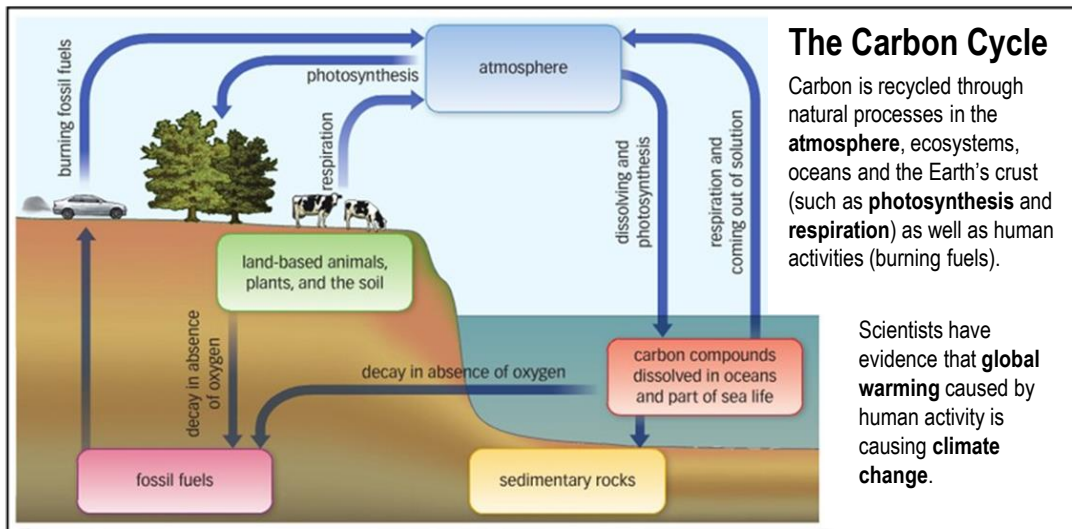


8G Cleaning Up

Key Word	Definition
global warming	The gradual increase in surface temperature of the Earth.
fossil fuels	Remains of dead organisms that are burned as fuels, releasing carbon dioxide.
carbon sink	Areas of vegetation, the ocean or the soil, which absorb and store carbon.
greenhouse effect	When energy from the sun is transferred to the thermal energy store of gases in Earth's atmosphere.
atmosphere	The mixture of gases surrounding the Earth.
greenhouse gas	A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect, such as carbon dioxide.
respiration	The process that transfers energy in plants and animals.
combustion	A chemical reaction in which a substance reacts with oxygen and gives out light and heat. Also called burning.
photosynthesis	The process plants and algae use to make their own food, glucose.
climate change	A long-term change in weather patterns.



The Carbon Cycle

Carbon is recycled through natural processes in the **atmosphere**, ecosystems, oceans and the Earth's crust (such as **photosynthesis** and **respiration**) as well as human activities (burning fuels).

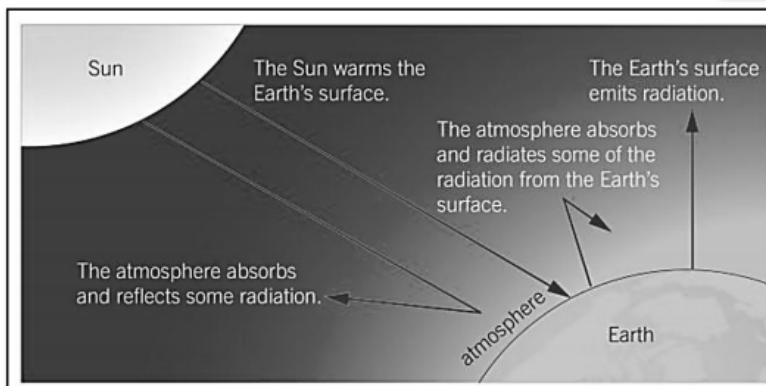
Scientists have evidence that **global warming** caused by human activity is causing **climate change**.

There is some disagreement between scientists and politicians about whether human activities cause **climate change**, or whether it is caused by natural events. The majority of scientists however believe that **global warming** caused by human activity is 'very likely' to be causing changes in **climate**.

Global warming is a concern because it changes local weather patterns. In some areas rainfall increases, leading to flooding. Other areas suffer droughts and heatwaves which may cause crop failures. It may also lead to extinction of certain species.

There are many ways of reducing emissions of **greenhouse gases** caused by human activities. These include:

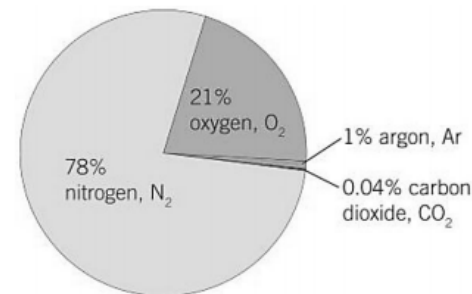
- generating electricity from solar panels and other renewable sources instead of burning **fossil fuels**.
- using cars less
- buying and wasting less



The **greenhouse effect** explains how the **atmosphere** keeps the Earth warm.

Over time there has been a gradual increase in air temperature at the surface of the Earth, this is called **global warming**.

Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane contribute to the **greenhouse effect** and certain human activities can increase the amounts of these gases in the **atmosphere**.



The atmosphere is the mixture of gases surrounding the Earth, the proportions can be shown on a pie chart.