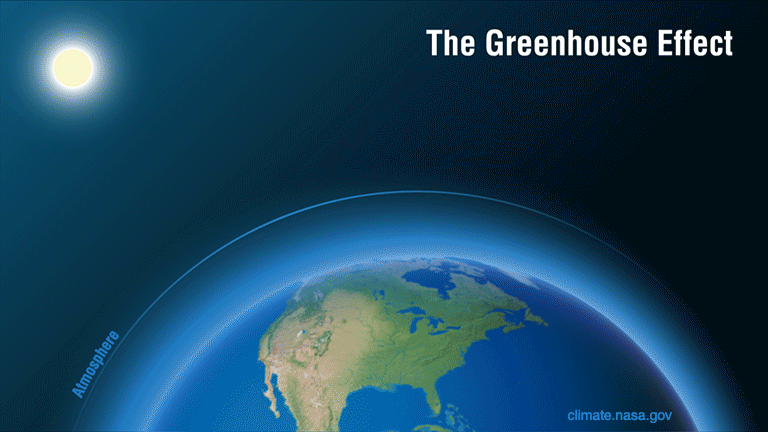
**What Causes Climate Change?**



*A simplified animation of the greenhouse effect. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech*

There are lots of factors that contribute to Earth’s climate. However, scientists agree that Earth has been getting warmer in the past 50 to 100 years due to human activities.

Certain gases in Earth’s atmosphere block heat from escaping. This is called the [greenhouse effect](https://climatekids.nasa.gov/greenhouse-effect). These gases keep Earth warm like the glass in a greenhouse keeps plants warm.

Human activities — such as burning fuel to power factories, cars and buses — are changing the natural greenhouse. These changes cause the atmosphere to trap more heat than it used to, leading to a warmer Earth.