

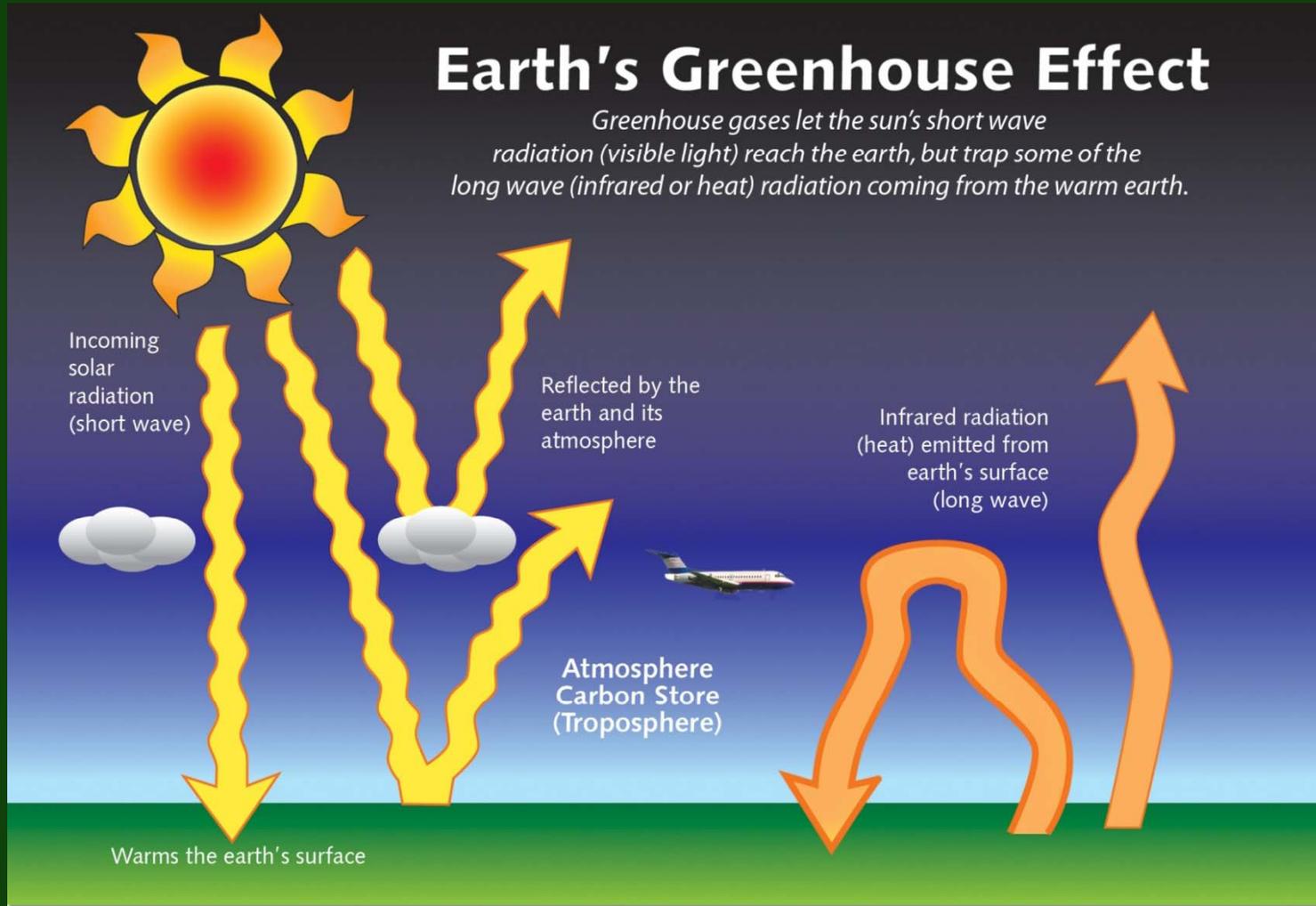
# New York's Climate Future

Office of Climate Change  
May, 2010

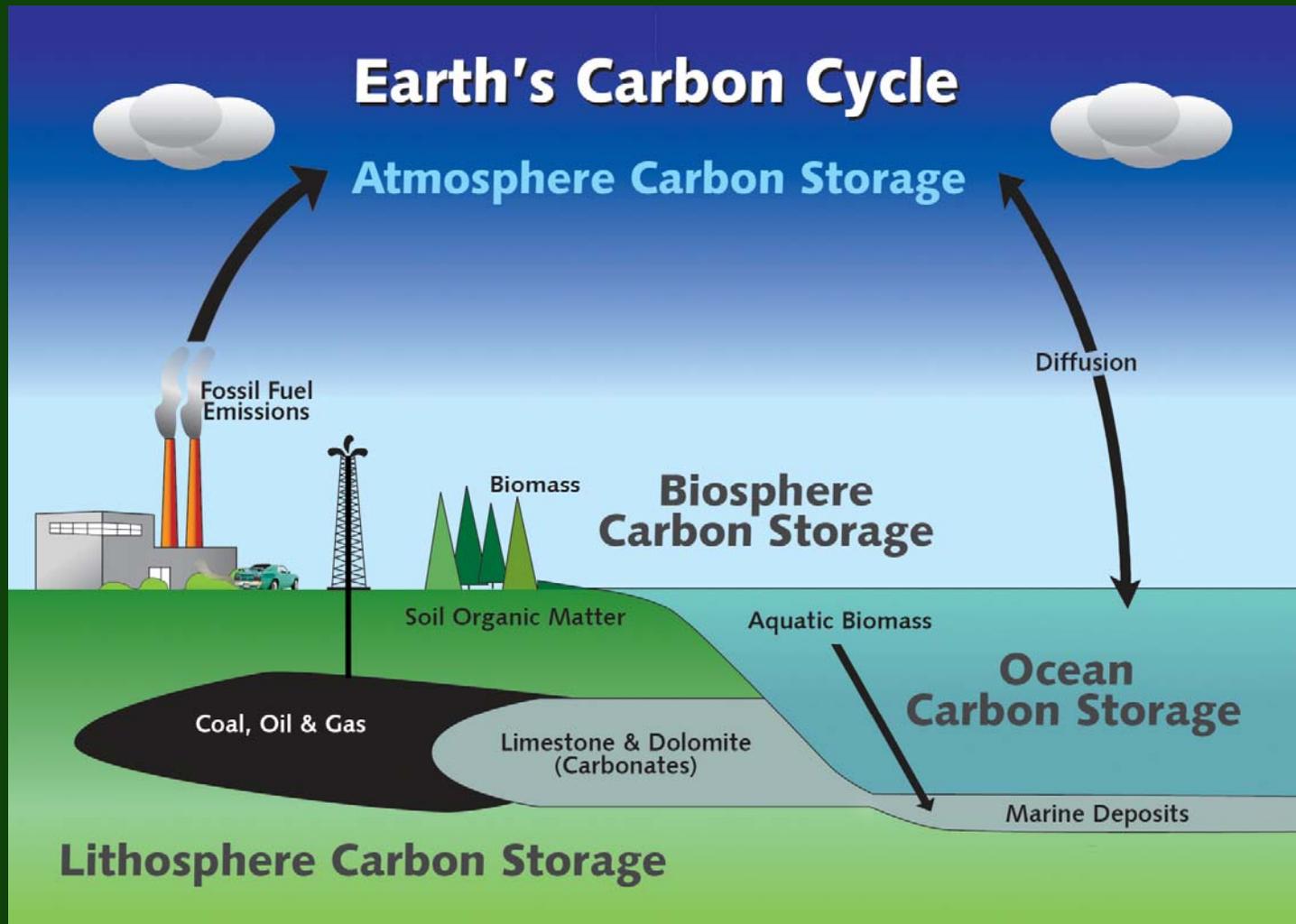
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



# Greenhouse Gases are Warming the Earth



# Human Activities are Releasing Excess Greenhouse Gas



# Joint National Academies of Sciences Say ...

***‘The scientific understanding of  
climate change is now  
sufficiently clear to justify  
nations taking prompt action.’***



*Climate Change Impacts in New York*

# ***Storms, Drought, Flooding***

- **More extreme weather events**
- **More frequent storm flooding**
- **Longer summer droughts**



*Climate Change Impacts in New York*

***Threats to Vital Services***

- **Inundation, flooding of infrastructure**
- **Less reliable precipitation to replenish water supplies**



*Climate Change Impacts in New York*

# ***Public Health Threats***

- **Extreme Heat**  
Top weather-related killer
- **Air Quality**  
Ozone, pollen
- **Vector-borne diseases**  
West Nile



*Climate Change Impacts in New York*  
***Food and Agriculture***

- **Growing season**
- **Pollination**
- **Invasives/weeds**
- **Species mix**
  - Heat threatens sugar maples, dairy



# **Climate Science Tells Us What We Need to Do...**

- **Reduce GHG emissions by at least 80 percent from 1990 levels**



# Climate Science Tells Us What We Need to Do...

- Reduce GHG emissions by at least 80 percent from 1990 levels
- **By 2050**



# The 80x50 World

- **Electricity:**  
Near-zero-carbon generation  
“Smart” transmission/distribution
- **Transportation:** Carbon-neutral
- **Buildings:** Carbon-neutral
- **Liquid fuels:** Low-carbon-intensity
- **Carbon “sinks”:** Maintain, enhance
- **Energy efficiency/conservation:** Economy-wide



# Local Governments are Key

- **Control land use** (reduce need for transportation; trap GHGs)
- **Control building energy use** (bldg. codes)
- **Consume energy** (gov't operations)
- **Manage solid waste**
