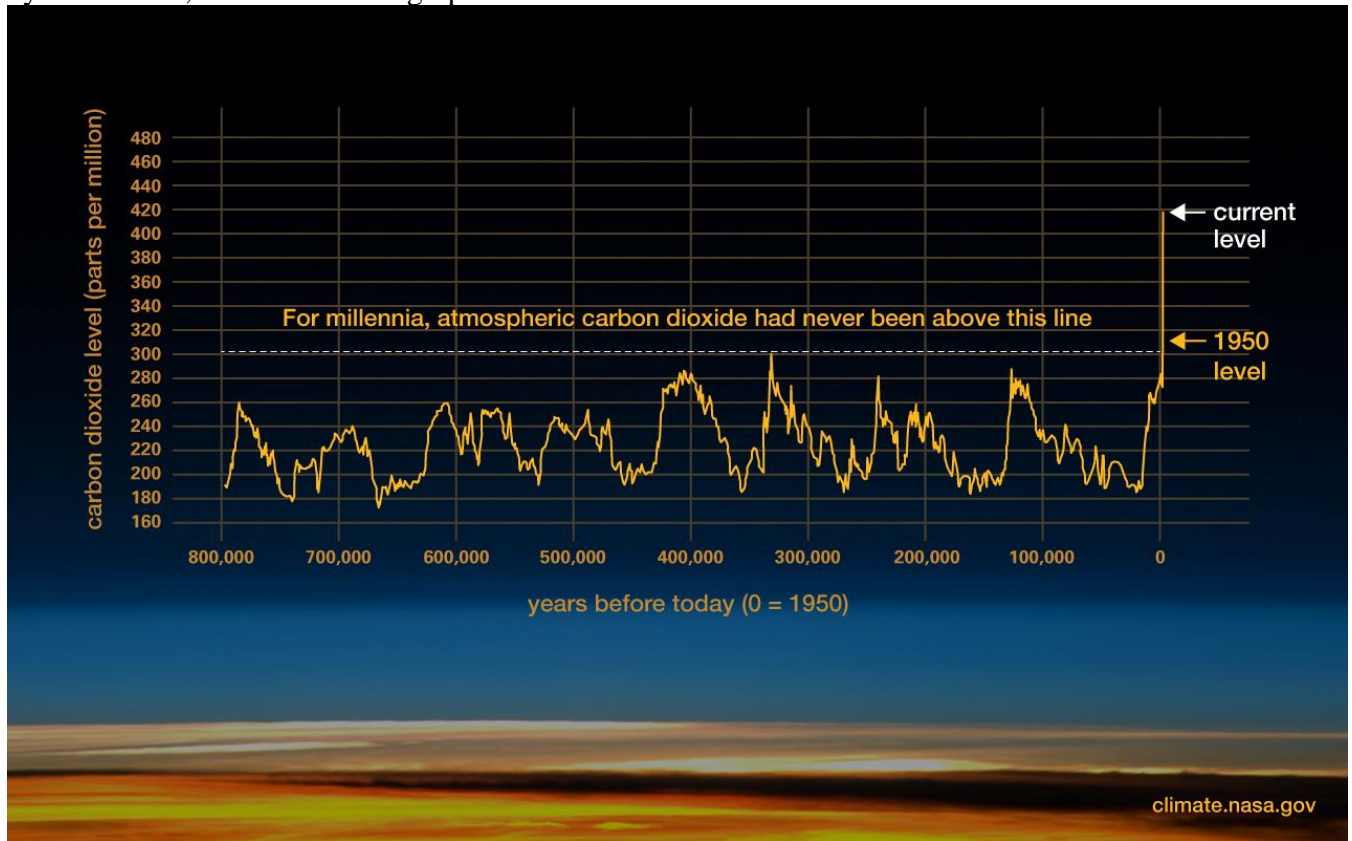


Resolution #2023-2

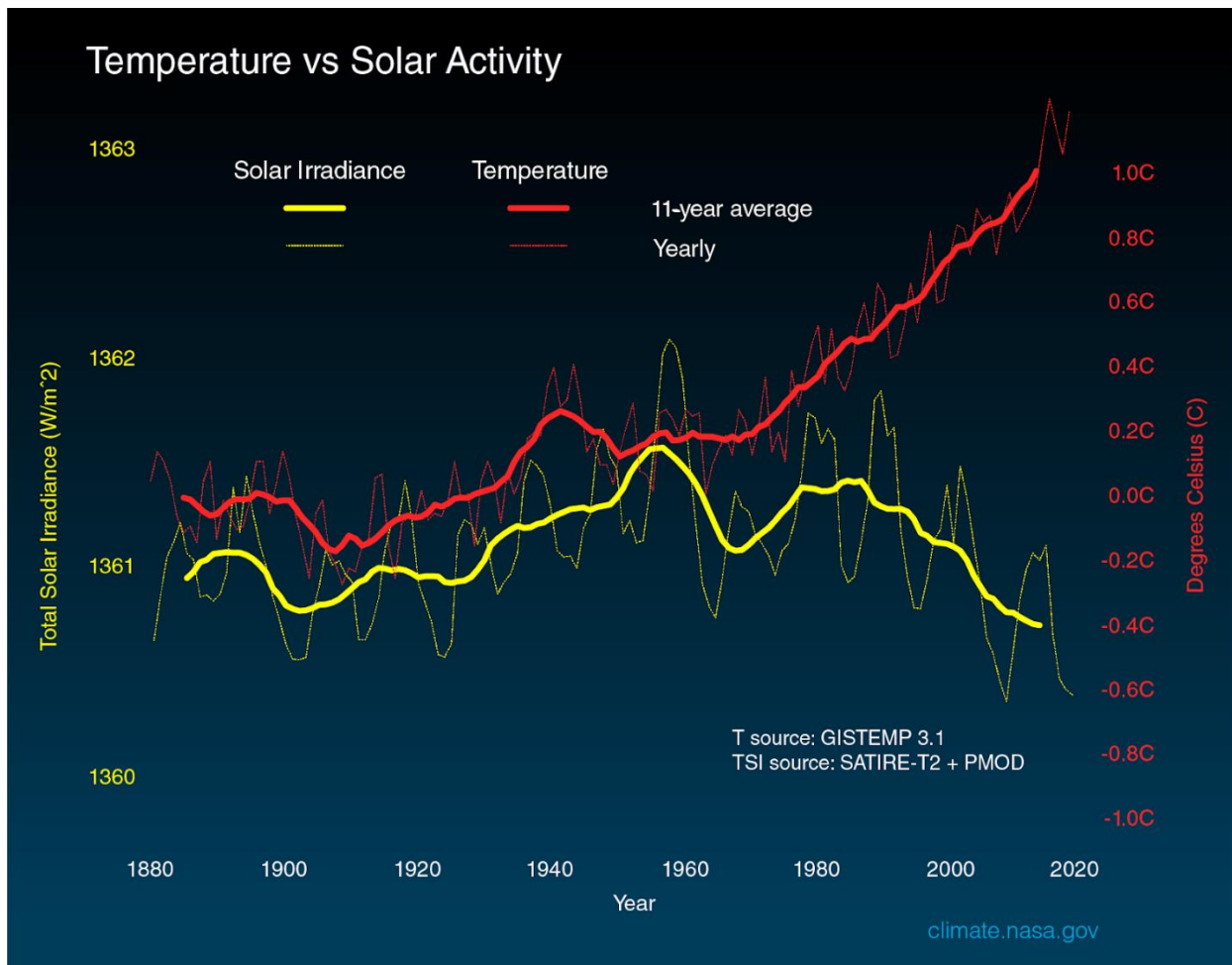
Climate Restoration

Climate change is scientifically well documented. Data from NASA shows global temperature has risen 1.01°C since 1880, the mass of ice sheets in Antarctica has decreased by 151 billion metric tons per year since 2002, sea levels have risen 4 inches since 1993, and oceans have warmed by 337 zettajoules since 1955.

Human behavior is scientifically proven to be a major contributor to climate change. Since 1750, around the time of the Industrial Revolution, atmospheric CO₂ levels have increased by about 50%, as shown in the graph below.



Climate change cannot be attributed to changes in the sun's energy received by Earth. According to NASA data shown in the graph below, there has been no net increase in the sun's energy since the 1950's. The average amount of energy from the sun remained constant or very slightly increased since 1750, while Earth's global temperature has significantly increased over this time.



Climate change is an existential threat to the planet and humanity. Since the 1980's the frequency of category 4 and 5 hurricanes has increased resulting in more deaths and damage to the planet. By 2100 sea levels are predicted to rise between 1 and 8 feet. Increasing levels of carbon in the air are scientifically proven to be a major contributor to climate change.

Every part of the Izaak Walton League pledge: purity of water, clarity of air, the land and its resources; the beauty and of nature, wildlife, woodlands and open space is threatened by climate change. Reaching net zero carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere must be the goal of the Izaak Walton League.

