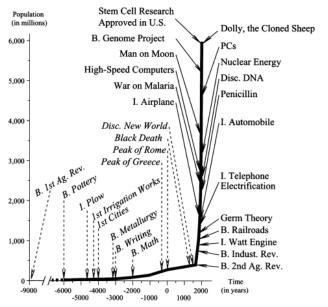
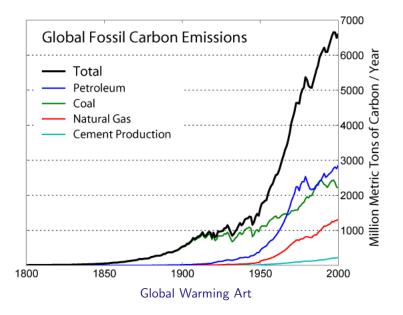
# LEARNING TO LIVE ON A FINITE PLANET

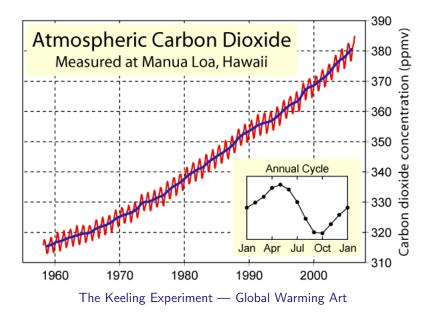




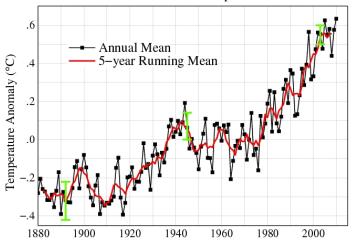
Robert Fogel - The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100

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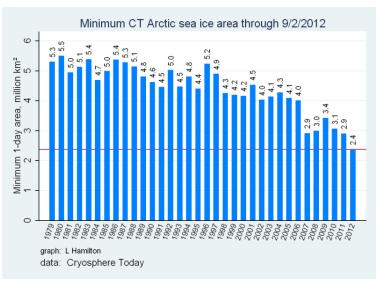




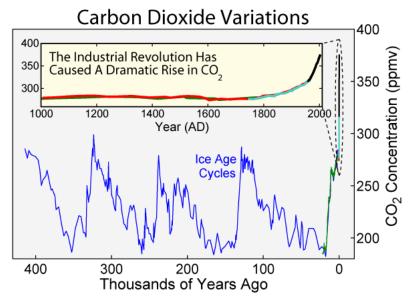
#### Global Land-Ocean Temperature Index



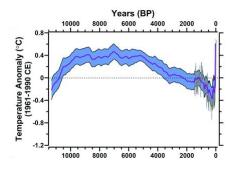
NASA Goddard Institute of Space Science



The Cryosphere Today



Antarctic ice cores and other data — Global Warming Art



Reconstruction of temperature from 73 different records — Marcott et al.

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Furthermore, species are already moving 6 kilometers closer to the poles each decade, and the oceans are becoming more acidic.

The rate of extinction, already about 10 times its average level, will increase.

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Acting as if these are true inevitably brings us to a point where they *stop* being true.

So, we will come crashing into the brick wall of reality.

If we don't change our habits *before* things get significantly worse, we'll do so later. Either way, a transformation is inevitable.

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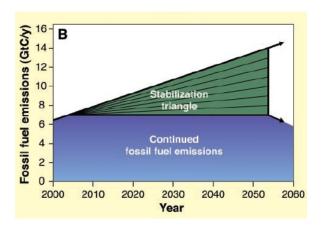
For better or worse, we will adapt to life on a finite-sized planet.

It's just a question of how.

What can we do? Slowing the rate of carbon burning is not enough: most  $CO_2$  stays in the air *over a century*, though individual molecules come and go. We need to:

- leave fossil fuels unburnt,
- ▶ live with a hotter climate,
- sequester carbon, and/or
- actively cool the Earth.

In 2004, Pacala and Socolow looked for ways to hold carbon emissions constant until 2054 — not a solution, just a start!



They said it would require 7 'wedges'. Each wedge is a way to reduce carbon emissions by 1 gigatonne/year by 2054.

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**Nuclear:** Replace 700 gigawatts of coal power by nuclear power. This requires *doubling existing nuclear power*.

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**Conservation/efficiency:** Cut carbon emissions by 25% in buildings and appliances.

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And remember: keeping emissions constant means warming will continue! It's just a stopgap.

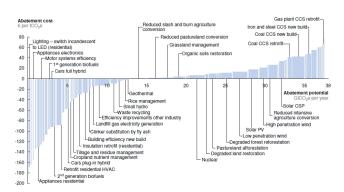
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Meinshausen estimates cutting current emissions in half by 2050 leaves a 12%-25% chance of a rise of  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  or more.

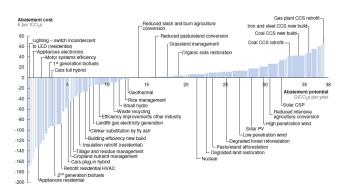
Some good news: McKinsey & Co. has argued that the world could cut carbon emissions by **10 gigatonnes per year** at roughly no net cost — all of Pacala and Socolow's wedges!

V2.1 Global GHG abatement cost curve beyond BAU – 2030



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But, this requires doing many things, half of which cost money.

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No physical quantity can grow exponentially forever in a finite system. We are living on a finite planet.

We need to create an intelligent economic system, which recognizes this fact.

#### To lighten our impact on the Earth, we should move from:

- a matter economy to
- an energy economy to
- ▶ an information economy to
- ► a knowledge economy to
- a wisdom economy.

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### LET'S GET STARTED!

Look up Azimuth Project for more.

