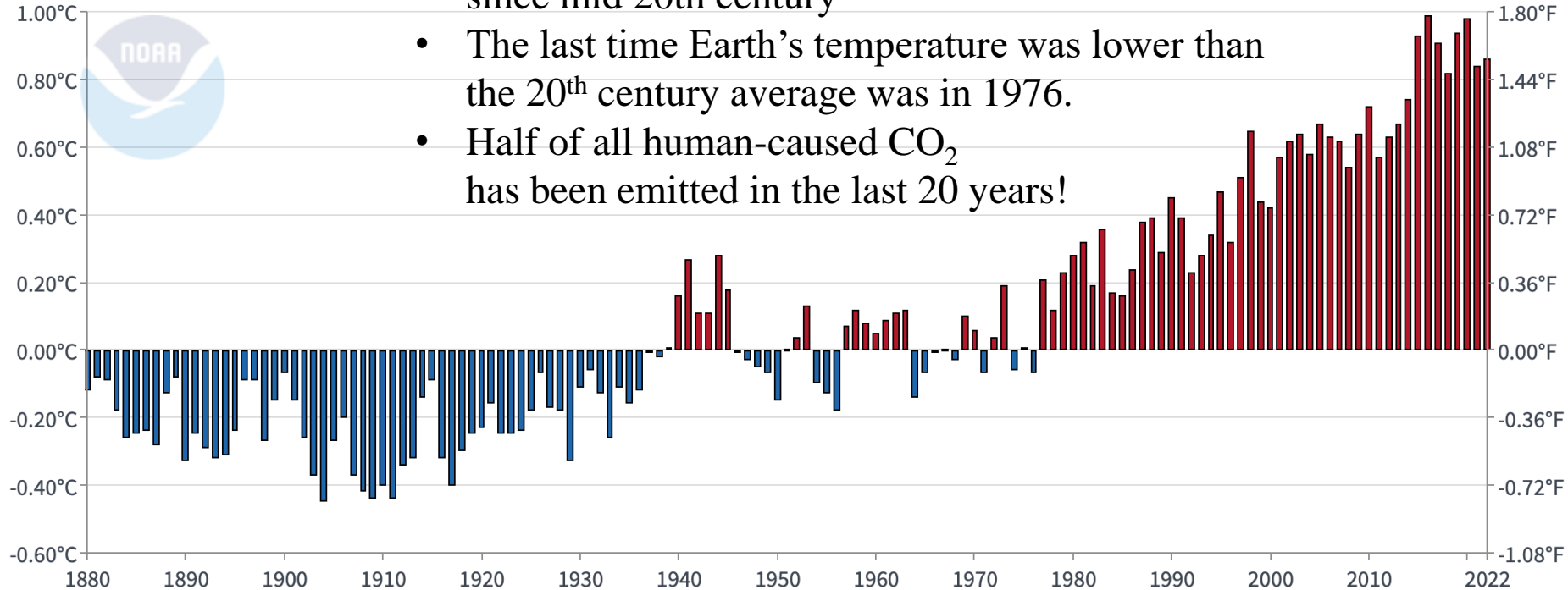


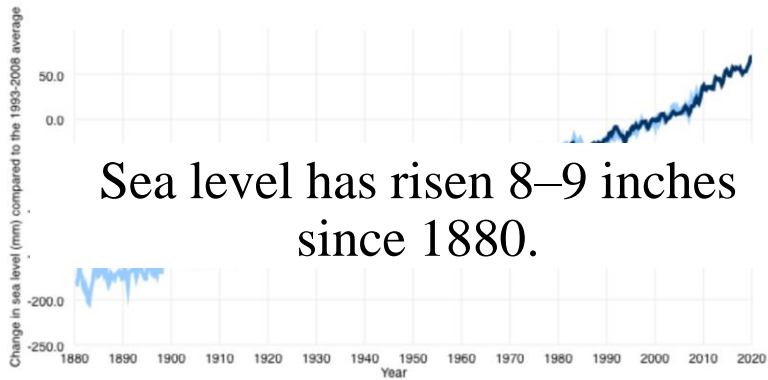
Climate change is an existential threat to the quality of life on this planet.

Global Land and Ocean

January-December Temperature Anomalies

- Global temperature has risen at least 1°C since mid 20th century
- The last time Earth's temperature was lower than the 20th century average was in 1976.
- Half of all human-caused CO₂ has been emitted in the last 20 years!



