

Five actions on climate change

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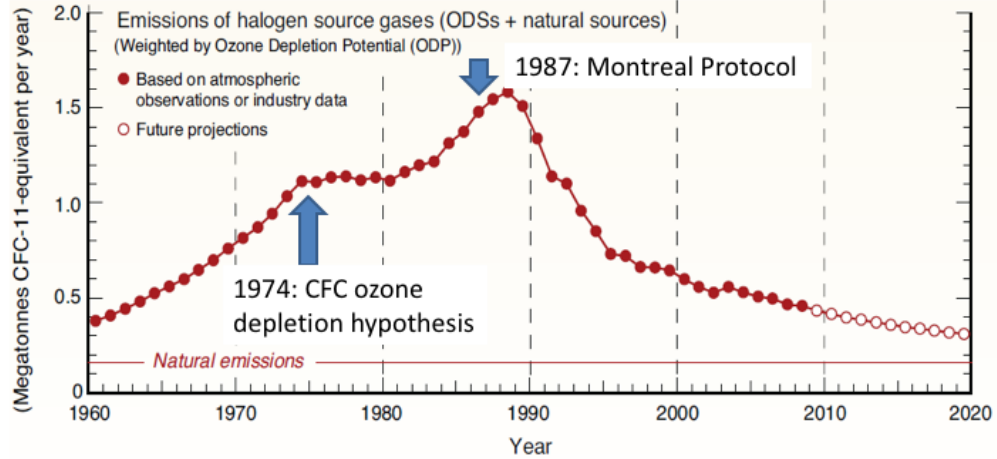
Good Shepherd Catholic Church

January 24, 2016

1. Remind yourself and others of past successes

- We have solved big environmental problems before
- Just a few past successes: dramatic improvements in
 - U.S. air quality (Clean Air Act)
 - U.S. water quality (Clean Water Act)
 - Ozone layer (Montreal Protocol)

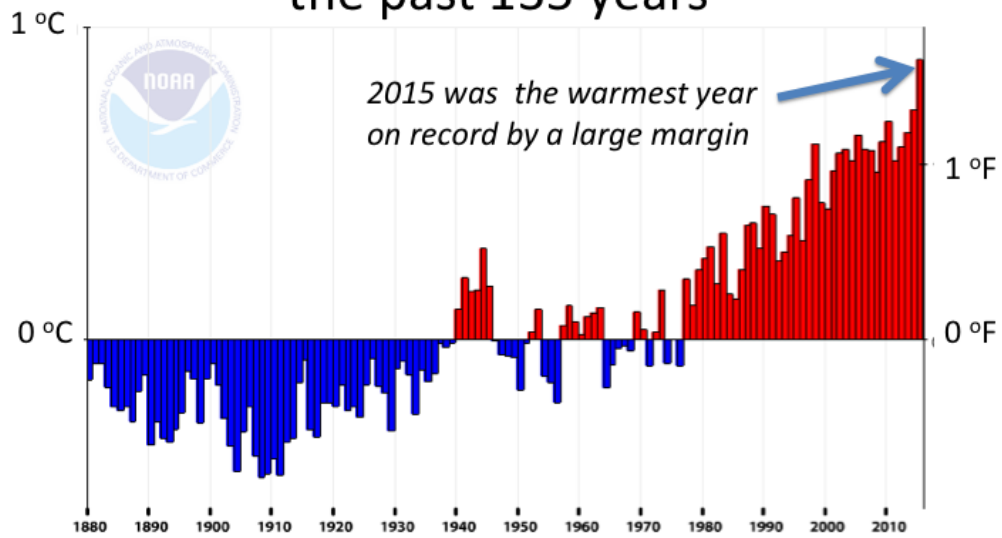
Emissions of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances (ODSs)



2. Don't be discouraged by contrarians

- Global warming is real, it's serious, it's us, and we can do something about it
- There are persistent efforts to cast doubt on solid science (read/see "Merchants of Doubt")

Earth's mean temperature change over the past 135 years




3. Support international climate treaties

- This is a global problem and needs global solutions
- The developed and undeveloped world need to be involved in solutions
- The recent Paris conference was a critical step in the right direction



Image source: www.cop21paris.org/



PARIS 2015

PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21-CMP11

- A United Nations conference that was held November 30th - December 11th, 2015 in Paris
- First ever worldwide commitment to combat climate change by phasing out the use of fossil fuels over time
- 195 nations agreed to keep global warming “well below” 2.0 °C (3.6 °F) and “endeavor to limit” warming to an even lower, 1.5 °C

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Source: Embassy of France in Wellington

Image source (awaiting approval): <http://www.ambafrance-nz.org/2015-Paris-Climate-Conference>



More key points:

Source: COP21 Paris.org

- Participating countries will re-submit mitigation plans every five years in order to tighten emissions standards
- Between 2050 - 2100, global emissions shall be reduced to the same amount that can be naturally absorbed via carbon sinks such as trees, oceans, and soil
- Wealthy developed nations will provide “climate finance” to developing countries in order to help them switch to renewable energy and deal with climate impacts

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Image from www.logo-kid.com & cop21paris.org

4. Support national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Three examples:

- (1) The Clean Power Plan
- (2) Efficiency standards for cars and appliances
- (3) A tax on carbon or a cap on emissions (see Citizen's Climate Lobby; State College Chapter Leader is Sylvia Neely, sneelypa@gmail.com)

5. Reduce your carbon emissions at home and in daily life

My two favorites:

- (1) Get an energy audit to guide home energy improvements—saves money and energy
- (2) Purchase electricity from renewable sources; prices are very competitive. Go to papowerswitch.com

Interfaith Power and Light

- A great resource on climate change action
- A national organization
- PA details
 - *paipl.org*, PA-IPL on Facebook
 - Program Director: Cricket Eccleston Hunter, chunter@paipl.org, 814-404-3534

