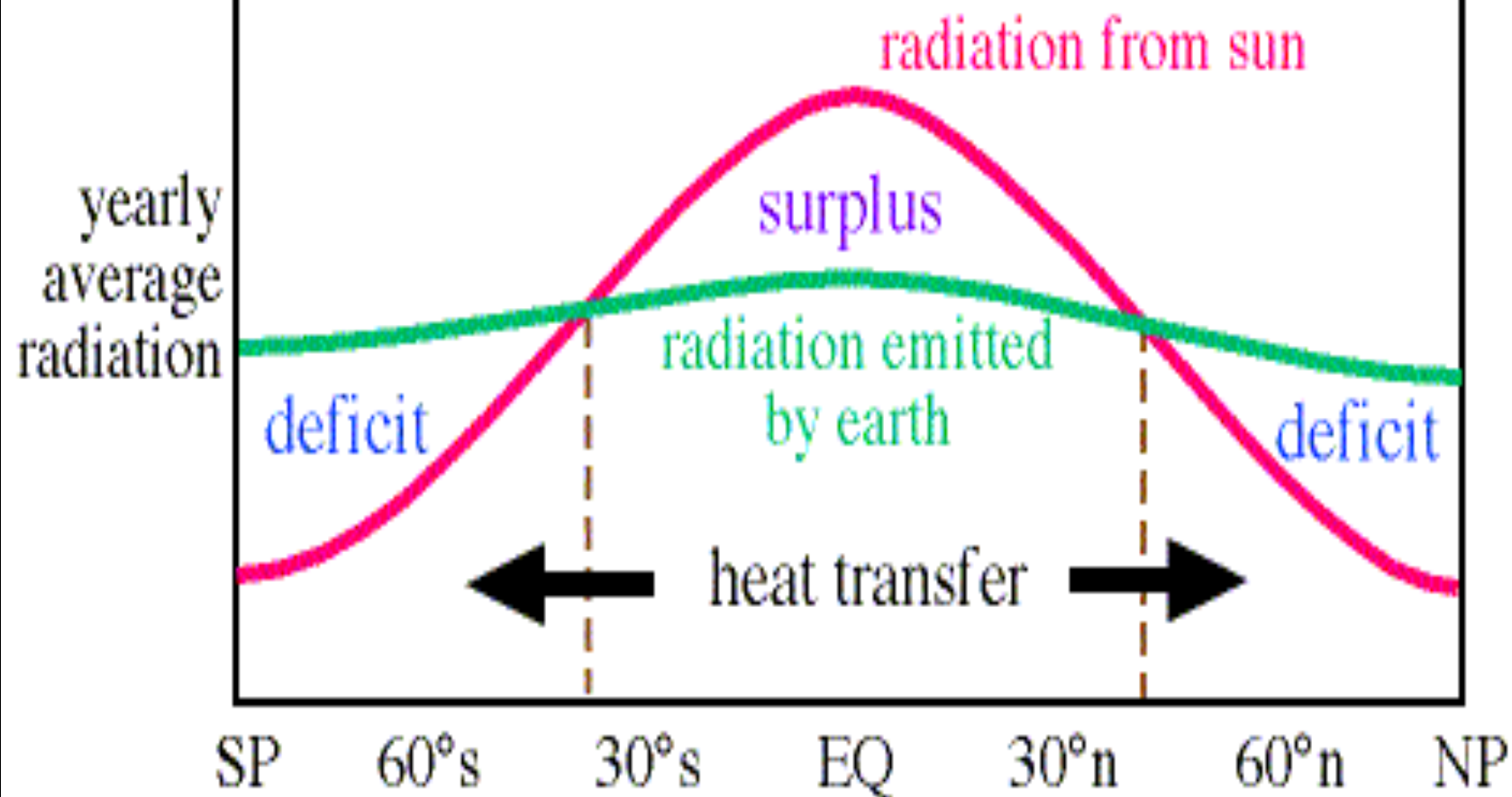
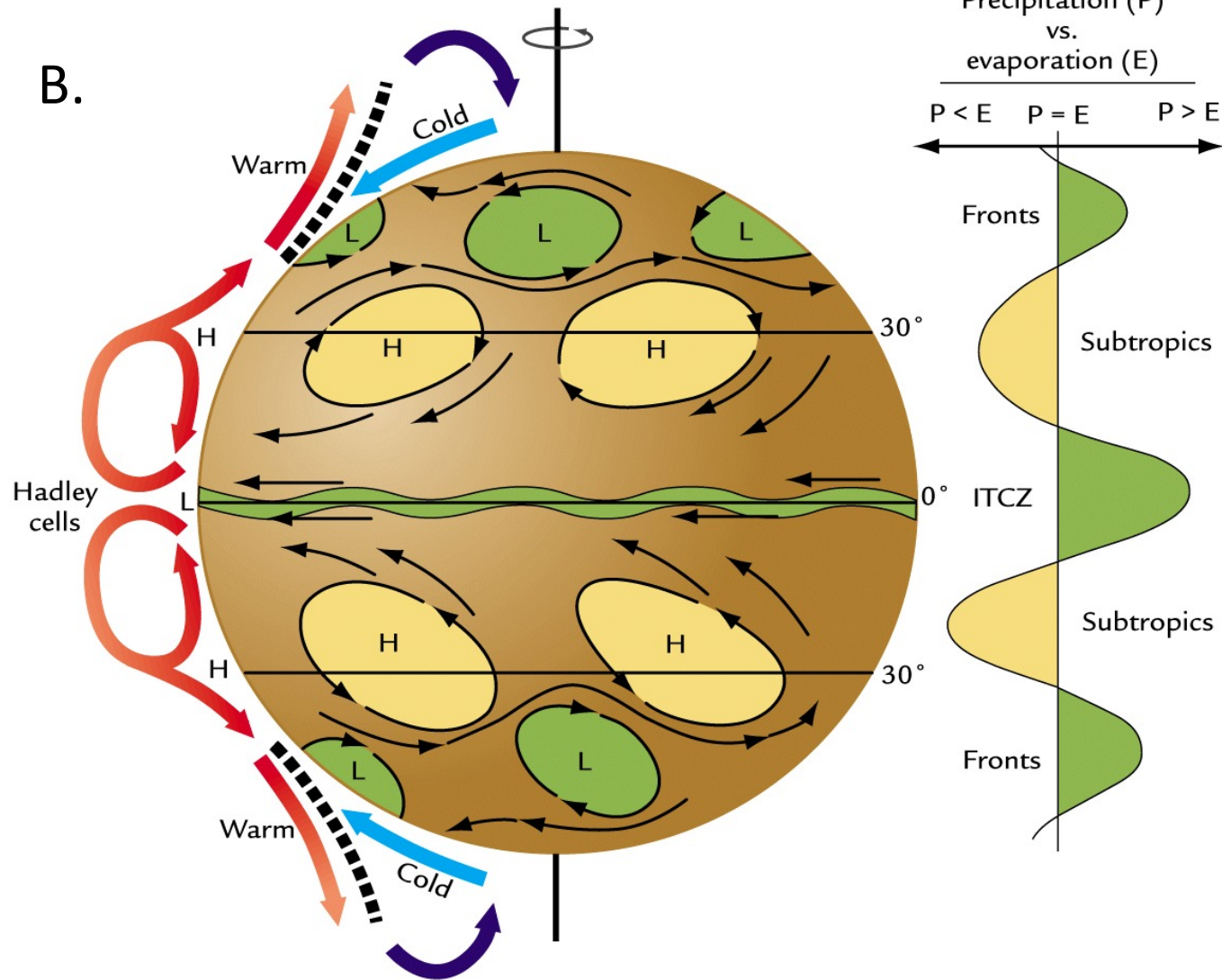


