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GCP Global Carbon Budget  
Published 17 November 2009

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## Australia leads world in carbon emissions

By environment reporter [Sarah Clarke](#)

Posted Wed Nov 18, 2009 7:00am AEDT  
 Updated Wed Nov 18, 2009 10:18am AEDT

**The latest audit of global carbon emissions has found they are continuing to rise and Australia still holds the lead with the highest emissions per capita among developed nations.**

The audit, by the Global Carbon Project, found carbon dioxide levels from human activities are increasing by about 2 per cent per year, or 1.3 tonnes of carbon per capita.

The good news is that carbon dioxide levels are slightly lower than previous years due to the global financial crisis.

"That's a little bit less than through the previous seven or eight years when they've been increasing at over 3 per cent per year, so there has been a slow-up," said the CSIRO's Dr Michael Raupach - one of 30 scientists contributing to the audit.

"It's partly the beginning of the effect of the global financial crisis. By 2011, emissions will have recovered to something like 3 per cent per year, roughly what they were before the global financial crisis."

Scientists blame an increasing use of coal for the continuing rise in carbon emissions.

Dr Raupach also blames growth from developing countries like China, where exports and the production of manufactured goods are booming.

"That fraction is very likely to continue to increase because growth rates in the developing nations are very high," he said.



Scientists blame an increasing use of coal for the continuing rise in carbon emissions. (ABC TV News - file image)

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## Fossil-fuel emissions up 2% in 2008

18th November 2009



CARBON emissions from fossil fuels rose two per cent last year to an all-time high, leaving Earth on a worst-scenario track for global warming, scientists reported on Tuesday.

They also voiced concern for the world's oceans and forests, saying the capacity of these fabled "sinks" to soak up dangerous greenhouse gases was fading.

And they placed the spotlight on surging emissions by China and developing countries, explaining that a huge chunk of this carbon comes from exporting goods that are consumed in rich nations.



AAP

The paper, published by the peer-reviewed journal Nature Geoscience, comes in the run-up to December 7-18 UN talks in Copenhagen aimed at crafting a pact to combat climate change from 2013.

Global emissions from fossil fuels in 2008 amounted to 8.7 billion tonnes of carbon, an increase of two per cent over 2007, the Global Carbon Project (GCP), gathering more than 30 climate specialists, reported.

The 2008 tally amounts to a decline over the average annual increase of 3.6 per cent since the start of the decade, and can be pinned to the start of the world financial crisis, which triggered a fall in economic activity, it said.

Emissions last year were 29 per cent higher than in 2000, reflecting a sprint in economic growth this decade, and a massive 41 per cent greater than in 1990, the reference year for the UN's Kyoto Protocol.

Pollution "continued to track the average of the most carbon-intensive family of scenarios" put forward by the UN's Nobel-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the paper warned.

Under the IPCC's A1F1 scenario, Earth's surface will warm by around four degrees Celsius by 2100 compared with 2000 - a rise consistent with a wipeout of species, widespread hunger, flooding, drought and homelessness.

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## Global carbon emissions keep rising

MATT CAWOOD  
18 Nov, 2009 05:35 AM

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Coal was the main source of CO<sub>2</sub> increases, with small decreases reported in emissions from oil-based sources and deforestation.

Deforestation now represents only 12 per cent of global emissions, prompting GCP lead author, CSIRO's Dr Mike Raupach, to comment that there is "limited scope for rich nations to offset emissions by supporting avoidance of deforestation in tropical countries like Indonesia and Brazil".

"CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion are estimated to have increased 41 per cent above 1990 levels with emissions continuing to track close to the worst-case scenario of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)," Dr Raupach said.

Land and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> sinks, which have removed about half the tenfold increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the past century, are showing signs of faltering.

With changes in the ocean occurring over hundreds or thousands of years, this week's news locks in ocean acidification and saturation well into the future, according to oceanographer Dr Will Howard of the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems CRC.

"As we increase the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide about a hundred times faster than any time in the past 800,000 years, we outstrip the ability of natural systems to respond," Dr Howard said.

Because of the 2008 La Nina, characterised by cooler and, in some parts of the world, wetter conditions, land sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> was enhanced last year, but is expected to fall off again with the likely onset of an El Nino event late this year.



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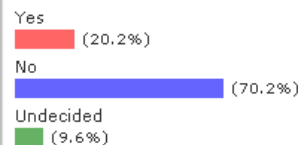
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Q: Do you believe your farm business can profit from an emissions trading scheme?



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Yes

 (20.2%)

No

 (70.2%)

Undecided

 (9.6%)

Total Votes: 605

Poll Date: 15 November, 2009

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## Australia 'among worst carbon offenders'

18 November 2009 | 03:21:02 PM | Source: AAP

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The world's carbon emissions from human activities are rising steadily, and Australia remains one of the worst offenders, a new study has found.

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Fossil fuel carbon emissions are on the rise sparking more fears from scientists AAP

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The Global Carbon Project report says carbon dioxide levels rose by two per cent last year to an all-time record high of 1.3 tonnes of carbon per person.

Largely thanks to the global financial crisis, emissions growth last year dipped slightly from the "massive" 3.5 per cent annual average of the previous eight years, said Dr Michael Raupach, a CSIRO scientist who worked on the report.

"The total decrease that we get from the global economic crisis is equivalent to what would have happened if we turned off all emissions for about six weeks - in other words it's not much," he told reporters.

