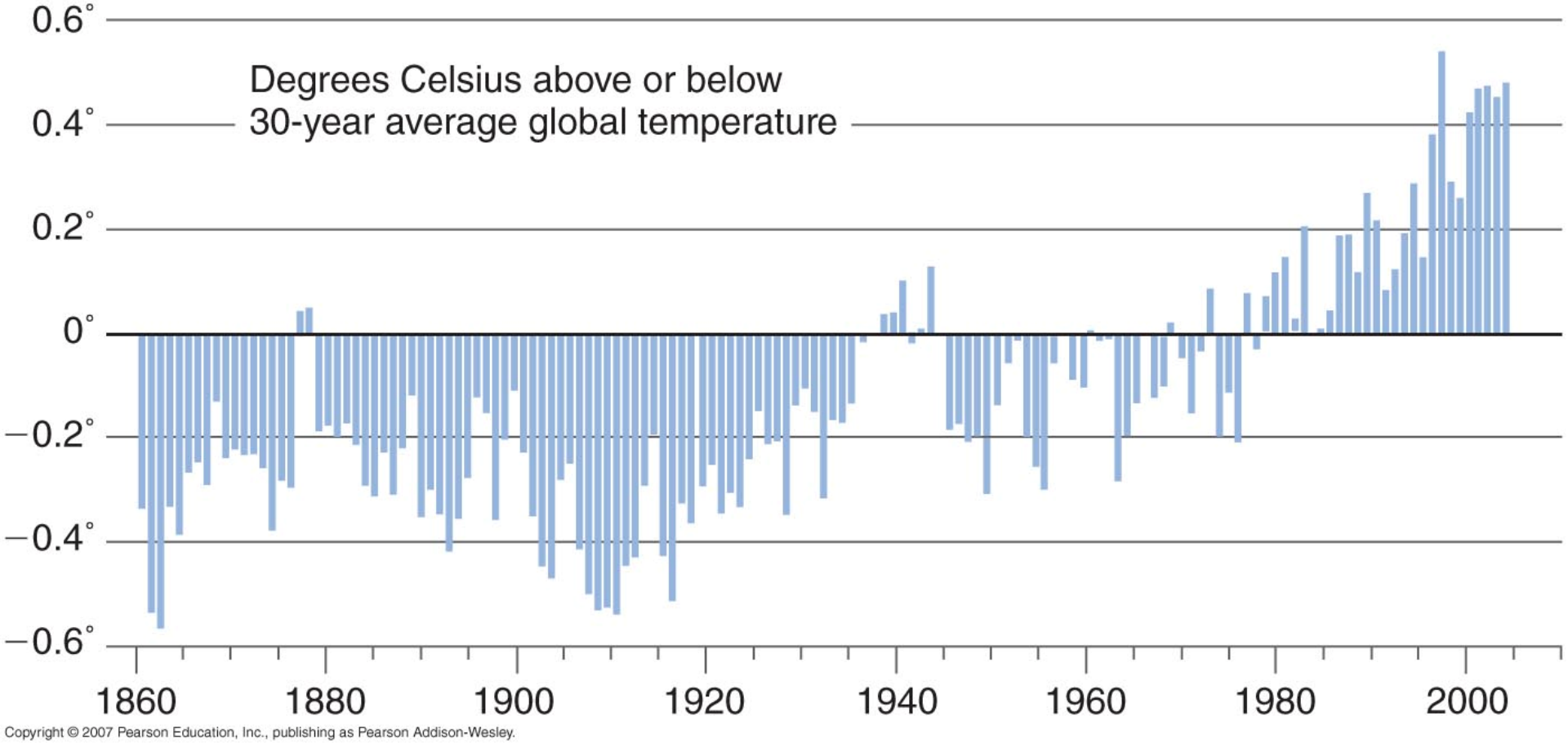
Special Topic:
Climate Change

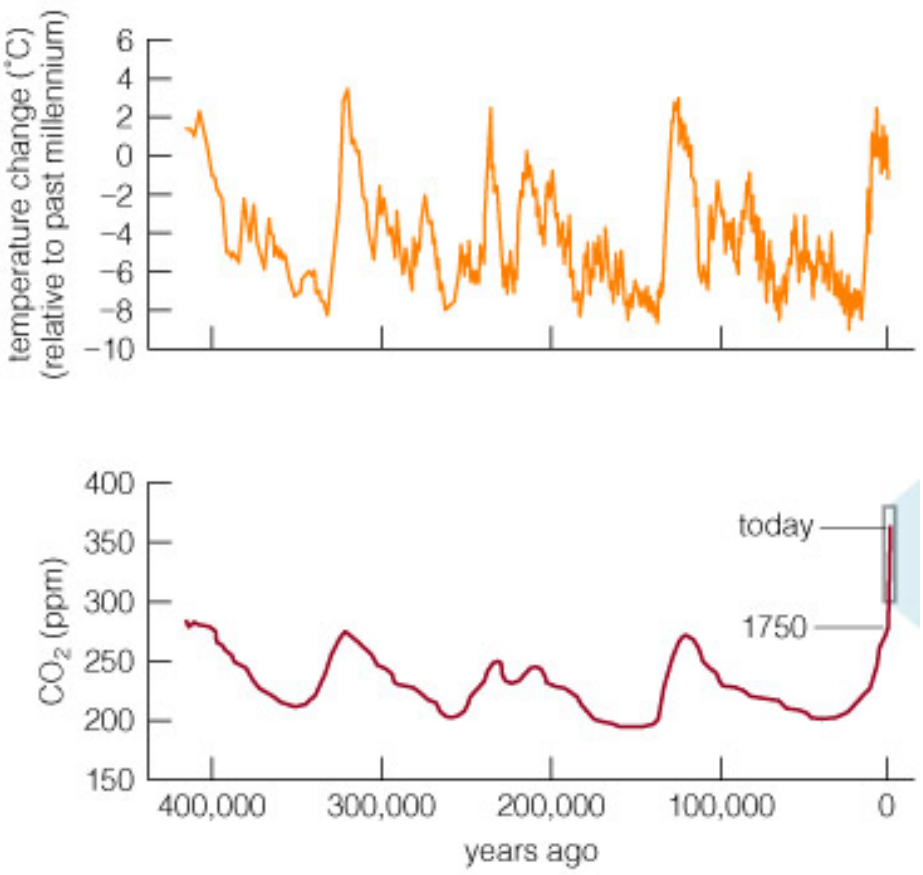
How is human activity changing our planet?



Global Warming

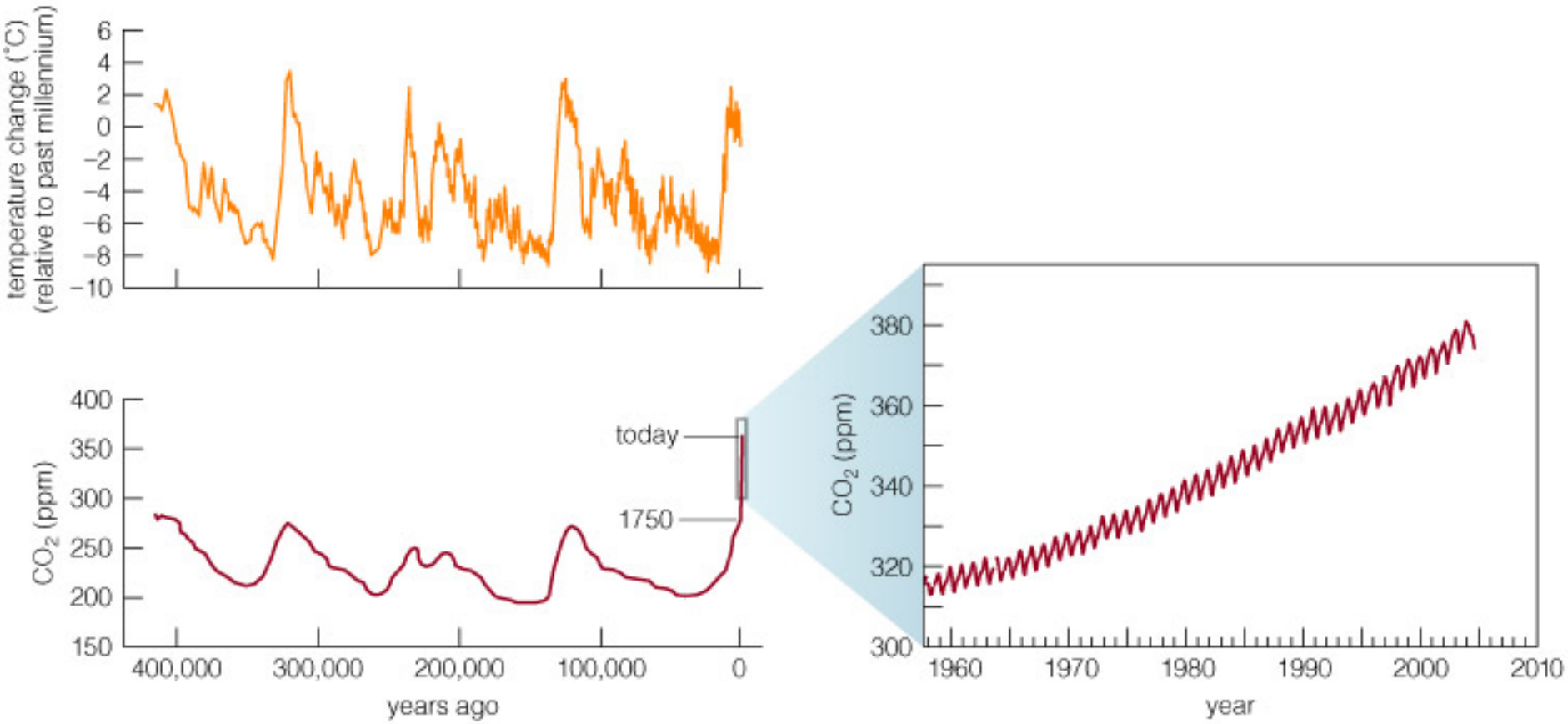
- Earth's average temperature has increased by 0.5°C in the past 50 years.
- The concentration of CO_2 is rising rapidly.
- An unchecked rise in greenhouse gases will eventually lead to global warming (which really means more weather).