Earth's energy balance

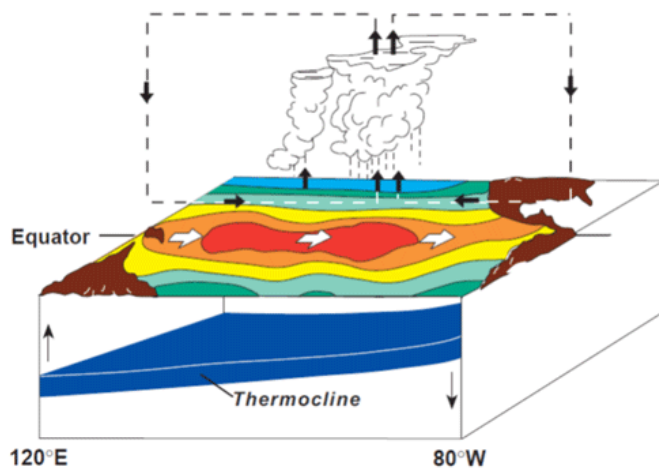
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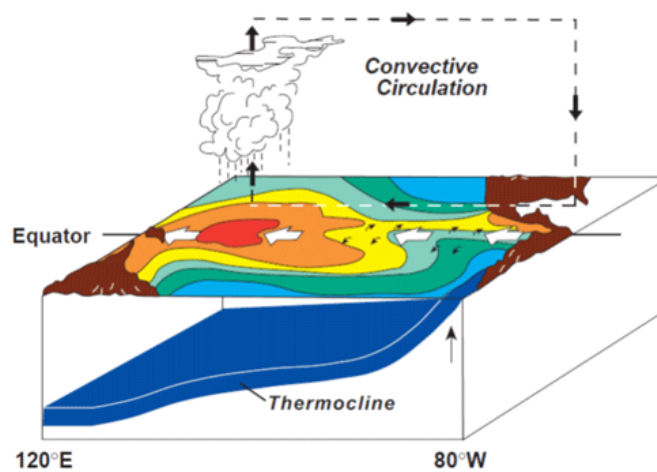
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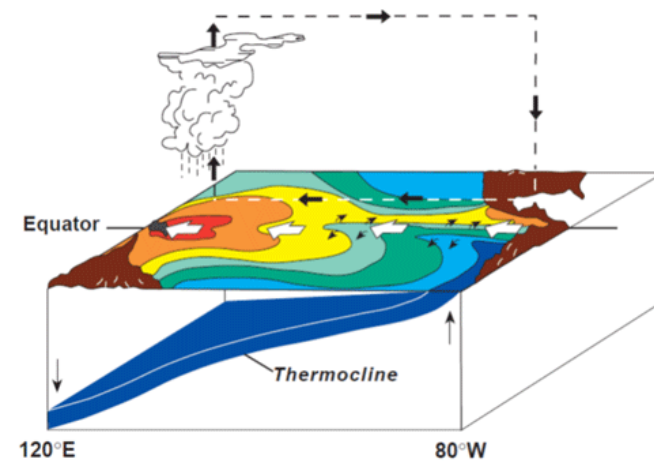
El Niño Conditions



