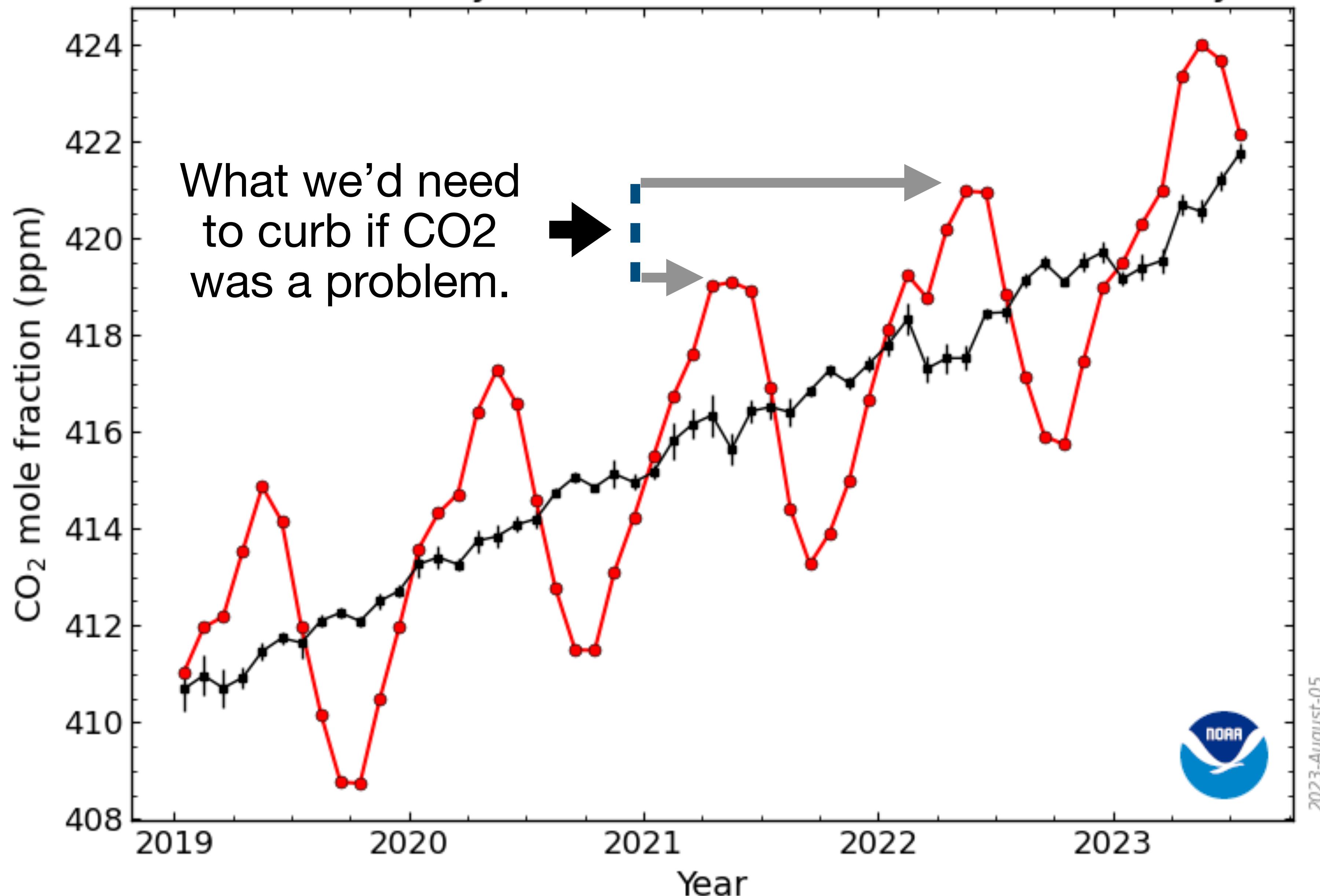
Hemp CO₂ Fertilization

- Capture the smokestack's output (rocket mass heater like setup)
- Filter/process as needed (pH)
- Put the heat to good use
- Pipe the output towards plants (drip irrigation/FACE like setup)
- Hemp soaks up toxins and has many industrial uses



Or just let the CO₂ escape freely.
Plants are soaking it up just fine.