CO_2 Concentration



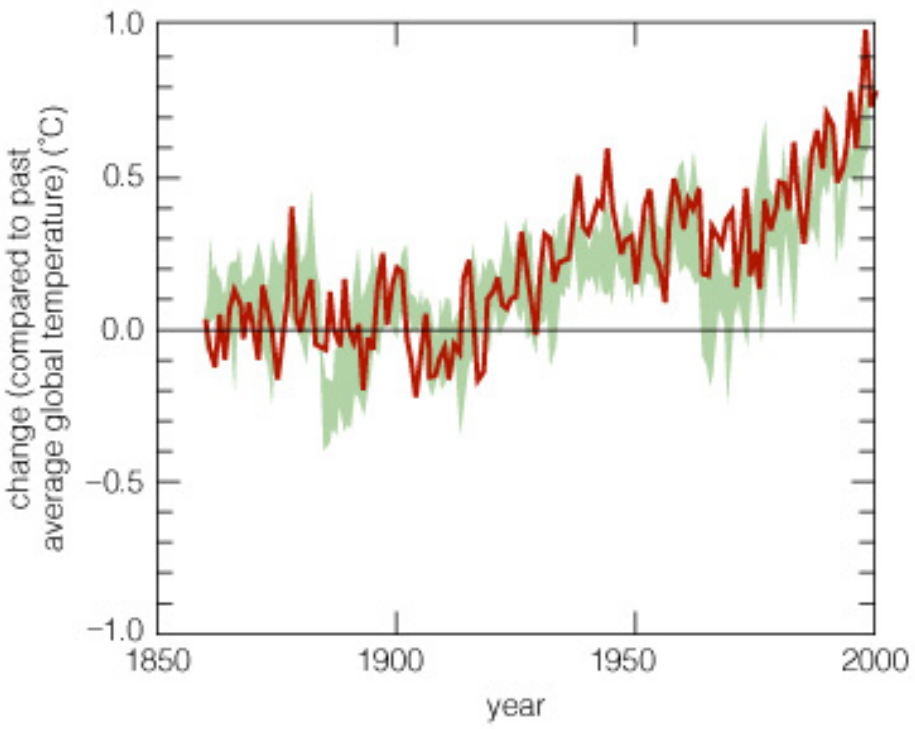
- Global temperatures have tracked CO_2 concentration for the last 500,000 years.
- Antarctic air bubbles indicate the current CO_2 concentration is at its highest level in at least 500,000 years.

CO_2 Concentration



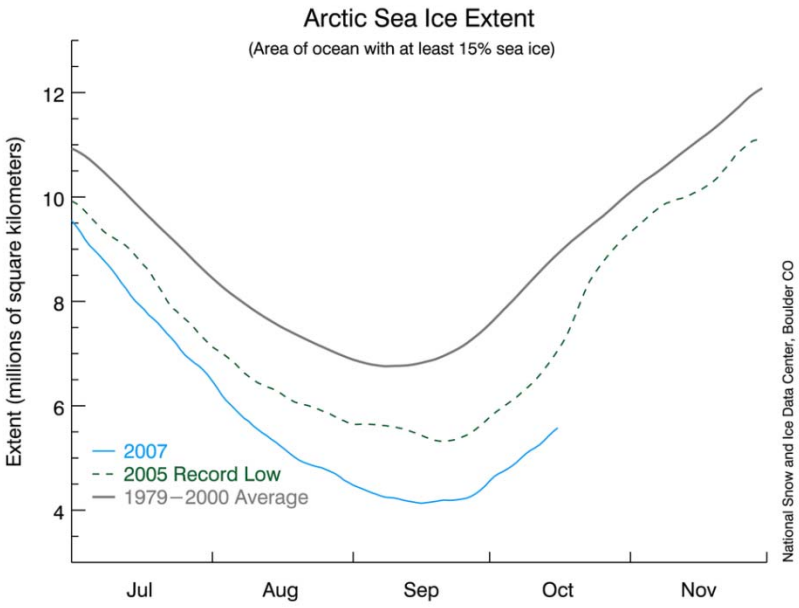
- Most of the CO2 increase has happened in the last 50 years!