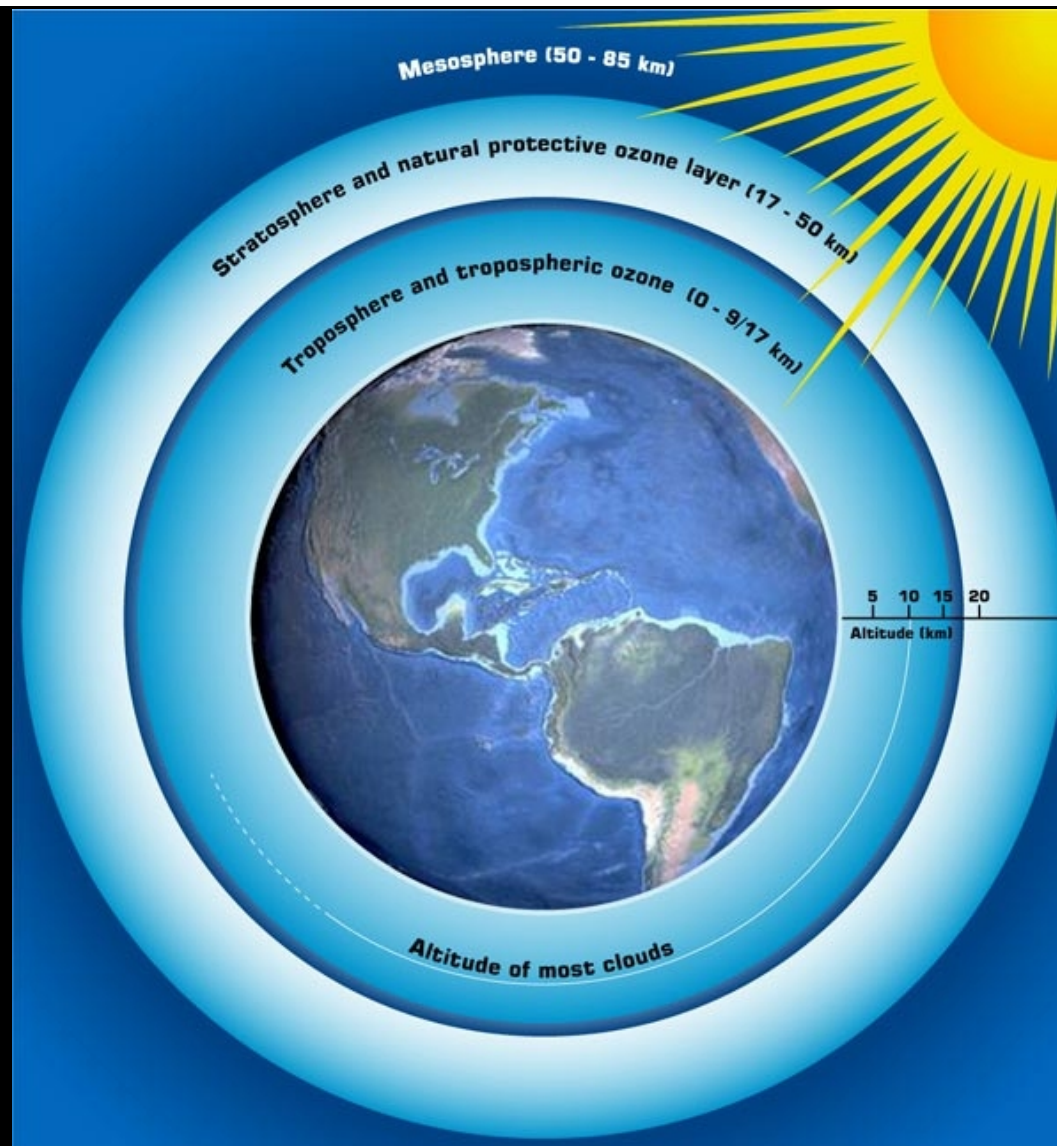
Normal Conditions



La Niña Conditions

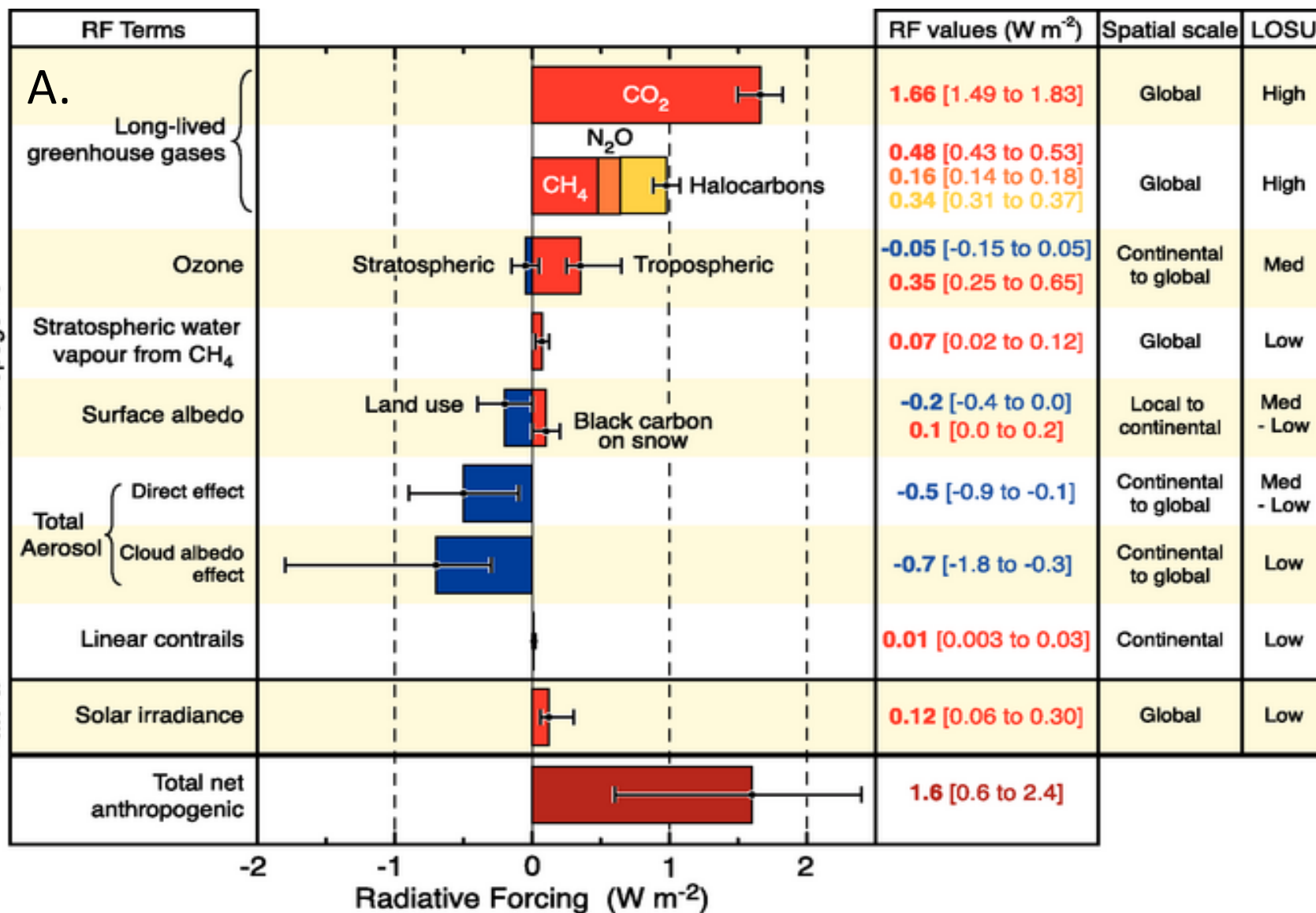


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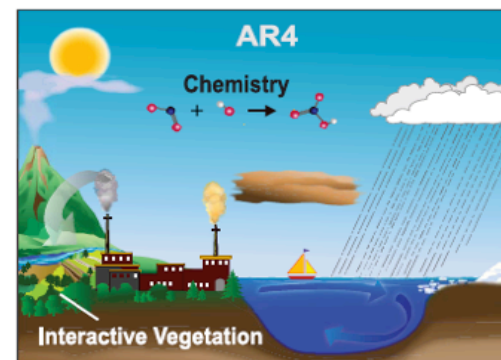
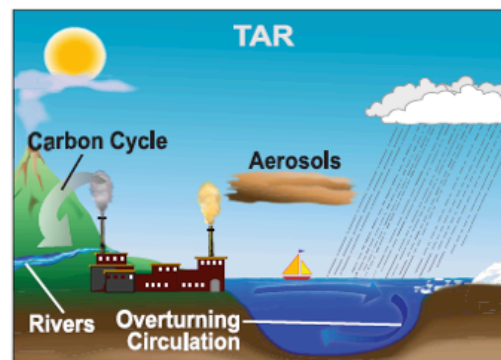
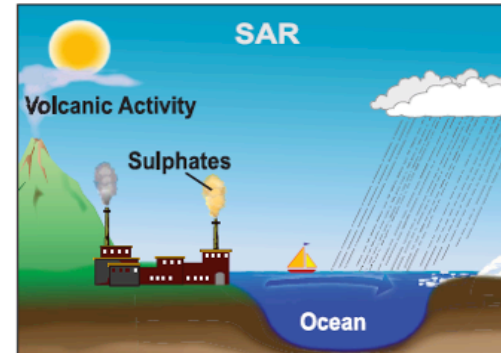
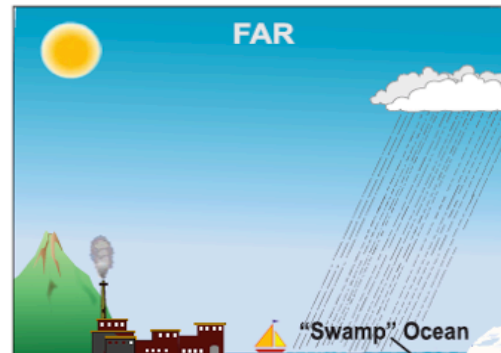
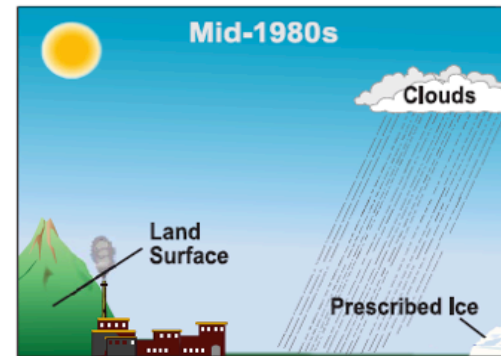
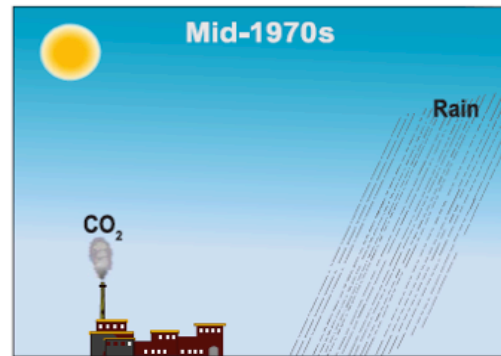


