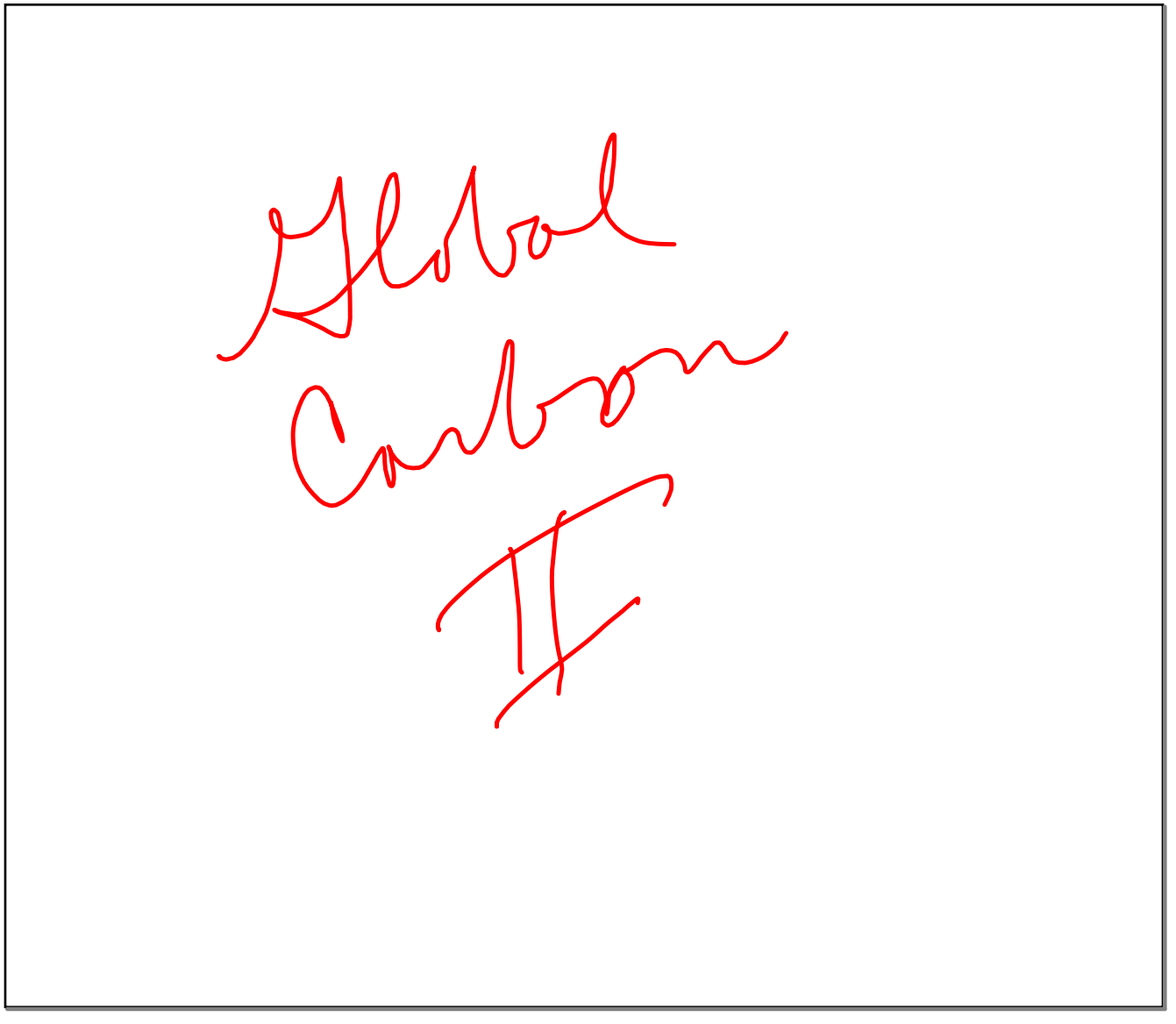
April 14, 2014



Climate Efforts Falling Short, U.N. Panel Says

The countries of the world have dragged their feet so long on global warming that only an intensive push in the next 15 years can stave off potential disaster, United Nations-appointed experts said.