Although net zero stops conditions contributing to climate change from getting worse, it does not go far enough. The carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere will continue contributing to climate change. The current carbon level in the atmosphere is 419.48 ppm according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and must be reduced.

Efforts known as climate restoration are science-based strategies that will remove greenhouse gasses and return the earth's atmosphere to its pre-industrial age conditions. This process involves removing CO₂ from the air and atmosphere and sequestering it. One method, direct air capture (DAC) takes in air and passes it through a potassium hydroxide solution. The CO₂ molecules react with the solution which creates a carbonate that is then extracted from the solution and can be purified and compressed into pellets. Another low-cost method to remove CO₂ currently being released is to redirect that CO₂ towards plants which use it to grow.

Climate restoration can be achieved through many strategies; climate restoration as a goal, by definition, includes only those strategies that are safe, effective, and do not harm the environment. One such example of a strategy that is not climate restoration is using captured CO2 as a component in enhanced oil recovery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League (MN IWLA) in Convention on January 28, 2023, supports climate restoration, excluding using captured CO2 for enhanced oil recovery, as a goal and as a part of a comprehensive plan to address and combat climate change.

Submitted by Minnesota Valley Chapter

Written by Grace Flikke

Recommended distribution:

- *National Izaak Walton League of America Convention*
- *Conservation partners of the Izaak Walton League of America*
- *Minnesota Congressional Delegation*
- *All appropriate divisions of the Minnesota State government*