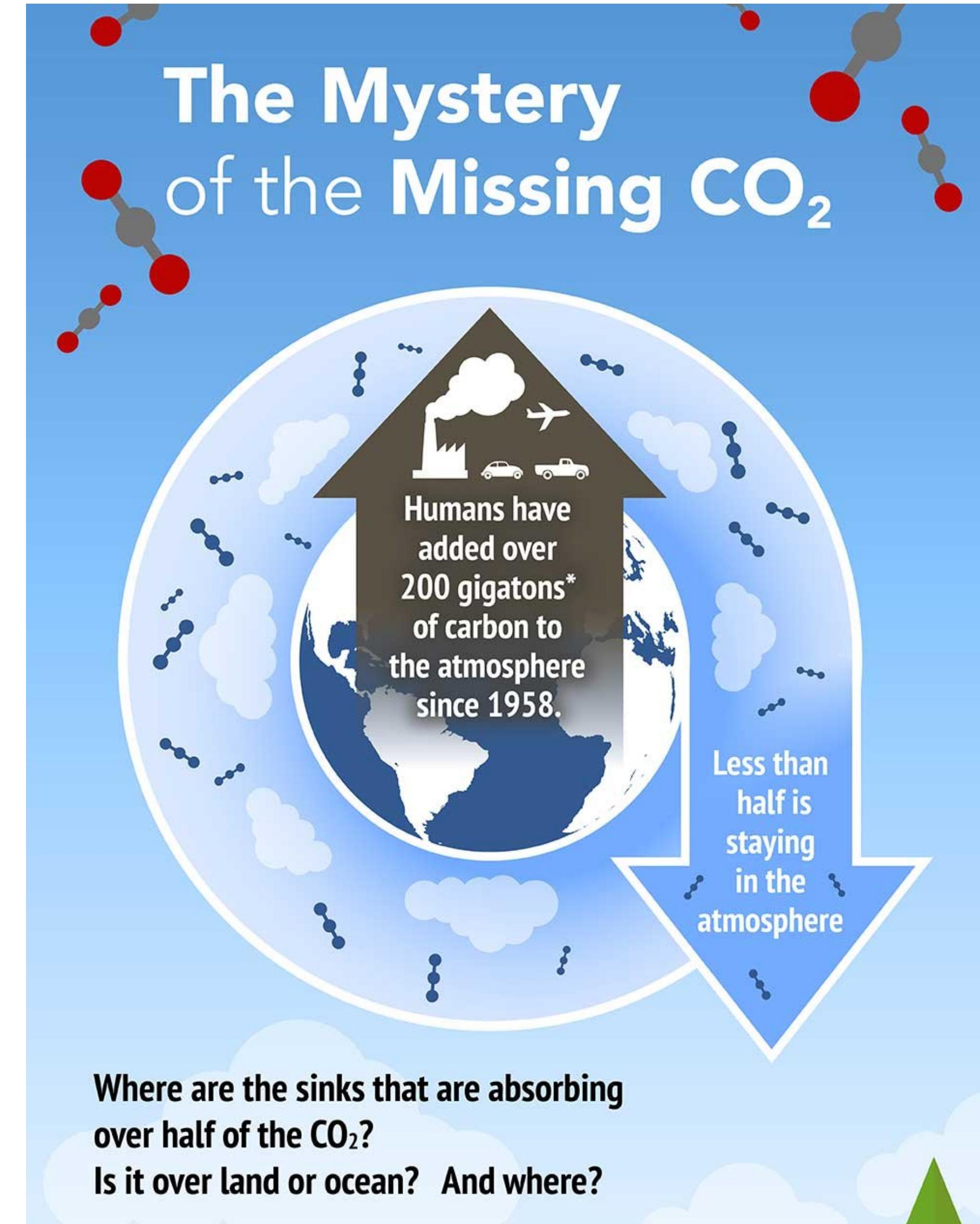
Recent Monthly Mean CO₂ at Mauna Loa Observatory