BY DEGREES

Scientists Sound Alarm on Climate

A stark new report seeks to cut through confusion and awaken the public to the urgency of the dangers of global warming.

Study Links Temperature to a Peruvian Glacier's Growth and Retreat

Scientists from Dartmouth say heat, not other factors like diminished snowfall, is the prime culprit in the melting of the Peruvian Quelccaya ice cap.

Freezing January for Easterners Was Not Felt Round the World

Despite ice storms in the American South, it was the fourth-warmest January on record for the earth as a whole.

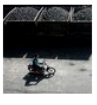
BY DEGREES

Freezing Out the Bigger Picture

What seems like unusually cold weather in the Northeast is still milder than what was normal a few decades ago, but it has stoked confusion and given fodder to global warming skeptics.

For Already Vulnerable Penguins, Study Finds Climate Change Is Another Danger

Intense rainfall and extreme heat combined with predation and starvation make life difficult for penguins, a University of Washington scientist says.



U.N. Says Lag in Confronting Climate Woes Will Be Costly

Another 15 years of failure by nations to limit carbon emissions could make the situation virtually impossible to solve with current technologies, according to a draft United Nations report.

Moose Die-Off Alarms Scientists

Populations across the continent are experiencing a sharp decline, and the exact cause is a mystery. But there is a common thread among possible factors: climate change.

Global Temperatures Highest in 4,000 Years

The modern warming period is unique over a longer period than previously thought, according to research published in the journal Science.

Not Even Close: 2012 Was Hottest Ever in U.S.

Last year's 55.3 degree average topped the previous record, set in 1998, by a full degree Fahrenheit.

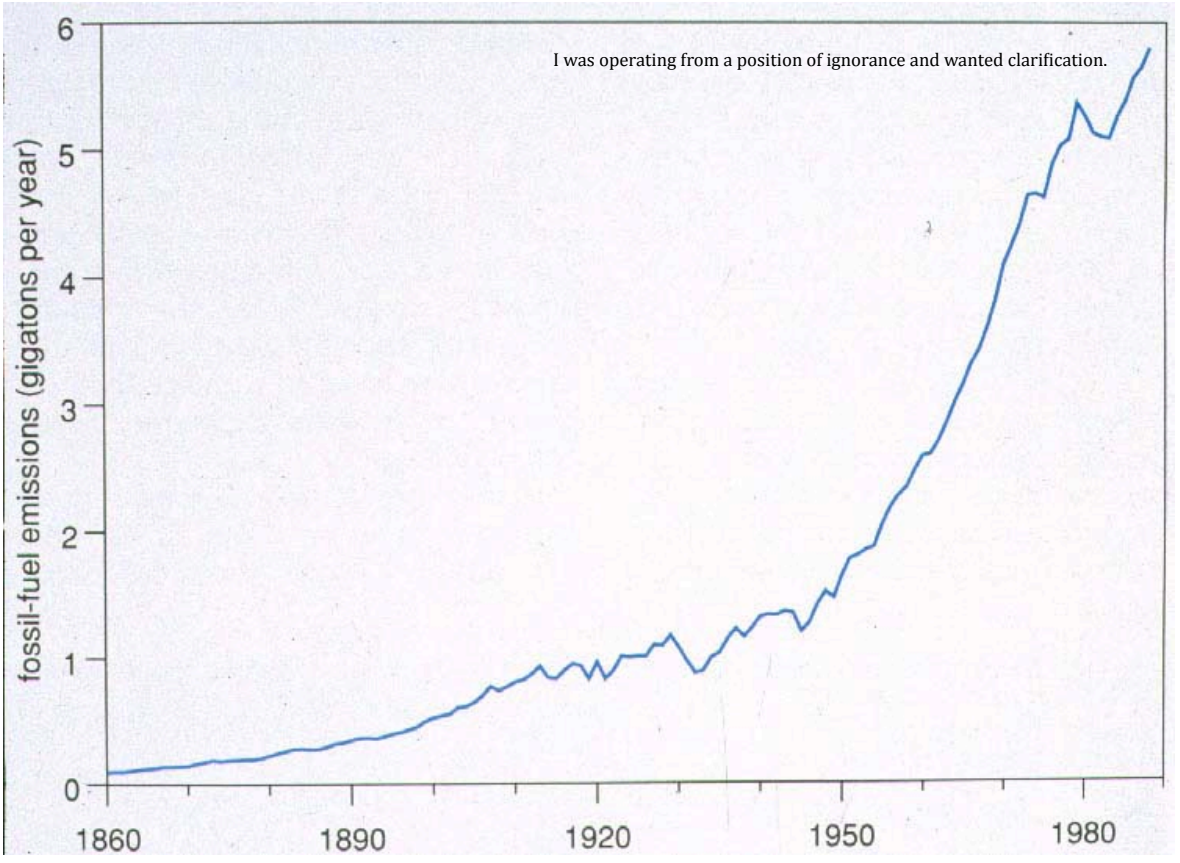
U.N. Agency Says 2012 Ranks Among Hottest Years

