

Global Climate Change:

An Introduction to the IPCC & the 2007 IPCC Synthesis Report



ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change



Introduction to the IPCC

- The “IPCC” stands for the “Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change”



World Meteorological Organization



UNEP

- The IPCC was established in 1988 by 2 branches (WMO & UNEP) of the **United Nations**



- The purpose of the IPCC is to evaluate the anthropogenic (human-induced) climate change, including its ramifications, & possible adaptations, & better yet, solutions
- The Official IPCC Website: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- Won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize



Who makes up the IPCC?



Who makes up the IPCC?

- **The Panel:**

30 representatives governmental & organizational appointed from all over the world

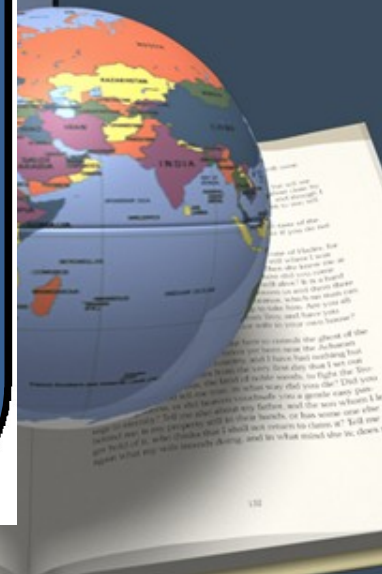
- **Contributors:**

Contributors include people from > **130 countries**

- 2500 **scientific expert reviewers**
- > **800 contributing & >450 lead authors**

- **Requirement:**

Any scientist who participates in the IPCC assessment process **MUST** do so **WITHOUT** any type of **compensation** (monetary or otherwise)



The Pro's & Con's of the IPCC

Pro's:

- IPCC reports are the **most reliable** information on climate change because they represent a **consensus** of the global scientific community
- The “Boy who Cried Wolf” syndrome is prevented by the conservative nature of the IPCC reports
 - The IPCC was designed intentionally to be very conservative so as to NOT overstate or exaggerate any of the risks of Climate Change.

Con's:

- IPCC reports are **too conservative**
 - By only reporting the “lowest common denominator” findings, they're **under-estimating** the **dangers & risks** of climate change
- **Objectivity** of the 30 **Panel** members
 - There's concern that governments will only the people they have a strong influence over.
- Reports are **Out of Date** by the time they are published
 - All the literature must be extensively peer-reviewed in order to become eligible for review by the IPCC. The most recent data included in each IPCC report is at least 2 years old.
- The “No compensation” requirement weeds out good Scientists



The Importance of IPCC Findings



I. Give the Facts:

- Describe the current condition of Earth
- Of what we are seeing now, what can we definitively say is due to Climate Change