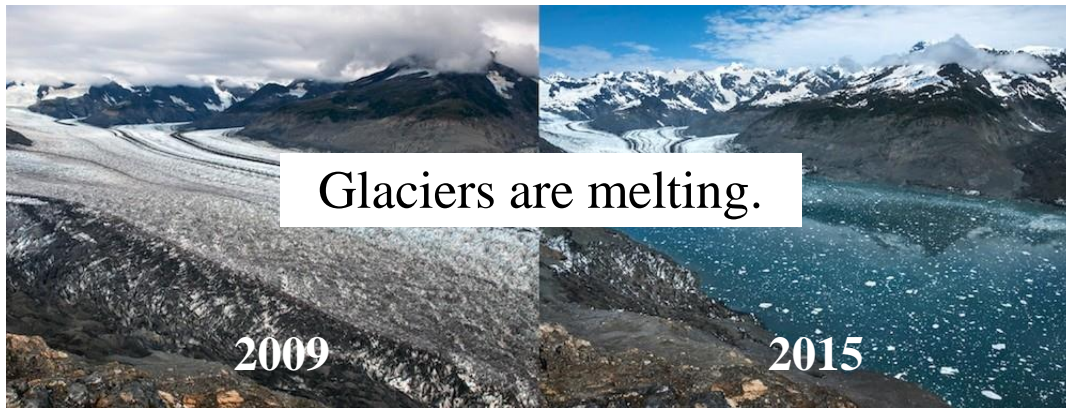


Sea level has risen 8–9 inches since 1880.



Growing season has increased.

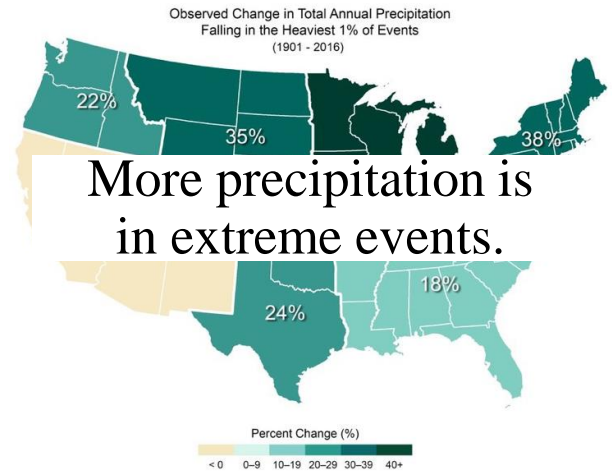
Change in Annual Number of Days



Glaciers are melting.

2009

2015

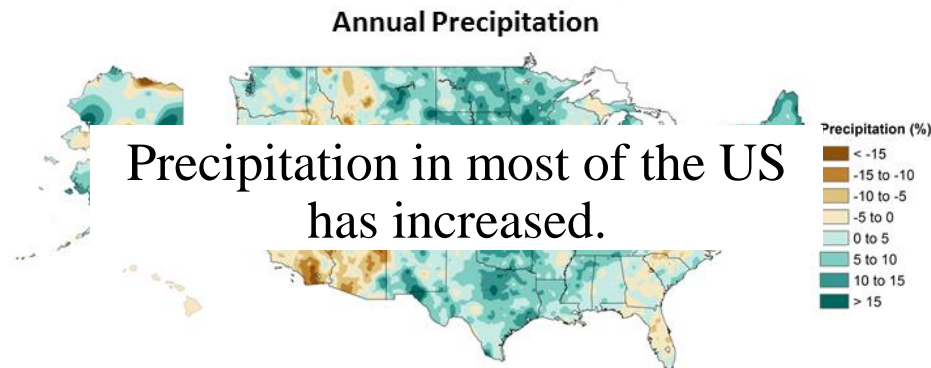


More precipitation is in extreme events.

Percent Change (%)