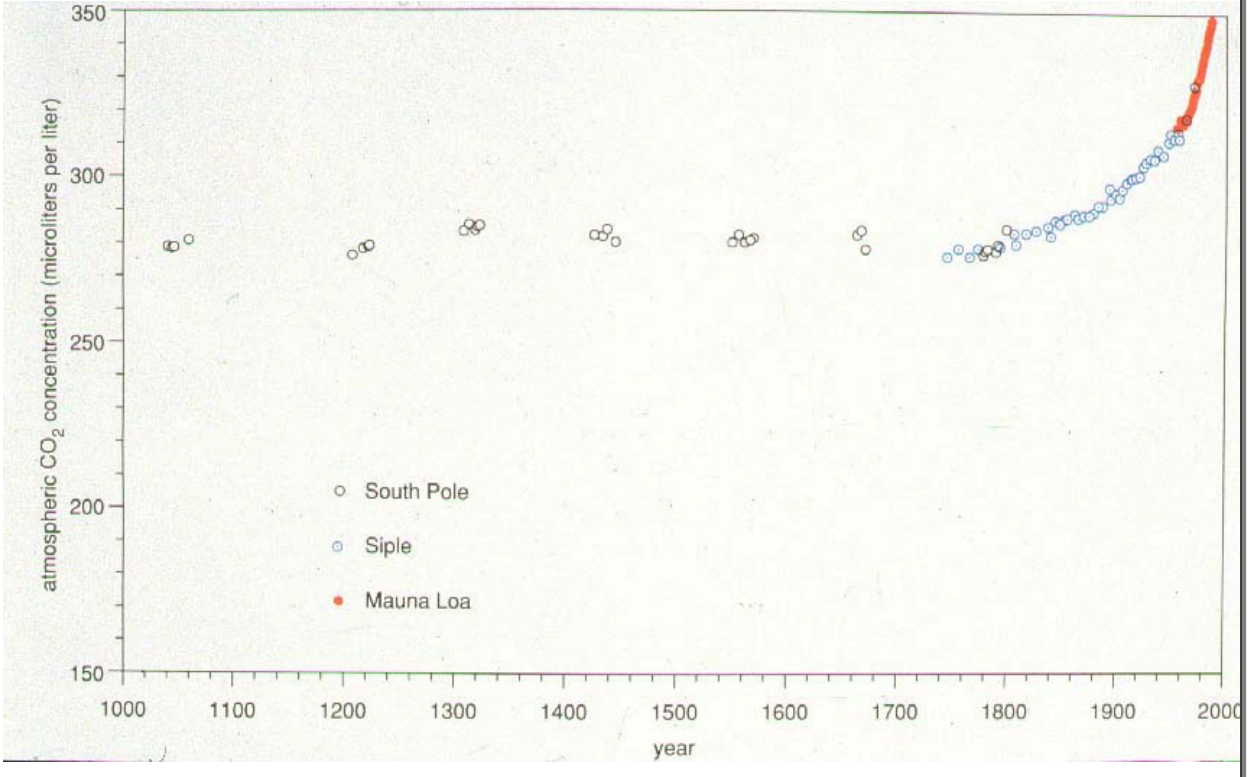
The World Meteorological Organization is warning that a warming trend and the melting of Arctic ice are increasing the risks of weather disasters.