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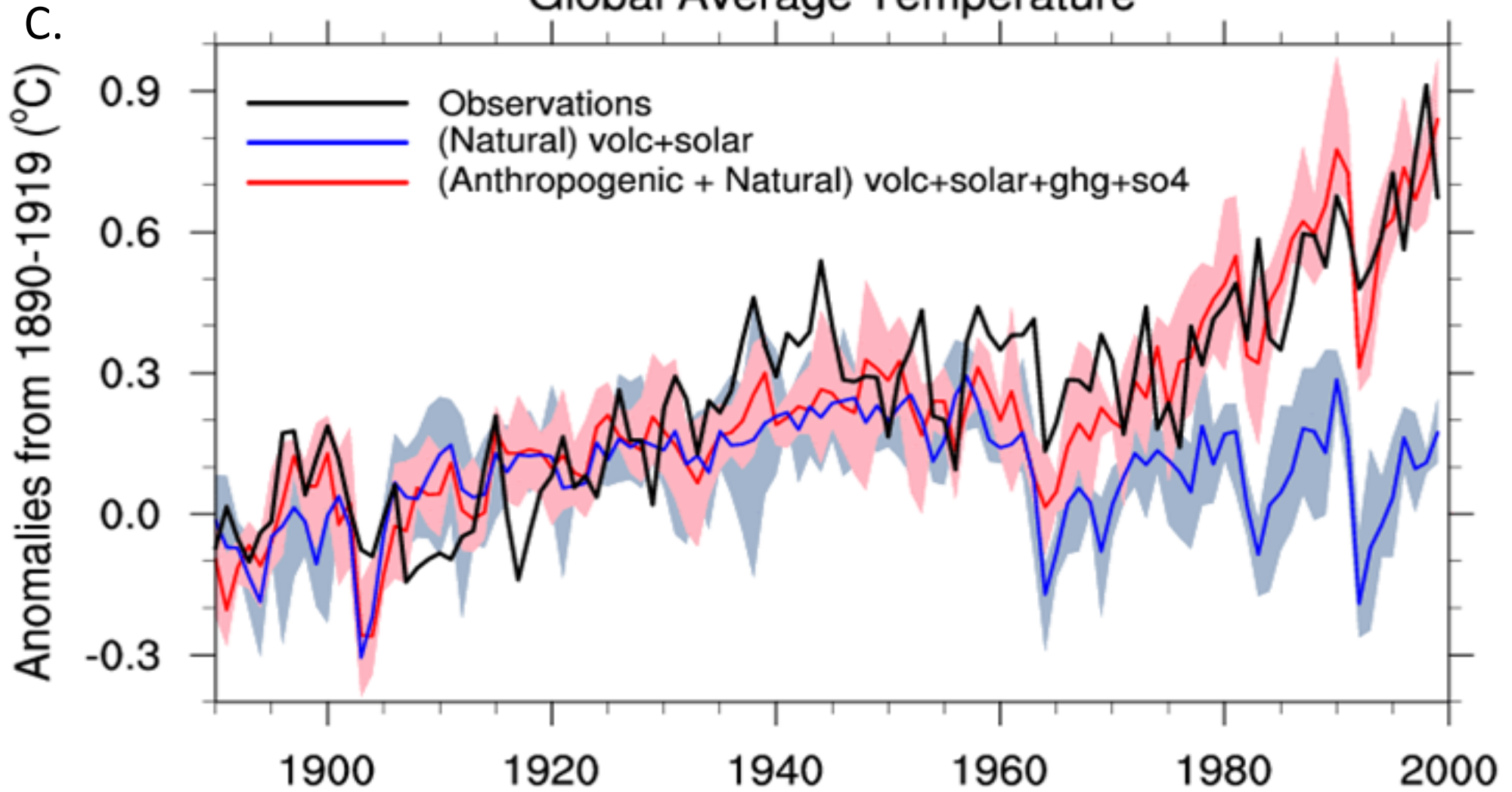
- Ozone (O₃) high in the atmosphere absorbs ultraviolet radiation from the sun, thereby protecting living organisms below from this dangerous radiation. The term 'ozone hole' refers to recent depletion of this protective layer over Earth's polar regions. People, plants, and animals living under the ozone hole are harmed by the solar radiation now reaching the Earth's surface—where it causes health problems from eye damage to skin cancer.
- The ozone hole, however, is not the mechanism of global warming. Ultraviolet radiation represents less than one percent of the energy from the sun—not enough to be the cause of the excess heat from human activities. Global warming is caused primarily from putting too much carbon into the atmosphere when coal, gas, and oil are burned to generate electricity or to run our cars. These gases spread around the planet like a blanket, capturing the solar heat that would otherwise be radiated out into space. (For more detail on the basic mechanism of global warming, see [carbon dioxide FAQ.](#))



