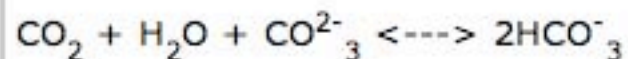


**Submitted:** 1/28/2008 10:37:49 PM **Word Count:** 184

## Text Entry

### The Heat Is On

As human technology advances, are we ignoring the ill effects our actions might be having on the planet? Our modern-day livelihood is dependent on the finding, and processing of petroleum. The burning of these fossil fuels may be doing more harm than once believed. According to chapter 2, in the textbook Earth: Portrait of a Planet, the Earth's atmosphere consists overall of 78% nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>), 21% oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>), with minor amounts of argon, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), neon, methane, ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide. The burning of fossil fuels releases excess CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, offsetting the natural balance of gases. This release of CO<sub>2</sub> also increases oceanic CO<sub>2</sub>, leading to the following equilibrium reaction:



This equilibrium reaction is what causes global warming. According to the Climate Change: Summary for Policymakers, over the 20th century the increase in temperature has been  $0.6 \pm 0.2^\circ\text{C}$ . With these ill reports coming each day, it is our duty as human beings to do what we can to reverse the effects of global warming.

### References:

Earth: Portrait of a Planet

[http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc\\_tar/wg1/005.htm](http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc_tar/wg1/005.htm)

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