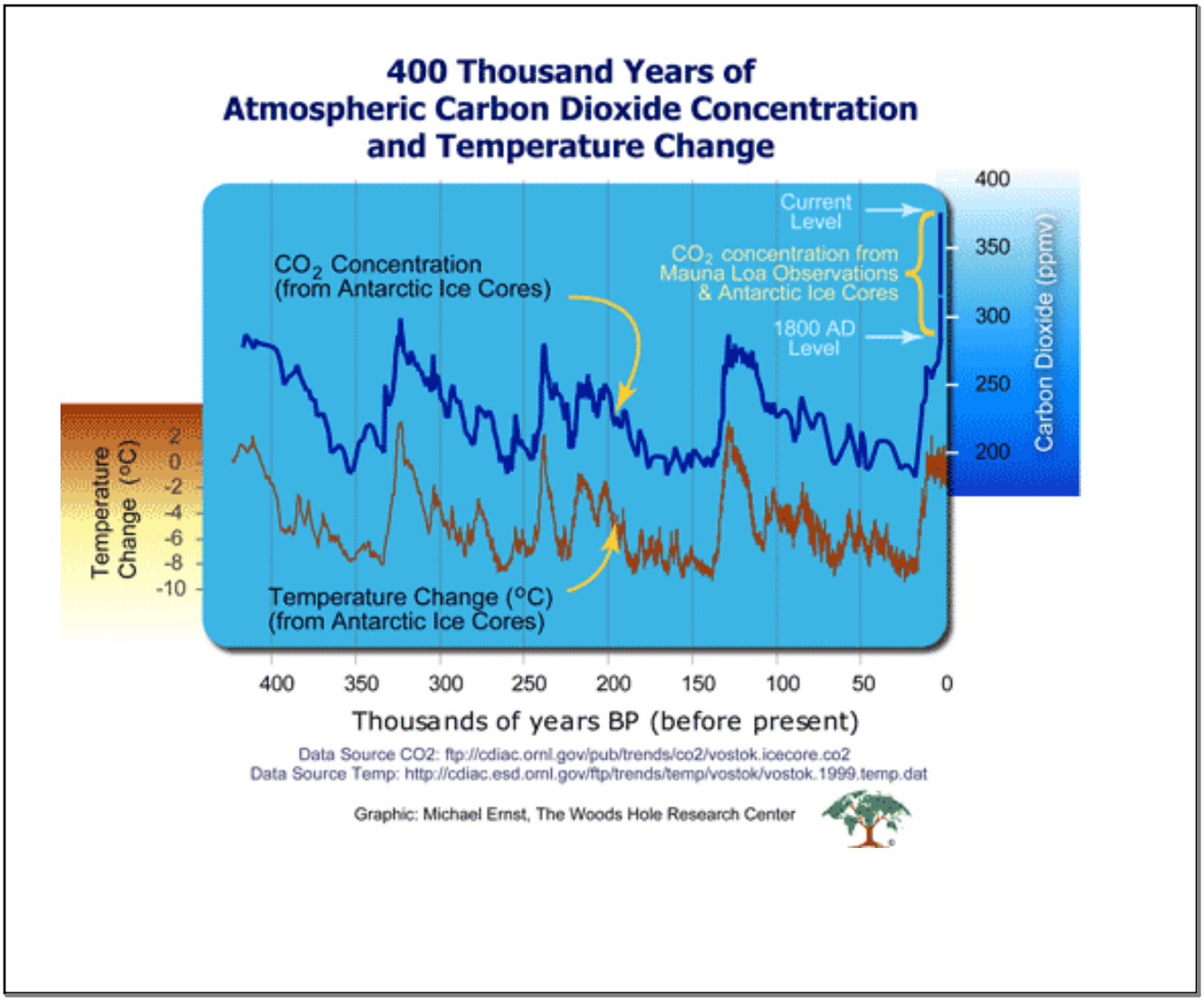
Ending Its Summer Melt, Arctic Sea Ice Sets a New Low That Leads to Warnings

