

Title:

The Cause Of Global Warming. Is It You?

Word Count:

875

Summary:

We know the Earth is getting warmer.

The International Panel on Climate Change predicts a global temperature rise of about 5C by the end of the century.

Knowing why we are in this fix is the first step to doing something about it. Yes, that's you.

There are four levels at which to understand the cause of global warming.

- * The mechanics of global warming

- * W...

Keywords:

cause of global warming, alternate energy sources, global warming, renewable energy

Article Body:

We know the Earth is getting warmer.

The International Panel on Climate Change predicts a global temperature rise of about 5C by the end of the century.

Knowing why we are in this fix is the first step to doing something about it. Yes, that's you.

There are four levels at which to understand the cause of global warming.

- * The mechanics of global warming

- * What we do

- * Our beliefs and values, and

- * Natural cycles, involving the sun

The mechanics of global warming are simple. There's too much carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere.

The Earth absorbs heat from the sun and radiates much of it back into space or else we would cook.

Currently the atmospheric CO₂ content is about 380 ppm (parts per million), up from about a thousand years ago.

And CO₂ hangs around for a long time. It takes about 100,000 years for atmospheric CO₂ to reduce.

What we do contributes to so much CO₂ in the atmosphere. It got there because of massive amounts of coal.

Coal and oil are the mainstays in power generation and to power our transport. Of course a great deal of energy is wasted.

We're in trouble because the Earth cannot physically support all those needs and wants and become a sustainable planet.

Our beliefs and values have much to do with why we want so many more things than we really need.

It is to do with ideas about "progress" that started before the Industrial Revolution, during which

It generated ideas about the importance of the individual, about the use of reason and materialism? Funny? Yes, and getting to the heart of the problem. The way we think, about ourselves and about our consumer world leave room for nature, for things we can make and maintain ourselves, So, it's our values and our beliefs that continues to put CO₂ in the air and are cooking us. Natural cycles, involving the sun have something to do with global warming too. That's true. The Earth is now receiving 30% more solar radiation than it did 4.6 billion years ago. And the last "Little Ice Age" was between 1400 and 1840 with significantly lower temperatures. And Presently the Earth is at the end of an interglacial, warmer time and is due for a cooling down. We cannot blame the sun. It's us.

What to do is the question. The facts are that global warming will be with us for a long time, You can only change what you do by changing how you think. If we don't figure our way out of climate change, there will be no way out. There is a need for re-valuation of living well with an interdependent, connected and unpredictable future. What better way to change your thinking than by getting close to people who do live "green" and some giving a hand to those who live in your street or come on your path, is a way to get reconnected. Whether or not alternate energy sources will be used in time to make global warming tolerable, And for you.

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