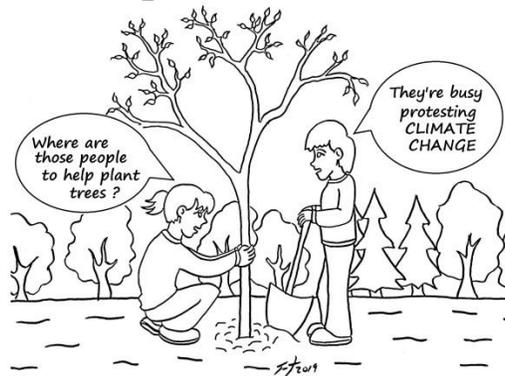


Responding to Climate Change

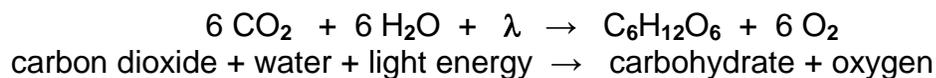


If people planted trees instead of protesting "climate change", they would have nothing to protest.

The climate has always been changing. The problem today is the accelerated rate of climate change due to the increase in global air temperature.

Warming is caused by the sun's radiate energy hitting the earth and being converted to heat. Combustion of fossil fuels converts stored energy to heat which also warms the earth's air.

Cooling is caused by light energy being radiated back out to space or being used by plants for photosynthesis as shown:



When the rate of warming is greater than the rate of cooling, global temperature increases.

The increase of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has reduced the rate of cooling done by radiation of energy back out to space. Excessive loss of plants, such as by deforestation, has reduced the rate of cooling done by absorption of energy and carbon dioxide by plants.

The most effective program to reduce global warming is reforestation and good forest management. The increase of forest growth provides more absorption of energy and carbon dioxide which reduces the amount of energy going to heat and allows for more energy to radiate back out to space.

The increase in global warming causes a greater rate of evaporation of water. This causes drought in dry regions. It also puts more moisture into the atmosphere which causes heavier precipitation and flooding in wet regions. As warm air rises up in the atmosphere, cooler air along the surface of the earth flows into the void left behind, creating wind. As the rate of warm air rising increases, the wind increases. The increased moisture in the air and the increased speed of winds result in more destructive storms.

Damage from storms increases when there is not sufficient watershed management to divert and retain the storm waters. This leads to flooding. It also leads to landslides where there is a lack of vegetation to retain the soil.

To minimize damage from the more severe storms, it is essential to improve watershed management with the rebuilding and maintenance of dams, canals, drainage ditches, storm sewers, reservoirs, and wetlands. Watershed management is mostly administered by municipal and provincial governments.

A cooperative effort by all levels of government is needed for better programs of reforestation and watershed management to deal with the problems caused by recent climate change. <