The apparent low point for 2012 was reached Sunday, when sea ice covered 24 percent of the surface of the Arctic Ocean, down from the previous low of 29 percent set in 2007.

I was operating from a position of ignorance and wanted clarification.






400 Thousand Years of
Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Concentration
and Temperature Change
Current Level
CO2 concentration from Mauna Loa Observations & Antarctic Ice Cores
1800 AD Level
CO2 Concentration (from Antarctic Ice Cores)
Temperature Change (°C) (from Antarctic Ice Cores)
Temperature Change (°C)
2
0
-2
-4
-6
-8
-10
400
350
300
250
200
Carbon Dioxide (ppmv)
400 350 300 250 200 150 100 50 0
Thousands of years BP (before present)
Data Source CO2: ftp://cdiac.ornl.gov/pub/trends/co2/vostok.icecore.co2
Data Source Temp: http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/ftp/trends/temp/vostok/vostok.1999.temp.dat
Graphic: Michael Ernst, The Woods Hole Research Center

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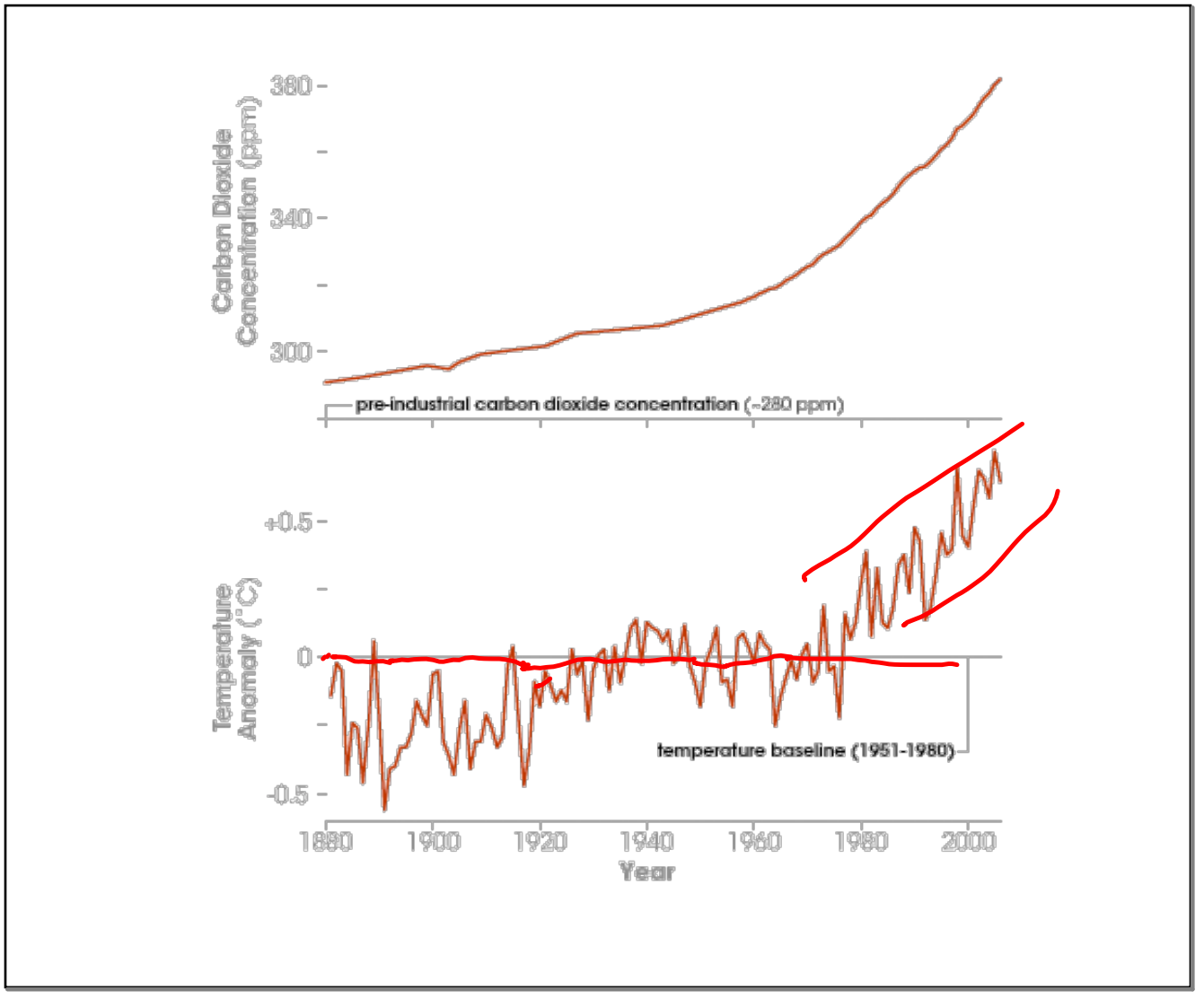


