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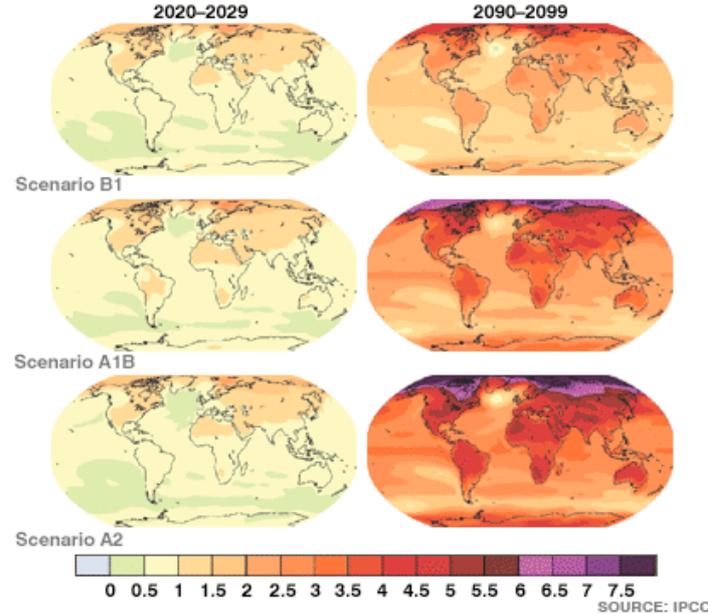
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Climate change: In graphics

It is "very likely" that human activity is the cause for climate change, scientists from over 130 countries have concluded. The graphics below illustrate their predictions on just how much global temperatures may rise over the next century.

SURFACE TEMPERATURE PROJECTIONS

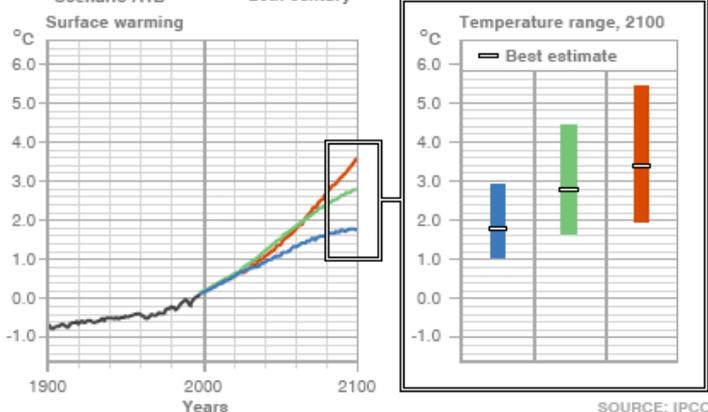


The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that temperatures are most likely to rise by 1.8C-4C by 2100. But the possible range is much greater; 1.1C-6.4C. The maps above show how a range of three different scenarios will affect different parts of the planet.

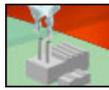
The emissions scenarios, A1B, A2, B1, used to create the maps above, are based on a range of detailed economic and technological data. These versions of the future consider different population increases, fossil and alternative fuel use, and consequent CO2 increases. The broad range of outcomes they show is displayed in the charts below.

GLOBAL WARMING SCENARIOS

- Scenario A2
- Scenario B1
- Scenario A1B
- 20th century



CLIMATE CHANGE



Animated guide

Find out how the greenhouse effect works and more...

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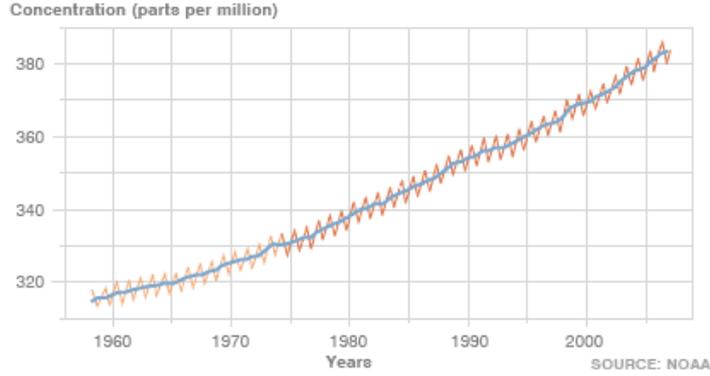
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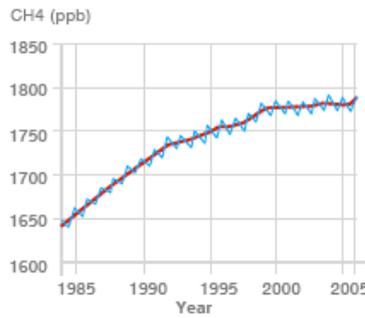
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ATMOSPHERIC CO2 AT MAUNA LOA OBSERVATORY

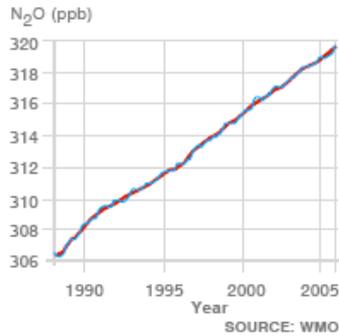


Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas, its rise since the industrial revolution is clear. Burning coal, using oil and deforestation all place CO2 into the atmosphere.

METHANE 1984-2005



NITROUS OXIDE 1988-2005



The other two main greenhouse gases are methane and nitrous oxide. Both gases have a much smaller presence in the atmosphere than CO2 but are much stronger greenhouse gases; methane has over 20 times the effect of CO2, while nitrous oxide is nearly 300 times stronger.

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