Since 2000, emissions have grown by a total of 29 per cent, which Dr Raupach described as "compounded interest" that would continue to build up unless the problem was tackled.

Dr Raupach said the rise was mainly caused by an increased use of coal to produce electricity, with the next major contributor being deforestation, accounting for about 15 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions.

Developing countries were also significantly adding to the increased levels, and now emitted more carbon dioxide than the developed world.



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## Jump in coal use pushes emissions to all-time high

World Weather Post - Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 22:08

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The Sydney Morning Herald is [reporting](#) that "a jump in the use of coal to produce electricity, especially in China and India, has contributed to carbon emissions from human activities reaching an all-time record high, a study published today finds.

With the faltering climate change talks set to open in Copenhagen next month, the latest figures from the Global Carbon Project show carbon dioxide emissions rising another 2 per cent last year as coal became the dominant source of fossil fuel emissions, taking over from oil for the first time in 40 years.

Developing countries such as China and India have more than doubled their emissions since 1990 and now emit more than the developed world.

But the richer countries still have a far higher rate of emissions per head, about four to five times the rate of the developing world.

The rapid rise in emissions of carbon dioxide, a key greenhouse gas, is continuing at a rate that the peak United Nations scientific body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, finds will lead to dangerous climate change.

"There is some bad news," said the CSIRO's Mike Raupach, a lead author of the study published in Nature Geoscience.

"CO<sub>2</sub> [carbon dioxide] emissions from fossil fuel combustion are estimated to have increased 41 per cent above 1990 levels with emissions continuing to track close to the worst-case scenario of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."

If the current rate of emissions were to continue, Dr Raupach said, climate models projected global temperature rises of between three and four degrees by the end of the century.

"That's obviously dangerous climate change by any measure."

The figures demonstrate the extraordinary challenge facing the world's economies to transform





# CLIMATE CHANGE

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By environment reporter [Sarah Clarke](#)

Posted Wed Nov 18, 2009 7:00am AEDT

Updated 10 hours 32 minutes ago

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Scientists blame an increasing use of coal for the continuing rise in carbon emissions. (ABC TV News - file image)

**Audio:** [Australia still emitting the most carbon per capita \(AM\)](#)

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## GFC does little to stem global emissions

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

ABC/AFP

Despite the global financial crisis, carbon emissions from fossil fuels rose 2% last year, leaving the Earth on a worst-scenario track for global warming, according to a new report.

The report, in today's issue of the journal *Nature Geoscience*, comes in the run-up to December 7-18 UN talks in Copenhagen aimed at crafting a pact to combat climate change from 2013.

The report authors also voiced concern for the world's oceans and forests, saying the capacity of these fabled "sinks" to soak up dangerous greenhouse gases was fading.

And they placed the spotlight on surging emissions by China and developing countries, explaining that a huge chunk of this carbon comes from exporting goods that are consumed in rich nations.

Global emissions from fossil fuels in 2008 amounted to 8.7 billion tonnes of carbon, an increase of 2% over 2007, say the report authors, a group of 30 climate specialists, working under the banner of the [Global Carbon Project \(GCP\)](#).

The average annual increase in emissions since the start of the decade has been 3.6%, and the lower annual rate of increase last year can be pinned to the start of the world financial crisis, they say.

Emissions in 2009 are predicted to fall by 2.8% in response to the financial crisis, signalling a return to 2007 levels, say the researchers, but they warn against complacency.

"Although that sounds like good news, we must remember that CO2 emissions are very tightly linked with economic activity," says Australian co-author Dr Michael Raupach of [CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research](#) in Canberra.

"A return to rapid emissions growth is likely as the world recovers from the GFC."

"If the recovery follows current predictions, the effect of the GFC will be as if all burning of fossil fuels had been stopped for a period of just 6 weeks," adds Raupach. "The GFC has not bought us much time."



The developed world is 'exporting emissions' to the developing world, say experts (Source: David Gray/Reuters)

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## Global carbon emissions keep rising

MATT CAWOOD  
18 Nov, 2009 05:35 AM

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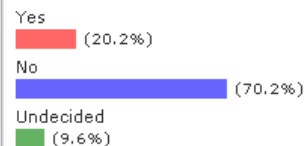
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## Global CO2 emissions to drop 2.8 pct in '09 -report

Tue Nov 17, 2009 1:01pm EST

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SINGAPORE, Nov 18 (Reuters) - Global carbon dioxide emissions are set to fall an estimated 2.8 percent this year due to the financial crisis, after having risen two percent in 2008, a leading annual report on the globe's "carbon budget" says.

The report by the Global Carbon Project, which draws on work and data from government agencies and research bodies around the world, also shows that emissions from developing nations continue to soar, driven in large part by consumer demand in rich countries. (Editing by Clarence Fernandez)

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## Catastrophe, or nothing to detect: pick which study to believe

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Andrew Bolt Blog

Andrew Bolt

Monday, November 23, 2009 at 08:33am

Two questions, as you read the news release from Bristol University.

First, which of the two contrasting conclusions - that the world is choking on our gases, and that it's not - do you think got the big media treatment? Second, which of the two was written by someone from [the Climatic Research Unit of Professor Phil Jones](#) at East Anglia University?

