

## ANTARCTIC CLIMATE EXPEDITION 2023



# ACHIEVING TURNING POINT

CONTRIBUTION BY THE PRINCIPAL  
EXPEDITION TEAM

## WELCOME TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF ACE 2023.

The Antarctica Climate Expedition 2023 (ACE 2023) aims to bring about public and government awareness of the importance and the splendor of the Antarctic and to address the warming climate and loss of ice in the southern polar region as a direct threat to the future of human life on this planet.

The purpose of this Expedition is to confront the consequences and develop creative strategies for everyone to radically reduce carbon emissions, with the goal that each one of us will take more active ownership of our carbon footprint, then find ways to reduce and offset their emissions.

Hence the primary mission is for the ACE 2023 Team to propose and champion 23 Resolutions to reduce and offset emissions within our lives, communities, and countries to pace up in reaching Net Zero.

The principal expedition team for this important climate summit will comprise conservationists, celebrities, and ocean luminaries. 100 people will be selected to be part of ACE 2023. You can be one of them. Find out more [here](#).

#ACE2023, #AntarcticClimateEpic,  
#AntarcticClimate, #OceanGeographic,  
#ACETEAM

## THE RACE TO ZERO

WRITTEN BY JANEL KOK

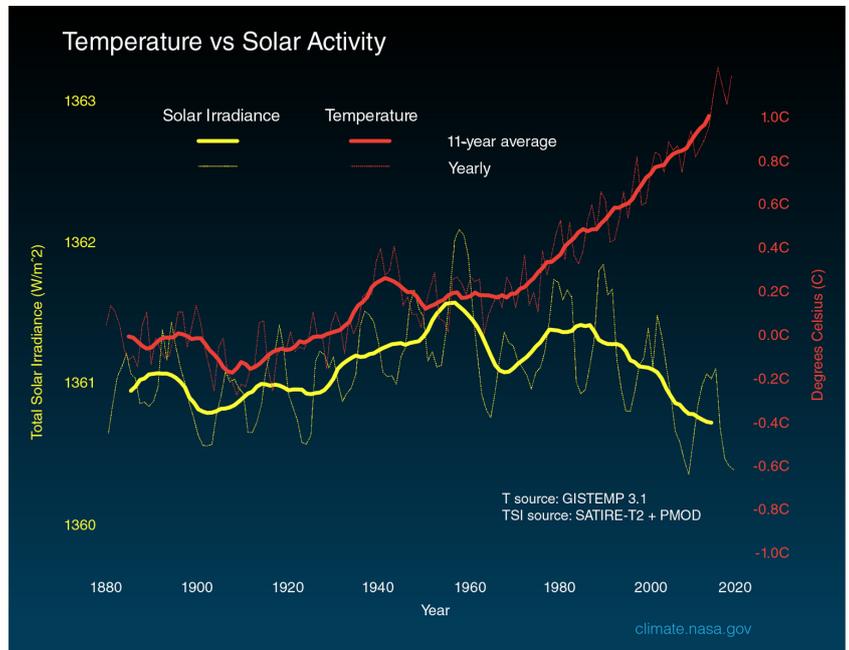
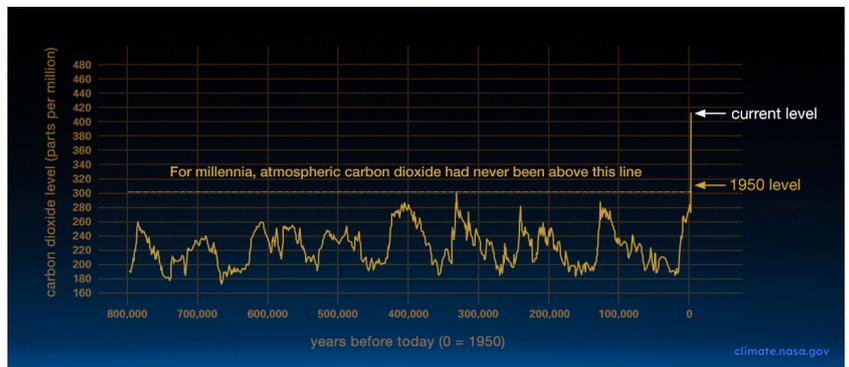
Before the 1980s, “Inadvertent Climate Modification” was used to refer to the human impact on the climate. Then in the 2000s, “Global Warming” and “Climate Change” were popularised. Extreme weather conditions beset our world today, and unfortunately, the impact is mostly borne by low-income nations. Media now express this state as “Climate Crisis”, “Climate Emergency” or “Climate Catastrophe”. The intention is to deliver a greater sense of urgency of the threatening state we are facing and the need for action. But how many more terms do we need in this lifetime to kick us to a comprehensive, honest, immediate, penetrative action plan and for everyone to sit up and commit to change?

Global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions are set to rise by 5% in 2021 compared to 2020, making it the second biggest emission rise in history, according to a report published in April this year by the International Energy Agency (IEA); and this is in spite of lingering Covid-19 restrictions. This is also projected to reverse most of any decline in 2020 during the global Covid-19 standstill.

The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in our atmosphere, as of July 2021, is the highest it has been in human history; at 417 parts per million.