- **Lead citizen action**



# Familiar Strategies Protect the Climate

- Smart growth/sustainability
- Transportation oriented development
- Green buildings
- Walkable communities
- Open space



# Climate Smart Communities

- **Reduce energy use & greenhouse gas**
  - From municipal operations
  - Community-wide
- **Plan for adaptation to unavoidable climate change**

DEC Climate Smart Communities on the Web - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html>



# Typical CSC Accomplishments

- Task Forces, Coordinators
- Recycling, waste reduction
- Energy audits; emission inventories; plans
- Energy management; efficiency improvements
- On-site renewable energy
- Public events : Reuse, Farmers markets, Awareness



# Advanced CSC Projects

- Green Building programs
  - Public, residential
  - New, retrofit
- Efficient vehicles, VMT reduction
- Open space, tree ordinances
- Energy standards in codes, zoning
- Green workforce partnerships



# Climate Smart Communities Pledge

1. **Pledge** to Combat Climate Change
2. **Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action**
3. **Decrease Energy Demand** for Local Government Operations
4. **Encourage Renewable Energy** for Local Government Operations
5. **Realize Benefits of Recycling** and Climate Smart Solid Waste Management



# Climate Smart Communities Pledge (II)

6. **Promote Climate Protection** Through Community Land Use Tools
7. **Plan for Adaptation** to Unavoidable Climate Change
8. **Support a Green Innovation Economy**
9. **Inform and Inspire** the Public
10. **Commit** to an Evolving Process



# **Climate Strategies**

## ***Fostering Clean, Green Jobs***

- **Carbon pricing**
- **Carbon standards**
- **Technology development, transfer**
- **Clean energy investments**



# Office of Climate Change

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## Climate Smart Communities

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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