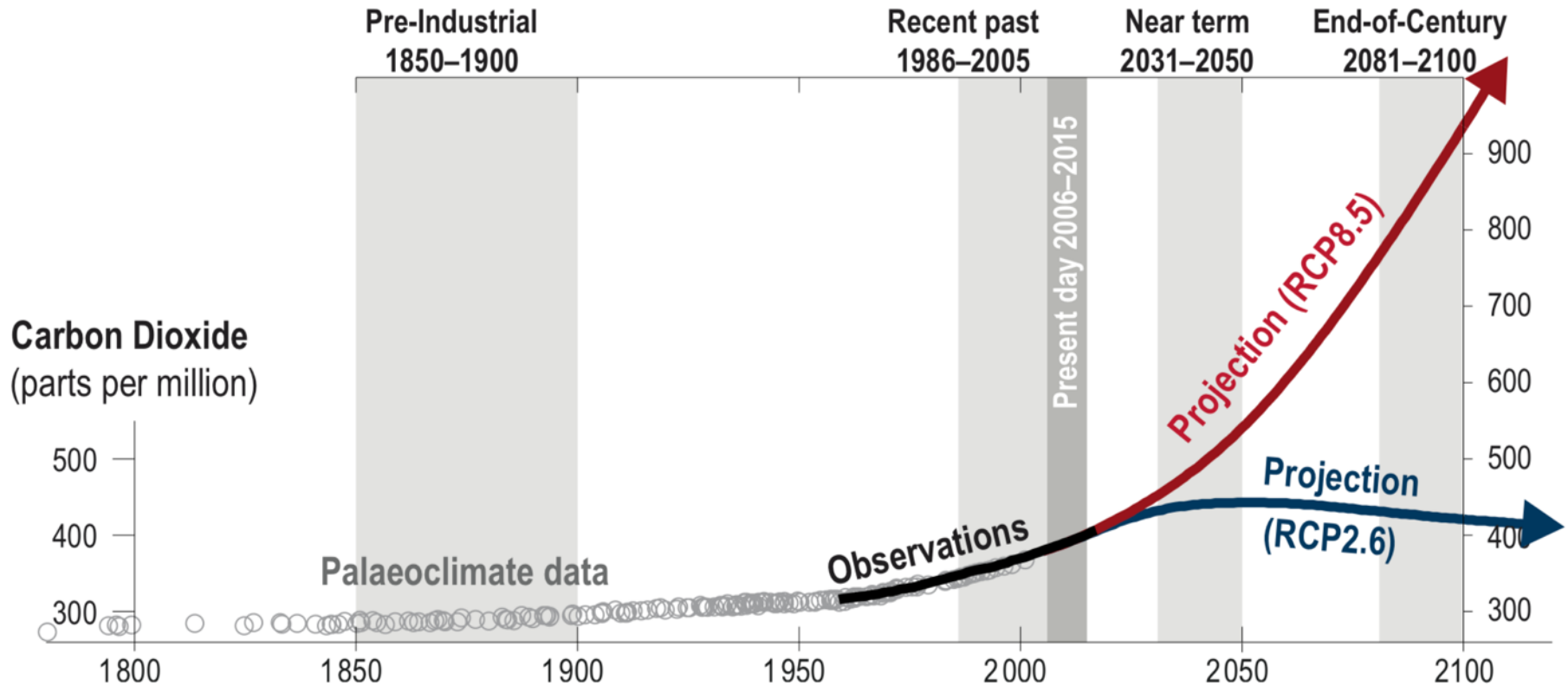


Floods, Droughts, and Heat Waves are more common.



Precipitation in most of the US has increased.

What happens in the future depends on **our** decisions.



IPCC recommendation to meet Paris Agreement target to limit warming to 2°C:

- 50% reduction of emissions by 2030.
- Zero emissions by 2050.
- Have to act fast!

There are some hopeful signs.

- Price of solar PV energy decreased 90% in the last decade to the point where it is the cheapest option for new construction.
- According to International Energy Agency, \$1.4 trillion poured into “clean energy” projects in 2022.
- According to the Yale project on Climate Communication 72% of Americans believe global warming is happening, 2/3 are worried about it; 71% believe it will harm future generations.
- Still so much to do!



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WMU Climate Change
Working Group

- Mission: *Work for the urgent action needed to adapt to and mitigate global climate change by heightening the awareness of the consequences of climate change and providing leadership about action through research, education, and community outreach.*
- A volunteer group of WMU faculty, students, alumni, and community members
- Project of the Center for the Humanities
- Founded by Dr. Dave Karowe (Biological Sciences), Dr. Paul Clements (Political Science), Dr. Ron Kramer (Sociology)
- First meeting: Spring 2013



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WMU Climate Change
Working Group

Some Past Activities

- High-profile speakers (McKibben, Robinson, Parenti)
- Created CC minor, graduate certificate
- Numerous presentations to community groups and classes
- Created faculty fellowship program that served as the basis for Community of Learning (won an NEH grant to integrate CC into curriculum)
- Student scholarship to support research
- Writing contest
- Collaborate with WMU to move toward carbon neutrality
- Monthly Book club
- Brought 3 Fulbright Scholars to campus
- KCCC spin off (now a 501(c)3)
- Meetings on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm; **All are Welcome!**

CCWG has declared March 2023

Climate Emergency Month: Creating a Just and Sustainable Future



<http://climateemergencymonth.org>

A month-long series of events and activities to:

- A. Draw attention to the climate crisis and raise awareness about the risks and consequences,
- B. Bring more people into the movement to get involved,
- C. Use collective action to encourage local and regional governments to act with more urgency,
- D. Foster a just transition to a sustainable future for all people,
- E. Demonstrate how broad the support is for urgent action.

<http://climateemergencymonth.org>



Progress to date

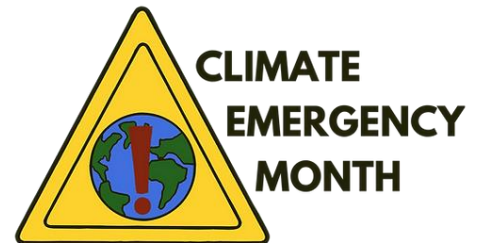
Almost 30 co-sponsors, including:

Office of the President
Office of Legislative Affairs
Office for Sustainability
College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty Senate
Western Student Association
Graduate Student Association
The City of Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition
Kalamazoo Nature Center
KCollege Center for Environmental Stewardship
Michigan Climate Action Network
Citizen's Climate Lobby

Dozens of events, including:

- **Speakers**
Bill McKibben
Rep. Rashida Tlaib
Prof. Michael Mendez
Missy Stults, PhD
- Student events
- Alternative Spring Break opportunities
- Book discussions
- Panel discussions
- Workshops

<http://climateemergencymonth.org>



How can you get involved?

- Include information about climate change in your courses in March.
- Inform your units about the project.
- Sign on your unit as an endorser.
- Organize an event.
- Attend events.
- Provide financial support toward speakers.
- Spread the word among colleagues, family, and friends.
- Share social media posts and events.
- Encourage elected officials to act.

<http://climateemergencymonth.org>