II. Develop Scenarios

II. Make Recommendations

I. Fact – The US emits the most CO₂

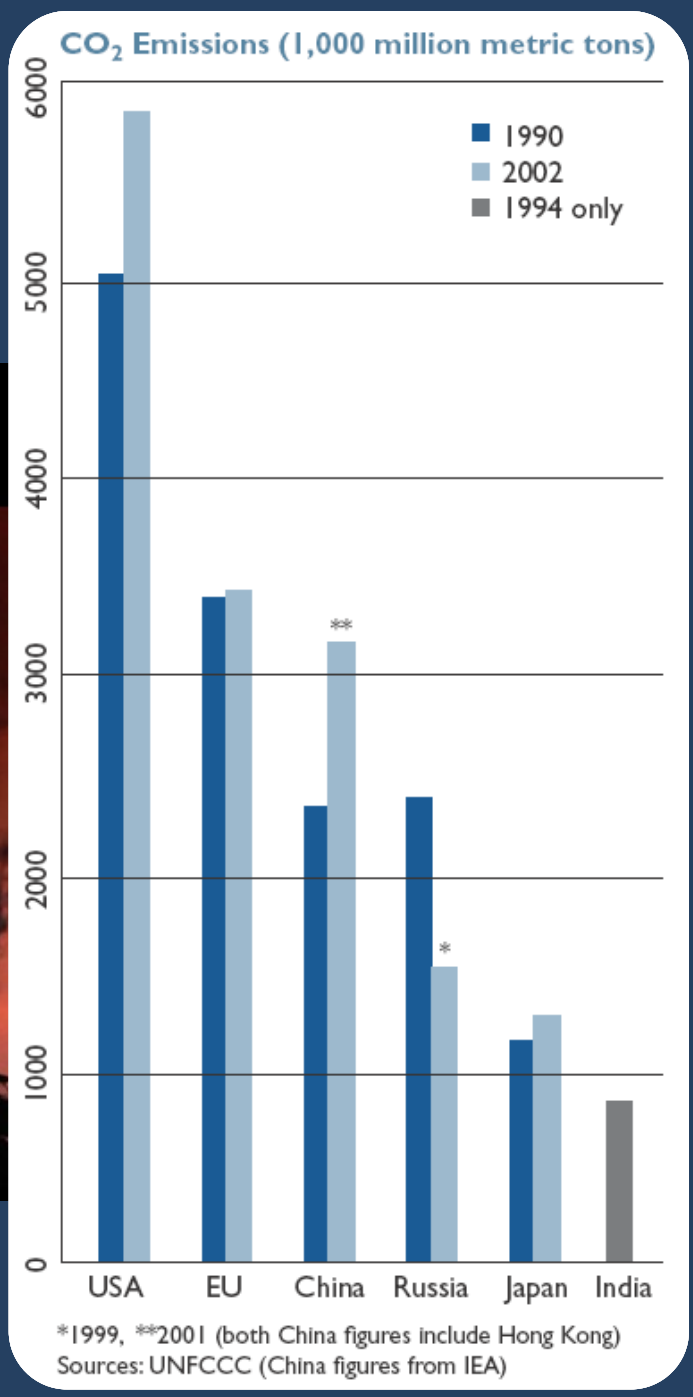
an inconvenient truth
A GLOBAL WARNING



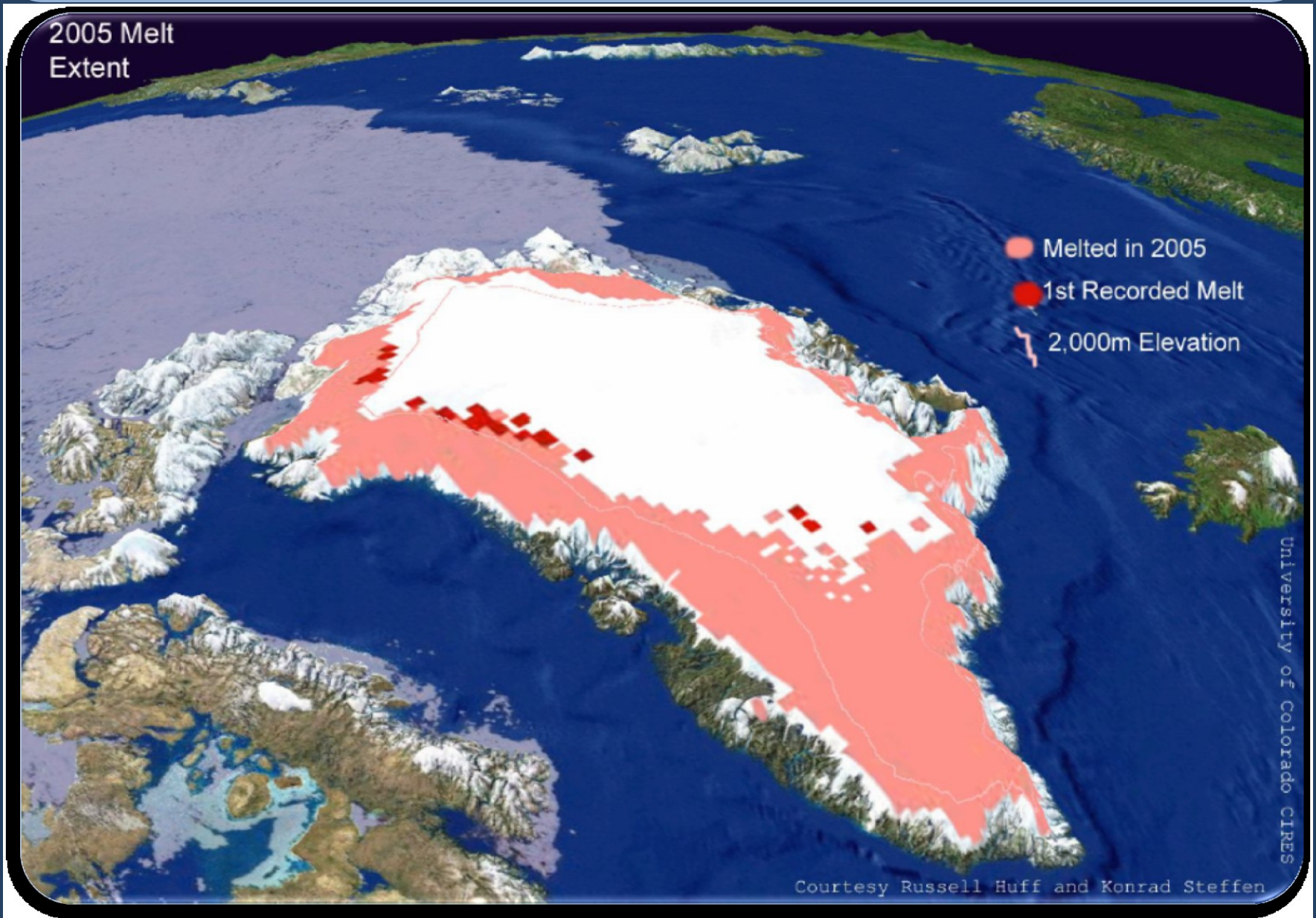
by far the most terrifying film
you will ever see.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3143798.stm>