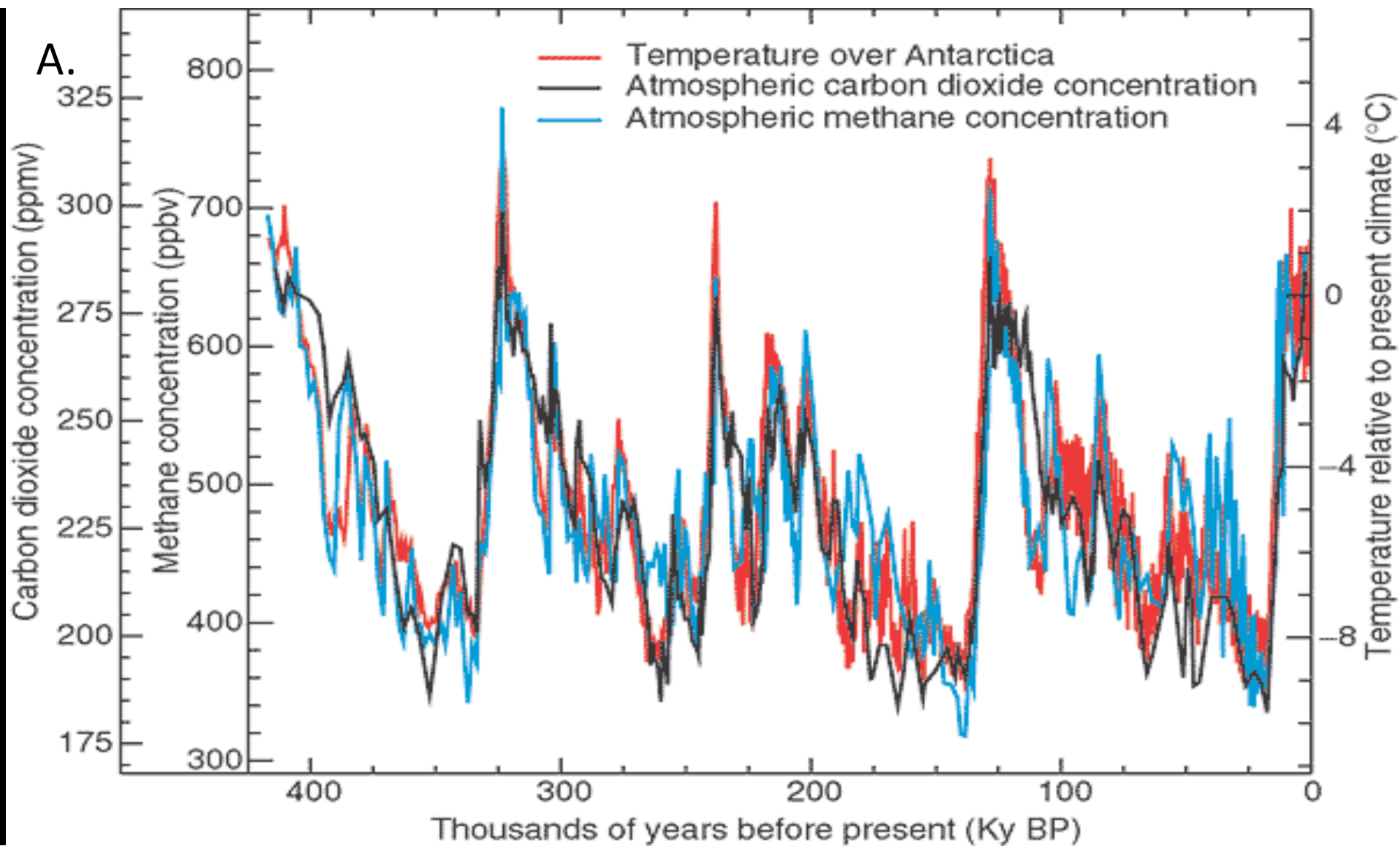
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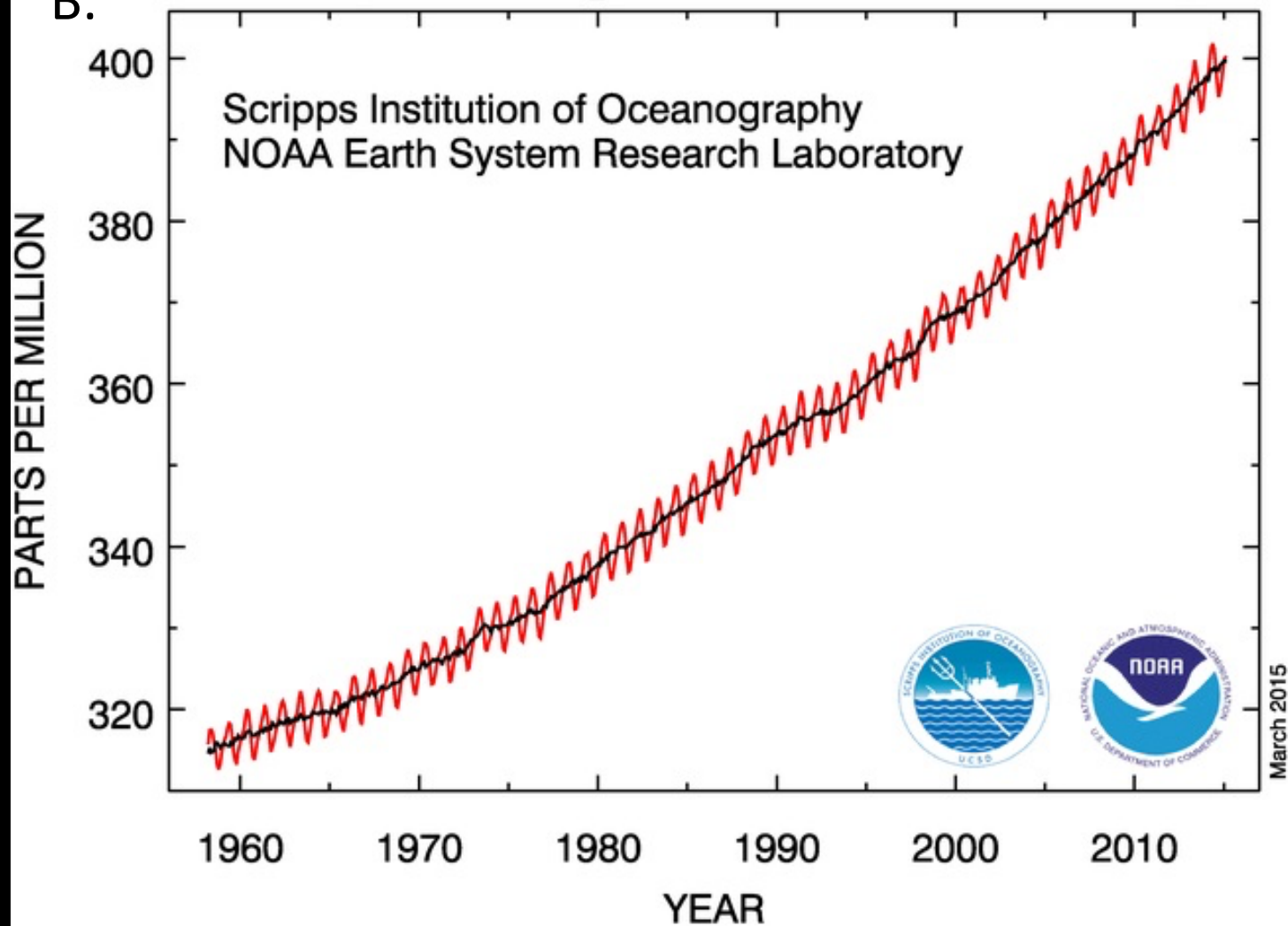
Global Average Temperature



