

THE JACK H. BROWN COLLEGE, CSUSB, PRESENTS:

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Glasgow, COP 26, 10/31--11/12, 2021

"Climate Change"

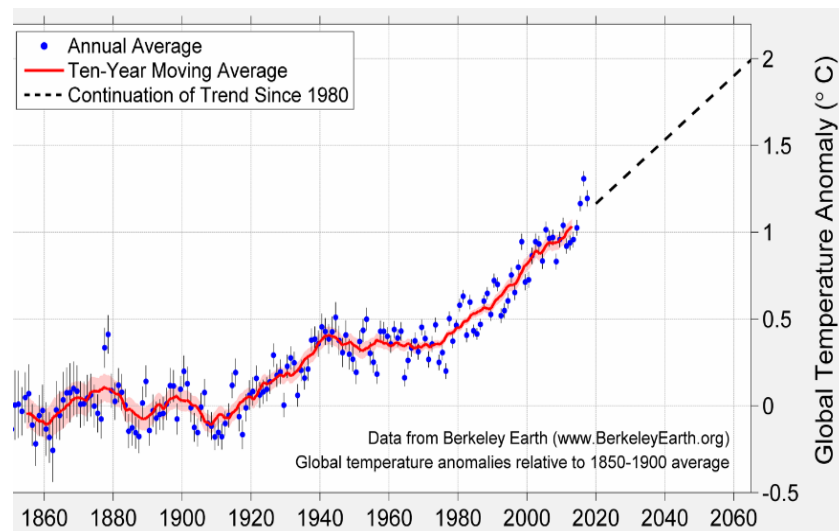
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(Please bring this to the attention of your students, as per our JHBC-PRME commitment to responsible management education, vis-à-vis environmental justice and sustainability)

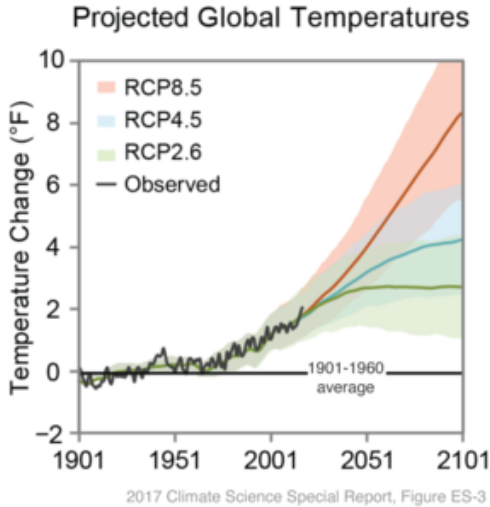
The "Paris Agreement" of 2015, between nation states is a legally binding, landmark, **international treaty (law)** on climate change. It was adopted by 196 world governments on 12 December 2015, and entered into force on 4 November 2016--with an agreed-upon deadline of every 5 years for reportage on efforts to combat global warming.

The year 2020 was the five year marker for world societies to report on progress. Due to the worldwide COVID pandemic the meeting was postponed to November 2021.

Essentially the United Nations' Paris Agreement is an accord with countries to limit **global warming** to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius¹ by 2030. Implementation of the Paris Agreement requires **economic and social transformation**, by each signatory, based on science. By 2021, countries pledged to submit their plans for climate action known, as nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The U.N. has outlined the Strategic Sustainability Development Goals into 17 SDGs.



¹ 1.5 Celsius to Fahrenheit Conversion Formula: °F = (°C × 9/5) + 32 = 34.7 F



2017 Climate Science Special Report, Figure ES-3

evident in the first week of COP 26.

According to the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the earth can tolerate only another 500 billion tons of emissions without risking increasingly damaging atmospheric warming in excess of 1.5 degrees Celsius--above pre-industrial levels. Given current annual emissions of 50 billion tons, the heavy lifting has to happen in this decade. But, while it is easy and popular for politicians to talk up the dangers of climate change and promise safety with grandiose policies for 2030 or 2050, these promises are far less resonant when it is time to ask voters to pay for these climate policies. This became (Figure above, Projections to year 2101)

There were major disagreements on three issues: Firstly, in finance, developed nations have failed to provide on their promises for climate change financial contributions and developing nations have increased their goals for financial need. Secondly, developed nations showed discomfort in being monitored for contributions by world bodies like the OECD. On the other hand, developing countries were suspicious of such reviews and “number crunching.” The third issue is the timeline. The U.N. has called for phasing out coal by 2030 in OECD countries but environment ministers from the Group of 20 big economies have failed to agree a timeline.

Despite the talk, COP 26 showed that countries in general failed to “walk the walk.” One of the major emitters of carbon pollution, China, even failed to show up to the Conference. Climate activist Greta Thunberg slammed Cop 26 as a “failure” and a “PR event”. “The leaders are not doing nothing, they are actively creating loopholes and shaping frameworks to benefit themselves and to continue profiting from this destructive system,” Prime Minister of the U.K., Boris Johnson, warned that it is ‘one minute to midnight’ to prevent a world climate catastrophe.



President Biden asserted that “We only have a brief window before us to raise our ambitions,” he said. “Right now, we’re still falling short.” On Monday 11/8, Barack Obama said, “stay angry!” ...We have not done nearly enough to address this crisis.”

Unlike some decades ago, when many more people thought that climate change was a hoax and/or bad science; today, most people concur that climate change is a major world issue, rapidly moving to its tipping point--judging by the acceleration of climate disasters round the world. This is good, but it is up to governments and wise, ethical, leaders to push harder against the change that is inexorably coming to destroy the earth’s carrying capacity for life.

Sources Compiled from: Scientific American, Berkeley Earth, COP 26, NASA, The Guardian, Foreign Policy, NYTimes, isrumich.edu