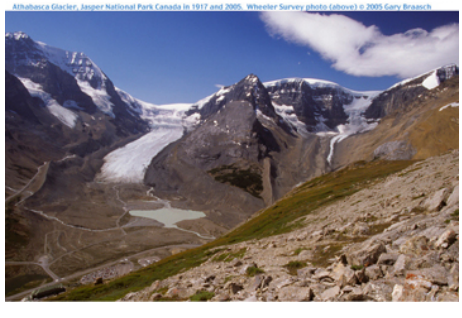
Click on graph for explanation


Portage Glacier AK, 1914 • NOAA


Portage Glacier AK
© 2004 Gary Braasch
(aerial estimation of 1914)

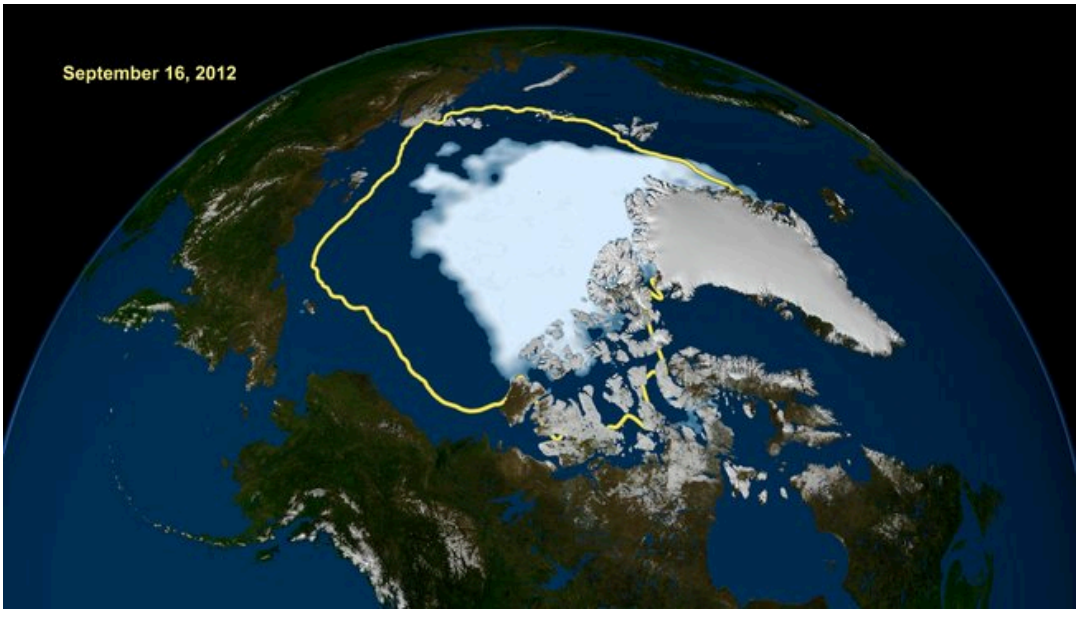

Pasterze Glacier 1875


Pasterze Glacier (site), Austria
© 2004 Gary Braasch

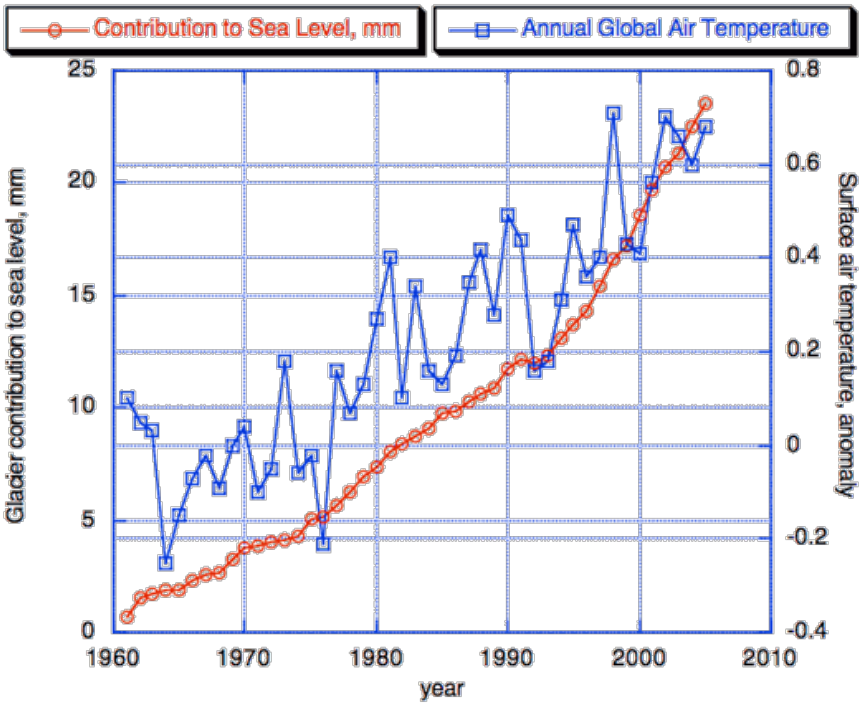

Athabasca Glacier, Jasper National Park Canada in 1917 and 2005. Wheeler Survey photo (above) © 2005 Gary Braasch