First, the way *The Australian* reported the latest of these two papers:

***THE world is spinning toward a catastrophic climate change scenario**, with temperatures now far more likely to rise by 6C by the end of the century, a leading international team of scientists has warned. The study by Professor Corinne Le Quere, from the British Antarctic Survey and East Anglia University,*

Next, the Bristol University release, noting the contrast to a paper just 10 days earlier:

*According to research published this week in Nature Geoscience, emissions of carbon dioxide continue to outstrip the ability of the world's natural 'sinks' to absorb carbon.*

*The new report follows **another study published only ten days earlier by Dr Wolfgang Knorr in Geophysical Research Letters, which concludes that a decline in the capacity of terrestrial ecosystems and the oceans to absorb CO2 cannot be detected** within the available data.*

*Both studies involved researchers from the University of Bristol's QUEST programme on climate change and earth system modelling.*

*About two thirds of the carbon dioxide we emit into the atmosphere is taken up by natural sinks on land and in the ocean. An important issue for policymakers in Copenhagen next month will be whether or not the ability of these natural sinks to absorb emissions is declining.*

*The Nature Geoscience team, under the umbrella of the Global Carbon Project, found that over the past 50 years the average fraction of global CO2 emissions that remained in the atmosphere each year has likely increased from 40 per cent to 45 per cent, suggesting a decrease in the efficiency of the natural sinks such as the oceans and terrestrial ecosystems. The team brings evidence that the sinks are responding to climate change and variability.*

*Dr Wolfgang Knorr's study on the other hand found no increase in the airborne fraction during the past*

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## Jump in coal use pushes emissions to all-time high

MARIAN WILKINSON, ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

November 18, 2009

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A JUMP in the use of coal to produce electricity, especially in China and India, has contributed to carbon emissions from human activities reaching an all-time record high, a study published today finds.

With the faltering climate change talks set to open in Copenhagen next month, the latest figures from the Global Carbon Project show carbon dioxide emissions rising another 2 per cent last year as coal became the dominant source of fossil fuel emissions, taking over from oil for the first time in 40 years.

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But the richer countries still have a far higher rate of emissions per head, about four to five times the rate of the developing world.

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"CO2 [carbon dioxide] emissions from fossil fuel combustion are estimated to have increased 41 per cent above 1990 levels with

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18 Nov, 2009 05:05 AM

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The global financial crisis slightly curbed the output of greenhouse gas emissions in 2008, but the sequestering of emissions by land and ocean sinks is also showing signs of slowing, the Global Carbon Project (GCP) has reported this morning.

According to the GCP's Global Carbon Budget report, published in Nature Geoscience, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is now 38 per cent higher than pre-industrial levels, at 385 parts per million, due to the addition of four billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2008.

Carbon dioxide emissions from human activities rose two per cent in 2008—slightly slower than the period 2000-2007—to an all-time high of 1.3 tonnes of carbon per capita per year.

Coal was the main source of CO<sub>2</sub> increases, with small decreases reported in emissions from oil-based sources and deforestation.

Deforestation now represents only 12 per cent of global emissions, prompting GCP lead author, CSIRO's Dr Mike Raupach, to comment that there is "limited scope for rich nations to offset emissions by supporting avoidance of deforestation in tropical countries like Indonesia and Brazil".

"CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion are estimated to have increased 41 per cent above 1990 levels with emissions continuing to track close to the worst-case scenario of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)," Dr Raupach said.

Land and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> sinks, which have removed about half the tenfold increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the past century, are showing signs of faltering.

With changes in the ocean occurring over hundreds or thousands of years, this week's news locks in ocean acidification and saturation well into the future, according to oceanographer Dr Will Howard of the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems CRC.

"As we increase the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide about a hundred times faster than any time in the past 800,000 years, we outstrip the ability of natural systems to respond," Dr Howard said.

Because of the 2008 La Nina, characterised by cooler and, in some parts of the world, wetter conditions, land sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> was enhanced last year, but is expected to fall off again with the likely onset of an El Nino event late this year.



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## Increase in man-made emissions

November 18, 2009

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MAN-MADE greenhouse gas emissions continued to climb last year, reflecting an expanding reliance on coal and a continuing demand for manufactured goods produced in developing countries.

Despite the financial crisis, emissions from fossil fuels were up 2 per cent - part of a 29 per cent increase this decade. Coal has overtaken oil as the largest source of fossil fuel emissions, reversing a 40-year trend.

A global assessment of carbon dioxide trends published in the journal *Nature Geoscience* found the expected dip in emissions due to the crisis would show up in 2009 figures. CSIRO research scientist Michael Raupach said on current projections it would be a brief reprieve - equivalent to the world stopping burning fossil fuels for six weeks. "It hasn't bought us much time at all," said Dr Raupach, one of 31 co-authors of the paper.

A significant part of the rapid emissions growth in developing countries is linked to international trade. Half the massive emissions growth in China - the world's largest emitter - is due to export-related industries.

While energy emissions remain tied to economic patterns, those from deforestation appear to have stabilised. Destruction of mainly tropical forests is estimated to now account for just 12 per cent of emissions, down from 18 per cent.

The study also found a continuing decline in the earth and the ocean's capacity to naturally absorb human carbon dioxide emissions. "There are signs that for the last 50 years the land and ocean sinks have been gradually losing the race with rapidly rising emissions. They are vulnerable to weakening as climate change alters the planet," Dr Raupach said.