<http://www.climatecrisis.net/downloads/images/Desktop-6.jpg>

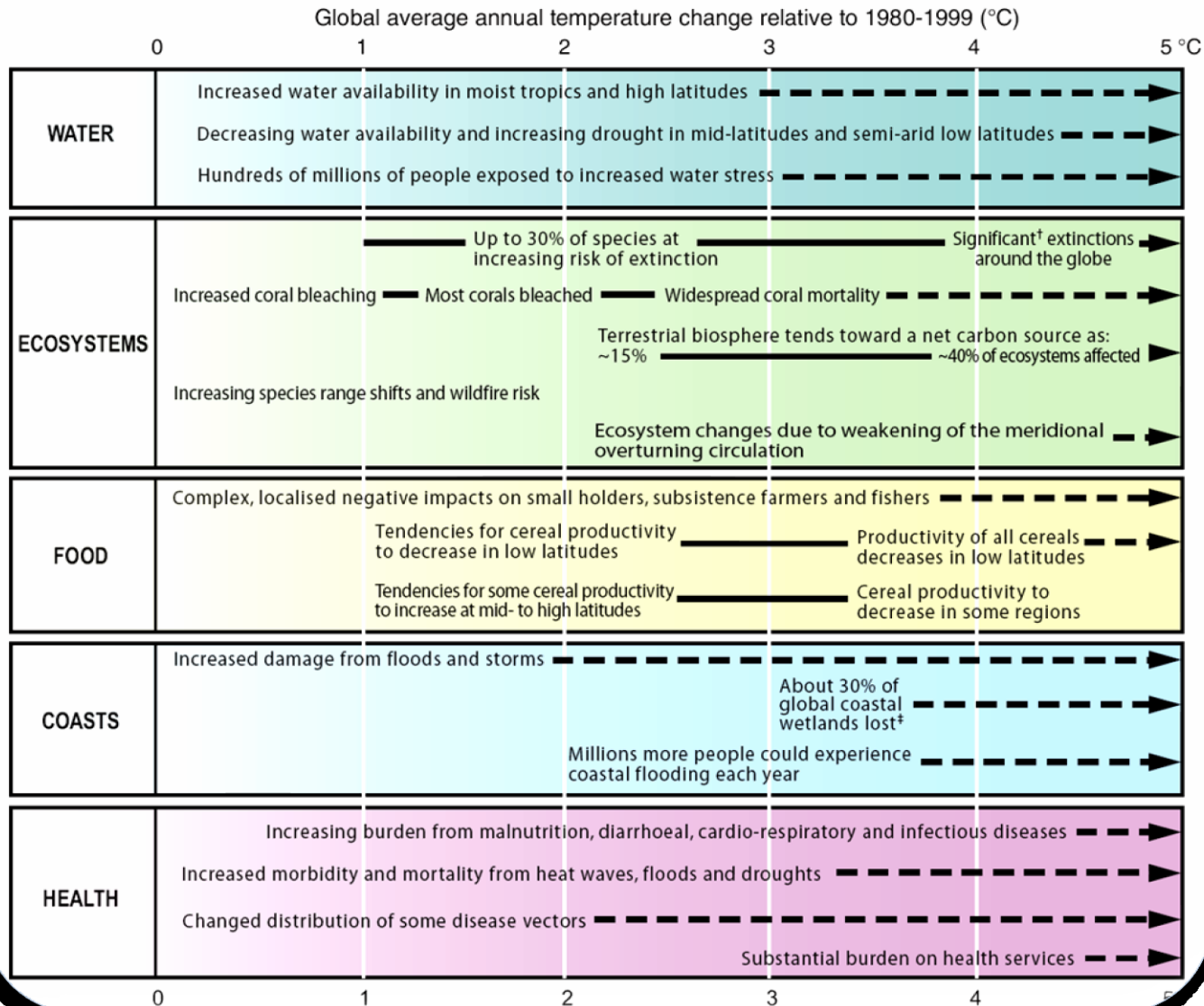


I. Fact – The Poles are Melting RAPIDLY



II. Expected impacts of Projected Warming