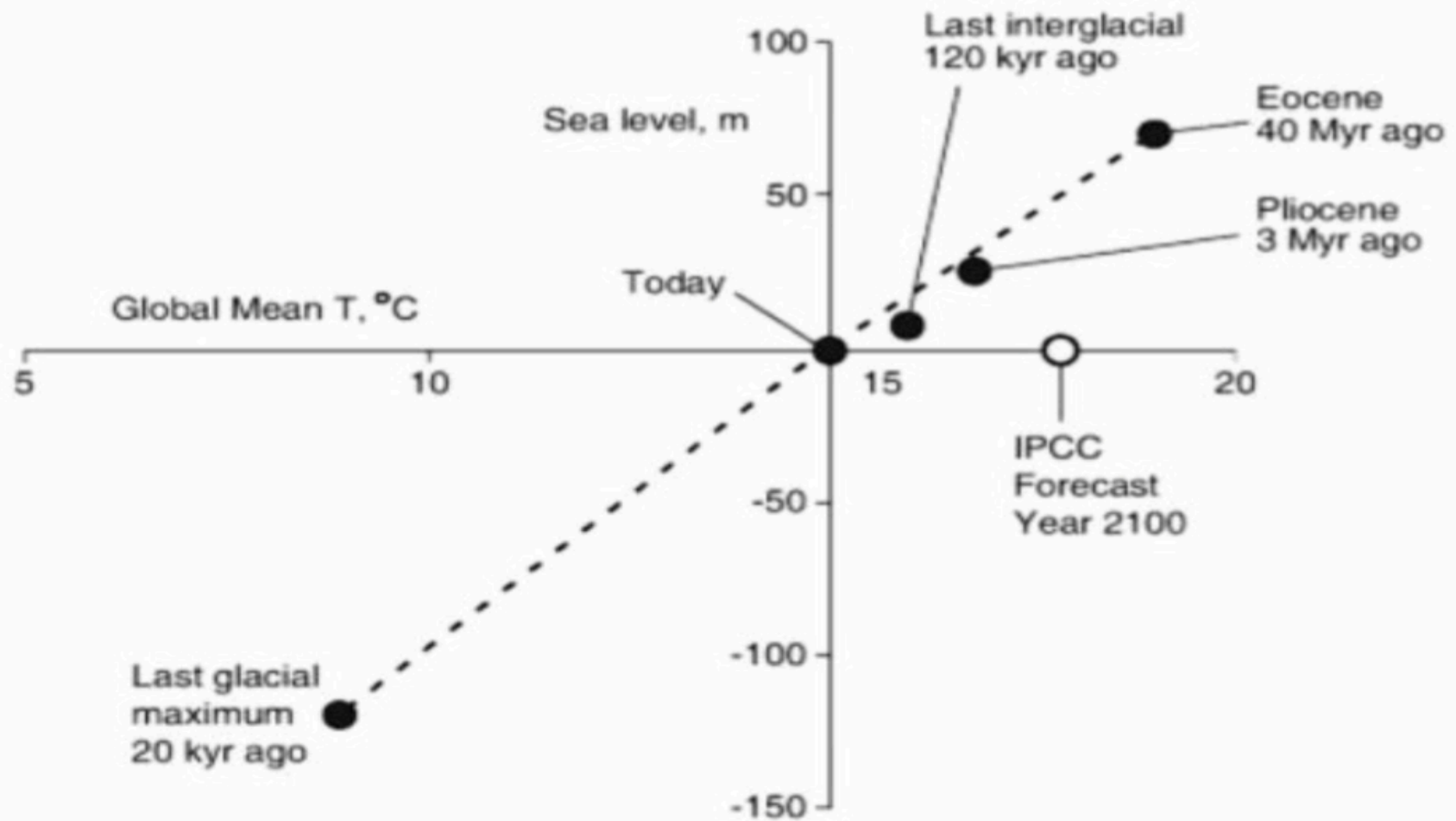
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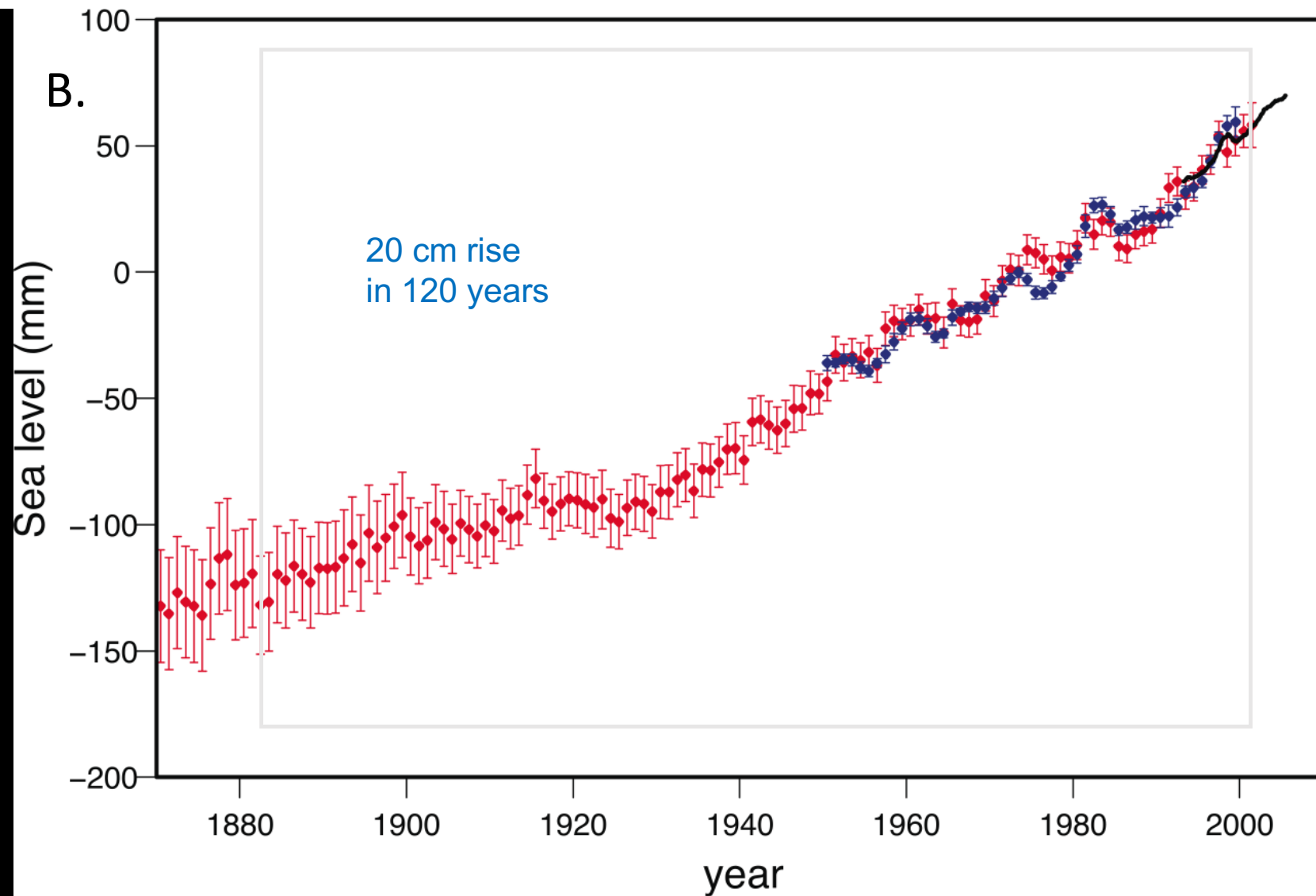