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## World News

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# Catastrophic climate change 'inevitable', scientists warn

The Daily Telegraph | November 20, 2009 12:01 am

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THE world is spinning toward a catastrophic climate change scenario, with temperatures now far more likely to rise by 6C by the end of the century, a leading international team of scientists has warned.

An increase of 6C would have irreversible consequences, rendering large parts of the globe uninhabitable and destroying much of life on earth.

The study by Professor Corinne Le Quere, from the British Antarctic Survey and East Anglia University, is the most comprehensive so far of how economic changes and shifts in the way people used land over the past 50 years have affected CO2 concentration in the atmosphere.

It also claims the Earth's natural ability to absorb CO2 into soil, forests and oceans is declining.

The nightmarish possibility of a 6C temperature rise was made public by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2007, when it was then only a worst-case scenario.

But according to Professor Le Quere it is now all but inevitable.

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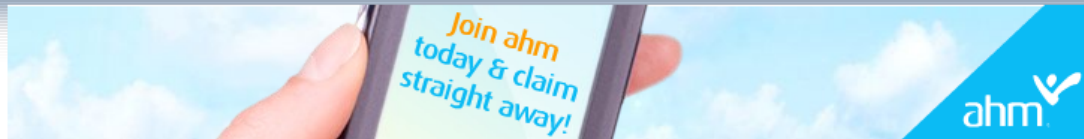
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### Barmaid claims she had sex with Premier



A FORMER Parliament House barmaid has gone public with claims of sex with SA Premier Mike Rann.



## Catastrophic climate change 'inevitable', scientists warn

The Daily Telegraph | November 20, 2009 12:01AM

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The study claims the Earth's natural ability to absorb CO2 into soil, forests and oceans is declining / File

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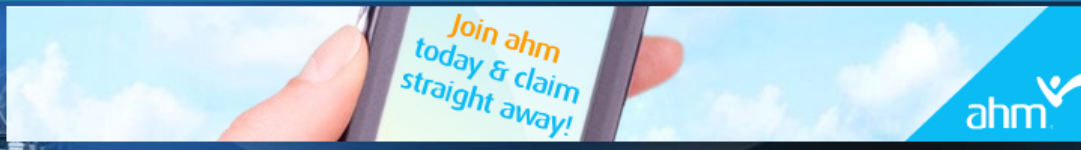
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Antonia Magee and AAP  
**UPDATE 9.40am:** SA Premier Mike Rann says a barmaid's allegation that they had a sexual affair contained some "totally false" claims.

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## Six-degeree rise in temperatures 'inevitable' say experts

Article from: **Courier Mail**

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**Charles Miranda**

November 19, 2009 11:01pm

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Her research - backed by 31 top researchers from seven countries including Australians involved in the [Global Carbon Project](#) - found there had been a 29 per cent rise in global CO2 emissions from fossil fuels between 2000 and 2008.

The annual average CO2 increase of 3.4 per cent since 2000 compared with increases of only 1 per cent the previous eight years.

She said there was no doubt carbon dioxide emissions from transport and industry and deforestation were squarely to blame.

Governments around the world are trying to find agreement to



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## Australia 'among worst carbon offenders'

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 » 08:50pm

The world's carbon emissions from human activities are rising steadily, and Australia remains one of the worst offenders, a new study has found.

The Global Carbon Project report says carbon dioxide levels rose by two per cent last year to an all-time record high of 1.3 tonnes of carbon per person.

Largely thanks to the global financial crisis, emissions growth last year dipped slightly from the 'massive' 3.5 per cent annual average of the previous eight years, said Dr Michael Raupach, a CSIRO scientist who worked on the report.

'The total decrease that we get from the global economic crisis is equivalent to what would have happened if we turned off all emissions for about six weeks - in other words it's not much,' he told reporters.

Since 2000, emissions have grown by a total of 29 per cent, which Dr Raupach described as 'compounded interest' that would continue to build up unless the problem was tackled.

Dr Raupach said the rise was mainly caused by an increased use of coal to produce electricity, with the next major contributor being deforestation, accounting for about 15 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions.

Developing countries were also significantly adding to the increased levels, and now emitted more carbon dioxide than the developed world.

In an interesting twist, one quarter of that growth was associated with manufactured products which were exported to the west, including cars, clothing and televisions, Dr Raupach said.

Of the developed nations, Australia appears to be soaring ahead with the highest emissions per capita.

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## Jump in coal use pushes emissions to all-time high

MARIAN WILKINSON, ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

November 18, 2009

A JUMP in the use of coal to produce electricity, especially in China and India, has contributed to carbon emissions from human activities reaching an all-time record high, a study published today finds.

With the faltering climate change talks set to open in Copenhagen next month, the latest figures from the Global Carbon Project show carbon dioxide emissions rising another 2 per cent last year as coal became the dominant source of fossil fuel emissions, taking over from oil for the first time in 40 years.

Developing countries such as China and India have more than doubled their emissions since 1990 and now emit more than the developed world.

But the richer countries still have a far higher rate of emissions per head, about four to five times the rate of the developing world.

The rapid rise in emissions of carbon dioxide, a key greenhouse gas, is continuing at a rate that the peak United Nations scientific body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, finds will lead to dangerous climate change.

"There is some bad news," said the CSIRO's Mike Raupach, a lead author of the study published in *Nature Geoscience*.

