

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW? THE SCIENTIFIC FACTS

According to climate.nasa.gov

- Earth's average temperature has risen 1.62 degrees C since the early 1900s, most of it in the past 35 years.
- 2016 was the warmest year on record.
- The oceans have absorbed much of this excess heat, especially the upper 2,500 feet.
- Greenland lost an average of 286 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2016
- Antarctica lost 127 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2016.
- Global sea level rose about 8" in the last century. That rate doubled in the last 20 years and accelerates a bit every year.

UUC Climate Action Team (www.uuchurch.org/ca2)

We have only until 2030.

- Latest IPCC* report from the United Nations said we must reduce fossil fuel use by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and to net zero by 2050.
- In practical terms, this means we need to reduce emissions by more than 80% from now to 2030, since emissions rose after 2010.
- IPCC indicated that this is technically feasible, but there are political and behavioral obstacles

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C, published October 8, 2018, page 14: "In model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C, global net anthropogenic CO₂ emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 (40–60% interquartile range), reaching net zero around 2050 (2045–2055 interquartile range)." See https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

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