The Missing CO₂

Piecing the Story Together

- Plants soak up most of the CO₂
- Biology moves the C around
- Clearing fields releases it as CO₂
- Wind moves it around (esp. to the North pole)
- Plants (esp. algae) soak it up
- Biology moves the C around...



Credit: [NASA OCO-3 mission / science](#)

**Clearly, there is no emergency.
We need more CO₂, if anything.
(Just not from topsoil loss.)**

Environmental (Non-)Crises

Topsoil loss actually matters if you value healthy food. It also genuinely affects the climate.

Climate Change

Man-Made Desertification

- Soil with less carbon (and less cover) holds less water:
 - Runoffs, water evaporation, and hot air build-up lower moisture
 - Drier, warmer landscapes
 - Cycle of droughts and floods
- Straightforward to reverse



Loess Plateau, China, before and after restoration

Bulldozers, seed pellets, and fencing can quickly transform a landscape.



HarvestingRainwater.com

Depression-era swale in Tucson, Arizona. The blue arrow shows the water flow. Photo: Brad Lancaster (2014).

Natural Disasters

Man-Made Calamities

- Poor land stewardship:
 - Industrialized plantations
 - Poor water harvesting
 - Poor infrastructure
- Other man-made factors:
 - Aerial coal fly ash releases
 - Subsidized flood insurance



Mass Extinction

Man-Made Habitat Loss

- Species are cornered, but fine
- Biggest land grab in history
- Authoritarian inversion of reality
- Nature self-organizes holistically:
 - Dynamic, not static
 - Resilient, not optimal
 - Additive, not subtractive



Credit: Tim Lane / Guy Shield for Buzzfeed News: [WWF's Secret War](#)

**The only real concerns are pollution
and stopping the green agenda.**

Get Involved

The Great Resist

Dismantling Oppression

- Growing public awareness:
 - Contract-based coup
 - Depends on consent
- Three power levers to dismantle:
 - Coercion: local autonomy
 - Legal: truth, jury annulment
 - Currency: local alternatives



You can put pressure on key enforcers
by spreading the truth around them.
(Tell their neighbors, colleagues, etc.)

Hope, Not Anger

Offer Counternarratives

- Factual information does not matter to demoralized people:
 - Truth bombs invite anger
 - Only they can do the work
- Problem-reaction-solution hinges on promises that give hope:
 - Solutions invite taking action
 - Making progress fuel hope



Syntropic Farm in Sitio Semente, Brasília - DF. Photo credit: ecoportal.net

Get climate activists to work on food sovereignty. It's far more effective than blocking streets.

Legal Jiu-Jitsu

Let's Work Together

- Clearcut carbon accounting fraud:
 - Straightforward to understand
 - Indefensible in court
- Crowdsourced legal campaign:
 - Confront key enablers
 - Repeal climate policies
 - Detonate green finance



Contribute:
[t.me/a natural language](https://t.me/a_natural_language)
ddebernardy.substack.com

Useful Links

Spread the Word

- **The Big Lie That Climate Propagandists Don't Want You To Talk About:**
<https://ddebernardy.substack.com/p/the-big-lie>
- **Carbon Accounting is Making a Canopy Problem Look Like an Energy Problem** (non-editorialized):
<https://eartharxiv.org/repository/view/5378/>
- **A Climate Counternarrative:**
<https://ddebernardy.substack.com/p/a-climate-counternarrative>
- **Git repository** (this deck and printable documents):
<https://github.com/ddebernardy/a-climate-counternarrative>

Thanks for your time!

twitter.com/ddebernardy • ddebernardy@proton.me