"CO<sub>2</sub> [carbon dioxide] emissions from fossil fuel combustion are estimated to have increased 41 per cent above 1990 levels with emissions continuing to track close to the worst-case scenario of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."

If the current rate of emissions were to continue, Dr Raupach said, climate models projected global temperature rises of between three and four degrees by the end of the century.

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## News



Science • Society

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

### Latest global emissions figures in

By Lauren Monaghan  
G-Online

#### Climate change

Global carbon dioxide emissions have reached an all-time high, with atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels growing by about four billion tonnes of carbon in 2008, according to the latest figures released today.

The findings of respected climate research group the Global Carbon Project (GPC) have shown emissions from human fossil fuel use rose 2 per cent in 2008, with 1.3 tonnes of carbon now being released each year for every person around the world.

"CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion are estimated to have increased 41 per cent above 1990 levels, with emissions continuing to track close to the worst-case scenario of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change," said Australia's Mike Raupach, co-chair of the GPC and one of the lead authors of the new research.

Though between 2000 and 2007 there was "a massive growth in emissions of 3.7 per cent per year", Raupach said that 2008's slightly slower growth of 2 per cent was a significant upward trend and "compound emissions interest" nonetheless.

"We think we've seen this slower growth because of the beginnings of the effects of the global financial crisis," he



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## Fossil-fuel emissions up 2pc in 2008

From correspondents in Paris | Agence France-Presse | November 18, 2009 06:27am

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CARBON emissions from fossil fuels rose two per cent last year to an all-time high, leaving Earth on a worst-scenario track for global warming, scientists reported today.

They also voiced concern for the world's oceans and forests, saying the capacity of these fabled "sinks" to soak up dangerous greenhouse gases was fading.

And they placed the spotlight on surging emissions by China and developing countries, explaining that a huge chunk of this carbon comes from exporting goods that are consumed in rich nations.

The paper, published by the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Geoscience*, comes in the run-up to December 7-18 UN talks in Copenhagen aimed at crafting a pact to combat climate change from 2013.

Global emissions from fossil fuels in 2008 amounted to 8.7 billion tonnes of carbon, an increase of two per cent over 2007, the Global Carbon Project (GCP), gathering more than 30 climate specialists, reported.

The 2008 tally amounts to a decline over the average annual increase of 3.6 per cent since the start of the decade, and can be pinned to the start of the world financial crisis, which triggered a fall in economic activity, it said.

Emissions last year were 29 per cent higher than in 2000, reflecting a sprint in economic growth this decade, and a massive 41 per cent greater than in 1990, the reference year for the UN's Kyoto Protocol.

Pollution "continued to track the average of the most carbon-intensive family of scenarios" put forward by the UN's Nobel-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the paper warned.

Under the IPCC's A1F1 scenario, Earth's surface will warm by around four degrees Celsius by 2100 compared with 2000 - a rise consistent with a wipeout of species, widespread hunger, flooding, drought and homelessness.

The oceans and forests, which absorb most of the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the seas and through photosynthesis, are failing to keep up with the gigatonnes of emissions, said the researchers.

In the last 50 years, the proportion of CO<sub>2</sub> pumped into the atmosphere that remains there

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#### New baby joy for mother of murdered trio



MOTHER of three children murdered by their dad finds love again and gives birth to a boy.

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## Catastrophe, or nothing to detect: pick which study to believe

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Andrew Bolt Blog ▶

Andrew Bolt

Monday, November 23, 2009 at 08:33am

Two questions, as you read the news release from Bristol University.

First, which of the two contrasting conclusions - that the world is choking on our gases, and that it's not - do you think got the big media treatment? Second, which of the two was written by someone from [the Climatic Research Unit of Professor Phil Jones](#) at East Anglia University?

First, the way *The Australian* reported the latest of these two papers:

*THE world is spinning toward a catastrophic climate change scenario, with temperatures now far more likely to rise by 6C by the end of the century, a leading international team of scientists has warned. The study by Professor Corinne Le Quere, from the British Antarctic Survey and East Anglia University,*

Next, the Bristol University release, noting the contrast to a paper just 10 days earlier:

*According to research published this week in Nature Geoscience, emissions of carbon dioxide continue to outstrip the ability of the world's natural 'sinks' to absorb carbon.*

*The new report follows another study published only ten days earlier by Dr Wolfgang Knorr in Geophysical Research Letters, which concludes that a decline in the capacity of terrestrial ecosystems and the oceans to absorb CO2 cannot be detected within the available data.*

*Both studies involved researchers from the University of Bristol's QUEST programme on climate change and earth system modelling.*

*About two thirds of the carbon dioxide we emit into the atmosphere is taken up by natural sinks on land and in the ocean. An important issue for policymakers in Copenhagen next month will be whether or not the ability of these natural sinks to absorb emissions is declining.*

*The Nature Geoscience team, under the umbrella of the Global Carbon Project, found that over the past 50 years the average fraction of global CO2 emissions that remained in the atmosphere each year has likely increased from 40 per cent to 45 per cent, suggesting a decrease in the efficiency of the natural sinks such as the oceans and terrestrial ecosystems. The team brings evidence that the sinks are responding to climate change and variability.*

*Dr Wolfgang Knorr's study on the other hand found no increase in the airborne fraction during the past*



**Catastrophic climate change 'inevitable', scientists warn**

The Daily Telegraph | November 20, 2009 12:01AM




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The study claims the Earth's natural ability to absorb CO2 into soil, forests and oceans is declining / File

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## Australia still highest per capita carbon emitter

Sarah Clarke reported this story on [Wednesday, November 18, 2009](#) 08:03:00

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TONY EASTLEY: It's an annual global snapshot that gives world leaders a solid idea of how the planet is tracking with its carbon emissions.

