

### Climate Change - Key Terms

Term	Definition
Global Warming	The trend over time for the average temperature in the world to increase.
Climate Change	The overall changes to the climate including temperature, winds, rain, storms etc.
Keeling Curve	A curve that shows the annual and overall changes to CO <sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere.
Natural Greenhouse Effect	The natural greenhouse effect is a <b>natural process</b> that warms the Earth's surface. When the Sun's energy reaches the Earth's atmosphere, some of it is reflected back to space and the rest is absorbed and re-radiated by greenhouse gases.
Anthropogenic Greenhouse Effect	The increased capacity of the atmosphere to absorb and prevent the escape of heat because of an increase in greenhouse gases <b>introduced by humans</b> .
Greenhouse Gases	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. Examples include : <b>Carbon Dioxide CO<sub>2</sub></b> , methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), Nitrous Oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O), Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's)
Positive Feedback Loop	It occurs when a change causes an increased change in the same variable - for example warmer weather means less snow, which in turn means more energy absorbed by the land and hence more increased temperatures (so in effect - the increased temperatures are causing more increased temperatures).
Albedo	A measure of how much light is reflected by a geographical feature of a planet. Example : snow has a high albedo (90%), water has a low albedo (10%).
Carbon Footprint	The amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels by a particular person, group, etc.