Modeling of Climate Change

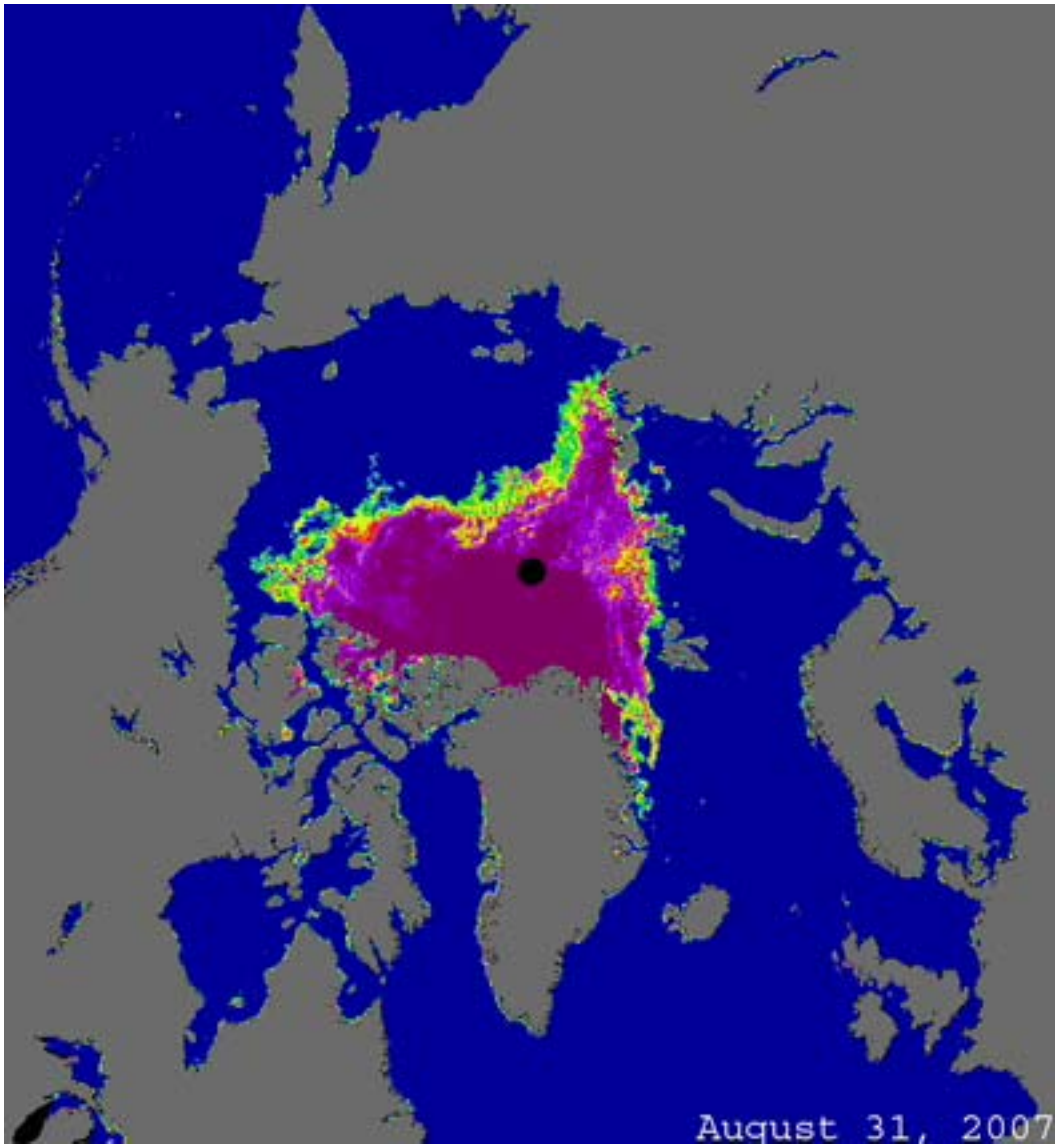


- Complex models of global warming suggest that the recent temperature increase is very consistent with human production of greenhouse gases.

Consequences of Global Warming



- Melting of polar ice.
- More extreme weather.
- Rising sea levels.



What can we do about it?

- Reduce greenhouse emissions by improving energy efficiency, especially car gas mileage.
- Invest in alternative energy sources.
- Bury the CO_2.

What can we do about it?

- But then there's the elephant in the room no one wants to talk about:
- Population control