And the latest audit, published in the journal Nature Geoscience, has found that emissions are continuing to rise at 2 per cent a year, and Australia still holds the lead with the highest per capita among developed nations.

There's some good news though, carbon dioxide levels are slightly lower than previous years due to the global financial crisis.

But as environment reporter Sarah Clarke explains, that good news, may be short lived.

SARAH CLARKE: It's one of the few positives out of the global financial crisis - a hope that a slowdown in the economy may translate to a reduction in the planet's emissions.

But the latest audit by the Global Carbon Project has found carbon dioxide levels from human activities are still on the increase at around 2



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## World's carbon footprint continues to grow

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Updated November 19, 2009 13:36:38

As the world prepares for next month's UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, the latest annual global carbon report has been released in London.

It shows carbon emissions hitting record highs in 2008, mainly driven by the burning of coal but thanks to the global financial crisis there was a short reprieve - the equivalent of the world not polluting for six weeks.

*Presenter: Sen Lam*

*Speaker: Dr Mike Raupach, CSIRO scientist and member of scientific committee of the Global Carbon Project*

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RAUPACH: Well it's quite a modest upside because emissions in the first part of this decade from about 2000 to 2007 grew very rapidly. Fossil fuel emissions globally grew by about 3.5 per cent each year, and through that period of about seven years increased by well over 25 per cent. In 2008 emissions grew less, they grew by about 2 per cent, and we believe that that is the signature of the beginning of the financial crisis at about that time. This year, 2009, it's likely that emissions will in fact decrease slightly, they'll probably decrease by a couple of per cent as a result of the global financial crisis. Assuming that the global financial crisis recovers as everybody expects it to do, that the world resumes economic growth from roughly now or next year onwards, emissions will follow and resume their former growth trajectory unless there is significant structural change in the way that we generate energy and economic wealth in the course of producing our carbon emissions. In other words we need renewables; we need energy efficiency and processes like that to be implemented very quickly. If that doesn't happen, and if the relationships between energy, wealth and emissions stay similar to the path they were on in the earlier part of this decade, then emissions will revert to a growth trajectory.

LAM: And where is this growth in carbon emissions coming from?

RAUPACH: Well the difference between the current period and the period nearly 20 years ago when the Kyoto Protocol was first being developed is that emissions now come about 55 per cent from the so-called non-annex B countries, that is the developing countries of the world. China overtook the US in about 2006 as the largest single emitter of carbon dioxide. India has risen rapidly through that league table if you will. But it needs to be remembered that that 55 per cent of emissions from these countries is being generated by about 80 per cent of the world's population, and the remaining 45 per cent of emissions coming from the developed countries, the rich countries, come from only 20 per cent of the world's population. So the differences between the amount of carbon dioxide emitted per person between the developing and the developed world still remain very large.

LAM: And Mike even in our region deforestation is happening at an alarming rate but what has the bigger impact? Burning fossil fuels or deforestation?

RAUPACH: Burning fossil fuels by a margin of about four to one, even more than that. At the

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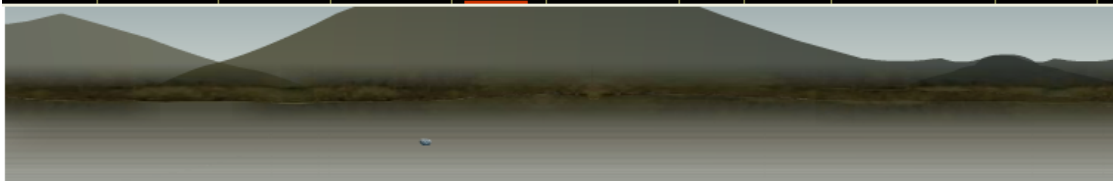
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## 2008 global carbon budget highlights

4:18 November 18, 2009 0 comments

Press Release – Global Carbon Project

See also: <http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/carbonbudget/08/hl-full.htm>  
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### Carbon Budget

#### Highlights

##### Atmospheric CO2 growth

The annual growth of atmospheric CO2 was 1.8 ppm in 2008, slightly below the average for the period 2000-2008 of 1.9 ppm per year (ppm = parts per million). The mean growth rate for the previous 20 years was about 1.5 ppm per year. This increase brought the atmospheric CO2 concentration to 385 ppm in 2008, 38% above the concentration at the start of the industrial revolution (about 280 ppm in 1750). The present concentration is the highest during at least the last 2 million years.

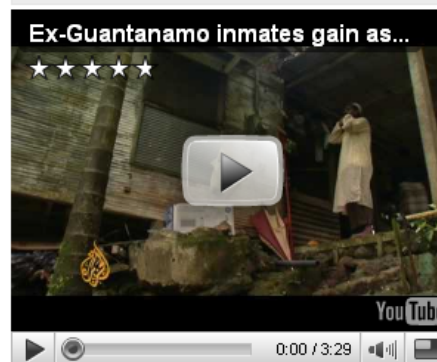
Accumulation of atmospheric CO2 is the most accurately measured quantity in the global carbon budget with an uncertainty of about 1% or about 0.04 PgC of the 4PgC per year accumulated on average since 2000. The data is provided by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Earth System Research Laboratory.