Surface temperatures have now risen by about 1.1C, compared with the average between the period of 1850 to 1900. In a quote from Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General - this rise in temperatures is projected to continue, arriving at a 2.7C hotter world by the end of this century; that is if countries meet current pledges. **Terrifyingly, we are nowhere near.**

Even if we manage to stabilize rising temperatures to 1.5C this century, this rise in temperature will still result in dramatic extreme weather conditions with a long-term impact that is inevitable and irreversible. Such as the melting of ice in the polar regions, rising sea levels, warming and acidification of oceans, more intense droughts, storms, heatwaves, fires, loss of animal species, food scarcity, health risks, poverty, and displacement. Yet this is what is projected as the “smaller risk” than if we get to a 2.7C rise in temperatures.



### Record Pools of Meltwater on George VI Ice Shelf, Antarctica

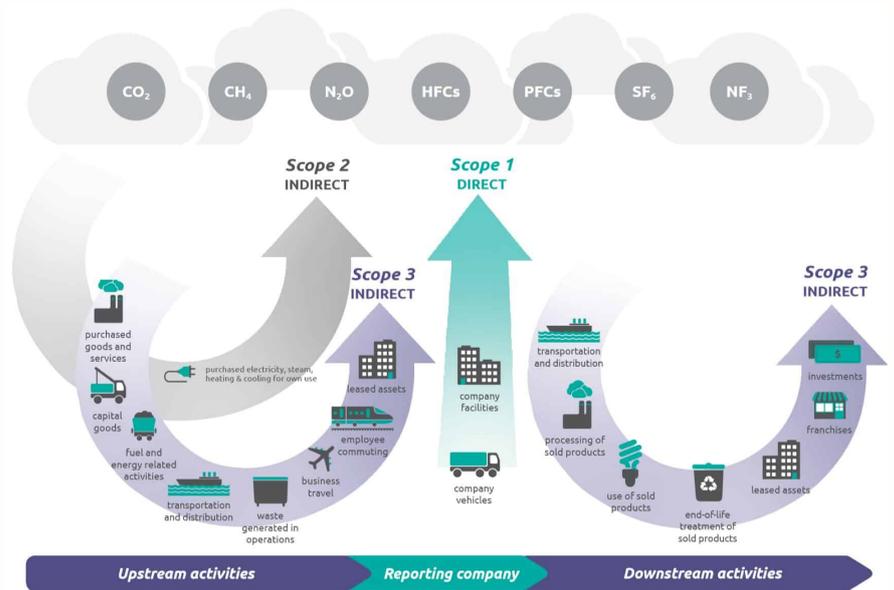


We just must accept that we will not be returning to the world of our forefathers, with moderate weather patterns of the past, or nature as they saw it. It’s time to recognize anthropogenic activities like burning of fossil fuels, clearing of land, burning of forests, increasing intensity in agricultural practices, and land use, construction manufacturing, and industrial processes are main and heavy overweight contributors to carbon emissions levels and unequivocally the cause of this state we are in. We had behaved as if we could control and own Mother Nature - to do as we please with irresponsible abandon.

Hopefully, by now, it should be glaringly obvious that we are wrong, and it is time for us to race to action; to remedy and recover our actions past and future.

**Now - is our race of this century to get to Net Zero.** A point where the amount of greenhouse gas produced, and the amount of greenhouse gas removed from the atmosphere is in equal balance. Only by arriving at Net Zero of greenhouse gas emissions can we mitigate the Climate Catastrophe we are already heading towards. We need strategies that drive action, give support, and encourage innovation to get us to Net Zero speedily; specifically addressing the biggest contributors to carbon emissions - Energy use, Agriculture Forestry, and Land use, Construction Industrial Manufacturing.

Like all good strategies, Net Zero strategies and action plans cannot be one-dimensional. For example, carbon offsets alone cannot form a strategy. Strategies need to be holistic - addressing direct and indirect emissions, penetrative - assessing upstream and downstream emissions, allowing for efficient implementation, have clear near and long-term goals, and we also need to be brutally honest with ourselves. No more clever words, communication tactics, or any type of color washing. Because truthfully, remedy and recovery of carbon emissions in this present age would not even get us close to addressing past emissions. Better talk less, do more or face the consequences of living with even less.



Greenhouse gases mainly consist of water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases.

Source: GHG Protocol

This is pertinent to Governments, Corporates, Communities, and Individuals. Change can only be apparent if led from a top-down and ignited from a bottom-up approach and everyone needs to be accountable. But there is no need to wait for one to lead because we do not have that luxury to wait around. There is no need to look over the fence to compare what the other has or has not done because this is your world too. There is no need to wait for that one big action to make a difference because, at this point, every action makes a difference. There is no need to make a big deal of one action or plan because right now we need a whole lot going at the same time. There should not be any apathy, ignorance, or sugar-coating because the situation is dire, and we need to man up to what is coming ahead. Most of all, there is definitely no need for another term to ignite us into motion either. If at all, the term we should be quicker to react to is Climate Inaction.

To paraphrase the famous advertising line of a certain watch brand - We never actually own this Earth we live in. We merely look after it for the next generation. At this point, we have been abject failures as Stewards of Earth. But better late than never.

**This race in Climate Action to get to Net Zero is on You and Me for our next generation.**

In the next issue, we will share highlights from COP26.

COP26 runs from 31 October to 12 November 2021. COP stands for Conferences of the Parties. It is the 26th time countries have gathered under this United Nations convention on climate change. This time, governments from 197 countries will meet in Glasgow for vital UN climate talks. Nations at COP26 are expected to present fresh plans that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions faster than what they are currently doing. The purpose of the summit is to get concrete commitment for action from Governments and support the right industries.



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