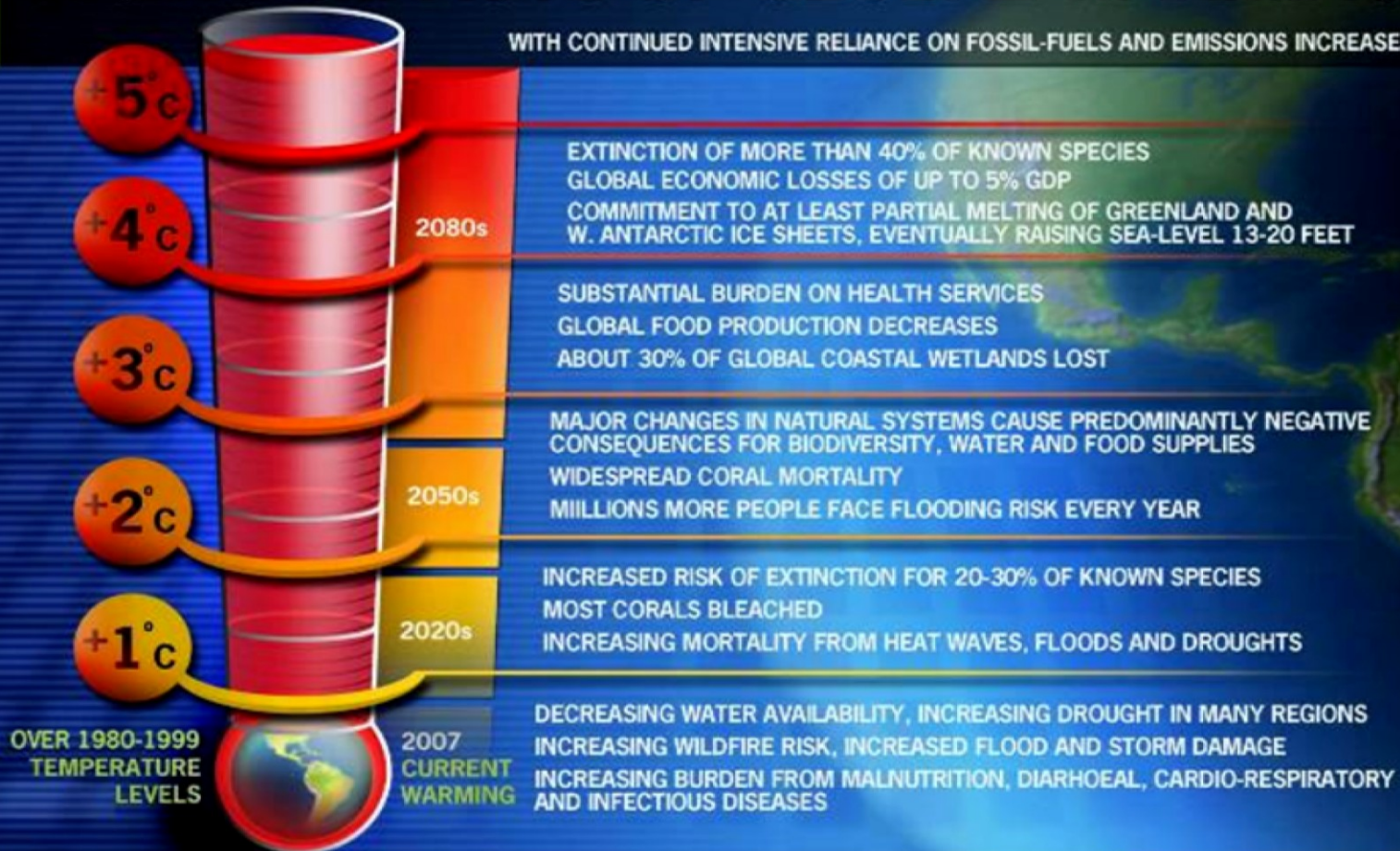
Examples of impacts associated with global average temperature change
 (Impacts will vary by extent of adaptation, rate of temperature change and socio-economic pathway)