##### Emissions from fossil fuel and cement

Fossil fuel CO2 emissions continued to grow strongly in 2008 at 2% per year. This growth led to an all time high of 8.7 PgC emitted to the atmosphere (1 Pg = 1 billion tons or 1000 x million tons), 29% above emissions in 2000, and 41% above the Kyoto reference year 1990. Coal is now the largest fossil-fuel source of CO2 emissions. Over 90% of the growth in coal emissions results

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Carbon News Feed

## Carbon emissions rise despite recession

**Carbon News and Info > Climate change news > Global warming science**

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

Worldwide carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions rose by 2 per cent in 2008 despite the impact of global recession, according to the latest measurement study by the Global Carbon Project (GCP). The GCP, an international group of climate researchers, published their report in the journal Nature GeoScience showing that the recession had slowed world emissions growth from 3.6 per cent a year this decade to 2 per cent in 2008.

The study forecasts that emissions will actually fall in 2009 from 2008 levels, this year being most affected by recession, but are set to return to higher rates as economies around the world recover.

While some say the result offers some breathing space in the fight to stop global warming, it's hard to take too much comfort from the temporary dip in emissions growth. On the contrary, it provides further evidence that the great challenge of tackling climate change remains ahead – the decoupling of economic growth from carbon emissions. While peak oil is expected to help drive the switch to low-carbon energy, a consultants' study by IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates reported this week that oil supplies would not peak until 2030.

"The current growth in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is closely linked to growth in GDP," confirmed a lead author of the study, Dr Mike Raupach, from Australian national science agency CSIRO. CO<sub>2</sub> is one of the [six gases](#) said to be causing global warming and makes up the great majority of greenhouse emissions by humans.

The GCP Budget report says 8.7 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> was released into the atmosphere last year from human sources, with atmospheric concentrations now at 385 parts per million, 38 per cent higher than pre-industrial levels. Fossil fuel emissions are now 41 per cent above 1990 levels.

The study warns that [carbon sinks](#) are falling behind in their ability absorb carbon. Each year, vegetation and oceans, which remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, are absorbing lower proportions of the carbon emitted from burning fossil fuels. The proportion of carbon emissions removed each year by these natural sinks is at 55 per cent and falling, the study says.

This result underscores the importance of a UN agreement on mechanisms to reduce deforestation and increase forest cover - the so-called [REDD+](#) initiative, which is among the key items on the agenda at the Copenhagen climate conference next month.

The study finds that most of the growth in emissions is coming from developing countries but the authors point out that this growth owes much to rising exports of goods consumed in developed countries. In China alone, 50 per cent of the growth in emissions from 2002 to 2005 was attributed to the country's export industries.

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### Are carbon sinks keeping up with emissions increase?

Posted in [Briefings](#) on November 18th, 2009.

**While natural carbon sinks have historically been able to absorb over half of global carbon dioxide emissions, this may no longer be the case if these emissions continue to increase as they have, say scientists from leading climate research group the [Global Carbon Project](#) (GCP).**

In addition, carbon dioxide emissions are still rising, to reach an all-time high of 1.3 tonnes of carbon per capita per year. While 2008 saw minor decreases in carbon emissions from oil and deforestation, increased coal use meant that emissions still rose overall.

The research, to be published in [Nature Geoscience](#), suggests that the current growth in carbon dioxide emissions is closely linked to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. As a result, and despite the global financial crisis which will see emissions drop slightly, anthropogenic emissions rose by 2% in 2008. Further, they are likely to increase further when global economies recover, unless mitigation strategies are quickly implemented.

There is also concern over the possibility that natural carbon sinks are absorbing carbon less well than previously, as it suggests that carbon sinks may be negatively affected by climate change and emissions.

The GCP's annual Global Carbon Budget [report](#), which examines human effects on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, is contributed to by over 30 international experts from climate research institutions and is regarded as a benchmark reference for governments and policy-makers globally.

The research paper, titled 'Trends in the sources and sinks of carbon dioxide', can be found in the [SMC Resource Library](#).

#### SPEAKERS

**Dr Mike Harvey** - Mike Harvey has 26 years of experience working mostly in New Zealand in atmospheric physics and chemistry, and currently leads the research programme at the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA) into Drivers and Mitigation of Global Change. The programme measures and models human influence on the atmosphere from global down to regional scales. His interests include surface-atmosphere exchange of trace gases and aerosols.

**Dr Sara Mikaloff Fletcher** - Sara Mikaloff Fletcher has used atmospheric observations and models to estimate

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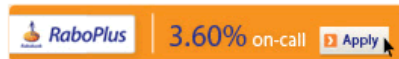
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## Human emissions rise 2% despite GFC

Wednesday, 18 November 2009, 5:21 pm  
 Press Release: CSIRO

Australian Science, Australia's Future  
 17 November 2009

### Human emissions rise 2% despite GFC

Despite the economic effects of the global financial crisis (GFC), carbon dioxide emissions from human activities rose 2 per cent in 2008 to an all-time high of 1.3 tonnes of carbon per capita per year, according to a paper published today in *Nature Geoscience*.

The paper – by scientists from the internationally respected climate research group, the Global Carbon Project (GCP) – says rising emissions from fossil fuels last year were caused mainly by increased use of coal but there were minor decreases in emissions from oil and deforestation.