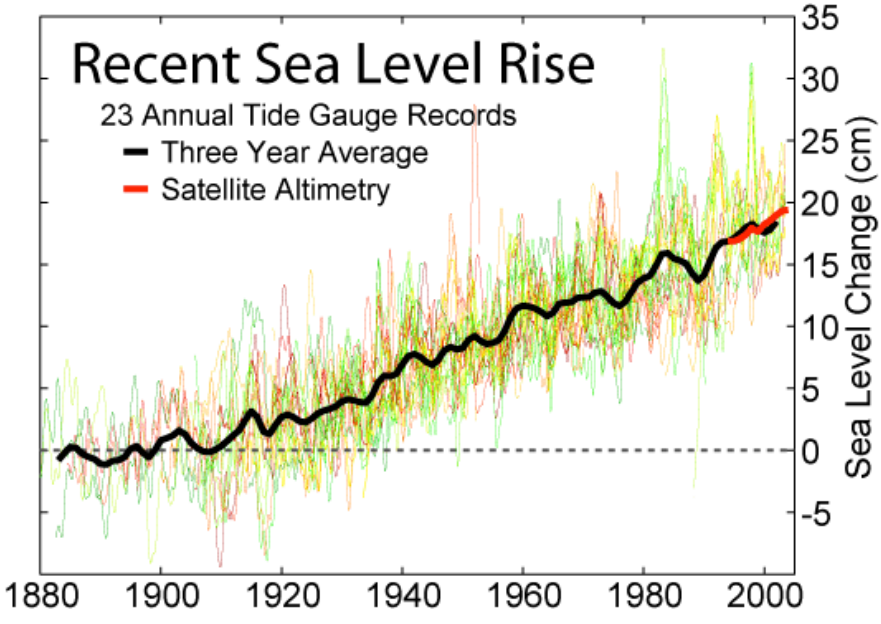

© 2001 Gary Braasch

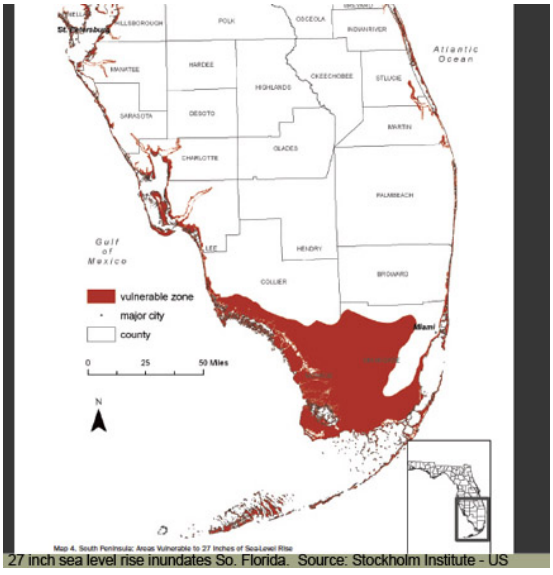

Greenland Glacier © 2004 Gary Braasch



A NASA image shows how the record-low Arctic sea ice extent compares with the average minimum extent over the past 30 years, in yellow.


Contribution to Sea Level, mm
Annual Global Air Temperature
Glacier contribution to sea level, mm
Surface air temperature, anomaly
year
25
20
15
10
5
0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
-0.2
-0.4
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010


Recent Sea Level Rise
23 Annual Tide Gauge Records
Three Year Average
Satellite Altimetry
Sea Level Change (cm)
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
-5
1880
1900
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000



27 inch sea level rise inundates So. Florida. Source: Stockholm Institute - US

Flyer shows earlier beach condition -- actual erosion in Oct. 2004
© Gary Braasch / WorldViewofGlobalWarming.org

219 Altoona Street, Nags Head NC, moved, as severe erosion undercuts other homes
© March 2010 - Gary Braasch / WorldViewofGlobalWarming.org

Photo by Don Bowers

Warming climate/Change in rain and storm patterns

Rising sea levels

Ocean acidification

Extinctions

Disproportionate effects on LDCs

Decades of foot-dragging by political leaders had propelled humanity into a critical situation, with greenhouse emissions rising faster than ever.

The emissions problem is still outrunning the determination to tackle it, with atmospheric carbon dioxide levels rising almost twice as fast in the first decade of this century as they did in the last decades of the 20th century.

While it remains technically possible to keep planetary warming to a tolerable level, only an intensive push over the next 15 years to bring those emissions under control can achieve the goal.

If we lose another decade, it becomes extremely costly to achieve climate stabilization.

If countries keep stalling on tougher climate rules, trillions of dollars will be invested in coming years in power plants, cars and buildings that use too much energy from fossil fuels. The result would be an emissions path that would be almost impossible to alter in time to get to the very low carbon pollution levels that scientists think are necessary by 2050.

While the costs of renewable energy like wind and solar power are falling fast, the longer society waits to implement strong measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the more costly and difficult it will become to limit climate change to less than catastrophic levels.

Scientists do not know how likely it is that unchecked global warming could cause some sort of wildly expensive calamity, such as a rapid melting of ice sheets that would drown the world's major coastal cities.

This and other disasters are distinctly possible, the authors found.

Tackling the problem in a serious way would carry costs, shaving a few hundredths of a percentage point off global economic growth each year.

Against those costs, the economic benefits of acting are essentially impossible to calculate,

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