II. Expected impacts of Projected Warming

RISING IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

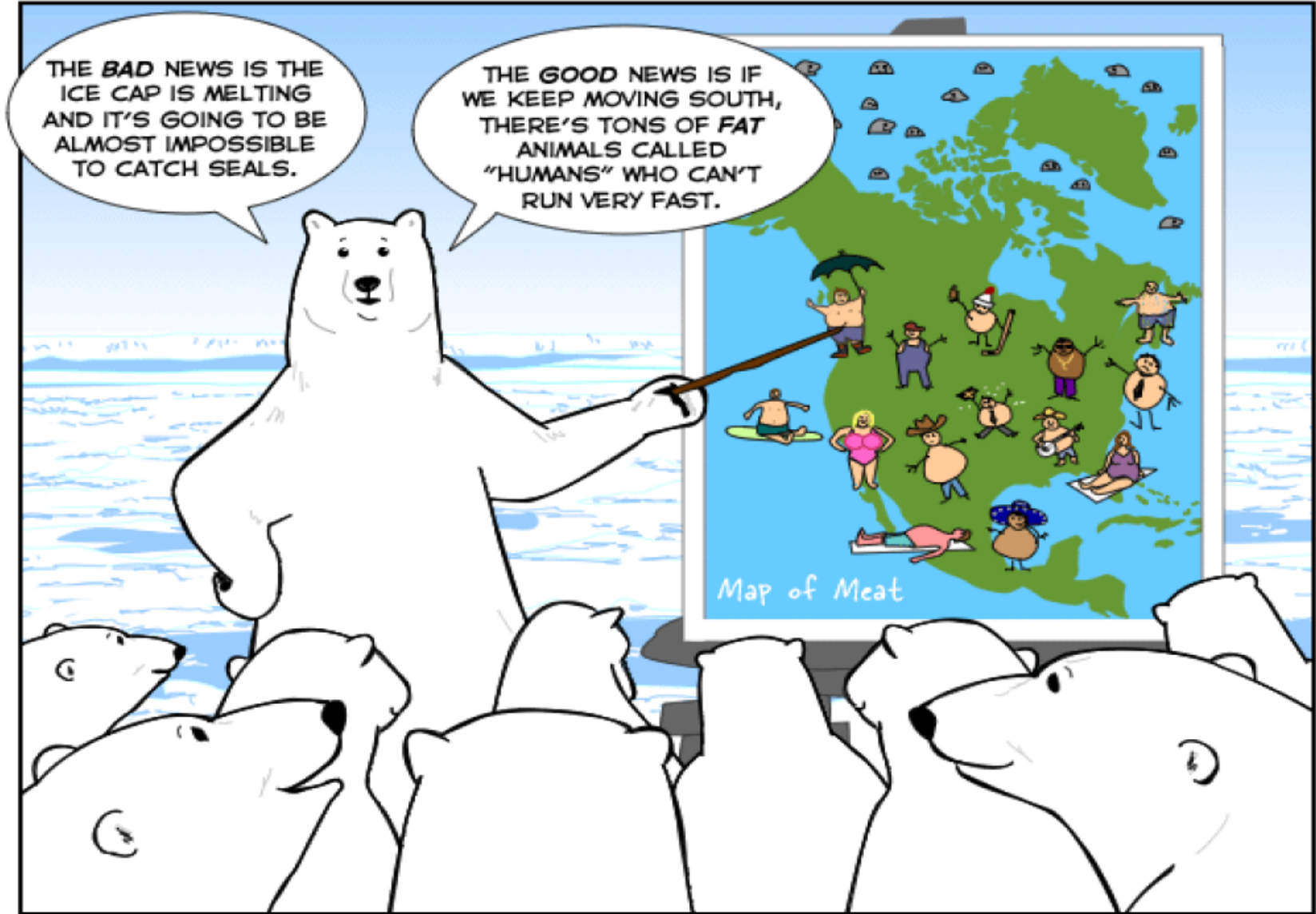
WITH CONTINUED INTENSIVE RELIANCE ON FOSSIL-FUELS AND EMISSIONS INCREASES



 **NET** www.net.org

Source: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Working Group II Summary for Policymakers. Timing of temperature increases based on IPCC scenarios that assume continued intensive reliance on fossil-fuels and emissions increases. Emissions reductions would reduce the amount and rate of warming. Conversion of temperature increases—Celsius to Fahrenheit: 1°C = 1.8°F; 2°C = 3.6°F; 3°C = 5.4°F; 4°C = 7.2°F.

Produced by National Environmental Trust.



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Quiz # 15

➤ **Question:**

“IPCC” is an abbreviation
for _____?

➤ **Answer:**