B. Atmospheric CO₂ at Mauna Loa Observatory



A.





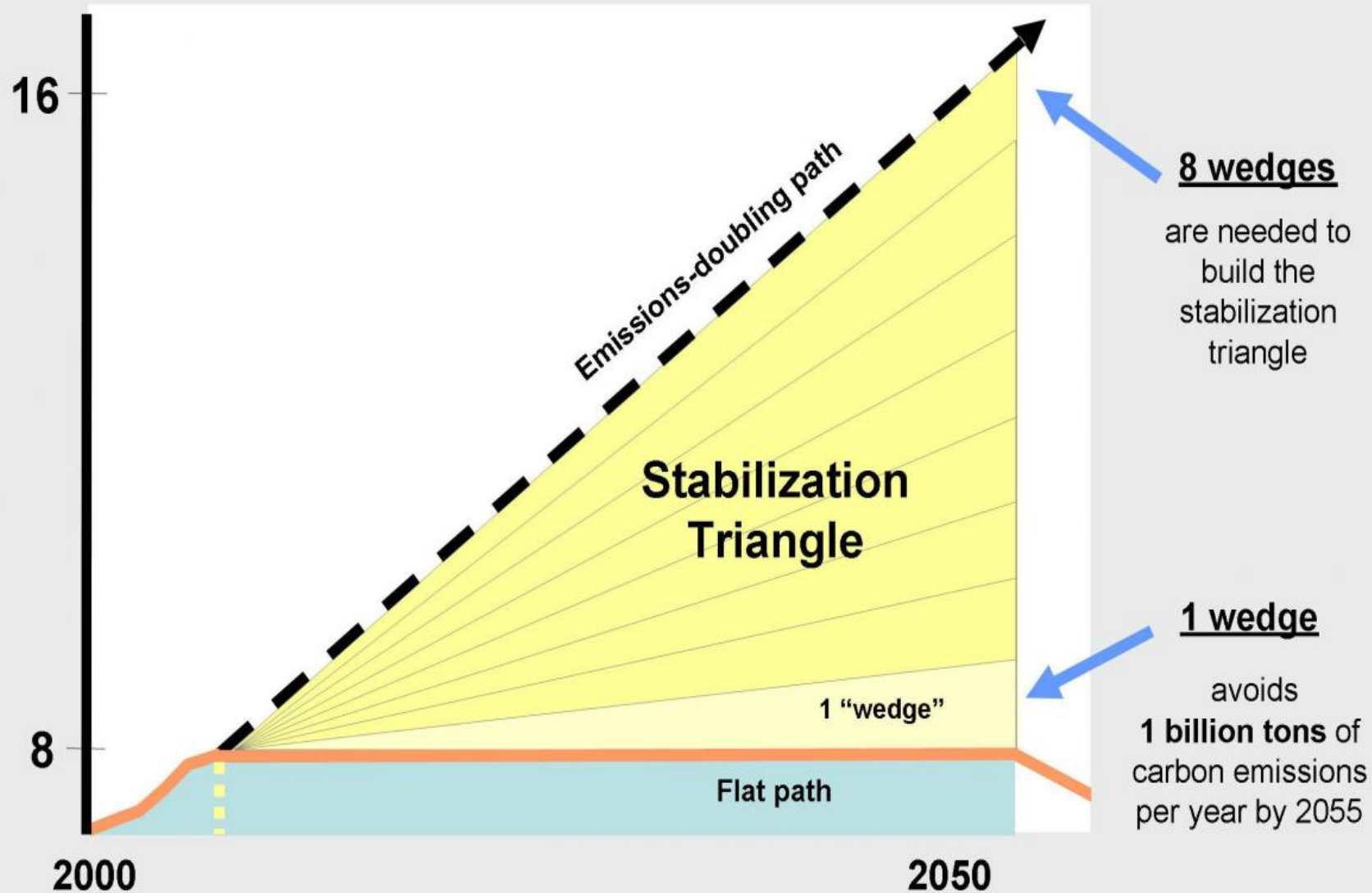
IPCC
- AR4

C.

Table 13.1 | Global mean sea level budget (mm yr^{-1}) over different time intervals from observations and from model-based contributions. Uncertainties are 5 to 95%. The Atmosphere–Ocean General Circulation Model (AOGCM) historical integrations end in 2005; projections for RCP4.5 are used for 2006–2010. The modelled thermal expansion and glacier contributions are computed from the CMIP5 results, using the model of Marzeion et al. (2012a) for glaciers. The land water contribution is due to anthropogenic intervention only, not including climate-related fluctuations.





Source	1901–1990	1971–2010	1993–2010
Observed contributions to global mean sea level (GMSL) rise			
Thermal expansion	–	0.8 [0.5 to 1.1]	1.1 [0.8 to 1.4]
Glaciers except in Greenland and Antarctica ^a	0.54 [0.47 to 0.61]	0.62 [0.25 to 0.99]	0.76 [0.39 to 1.13]
Glaciers in Greenland ^a	0.15 [0.10 to 0.19]	0.06 [0.03 to 0.09]	0.10 [0.07 to 0.13] ^b
Greenland ice sheet	–	–	0.33 [0.25 to 0.41]
Antarctic ice sheet	–	–	0.27 [0.16 to 0.38]
Land water storage	–0.11 [–0.16 to –0.06]	0.12 [0.03 to 0.22]	0.38 [0.26 to 0.49]
Total of contributions	–	–	2.8 [2.3 to 3.4]
Observed GMSL rise	1.5 [1.3 to 1.7]	2.0 [1.7 to 2.3]	3.2 [2.8 to 3.6]

A.



