

There's More Carbon Dioxide In Our Atmosphere Than Any Time In Human History

In May 2019, sensors at the Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii - which has tracked Earth's atmospheric concentration of CO₂ since the late 1950s - detected a CO₂ concentration of 415.26 ppm. The last time Earth's atmosphere contained this much CO₂ was more than three million years ago,

when sea levels were several metres higher and trees grew at the South Pole. Scientists have warned that carbon dioxide levels higher than 450 ppm are likely to lock in catastrophic and irreversible changes in the climate. Around half of the CO₂ emitted since 1750 has been in the last 40 years.

PartsPerMillion

415.26 ppm

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