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"The current growth in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions is closely linked to growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)," said one of the paper's lead authors, CSIRO's Dr Mike Raupach.

"CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion are estimated to have

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## World facing 'catastrophic six-degree rise' say scientists

By Michael McCarthy

1:25 PM Wednesday Nov 18, 2009

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The world is now firmly on course for the worst-case scenario in terms of climate change, with average global temperatures rising by up to 6C by the end of the century, leading scientists said yesterday.



Scientists say climate change models show large parts of the planet will become uninhabitable as temperatures rise. Photo / Supplied

Such a rise – which would be much higher nearer the poles – would have cataclysmic and irreversible consequences for the Earth, making large parts of the planet uninhabitable and threatening the basis of human civilisation.

We are headed for it, the scientists said, because the carbon dioxide emissions from industry, transport and deforestation which are responsible for warming the atmosphere have increased dramatically since 2002, in a way which no one anticipated, and are now running at treble the annual rate of the 1990s.

This means that the most extreme scenario envisaged in the last report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published in 2007, is now the one for which society is set, according to the 31 researchers from seven countries involved in the Global Carbon Project.

Although the 6C rise and its potential disastrous effects have been speculated upon before, this is the first time that scientists have said that society is now on a path to meet it.

Their chilling and remarkable prediction



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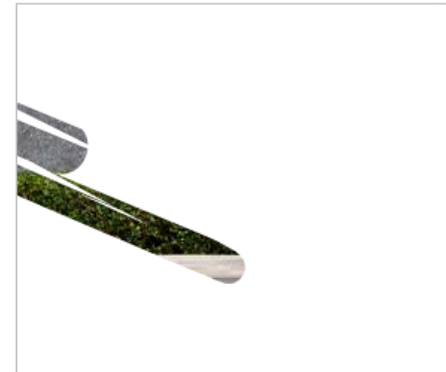
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# Jump in coal use pushes emissions to all-time high

MARIAN WILKINSON, ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

November 18, 2009 - 10:24AM

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A JUMP in the use of coal to produce electricity, especially in China and India, has contributed to carbon emissions from human activities reaching an all-time record high, a study published today finds.

With the faltering climate change talks set to open in Copenhagen next month, the latest figures from the Global Carbon Project show carbon dioxide emissions rising another 2 per cent last year as coal became the dominant source of fossil

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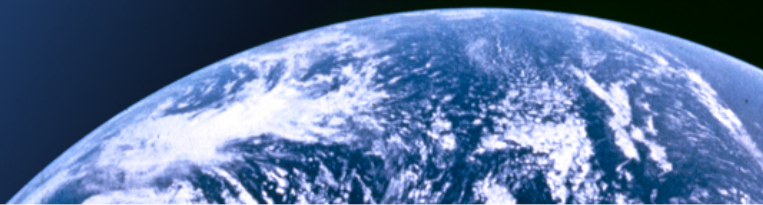
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### As Nations Haggle Over CO2 cuts, Measurement Is Tough



Date: 10-Nov-09

Country: SINGAPORE

Author: By David Fogarty, Climate Change Correspondent, Asia - Analysis



Early morning smog shrouds cooling towers of a power plant in the coastal South African city of Cape Town before dawn June 8, 2006.

Photo: Mike Hutchings

SINGAPORE - Targets and trust. These are at the heart of a tougher new global climate pact possibly just weeks away.

The bigger the pledged emissions cuts or reductions in growth in carbon dioxide pollution, the greater the need to prove nations meet those targets and curb the pace of climate change.

And proof of emissions reductions over time will help unlock billions of dollars in climate funds for poor nations.

The problem, though, is that it is not yet possible to independently monitor a country's greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide (CO2) from burning fossil fuels or deforestation.

"Our system is not good enough right now to be able finger one country versus another. I think the

November 18, 2009

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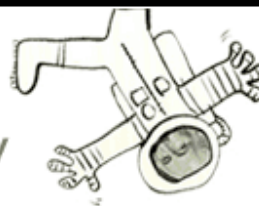
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4:02 pm

November 16, 2009

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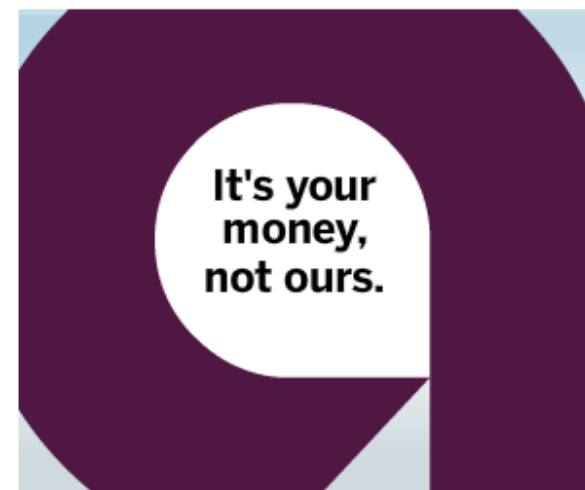
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By Daniel Costello

One indicator that didn't fall in 2009: global carbon dioxide levels.

According to the [Global Carbon Project](#), a group that provides policymakers with annual global carbon dioxide level estimates, each person on the planet produced 1.3 tons of carbon last year--an all-time high despite a global recession that slowed the growth

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