B.

Stabilization Wedges – 15 Ways to Cut Carbon

 = Electricity Production,  = Heating and Direct Fuel Use,  = Transportation,  = Biostorage

Strategy	Sector	Description	1 wedge could come from...	Cost	Challenges
1. Efficiency – Transport		Increase automobile fuel efficiency (2 billion cars projected in 2050)	... doubling the efficiency of all world's cars from 30 to 60 mpg	\$	Car size & power
2. Conservation – Transport		Reduce miles traveled by passenger and/or freight vehicles	... cutting miles traveled by all passenger vehicles in half	\$	Increased public transport, urban design
3. Efficiency – Buildings		Increase insulation, furnace and lighting efficiency	... using best available technology in all new and existing buildings	\$	House size, consumer demand for appliances
4. Efficiency – Electricity		Increase efficiency of power generation	... raising plant efficiency from 40% to 60%	\$	Increased plant costs
5. CCS Electricity		90% of CO ₂ from fossil fuel power plants captured, then stored underground (800 large coal plants or 1600 natural gas plants)	... injecting a volume of CO ₂ every year equal to the volume of oil extracted	\$\$	Possibility of CO ₂ leakage
6. CCS Hydrogen	 	Hydrogen fuel from fossil sources with CCS displaces hydrocarbon fuels	... producing hydrogen at 10 times the current rate	\$\$\$	New infrastructure needed, hydrogen safety issues
7. CCS Synfuels	 	Capture and store CO ₂ emitted during synfuels production from coal	... using CCS at 180 large synfuels plants	\$\$	Emissions still only break even with gasoline
8. Fuel Switching – Electricity		Replacing coal-burning electric plants with natural gas plants (1400 1 GW coal plants)	... using an amount of natural gas equal to that used for all purposes today	\$	Natural gas availability
9. Nuclear Electricity		Displace coal-burning electric plants with nuclear plants (Add double current capacity)	... ~3 times the effort France put into expanding nuclear power in the 1980's, sustained for 50 years	\$\$	Weapons proliferation, nuclear waste, local opposition
10. Wind Electricity		Wind displaces coal-based electricity (10 x current capacity)	... using area equal to ~3% of U.S. land area for wind farms	\$\$	Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY)
11. Solar Electricity		Solar PV displaces coal-based electricity (100 x current capacity)	... using the equivalent of a 100 x 200 km PV array	\$\$\$	PV cell materials
12. Wind Hydrogen	 	Produce hydrogen with wind electricity	... powering half the world's cars predicted for 2050 with hydrogen	\$\$\$	NIMBY, Hydrogen infrastructure, safety
13. Biofuels	 	Biomass fuels from plantations replace petroleum fuels	... scaling up world ethanol production by a factor of 12	\$\$	Biodiversity, competing land use
14. Forest Storage		Carbon stored in new forests	... halting deforestation in 50 years	\$	Biodiversity, competing land use
15. Soil Storage		Farming techniques increase carbon retention or storage in soils	... practicing carbon management on all the world's agricultural soils	\$	Reversed if land is deep-plowed later

For more information, visit our website at <http://cmi.princeton.edu/wedges>.

Yellow = Efficiency and conservation strategies

Blue = Fossil fuel-based strategies

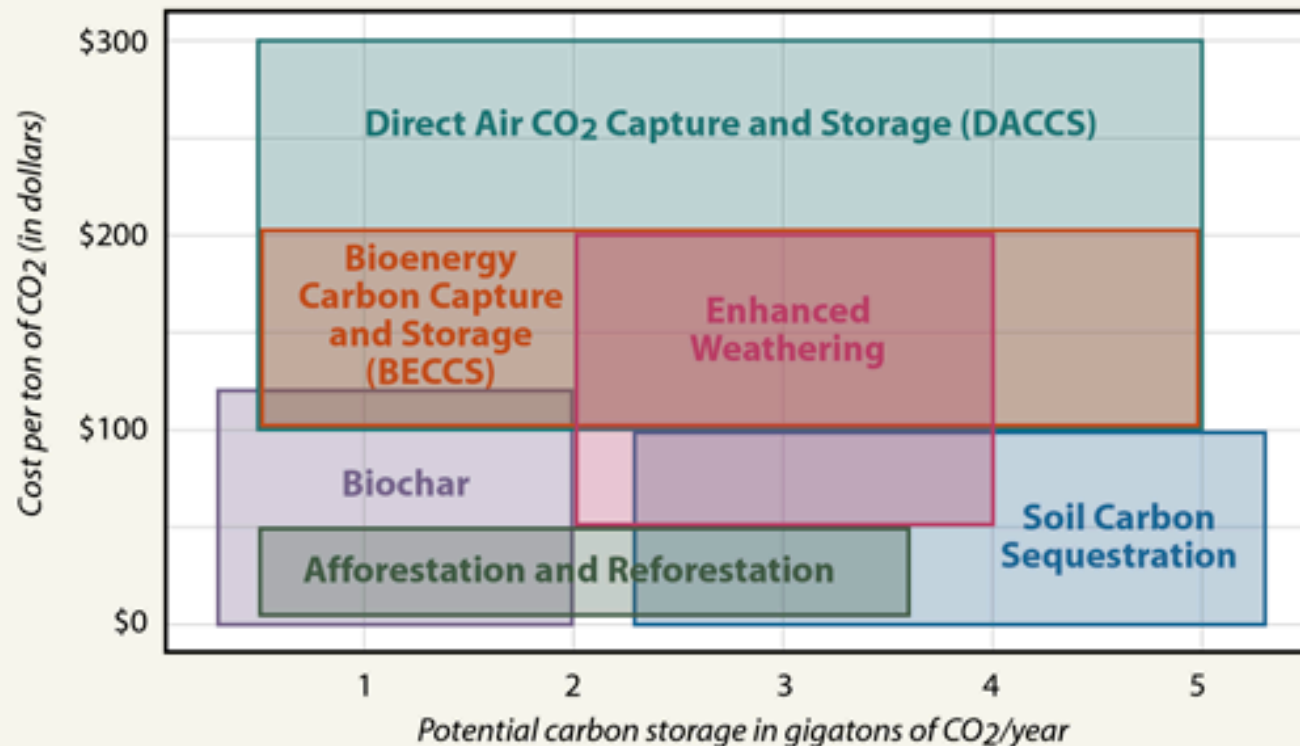
Red = Nuclear energy strategies

Green = Renewables and biostorage strategies

C.

How Do Carbon Storage Techniques Stack Up?

To meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius, the world will have to increase the amount of carbon dioxide pulled from the atmosphere, the IPCC reports. It compared the costs and storage potential of six key methods of carbon dioxide removal. Soil carbon sequestration is one of the cheapest with the most potential.



SOURCE: IPCC

InsideClimate News